

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How You Can Be Certain That the Bible Is the Word of God
SERMON REFERENCE:	Revelation 22
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We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Revelation 22 is the golden clasp that God puts upon His Word.
- b) It is absolutely imperative that we be certain about the Bible.
 - i) We will never get much of anything else settled until we get that settled.
 - ii) Our salvation depends upon it because the Bible says that we are born again by the Word of God.
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:23
 - iii) Our sanctification depends upon it.
 - (1) John 17:17
 - iv) Our usefulness depends upon it.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - v) Our assurance depends upon it.
 - (1) 1 John 5:13
- c) Revelation 22:18-19
- d) There is a war over the Word; a battle for the Bible.
 - i) There are those who despise it.
 - (1) They are against all that we, as Christians, stand for.
 - ii) There are those who deny it.
 - iii) There are those who distort it.
 - (1) They twist the Bible to their own destruction.
 - iv) There are those who dissect it.
 - (1) They come to the Bible with their measuring rod, scalpel and test tube, and they treat the Bible more like a math book rather than a love story.
 - (2) They are ever learning, but they are never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - v) There are those who disregard it.
 - (1) They say that it's not relevant or important.
 - (2) They say that it's outdated.
 - (3) They claim that we need to forget this religious stuff and do something about the social situation.
 - (a) So, they spend their energy trying to make the world a better place to go to Hell from.
 - (b) They are thinking of themselves.
 - (c) They are not thinking of the future but of right now.
 - vi) Perhaps the greatest enemy of the Word of God is found in churches and places of worship where there are those who say that they believe the Bible, but they only give lip service to the fact that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible and authentic Word of God.
 - (1) They don't study it.
 - (2) They don't know it.
 - (3) They don't live by it.
 - (4) They don't assimilate it.
 - (5) They don't stand on it.

- e) Especially in these days in which we're living, we must be able to say that we know that the Bible is the Word of God.
 - i) There is nothing on which the devil can disturb us if we can stand on the Bible.
- f) Today's message will provide several reasons why we know that the Bible is the Word of God.

2) WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

- a) Skeptics, atheists and liberals claim that the Bible has scientific errors in it.
 - i) Before anyone can claim this, they better make certain that they know two things:
 - (1) That they know science.
 - (2) That they know the Bible.
 - ii) They claim that the Bible is not a book of science but a book of religion.
 - (1) It is true that the Bible is not a scientific textbook written to teach us science.
 - (a) It is written to teach us God.
 - (i) The Bible was not written to tell us how the heavens go but how to go to Heaven.
 - iii) But the God of creation and the God of salvation are the same God.
 - (1) Science doesn't take God by surprise.
- b) The Bible is scientifically accurate.
 - i) There are times when science may disagree with the Bible.
 - (1) Given time, the scientists may catch up.
 - (a) For instance, in 1861, a French academy of science gave fifty-one scientific facts that they said proved the Bible is in error.
 - (b) Today, not one reputable scientist believes in these fifty-one "facts."
 - ii) It isn't the Bible that has changed; it is science that is catching up with the Word of God.
 - (1) Today, we take for granted that the Earth is suspended in space.
 - (a) We came to know this because we stand upon the knowledge of other people.
 - (b) We would not have known this back in Job's day, however.
 - (i) The book of Job is the oldest piece of literature known to man.
 - (ii) In ancient times, men theorized, incorrectly, that the Earth was supported on five pillars, or on the back of a great giant, etc.
 - (c) But the book of Job gives us the answer.
 - (i) Job 26:7
 - 1. How did Job know this before the age of modern astronomy and space travel?
 - a. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- (2) Today, we take for granted that the Earth is round.
 - (a) In ancient times, men thought the Earth was flat.
 - (i) In 1492, Columbus' voyage proved to the satisfaction of many that the Earth is a sphere, a globe.
 - (b) The book of Isaiah was written about 750 years before Christ.
 - (i) The scientists in Isaiah's day did not know that the Earth is a sphere.
 - (ii) But Isaiah said by divine inspiration that God sits upon the circle of the Earth.
 - 1. Isaiah 40:22
 - a. The word for "circle" here is the word for "sphere" or "globe."
- iii) Job knew that the Earth was suspended in space, and Isaiah knew that the Earth is a globe by divine inspiration.
- iv) Hipparchus, Ptolemy and Galileo tried to count the stars.
 - (1) In 150 B.C., Hipparchus said that there were 1,022 stars.
 - (a) This was science for 250 years.
 - (2) Ptolemy then charted the heavens and counted 1,026 stars.
 - (3) 1,300 years later, Galileo invented his first crude telescope and saw millions and millions of uncounted stars.
 - (4) Today, our great telescopes can see billions and billions of stars and other galaxies.
 - (5) Had these early scientists and astronomers learned what the Word of God said, they could have laid down their pencils.
 - (a) Jeremiah 33:22
 - (i) No one will ever be able to count the stars.
- c) The Bible speaks to biology.
 - i) Psalm 139:14
 - (1) The Bible says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
 - ii) It wasn't until 1615 that William Harvey discovered that the blood circulates through the human body.
 - (1) In past times, doctors would "bleed" their patients in hopes of making them well.
 - (a) If they had gone to the Word of God, they would have understood that the life of the flesh is in the blood.
 - (i) Leviticus 17:14
 - iii) In the fourteenth century, the black plague desolated the population.
 - (1) It was not the scientists of the day who brought the plague to an end; it was the church.
 - (a) They learned from the Word of God the principle of quarantining.
 - (i) Leviticus 13:46
 - iv) Dr. Semmelweis, a physician in Vienna, discovered the importance of hand washing prior to patient examinations and between each examination.

- (1) Numbers 19:14-16, 19
 - (a) The Bible teaches about the importance of sanitation: running water, quarantining, the setting aside, the change of clothes, etc.
 - (i) There is a time interval for bacteria to die.
 - (2) They did not understand about germs, but germs did not take God by surprise.
- 3) WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS HISTORICAL ACCURACY
- a) The Bible is not primarily a book of history, but it records history.
 - b) The first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch.
 - i) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
 - ii) Moses wrote the Pentateuch.
 - (1) At one time, some scholars said that it was impossible for Moses to have written the Pentateuch because people didn't know how to write at the time Moses was on Earth.
 - (2) Then, the Tell el-Amarna tablets were discovered.
 - (a) These were letters and business transactions from people in Egypt to people in Palestine and vice versa.
 - (b) These were written centuries before Moses was born.
 - (i) Not only did they know how to write, but they also had a postal system.
 - c) Daniel 5
 - i) Belshazzar was having a feast when suddenly a hand without an arm appeared and began writing on the wall.
 - (1) The writing said that his kingdom was divided and that Belshazzar was weighed in the balances and found wanting.
 - ii) Historians have said that this incident never happened.
 - (1) They state that the Babylonian records tell us that the last king of Babylon was not Belshazzar but Nabonidus.
 - iii) As archeologists continued to work, they one day uncovered a clay tablet, a cylinder, with Belshazzar's name on it.
 - (1) Nabonidus and Belshazzar were both kings.
 - (a) They were father and son.
 - iv) The archeologists continued to unearth evidence that showed that Nabonidus and Belshazzar were co-regents.
 - (1) Nabonidus traveled while Belshazzar stayed home to run the kingdom.
 - v) If the archeologists had not uncovered this tablet, it would not have made the Bible any less true or changed the truth of God's Word.
 - (1) Romans 3:4
 - vi) Daniel 5:16
 - (1) Belshazzar told Daniel that he would make Daniel the third ruler in the kingdom if he could read the handwriting on the wall.
 - (a) There were already two rulers: Belshazzar and Nabonidus.

- 4) WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS UNITY
- a) The Bible is one book, yet, in a sense, it is sixty-six books.
 - i) There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven books in the New Testament.
 - ii) These different books were written by at least forty different authors over a period of about 1,600 years.
 - iii) They were written in about thirteen different countries and on three different continents.
 - iv) They were written by people from all different backgrounds.
 - (1) Some were shepherds, others were kings, some were soldiers, princes, priests, fishermen, scholars, historians, businessmen, and others were common laborers.
 - v) These books were written on many different subjects and in at least three different languages.
 - vi) Yet, these books come together, from Genesis to Revelation, and they read as one book.
 - b) There is an incredible unity to the Bible.
 - i) The Bible is like a garment in that you can pull a thread here, and it wrinkles way down there.
 - ii) The Bible has but one theme, and that is salvation.
 - iii) The Bible has one hero, and His name is Jesus.
 - iv) The Bible has one villain, and he is the devil.
 - v) The Bible has one purpose, and that is to glorify God.
 - c) John 10:35
 - i) Not one jot, not one tittle will fail from the law; it will all be fulfilled.
 - d) It is impossible for the Bible to have been written apart from divine inspiration.
- 5) WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS FULFILLED PROPHECY
- a) The Bible is the only book in the world that has accurate prophecy.
 - b) There are over three hundred precise prophecies in the Old Testament that deal with the Lord Jesus Christ that are fulfilled in the New Testament.
 - i) Statisticians tells us that it is an astronomical impossibility that these prophecies were fulfilled by chance.
 - c) Micah 5:2
 - i) Tells of Jesus being born in Bethlehem.
 - d) The prophet Isaiah wrote many intricate details of the Lord Jesus 750 years before He was born.
 - e) Psalm 22
 - i) The Lord Jesus arranged that the Psalmist would write about a death by crucifixion before a crucifixion was ever known as a form of capital punishment.

- ii) The Roman government would later crucify the Lord Jesus on the cross.
 - f) The Old Testament prophesied that Judas would betray the Lord Jesus for exactly thirty pieces of silver.
 - i) Zechariah 11:12-13
 - g) The greatest arrangement and prophecy of all is that the Lord Jesus would come out of the grave on the third day.
 - i) He was seen of 500 people.
 - (1) These 500 were so convinced that He rose from the dead that many of them paid for that truth with their lives.
 - h) Most of these prophecies were not fulfilled by Jesus' friends but by His enemies.
 - i) His enemies had the most to gain by seeing that the prophecies would not be fulfilled.
 - i) These prophecies were not fulfilled by just one person but by many people.
 - j) Not just one prophecy was fulfilled but many prophecies.
 - k) There is no way to explain fulfilled prophecy apart from divine inspiration.
- 6) WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS EVER-LIVING QUALITIES
- a) The Bible is not the book of the month but the book of the ages.
 - b) No book has ever had so much opposition as the Bible.
 - i) Men have laughed at it, scorned it, ridiculed it, made laws against it and burned it.
 - ii) There was a time in Scottish history when to own the Bible was a crime worthy of death.
 - c) Many times, man has preached a funeral for the Bible.
 - i) But people pass away.
 - ii) Here in the twenty-first century, the Bible has survived.
 - d) The Bible is applicable and up-to-date.
 - i) We can open the Word of God and know more about what's going on in the world today than all of the intelligentsia and governments combined.
 - e) 1 Peter 1:25
 - f) Psalm 119:89
- 7) WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS LIFE-CHANGING POWER
- a) We read other books; this book reads us.
 - b) Hebrews 4:12
 - i) The word "quick" in this passage means "alive."
 - ii) It is full of power.
 - iii) The Word of God is like a sword.
 - c) Romans 1:16
 - i) The Gospel is the dynamite of God.
 - d) The Word of God is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces.

- i) Jeremiah 23:29
- ii) The hardest rock will break.
- e) The Word of God has power.
 - i) It's saving for the sinner.
 - (1) No one is saved apart from the Word of God.
 - (2) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (3) The Gospel of Christ is the dynamite of God that saves.
 - ii) It's sanctifying to the saint.
 - (1) What keeps us going is not what we feel but what we know.
 - (2) John 17:17
 - (3) We will never grow or be strong until we begin to feed on God's Word.
 - (a) 1 Peter 2:2
 - iii) It's sufficient for the sufferer.
 - (1) We can find comfort in the Word of God that we can't find in any other place or in any other way.
 - (2) There is power and there are promises in the Word of God.
 - iv) It's satisfying to the scholar.
 - (1) No matter how much we study the Bible, we will never fathom its depths.
 - (2) Romans 11:34
 - (3) Someone has said that the Bible is so deep that scholars could swim in it and never touch bottom, yet so wonderful that a little child could come get a drink without fear of drowning.

8) CONCLUSION

- a) The Bible tells us that Jesus loves us.
- b) The Bible tells us that Jesus left Heaven, came to this Earth, suffered, bled and died for our sins.
 - i) Then, God raised Him from the dead, and Jesus ascended to Heaven.
- c) Salvation is a gift of God's grace.
 - i) If you will trust the Lord Jesus and believe on Him, then He will save you and keep you.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16