TAKE A LOOK AT THE HOLY BOOK!

One of the characteristics of today's "younger" generation is that they are not terribly impressed by logic. They do not mind holding beliefs that contradict. TRUTH is often considered to be quite subjective and situational.

The Bible tells us: ... correctly handle the WORD OF TRUTH (II Timothy 2:15) Those who oppose you gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading to a KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, and they will come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil who has taken them captive. (II Tim 2:25)

These are the kind who ... are swayed by all sorts of evil desires, always learning but never able to ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUTH. (II Timothy 3:7) The fact that many religions and "Holy Books" logically contradict each other should (somehow) bother and burden any human being. The scientific world (uninterested in spiritual realities) has labeled our species homo sapiens [wise man]. Many humans do not live up to their billing!

The "scattering" from the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11) was certainly more than physical, and the "confusion" was certainly more than linguistic. Since that day, human ideas and spiritual ambitions have been confused and scattered.

We cannot simply say that the world has many religions. There are many types of religions, philosophies, beliefs, expectations, questions and answers. Wow! **Christian**: How can I have eternal life in heaven?

Zen Buddhist: What is the sound of one hand clapping?

Taoist: How can I love unless I also hate? I must inhale and exhale.

MONOTHEISM•Christianity•Judaism•Islam

BLENDED (Christian plus <u>other</u>) Mormon
 Jehovah's Witness *The Mormons use the Bible however <u>only</u> the Bible as translated by Joseph Smith (1830's) in which he added a prophesy of himself to Genesis 50.

Hindu [escape reality] Buddhism [What reality?]

Why do we trust the Bible?

1. The Bible records **God speaking** TO people and THROUGH people. These statements claim to originate from God and specifically NOT from human origin. **POINT:** When we say that the Bible was inspired/revealed from God, we are only saying what the Bible itself says!

I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man nor was I taught it; rather I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:11-12)

Many examples of specific PROPHECIES and FULFILLMENT which **defy** human explanation.

Cosmological principles recorded as facts of nature long before **scientific confirmation**.

Archaeological <u>confirmation</u> of many people, places, and events.

Jesus <u>affirmed</u> the <u>validity</u> of the Old Testament, quoting law, prophets, and writings [wisdom literature].

Many critics have said that Jesus was the greatest moral teacher and example, but he was just a product of this times and blindly accepted the Old Testament because all Jews did that. He could not know that (for example) there really was no flood like the Old Testament describes. Jesus: "I speak of what I know and testify to what I have seen, but you do not accept it. I have spoken to you of earthly things, and you did not believe. How can you believe when I speak to you of heavenly (spiritual) things?" (John 3:11-12)

Trustworthiness of scripture is implied in arguments made regarding a single word.

- I am vs. I was (tense of verb)
- seed vs. seeds (singular rather than plural)