

# Bible : Fact or Fantasy?

We invite you to a day conference on  
**Saturday 18th October 2008, 11am - 5pm**  
at Roundhay Parochial Hall, Fitzroy Drive, Leeds, LS8 4AB

**"The bible is absolutely key to the Christian faith. This is a day that will greatly increase our appreciation of what God has given us."**

This is a rare opportunity to hear someone at the forefront of academia present reasons why we should believe the bible and share insights and principles.

**Our guest speaker is Peter Williams**, an excellent speaker, and a good teacher at all levels (from PhD students to children on French beach missions!)

**"Not many scholars can speak competently across as many technical fields as can Pete." D.A. Carson**

Peter is warden of Tyndale House, Cambridge, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies, University of Aberdeen, Member of Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge and was formerly Lecturer in Hebrew and Aramaic, University of Cambridge. His publications include: *Beginning to study the Old Testament*, in Philip Duce and Daniel Strange, eds., *Encountering God's Word: Beginning Biblical Studies*, and *Early Syriac Translation Technique and the textual Criticism of the Greek Gospels*. (see <http://www.tyndalehouse.co.uk/Staff/Williams/index.htm>)

**Who is it for?** People who...

- ☺ want to know whether the bible can be trusted
- ☺ are interested in knowing more about why the bible is reliable
- ☺ are ordinary Christians who simply want to know more
- ☺ are involved in teaching the bible to others
- ☺ are from Leeds or further afield - everyone!

**The day will include:**

- ☺ Three stimulating talks - see attached details
- ☺ Times for questions
- ☺ Opportunities for chatting
- ☺ A relevant bookstall

**Practicalities**

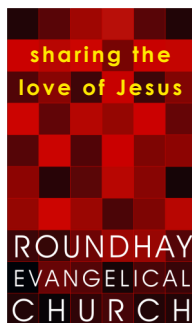
- ☺ Tea & coffee will be provided from 10.30 and during the day. Please bring your own lunch or be prepared to buy from local shops - chip shop & Somerfield very close by!
- ☺ We would be very grateful for a contribution of £3 per person to help with costs - a box will be available.

**Booking**

- ☺ To assist with practicalities we need to know numbers.
- ☺ Please book by using the online form, emailing or phoning.
- ☺ Please tell us your name, contact details and number in your group.

**For directions, more details or for booking**

- ☺ visit [www.roundhayevangelicalchurch.com](http://www.roundhayevangelicalchurch.com)
- ☺ email [info@roundhayevangelicalchurch.com](mailto:info@roundhayevangelicalchurch.com)
- ☺ phone 0113 2780372



## Is the Bible God's Word?: Answering the tough questions about the Bible...

Pete Williams

### The Old Testament under attack

In our culture today the Bible is under attack from many sides. Atheists proclaim that the Old Testament is immoral, while sceptics claim that the New Testament is made up. Here we particularly look at attacks on Old Testament morality.

- Introduction
- The moral attack on the Old Testament
  - Old Testament violence
  - Slavery
- Response to the moral attack on the Old Testament

### The New Testament under attack

Conspiracy theories abound alleging that early Christians covered up evidence, and there is widespread talk of 'lost gospels'. This talk explains why all these claims are being made, what the real facts are, and what makes these claims convincing to so many people.

- The conspiracy attack on the New Testament
  - Lost Gospels
  - Christians suppressed the truth using political power
- Response to the conspiracy attack on the New Testament
  - Why four Gospels?
  - The real situation of early Christianity
- Arguments for the reliability of the Gospels
- How we can know that we have reliable copies of the Bible

### The Bible on the offensive

Far from being something in need of defence, the Bible presents a major challenge to modern society in at least three ways:

- *Superior morality*: The morality the Bible advocates is not inferior or primitive, but so high that it shows up how sinful our culture is.
- *Prophecy*: The presence of prophecy in the Bible powerfully challenges us by showing that there is a God who is in control and knows the future.
- *Resurrection*: The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows us that everyone needs to respond to his claims.

**...surely a day not to be missed!**