

Faith & Reason Made Simple (Part 3) (Confirming Evidence That The Bible is The Word of God)



2 Timothy 3:16 NASB All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

John 17:17 KJV Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Introduction

- * Attacks on the Bible today! (Calling it Fiction) (Denying that it is God's Word) (Etc.)
(Attacks upon the Bible are especially found in **universities** across America)
- * When looking at the evidence that confirms the Bible is God's Word it is good to do after looking at the evidence that confirms that God created us! Apologetics should be approached systematically starting with the issue of **creation**. Once we see the clear evidence that we are created by a wise, powerful and personal God, we would assume that He has spoken to us. Therefore we can begin our search for evidence that confirms the Bible to be God's Word with the expectation that God has given His Word to us so that we can know Him.

CONFIRMING EVIDENCES - THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD!

- 1 – Internal Unity
- 2 – Bibliographical Evidence
- 3 – Archaeology & History
- 4 – Medical Facts
- 5 – Scientific Facts
- 6 – Fulfilled Prophecy
 - a – Ancient Cities
 - b – World Empires
 - c – Messianic
 - d – Jews Return to Israel
 - e – End Times/Jerusalem
- 7 – Changed Lives
- 8 – Indestructibility & Distribution



#1 – Internal Unity

* Simple outline of the Bible’s Message

- A – God Created Mankind to Be His Sons and Daughters (Genesis 1-2)
- B – Mankind Sinned and Was Separated From God (Results – Death & Corruption) (Genesis 3)
- C – God Fulfilled His Plan to Redeem Mankind in Christ (Genesis 3 – Revelation 20)
- D – All God Planned in Creation Is Eternally Restored in Christ (Revelation 21-22)

* The Bible Claims to Be the Word of God!

- * (2 Timothy 3:16) (John 17:17) (1 Peter 1:21)
- * Over 2,600 times the phrase “God said” or its equivalent is found in the Bible
- * **40 different authors** wrote from 3 different continents over a **1,500** year period of time and yet the message of the Bible is an clear, continual unfolding message of redemption.
- * Though there was an approximate 400 year gap between the **Old & New Testaments**, the connection between the two can be easily seen in many ways. Examples include –
 - * Old Testament – The Law is Given and Emphasized
 - New Testament – The Law is Seen not as a Way to Salvation but as a Tutor to lead people to Christ Jesus for Salvation. (The Law shows us our need!)
 - * Melchizedek (Genesis 14) (Hebrews 5-7 – The Priesthood of Jesus Christ)
 - * Abraham’s **Faith** (Genesis 12-22) (Romans 4) (Galatians 3)
 - * Abraham Sacrifices Isaac (On Mt. Calvary) – (Genesis 22) (22:18) (Galatians 3:16)
- * Many **Types & Shadows** in the Old Testament point to Jesus Christ of the N.T.
 - * Passover Lamb * Ark * Scapegoat * Rahab’s Scarlet Cord * Brazen **Serpent**
 - * Melchizedek * Sin & Guilt Offerings * Moses/Joshua – The Promise Land
 - * **Manna (Bread from Heaven)** (John 6) * Water from the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)
- * Over 300 Old Testament **Prophecies** Fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament

#2 – Bibliographical Evidence

* Many critics claim that the Bibles we read today do not communicate the same message as the original writings did. They say that the Bible has been corrupted through the centuries. Bibliographical evidence deals with this issue. Bibliographical evidence examines the number of manuscript copies that are available and looks at the amount of time between the original writings and the oldest known manuscript copies available. The more manuscript copies and the closer they are in time to the originals, the more trustworthy the documents are that come from them.

Author	Written	Earliest Copies	Time Span	# of copies
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000 yrs.	10
Plato (<i>Tetralogies</i>)	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200 yrs.	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300 yrs.	8
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1,000	1,400 yrs.	100
Catullus	54 B.C.	A.D. 1,550	1,600 yrs.	3
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,500 yrs.	9
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,400 yrs.	5
THE SECOND RUNNER UP				
Homer (<i>Iliad</i>)	750-700 B.C.	200 B.C.	500 yrs.	643
AND THE WINNER IS				
God (<i>The N.T.</i>)	A.D. 40-100	A.D. 125	25 yrs.	24,000+

- * New Testament manuscript copies compared to other famous writings of **antiquity** (Other ancient writings are trusted yet there is far more bibliographical evidence for the Bible!)

* **Old Testament Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy) Scrolls** that date back as far as 1450 A.D. can be seen today. For example Josh McDowell has such a scroll that he displays during Truth Conferences. The precision and meticulous attention to detail that was used by copying scribes is easy to see. Scribes observed about **4,000** scribal laws when copying Scripture!!! They even had to exactly how many words and letters were in the entire text and use this knowledge to make sure they had copied the text correctly.

* **The care which has been taken over the centuries to preserve the text of Scripture is unparalleled!**

* **The Dead Sea Scrolls**, found in 1947 have shown just how accurate that the copying of the Old Testament has been over the centuries.



* A copy of Isaiah 53 in the Dead Sea Scrolls which is believed to be 1,000 years older than the next oldest copy known, showed just **one** word of **three** letters difference than the other copy that was made 1,000 years later. This minor difference did not change the meaning of the text at all. Amazing!

* 95% of variations between manuscripts involve minor errors like a letter being left out of a word that do not change the meaning of the text at all.

#3 – Archaeology & History

* Archaeological finds continue to confirm **people**, places & events found in the Bible!

Famous Archaeologist Nelson Glueck said, “As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.”

* Other Historical Documents and writings also confirm the history of the Bible!

#4 – Medical Facts in the Bible

* There are medical facts that were written in the Bible 2,500 to 3,500 years ago that have now been discovered to be true by modern medicine in the past 250 years.

(Here are 3 examples)

* The danger of **germs** (Numerous passages in the Book of Leviticus)

* Circumcision on the 8th Day (Leviticus 12:3)

* Life is in the **blood** (Leviticus 17:14)

#5 – Scientific Facts in the Bible

* There are numerous scientific facts that were written in the Bible 2,500 to 3,500 years ago that have now been confirmed by modern scientific study. The fact that the Bible spoke of these things hundreds of years before mankind came to understand them shows that the Bible is given to us by God Himself, the Creator! Examples –

* The Earth is a **sphere** – Isaiah 40:22

* The Universe is **expanding** (Stretched Out by God) – Psalm 104:2, Psalm 144:5, Job 9:8, Isaiah 40:22, Isaiah 42:5, Isaiah 44:24, Isaiah 45:12, Isaiah 48:13, Jeremiah 10:12, Zech. 12:1

* The stars of the Pleiades constellation are gravitationally bound together while the stars of the Orion constellation are not - Job 38:31



- * Innumerable Amount of Stars – Genesis 15:5, Jeremiah 33:22
- * Mountains on the Ocean Floor – Jonah 2:5-6
- * Currents (or Paths) in the Oceans & Seas - Psalm 8:8, Isaiah 43:16
- * Hydrological Cycle – Job 36:27-28, Psalm 135:6-7, Ecclesiastes 1:7, Amos 9:6
- * The Existence of Dinosaurs – Job 40 & 41, Psalm 74:14 (note – the word “dinosaur” was invented in the mid 1800s so the Bible does not use that word)
- * There Are Springs in the Seas – Job 38:16
- * The Earth is Hung on Nothing – Job 26:7

#6 – Fulfilled Prophecies In The Bible

A – Destruction of Powerful Ancient Cities

- * The Bible gives detailed prophecies concerning the destruction of some of the most powerful ancient cities that existed in the times the Old Testament was written.
 - * Petra – (Obadiah 1) (Isaiah 34:5-15) Petra (Referred to as the house of Esau dwelling in the clefts of the rocks or as Edom) was especially strong because it was built within rocky cliffs and could not be reached by enemies without approaching it from underneath which left soldiers venerable.
 - * Babylon – (Jeremiah 50 & 51) The city of Babylon was the strongest city of its day but the Bible prophesied it would become a desolate, habitat for wild animals. The prophecy was fulfilled.
 - * Tyre – (Ezekiel 26 & 27) The city of Tyre was on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It consisted of a mainland city and an island fortress about ½ mile off the coast. Ezekiel prophesied of the destruction of Tyre in great detail including destruction by Nebuchadnezzar and the scraping of the debris from the mainland into the sea which was fulfilled by Alexander the Great in 332 BC.



B- World Empires to Rise & Fall

- * In the book of Daniel there are detailed prophecies concerning the rising and falling of world empires through a dream Nebuchadnezzar had in Daniel 2 and through visions that Daniel had in Daniel 7 & 8.

C – Messianic Prophecies

* The Old Testament contains approximately 300 Messianic prophecies that were all fulfilled in the New Testament by Jesus Christ. This fact speaks to the internal unity of the Bible and the identity of Jesus as the Christ, as well as the Bible’s ability to proclaim future events prior to them coming to pass. Here is a list of some of the Messianic prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

- * Would be born in Bethlehem – (Micah 5:2)
- * Would be betrayed for **30** pieces of silver – (Zechariah 11:12-13) (The price of a slave)
- * Would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey – (Zechariah 9:9)
- * Soldiers would gamble for His outer garment – (Psalm 22:18)
- * Would be pierced in His side – (Isaiah 53:5) (Zechariah 12:10)
- * Not a **bone** of His body would be **broken** – (Exodus 12:46) (Psalm 34:20)
- * He would speak in parables – (Psalm 78:2)

- * He would live and minister in Galilee – (Isaiah 9:1-2)
 - * He would be the Savior of the Jews & a Light to the Nations – (Isaiah 49:5-6)
 - * Would have nails driven through His hands and feet – (Psalm 22:16)
 - * Buried in the grave of a rich man – (Isaiah 53:9)
- * In his book “Science Speaks”, Dr. Peter Stoner explains a research project that he and students at Pasadena City College, where he was a professor, did to estimate the probability of one person fulfilling various Old Testament Messianic prophecies. Here are the conservative estimates their research revealed concerning just 8 of the Old Testament messianic prophecies.



“When multiplied together it was found that even using these very conservative estimates, there would be a **1 in 10²⁸** chance of someone fulfilling just these **8** Messianic prophecies.”
 “That number looks like this when written out - 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.”

D – The Scattering & Regathering of the Jewish People

* Maybe the most startling example of fulfilled Bible prophecy that confirms the fact that the Bible is the Word of God are the prophecies concerning the scattering of the Jewish people and the regathering of the Jewish people to the land of Israel from the nations of world. We have been witnessing the fulfillment of these prophecies throughout our lifetime. In addition to the regathering of the Jewish people the Bible also prophecies that the land of Israel will blossom and become fruitful, and the cities will be renewed. All of these things are being fulfilled in the world today and much of world history over the past 100 years can be seen to be related to these fulfillments.

* *The scattering of the Jewish people to the Nations*

Deuteronomy 28:64 NASB "Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known.

* *The regathering of the Jewish people to the land of Israel*

Ezekiel 36:24 NASB "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

Isaiah 11:11-12 NASB Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. (12) And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

Ezekiel 38:8 NASB "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.

Ezekiel 28:25-26 NASB 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and will manifest My holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they will live in their land which I gave to My servant Jacob. (26) "They will live in it securely; and they will build houses, plant vineyards and live securely when I execute judgments upon all who scorn them round about them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.'"

Jeremiah 29:11-14 NASB 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. (12) 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. (13) 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (14) 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD,

'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

*** The Land of Israel & the Cities of Israel Will Become Fruitful Again**

Ezekiel 36:30-35 NASB "I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. ... (34) "The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. (35) "They will say, 'This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.'

Ezekiel 36:8-11 NASB 'But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. (9) 'For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. (10) 'I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt. (11) 'I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

*** The Jews have been returning to Israel for the last 120 years from the nations of the world!**

- * Jewish population in Israel (1948 – About ¼ million)(Today – Over 6 million)
- * 1917 (World War 1) (Jerusalem rescued from 400 years of Muslim control)
- * 1917 (Balfour Declaration)
- * 1945 – 1947 (Holocaust)(Homeland for the Jews in Israel laid out)
- * May 14, 1948 (Israel becomes a nation)
- * 1989 (Iron curtain falls) (Over 1 million Jews return to Israel)
- * Jewish immigration from all over the world to Israel continues today

*** The Land of Israel has been restored and it has become very fruitful!**

- * Mid 1800s – Mark Twain declared the land of Israel as the most desolate place on earth
- * Rains have returned - World class modern irrigation systems have been installed
- * Israel now is a fruit exporting nation
- * The cities have been inhabited and become productive (Tel Aviv – World Class Technology)
- * Natural Gas & Oil Reserves have been found in Israel
- * Israel has been supernaturally protected through numerous wars!
- * The Hebrew language has been restored! (Zephaniah 3:9)
- * The Golden (Eastern) Gate remains closed up! (Ezekiel 44:1-3)

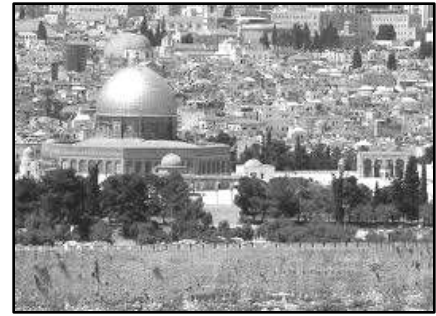


E – The City of Jerusalem & End Time Prophecies

- * The Bible prophecies in Zechariah 12 & 14 that Jerusalem will be the focus of international attention in the last days and eventually will be surrounded by the nations of the world, just before Jesus returns!
- * **Zechariah 12:1-3 NASB** The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, (2) "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. (3) "It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone

for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

* **Zechariah 14:1-4 NASB** Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. (2) For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. (3) Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. (4) In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.



* There is no question that **Jerusalem** is the most contention place on the face of the earth today. Conflicts between Palestinians & Jews over the city of Jerusalem are very much at the center of international attention.

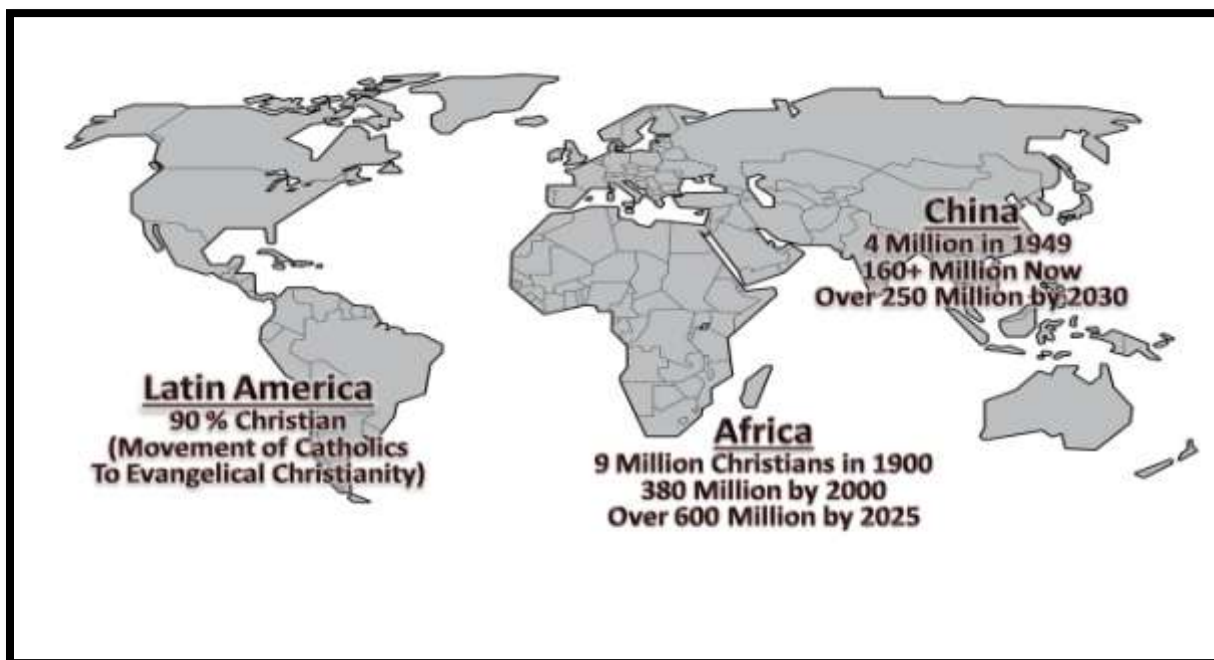
* The mark of the beast (666) – Revelation 13:16-18

* The Bible foretold 1,900 years ago that in the last days there would be a worldwide economic system involving the number 666 that would enable a world leader to prevent anyone not taking the number mark from being able to buy or sell. Today, every product we buy is marked with the number 666 through the universal product code. This obviously is not a coincidence, but rather is another indicator that the Bible is the Word of God!



#7 – Changed Lives

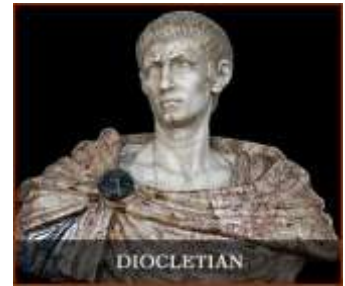
* Millions (or Billions) of lives have been radically changed in a positive way by the message of hope, love and salvation found in the Bible!



- * Many **Muslims** are now coming to know Christ as Savior!
(More than any other time in history) (Maybe over a million in Iran)
(God is giving dreams and visions to many Muslims to bring them to Christ)
- * Many **Jews** are turning to Christ now, especially in the last 5 years!
- * The changed lives of millions (or billions) of people testifies to the truth of the Bible's message!

#8 – Indestructibility & Distribution

- * The Bible has been opposed and attacked for centuries by nations, leaders and antagonists, yet it has withstood every attack. Despite so much opposition the Bible continues to be the most published and distributed book in the world every year!
- * Example - In an article entitled "The Indestructibility of the Bible" on the web site entitled Truth Magazine, Cecil Willis explains, "Many of their efforts were directed toward destroying the Bible. Of Diocletian (284-316), the ruler immediately preceding Constantine, Eusebius, the historian said, "royal edicts were published everywhere, commanding that the churches be leveled to the ground and the Scriptures destroyed by fire" (Church History, Book VIII, Ch. 1). Diocletian went on to say that if one had a copy of the Scriptures and did not surrender it to be burned, if it were discovered, he would be killed. During this time many, many copies of the Bible were burned, copies laboriously written in longhand. After this edict had been in force for two years, Diocletian boasted, "I have completely exterminated the Christian writings from the face of the earth!" (Rimmer, Seven Wonders of the Wonderful Word, p. 15). But had he completely destroyed it? History tells us that the next ruler, Constantine, became a Christian. He requested that copies of the Scriptures be made for all the churches."



- * Example 2 - "Voltaire, the noted French infidel, who died in 1778, made his attempt to destroy the Bible. He boldly made the prediction that within one hundred years the Bible and Christianity would have been swept from existence into oblivion. But Voltaire's efforts and his bold prophecy failed as miserably as did those of his unbelieving predecessors. In fact, within 100 years, the very printing press upon which Voltaire had printed his infidel literature, was being used to print copies of the Bible. And afterward, the very house in which the boasting Voltaire had lived, was literally stacked with Bibles prepared by the Geneva Bible Society.



- * **The Bible's Vast Distribution** - Guinness World Records says that the Bible is clearly the most widely read and sold book of all times. Note the following from their web site: "Although it is impossible to obtain exact figures, there is little doubt that the Bible is the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book. A survey by the Bible Society concluded that around 2.5 billion copies were printed between 1815 and 1975, but more recent estimates put the number at more than 5 billion." They go on to say "the whole Bible had been translated into 349 languages; 2123 languages have at least one book of the Bible in that language." Wycliff Bible Translators say that the number of languages that have complete Bibles is now up to 550!

Conclusion – Many Confirming Evidences Show That the Bible is the Word of God!