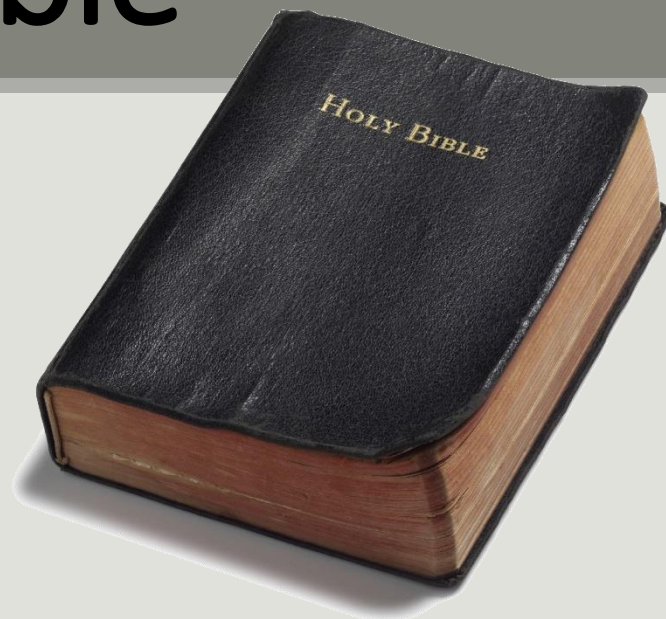




# Focus on the Bible



All Scripture is God-breathed ...  
1 Timothy 3:16

For prophecy never had its origin in the will  
of man, but men spoke from God as they  
were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21

# Two Parts with Five Total Sessions

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## Part One: Trusting the Bible

“Why you can trust the Bible  
and reasonably defend this trust”

## Part Two: Studying the Bible

“How to read and study the Bible”



# Part One - Trusting the Bible

- **Introduction**
- **Fundamentals**
- **Bibliographical Evidences**
  - The Question of the Reliability of the Biblical Text
  - Old Testament Manuscripts
    - Quality and Quantity
  - New Testament Manuscripts
    - Quality and Quantity



# Part One - Trusting the Bible

## ■ Internal Evidences

- What the Bible says about itself
- Apparent Contradictions, Discrepancies, and Errors
- Inspiration of the Bible
- Uniqueness of the Bible
- Canonization of the Bible



# Part One - Trusting the Bible

## ■ External Evidences

- Bible Prophecies Fulfilled
- Archaeological Discoveries
- Corroborating Attestation by Secular Historians
- Science and the Bible
- The Bible vs. Other “Sacred” texts



## Part One

# Trusting the Bible



# Goals of Part One:

(1 of 11)

- **Understand why the Bible can be truthfully called the Word of God**
- **Know why you can trust the Bible**
- **Be able to reasonably defend your trust in the Bible**
- **Demonstrate why this is a fundamental issue for our faith**



# What is Truth?

(2 of 11)

**“Truth by definition is exclusive. If truth were all-inclusive, nothing would be false.”**

Ravi Zacharias

**“Indeed, the first and most vital task of apologetics is to clarify truth claims.”**

Ravi Zacharias

(The Kingdom of the Cults,  
by Walter Martin, General Editor: Ravi Zacharias)





# What is Truth?

(3 of 11)

## Truth is defined as:

"Truth is that which conforms to reality, fact, or actuality."

- Jesus is the TRUTH

John 14:6 "I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life. No one come to the Father except through me"

- Truth is a Standard

Truth is anything that conforms to fact or reality. Another way of defining truth is to say that truth is the measurement or ruler for determining what is right. It is the standard for what is morally right and according to Scripture, God is the standard.

- Truth does not Change

A third point concerning truth is that it is a standard that does not change. What was right yesterday is right today. What was wrong three hundred years ago is wrong today



# Biblical Worldview

(4 of 11)

**Norman Geisler refers to a worldview as:**

“an intellectual lens through which we see the world. If someone looks through a red-colored lens, the world looks red to him. If another individual looks through a blue-colored lens, the world will look blue to him.”

(Unshakable Foundations, Geisler and Bocchino, p19-20).



# Biblical Worldview

(5 of 11)

## Geisler's definition indicate that:

- Our worldview is based on our underlying beliefs
- Our worldview encompasses every area of life

For a Christian there is should be no separation of secular life and church life. We are not to act one way on Sunday and another the rest of the week. To do so is not the faith of the Bible. True faith involves every aspect of our lives.

*“Christianity cannot be limited to only one component of our lives, a mere practice of observance, or even a salvation experience. We are compelled to see Christianity as the all encompassing truth, the root of everything else. It is ultimate reality.”*

(How Now Shall We Live, Charles Colson, p15)



# Biblical Worldview

(6 of 11)

*“The Christian worldview sees and understands God the Creator and His creation (i.e., man and the world) primarily through the lens of God’s special revelation, the Holy Scriptures, and secondarily through God’s natural revelation in creation as interpreted by human reason and reconciled by and with Scripture, for the purpose of believing and behaving in accord with God’s will and, thereby, glorifying God with one’s mind and life, both now and in eternity.”*

(Think Biblically, MacArthur, p14)



# Biblical Worldview

(7 of 11)

- **An absolute moral truth exists and this truth is based on the Bible.**
- **The truth is not dependent on scholars or culture and does not change over time. The Word is eternal.**
- **There are basic truths about the Word of God:**
  - 1. The Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God.**
  - 2. The Bible is written by man but inspired by God (God-breathed).**
  - 3. The Holy Bible reveals God's holy purpose, plan and promise for mankind.**
  - 4. There is one continuous theme about sin, redemption and salvation throughout the Bible.**
  - 5. Jesus Christ is the focus of the Bible. This is God's story – not man's.**



# God's Word is Truth

(8 of 11)

The Bible makes claims about itself that it is Divinely inspired (an exclusive claim to be the Word of God), without error, and contains Truth. Yet many today ask questions like:

- **Is the Bible reliable and trustworthy?**

Or is it just a collection of ancient stories and myths, changed and corrupted over the centuries?

- **Is the Bible just another "holy book" like so many others?**

Or is it truly God's Word, unique among all the so-called scriptures of the ages?

These are important questions, as many people base their entire lives on the teachings of various "scriptures".



# Questions people ask...

(9 of 11)

- If the Bible and other “sacred” texts are all pretty much the same, then one is as good as another - like flavors of ice cream, so to speak. Pick one that's right for you.
- On the other hand, if the Bible truly IS the written word of God - and these other books are just that - other books - then we had better pay special attention to it, and what it has to say to us! Our life may depend on it!

There are many books today that claim to be the Word of God. The Koran, the *Bhagavad Gita*, The Book of Mormon, and other religious works all claim to be divinely inspired.

The Bible claims to be the only book that is divinely inspired and that all other claims of inspiration from other works should be ruled out.



# More Questions people ask...

(10 of 11)

**Other questions offered by people as to whether the Bible can and should be trusted:**

- Isn't the Bible full of contradictions and errors?
- The Bible has been copied and translated so many times--hasn't this process led to errors?
- How can you be sure that the Bible is the same now as when it was written?
- Didn't the church arbitrarily decide which books should be included in the Bible and which books should be rejected?
- So many people have different interpretations of the Bible--what makes you think that yours is correct?
- How can you place your faith in a book that condones genocide and slavery?
- Doesn't the Bible make a number of claims that are scientifically inaccurate?





# Is the Bible Reliable?

(11 of 11)

Let's first consider the meaning of reliable.

In short, reliability means something is trustworthy. It can also mean that something is consistently good in its quality.

*In reference to the Bible, reliability has to do with whether or not what it contains, from ideas to history to geography and more, is trustworthy or not.*

*If, for instance, the Bible is full of historical and factual errors or blatantly contradicts itself, it would be hard to trust it or view it as reliable.*



# Part One Trusting the Bible

## Fundamentals



# Jesus and the Word of God

(1 of 9)

“Just as the humanity of Christ is a stumbling block to many who then deny His deity, even so the humanity of the Bible is a stumbling block to those who deny its divine origin.

But the Scriptures present Christ as *both* fully God and fully man. Yes, even when He was weary, perplexed, and in the throes of Gethsemane, He was God.

And when He said, “Before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58), He was man.

***Just so, both the divine and the human authorship of the Scriptures must be fully appreciated.”***



# Commonality – Jesus and the Word of God

(2 of 9)

- Both are eternal
- Both are conceived of the Holy Spirit
- Both are human and yet without error
- Both have a unique authority
- Both proclaim the Gospel

**John 1:1 and Revelation 19:13**



# Five Major Principles of the Reformation (3 of 9)

- **Soli Deo Gloria**  
*glory to God alone*
- **Sola Gratia**  
*by God's grace alone*
- **Sola Fide**  
*by faith alone*
- **Sola Scriptura**  
*Scripture is single source of authority*
- **Solus Christus**  
*saved by Christ's work alone*



# Reformation Principle of Sola Scriptura

(4 of 9)

- Has to do with the sufficiency of Scripture as our supreme authority in all spiritual matters
- Simply means that all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture.



## A Proposition:

(5 of 9)

**You need to be absolutely certain the Bible is the Word of God. You must have a firm conviction that the Bible contains the truth, is the inspired Word of God, and is backed by God's authority.**

- Your salvation depends on its gospel message.
- Your peace, joy and assurance depends on its eternal truth.
- Your spiritual growth depends on living by its principles.
- Your power to witness depends on the confidence you have in the Word of God.
- It is the source of confidence in your faith.



# Key Scripture – For Faith and Witness

(6 of 9)

- **Romans 10:17**

<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- **1 Peter 3:13-15 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,





# The Decision You Must Make

(7 of 9)

**“The Bible is either true, or it is a forgery; it is either a good book or an indescribably bad book; it is either the Word of God or the misleading, deceptive words of men.” - Erwin W. Lutzer**



## *Has God spoken?*

- **The Bible claims to be the divine Word of God.**
- **Over 1,500 statements in the Bible point to its divine origin.**



# Why It Is Crucial to Believe in the Bible? (8 of 9)

- You cannot accept just part of the Bible as the truth. Your belief system will fall to pieces like a house made of glass.
- If you do not believe in all of the Bible, you will start substituting with your own ideas or the ideas of other people. You are open to all kinds of ideas.
- If you cannot trust the Bible, your faith will not be strong. Must be able to defend against modern relativistic thinking. Remember it is the truth that will set you free. (Galatians 1:6-9)
- You will become double-minded – unstable in all you do. (James 1:8, Psalm 119:113)



# Forms of Evidence

(9 of 9)

- **Bibliographical Evidence**

Examines the transmission of the text of the Old and New Testaments from the original autographs to the present day. The three aspects of this test are the quantity, quality, and time span of the manuscripts.

- **Internal Evidences**

Evidences of the authenticity of the Bible that are internal to the Bible or pertain directly to the Bible such as examining the truth claims of the various authors of the Bible and allowing them to speak for themselves. (What does the Bible claim about itself?)

- **External Evidences**

Corroborating attestation from sources external to the Bible such as prophetic fulfillment, archaeology, other historical documents, and science



# Part One **Trusting the Bible**

## Bibliographical Evidences



# Bibliographical Evidences

- **The Question of the Reliability of the Biblical Text**
- **Old Testament**
  - Quantity of the Manuscripts
  - Quality of the Manuscripts
- **New Testament**
  - Quantity of the Manuscripts
  - Quality of the Manuscripts



# Manuscript Evidence Question of Reliability

(1 of 3)

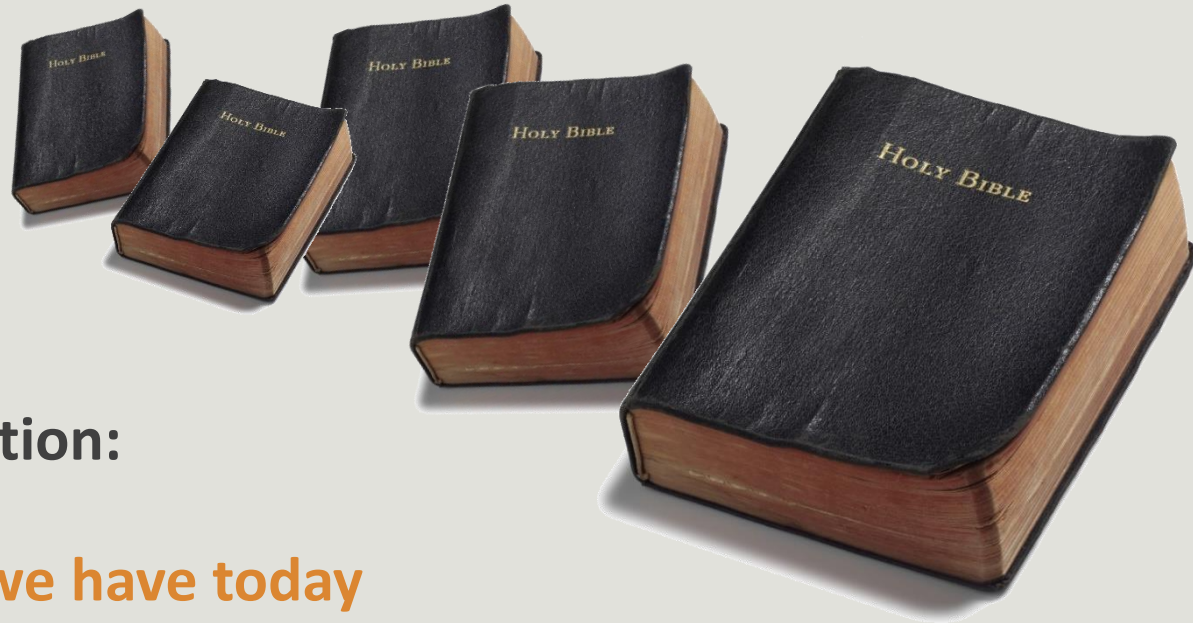
The Bible we read today is an English translation of the Hebrew and Greek texts.



# Manuscript Evidence Question of Reliability

(2 of 3)

- We do not possess ANY of the original writings. (known as autographs)
- The copies we have today are actually copies of the copies of the copies.



Leaving the Question:

Is the Bible that we have today  
the same as what was originally written?



# Manuscript Evidence Question of Reliability

(3 of 3)

- The Reliability of the Scriptures are dependent upon the **Quantity** and **Quality** of the Manuscripts that we DO possess. Based on these two how do we answer the question...
- Is What We Have Now What They Wrote Then?

In reference to the New Testament Daniel Wallace answers the question by saying:

**“In all particulars? Probably Not.  
But in all essentials? Absolutely.”**





## Manuscript Evidence Old Testament

(1 of 7)

### ■ The Quantity of Manuscripts

In the case of the Old Testament, there are only a small number of Hebrew manuscripts,

Why so few manuscripts:

- Because the Jewish scribes ceremonially buried imperfect and worn manuscripts.
- Many ancient manuscripts were also lost or destroyed during Israel's turbulent history.
- Also, the Old Testament text was standardized by the Masoretic Jews by the sixth century A.D., and all manuscripts that deviated from the Masoretic Text were evidently eliminated.



## Manuscript Evidence Old Testament

(2 of 7)

### ■ The Quantity of Manuscripts – Masoretic Text

The Masoretes were rabbis who made it their special work to correct the faults that had crept into the text of the Old Testament during the Babylonian captivity, and to prevent, for the future, its being corrupted by any alteration.

Most of their work was done between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries.

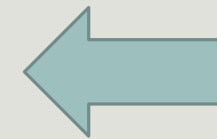
Contributions:

- Since texts traditionally omitted vowels in writing, the Masoretes introduced vowel signs to guarantee correct pronunciation
- The Masoretes separated the Canonical and Apocryphal books
- Divided each book into sections and verses

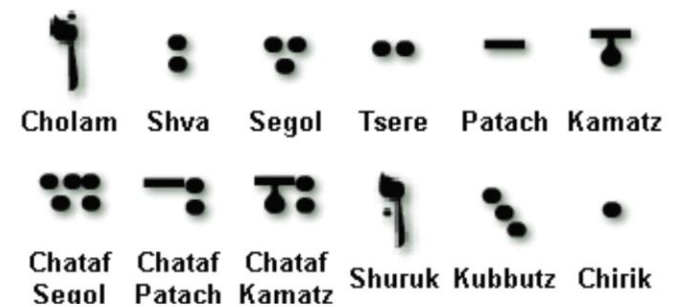


Manuscript Evidence **Old Testament**

(3 of 7)



Pointing system  
created by the  
Masoretes



## Manuscript Evidence Old Testament

(4 of 7)

### ■ The Quantity of Manuscripts – Supplements

The existing Hebrew manuscripts are supplemented by:

- The Dead Sea Scrolls
- The Septuagint (a third-century B.C. Greek translation of the Old Testament)
- The Samaritan Pentateuch
- The Targums (ancient paraphrases of the Old Testament)
- The Talmud (teachings and commentaries related to the Hebrew Scriptures).



## Manuscript Evidence Old Testament

(5 of 7)

### ■ The Quantity of Manuscripts – Age Gap

Apart from some fragments, the earliest Masoretic manuscript of the Old Testament is dated at A.D. 895. This is due to the systematic destruction of worn manuscripts by the Masoretic scribes.

However, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls dating from 250 B.C. to A.D. 70 drastically reduced the time span from the writing of the Old Testament books to our earliest copies of them.



## Manuscript Evidence Old Testament

(6 of 7)

### ■ The Quality of Manuscripts

Because of the great reverence the Jewish scribes held toward the Scriptures, they exercised extreme care in making new copies of the Hebrew Bible. The entire scribal process was specified in meticulous detail to minimize the possibility of even the slightest error.

- The number of letters, words, and lines were counted,
- The middle letters of the Pentateuch and the Old Testament were determined.
- Scribes were not allowed to copy a single letter by memory
- If a single mistake was discovered, the entire manuscript would be destroyed.

As a result of this extreme care, the quality of the manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible surpasses all other ancient manuscripts.



## Manuscript Evidence Old Testament

(7 of 7)

### ■ The Quality of Manuscripts –Verified

The 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls provided a significant check on the quality of the manuscripts that are extant, because these Hebrew scrolls preceded the earliest Masoretic Old Testament manuscripts by about 1,000 years.

But in spite of this time span, the number of variant readings between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Masoretic Text is quite small, and most of these are variations in spelling and style.



# Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(1 of 40)

## ■ **The Quantity of Manuscripts – New Testament**

The quantity of New Testament manuscripts is unparalleled in ancient literature. There are:

- Over 5,800 Greek manuscripts
  - The manuscripts we have are not just small fragments.
  - The average size of the Greek manuscripts we have are about 450 pages long.
- About 10,000 Latin manuscripts
- Another 5,000-10,000 manuscripts in other languages (Syriac, Coptic, Gothic, Arabic, etc.).





## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(2 of 40)

### ■ **The Quantity of Manuscripts – New Testament**

In addition to this extraordinary number, there are over 1 Million citations of New Testament passages by the early church fathers.

**“Just on the basis of the quotations of the church fathers alone  
we could reproduce virtually the entire  
New Testament multiple times over without the use of other  
manuscripts.”**

Daniel B Wallace



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(3 of 40)

### ■ **The Quantity of Manuscripts – Other Classical Works**

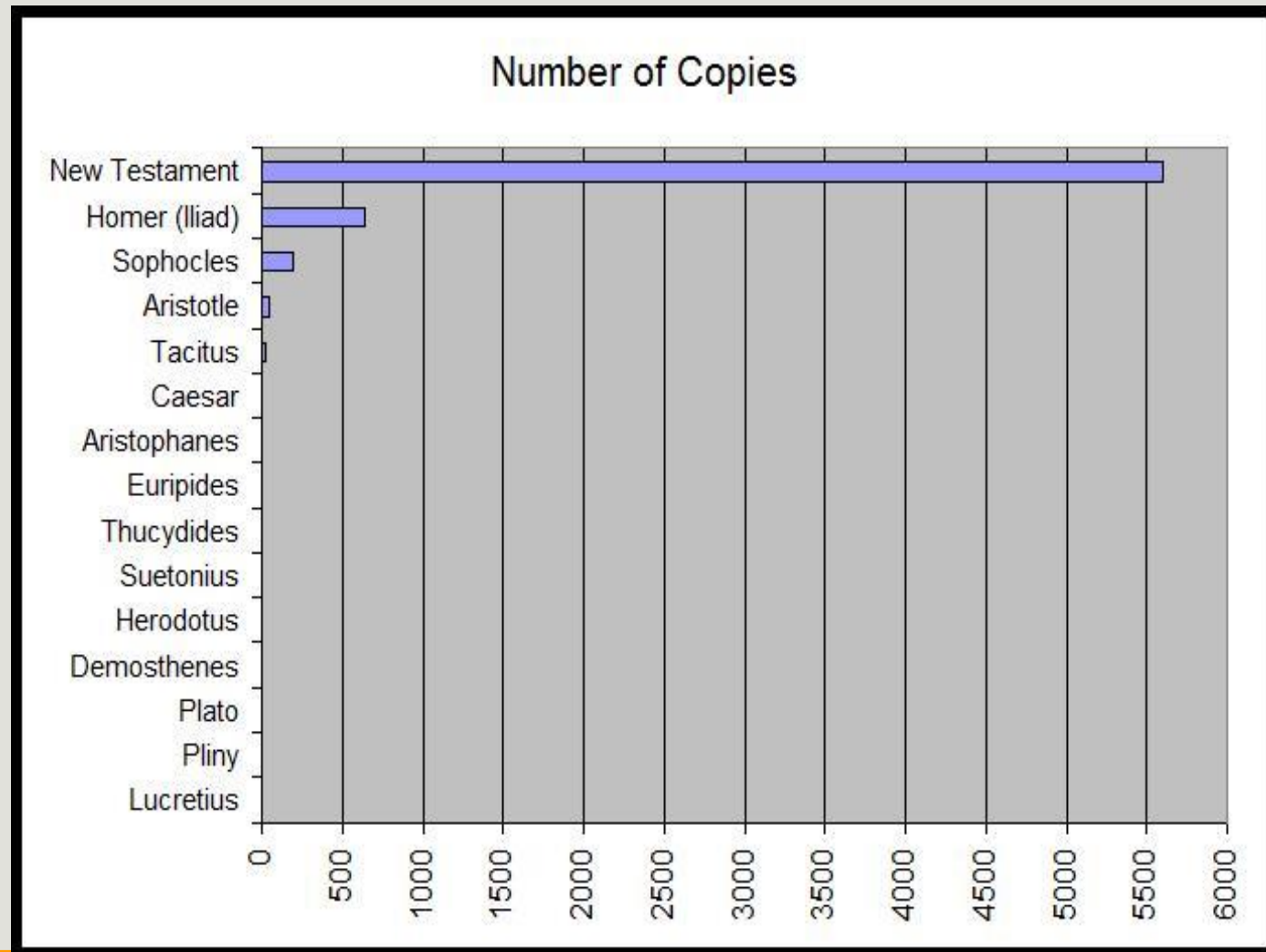
In contrast to the number of manuscripts available for the New Testament, the typical number of existing manuscript copies for any of the works of the Greek and Latin authors, such as Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, or Tacitus, ranges from one to 20.

**“Whereas with other classical works have an derth of evidence, with the New Testament we have an embarrassment of riches”**



Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(4 of 40)



## Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(5 of 40)

- If we stack all the copies of the classical Greek writers they would be 4 feet high
- If we stack all the copies of the New Testament, excluding the church father quotations, it would stand over 1 mile high

What does that look like....???



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(6 of 40)

Classic Greek

New Testament



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(7 of 40)

## New Testament

...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(8 of 40)

## New Testament

...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(9 of 40)

## New Testament

...and these...





# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(10 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(11 of 40)

## New Testament

...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(12 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(13 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(14 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(15 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(16 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(17 of 40)

## New Testament



...and these...





# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(18 of 40)

New Testament

...and these...



That's a lot of manuscript evidence!!



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(19 of 40)

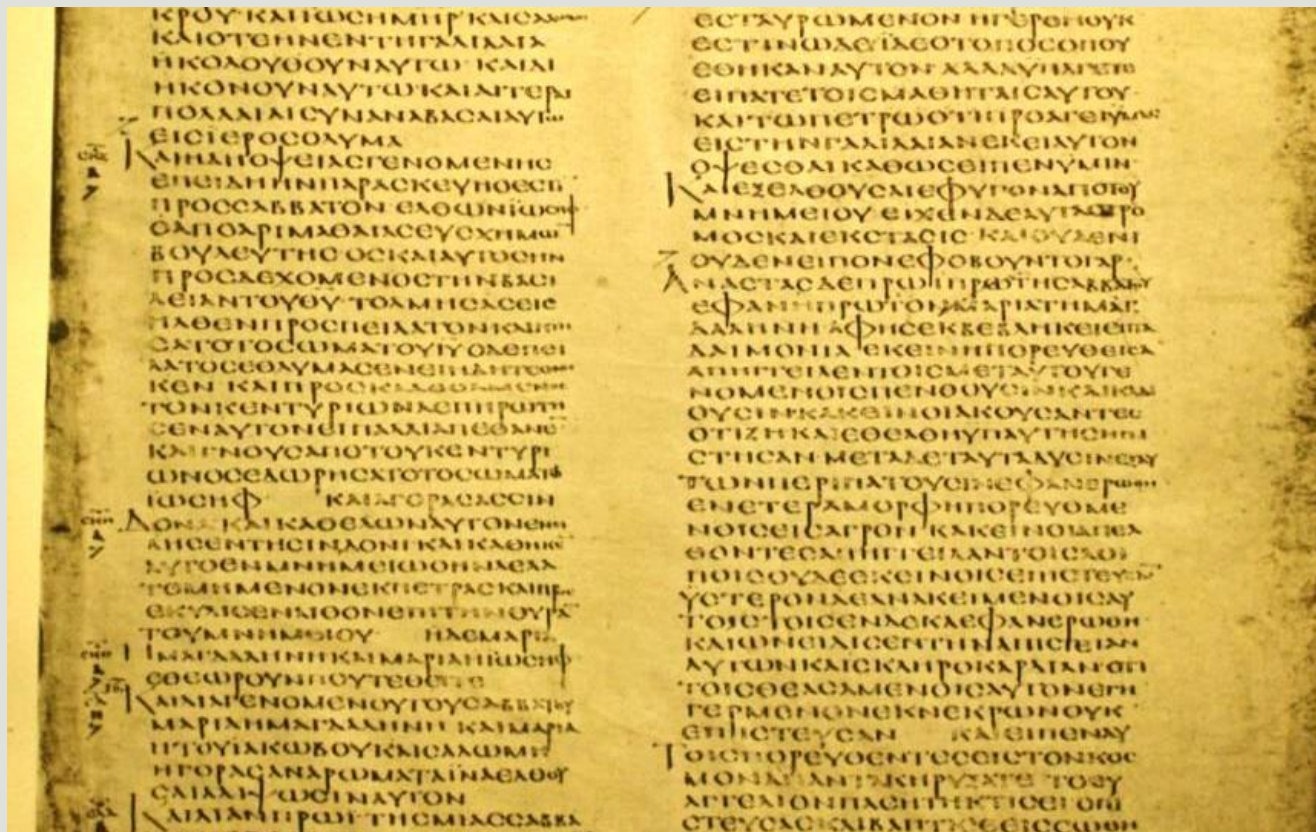
- **The Quantity of Manuscripts – Types of Manuscripts**
  - Papyrus are the oldest manuscripts and are written on papyrus. They date from the second and third centuries A.D.
  - Uncial, or Majuscule are written in all capital letters and come from the second to tenth centuries
  - Minuscule, or small hand, often called Cursive are written in all lower case letters and are found in the tenth to fourteenth centuries



Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(20 of 40)

## ■ Example of an Uncial Manuscript



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(21 of 40)

- **Example of an Uncial Manuscript**

IMAGINE A BOOK WRITTEN IN ENGLISH BUT WITHOUT ANY KIND OF SPACES OR PUNCTUATION MARKS OF ANY KIND. IT IS INK THAT WE COULD AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO READ ESPECIALLY IF ENGLISH IS NOT EVEN YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE. AMEN



# Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(22 of 40)

## ■ **The Quantity of Manuscripts – Early Copies**

- The John Rylands Fragment (P52) of the Gospel of John is dated at A.D. 117-38, only a few decades after the Gospel was written.
- The Bodmer Papyri are dated from A.D. 175- 225,
- The Chester Beatty Papyri date from about A.D. 250.
  
- Codex Sinaiticus (Ⲛ) – 4<sup>th</sup> century
- Codex Alexandrius (A) – 5<sup>th</sup> century
- Codex Vaticanus (B) – 4<sup>th</sup> century
- Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus – 5<sup>th</sup> century
- Codex Bezae (D) – 5<sup>th</sup> century
- Codex Washingtoniensis (W) – 6<sup>th</sup> century



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(23 of 40)

### ■ **The Quantity of Manuscripts – Age Gap**

The time span of the New Testament manuscripts is exceptional being less than 200 years (and some books are within 100 years) from the date of authorship to the date of our earliest manuscripts.

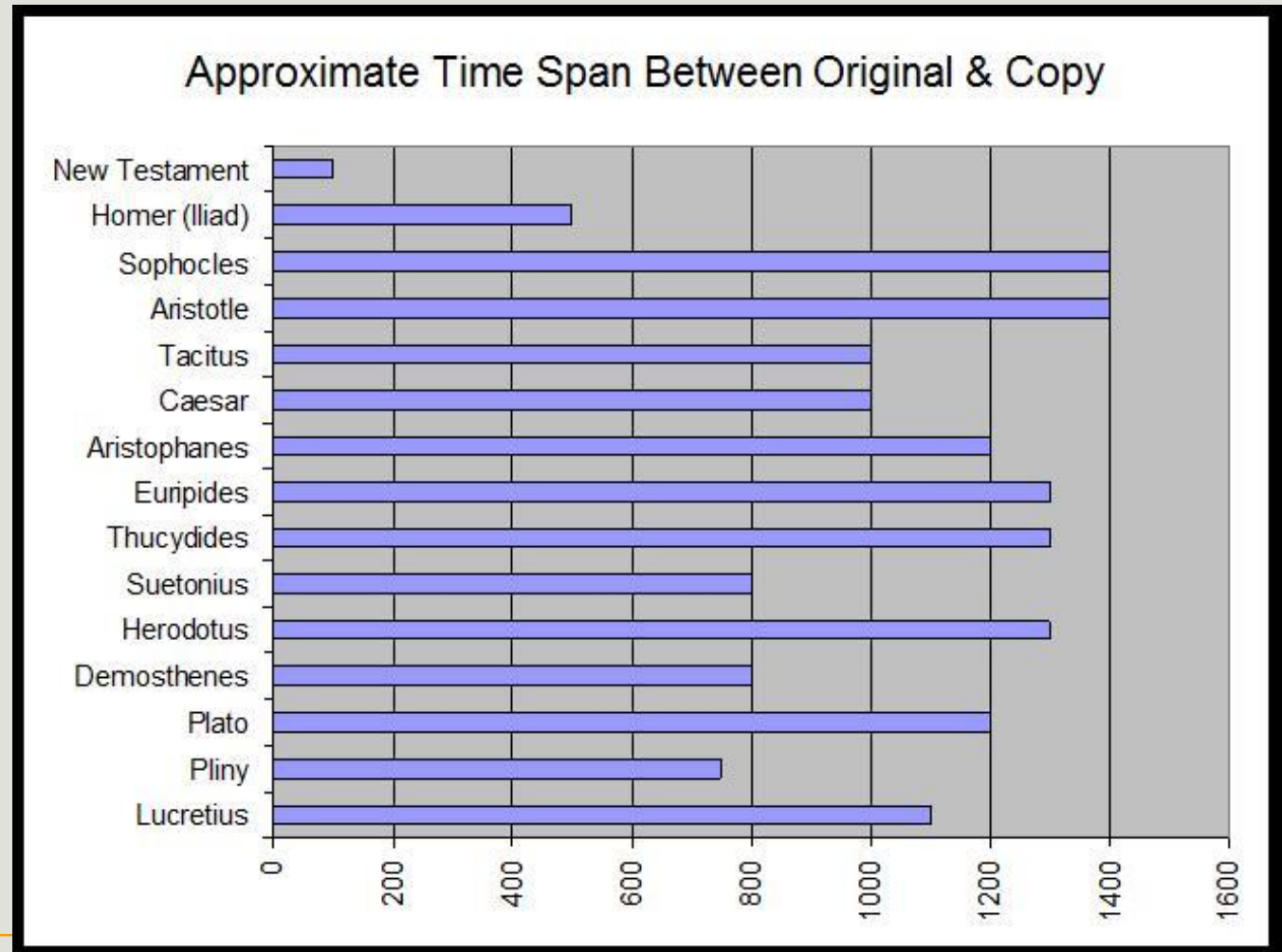
This can be sharply contrasted with the average gap of over 1,000 years between the composition and the earliest copy of the writings of other ancient authors.



# Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(24 of 40)

## ■ The Quantity of Manuscripts – Compared to other works



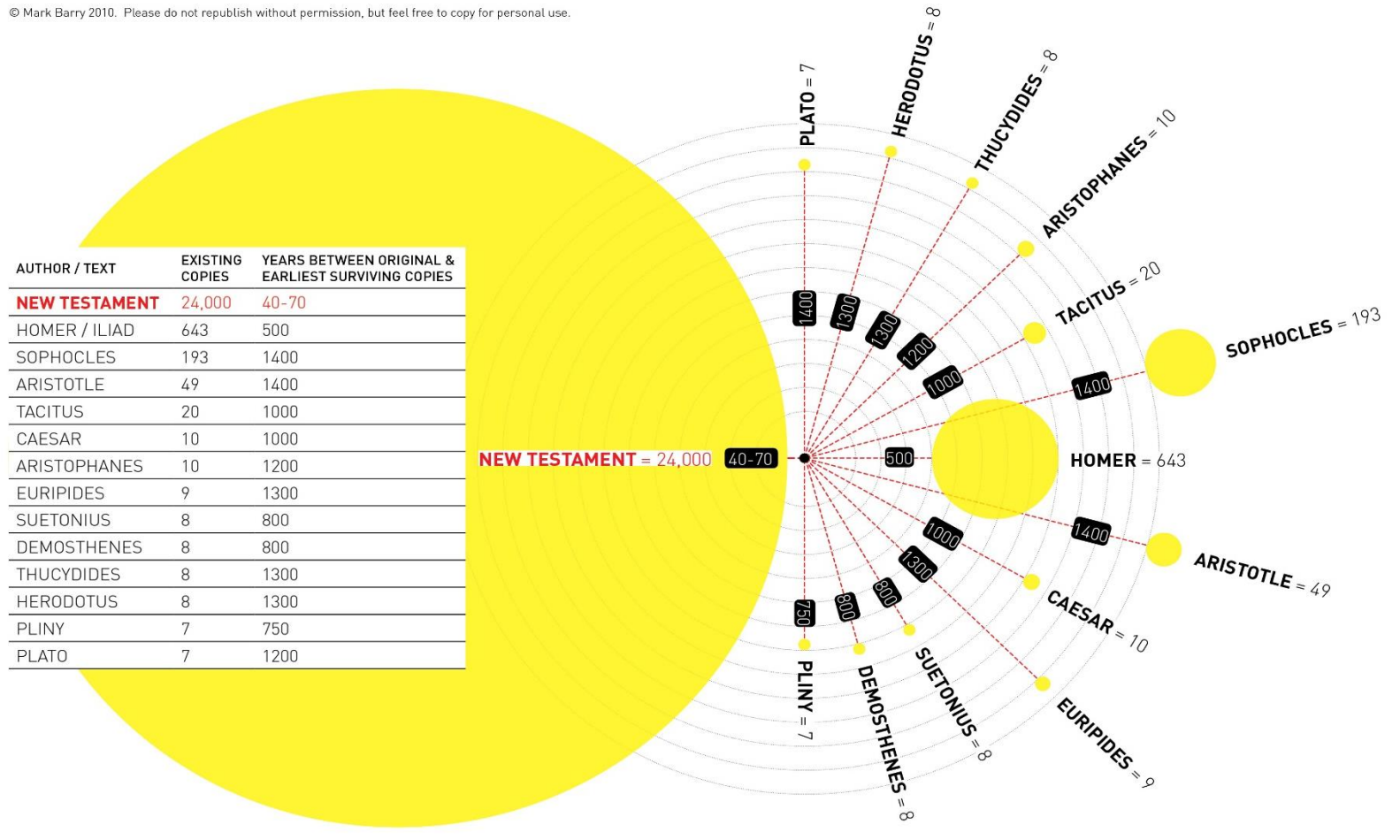


# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(25 of 40)

## ■ The Quantity of Manuscripts – Compared to other works

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## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(26 of 40)

### ■ **The Quality of Manuscripts**

The quality of the New Testament manuscripts is excellent; considerably better than the manuscript quality of other ancient documents.

And yet, because of the thousands of New Testament manuscripts, there are many variant readings, but these variants are actually used by scholars to reconstruct the original readings by determining which variant best explains the others in any given passage.



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(27 of 40)

- **The Quality of Manuscripts – What is a Variant?**

**“Any place among the manuscripts in which there is variation in wording, including word order, omission or addition of words, even spelling differences.”**

Daniel B. Wallace



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(28 of 40)

### ■ **The Quality of Manuscripts – Why do we have Variants?**

Some of these variant readings crept into the manuscripts because of visual errors in copying or because of auditory errors when a group of scribes copied manuscripts that were read aloud. Other errors resulted from faulty writing, memory, and judgment, and still others from well-meaning scribes who thought they were correcting the text.



## Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(29 of 40)

### ■ The Quality of Manuscripts – How Many Variants?

# 400,000 Variants

- There are over 400,000 variants of the New Testament.
- There are 138,162 words in the Greek New Testament

This number of variants might cause some people to be worried about the reliability of the New Testament text....but the more variants we have the better.



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(30 of 40)

## ■ The Quality of Manuscripts – Types of Variants

- **Mistaken Letters:** Confusion of letters
- **Homophony:** Substitution of similar sounding words
- **Haplography:** Omission of a letter or word
- **Dittography:** Repetition of a letter or word
- **Metathesis:** Reversal in the order of two letters or words
- **Fusion:** Incorrect word division that results in two words joined as one
- **Fission:** Incorrect word division that results in one word written as two
- **Homoioleuton:** An omission caused by two words or phrases that end similarly
- **Homoioarchton:** An omission caused by two words or phrases that begin similarly
- **Other Omissions**



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(31 of 40)

- **The Quality of Manuscripts – Example of a Variant**

**Confused Letter: 1 Timothy 3:16**

OC	OC	(os)	"he who"
$\overline{\Theta C}$	$\Theta \epsilon OC$	(theos)	"God"



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(32 of 40)

## ■ The Quality of Manuscripts – Example of a Variant

Similar Looking Words: 2 Peter 2:13

ΑΠΑΤΑΙΣ	απαταις	"dissipations" or "deceptions"
ΑΓΑΠΑΙΣ	αγαπαις	"love feasts"



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(33 of 40)

### ■ **The Quality of Manuscripts – Most Common Example**

One of the most common examples of a textual variant has to do with the adding or missing moveable nu (ν).

This is similar to adding or leaving out the letter ‘N’ on the indefinite article in English.

**An apple    =    A apple**





## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(34 of 40)

### ■ **The Quality of Manuscripts – Most Common Passages in Dispute**

There are several Scriptural passages that have manuscript support for NOT being included in the original text. These passages may have found their way into the Bible through scribal addition, harmonizing between other texts.

Even though these passages are in doubt:

- Does not mean that the teaching is not found elsewhere in the Bible
- Does not mean that they were not legitimate teachings from Christ, the Apostles, or the early Church.



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(35 of 40)

- **The Quality of Manuscripts – Most Common Passages in Dispute**
  - Woman Caught in Adultery (John 7:53-8:11)

Earliest manuscripts do not have this story. Many believe it was a teaching of Jesus passed down in the church and added by scribes later



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(36 of 40)

- **The Quality of Manuscripts – Most Common Passages in Dispute**
  - Ending of the book of Mark (Mark 16:9-20)

Not found in the earlier manuscripts. Some manuscripts have alternate endings.



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(37 of 40)

### ■ **The Quality of Manuscripts – Most Common Passages in Dispute**

- John's Trinity declaration (1 John 5:7-8)

KJV Includes it:

‘For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.’

Later Versions do not. They simply have:

‘There are three that bear witness:’



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(38 of 40)

- **The Quality of Manuscripts – Conclusion on Variants**
  - **75%** are spelling errors or non-sense errors.
  - **24%** are word order variations, transpositions, and synonyms.
  - **99% do not conceal the meaning of the original New Testament manuscripts!!!**



## Manuscript Evidence **New Testament**

(39 of 40)

### ■ The Quality of Manuscripts – Variants are Good



*No variant readings are significant enough to call into question any of the doctrines of the New Testament.*

#### Daniel Wallace on Variants:

“For more than two centuries, most biblical scholars have declared that no essential affirmation has been affected by the variants.”

“In the last 135 years, not a single new reading of any MS has such a pedigree [as to be both new and viable]. This shows that the autographic wording is to be found among the MSS somewhere.”

**The New Testament can be regarded as 99.5 percent pure, and the correct readings for the remaining 0.5 percent can often be ascertained with a fair degree of probability by the practice of textual criticism.**



# Manuscript Evidence New Testament

(40 of 40)

John Warwick Montgomery observed:

“to be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”



# Part One **Trusting the Bible**

## Internal Evidences





# Internal Evidences

Evidences of the authenticity of the Bible that are internal to the Bible or pertain directly to the Bible such as examining the truth claims of the various authors of the Bible and allowing them to speak for themselves.

(What does the Bible claim about itself?)



## ■ Areas of Internal Evidences

- What the Bible says about itself
- Apparent Contradictions, Discrepancies, and Errors in the Bible (are there mistakes in the Bible?)
- Inspiration of the Bible (written by men or God)
- Uniqueness of the Bible (unlike any other book in history)
- Canonization of the Bible (what books are included)



# What the Bible says about itself

(1 of 5)

**“Throughout Scripture there is the assumption of its equivalency with the actual speech of the Lord.”**

Millard J Erickson

- While not every book in the Old Testament has an explicit claim to divine inspiration, most do and the remainder have an implicit claim.

Examples:

- “God spoke all these words...” (Exodus)
- “The Lord called to Moses” (Leviticus)



# What the Bible says about itself

(2 of 5)

## ■ The New Testament refers to the Old Testament as “Scripture”

Jesus:

- “Did you never read in the Scriptures...” (Matthew 21:42)
- “You search the Scriptures...it is these that bear witness of me” (John 5:39)

Paul:

- “through His prophets in the holy Scriptures” (Romans 1:2)
- “according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:2-4)

Peter:

- “Scripture did not come by an act of human will...”  
(1 Peter 1:20-21)



# What the Bible says about itself

(3 of 5)

- **The complete Hebrew canon (Old Testament) was referred to as the very Word of God:**
  - “It is Written”
  - “That it might be fulfilled”
  - The Law
  - The Law and the Prophets
  - The Word of God
  - The Oracles of God
  - “From Abel to Zechariah”

Jesus refers to the totality of the Old Testament – Matthew 23:35; Genesis 4:8; 2 Chronicles 24:20-22



# What the Bible says about itself

(4 of 5)

- **The New Testament writers claim that they were spirit-directed**
  - They compared their message to the Old Testament  
Hebrews 1:1-2
  - They claimed their message was the foundation of the church  
Ephesians 2:20 – Church is built upon apostles
  - They claimed their message was authoritative  
Acts 21:11



# What the Bible says about itself

(5 of 5)

## The Significance of Internal Evidence

While the Bible's claims of Divine origin are considered by some to be weak due to circular reasoning...

“How do we know that the Bible is divinely inspired...  
because it says so”

...a look at several internal factors confirms that its claims are valid.



# Contradictions and Errors

(1 of 11)

- Isn't the Bible full of contradictions, discrepancies, and errors?
- Atheists are quick to point out that there are seemingly hundreds of “contradictions” in the Bible.



Are there really errors in the Bible?

\*\*Contradictions and discrepancies refer to instances where two or more passages of Scripture seem to give conflicting information

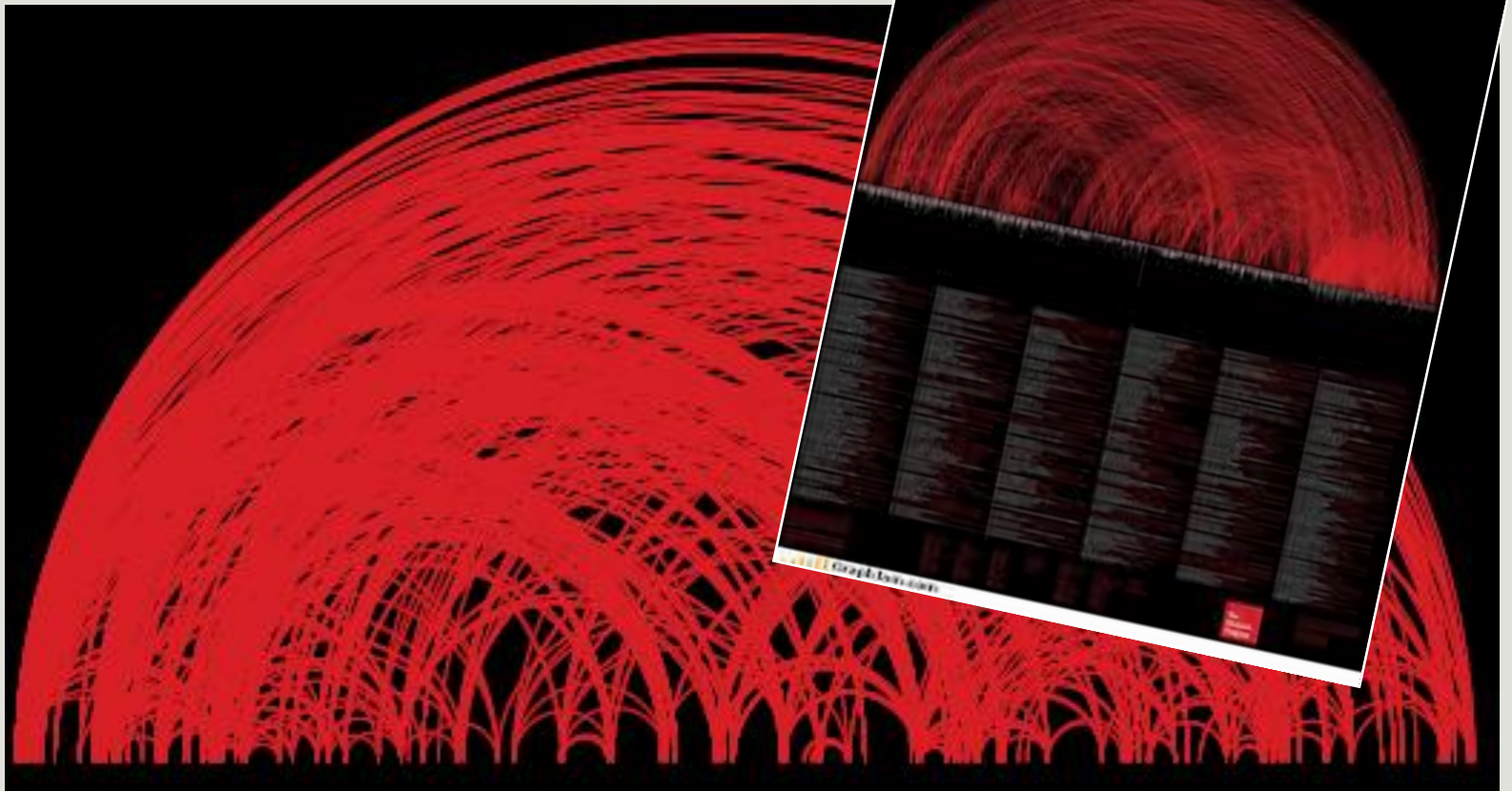




# Contradictions and Errors

(2 of 11)

- A rainbow of contradiction?



The above graphic shows 361 apparent contradictions from “The Reason Project” ([www.project-reason.org](http://www.project-reason.org))



# Contradictions and Errors

(3 of 11)

- 3 primary types of discrepancies:
  1. Doctrinal Issues : Questions of theology
  2. Ethical Issues : Pertaining to human values and morals
  3. Historical Issues : Related to detailed accounts
    - Names
    - Places
    - Dates and times
    - Numbers
    - Events



# Contradictions and Errors

(4 of 11)

- Where do contradictions come from?
- Most are due to :
  - Transcribed Errors
    - Wrong letters copied
    - Transposition of letters
  - Duplicate Names for the same person or place
  - Derivation of Names
  - Translation of words (multiple meanings)
  - Fragmentary accounts
    - Accounts that include parts of a story taken together form the whole story
    - Perspective on the story may yield differences



# Contradictions and Errors

(5 of 11)

## Example of Historical Name Errors:

COPYIST MISTAKES

- Hemdan      Genesis 36:26
- Amram      1 Chronicles 1:41
- Zabdi      Joshua 7:1
- Zimri      1 Chronicles 2:6

חמרנ   חמדנ

זברי   זבדי

MULTIPLE NAMES

- Ezekiel      is also      Ezekias
- Elisha      is also      Eliseus
- Rehoboam      is also      Reboam
- Jehoshaphat      is also      Josaphat



# Contradictions and Errors

(6 of 11)

## ■ Example of Different Names used for same people:

### • Anab

- The Hittite      Genesis 26:34      = Race
- The Horite      Genesis 36:20      = Tribe
- The Hivite      Genesis 36:2      = Habitat

## ■ Dates/Numbers:

### • Scribal Errors: a single letter changed and...

- 20 becomes 2
- 50 becomes 80
- 200 becomes 4000

### • Ahaziah's age when he began to reign

- 22      2 Kings 8:26
- 42      2 Chronicles 22:2

כ      koph = 20

מ      mem = 40



# Contradictions and Errors

(7 of 11)

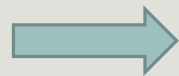
## ■ Event:

- Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus
  - Companions did hear                      Acts 9:7
  - Companions did not hear                Acts 22:9; 26:14



The word “hear” (ακουω) means:

- To hear
- To perceive or understand



In Chapter 9, they heard a sound but in chapters 22 and 26 we find out that they didn't understand.

Also, in chapter 9 they heard a sound, in chapters 22 and 26 they did not hear the words being said



# Contradictions and Errors

(8 of 11)

- The Genealogy of Jesus

- Joseph son of Jacob
- Joseph son of Heli

Matthew 1:16

Luke 3:23

= Line of Joseph

= Line of Mary

**King**

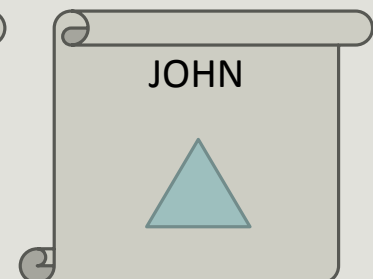
Genealogy  
traces back  
to David and  
Abraham

**Servant**

No genealogy  
because a servant 's  
ancestry is  
unnecessary

**Man**

Genealogy  
traces back  
to Adam

**God**

“In the beginning  
was the Word  
and the Word  
with God...”

Portrays  
Jesus as:



# Contradictions and Errors

(9 of 11)

Why do people have difficulty understanding passages?

- 15 Mistakes people make...  
that lead to difficulties in Bible passages

1. Assuming that the unexplained is unexplainable
2. Presuming the Bible guilty before proven innocent
3. Confusing our fallible interpretations with God's infallible revelation
4. Failing to understand the context of a passage
5. Neglecting to interpret difficult passages in the light of clear ones
6. Basing a teaching on an obscure passage
7. Forgetting that the Bible is a human book with human characteristics





# Contradictions and Errors

(10 of 11)

...continued

8. Assuming that a partial report is a false report
9. Demanding that NT citations of the OT always be exact quotations
10. Assuming that divergent accounts are false/contradictory ones
11. Neglecting to note that Bible uses different literary devices
12. Forgetting that only the original text, not every copy is without error
13. Confusing general statements with universal ones
14. Forgetting that later revelation supersedes previous revelation
15. Forgetting that the Bible uses everyday, non-technical language



# Contradictions and Errors

(11 of 11)

**Conclusion...** there are difficult passages but they are not in-explainable.

- God Cannot Err:
  - It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18)
  - God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)
  - He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13)
  - The entirety of Your Word is truth (Ps. 119:160)
- The Bible is the Word of God:
  - The Bible 'cannot be broken' (John 10:35)
  - All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)
  - Came from the mouth of God (2 Peter 1:20)



# Inspiration of the Bible

(1 of 11)

“God’s superintending of human authors so that using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in all the words of the original autographs.”



# Inspiration of the Bible

(2 of 11)

- Primary passages supporting the inspiration of the Bible (#1)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



# Inspiration of the Bible

(3 of 11)

- Primary passages supporting the inspiration of the Bible (#2)

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

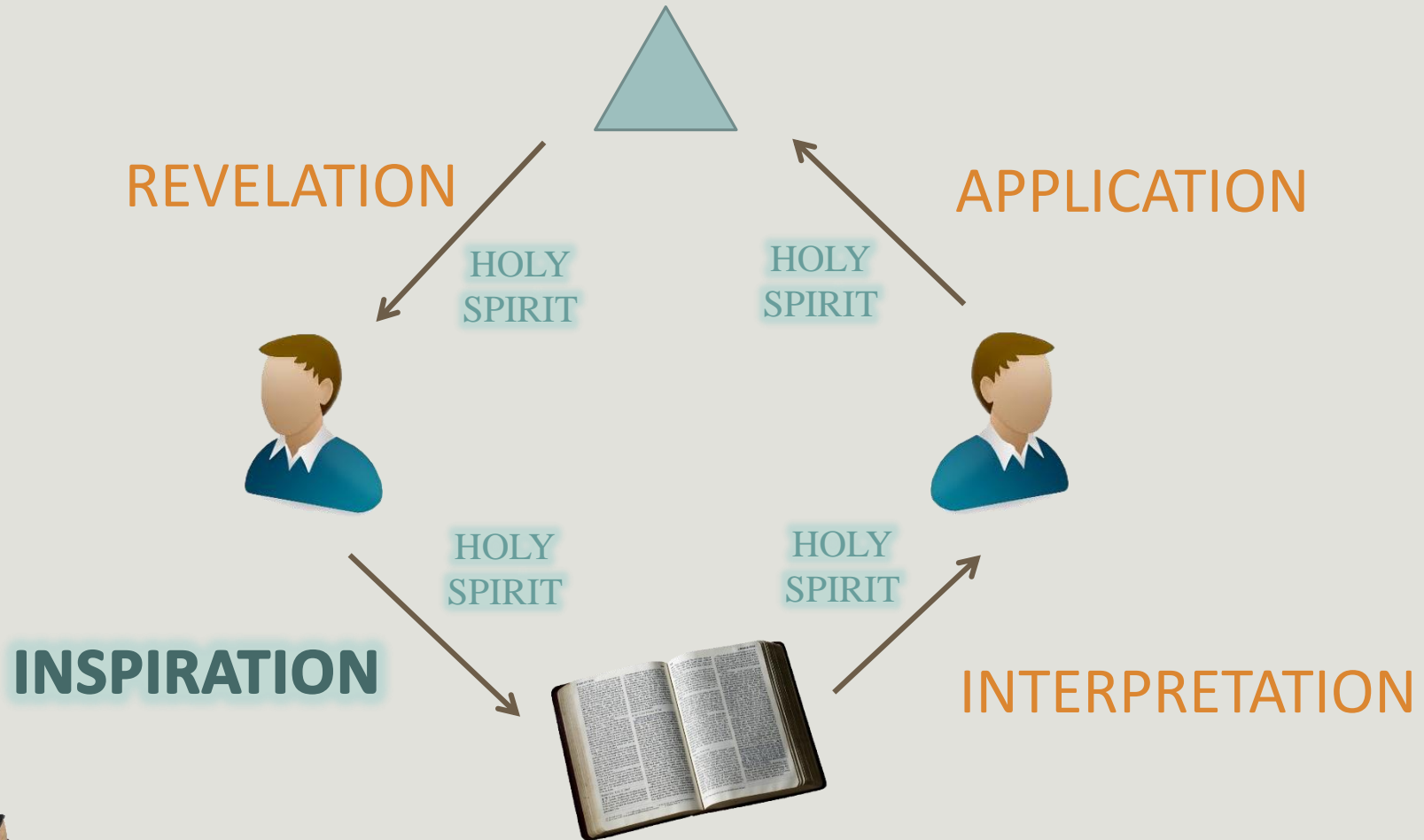
2 Peter 1:20-21



# Inspiration of the Bible

(4 of 11)

Fitting into God's revelatory work



# Inspiration of the Bible False Views

(5 of 11)

## 1. Natural Inspiration

The Bible is written by great men who erred. Nothing supernatural.

## 2. Partial Inspiration

The Bible contains God's words but must be sorted out from parts that are merely human and may be in error.

## 3. Degrees of Inspiration

Some parts of the Bible are more inspired than others.

## 4. Conceptual Inspiration

The thoughts or ideas of Scripture are inspired but the actual words used are not.

## 5. Dictational Inspiration

The writers passively recorded God's words without any participation of their own styles or personalities.



# Inspiration of the Bible Biblical View

(6 of 11)

## Verbal Plenary Inspiration

All of the actual words in the Bible are inspired and without error.





# Inspiration of the Bible

(7 of 11)

**NATURE:** Verbal: “the words” (Matthew 5:18)

**EXTENT:** Plenary: “all, every one of them” (Revelation 22:18-19)

**PROCESS:** God-breathed: “from God” (2 Timothy 3:16)

**PRODUCT:** An Inerrant Bible



**No errors!**

**VALUE:** Doctrine, Reproof (conviction), Correction (restoration), and Instruction (training) in righteousness

**PURPOSE:** That the man of God might be mature



# Inspiration of the Bible implications

(8 of 11)

1. It does not mean that all parts of the Bible are equally important, but equally inspired
2. It refers to the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts not the copies
3. It allows for the recording of falsehood
4. It does NOT permit the recording of historical or scientific falsehood
5. It does not disallow the writer's use of research or extra-biblical resources
6. It is limited to the writing of Scripture. Not everything the author said or wrote is inspired



# Inspiration of the Bible Summary

(9 of 11)

## What is Inspired?

- The Writings, not the Writers
- The Autographs, not the Copies
  - Only the autographs, not the translations
  - Only the autographs, good copies are accurate

## How much is Inspired?

- Every word.
- Truth does not come in degrees

**“Jesus and the New Testament writers regarded every word, syllable, and punctuation mark of the Old Testament as significant.”**

Millard J Erickson



# Inspiration of the Bible related terms

(10 of 11)

**REVELATION:** The act of God communicating to man what man would not know and could not know but must come to know to be correctly related to God.

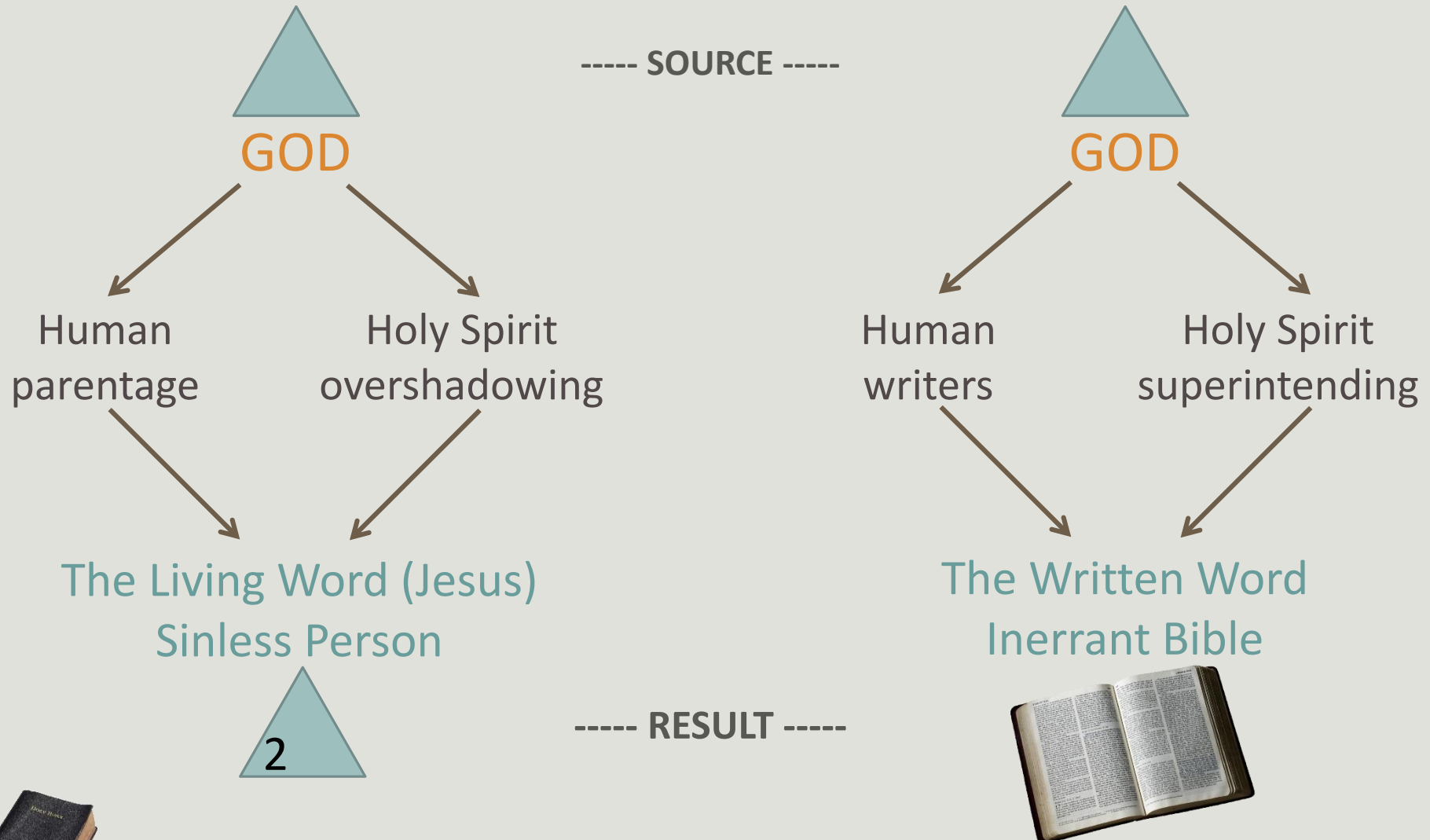
**INERRANCY:** The Bible is without error

**INFALLIBILITY:** The Bible is incapable of error



# Inspiration of the Bible Illustrated

(11 of 11)



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(1 of 11)

**The Bible is unlike any other book or writing that has ever existed. It is unique, different from all others.**

**Professor M. Montiero-Williams, former Boden Professor of Sanskrit, held this perspective after studying Eastern books for 42 years and comparing them with the Bible:**

*“Pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table, but place your own Holy Bible on the right side—all by itself, all alone—and with a wide gap between them, For...there is a gulf between it and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly, and forever...a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought.”*



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(2 of 11)

## ■ **Unique in its Unity**

The Bible is unified and harmonious even in the midst of its diversity

- **It was written over a period of 1,500 years.**
- **It was written by over 40 different authors from every walk of life including: kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax-collectors, poets, musicians, scholars, and shepherds.**
- **It was written in different places: wilderness, dungeon, on a hillside, inside prison walls, in exile**
- **It was written at different times: during periods of war, periods of peace and prosperity, and captivity**
- **It was written on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe**
- **It was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek**



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(3 of 11)

- **Unique in its Unity**

In spite of the various style of literature found in the Bible, there remains consistency.

- **It was written in different literary style:**

- Poetry
- Historical narrative
- Song
- Romance
- Didactic treatise
- Personal correspondence
- Memoirs
- Satire
- Biography
- Law
- Prophecy
- Parable
- Allegory





# Uniqueness of the Bible

(4 of 11)

- **Unique in its Unity**

The Bible is unified across each of the 66 books even when addressing a diverse number of subjects

- **It was written coverings hundreds of controversial subjects**

- **Marriage, Divorce, and remarriage**
- **Homosexuality**
- **Adultery**
- **Obedience to authority**
- **Parenting**
- **Character development...**



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(5 of 11)

Even though the Bible is so diverse in content, authorship and origin, it maintains a perfect consistency of message.

Its words point unerringly to Christ, whose work on the cross was ordained by God—the true author of the Bible—before the world began.

Despite this marvelous array of topics and goals, the Bible displays a flawless internal consistency. It never contradicts itself or its common theme. The unity of Scripture demonstrates its supernatural inspiration.



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(6 of 11)

**“The Bible towers in content above all earlier religious literature; and it towers just as impressively over all subsequent literature in the direct simplicity of its message and the catholicity of its appeal to men of all lands and times”**

W. F. Albright, archaeologist (*The Christian Century*, November 1958)



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(7 of 10)

## ■ Unique in its Circulation

- Most books that are on the bestseller list sell a few hundred thousand copies. Others might sell a couple of million. It is very rare to find a book that has sold over ten-million copies.
- Yet, the Bible has sold billions of copies. It is the best selling book of all time. According to United Bible Societies' 1998 Scripture Distribution Report, almost 21 million Bible were distributed in that year alone.
- The Cambridge History of the Bible reported “No other book has known anything approaching this constant circulation”.



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(8 of 10)

## ■ Unique in its Translation

Not only has the Bible sold more copies than any other book in history, it has been translated into more languages than any other book. According to United Bible Societies, the Bible has been translated into over 2,500 different languages.

“The Bible has been subjected to more abuse, perversion, destructive criticism, and pure hate than any other book. Yet it is an anvil that has worn out many hammers; it continues to stand the test of time while its critics are refuted and forgotten. No other book has enjoyed such popularity--the Bible has been copied and circulated far more extensively than any other book in human history.”

Kenneth Boa (<https://bible.org/seriespage/iii-how-we-got-bible>)

# Uniqueness of the Bible

(9 of 10)

## ■ Unique in its Survival

Although it was written on perishable materials and had to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press, the Scriptures have never diminished in style or correctness, nor has it ever faced extinction.

The Bible has withstood attacks by its enemies unlike any other book. In 303 A.D., the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to stop Christians from worshipping and to destroy all of their Scriptures.. Yet only 30 years later, Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religions of the Roman Empire and ordered 50 copies of the Bible to be made at the government's expense.

Centuries slater, Voltaire, the noted French infidel who died in 1778, said that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Yet only 30 years later, his house was being used to store Bibles an his printing press was used to print Bibles.



# Uniqueness of the Bible

(10 of 10)

## 66 Books . . . 1 Message

Despite writing in radically different times and contexts, the Bible's many authors all told the same message about God's eternal plan, from Creation and the Flood to Christ's work on the Cross and the consummation of God's plan. You can find the same truths stated by Moses and the Old Testament prophets, Christ Himself, and Christ's apostles.

**Only the one true, holy God could provide us with such a flawless Bible that reveals such a matchless message: the Lord's staggering love for His creation.**



# Canonization of the Bible

(1 of 19)

## What is the Canon?

- **The word “canon” (κανον) is a Greek word meaning:**
  - A Rod
  - A Ruler
  - A Staff
  - A Measuring Rod
  
- **Theologically it is applied to the Bible and refers to the collection of writings accepted as the Divinely inspired Word of God**





# Canonization of the Bible

(2 of 19)



How are books determined to be authoritative?

- Some Inadequate views of Old Testament Canonicity
  - Age determines canonicity
    - Many ancient books are not in the Canon
      - Book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13)
      - Book of the Wars of the Lord (Numbers 21:14)
    - Many young books were placed in the Canon
  - Hebrew language determines canonicity
  - Agreement with the Torah determines canonicity
  - Religious values determines canonicity
  - Religious community determines canonicity



# Canonization of the Bible

(3 of 19)



How books are determined to be authoritative?

- **Canonicity is determined by God**

A canonical book is valuable and true because God inspired it. That is, canonicity is determined or fixed conclusively by authority, and authority was given to the individual books by God through inspiration. The real question is not where a book received its divine authority, for that can only come from God; but how did men recognize that authority?

- **Canonicity is recognized by men of God**

Inspiration determines canonicity. If a book was authoritative, it was so because God breathed it and made it so. How a book *received* authority, then, is determined by God. How men *recognize* that authority is another matter altogether.



# Canonization of the Bible

(4 of 19)

“When the Word of God was written it became Scripture and, inasmuch as it had been spoken by God, possessed absolute authority.

Since it was the Word of God, it was canonical. That which determines the canonicity of a book, therefore, is the fact that the book is inspired by God.”

Edward J Young



# Canonization of the Bible

(5 of 19)

## INCORRECT VIEW

- The Church is the Determiner of Canon
- The Church is the Mother of Canon
- The Church is Magistrate of Canon
- The Church is Regulator of Canon
- The Church is Judge of Canon
- The Church is Master of Canon

## CORRECT VIEW

- The Church is the Discoverer of Canon
- The Church is the Child of Canon
- The Church is Minister of Canon
- The Church is Recognizer of Canon
- The Church is Witness of Canon
- The Church is Servant of Canon



# Canonization of the Bible

(6 of 19)

## ■ Principles Involved in Determining Canonicity

### 5 TESTS

#### 1. Apostolicity

Was the book written by an apostle, or prophet of God? Was the writer confirmed/authenticated by acts of God?

#### 2. Orthodoxy

Did the message tell the truth about God with no falsehood?

#### 3. Antiquity

Was it written during the apostolic period?

#### 4. Transformation

Does it come with the power of God to transform lives?

#### 5. Use

Was it accepted by the people of God?



# Canonization of the Bible

(7 of 19)

- **3 Steps in the historical process of canonicity**
  1. Inspiration by God
  2. Accepted by Man
  3. Collected and Preserved by the people of God



# Canonization of the Bible

(8 of 19)

“One thing must be emphatically stated. The New Testament books did not become authoritative for the Church because they were formally included in a canonical list; on the contrary, the Church included them in her canon because she already regarded them as divinely inspired, recognizing their innate worth and generally apostolic authority, direct or indirect. The first ecclesiastical councils to classify the canonical books were both held in North Africa—at Hippo Regius in 393 and at Carthage in 397—but what these councils did was not to impose something new upon the Christian communities but to codify what was already the general practice of those communities.”

F.F. Bruce

*The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994), 27

# Canonization of the Bible

(9 of 19)

## What Books are part of the Canon?

- **The Protestant Bible has 66 Books**  
(39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New testament)
- **The Hebrew Old Testament contains the same books but groups them differently resulting in 22 books (or 24 in some arrangements)**
- **The Roman Catholic Bible contains additional books known as the Apocrypha (11 books not included by the Protestant Bible)**





# Canonization of the Bible

(10 of 19)

HEBREW CANON 24 BOOKS TANAKH תנ"ך	CHRISTIAN CANON 39 BOOKS
<b>LAW</b> 5 GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY תורה TORAH	<b>HISTORICAL</b> 17 PENTATEUCH GENESIS EXODUS LEVITICUS NUMBERS DEUTERONOMY  HISTORICAL JOSHUA 1 SAMUEL EZRA JUDGES 2 SAMUEL NEHEMIAH RUTH 1 KINGS ESTHER 2 KINGS 1 CHRONICLES 2 CHRONICLES
<b>PROPHETS</b> 8 FORMER PROPHETS JOSHUA JUDGES SAMUEL KINGS  LATER PROPHETS ISAIAH JEREMIAH EZEKIEL  BOOK OF THE TWELVE (considered 1 book) HOSEA JONAH ZEPHANIAH JOEL MICAH HAGGAI AMOS NAHUM ZECHARIAH OBADIAH HABBAKUK MALACHI נביאים NEBI'IM	<b>POETICAL</b> 5 JOB PSALMS PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES SONG OF SOLOMON
<b>WRITINGS</b> 11 PSALMS PROVERBS JOB SONGS OF SONGS RUTH LAMENTATIONS ECCLESIASTES ESTHER DANIEL EZRA-NEHEMIAH CHRONICLES כתובים KETUBIM	<b>PROPHETICAL</b> 17 MAJOR PROPHETS ISAIAH JEREMIAH LAMENTATIONS EZEKIEL DANIEL  MINOR PROPHETS HOSEA JONAH ZEPHANIAH JOEL MICAH HAGGAI AMOS NAHUM ZECHARIAH OBADIAH HABBAKUK MALACHI

The Hebrew Bible contains all 39 books of the Christian Old testament. They are simply grouped differently.

In the Hebrew Bible the books of 1 and 2 Samuel are one book; 1 and 2 Kings are one book; 1 and 2 Chronicles are one book. The 12 minor prophets make up a single book called the “book of the twelve”; and Ezra and Nehemiah are one book.

(Some listings group Jeremiah and Lamentations together and Ruth is placed with Judges to give a total number of 22 books)



# Canonization of the Bible

(11 of 19)

## ■ The History of Canonization

Old Testament Canon – Recognizing the correct Old Testament books



- Christ refers to Old Testament books as “scripture” (Matthew 21:42, etc.).
- The Council of Jamnia (A.D. 90) officially recognized our 39 Old Testament books.
- Josephus, the Jewish historian (A.D. 95), indicated that the 39 books were recognized as authoritative.



# Canonization of the Bible

(12 of 19)

## ■ The History of Canonization

New Testament Canon – Recognizing the correct New Testament books

- The apostles claimed authority for their writings (Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; 2 Thessalonians 3:14).
- The apostle's writings were equated with Old Testament scriptures (2 Peter 3:1, 2, 15, 16).



# Canonization of the Bible

(13 of 19)

- The writings of the early church fathers attest to the acceptance of many NT books:
  - They quote them as Scripture.
  - They draw a clear distinction between their writings and that of Scripture.
  - Marcion (c. 140), a Gnostic heretic, devised his own canon which excluded the entire OT and included only Luke (except Chap. 1 and 2) and the Pauline epistles (excluding the pastoral epistles).
  - Muratorian Canon (170 A.D.) attests to all the books of the NT except Hebrews, James, and 1 & 2 Peter.
  - Origen (185–254 A.D.) writes commentaries on most of the books of the NT emphasizing their inspiration.
  - The Council of Athanasius (A.D. 367) and the Council of Carthage (A.D. 397) recognized the 27 books in our New Testament today as inspired.
  - Council of Hippo (393 A.D.) and Council of Carthage (397 A.D.) both affirmed our current NT canon. They forbade claiming any other writing as Scripture.



# Canonization of the Bible

(14 of 19)

**“From the early part of the second century of the Christian era, there is evidence that the letters of Paul were treasured not merely as isolated communications, but as a definite collection of writings, now commonly described as the Pauline corpus.”**

**Donald Guthrie**

*New Testament Introduction* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990), 986



# Canonization of the Bible

(15 of 19)

Eusebius, a fourth-century Church historian, speaks plainly about the condition of the New Testament canon in his day:

- **Homologoumena**: Books accepted into the canon and recognized not only in the early generations but also by succeeding generations. Universally-agreed-upon books were:
  - The four Gospels
  - Acts
  - Letters of Paul (which included Hebrews)
  - 1 Peter
  - 1 John
  - Revelation



# Canonization of the Bible

(16 of 19)

- **Antilogoumena:** Books that were accepted by the majority (including Eusibius), but disputed by some:
  - **Hebrews:** due to its anonymity
  - **James:** some believed it conflicted with Paul's doctrine of faith apart from works
  - **2 Peter:** questioned its genuineness
  - **2 and 3 John:** questioned its genuineness
  - **Jude:** questioned its authenticity (because it refers to a Pseudepigraphical Book of Enoch)



# Canonization of the Bible

(17 of 19)

- **Antilogoumena:** Books that were accepted by the majority but disputed by some:

In the Old Testament the following books were disputed by some:

- **Song of Solomon:** some deemed it too sensual
- **Ecclesiastes:** seemed to skeptical
- **Esther:** Does not mention the name of God





# Canonization of the Bible

(18 of 19)

- **Pseudepigrapha:** Books rejected by all:
  - Old Testament:
    - Book of Jubilee
    - Book of Adam and Eve
    - 1 and 2 Enoch
    - 2 and 3 Baruch
    - 3 and 4 Maccabees ...and more
  - New Testament:
    - Acts of Paul
    - The Didache
    - Shepherd of Hermas ...and more



# Canonization of the Bible Conclusion

(19 of 19)

As J. I. Packer notes,

“The Church no more gave us the New Testament canon than Sir Isaac Newton gave us the force of gravity. God gave us gravity, by His work of creation, and similarly He gave us the New Testament canon, by inspiring the individual books that make it up.”



# Part One **Trusting the Bible**

## External Evidences



# External Evidences

- **Bible Prophecies Fulfilled**
- **Archaeological Discoveries**
- **Corroborating Attestation by Secular Historians**
- **Science and the Bible**
- **The Bible vs. Other “Sacred” texts**



# Bible Prophecies

(1 of 5)

- **Isaiah 42:9**

“See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

- **Amos 3:7**

“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”

- **2 Peter 1:20-21**

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”



# Bible Prophecies

(2 of 5)

- **Isaiah 46:8-11 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, <sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> **declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done**, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ <sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.



# Bible Prophecies

(3 of 5)

Why prophecies?

God answers this question many times when he has His prophets declare prophecies about the future:

- **Isaiah 45:3 (ESV)**

“that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel,”

- **Isaiah 49:23 (ESV)**

“Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.”

- **Ezekiel 5:13**

“And they shall know that I am the LORD—that I have spoken in my jealousy”



# Bible Prophecies

(4 of 5)

- What do fulfilled prophecies tell us about God?
  - God is Sovereign (He is in control)
  - God is Omniscient
  - God has a purpose or plan
  
- What do fulfilled prophecies tell us about the Bible?
  - God has indeed spoken these words
  - The Bible has authority
  - The Bible contains truth
  - The Bible is unique





# Bible Prophecies

(5 of 5)

Examine a few examples to demonstrate the unfailing reliability of the prophecies

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Jesus           | Prophecies concerning Christ  |
| 2. Tyre            | Destruction of Tyre   |
| 3. Cyrus           | Mede – Persian leader that will allow Jews to return to Jerusalem   |
| 4. The Messiah     | Daniel 9 – Seventy Sevens   |
| 5. Israel / Temple | Temple destruction; Jews scattered all over the earth; would return and reform the nation of Israel in one day                                      |
| 6. World Empires   | Daniel 11; historically accurate in every detail; so accurate that the only way critics can attack it is to say it had to be written after the fact |



## Bible Prophecies **Jesus**

(1 of 8)

**The Bible contains over a hundred significant prophecies about the Messiah (the savior God sends into the world) and Jesus fulfilled them all.**



## Bible Prophecies Jesus

(2 of 8)

- Three prophets - Moses, Isaiah, and Jeremiah – identify the exact ancestral lineage of the Messiah (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, ...Jesse, David... Jesus)
- The prophet Micah identifies the birthplace of the Messiah (Bethlehem Ephrathah), but another prophet said the Messiah would be called a Nazarene, and a third prophet Hosea states that the Messiah comes out of Egypt. Although these are seemingly contradictory, yet they are all correct.
- Born of a virgin, seed of a woman
- Preceded by a messenger (John The Baptist)
- Teacher of parables
- Would perform miracles (lame would walk, deaf would hear, blind would see)
- Daniel – over 500 years prior to Christ prophesized the exact time of the Messiah



## Bible Prophecies Jesus

(3 of 8)

- Zechariah prophesized over 400 years before Jesus that he would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
- David prophesized that the betrayer would be a friend
- Isaiah prophesized that the Messiah would be wounded and bruised, and by his stripes we would be healed; Isaiah also said that the Messiah would be killed with criminals.
- David prophesized that the Messiah would be pierced in his hands and his feet and that people would divide his garments and cast lots for the robe (did not want to tear it)
- David prophesized that the Messiah's bones would not be broken; however, the two criminals on either side of Jesus did have their bones broken
- Isaiah prophesized He would be buried in a rich man's tomb
- Christ said that he would be put to death, buried and on the third day would be resurrected



# Bible Prophecies Jesus

(4 of 8)

## Prophecy

Born of the seed of a woman  
Born of a virgin  
Son of God  
Seed of Abraham  
Son of Isaac  
Son of Jacob  
Tribe of Judah  
Line of Jesse  
House of David  
Born at Bethlehem  
Out of Egypt  
Presented with gifts

## Provided

Gen 3:15  
Isa 7:14  
Psa 2:7  
Gen 22:18  
Gen 21:12  
Num 24:17  
Gen 49:14  
Isa 11:1  
Jer 23:5  
Micah 5:2  
Hosea 11:1  
Psa 72:10

## Fulfilled

Mat 1:20, Gal 4:4  
Mat 1:18, 24-25  
Mat 3:17  
Mat 1:1  
Luk 3:23, 34  
Luk 3:23, 34  
Luk 3:23, 33  
Luk 3:23, 32  
Luk 3:23, 31  
Mat 2:1  
Mat 2:13-15  
Mat 2:1, 11



## Bible Prophecies Jesus

(5 of 8)

### Prophecy

Herod kills children  
Special anointing of Holy Spirit  
Preceded by Messenger  
Ministry to begin in Galilee  
Ministry of Miracles  
Teacher of Parables  
Enter Jerusalem on a donkey  
Stumbling Stone to Jews  
Light to Gentiles  
Resurrection

### Provided

Jer 31:15  
Isa 11:2  
Isa 40:3  
Isa 9:1  
Isa 35:5-6  
Psa 78:2  
Zech 9:9  
Psa 118:22  
Isa 60:3  
Psa 16:10

### Fulfilled

Mat 2:16  
Mat 3:16-17  
Mat 3:1-2  
Mat 4:12-13  
Mark 7:33-35  
Mat 13:34  
Mat 21:12  
1 Pet 2:7  
Acts 13:47-48  
Acts 2:31



## Bible Prophecies Jesus

(6 of 8)

### Prophecy

Betrayed by a friend  
Sold for 30 pieces of silver  
Money to be thrown into  
God's house and given for  
potter's field  
Forsaken by disciples  
Wounded and bruised  
Smitten and spit upon  
Hands and feet pierced  
Crucified with thieves  
Garments parted and lots cast  
Bones not broken

### Provided

Psa 41:9  
Zec 11:12  
Zec 11:13  
  
Zec 13:7  
Isa 53:5  
Isa 50:6  
Psa 22:16  
Isa 53:12  
Psa 22:18  
Psa 34:20

### Fulfilled

Mat 10:4  
Mat 26:15  
Mat 27:5-7  
  
Mark 14:40  
Mat 27:12  
Mat 26:67  
Luke 23:33  
Mat 27:38  
John 19:23-24  
John 19:33



## Bible Prophecies Jesus

(7 of 8)

### Prophecy

Gall and vinegar offered to him  
His side pierced  
His forsaken cry  
Committed himself to God  
Darkness over the land  
Buried in a rich man's tomb  
Exact time of the Messiah

### Provided

Psa 69:21  
Zec 12:10  
Psa 22:1  
Psa 31:5  
Amos 8:9  
Isa 53:9  
Daniel 9

### Fulfilled

John 19:28-29  
John 19:34  
Mat 27:46  
Luke 23:46  
Mat 27:45  
Mat 27:57-60  
Mat 21





## Bible Prophecies **Jesus** — Messianic Chapters

(8 of 8)

- **Isaiah 53**
- **Psalms 22**

Crucifixion was not the form of capital punishment used in Jewish society. The Jews stoned people to death.

Crucifixion became a practice only after the Romans made Judea a Roman province in 63 BC, hundreds of years after Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 were written.



## Bible Prophecies Tyre

(1 of 8)

- Ezekiel 26 – Prophecy against Tyre (around 586)
- Other related Scripture: Amos 1:9-10, Zechariah 9:3-4, Matthew 11:20-22
- Tyre was a great, well-fortified, and wealthy city on the shore of Phoenicia, or modern-day Lebanon (see Ezekiel 27)
- Tyre was known for its ships and trade
- Mainland city and island city about one half mile off shore
- Many nations would come against and be involved with the destruction of Tyre (Ezek 26:3)



## Bible Prophecies Tyre

(2 of 8)

- The walls and towers come down (Ezek 26:4,9)
- Scrape away her rubble and would be left like a bare rock (Ezek 26:4, 14)
- A place for spreading fishnets (Ezek 26:5, 14)
- Plunder for nations (Ezek 26:5)
- Mainland will be ravaged by the sword (Ezek 26:6)
- Nebuchadnezzar will come with cavalry, chariots, great army (Ezek 26:7)
- Nebuchadnezzar will build up siege works around the mainland city (Ezek 26:7-8)



## Bible Prophecies Tyre

(3 of 8)

- Women would be killed (Ezek 26:8)
- Nebuchadnezzar's army would enter the city (Ezek 26:10)
- The stones, timber and rubble will be thrown into the sea (Ezek 26:12)
- Tyre will be plundered, houses destroyed, and music will cease
- Tyre will never be rebuilt (Ezek 26:14)



## Bible Prophecies Tyre: Fulfillment

(4 of 8)

- 585 BC King Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to mainland Tyre; siege lasted 13 years
- Some, but not all, prophecies about Tyre were fulfilled
- Mainland city was eventually destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, but ...
- Ezekiel 29:17-20
  - Soldiers heads were rubbed bare and every shoulder made raw (Ezek 29:18)
  - Neb's army got no reward (Ezek 29:18)
  - Neb got Egypt's wealth as his reward (Ezek 29:19-20)



## Bible Prophecies Tyre: Fulfillment

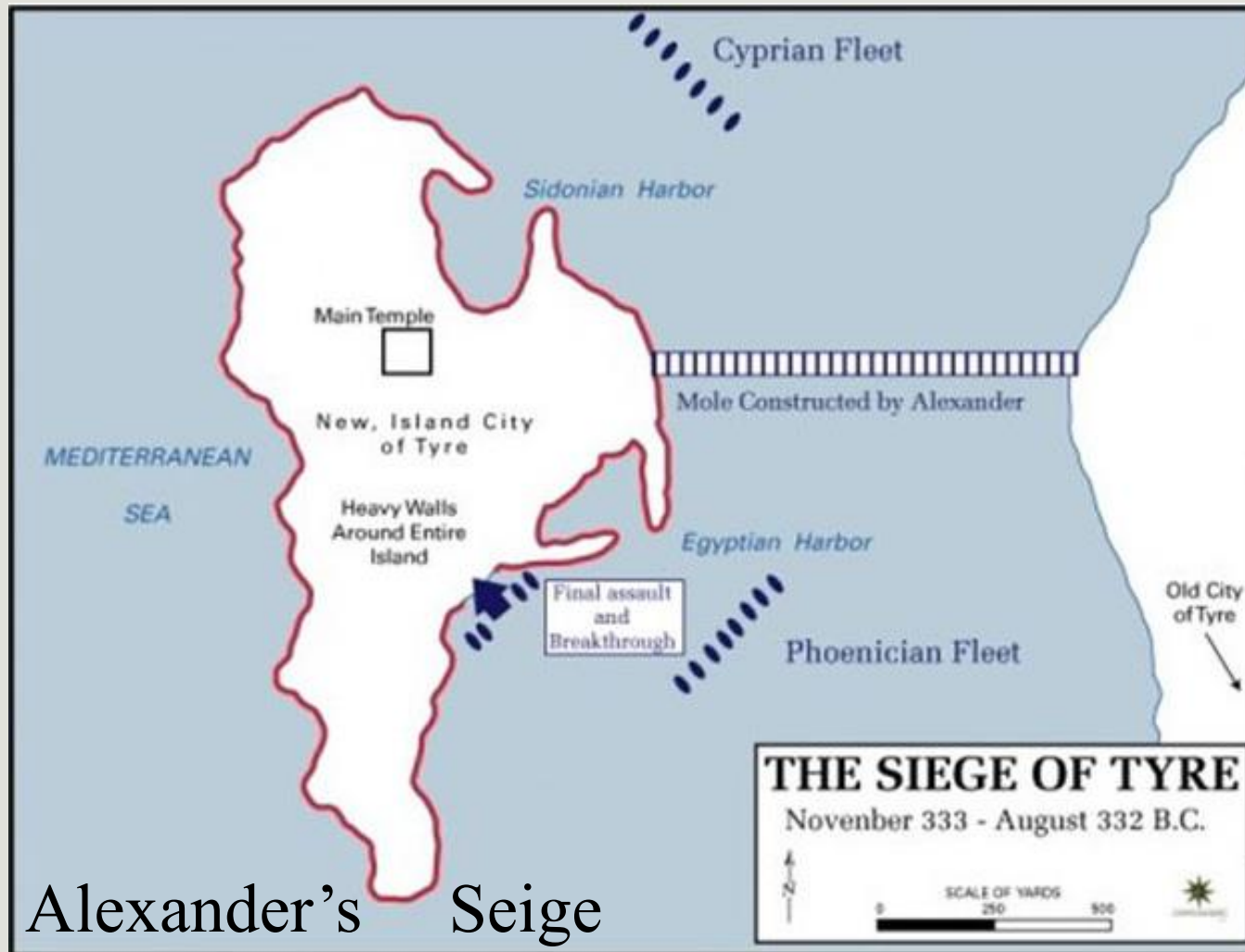
(5 of 8)

- 332 BC – Alexander the Great comes along and other aspects of prophecy were fulfilled
- Alexander's 7-month siege and conquest of Tyre is considered one of the great military feats in history
- About 8,000 Tyrians slaughtered; 30,000 taken as slaves
- Supposedly 3,000 were hung from walls of city
- City not re-built; trading hub moved to Alexandria



# Bible Prophecies Tyre: Fulfillment

(6 of 8)



## Alexander's Seige



# Bible Prophecies Tyre: Fulfillment

(7 of 8)



Video on Siege of Tyre: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1GIHgUgLZI>





## Bible Prophecies Tyre: Fulfillment

(8 of 8)



Modern fisherman in Tyre with nets



## Bible Prophecies **Cyrus**

(1 of 6)

- **Isaiah 44: 26-28 (around 700 BC)**

<sup>26</sup> who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins'; <sup>27</sup> who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers'; <sup>28</sup> who says of **Cyrus**, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.' ”

- **Isaiah 45: 1-5, 13-14, 21;      47:9** (against Babylon)

Other prophecies in the Bible spoke of the destruction of Babylon.



## Bible Prophecies **Cyrus**

(2 of 6)

- Daniel 5-6
- Darius the Mede conquers Babylon in one night (539 BC)
  - Euphrates River flowed through the midst of Babylon and under its walls
  - Persian army dammed up river so the water was knee deep
  - Persians waded in river under walls and captured city
- Darius the Mede only mentioned in Daniel and by Josephus
- Ezra 1 (Cyrus Proclamation –537 BC; Jews return 536 BC, 70 years after first exiles to Babylon)
- Cyrus's decree **on the Cyrus cylinder** was not specific to the Jews



## Bible Prophecies **Cyrus: Fulfillment**

(3 of 6)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX1P0DayOrc>

Neil McGregor at The British Museum





## Bible Prophecies **Cyrus: Fulfillment**

(4 of 6)



Cyrus the Great Cylinder, The First Charter of Rights of Nations



## Bible Prophecies **Cyrus: Fulfillment**

(5 of 6)



Cyrus Cylinder in British Museum



## Bible Prophecies **Cyrus: Fulfillment**

(6 of 6)



Sculpture of Cyrus the Great  
Reigned from 559 – 530 BC



## Bible Prophecies 70 Sevens Are Decreed

(1 of 6)

- Daniel 9:20-27 (around 535 BC)
- At the end of the 70 years of Jewish captivity in Babylon, Gabriel comes to Daniel and reveals a vision of the future
- Seventy Sevens – 490 prophetic years (7x70)
- Seven sevens and 62 sevens – 69 sevens – 483 prophetic years; the last seven is some time later after Messiah is cut off, Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed, and some unspecified period of time; 483 year countdown begins when decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem is decreed (some debate)
- Can verify with high degree of certainty the start date, the end date and the length of time for this prophecy based on Biblical and other historical accounts





## Bible Prophecies 70 Sevens Are Decreed

(2 of 6)

- Start Date
  - **444 BC** Artaxerxes issues the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-8); in Nisan, 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes
- End date – Nisan 9 – 14, **33 AD**
  - Final days of Jesus' life (next slide)
- Length of time
  - 483 prophetic years =  $483 \times 360 = 173,880$  days
  - 173,880 days divided by 365.25 = **476 of our calendar years**

From **444 BC** until **33 AD** is **476 years**



## Bible Prophecies 70 Sevens Are Decreed

(3 of 6)

### Final Days of Jesus' Life

- Sunday, March 29, 33 AD when Jesus rode into Jerusalem fulfilling Zechariah 9:9
- Thursday April 2, 33 AD (Nissan 13) - Passover begins at 6:00 PM
- Friday, April 3, 33 AD (Julian calendar) or Nissan 14 – Jesus is crucified
- From noon until 3:00 there is darkness; earthquakes occur
- At 6:00 a blood moon appears at the horizon (Acts 2:14-22 and Joel 2:28-32); Sabbath begins

NOTE: There are debates on the dates, calculations, etc., but the above appears to be fairly commonly accepted and fits Scripture.



## Bible Prophecies 70 Sevens Are Decreed

(4 of 6)

### Why 33 AD?

1. Had to be during Pilate's reign (26 – 36 AD)
2. Jesus began his ministry when he was about 30 years old (Luke 3:23)
3. Jesus was crucified on a Friday, Preparation Day, the day before a Sabbath (Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54-56)
4. Sabbath was also the “high day” of the Passover (first day of eating unleavened bread; Feast of Unleavened Bread) (John 19:31)
5. Nisan 14 fell on a Friday two years during this timeframe, April 7, 30 AD and April 3, 33 AD
6. Only one Passover lunar eclipse (and blood moon) was visible from Jerusalem during Pilate's reign (April 3, 33 AD); Pilate attested to this in his report to the Emperor
7. Also probably after Sejanus was executed by Tiberius (October 18, 31 AD); Sejanus was anti-Jewish and “filled in” for Tiberius until he tried to secretly try to seize power; Tiberius reversed a lot of Sejanus's orders; Pilate was lucky not to be executed and was afraid to be anti-Semitic in appearance



# Bible Prophecies 70 Sevens Are Decreed

(5 of 6)

## Lunar Eclipse – Blood Moon



Blood Moon – moon is in eclipse (in Earth's shadow) and only receives dim, indirect, light from the sun refracted and reddened by the earth's atmosphere

Isn't it amazing that at the hour of Jesus' death (3:00PM), beyond the horizon the moon was eclipsing and going to blood?



## Bible Prophecies 70 Sevens Are Decreed

(6 of 6)

The gospels do recount that the sun was darkened on the day of the crucifixion from noon until 3 in the afternoon. Ancient non-Biblical sources confirm this. Phlegon Trallianus records in his history, **Olympiades**:

*In the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, [AD 32–33] a failure of the Sun took place greater than any previously known, and night came on at the sixth hour of the day [noon], so that stars actually appeared in the sky; and a great earthquake took place in Bithynia and overthrew the greater part of Niceaea,”— TRALLIANUS, OLYMPIADES*

This was obviously not a simple astronomical event and could not have been a solar eclipse.

Source: <http://www.bethlehemstar.net/the-day-of-the-cross/peters-argument/>



## Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(1 of 7)

- Jesus prophesied about Temple destruction (Matthew 24:1-2)
- Jerusalem destroyed by Romans under Titus (68–70 AD)
  - Starvation, in-fighting among Jews (ate own children)
  - No trees remained within 10 miles of Jerusalem; used to build siege works
  - About 1,100,000 Jews killed (97,000 captured/enslaved)
  - Most sent to Egypt to work in mines
- Temple destruction – 70 AD
  - Temple burnt and destroyed by angry Roman soldiers against the orders of Titus
  - Book of Law, Table of Showbread and gold lampstand taken
  - Stones torn down to get to gold (melting; also silver and gold bars used in grooves of stones to secure stones together)
  - Destruction not mentioned in New Testament (points to books being written prior to 70 AD)



## Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(2 of 7)

- Deuteronomy 28:49-68 Curse for Disobedience
  - Diaspora (scattering of Jews to all ends of the earth)
  - Jeremiah 31:10-11; Ezekiel 36-37
- Land of Israel will become desolate, barren, a dust bowl
- Isaiah 66:8 - Israel will become a nation again in one day; May 14, 1948 (proclaimed); May 15 at 12:00 AM became a nation; modern fulfillment of prophecy; miracle of survival; 2,000,000 Arabs / Muslims surround the new country and attack the 40,000 poorly armed Israelis; Israel defeats the enemy
- Isaiah 35:1-2 - Israel will once again blossom





# Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(3 of 7)





# Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(4 of 7)



# Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(5 of 7)



Modern Israel in bloom



## Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(6 of 7)

- Tisha B'Av, "the ninth of Av" (August 30, 70 AD) is an annual fast day in Judaism which commemorates the destruction of the First (586 BC) and Second Temples in Jerusalem and the subsequent exile of the Jews from Israel.

The day also commemorates other tragedies which occurred on the same day, including the Roman massacre of over 100,000 Jews at Betar in 132 CE. Tisha B'Av is regarded as the saddest day in the Jewish calendar and a day which is destined for tragedy.





## Bible Prophecies Israel and the Temple

(7 of 7)

- The state of Israel was proclaimed by the Jewish leader, David Ben Gurion, on May 14, 1948, and officially came into being on the 15th, after British Mandatory rule ended at midnight.



## Bible Prophecies Daniel 11 and 12

(1 of 2)

- Chapter 11 – Fulfilled prophecy
- End of Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 – Future fulfillment

**Prophecy by Daniel is around 535 BC**

**Actual history unfolds during this timeframe:**

- Xerxes (reign begins in 486 BC; assassinated 465 BC)
- Alexander the Great (Reigns 336 – 323 BC)
- Succession of Kings (323 – 175 BC; verses Dan 11: 5-20)
- Antiochus Epiphanes (175 – 163 BC); shut down Temple and abomination of desolation (171 – 165 BC); Maccabean Revolt (167 - 160 BC; Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, cleansing/rededication of Temple)
- Double prophecy (Antiochus Epiphanes is picture of anti-Christ in end times)



## Bible Prophecies Daniel 11 and 12

(2 of 2)



# Archaeology

(2 of 4)

Nelson Glueck (renowned Jewish archaeologist):

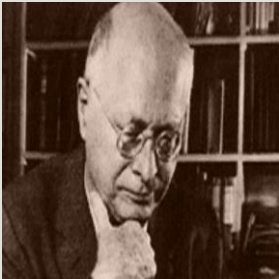
“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”

(page 61, The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell)



# Archaeology

(3 of 4)



Dr. William Albright, who was probably the foremost authority in Middle East archaeology in his time, said this about the Bible:

*“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament. At this time, the number of archaeological discoveries that relate to the Bible number in the hundreds of thousands.”*





# Archaeology

(1 of 4)

Confirmed by archeologists, including:

- Dead Sea Scrolls (1947)
- Accuracy of Luke (geography, government officials and titles, historical occurrences, etc.)
- Existence of the Hittite empire
- Anchors from The Apostle Paul's Shipwreck at Malta
- Sennacherib's Prism (mentioning King Hezekiah)
- Pool of Siloam and the Pool of Bethesda
- Ba'al Worship
- Many, many others that substantiate the Biblical account



## Archaeology Dead Sea Scrolls

(1 of 4)

### What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

- 40,000 inscribed fragments from more than 500 books (not all are Biblical)
- Shed light on the period 200 BC to 100 AD in the religious Qumran community on the shores of the Dead Sea
- Copies of the Old Testament dating to 100 years before Christ (all books except Esther)
- Found by a Bedouin shepherd boy in March, 1947 when he tossed stone into a cave and broke a vase
- Leather scrolls wrapped in linen and placed in several large vases
- Other subsequent discoveries made in other nearby caves



## Archaeology Dead Sea Scrolls

(1 of 4)

### What is the value of the Dead Sea Scrolls?

- Oldest manuscripts we had dated to 900 AD so now we had manuscripts 1000 years older than anything previous
- Text in the scrolls had changed very little (95% exact and the other 5% variation due to minor errors and changes in spelling)
- Substantiated our current Bible texts and translations thereby adding confidence to our faith in the Bible as God's Holy Word
- <http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/>



# Archaeology Dead Sea Scrolls

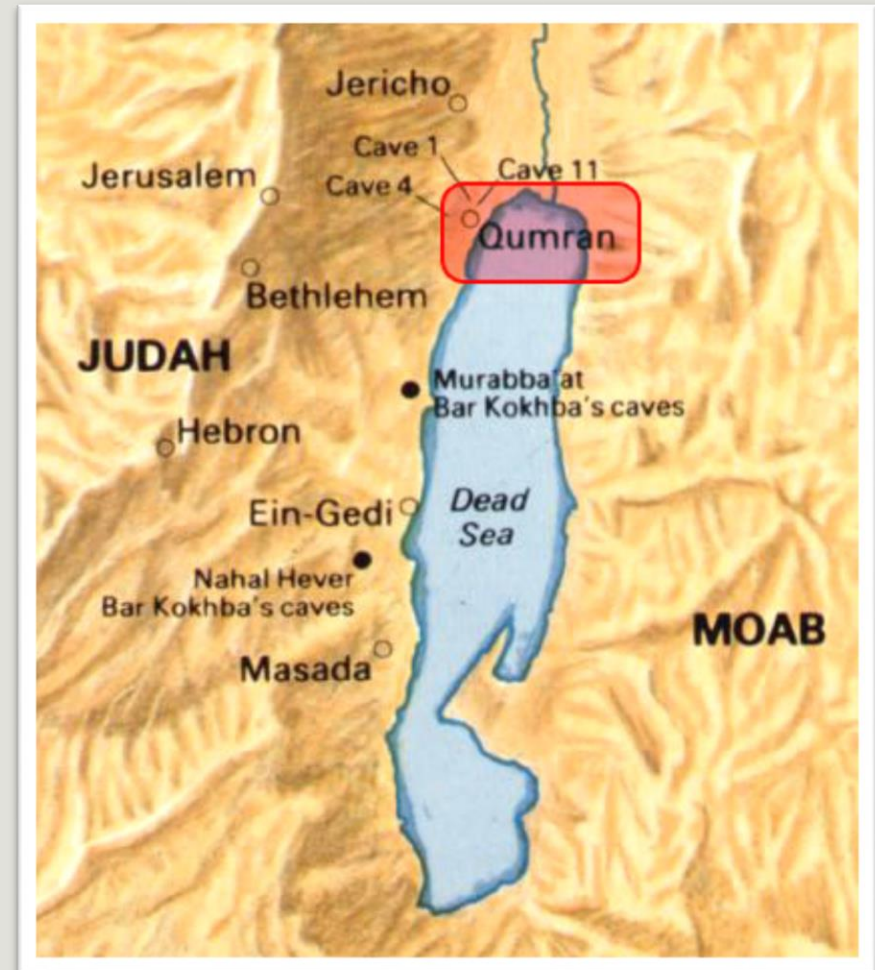
(3 of 4)





# Archaeology Dead Sea Scrolls

(4 of 4)



## Archaeology Accuracy of Luke

(1 of 3)

### Luke 1:1-4

“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an **orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may have **certainty** concerning the things you have been taught.



## Archaeology Accuracy of Luke

(2 of 3)

- “Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.” ... “Luke’s history is unsurpassed in its respect of its trustworthiness.” (Sir William Ramsey) (p. 63, The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell)
- “For Acts the confirmation of his historicity is overwhelming ... Any attempt to reject its basic historicity must now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted.” A. N. Sherwin-White (p. 64, The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell)



## Archaeology Accuracy of Luke

(3 of 3)

- “Norman Geisler reveals: “In all, Luke names thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities and nine islands without error.” (p. 64)
- Names government officials and titles that have been proven correct through archeology (never disproved)
- Correlation of dates of known kings and governors; use of exact titles for officials (praetor, proconsul, Publius – “first man of the island” of Malta)
- Specialized details that indicate common and contemporary knowledge (geographical references, military units, cultural peculiarities)
- Specifics such as decree by Caesar Augustus for census, meeting of civic assembly in theater in Ephesus



(pages 63-65, The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell)



## Archaeology Hittite Empire

- The Bible records that the Hittites were a powerful force in the Middle East from 1750 B.C. until 1200 B.C. (Genesis 15:20, 2 Samuel 11, and 1 Kings 10:29).

Prior to the late nineteenth century, nothing was known of the Hittites outside the Bible, and many critics alleged that they were an invention of the biblical authors.

- Have discovered entire sets of royal archives written in cuneiform on clay tablets that support Biblical accounts

Courtesy of Ancient History Encyclopedia  
(<http://www.ancient.eu.com/Hittite>)



## Archaeology Shipwreck of Paul at Malta

(1 of 3)

- Acts 27:27-44
- 27:28 – 90 feet deep
- 27:29 – Four anchors dropped
- 27:39 – Did not recognize the land but saw a sandy beach
- 27:39 – Decided to run the ship aground at the beach
- 27:40 – Cut loose the anchors and left them in the sea
- 27:41 – Ship ran aground on a sandbar and broken to pieces by surf
- 27:44 - Everyone reached land safely
- 28:1 – Discovered island was Malta
- Study of storm patterns points to southeast quadrant of island



## Archaeology Shipwreck of Paul at Malta

(2 of 3)



Possible anchor from Paul's ship



# Archaeology Shipwreck of Paul at Malta

(3 of 3)



## Archaeology Sennacherib's Prism

Prism speaks of  
Sennacherib's campaigns  
against Judah with no  
mention of losing army  
2 Kings 19:35-36





## Archaeology Pool of Bethesda & Pool of Siloam

(1 of 4)

- Among the most famous of Jesus' miracles is recounted in the Gospel of John, where Jesus heals the paralytic at the Bethesda Pool (John 5:2-9).
- It is not the only one of Jesus' miracles of healing to take place at a pool in Jerusalem, however.
- In addition to the Bethesda Pool, the Gospel of John also says that Jesus healed the blind man at the Siloam Pool. The Siloam Pool was discovered in 2005 and was quickly identified with the pool mentioned in John. The Bethesda Pool, on the other hand, was excavated in the late 19th century, but it has taken more than 100 years for archaeologists to accurately identify and interpret the site. The Siloam Pool has been identified as a *mikveh* (ritual bath).



## Archaeology Pool of Bethesda & Pool of Siloam (2 of 4)

When Jesus heals the paralytic in the Gospel of John, the Bethesda Pool is described as having five porticoes—a puzzling feature suggesting an unusual five-sided pool, which most scholars dismissed as an unhistorical literary creation. Yet when this site was excavated, it revealed a rectangular pool with two basins separated by a wall—thus a five-sided pool—and each side had a portico.

<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/jerusalem/the-bethesda-pool-site-of-one-of-jesus%E2%80%99-miracles/>



# Archaeology Pool of Bethesda & Pool of Siloam

(3 of 4)





# Archaeology Pool of Bethesda & Pool of Siloam

(4 of 4)



## Archaeology Ba'al Worship

Ba'al the God of Ancient Canaan

This excavated bronze figurine of Baal reveals a haughty look, given to him by a Canaanite craftsmen.



(1 of 4)



## Archaeology Ba'al Worship

(2 of 4)

### Baal the Life Giver

Baal (ba'al) was an ancient Canaanite and Mesopotamian deity associated with agriculture. He was believed to be the "giver of life" and mankind was dependant upon him for providing what was necessary to sustain the farms, flocks and herds. He was also called the "son of Dagon" (who was in control of the grain), and "Hadad" the storm god who would provide plentiful rains after hearing his voice (thunder).



## Archaeology Ba'al Worship

(3 of 4)

"One may question that those ancient enemies of Israel were as evil as the Bible claims that they were, but even a superficial glance at Canaanite religion alone ably demonstrates their iniquity.

Base sex worship was prevalent, and religious prostitution even commanded; human sacrifice was common; and it was a frequent practice--in an effort to placate their gods--to kill young children and bury them in the foundations of a house or public building at the time of construction

"In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn..."  
(Joshua 6:26)

Howard E. Vos, "An Introduction To Bible Archaeology" Revised ed.  
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1953) pp. 17-19.



## Archaeology Ba'al Worship

(4 of 4)

### Remains of Children Sacrificed to Baal





# Secular Historians

(1 of 2)

- A few examples to demonstrate other support for the Biblical text
  - Other historians mention Jesus, his crucifixion, and Christians
  - As many as 15 ancient writers
  - Flavius Josephus (Jewish and Roman scholar and historian, witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple), wrote *“Antiquities of the Jews”* and *“The Jewish War”*
  - Tacitus (pagan, Roman historian)
  - Pliny the Younger (wrote numerous letters to Emperor Trajan about the Christians)
  - Suetonius: wrote *“The Twelve Caesars”*; Roman historian



# Secular Historians

(2 of 2)

- Thallus around 52 AD wrote: “On the whole world there pressed a fearful darkness, and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down.”
- Pliny the Younger in a letter to the Emperor Trajan in 112 AD: “They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but to never commit any fraud, theft, or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food –but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.” (New Evidence, p. 58)

New Evidence, page 63-64



# Science in the Bible

(1 of 12)

- Although the Bible is not a science book, Scripture contains many statements that are scientific references.
- These statements refer to biological, astronomical, geological, and other scientific phenomena that were not known at the time the Scripture was written. (and many not known until recently)
- Bible only has accurate scientific observations (no fictional or mythical beliefs).
- God is the Creator of the universe and the author of the Bible, so the two are in harmony.





# Science in the Bible

(2 of 12)

## Category

## Scripture

## Text

Earth is spherical

Isa 40:22

“It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, ...”

Prov 8:27

“...; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,”

Earth is not supported

Job 26:7

“He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing.”

Universe continually expands

Gen 1:8

“And God called the expanse Heaven.”

Jer 31:37

“Thus says the LORD:

“If the heavens above can be measured, ...then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel”

Stars are innumerable

Jer 33:22

“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured,”



# Science in the Bible

(3 of 12)

## Category

Stars emit sound

## Scripture

Job 38:7

## Text

“when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (stars emit radio waves)

Stars have different glory

1 Cor 15:41

“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.” (different sizes, temperatures, spectral classes, magnitudes)

Heavens are controlled by ordinances

Psa 19:6

“Its [sun] rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat”

Jer 31:35

“Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,”



# Science in the Bible

(4 of 12)

## Category

Earth's design for supporting life

## Scripture

Isa 45:18

## Text

“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!) – He says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.””

(location of earth, tilted on axis, moon/sun, laws/forces of nature, water, minerals, etc.)

“He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.”

Earth's structure

Psa 104:5

Job 38:4

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (geology - inner core, liquid core, mantle rock, crust, soil, sediment)



# Science in the Bible

(5 of 12)

## Category

All of earth has been under water

## Scripture

Gen 1:6

## Text

“And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

Gen 7:19-20

“<sup>19</sup> And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. <sup>20</sup> The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.”



# Science in the Bible

(6 of 12)

## Category

## Scripture

## Text

Ocean Currents

Psa 8:8

“the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.”

Ocean Canyons, crevasses

2 Sam 22:16

“Then the channels of the sea were seen; the foundations of the world were laid bare,” (giant underwater canyons circle the globe; mountain ranges and volcanoes are under the seas)

Ocean springs

Job 38:16

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?”

Gen 7:11

“on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth,”

Prov 8:28

“when he established the fountains of the deep,”



# Science in the Bible

(7 of 12)

## Category

Water Vapor Cycle

## Scripture

Job 36:27-28

## Text

“For he draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain, which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly”

Ecc 1:7

“All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again”

Air circulation

Ecc 1:6

“The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.”

Job 28:25

“When he gave to the wind its weight”

(air pressure from weight, wind patterns are caused by differing pressures)



# Science in the Bible

(8 of 12)

## Category

Clouds have balancing

## Scripture

Job 37:16

## Text

“Do you know the balancing of the clouds”

Job 38:37

“Who can number the clouds by wisdom?”

Job 36:29

“Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds,”

Lightening causes rain

Job 38:25-27

“Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?”  
(electricity helps form water droplets)



# Science in the Bible

(9 of 12)

## Category

Matter and energy  
(completed at origin of  
creation)

## Scripture

Gen 2:1

Heb 4:3

## Text

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.”

“although his works were finished from the foundation of the world”

Law of thermodynamics or law of conservation of energy and mass; states no energy or matter is coming into existence)

Universe is decaying

Isa 51:6

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner”

Heb 1:10-11

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,”





## Science in the Bible

(10 of 12)

### Category

Three kingdoms of natural science

### Scripture

Gen 1

### Text

3 Kingdoms: Minerals, plants, animals

Animals produce after their own kind

Gen 1:21

“So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.”

(even Darwin acknowledged that  
“Not one change of species into another is on record. We cannot prove that a single species has been changed (into another)

Gen 6:19-20

“<sup>19</sup> And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. <sup>20</sup> Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive.



# Science in the Bible

(11 of 12)

## Category

All flesh is not the same  
(modern science also divides  
these different kinds of flesh  
into man, beast, fowl and fish.)

Fingerprints

Human anatomy

All life is in the blood

## Scripture

1 Cor 15:39

Job 37:7

Psa 139:13

Lev 17:11

## Text

“For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.”

“He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it.”

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.” (DNA, optic nerves, blood vessels, muscular skeleton system, etc.)

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”



# Science in the Bible

(12 of 12)

## Category

Circumcision (proven that on eighth day the baby has now got sufficient vitamin K and optimum Prothomb for blood clotting)

There are also a number of verses in Leviticus that deal with health (diseases, contamination, etc.) and sanitation.

## Scripture

Gen 17:11-12

Leviticus

## Text

“<sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup> He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised.”



# Other “Sacred Texts”

(1 of 9)

- Koran (Islam)
- Book of Mormon (Mormon)
- The Watchtower (Jehovah’s Witnesses)
- Hindu Veda do not contain predictive prophecy.

**“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”**  
**(Galatians 1:8)**



## Other “Sacred” Texts **Islam and Mormonism**

(1 of 9)

**Both Islam and Mormonism took parts of Christian and Jewish Scriptures and modified them to fit their desires and needs. Both deny that Jesus is the unique Son of God and The Way to the Father and salvation.**

**(Islam – “Medieval Mormonism” – Ergun Caner)**



## Other “Sacred” Texts **Mormonism**

(2 of 9)

- **Four Standard Works**

1. King James Version of Bible (“as far as it is translated correctly”)
2. Doctrine and Covenants
3. Pearl of Great Price
4. Book of Mormon

- **Book of Mormon**

- Written upon gold plates found by Joseph Smith in New York
- Supposedly written in “reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics” (no evidence this ever existed)
- Able to translate to English using supernatural spectacles (Urim and T)
- Purpose of book is not very clear
- History of two ancient civilizations on the American continent
- Racist overtones



## Other “Sacred” Texts **Mormonism**

(3 of 9)

- **Book of Mormon**
  - Book has been proven to be archeologically and anthropologically inaccurate and untrue
  - No archeological proof of the existence of these two major civilizations
  - Mormons cannot “show us their maps” of all of these great cities
  - Glass, steel and other developments are said to exist before invented
  - American Indians are supposedly from Lamanites (and of the Semitic race); proven to be false; of Mongoloid descent
  - The most perfect book” ever written has had to undergo numerous corrections because of errors and contradictions (4,000 word changes)
  - Plagiarisms from the King James Version of the Bible (many quite lengthy)
  - Ex. – son of God to be born of Mary at Jerusalem



## Other “Sacred” Texts **Islam - Terminology**

(4 of 9)

- **Islam:** “submission”; name of religion based on the teachings of Muhammad
- **Muslim:** “one who submits”; adheres to Islam religion
- **Allah:** Arabic name for God; English word God is insufficient to convey meaning
- **Muhammad:** founder of Islam; last, greatest and final prophet of Allah
- **Qur’an:** Formerly Koran; Islamic scripture given to Muhammad by angel Gabriel; words of Allah
- **Surah:** much like chapters in the Qur’an; 114 Surahs
- **Hadith:** “collected traditions”; words and deeds of Muhammad
- **Caliph:** “deputy”; main leaders of Islam; especially first 4
- **Ayatollah:** Spiritual master or leader in Shi’ite Islam
- **Imams:** 12 spiritual heads that were direct descendants to Ali, the son-in-law of Muhammad





Other “Sacred” Texts **Islam – Qur’an**

(7 of 9)

- One source – Muhammed (bad person; nothing to substantiate his credibility as a prophet)
- War verses; one out of every 55 verses (convert, enslave, tax or kill); Secrets of the Koran, by Don Richardson
- First 89 chapters contains 27 tellings of the Exodus story – without mention of the Passover
- Errors in Qur’an that misstate Biblical accounts
- About 20% of the text is considered to be incomprehensible (p. 67, Secrets of the Koran)



Other “Sacred” Texts **Islam – Qur’an**

(8 of 9)

- “Abrogation” – means to destroy or annul a former law by an act of legislative power, by authority or by usage; should be understood as “substitution” necessary for progressive revelation
  - Contradicts Qur’an as eternal speech of Allah
  - Can Allah change his mind and is not immutable?
  - Or is Allah not omniscient or all-knowing?
  - Consider the Qur’an to be the literal word of God; accept our Bible (with modifications) but Qur’an is supreme

(Page 445-446 in THE KINGDOM OF THE CULTS)



Other “Sacred” Texts **Jehovah’s Witnesses**

(9 of 9)

- Governed by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
- The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures
  - Includes many translation changes to the Christian Bible
  - Have basically taken the Bible and changed many basic theological doctrines
  - None of the JW translators had Greek or Hebrew knowledge and expertise
- Several other Watchtower Publications
- JW prophecies from church leaders that proved to be false



# Apocrypha

(1 of 3)

- Eleven pieces of literature (7 books and 4 parts of books) that the Roman Catholic Church infallibly pronounced to be a part of the official canon in 1546 AD at the Council of Trent; this was 29 years after Luther posted his 95 theses.
- Catholics do not consider the Apocrypha to be inferior to other Scripture (our Bible canon). These books are considered to be inspired by God and are sacred Scripture.
- The general term is usually applied to the books that were considered by the Church as useful, but not divinely inspired.
- “If anyone, however, should not accept the said books as sacred and canonical, entire with all their parts...and if both knowingly and deliberately he should condemn the aforesaid tradition let him be anathema.”



# Apocrypha – Problems

(2 of 3)

- The acceptance of the Apocrypha really calls into question the infallibility of Catholic dogma and the infallibility of Catholic magisterium. This is a clear reaction of the Church against Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Its intent is to support other Church positions (praying to the dead, indulgences, veneration of relics, etc.) that clearly were being used by the Church for its own power and profit.
- The question to raise is how can Catholic dogma that is pronounced over 1,500 years after the Apocrypha was written be infallible. This is especially true given the arguments against the Apocrypha the primary one being that the Jewish community (owners/writers) rejected these books as inspired by God.



# Apocrypha – Conclusion

(3 of 3)

- The Jews wrote the Apocrypha and reject it as God's Word.
- The authors never claimed that it was inspired.
- Christ and the writers in the New Testament never quote the Apocrypha.
- The Apocrypha has verses that contradict the Gospel message.
- Jesus defined the boundaries of our Old Testament Scriptures – never once referencing or quoting the Apocryphal books.

(Pages 25, 29-32, New Evidence that Demands a verdict, by Josh McDowell)

***Jesus: ... Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”  
(Luke 24:44)***



# Part One **Trusting the Bible**

## Summary



## Summary

- Is an accurate historical document
- Written over a 1500 year period by many different authors
- Yet with one consistent theme and pointing to Jesus Christ
- Written by eyewitnesses, or those who intimately knew the eyewitnesses, and by prophets inspired by God
- Was painstakingly and accurately transcribed and preserved
- Has incredible manuscript support compared to other ancient writings
- Written during the time of other eyewitnesses (some who were not followers of Christ)
- Written shortly after the death of Christ (New Testament)
- Is supported by archeology and science and secular historians
- Verifiable accuracy of Biblical prophecies
- Has been challenged but never disproved or destroyed





# What Does Having a Biblical Worldview Ultimately Mean?

- Safe having a Biblical worldview
- Should affect the way we view the world
- Should have confidence in the Bible
- Should recognize that others have a different world view – either human worldview, other religion worldview, etc.
- Bible is unlike any other book – including sacred documents of other religions



## Final Thoughts

- The Bible claims to be inspired by God.
- Logical reasons for believing that to be true.
- Reasonable evidence to support its credibility.
- Faith with Facts

*But, like Christ, the Bible requires faith on our part. The arguments for its truth are not absolute. Faith is required.*



# The End

*Developed by Lee Boswell and Marty Williamson*

