

Proof That the Bible is God's True Word?

Thesis:

There is ample evidence that the Bible is a genuine account of real people, real places and real events recorded centuries ago and preserved for us today. The Bible is God's true and inspired Word!

So many people today do not believe the above statement. It is often thought that it is just the story of God written by men. You hear this common untruth all the time: The Bible has had many revisions, there are many versions and it is full of mistakes and contradictions. So often, when we ask those who feel this way they say, "Well, that's just how I feel about it." Seldom is it possible to find a person who has really studied the Bible and found answers to so-called contradictions. It is easy to go online or look in any library and find literally hundreds of books written on the evidence of the divine inspiration of the Bible. One of the most compelling works is Josh McDowell's book titled, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. The problem is that most people just don't read or study any of these books. Many people (including believers) don't even regularly read the Bible. There is abundant evidence that the Bible is a remarkable, truthful and reliable inspired work of God. In short form, here is some of that evidence.

The Author Proves the Bible.

God is the author of the Bible. Those who wrote it down were God's penmen. These men knew that they were transmitting the very Word of God, infallible and authoritative in the highest degree. The Bible is the greatest and most influential book of the ages, containing the most beautiful literature and the most perfect moral code ever devised.

Fulfilled Prophecy Proves the Bible.

The single greatest evidence lending to the truth of the Bible's claims of divine inspiration is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. When an event is predicted by a prophet of God and recorded hundreds of years before it comes to pass and when there is visible evidence of that prophecy's fulfillment, precisely as foretold, then you have one of the strongest attestations possible to the truth.

The Bible has more than 2,500 prophecies and about 2,000 of them have already been fulfilled! Over 300 of them are about Jesus and every one of them has been fulfilled except His soon return. For example, Daniel the prophet predicted in about 538 B.C. (Daniel 9:24-27) that Christ would come as Israel's promised Savior and Prince 483 years after the Persian emperor would give the Jews authority to rebuild Jerusalem, which was then in ruins. This was clearly and definitely fulfilled, hundreds of years later.

There are extensive prophecies dealing with individual nations and cities and with the course of history in general, all of which have been literally fulfilled. More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled by Christ himself at His first coming. Other prophecies deal with the spread of Christianity, as well as various false religions, and many other subjects.

Consider the accuracy of these prophecies about our Lord from the Old Testament that were written centuries before Christ was even born:

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Given in O.T.</u>	<u>Fulfilled in N.T.</u>
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:25
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1, 6
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15, 49
Have clothing divided at the Cross	Psalms 22:18	John 19:24
Wounded for our sins	Isaiah 53:5	1 Peter 2:24
Killed for others	Daniel 9:26	2 Corinthians 5:21
Raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Luke 24:6

There is no other book, ancient or modern, like this. The Bible is the only religious book with accurate fulfilled prophecy. None of the other world religion bibles contain prophecy—only the Holy Bible. There are none in the Quran—Mohammed made no prophecies. There are none in Hinduism—the Vedas sacred texts contain none. There are none in Buddhism—Buddha made no prophecies.

History Proves the Bible.

The historical accuracy of the Scriptures is so unique and is far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations. Archeological confirmations of the Biblical record have been almost innumerable in the last century. Dr. Nelson Glueck, probably the greatest modern authority on Israeli archeology, has said:

No archeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.

The Bible is not written as a history book, but it is a book that contains much history. Many historical figures are identified in its pages. Among the most conservative lists, there are more than 100 biblical characters that can be conclusively identified within secular history.

Science Proves the Bible.

Can you recite the first ten words of the Bible? “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). This was written by Moses centuries ago through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In 1820 A.D. a man named Hubert Spencer gave the world five scientific principles by which man may study the unknown. They are time, force, energy, space, and matter. However, Moses, by inspiration, gave us those scientific principles in Genesis 1:1. “In the beginning”—time; “God”—force; “created”—energy; “the heavens”—space; “and the earth”—matter. All of Spencer’s scientific principles are right there in Genesis 1:1.

Beginning with the above reference, many of the principles of modern science were recorded as facts of nature in the Bible long before scientist confirmed them experimentally. Here is a brief list:

- Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- Almost infinite extent of the sidereal universe (Isaiah 55:9)
- Law of conservation of mass and energy (II Peter 3:7)
- Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)

- Vast number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)
- Law of increasing entropy (Psalm 102:25-27)
- Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)
- Atmospheric circulation (Ecclesiastes 1:6)
- Gravitational field (Job 26:7)

It is significant also that no real mistake has ever been demonstrated in the Bible—in science, in history, or in any other subject. Many have been claimed, of course, but dedicated Bible scholars down through the ages have always been able to explain reasonable solutions to all such problems.

Uniqueness Proves the Bible.

The Bible is the most unique book in the world. Here are eight amazing facts about the bible adapted from the aforementioned book *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell.

The Bible was:

- Written over a 1,500-year span.
- Written over 40 generations.
- Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.:
- Written in different places:
 - Moses in the wilderness
 - Jeremiah in a dungeon
 - Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
 - Paul inside prison walls
 - Luke while traveling
 - John on the isle of Patmos
 - Others in the rigors of a military campaign
- Written at different times:
 - David in times of war
 - Solomon in times of peace
- Written during different moods:
 - Some writing from the heights of joy and others writing from the depths of sorrow and despair
- Written on three continents:
 - Asia, Africa and Europe
- Written in three languages:
 - Hebrew:
 - The language of the Old Testament.
 - In II Kings 18:26-28 called "the language of Judah."
 - In Isaiah 19:18 called "the language of Canaan."
 - Aramaic:
 - The "common language" of the Near East until the time of Alexander the Great (6th century BC - 4th century BC).
 - Greek:
 - New Testament language. This was the international language at the time of Christ.