



THE BIBLE

The Bible

Is it God's Word?

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Matt. 4:4

*The Bible is the best-selling book of all time with over five billion copies sold and distributed. 80% of American homes owns a Bible and over 180 million users world -wide have downloaded a Bible App for their mobile device.

“Archaeology”

The Hittites

Liberal scholars accused the Bible of being unreliable because it contained accounts of a Hittite civilization of which there was no secular record. Over the last 150 years, archaeologists have uncovered Hittite ruins, artifacts, and ten thousand clay tablets from royal archives.

Merneptah Stele

An inscription by an ancient Egyptian King dating back to 1207 BC, was discovered in 1896 and is the earliest connection between archaeology and the Bible. It verifies that a people called “Israel” really did exist and lived in the land of Canaan following the exodus.

Tel Dan Inscription

In 1993 an Israeli archaeologist discovered the first mention of King David outside the Bible. The Tel Dan Inscription, a writing on a ninth-century stone tablet, commemorates an Aramean King’s defeat of his southern enemies, “the King of Israel”, and the “House of David”. It is clear from this inscription that King David was a real person, and even though this event took place centuries after David’s life-time, his fame was still known by foreign enemies.

Sir William Ramsay

Famous archaeologist and historian from the 1900's, was highly skeptical of the historical reliability of the New Testament. After reading the book of Acts, he set out to prove it was an unreliable historical document and full of errors. He spent fourteen years in Israel looking for evidence to disprove Luke's account. After examining the evidence, he emerged from his study to announce that, "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy.... this author [Luke] should be placed along with the greatest historians."

Dr. Nelson Glveck

American Rabbi and archaeologist, who discovered over 1,500 ancient sites in Israel, said, "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological 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. They form tesserae in the vast mosaic of the Bible's almost incredibly correct historical memory."

The Bible and Its Origins

No editor or publishing house was responsible for 40 independent authors, representing 20 occupations, living in 10 different countries during a 1,500-year span, working in three languages with a cast of 2,930 characters in 1,550 places. And together they produced 66 books containing 1,189 chapters. And from every conceivable form: prose, poetry, romance, mystery, biography, science and history. For over 1,500 years, the central theme from Genesis to Revelation was the Messiah.

Prophecy and the Bible

Fulfilled prophecy sets the Bible apart from all other religious writings. Fulfilled prophecy was objective, not philosophical. Prophecy is one of God's litmus tests with which He used to prove He really is the one true God, as opposed to all other religious claims.

***Examine Several Biblical Prophecies**

I. The Judgment of Tyre –

Ezekiel's prophecy in Chapter 26 included five points:

1. Nebuchadnezzar would besiege and absolutely destroy the city
2. Multiple nations would come against it
3. The ruins would be scraped from the site and thrown into the sea
4. The site would become a place for fishermen to spread their nets
5. The city would never be rebuilt again

*Tyre was one of the biggest, most powerful, and most successful cities of the early seventh century.

*Prophecy fulfilled

1. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, attacked the city for 13 years. He destroyed the city. At that time the wealthy and powerful citizens of Tyre escaped about a half-mile outside of the original city to an island. It became the new fortified city of Tyre.

2. Three-hundred years later, about 322 BC, Alexander the Great attacked the island city of Tyre for three years and built a cause-way from shore to island. Alexander decimated the city. Nothing was left. To this day Tyre is a flat, barren piece of rock where fishermen dry their nets.



II. Prophecies of Jesus

*There are over 300 specific prophecies of Jesus' first coming. Below are 30 of the 300.

1. Born of a woman – Genesis 3:15
2. Born of a virgin – Isa. 7:14
3. Descendent of Abraham – Gen. 12:3, 18:18
4. From the tribe of Judah – Gen. 49:10
5. From the House of David – Ps. 132:11; Jer. 23:5, 33:15, Isa. 11:10
6. Born in Bethlehem – Mic. 5:2
7. There would be a forerunner who would prepare the way- Isa. 40:3-5
8. He would be anointed with the Holy Spirit – Isa. 11:2
9. He would have a preaching ministry - Isa. 61: 1-2
10. He would speak in parables – Ps. 78:2
11. He would have a healing ministry – Isa. 35:5-6
12. He would be a prophet – Deut. 18: 15,19
13. He would function as a priest – Ps. 110:4
14. The time of His coming was foretold – Dan. 9:24-26
15. His death was foretold – Ps. 22; Ps. 69:21

16. He would have a triumphant entry on a donkey – Zech. 9:9
17. He would be betrayed for (30) pieces of silver – Zech. 11:12-13
18. He would remain silent before His accusers – Isa. 53:7
19. He would be abandoned by His Disciples – Zech. 13:7
20. He would be beaten – Isa. 50:6
21. He would be spat upon – Isa. 50:6
22. He would be mocked – Isa. 50:6
23. His hands and feet would be pierced – Ps. 22:6
24. He would be crucified with sinners – Isa. 53:12
25. Lots would be cast for His garments – Ps. 22:18
26. He would cry out from the cross – Ps. 22:1
27. None of His bones would be broken – Ps. 22:17; Exodus 12:46; Ps. 34:20
28. He would be buried with the rich – Isa. 53:9
29. He would be resurrected – Ps. 16:10
30. He would be exalted – Ps 110:1

*Peter Stoner, former chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College, worked out the probability of 8 prophecies being fulfilled. He figured out that the probability of any man fulfilling 8 prophecies would be one in ten to the seventeenth power.

That's 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000,000!
To comprehend this number Stoner gave this picture. "Fulfilling 8 prophecies would be like covering the entire state of Texas in silver dollars two feet deep. Mark one of the silver dollars and then stir the entire mass of silver dollars. Blind fold a man and tell him he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick-up one silver dollar and say that it is the one that was marked. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had writing 8 prophecies and have all of them come true in any one man."

*Jesus didn't fulfill 8 prophecies; He fulfilled 300.

The Bible and Transmission

*Scribes – The job of a Scribe:

A Scribe would take an original text and very carefully copy it letter by letter. As a scribe wrote each letter down, he would form them into rows. The copied letter and rows would then be checked to assure that the scribe had matched the original copy. If all matched, the scribe would move on. If an error was found, the copy was destroyed, and the scribe would start over.

Manuscripts: When was it written? What is the earliest copy we have? How many copies of the manuscripts do we have?

Comparing other works of antiquity to Biblical manuscripts

- Plato (427 BC to 347 BC)
 - Our earliest copy of a work by Plato is from AD 900
 - 1,200 years between his writing and our first copy.
 - We have 7 copies of his work
- Aristotle (384 BC to 322 BC)
 - Our earliest copy of his work is AD 1100
 - 1,400 years between his writing and our first copy

- We have 49 copies of his work
- Homer (900 BC)
 - Famous for the Iliad and the Odyssey
 - Our earliest copy is 400 BC
 - About 500 years between the time he lived and the earliest copies
 - We have over 600 copies of Homer's work

Note: There are no secular doubts of the authenticity of Plato, Aristotle, or Homer

- The New Testament
 - Written between AD 40 – AD 100
 - Earliest copied portion is from AD 125
 - Only a 25-year difference
 - In those 25 years people were still alive to authenticate the text
 - In total there are 24,643 hand written portions or complete copies of the New Testament
 - The Bible is the most accurately transmitted ancient document on the face of the earth
 - The Dead Sea Scrolls provide further evidence that the Bible is an accurate document

- Dating from the 3rd century BC to the first century AD, the scrolls contain partial or complete copies of every book of the Old Testament
- The Dead Sea Scrolls were found between 1947-1956 in eleven caves
- The Dead Sea Scrolls are over 1,000 years older than previously identified biblical manuscripts, yet over 95% of the wording is the same. The only differences are variations in spelling and punctuation. There are no theological differences between the scrolls and our modern translations. The Bible is an accurate document that can be trusted.



Proximity of Manuscripts

Author	Time Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# of Copies
Plato	399-347 BC	AD 900	1,200 YRS	7
Aristotle	342-322 BC	AD 1100	1,400 YRS	49
Homer	900 BC	400 BC	500 YRS	643
New Testament	AD 40-100	AD 125	25 YRS	24,000

**The Bible
is the
Word of
God!**

