
Title: How Do We Know The Bible Is God's Word?

Occasion: Sunday PM Service

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INTRODUCTION

We are moving on to another level in our apologetics pyramid ... the level of revelation.

We've given good reasons to believe in the existence of God ... now, if God exists, has He revealed Himself? How do we know that the Bible is God's revelation?

The truthfulness of God's Word cannot be proved by mere argument. However, there are valid evidences for the Bible's inspiration. Let's consider seven reasons for accepting it as God's revelation.

1. The Bible claims to be the Word of God

The Bible claims to be the WOG more than 3,000 times. We are not claiming more than it claims for itself.

a. Old Testament Claims

Expressions such as "God said," ... "The Lord spoke saying," ... "The Lord commanded" ... "The Word of the Lord" ... occur nearly 700 times in the Pentateuch and more than 2,600 times throughout the entire OT.

Jesus endorsed the OT 12 times. In order to deny the inspiration of the OT we must deny the dependability of Christ.

Luke 24:44-45 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "*These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*" ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

b. New Testament Claims

1 Corinthians 14:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Peter put his words on the same level as the OT ... **2 Peter 3:1-2 (NKJV)** ¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John,

None of the NT was written when Jesus was on earth. While on earth He made the following promises:

John 14:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13 (NKJV) ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Jesus was promising in advance the inspiration of the Gospels, the Epistles and the book of Revelation.

1. Holy Spirit would bring back all His teachings to their memory
2. Holy Spirit would teach them all things and guide them into all truth
3. Holy Spirit would show them things to come

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ 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.

The Bible is what it claims to be or else it is a book written by a most consistent group of liars. If it is only great literature, it lies more than 3,000 times. How great is that?

The Bible's truthfulness can be demonstrated through archeology, history and fulfilled prophecy.

2. The Bible cannot be destroyed

The Bible is unique because of its age.

Most books are never reprinted 25 years after their original publication. Approximately 80% of all books published are forgotten after the first year ... only ½ of 1 percent are in demand seven years after publication.

However, parts of the OT were written over 2500 years ago ... the NT over 1900 years ago. Yet it remains the best seller with universal appeal year after year.

The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book ever. According to Wycliffe, the status of Bible translations in the world in 2010 is:

6,900+	...the number of languages spoken in the world today
4,800	...the number of languages with at least some portion of the Bible ... leaving about 2,100 needing a translation
1,500+	...the number of translation programs where Wycliffe is currently at work
1,668	...the number of language communities which have access to the New Testament in their heart language
457	...the number of language communities which have access to the entire Bible in the language they understand best

<http://www.wycliffe.org/About/Statistics.aspx>

Opposition to the Bible can be traced from early times to the present. Throughout history the Bible's enemies have been aggressively hostile. Over the centuries people have been refuting and seeing to overthrow this book, yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation continues to increase. The WOG is an anvil that has worn out many hammers. Emperors, kings and priests, princes and rules have all tried their hand at it; they die, but the book still lives.

The 18th century French philosopher Voltaire dared to predict the Bible would be a forgotten book found only in museums by the 19th century. Ironically, within 25 years of his death, the Geneva Bible Society was using his home and his printing press to publish the Word of God.

Men who have sought to disprove the Bible have become believers ... men like Lee Strobel and Josh McDowell.

The Bible cannot be destroyed!

3. The Bible is a unified whole

One basic unifying theme runs throughout the Bible – Jesus Christ.

The OT looked forward to His coming ... the Gospels record His birth and life ... the rest of the NT explains the significance of His life, death, resurrection and return.

Luke 24:25-27 (NKJV) ²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Also, it presents a single moral standard. This is significant when we consider today’s decline in attitudes toward moral standards. Actions accepted today would have been censored just a few years ago.

The Bible is made up of 66 books ... 39 OT books ... 27 NT books ... written by nearly 40 men of varied backgrounds ... including shepherds, fisherman, prophets, kings, scholars, professional men, and common laborers.

- David and Solomon were kings
- Jeremiah and Ezekiel were priests
- Moses and Amos were shepherds
- Paul was a Rabbi and theologian
- Matthew was a tax collector
- Peter and John were fisherman
- Luke was a doctor

Collectively they wrote over a period of 1600 years and utilized three different languages.

That such a culturally, geographically, educationally diversified group could maintain the same theme and moral standard with no contradiction while dealing with many controversial subjects (morals, ethics, child training, family roles, etc.) can be explained only in terms of God – the true author of the Book.

4. The Bible is continually verified by archaeology

Archaeology has proved the accuracy of many of the Bible’s historical statements.

CASE # 1 – Belshazzar in Daniel 5 ... Bible says that he was the king killed the night God’s hand wrote on the wall and Babylon was captured by the Medes and Persians ... this was long considered an error since secular history recorded anything about Belshazzar, but only Nabonidus as the last king of Babylon. However, in 1853 the Biblical account was verified. Archaeology discovered a cylinder which showed there were actually two kings of Babylon, a father and a son. Belshazzar had been made co-ruler by his father Nabonidus. ON the night of the invasion, Nabonidus was at his oasis retreat in Arabia; Belshazzar was captured and killed.

Additionally, the fact that father and son reigned as co-regents helps explain Daniel 5:7 and 29 where Daniel was made “third ruler” in the kingdom.

Another example is the Hittites who are mentioned 40 times in the Bible, but were never mentioned in the fragmentary writings of recorded history. Their existence was verified by discoveries along the Euphrates River in 1871. In 1906 the Hittite capital was located and excavated in modern Turkey. These finds confirmed Joshua’s description.

Joshua 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

The Bible mentions Sargon, the Assyrian King, only one time in Isaiah 20:1. Secular history made no mention of him ... until archaeologists uncovered King Sargon’s palace in the 1800’s.

Solomon’s wealth and greatness were doubted until the 20th century when they discovered one of his “chariot cities” at Megiddo ... included stables accommodating 400 horses and barracks for his battalions. They also unearthed his copper and iron furnaces that were used by his trading ships when bartering for gold, silver and ivory.

Archaeological dating coincides with the Biblical dating of the fall of Jericho (1400 BC) ... verified the Bible's account of the city's fall recorded in Joshua 6:20 ... "the walls fell down flat [lit. "fell in its place" or "collapsed"]" ... by showing there were actually two walls ... each 30 feet high and 15 feet apart ... the outer wall was six feet thick and the inner wall 12 feet thick ... the walls were linked together with houses built across the top ... explains Rahab's house being upon the wall (Josh 2:15) ... the outer wall fell outward and down the hillside ... the farther one goes down the slope the thinner its debris, indicating that the wall fell flat. Archaeology also confirms that the city was burned (Joshua 6:24) ... stone reddened by fire beneath which were found an abundance of foodstuffs turned to charcoal ... indicates the people took no spoils and confirms Israel's obedience to God's command in Joshua 6:18 and Joshua 7.

No archaeological discovery has ever contradicted the Bible!

I may show you a very good video on the archaeological reliability of the Bible.

5. The Bible is scientifically accurate

The Bible, though not a textbook on science, is nonetheless accurate in its scientific detail.

- Isaiah 40:22 ... refers to the earth as being a circle or, literally, a sphere
- Luke 17:34-36 ... Jesus implied the earth was not flat when He noted that at His return some people would be sleeping (nighttime), some would be grinding grain (early morning), and some would be working in the field (daytime). This could only be possible if the earth were round. Yet, as late as 1492 Columbus was advised against seeking new sailing routes lest he fall from the edge of the earth.
- Leviticus 17:11-14 states, "The life of the flesh is in the blood." Today we know that blood is essential and indispensable to the body. Yet in 1799 doctors followed the accepted medical practices of the times and used leeches to bleed George Washington in an attempt to cure a virus. He died. The Bible contained the correct information all the time!

The Bible contains scores of now-known scientific facts written long before men recognized them in nature.

For more illustrations, check out the book ... *Has God Spoken?* by A. O. Schnabel, published by Creation-Life Publishers.

6. The Bible successfully predicts the future

The Bible's predictions concerning places, people and events are so detailed and definite that no individual could have guessed or even anticipated how they would happen.

There are hundreds of prophecies relating to the nation of Israel, other nations and the world that have and are being fulfilled.

Besides these, there are over 300 prophecies in the OT that relate to Christ. Some predictions await fulfillment, but each that has been fulfilled has come true exactly as the Bible said it would. Let me share a few of the prophecies that relate to Christ's first coming.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Seed of a woman (Gen. 3:15)	Gal. 4:4
Descendant of Abraham (Gen. 12:3)	Matt. 1:1
Descendant of Isaac (Gen. 17:19)	Luke 3:34
Descendant of Jacob (Num. 24:17)	Matt. 1:2
From the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)	Matt. 1:2; Luke 3:33
Heir to David's throne (Isaiah 9:7)	Matt. 1:6; Luke 1:32, 33
Anointed and eternal (Ps. 45:6,7; 102:25-27)	Heb 1:8-12
Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	Matthew 2:6; Luke 2:4,5,7
Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)	Luke 1:26,27,30,31
Birth would trigger slaughter of children (Jer. 31:15)	Matt. 2:16-18
Would also come from Egypt (Hos. 11:1)	Matt. 2:14,15

Also, there is a multitude of prophecies about Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)	Matt. 26:47-50
30 pieces of silver involved (Zech. 11:12,13)	Matt. 26:14,15
No bones broken at crucifixion (Psalm 22:16,17)	John 19:31-36; Luke 23:33
Rise from the dead (Psalm 16:9,10; Isa. 53)	Acts 2:27-31

Some predictions were fulfilled by men who were ignorant of them.

Psalm 22:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

Luke 23:33 (NKJV) ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

The probability of just eight of these prophecies being fulfilled has been estimated by Dr. Peter Stoner as one chance in 10^{17} ... to illustrate ... if someone were to cover Texas with silver dollars to the depth of two feet and mix in one silver dollar with a red cross painted on it, the probability of a blindfolded man finding the marked dollar on his first attempt is 10^{17} .

SHOW Herbert Lockyer's book ... All The Messianic Prophecies of the Bible.

SHOW John Walvoord's book ... The Prophecy Knowledge Handbook

7. The Bible reveals the sins of its heroes frankly and honestly

It makes no attempt to cover up the wrongs of such great Bible characters as Moses, David and Peter.

If it was written by man, some of these stories would surely not be told with such frankness and honesty.

8. The Bible influences the world as not other book

The Bible has inspired some of the world's greatest art, literature, music, and architecture.

- Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper"
- Bunyand's Pilgrim's Progress
- Handel's Messiah
- Michaelangelo's St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome

The Bible has also had a profound influence on law. The laws upon which the United States was founded can be traced back through the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, the Twelve Tables of Rome to the Mosaic Law.

True social reform has always followed proper understanding and genuine acceptance of Biblical principles.

- Pagan practices such as cannibalism and human sacrifice cannot coexist with Biblical standards
- High regard for women and their role as individuals find their origins in the Bible

The Bible has also inspired humanitarian efforts such as the founding of schools, hospitals and orphanages.

The Bible's greatest influence, however, has been upon the world's spiritual life. It points out man's sinfulness ... reveals how men can have eternal life and be changed by Jesus Christ.

It convicts and moves people toward honesty and truthfulness ... a testimony to its own reliability and truthfulness.

Only the Bible provides meaning and direction for life.

The Bible radically changes lives!

CONCLUSION

In light of the evidence, we must conclude that the Bible is something special.

It is the most remarkable book in the world ... truly the living Word of God.

It demands our careful attention and consideration ... to ignore it is foolishness!

It demands our faith and trust ... every Word of God is purified.

Psalm 12:6 (NKJV) ⁶The words of the LORD *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.

Matthew 5:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Matthew 4:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴But He answered and said, “It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’*” ⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

