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EVIDENCE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD AND THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE BIBLE

UPDATED AND EXPANDED EDITION
WIDESCREEN FORMAT
DVD VIDEO

Evidence For The Trustworthiness Of The Bible

by Charlie Campbell

The word ***Bible*** comes from the Greek word *"**biblos**,"* which means **"book."** The Bible is unarguably an incredible book! The Bible is the best selling, most quoted, most published, most circulated, most translated, most influential book in the history of mankind. Now these are interesting facts, but do they prove that the Bible is actually true? No. Why should anybody believe that the Bible is actually true? Might not the Bible be a fraud? Might not it be an ancient book of mythology, filled with the fanciful, yet deceitful writings of men?" Why should I trust the Bible?

Those are questions that intelligent, critical thinking people are asking today. Those are the questions I used to ask about the Bible. We need to, as Christians, be able to answer these questions. So, in our time together this evening I'd like to share with you some of the evidence that I think demonstrates that the Bible is indeed what it claims to be, the inspired, trustworthy Word of God.

I want to do that by bringing to the witness stand, if you will, ten witnesses or evidences that all testify to this truth. My prayer is that, if you are already a Christian, your faith in the Bible will be strengthened, and if you are a skeptic that you will reconsider your skepticism.

The first witness or evidence for the Bible's trustworthiness is...

1. FULFILLED PROPHECY

Fulfilled prophecy is something that sets the Bible apart from every other religious book. There are 26 other religious books that people of faith believe are divinely inspired *(the Vedas, the Bhagavad-Gita, the Mahabharata, the Upanishads, the Qur'an, the Book of Mormon, the Tripitaka, etc.)*. Of these twenty-six books, none of them, not a single one, contains any specific, fulfilled prophecies!

The Bible, however, is filled with hundreds of specific, detailed prophecies that were written hundreds of years before their fulfillment! In fact, an amazing 27% of the Bible *(more than 1 out of every 4 verses)* contains what was predictive prophecy at the time that it was written. And the authors of the Bible did not just predict some vague things like Nostradamus or Jeanne Dixon *(who by the way, have proven to be wrong over and over again)*, they were very specific. Consider some of the more than 100 different and very specific prophecies made concerning the Messiah, who the Old Testament prophesied would come.

The Old Testament foretold, hundreds of years in advance, very specific details about: the Messiah's ancestry, that He'd be born of the seed of Abraham *(Gen. 12:1-3, 22:18)*, of the tribe of Judah *(Gen 49:10)*, of the house of David *(2 Samuel 7:12f)*, etc. The city in which He would be born *(Micah 5:2)*, that He'd come while the temple was still standing *(Malachi 3:1)*, that He would be born of a virgin *(Isaiah 7:14)*, that He would perform miracles *(Isaiah 35:5-6)*, that He'd be rejected by His own people *(Psalm 118:22; • Isa 53:3 • 1 Pet 2:7)*, the precise time in history when He would die *(Dan 9:24-26; 483 yrs after the declaration to reconstruct the city of Jerusalem in 444 B.C. This was fulfilled to the very year.)*, how He would die *(Psalm 22:16-18 • Isa 53; • Zech 12:10)*, that He would rise from the dead *(Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27-32)*, and there are many more. All of these prophecies & hundreds others have been literally fulfilled.

The skeptic says: *"Maybe Christians inserted those prophecies back into the Old Testament after Jesus lived."* Not a chance. How do we know? There exists today hundreds of manuscript copies of the Old Testament that predate the time of Christ's birth. These ancient copies of the Old Testament, dating back to the third century B.C., verify that these prophecies concerning the Messiah were already in place. In 1947 a shepherd boy tending his father's sheep in Qumran, north and to the west of the Dead

Sea in Israel, made an amazing discovery while looking for a lost sheep. There in Qumran, in a hillside cave that had lain untouched for nearly 2,000 years, he discovered an ancient collection of hand written copies of the Old Testament. These scrolls had been hidden in caves by the Essenes, a Jewish sect living in Qumran, 2,000 years ago. These scrolls and writings *(now known as the Dead Sea Scrolls)* represented every book of the Old Testament except the Book of Esther, and are considered one of the greatest discoveries in modern times. It's manuscript evidence like this Isaiah scroll that dates back to about 100 B.C. proves, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the Old Testament, and its many prophecies concerning the Messiah, was finished long before Jesus was even born.

The skeptic says: *"How do you know that the Dead Sea Scrolls date back to before Christ?"* Teams of scholars determined the scrolls age by examining **1.** The pottery that housed the manuscripts **2.** The weave and pattern of the manuscript cloths **3.** The form of the written characters **4.** The spelling of the words **5.** The coins found alongside the manuscripts **6.** They also used Carbon-14 Dating

The skeptic says: *"Perhaps Jesus was not the Messiah, but just accidentally or even deliberately set out to fulfill these prophecies."* **First**, it's hard to think of any person deliberately setting out to fulfill prophecies that would result in a short life and an excruciating drawn out death on a cross. **Secondly**, how does a man deliberately choose the lineage he is born into, the time period in which he is born, - the city in which he is born? Was the fulfillment of these prophecies an accident? Peter Stoner, a mathematician, and Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College, in his book *Science Speaks (Moody 1963)* calculated the odds of a single man fulfilling just eight of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled as the mathematical improbability of 1 in 10 to the 17th. That is a HUGE number. One in ten to the seventeenth power. That's a one with seventeen zeros after it *(100,000,000,000,000,000)*. If we had 100 quadrillion 1" x 1.5" tiles we could cover every square inch of dry land on planet Earth. The fact that these prophecies and hundreds of others have been fulfilled, even though they were spoken hundreds and even thousands of years before their fulfillment, is strong evidence that a God, who is all-knowing and all-powerful, also orchestrated the Bible's completion.

The skeptic says: *"Regarding Peter Stoner's research: How do you know his conclusions were reliable? Was his research checked by any of his peers?"* Yes he submitted his research to his peers. In fact he submitted it to the American Scientific Affiliation. H. Harold Hartzler, Ph. D., of the American Scientific Affiliation, said this *(and it is in the foreword of Peter Stoner's book)*: *"**The manuscript for Science Speaks has been carefully reviewed by a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation members and by the Executive Council of the same group and has been found, in general, to be dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. The mathematical analysis included is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way**."* Only the God of the Bible knows the end from the beginning. The God of the Bible said in… **Isaiah 46:9-10** *"…I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done."* A great book on Bible prophecy is, ***Every Prophecy of the Bible***, by Dr. John Walvoord. It documents how nearly 1,000 of the Bible's prophecies have already been fulfilled. So evidence number one: Fulfilled Prophecy, an amazing witness to the divine origin and trustworthiness of the Bible.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

For the past 150 years archaeologists have been verifying the exact truthfulness of the Bible's detailed records of various events, customs, persons, cities, nations, and geographical locations. Dr. Nelson Glueck probably the greatest modern authority on Israeli archeology, has said, ***"No archeological discovery has ever controverted*** *[overturned]* ***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 Archaeological discoveries."***

In every instance where the Bible can be, or has been checked out archaeologically, it has been found to be 100% accurate. The Bible has proven so accurate that archaeologists often refer to it as a reliable guide when they go to dig in new areas. In fact, there have been more than 25,000 discoveries within the region known as the *"**Bible Lands**"* that have confirmed the truthfulness of the Bible. Entire books have been written on this topic. Allow me to give you 3-Examples:

A. Pontius Pilate

The Bible says that he was the Roman governor of Judea…the man who issued the official order for Jesus to be sentenced to death by crucifixion. *[Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18—19]* For years critics of Christianity were skeptical of whether Pontius Pilate was a real historical person or not because there was little mention of him outside of the Bible. But the day came in June of 1961, when a team of Italian archaeologists led by Dr. Antonio Frova, were excavating the Mediterranean port city of Caesarea that had at one time served as the Roman capital of Palestine. It was there in the jumbled ruins of an ancient Roman theater that they uncovered a large 2' x 3', 5" or so thick, limestone rock. The inscription on the rock amazed the archaeologists. It read in Latin: *"**Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea, has presented the Tiberium to the Caesareans**."* *(Scholars believe that the Tiberium refers to a temple or some other kind of public structure named after the Roman emperor Tiberius, who reigned from 14–37 ad)* This stone is on display today in the Israel Museum as a testimony to the reliability of the Bible.

B. Caiaphas

Caiaphas, the Bible tells us, was the Jewish high priest at the time of Jesus crucifixion. Was he a make believe character? Some thought so, that is until 1990, when the Caiaphas family tomb was accidentally discovered by workers constructing a water park just south of Jerusalem. Archaeologists were hastily called to the scene. When they examined the tomb they found 12 ossuaries *(limestone bone boxes)* containing the remains of 63 individuals. On the outside of the most beautifully decorated of the ossuaries was inscribed the words: "Joseph son of Caiaphas." What's incredible is that Josephus *(that Jewish historian of the first century A.D.)* in his writings *(Antiquities 18: 2, 2; 4, 3)* documents that that was actually the full name of the high priest who arrested Jesus, "Joseph son of Caiaphas." *(Saying "son of" was a way of referring to the family name)*. Inside the ossuary archaeologists found the remains of someone approximately 60-years-old at the time of his death...the actual bones of Caiaphas, the high priest mentioned in the Bible. Today Caiaphas' ossuary is also on display in the Israel Museum as a testimony of the Bible's trustworthiness! A third example as to do with…

C. David

David of course was the most loved of all of Israel's kings. Some liberal scholars though had denied that King David was a historical figure because there was no mention of him outside of the Bible. Their skepticism changed in 1993. It was then, at an excavation at Tel-Dan in North Israel they found a now famous stone with an inscription *(in Aramaic)* referring to the House of David. In 1994 two more fragments of the same stone inscription were discovered, again mentioning the House of David. In 1995 Time Magazine did a story on this discovery and stated, This writing—dated to the 9th century B.C., only a century after David's reign—described a victory by a neighboring king over the Israelites…The skeptics' claim that King David never existed is now hard to defend" (*Time*, December 18, 1995). It's because of discoveries like this that men like Millar Burrows, *(former Professor at Yale University)* stated, *"**…archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine**"* *(Burrows, Millar. What Mean These Stones? New Haven: American Schools of Oriental Research. 1941, p. 1.)*. Like I said, there are literally thousands of these archaeological discoveries that point to the Bible being an accurate and trustworthy historical document.

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Now, this is something that has not proven to be the case for other supposed *"**holy books**."* Consider the Book of Mormon. "Not one piece of evidence has ever been found to support the Book of Mormon -- not a trace of the large cities it names, no ruins, no coins, no letters or documents or monuments, nothing in writing. Not even one of the rivers or mountains or any of the topography it mentions has ever been identified." *(Dave Hunt, p.156,* In Defense of the Faith*; also see p. 107 in* The Case for Christ*, by Lee Strobel)*. Nothing which demonstrates that the Book of Mormon is anything other than an early 19th century piece of American fiction, invented by Joseph Smith *(see painting to right)* has ever been found. National Geographic Society stated on August 12th 1998, ***"Archaeologists and other scholars have long probed the hemisphere's past, and the Society does not know of anything found so far that has substantiated the Book of Mormon."*** The Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. has also verified this utter lack of evidence saying in 1996… ***"The Smithsonian Institution has never used the Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian Archaeologists see no connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of the Book."***

3. THE BIBLE'S INTERNAL CONSISTENCY

What do I mean, when I speak of the Bible's internal consistency? I am talking about the Bible's internal harmony. From the first book of the Bible, Genesis, to the last book, Revelation, the Bible is absolutely consistent.

The skeptic says: *"Why is that an evidence of divine origin? There are plenty of books that are internally consistent."* Well, let me give you seven factors that make the consistency of the Bible a big deal and an amazing evidence of its divine origin.

A. The Bible addresses life's most controversial questions. How did the universe come into existence? Does God exist? And if so, what is He like? Why does man exist? What is our purpose for being here? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? What happens to me after I die?

B. The Bible is a collection of 66 different documents. It might be easy to have harmony of thought in a single book like the Qur'an, that contains the teachings of a single man. But the Bible is not a single book. It's a compilation of 66 books: 39 = Books in the Old Testament ….and…. 27 = Books in the New Testament.

C. The Bible was written by approximately 40 different authors.

D. Many of the Bible's authors came from different educational and cultural backgrounds --Peter was a fisherman --Paul was a scholar --Daniel was a prime minister --Asaph was a musician --Matthew was a tax collector. --David was a shepherd then a king --Luke was a historian and medical doctor. The Bible's consistency gets even more amazing when you consider fourthly that…

E. The Bible was written over a period of approximately 1500+ years, covering some 60+ generations. Not only were the authors separated from each other by hundreds of years in time, but...

F. Many of the authors were separated by hundreds of miles geographically. Many people don't realize this, but the Bible was written in a variety of places on three different continents. **a.** Africa *(Egypt)* **b.** Asia **c.** Europe *(Rome for instance).* Paul wrote four letters imprisoned in Rome, located in Italy. The Apostle John, wrote while a prisoner banished to the Isle of Patmos in the Mediterranean Sea. The prophet Ezekiel wrote his work while held captive in Babylon. Jeremiah was in a dungeon. Luke wrote while traveling. Daniel wrote from a hillside & in a palace.

G. The Bible was written in three different languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. In spite of these seven different factors, when we look at the Bible as a whole, we find it to be a consistent, harmonious, perfectly unified account of how God is seeking to reconcile sinful mankind back to Himself through the person of His Son, Jesus Christ! If you're not convinced that this is an amazing

evidence of the divine origin of the Bible, go through your neighborhood and ask just 10 of your neighbors, what their beliefs are on the nature of the universe, the meaning of life, the origin of evil, the way of salvation, etc. and you'll immediately see how likely it is to have a variety of contradicting opinions!

4. EXTERNAL VERIFICATION

Many people don't know this but there are dozens of writings outside of the Bible that verify the historical accuracy of many of the names of people, places, and events mentioned in the Bible. In fact, external sources verify that at least 80 persons were actual historical figures, 50 people from the Old Testament and 30 people from the New Testament *(see list of names and sources on p. 270 in* I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist *by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek)*. Because of engravings and statues, etc., we even know what 18 (12 from the OT and 6 from the NT) of them looked like!

External verification of what the Bible says has led to a radical change of view among liberal scholars regarding the person of Jesus. Some had at one time put forth the false idea that Jesus never even existed; that He was merely a mythological character! But, today the existence of Jesus is hardly even debated within informed scholarly circles. The reason why? There are over 39 sources outside of the Bible that attest to more than 100 facts regarding Jesus' life, teachings, crucifixion, and resurrection. One of those external sources, was the 1st century Roman historian Flavius Josephus. In his writings Josephus verifies that Herod the Great, Herod Antipas, Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, John the Baptist, James ***"the half-brother of Jesus,"*** Felix, Festus, and even Jesus, were all historical figures. Listen to one of Josephus' statements about Jesus of Nazareth. I have purposely taken this from the Arabic text, of Josephus' writings called ***Antiquities***, chapter ***18:63-64***, a text that is unchallenged by most critics of the Bible.

Josephus wrote: ***"At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good, and*** *(He)* ***was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned Him to be crucified to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that He had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that He was alive.***" These are not the words of the Bible or a Christian, but a Roman historian writing outside of the pages of Scripture. Josephus wasn't the lone voice. There were others as well:

A. Cornelius Tacitus *(ca. A.D. 55 –120)* a Roman Historian by who wrote around A.D. 115. Although he was not a Christian but he did verify that Jesus lived, that He was from Judea, that He lived during the reign of Tiberius *(A.D. 14-37)*, and was executed by Pontius Pilate, who governed the province of Judea from A.D. 26-36.

B. Gaius Suetonius *(the chief secretary of Emperor Hadrian in A.D. 117 –138)*

A great book for those of interested on reading more about external verification of the life of Jesus, is ***The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*** *by Gary R. Habermas*. This book is available in our online bookstore .

5. THE BIBLE'S AMAZING SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY AND FORESIGHT

Even though the Bible was completed 2,000 years ago, long before the invention of the microscope, the telescope, satellites, etc. it does not contain any scientific errors. This might be considered a miracle in itself. Without exception, every ancient religious writing has certain unscientific views of astronomy, medicine, hygiene, etc. The Qur'an says in **Surah 18:86** that the sun sets in a muddy spring. Qur'an 18:86 "…*when he reached the setting-place of the sun, he found it setting in a muddy spring*" The only exception to these kinds of errors, among ancient religious writings, is the Bible.

Not only is the Bible free from scientific errors, it miraculously makes known numerous, accurate scientific facts about the universe thousands of years before modern scientists caught up. There are lots of them. For time's sake I will give you a few quick examples.

A. The Sun

In contrast to the Qur'an, the Bible teaches that the sun is actually on a circuit through space. Writing of the sun in **Psalm 19:6**, David said, *"Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end."* For many years critics scoffed at this verse, claiming that it taught that the sun revolves around the earth. Scientists at that time thought the sun was stationary. However, it has been discovered in recent years that the sun is in fact on a circuit through space, just like the Bible says.

B. The Shape of the Earth

When the rest of the world in 1492 believed the earth was flat, 2,000 years earlier, the Prophet Isaiah declared that the world was round… **Isaiah 40:22** *"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth."* The Hebrew word there for circle *["chuwg"]* literally means "sphere." And what encircles our globe? A Sphere of Atmos *(Atmosphere)*. When did Isaiah write these words? Between 740-680 B.C. That was at least 300 years before Aristotle suggested, in his book *On the Heavens*, that the earth might be a sphere. Other verses are **Proverbs 8:27** and **Job 26:10**. More than 2,000 years later some people still believed that Christopher Columbus *(1451-1506)* was going to sail off the edge of a flat planet in 1492!

C. The Suspension of the Earth

Before Isaac Newton discovered gravity, Hindus believed that the earth rested on the back of an elephant who stood on the back of a turtle that was swimming in a great endless sea. The Greeks believed that the mythical god Atlas carried the earth on his shoulders. But Job, the author of one of the oldest books in the Bible, went against the philosophy and science of the day and proclaimed more than 4,000 years ago that which has only been scientifically provable since the advent of satellite and rocket technology in the 20th century, and that is this: **Job 26:7** *"He [God] hangs the earth upon* nothing and stretches out the North, over empty space*."*

D. The Stars

Before the telescope was invented, man was able to number the stars. --The Greek astronomer and mathematician Hipparchus *(190-120 B.C.)* said there were exactly 1,026 stars. --The astronomer, and mathematician Ptolemy said there were 1,056 stars. --The German astronomer, Johannes Kepler *(1571-1630)*, counted 1,006. The whole thought of the stars being uncountable was contrary to modern science until the invention of the telescope. When Galileo first pointed his telescope to the heavens in 1608, we discovered there were a lot more stars than anybody had ever imagined, just as Jeremiah had said… **Jeremiah 33:22** "…*the host of heaven [a reference to the stars] cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured*…" NKJV Today, based on our most powerful telescopes and our modern satellite photographic capabilities, scientists estimate the universe contains approximately 100 billion galaxies containing approximately 200 billion stars each. Carl Sagan *(1934-1996)*, the world famous astronomer, said, ***"The total number of stars in the universe is greater than all the grains of sand on all the beaches of the planet Earth."*** *(Cosmos, p. 196)*. That is enough stars for every person alive on planet earth to personally own approximately 2 trillion stars each. ***"Counting at a rate of ten stars per second it would take over 100 trillion years. Surely the host of heaven cannot be numbered!"*** -Dr. Mark Eastman, see *"Science and The Bible" @marshill.org*. If you want more of these kinds of amazing scientific insights I'd recommend that you check out some of these websites: *marshill.org* / *answersingenesis.org* / *icr.org*

How did the authors of the Bible know that the stars were uncountable, that the earth was round and hangs on nothing? Were they taking lucky guesses? I don't think so. Their flawless accuracy rules that out. The Bible says in **2 Peter 1:21** that *"holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*

God, who knows all there is to know about the universe He created, superintended the writing of the Bible to make sure that what He wanted written, was written.

You can remember these first five evidences with the acronym **F.A.C.E.S.**

6. THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

Manuscript? What is a manuscript? A manuscript is a hand-written copy of an ancient document that predates the invention of the printing press in 1455. There have been those *(including the Mormons and Muslims)* who have falsely asserted that the Bible has undergone corruption down through the centuries as it was copied and translated. But the evidence actually proves otherwise.

Today there survives more than 24,000 partial and complete, ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the New Testament alone, not to mention hundreds of Old Testament manuscripts that survive today dating back to as early as the 3rd Century B.C. These hand written manuscripts have allowed scholars and textual critics to go back and verify that the Bible we have in our possession today is the same Bible that the early church possessed 2,000 years ago. You can view these manuscripts yourself at places like the British Museum, Cambridge University Library, Smithsonian Institute, Oxford University, the National Library at Paris, Israel Museum.

Even if we did not have any manuscripts, we have the writings of the church fathers. By church fathers we are referring to those leaders in the church, of the first three centuries A.D. that followed the original disciples. Men like Justin Martyr, Eusebius, Tertullian, Polycarp. These men in their writings and correspondence with other believers and other churches quote the Scriptures over and over again. In fact, the early church fathers refer to the New Testament alone more than 86,000 times. There are enough quotations from the early church fathers that even if we did not have a single manuscript copy of the Bible, scholars could still reconstruct 99. 86% of the New Testament that we have today.

So then, what kind of proof is the Muslim or Mormon able to offer to prove that the Bible has been changed or corrupted down through the centuries? **None**. To demonstrate or prove that the Bible has been corrupted, the Muslim or Mormon would need to be able to hold up ancient copies of the Bible and say, *"**Look, here's what the Bible used to say, and here is what the Bible says now. It has been changed**."* But that is exactly what the Mormon and the Muslim can not do. WHY? When you go back to the ancient copies of the Bible that are still in existence today in museum's and library's around the world, you quickly come to the conclusion, as numerous secular scholars have, that the text of the modern Bible has not undergone corruption.

Isaiah 40:8 *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the **word of our God stands forever**."*
Matthew 24:35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words **will by no means** pass away."*

7. THE BIBLE'S FORTHRIGHTNESS ABOUT ITS AUTHOR'S AND HERO'S FAILURES

The Bible's openness about its very own author's sins and failures is a seventh reason that I believe the Bible is an honest work. Its forthrightness in this regard makes it absolutely unique among all other religious books. Unlike the authors of other religious writings the authors of the Bible did not seek to cast themselves in good light or to elevate themselves at all. In fact, they freely confessed that they were just sinful, ordinary men. Consider some of the failures and shortcomings the writers of the Bible told us about. We read of Noah's getting drunk shortly after getting off of the ark *(Gen. 9:21)*; Abraham, lying *(on more than one occasion)* about Sarah being his wife *(Gen. 12:13; 20:2)*; Moses' outburst of anger, how he misrepresented God, and wasn't even allowed to enter into the promise land *(Num. 20:10-11)*; Israel's rejection of God on numerous occasions *(for example, see the book of Judges)*; David's adultery and subsequent murder of Uriah *(2 Samuel 11)*; the disciple's argument over which one of them was the greatest *(Luke 22:24)*; Peter's denial of the Lord *(Matt.26:72)* and his fear of being seen eating with Gentiles

(Gal.2:11-12); the disciples falling asleep when Jesus asked them to pray *(Mark 14:32-41)*; Paul, confession that he was ***"a wretched man"*** *(Rom 7:24)* the ***"chief"*** of sinners *(1 Tim.1:15)*; Paul and Barnabas argument over whether or not Mark should be allowed to travel with them *(Acts 15:38-39)*. Do all these sound like the kind of things that men making up the Bible would write about themselves? Not at all. The author's openness about these kinds of details helps me to believe that these men were being honest about the things they wrote about. Add to this seventh evidence the fact that these men imparted to the world the highest standards of conduct the world has ever seen, and we only strengthen our case.

8. THE WILLINGNESS OF JESUS' DISCIPLES TO SUFFER

All the disciples went to their graves, one by one, suffering and dying a martyr's deaths, for their on-going belief and preaching that Jesus' resurrection was an absolute fact of history! Historians like Flavius Josephus, Eusebius and others tell us that Matthew was slain with a sword in a city of Ethiopia. Mark died in Alexandria, in Northern Egypt after having been cruelly dragged through the streets of that city. Luke was hung upon an olive tree in the land of Greece. James was beheaded in Jerusalem. James the Less *(as he's called in Mark 15:40)* was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple. Philip was hung up against a pillar at Heiropolis in the province of Phrygia. Bartholomew was flayed alive. Andrew was bound to a cross, and left to die. Jude was shot to death with arrows. Matthias *(the apostle chosen to replace Judas)* was first stoned, and then beheaded. Barnabas was stoned to death by the Jews at Salonica. Paul, that former enemy of Christ *(Acts 9)*, after a variety of tortures and persecutions, was finally beheaded in Rome. Peter was crucified *(just as Jesus told him he would be in John 21)* in Jerusalem. Thomas, former skeptic of resurrection *(John 20:28)*, was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel in the East Indies for preaching the gospel. Guys the disciples sealed their testimony that Christ was alive with their own blood.

They went to their graves, still affirming that all the events which they had eye-witnessed, had actually occurred. I find it hard to believe that these men were lying. ***People may be willing to die for something that they think is true***, ***but nobody willingly dies for something they know is not true***. If anybody knew whether or not Jesus was alive after His resurrection, it would have been the disciples. They were in a unique position historically that allowed them to know whether what they were saying was true or not. They actually lived in Israel, at the time Jesus lived and was raised from the dead. They were there!

9. THE BIBLE'S TRANSFORMING POWER FOR GOOD

The Bible claims to be living and powerful *(Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 19:7-10)* and that has indeed proven to be the case. No other book in the world has had the transforming effect upon lives and societies for good, than that of the Bible. Wherever the gospel has gone, the Bible has had a transforming effect on every culture and country for good. Down through the centuries, its words have converted millions of unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Millions of people, who would testify that they were immoral, vile sinners, drowning in drug addictions, alcoholism, pornography, gambling and the like, have been transformed into godly men and women as they have studied and followed the teachings of the Bible. What words of wisdom the Bible contains!! People on every continent, in more than 2,000 languages, look to the Bible to guide them through life's perplexing and confusing circumstances. The Bible has inspired people to build hospitals, start universities *(most of the world's greatest universities—e..g. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, were started by Christians for Christian purposes)*, launch humanitarian efforts to the poor, abolish slavery *(William Wilberforce, an evangelical Christian and member of the British Parliament in the early 19th century, was the one largely responsible for the abolition of the slave trade)*, work for the equality of people among different races and women, investigate the universe scientifically, and further the development of great art and music.

Philip Schaff, speaking of Jesus' influence, aptly wrote... "*…Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times*."

The Bible's ability to powerfully transform lives and cultures for good is just another piece of the evidence that this Book is the inspired Word of God. Two great books on this topic *are* ***What if the Bible Had Never Been Written****?* and ***What if Jesus Had Never Been Born****?*

by D. James Kennedy & Jerry Newcombe

10. THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS, THE SON OF GOD Another reason that you can be sure that the Bible is trustworthy is because Jesus said it was! Jesus did not just claim to be the Son of God, He *proved* that He was truly Son of God by His resurrection from the dead *(Rom. 1:4)*, fulfilling hundreds of Old Testament prophecies, living a sinless life, and performing a multitude of miracles. If Jesus is the Son of God, we can trust what He had to say about the word of God.

Jesus spoke/affirmed at least 7- things as true about the Bible:

A. Without Error. In **John 17:17**, Jesus said in His prayer to His Father… *"Thy word is [What? Full of contradictions, and errors? No.] truth."* Jesus taught secondly, that the Bible was...

B. Historically Reliable. Jesus affirmed as historically true some of the most disputed passages of the Old Testament, including... --the story of Jonah in the whale *(in Matt. 12:40)* --the destruction of the world by a flood in the days of Noah *(in Matt.24:37-39)* --and others *(see p. 5-60, Dan Story,* Defending Your Faith*, and Geisler, p. 559,* Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1)*.

C. Futuristically Reliable. All current Prophecies that have been fulfilled prove this point, and are a very strong indicator that the rest of the Prophecies, are yet to be fulfilled, and WILL be fulfilled. But just in case your doubtful, read: **John 20:29 • Matthew 24:35 • Luke 21:32 • Revelation 1:3 &** *chpt.* **19**

D. Divinely Authoritative. Over and over, throughout Scripture, Jesus repeatedly said to Satan and to many others, *"It is written...it is written...it is written..."* (**Matt. 4:4-10**) and *"…Thus sayeth the Lord…"*

E. Scientifically Accurate. For example, when He taught on marriage He referred not to the *"Theory of Evolution"* but to a ***literal creation*** of Adam and Eve at the beginning of the world. *(in Matt. 19:4-5)*

F. Infallible *(Dependable, or Unbreakable)***.** In **John 10:35** Jesus said, *"The Scripture cannot be broken."*

G. Indestructible. In **Matthew 5:18** Jesus said, *"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."* If Jesus was a prophet of God, as even the Qur'an teaches, or even if He was a good teacher *(as so many are willing to believe today)*, it would be wise for us to take His Word on the matter! For Jesus claerly taught that the Bible is a historically reliable, divinely authoritative, scientifically accurate, dependable, error free, indestructible Book.

The skeptic says: *"Come on, Charlie, You're referring to the words of Jesus in the Bible to prove the Bible. You're guilty of circular reasoning. You're quoting the Bible to prove the Bible!"* Ahhh, but as I pointed out earlier, the Bible is not one book. It is a collection of 66 books written by 40 different authors, over a span of about 2,000 years! So when I quote Jesus' words to substantiate what Moses or other authors wrote I am not involved in circular reasoning at all. Instead, I am quoting altogether independent sources that happen to be bound together between two covers of the same book. Q. Do you see how that works?

The skeptic says: *"Okay Charlie! But, Jesus was only talking about the* Old *Testament when He said those things. The New Testament had not been written."* You're right! It was not written yet. But listen to what Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:26. He promised the aid of the Holy Spirit to His disciples in writing the new. Jesus said, "*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 14:26**). In the book of **John 16:13**, Jesus told His disciples, "*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 promised His disciples the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit in writing the New Testament. So, Jesus validated the trustworthiness of the Old Testament and He promised the trustworthiness of the New. Based on Jesus' testimony, you can trust both.

Now, I've brought to the witness stand 10-witnesses that all testify to the trustworthiness of the Bible.

1. Fulfilled Prophecy
2. Archaeological Verification
3. The Bible's Internal Consistency
4. External Verification
5. The Bible's Amazing Scientific Accuracy and Foresight
6. The Manuscript Evidence
7. The Bible's Forthrightness about its Author's & Hero's Failures.
8. The Willingness of Jesus' Disciples to Suffer
9. The Bible's Transforming Power for Good
10. The testimony of Jesus, the Son of God

The force of this evidence is cumulative. If I were to present these arguments individually one might be inclined to argue that the evidence was inconclusive *(that mere archaeological evidence does not convince them that the Bible is truly the Word of God)*. And that is a valid argument. But, all 10 of these evidences, when taken together, build a very strong case for the trustworthiness & Divine Inspiration of the Bible.

Some Bible Factiods:

If the Facts above have not already wowed you, check out this 1-Bible Factoid below:

When reading the factoid below, **keep in mind** that the WHOLE BIBLE was not written by just 1-person, but by 40-Different Authors, who wrote 66-Books over a period of 1,500 years and each Author claims that they wrote under the INSPIRATION OF GOD. God SPOKE and they DICTATED. **Also keep in mind** that King David wrote the Book of Psalms about 600 years before the rest of the OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS were written and about 1,000 years before the rest of the Bible, *(New Testament)* was written.

1. What is the **shortest** Chapter in the whole Bible?	**A**: Psalm 117
2. What is the **longest** Chapter in the whole Bible?	**A**: Psalm 119
3. What is the **center** Chapter of the whole Bible?	**A**: Psalm 118
4. What is the **center** Verse of the whole Bible?	**A**: Psalm 118:8
5. How many Chapters are **before** Psalm 118?	**A**: 594
6. How many Chapters are **after** Psalm 118?	**A**: 594
7. How many Chapters **before & after** Psalm 118?	**A**: 1,188 (118:8)

Psalm 118:8 is also the most Central theme and Message throughout the entire Bible from beginning to end. We would be wise to take heed to it. It says: ***"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man"***. All this is a Coincident? Do you now think that these 66-Books of the Bible were just written by the WILL & MIND of 40 different men, over a period of 1,500 years? Just a bunch of lucky guesses about Life, Love, and God, which all ended up with 594 Chapters before & 594 Chapters after Psalm 118, for a Total of 1,188 Chapters total, with the MIDDLE VERSE of the whole Bible is Psalm 118:8 being the central message and theme from God to Man? Is this mere coincidental chance? Or Divine Inspiration & Intervention? King David was long dead and gone before the New Testament writers were even born, and clearly could not have known this factoid above.

King David also wrote:
Psa 119:129 ***Thy testimonies are wonderful; Therefore doth my soul keep them.***

In other words, God gave Testimony to man. God Himself verbally testified about Himself to King David, who then put God's Words into Music, making Songs of them. And so claim all the other writers of the Bible, claiming God spoke to them, and so they Wrote. **2Timothy 3:16** ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction & instruction in righteousness:***

King David also wrote:
Psa 12:6 ***The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified 7-times.***

Finally, This verse above brings us to our NEXT BIBLE FACTOID concerning the Number 7 and God. The most intriguing discovery in the Bible is the Mathematical Sequences found as one openly reads within it pages. Even more astounding, is the Mathematical Patterns and Sequences found In-Between the Lines, so to speak, called: THE BIBLE CODE. That's right! The Bible has been supernaturally encoded by Intelligent Design. For an In-Depth review of this subject see: The Bible Code by Mark Drosnin. This Ex-Atheist Jewish Journalist, who believed the Bible was foolishness, now knows the Bible was given by Intelligent Design after discovering Hidden Mathematical Patterns in the Bible. He discovered such with the Aid of a Jewish Rabbi and a Computer.

If interested in viewing a taste of this Mathematical Bible Factoid, see '***GODS MASTER PLAN***' by Missionary James. If you liked the Bible Factoid above, wait until you See and Read this Beautiful In-Depth Bible Factoid by Missionary James. Gods Master Plan (**GMP**) is a laminated Mini-Poster/Dinner Place Mat w/GRAPHICS on Front and TEXT on the Back with Q & A's. You can view and print out such for Free at: www.MySpace.com/jd4him. Once you're there, look for Missionary James' Blog &ICK, Gods Master Plan. Or, you can mail your Order/Request for a GMP from Missionary James by sending $10 to the Address below, or call:

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
For additional resources, including notes, audio messages, and DVDs, that will help you always be ready to defend the faith *(1 Peter 3:15)* please feel free to check out: **www.AlwaysBeReady.com**

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