



Life's Ultimate Questions

A Case for God's Word

While attacks on the existence of God and the deity of Jesus have really ramped up, so have major attacks on the validity of the Bible. This is a big deal because if we can't trust the Bible we really can't know anything about who God is, how we came into existence, why we are here, what is expected of us, or where we are going when this life comes to an end. So this begs a huge question with huge implications...

Can Our Bible Be Trusted?

The answer to that is absolutely YES! Here are five very compelling reasons for why:

1. Its unity amid its diversity (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible:

- It took over 1,500 years to write.
- It was written by 40 different authors (shepherds, kings, fisherman, tax collectors, Jews, a Gentile, rich, poor, etc.).
- It was written on 3 different continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe).
- It was written in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
- It was written under different circumstances (war, peace, persecution, etc.)

With all this diversity and yet complete unity this book has great weight for being something far greater than just a collection of human writings.

2. Its evidence from prophecy.

The Bible lays out a simple test for the authenticity of anyone claiming to be a real prophet of God: 100% accuracy (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

While the Bible makes hundreds of prophecies about numerous different topics we will focus our attention here on just the prophecies concerning the Messiah.

All told, ***351 prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' first coming.*** (See some of these in the appendix in the back of this packet)

Many of those prophecies were fulfilled before Jesus had a chance to read or act on them. For instance, it was predicted that the Messiah would be born of the seed of a woman, of the nation of Israel, the tribe of Judah, the house of David, in the town of Bethlehem, that wise men would bring him gifts, and children in the surrounding area would be slaughtered. Those are difficult prophecies for a baby to pull off while he's still lying in the manger. But they happened around Jesus.

3. Its uniqueness in comparison to other books.

A. Unique in its continuity.

The Bible addresses hundreds of controversial themes, yet agrees completely from cover to cover.

B. Unique in its circulation.

The Bible is the best selling book of all time. It has been a best seller since the printing press was invented in 1455.

C. Unique in its translation and transmission.

The Bible has been so meticulously translated and copied that there has been no room left for error.

Look at the chart below for an answer as to how much we can trust the New Testament in comparison to other works of antiquity...

| <u>Author:</u> | <u>When Written:</u> | <u>Earliest Copy:</u> | <u>Time Span:</u> | <u># of copies:</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Caesar | 100-44 BC | AD 900 | 1,000 years | 10 |
| Plato | 427-347 BC | AD 900 | 1,200 years | 7 |
| Tacitus | AD 100 | AD 1100 | 900 years | 20 |
| Thucydides | 460-400 BC | AD 900 | 1,300 years | 8 |
| Herodotus | 384-322 BC | AD 900 | 1,300 years | 8 |
| Aristotle | 450-385 BC | AD 900 | 1,400 years | 49 |
| Homer (Iliad) | 900 BC | 400 BC | 500 years | 643 |
| New Testament | AD 40-95 | AD 98 | 3 years | 24,900 |

D. Unique in its survival.

No other book has suffered the same kind of attacks as the Bible. From ancient Rome to modern communism to Islamic states, the Bible has been banned, burned, outlawed, and restricted. Yet, it remains the most widely circulated and read book in the world.

4. Its evidence from science.

While the Bible is not a scientific textbook one can discover from reading it that it was light

years ahead of the scientific curve due to the fact that the Creator of science was the Writer of the Bible.

Just check out the following chart...

| <i><u>What the Bible says:</u></i> | <i><u>What people thought:</u></i> | <i><u>What we now know:</u></i> |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Earth is a sphere.</i> | <i>Earth is a flat disk.</i> | <i>Earth is a sphere.</i> |
| <i>Number of stars = more than a billion.</i> | <i>Number of stars = 1,100.</i> | <i>Number of stars = more than a billion.</i> |
| <i>Every star is different. Light is in motion.</i> | <i>All stars are the same. Light is fixed in place.</i> | <i>Every star is different. Light is in motion.</i> |
| <i>Air has weight.</i> | <i>Air is weightless.</i> | <i>Air has weight.</i> |
| <i>Winds blow in cyclones.</i> | <i>Winds blow straight.</i> | <i>Winds blow in cyclones.</i> |
| <i>Blood is a source of life and healing.</i> | <i>Sick people must be bled.</i> | <i>Blood is a source of life and healing.</i> |

In addition to the phenomena just mentioned, the Bible describes:

- the conservation of mass and energy¹,
- the hydraulic cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation²,
- gravity³,
- the Pleiades and Orion as gravitationally-bound star groups⁴,
- the effect of emotions on physical health⁵,
- the spread of contagious disease by close contact⁶,
- the importance of sanitation to health⁷.

5. Its evidence from archaeology.

To date, more than 25,000 archaeological findings have been discovered which verify the writings dealing with things like rulers, cities, people groups, wars, etc.

Scholar Hugh Ross writes this, "In the crucible of scientific investigation, the Bible has proven invariably to be correct. No other book, ancient or modern, can make this claim."

¹ Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:14-15.

² Job 36:27-29; Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10.

³ Job 26:7; Job 38:31-33.

⁴ Job 38:31 (Note: According to Dr. Ross, "All other star groups visible to the naked eye are unbound, with the possible exception of the Hyades.")

⁵ Proverbs 15:30; 16:24; 17:22.

⁶ Leviticus 13:45-46.

⁷ Numbers 19; Deuteronomy 23:12-13.

Appendix

One of the authenticating proofs for the inspiration of the Bible, which at the same time authenticate the claims of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the only Savior of the world, are the many fulfilled prophecies which find their fulfillment in the person and life of Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. We have in the Holy Scripture, an array of prophecies which extend over hundreds of years and yet find their complete fulfillment in the short thirty-year life span of one person, Jesus of Nazareth, many being fulfilled in one day. These prophecies truly accomplish the purposes of the Gospel writers as they carefully pointed to the person, words, and works of Christ.

“But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” ([John 20:31](#))

“But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled” ([Matt. 26:56](#)).

And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. ([Luke 24:25-27](#)).

Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” ([Luke 24:44](#)).

The following twenty-five Old Testament prophecies deal with events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ including His betrayal, trial, death and burial. They were uttered by many different voices and over a period of 500 years, yet they were all fulfilled within twenty-four hours on the day that He died for the sins of the world.

Old Testament Prophecies

Relating to the Person of Christ

1. HIS FIRST ADVENT

The Fact: [Gen. 3:15](#); [Deut. 18:15](#); [Psa. 89:20](#); [Isa. 2:2](#); [28:16](#); [32:1](#); [35:4](#); [42:6](#); [49:1](#); [55:4](#); [Ezek. 34:24](#); [Dan. 2:44](#); [Micah 4:1](#); [Zech 3:8](#).

The Time: [Gen. 49:10](#); [Num. 24:17](#); [Dan. 9:24](#); [Mal. 3:1](#).

His Divinity: [Psa. 2:7, 11](#); [45: 6-7, 11](#); [72:8](#); [102:24-27](#); [89:26-27](#); [110:1](#); [Isa. 9:6](#); [25:9](#); [40:10](#); [Jer. 23:6](#); [Micah 5:2](#); [Mal 3:1](#).

Human Generation: [Gen. 12:3](#); [18:18](#); [21:12](#); [22:18](#); [26:4](#); [28:14](#); [49:10](#); [2 Sam. 7:14](#); [Psa. 18:4-6](#); [50:22-23](#); [89:4](#), [29-30](#); [132:11](#); [Isa. 11:1](#); [Jer. 23:5](#); [33:15](#).

2. HIS FORERUNNER

[Isa. 40:3](#); [Mal. 3:1](#); [4:5](#).

3. HIS NATIVITY AND EARLY YEARS

The Fact: [Gen. 3:15](#); [Isa. 7:14](#); [Jer 31:22](#)

The Place: [Num. 24:17, 19](#); [Micah 5:2](#)

Adoration by Magi: [Psalm 72:10, 15](#); [Isa. 60:3, 6](#)

Descent into Egypt: [Hosea 11:1](#)

Massacre of Innocents: [Jer 31:15](#)

4. HIS MISSION AND OFFICE

Mission: [Gen. 12:3](#); [49:10](#); [Num. 24:19](#); [Deut. 18:18](#); [Psa. 21:1](#); [Isa. 59:20](#); [Jer. 33:16](#)

Priest Like Melchizedek: [Psalm 110:4](#)

Prophet Like Moses: [Deut. 18:15](#)

Conversion of Gentiles: [Isa. 11:10](#); [Deut. 32:43](#); [Psa. 18:49](#); [19:4](#); [117:1](#); [Isa. 42:1](#); [45:23](#); [49:6](#); [Hosea 1:10](#); [2:23](#); [Joel 2:32](#).

Ministry in Galilee: [Isa. 9:1-2](#)

Miracles: [Isa. 35:5-6](#); [42:7](#); [53:4](#)

Spiritual Graces: [Psa. 45:7](#); [Isa. 11:2](#); [42:1](#); [53:9](#); [61:1-2](#)

Preaching: [Psa. 2:7](#); [78:2](#); [Isa. 2:3](#); [61:1](#); [Micah 4:2](#)

Purification of Temple: [Psa. 69:9](#)

5. HIS PURPOSE

Rejection by Jews and Gentiles: [Psa. 2:1](#); [22:12](#); [41:5](#); [56:5](#); [69:8](#); [118:22-23](#); [Isa. 6:9-10](#); [8:14](#); [29:13](#); [53:1](#); [65:2](#)

Persecution: [Psa. 22:6](#); [35:7, 12](#); [56:5](#); [71:10](#); [109:2](#); [Isa. 49:7](#); [53:3](#)

Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem: [Psa. 8:2](#); [118:25-26](#); [Zech. 9:9](#)

Betrayal by Own Friend: [Psa. 41:9](#); [55:13](#); [Zech 13:6](#)

Betrayal for Thirty Pieces: [Zech. 11:12](#)

Purchase of Potter's Field: [Zech 11:13](#)

Desertion by Disciples: [Zech 13:7](#)

False Accusation: [Psa. 27:12](#); [35:11](#); [109:2](#); [Psa. 2:1-2](#)

Silence Under Accusation: [Psa. 38:13](#); [Isa. 53:7](#)

Mocking: [Psalm 22:7-8](#), 16; [109:25](#)

Insult, Buffeting, Spitting, Scourging: [Psa. 35:15-](#), 21; [Isa. 50:6](#)

Crucifixion: [Psa. 22:14, 17](#)

Offer of Gall and Vinegar: [Psa. 69:21](#)

Prayer for Enemies: [Psa. 109:4](#)

Cries Upon the Cross: [Psa. 22:1](#); [31:5](#)

Death in Prime of Life: [Psa. 89:45](#); [102:24](#)

Death with Malefactors: [Isaiah 53:9, 12](#)

Death Attested by Convulsions of Nature: [Amos 5:20](#); [Zech 14:4-6](#)

Casting Lots for Vesture: [Psa. 22:18](#)

Bones not to be Broken: [Psa. 34:20](#)

Piercing: [Psa. 22:16](#); [Zech 12:10](#); [13:6](#)

Voluntary Death: [Psa. 40:6-8](#)

Vicarious Suffering: [Isa. 53:4-6](#), 12; [Dan 9:26](#)

Burial with the Rich: [Isa. 53:9](#)

6. HIS RESURRECTION

[Psalm 16:8-10](#); [30:3](#); [41:10](#); [118:17](#); [Hosea 6:2](#)

7. HIS ASCENSION

[Psalm 16:11](#); [24:7](#); [68:18](#); [110:1](#); [118:19](#)

8. HIS SECOND ADVENT

[Psalm 50:3-6](#); [Isa. 9:6-7](#); [66:18](#); [Dan 7:13-14](#); [Zech. 12:10](#); [14:4-8](#).

Dominion Universal and Everlasting: [1 Chron. 17:11-14](#); [Psa. 72:8](#); [Isa. 9:7](#); [Dan 7:14](#); [Psa. 2:6-8](#); [8:6](#); [110:1-3](#); [45:6-7](#)