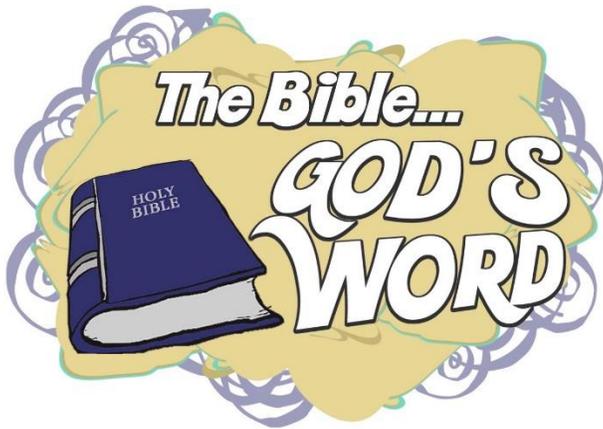


# “Just Believe The Bible? WHY?!?”



In this multicultural world in which we live, there's a buffet of religious beliefs to choose from, with each one claiming to have a divinely-inspired source of authority. The *Koran*, the *Bhagavad Gita*, The Book of Mormon, The *New World Translation* of the Jehovah's Witnesses, the *Divine Principle* of the unification church, and other religious works all claim to be divinely inspired. The Bible claims to be the only book that is divinely inspired and that all other claims of inspiration from other works should be ruled out. Does the Bible confirm its exclusive

claim to be the Word of God? Why would the Bible make such a claim, and why would we accept the claims of the Bible and live under the Authority of the Bible? There are some reasons, and we will begin with the strongest one. We believe the Bible is THE only trustworthy Authority in our lives:

## 1. The TESTIMONY of JESUS confirms it. (that the Bible is God's Authoritative Word)

This is the STRONGEST argument we advance, and it's a good one.

- ***The Identity of the One Who makes this claim.*** Jesus claimed to be the divine Son of God and confirmed His claims through His sinless, miraculous life and resurrection. The events of His life have been recorded in the four Gospels, which have proven to be historically accurate and written by first century eyewitnesses. [\[1\]](#) *Since Jesus is God incarnate, whatever He taught is true, and anything opposed to His teaching is false.* And, to question the credibility of the Bible is to question the credibility of Jesus~
- ***What He said, even about the "disputed" stories of the Old Testament.*** *Jesus directly affirmed the authority of the Old Testament and indirectly affirmed the New Testament.* In **Mark 7:8-9**, Jesus refers to the Old Testament as the commands of God. In **Matthew 5:17**, Jesus states that the Law and the Prophets referring to the Old Testament is authoritative and imperishable. Throughout His ministry, Jesus made clear His teachings, corrections, and actions were consistent with the Old Testament. He also judged others teachings and traditions by the Old Testament. He thus demonstrated His affirmation of the Old Testament to be the Word of God.

***Jesus even specifically affirmed as historical several disputed stories of the Old Testament.*** He affirms as true the accounts of Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4-5), Noah and the flood (Matthew 24:39), Jonah and the whale (Matthew 12:40), Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15), and more.

- ***What He said about "... to be continued ... "*** Jesus confirmed the Old Testament and promised that the Holy Spirit would inspire the apostles in the continuation of His teaching and in the writing of what would become the New Testament (**John 14:25-26**)

**and John 16:12-13**). The book of Acts, which records the miracles of the apostles, has also proven to be a historically accurate record written by a first century eyewitness.

## 2. Because the FULFILLMENT of PROPHECY confirms it.

- **A historical distinction the Bible has. And some examples . . .** The biblical authors made hundreds of specific prophecies of future events that have come to pass in the exact manner they were predicted. No book in history can compare to the Bible when it comes to the fulfillment of prophecy.

**Here are some examples. Ezekiel 26**, which was written in 587 B.C., predicted the destruction of Tyre, a city made up of two parts: a mainland port city, and an island city half a mile off shore. Ezekiel prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the city, many nations would fight against her, the debris of the city would be thrown into the ocean, the city would never be found again, and fishermen would come there to lay their nets.

In 573 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the mainland city of Tyre. Many of the refugees of the city sailed to the island, and the island city of Tyre remained a powerful city. In 333 B.C., however, Alexander the Great laid siege to Tyre. Using the rubble of mainland Tyre, he built a causeway to the island city of Tyre. He then captured and completely destroyed the city.

Today, Tyre is a small fishing town where fishing boats come to rest and fisherman spread their nets. The great ancient city of Tyre to this day lies buried in ruins exactly as prophesied. If we were to calculate the odds of this event happening by chance, the figures would be astronomical. No, it was not by coincidence.[\[2\]](#)

**Here's another example.** There are nearly one hundred prophecies made about Jesus in the Old Testament, prophecies such as His place of birth, how he would die, His rejection by the nation of Israel, and so on. **Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 24, 25; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1** All these prophecies were made hundreds of years before Jesus ever came to earth. Because of the accuracy of the prophecies, many skeptics have believed that they must have been written after A.D. 70 after the birth and death of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem. They have thereby tried to deny that they are even prophecies.

However, in 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. These scrolls contained the book of Isaiah and other prophetic books. When dated, they were found to be written from 120 to 100 B.C.,[\[3\]](#) well before Jesus was born. It would have been an incredible accomplishment for Jesus to have fulfilled the numerous prophecies. Some say these prophecies were fulfilled by chance, but the odds against this would be exceptionally large. It would take more a greater leap of faith to believe in that chance happening than in the fact that Jesus is God and these prophecies are divinely inspired.

## 3. Because the INTERNAL UNITY of the Bible confirms it.

Unity from diversity . . . the facts. The Bible covers hundreds of topics, yet it does not contradict itself. It remains united in its theme. Well, what's so amazing about that? you may ask. Consider these facts.

- **First, the TIME facts.** The Bible was written over a span of fifteen hundred years.

- **Second, the AUTHORS facts.** The Bible was written by more than forty men from every walk of life. For example, Moses was educated in Egypt, Peter was a fisherman, Solomon was a king, Luke was a doctor, Amos was a shepherd, and Matthew was a tax collector. All the writers were of vastly different occupations and backgrounds.
- **Third, the PLACE facts.** The Bible was written in many different places. The Bible was written on three different continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. Moses wrote in the desert of Sinai, Paul wrote in a prison in Rome, Daniel wrote in exile in Babylon, and Ezra wrote in the ruined city of Jerusalem.
- **Fourth, CIRCUMSTANCES facts.** The Bible was written under many different circumstances. David wrote during a time of war, Jeremiah wrote at the sorrowful time of Israel's downfall, Peter wrote while Israel was under Roman domination, and Joshua wrote while invading the land of Canaan.
- **Fifth, the ISSUES facts.** *Historically, the writers of the Bible addressed a number of issues.* Isaiah wrote to warn Israel of God's coming judgment on their sin; Matthew wrote to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah; Zechariah wrote to encourage a disheartened Israel who had returned from Babylonian exile; and Paul wrote addressing problems in different Asian and European churches.

***This pudding HAS a "Theme"!*** [Churchill story . . .] What is it? If we put all these factors together and it's amazing that with such diversity, the Bible proclaims a unified message! **That unity is organized around one theme: The STORY God's redemption of man and all of creation. REDEMPTION & RESTORATION, even a theme of movies. The writers address numerous controversial subjects yet contradictions never appear. The Bible is an incredible document.**

Let me offer you a good illustration. Suppose ten medical / law / business / education / psychology / journalism students graduating in the same year from their respective schools wrote position papers on four controversial subjects. Would they all agree on each point? No, we would have disagreements from one author to another. Now look at the authorship of the Bible. All these authors, from a span of fifteen hundred years, wrote on many controversial subjects, yet they do not contradict one another.

**It seems one author guided these writers through the whole process: the Holy Spirit.** *2 Peter 1:21, No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* The unity of the Bible is just one more amazing proof of the divine inspiration and authority of the Bible.

#### **4. Because ARCHAEOLOGY confirms it.**

- ***What Biblical Scholars maintain.*** Middle Eastern archaeological investigations have proven the Bible to be true and unerringly accurate in its historical descriptions. Nelson Glueck, a renowned Jewish archaeologist, states, **No archaeological discovery has ever**

**controverted a biblical reference.**<sup>{4}</sup> Dr. William Albright, who was probably the foremost authority in Middle East archaeology in his time, said this about the Bible: There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament.<sup>{5}</sup> At this time, the number of archaeological discoveries that relate to the Bible number in the hundreds of thousands.<sup>{6}</sup>

Archaeology has verified numerous ancient sites, civilizations, and biblical characters whose existence was questioned by the academic world and often dismissed as myths. Biblical archaeology has silenced many critics as new discoveries supported the facts of the Bible.

- **Hittites, Jericho, and “Dr. Luke”** Here are a few examples of the historical accuracy of the Bible. The Bible records that **the Hittites** were a powerful force in the Middle East from 1750 B.C. until 1200 B.C. (Genesis 15:20, 2 Samuel 11, and 1 Kings 10:29). Prior to the late nineteenth century, nothing was known of the Hittites outside the Bible, and many critics alleged that they were an invention of the biblical authors.

However, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, archaeologists in Turkey discovered a city which proved to be the capital of the Hittite empire. In the city they discovered a massive library of thousands of tablets. These tablets showed that the Hittite language was an early relative of the Indo-European languages.

Another example is **the story of Jericho** recorded in the book of *Joshua 6:1-7*. For years, skeptics thought the story of the falling walls of Jericho was a myth. However, recent archaeological discoveries have led several prominent scholars to conclude that the biblical description of the fall of Jericho is consistent with the discoveries they have made. One of the leading archaeologists on Jericho presently is Dr. Bryant Wood. His research has shown that the archaeological evidence matches perfectly with the biblical record.<sup>{7}</sup>

NT . . . One of the most well attested to New Testament authors is Luke. Scholars have found him to be a very accurate historian, even in many of his details. In the Gospel of Luke and Acts, Luke names thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities, and nine islands without error.<sup>{8}</sup> A. N. Sherwin-White states, For Acts the confirmation of historicity is overwhelming. . . . Any attempt to reject its basic historicity must now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted.<sup>{9}</sup>

There is no other ancient book that has so much archaeological evidence to support its accounts. Since God is a God of truth, we should expect His revelation to present what is historically true. Archaeology presents tangible proof of the historical accuracy of the Bible.

### **An APPLICATION: The “Law Of Non-Contradiction” and the Bible.**

**Any positives about other religious works?** Other religious works may *contain* truth. All people, even fallen sinners, are created in the image of God and can therefore articulate principles that are true. But the Bible claims to BE Truth from God, and it CONFIRMS its claims. Since the Bible IS what it says it is, when what other works say contradicts the Bible, they are false. The Bible is the only book that consistently confirms its claim of divine inspiration. Other scriptures which contradict it cannot, therefore, be true.

***The law of non-contradiction states that TWO contradictory STATEMENTS cannot be TRUE at the same time.***

If one proposition is known to be true, its opposite must be false. If it is true that I am presently alive, it cannot also be true to say that I am presently not alive. This is a universal law which is practiced daily in every part of the world. If it is true that THIS is a watch, then it cannot also be true that it is a chain saw. If I am who I am, I cannot also be \_\_\_\_\_. The "Law Of Non-Contradiction" is self-evident and we live (or die!) by it [A traffic light cannot be red and green @ the same time . . . ]

When you apply the "Law of Non-Contradiction" to the Bible, the argument runs like this. Since we have good reason to believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, any teaching that contradicts the Bible must be false. The Bible makes exclusive claims regarding God, truth and salvation that would exclude other scriptures. The Bible teaches that any deity other than the God of the Bible is a false deity (Exodus 20). Jesus declared that he is the divine Son of God, the source of truth, and the only way to eternal life (John 1 & 14:6).

A look at a few works from other religions illustrates this point. The Hindu scriptures present views of God that are contrary to the Bible. Hindus are polytheistic, and present a pantheistic worldview of an impersonal divine essence called Brahma, not a personal God.

The Koran, the holy book of Islam, denies the deity of Christ, the triune nature of God, and the atoning work of Christ on the cross (Sura 4:116, 168). These are foundational truths taught in the Bible. Same for other religions.

The Bible alone proves to be divinely inspired and its exclusive claims rule out the claims of other books.

## Notes

1. For more information refer to the articles "The Historical Reliability of the Gospels" ([www.probe.org/historical-reliability-of-the-gospels](http://www.probe.org/historical-reliability-of-the-gospels)) and "The Uniqueness of Jesus" ([www.probe.org/uniqueness-of-jesus](http://www.probe.org/uniqueness-of-jesus))
2. Ralph H. Alexander, "Ezekiel," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelain (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986), 869.
3. Norman Geisler and William Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, (Chicago, IL.: Moody Press, 1986), 364-367.
4. Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert: A History of the Negev* (New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Cudahy, 1959), 31.
5. William F. Albright, *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel* (Baltimore: John Hopkins, 1953), 176.
6. Randall Price, *The Stones Cry Out* (Eugene, OR.: Harvest House Publishers, 1997), 25.
7. *Ibid.*, 152-53.
8. Norman Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999), s.v., Archaeology, New Testament."
9. Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (San Bernardino: Here's Life Publishers, 1999), 66.