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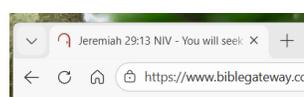
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# Introduction

As I begin this book, let me first say that while I've heard, read, and gathered a great deal of information on the subject over the years, I know that no book — including this one — could ever fully do justice to the scope of what we're about to explore. The observable evidence pointing to the Bible's origin, preservation, and reliability is abundant and compelling. My prayer is that this book gives you something to think about — and serves as a starting point in your own journey toward the truth.

The Bible stands alone in history. The evidence for its truthfulness is overwhelming. Christianity is not a blind faith, it is grounded in evidence. This book will walk you through some of that evidence.

So, is the Bible really from God? And is it still reliable today for you, for me, and for each of our 8 billion fellow inhabitants of planet Earth?

If, after sincerely seeking the answer, you come to the conclusion that the Bible is from God and has been preserved to this very day, then you face a choice:

Will you continue down your own path or will you humble yourself and begin following the truth revealed by the One who created all things and directly inspired the words of the Bible?

The Bible is God's gift to us, a roadmap for life.

So now, let's dig in. I encourage you to read the paragraph below and then read it again. Keep it in your heart as you go through the pages of this book.

I will begin and end this book with three **promises** from God. “*And ye shall seek Me, **and find Me**, when ye shall search for Me **with all your heart**” ([Jeremiah 29:13](#)). “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must **believe that He is**, and that **He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him**” ([Hebrews 11:6](#)). “*Draw near to God **and He will draw near to you**” ([James 4:8a](#)).***

Where does faith come from?

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” ([Romans 10:17](#)).

The apostle Thomas needed extra proof before he fully believed. If that's you, I hope you'll find what you're looking for in the pages that follow.

# Chapter 1

## ----- The Bible's Claims

What we'll cover in this first chapter doesn't yet prove the Bible's truth or reliability. But it's important groundwork that we'll need to understand before going further.

*"...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).*

Over 4,000 times in the Bible, the authors affirm that what they are writing is directly from God. You'll find repeated statements like:

**"Thus saith the Lord"**

**"Then God spoke"**

**"Jesus said..."**

**"The word of the Lord came unto me,"**

**"God, who... spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets"**

These aren't small claims. They're bold declarations of divine authorship. Also, God Himself spoke directly through the prophets.

*"You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. I, only I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me. It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God". (Isaiah 43:10-12).*

I encourage you to rely on the Bible itself to speak clearly about what it teaches. That's why I'll be listing verses for you to look up as we go to verify that what is written here lines up with what God has revealed through the pages of His book, the Bible.

Paul's protégé Timothy, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote this:

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

The Greek phrase translated "*All scripture*" refers to the entirety of the Bible. God has given us everything we need in order to follow Him as He prepares a place in heaven for those who are His. By listening to Him and studying His inspired Word, we will be instructed in the path to righteousness and heaven.

As believers, we're called to test everything by the Word of God.

*"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).*

That includes ministers, churches, denominations, teachings, sermons, and even opinions and practices. God doesn't just recommend study, He commands it:

*"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).*

Now, as I mentioned above, one might rightfully say: "That's all well and good but just because the Bible says it's from God doesn't prove it really is."

And that's where our study of apologetics begins.

It's completely understandable to have doubts or to wonder about the Bible's origin before you've had a chance to examine the evidence for yourself.

Christianity is different from every other religion — it is an evidence-based faith. I hope you will see the truth of that for yourself in the chapters ahead.

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- “Key Claims of the Bible About Its Own Inspiration.”  
Chart listing 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21, Isaiah 43:10–12, and common prophetic phrases (“Thus saith the Lord,” etc.).
- “How the Bible Speaks: Forms of Divine Communication.”  
Diagram showing: direct speech → prophets → Scripture → Christ → apostles.
- “Testing All Things: The Christian Mandate for Discernment.”  
Visual summary of 1 Thess. 5:21, Acts 17:11, and 2 Tim. 2:15.
- “What Inspiration Does — and Does Not — Mean.”  
Table explaining verbal plenary inspiration vs. mechanical dictation or human invention.

## Chapter 2

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### What is Prophecy?

This is a big one!

The purpose of prophecy, history written in advance, is to let us know that God exists and that He has a plan for each of us as well as for this world and universe which He created for us.

*“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth”* ([Psalm 33:6](#)).

Through the accurate foretelling of people, places, and events, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of years ahead of time, the Bible demonstrates a supernatural knowledge of the future.

These prophecies are far too specific to be passed off as coincidence or good guesses.

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the strongest internal proofs of the Bible’s divine inspiration.

In fact, around one-fourth of the Bible is prophecy — a remarkable portion considering how risky it would be to include detailed predictions without certainty of their fulfillment.

The Bible shows astonishing accuracy in hundreds of predictive prophecies with many fulfilled centuries after they were written.

*“We saw His majestic splendor with our own eyes...Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts”* ([2 Peter 1:16, 19 NLT](#)).

My prayer is that as you reflect on these Scriptures in light of the historical evidence, your faith will grow. I hope you’ll come to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ’s sinless life and sacrificial death truly offer cleansing from all sin, if you will repent and trust in what He has done for you.

*“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”* ([John 1:29](#))

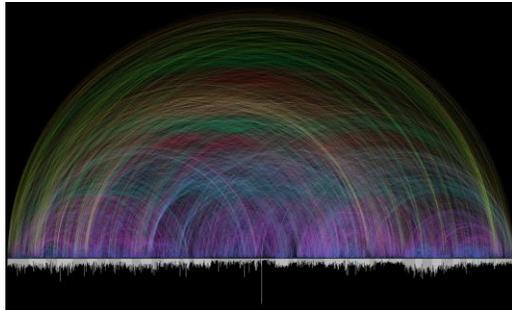
*“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”* ([Isaiah 46:9-10](#)).

God gave us these prophecies to build our faith and ultimately to point the way to His Son.

*“The One who existed from the beginning is the One we have heard and seen. We saw Him with our own eyes and touched Him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the Word of life. This One who is life from God was shown to us, and we have seen Him. And now we testify and announce to you that He is the One who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was shown to us. We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ”* ([1 John 1:1-3](#)).

God gives prophecy not just to inform, but to **prove** who He is and to remove all doubt about false gods or idols:

*“I declared the former things long ago, and they went out of My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. Therefore, I declared them to you long ago, before they took place I proclaimed them to you, So that you would not say, ‘My idol has done them, And my carved image and my cast metal image have commanded them’”* ([Isaiah 48:3,5](#)).



This remarkable visual shows just how interconnected the Bible truly is. A graphic by Christoph Römhild and Chris Harrison maps **63,779 cross-references** between Bible passages across time. The bottom line represents every chapter from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:20. This would be impressive for any single author. But the Bible was written by **40 different people** including kings, prophets, fishermen, doctors, and tentmakers over a **1,600-year span**, on **three continents**, in **three languages**. Most of the authors never knew each other. Yet the result is a perfectly unified message without contradiction, something only God could orchestrate. To start you thinking about the impossibility of lucky guesses, coincidences, or a pre-conceived scheme, we will look at a few of these in the following chapter.

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# Chapter 3

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## Fulfilled Prophecy about Jesus

The Bible contains over **300 predictive prophecies** about the first coming of Jesus, the Messiah. Many of these were written **400 to 1,000 years** before His birth.

Here are just a few of the more well-known examples:

Prophecy	Reference	Fulfilled Reference	Years Later
Killed for the Sins of Others	Daniel 9:26	2 Cor. 5:21	520
Betrayed for 30 Pieces of Silver	Zech. 11:12	Matt. 26:15, 49	520
Miracles Performed	Isaiah 35:5-6	John 2:1-11	700
Wounded For Our Sins	Isaiah 53:5	1 Peter 2:24	700
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matt. 1:25	735
Raised from the Dead	Psalms 16:10	Luke 24:6, Mark 16:6	900-1000
Clothing Divided at the Cross	Psalms 22:18	John 19:24	900-1000
Hands and Feet Pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 19:34	900-1000
No Broken Bones	Psalms 22:17	John 19:36	900-1000

Every one of these prophecies came true hundreds of years after they were first written. The mathematical odds of this happening by chance are beyond comprehension.

The following prophecy is the most precise of all prophecies. In 538 B.C. the prophet Daniel wrote the following bold prediction: [Daniel 9:25](#) - *"So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks of years and sixty-two weeks of years."*

As Daniel claimed, 69 x 7 years after the decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem, Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph.

The New Testament confirms the accuracy of the prophets of the Old Testament about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, *"Which God promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, ...Jesus Christ our Lord"* ([Romans 1:2-4](#)).

Isaiah 7 was written around 735 B.C., when King Ahaz ruled Judah. The prophet Isaiah gave this sign from God:

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* ([Isaiah 7:14](#)).

In both Hebrew and Greek, "Immanuel" means *God with us*. This prophecy points directly to Jesus — not just as a man, but as God in the flesh. So, when Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, Muslims or others claim that Jesus wasn't God, show them the Greek and Hebrew in context.

*"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice."* ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#))

For those still unsure, ask yourself: Who else could Isaiah be talking about?

The answer becomes clearer when you compare these Old Testament prophecies to what actually happened in Jesus's life.

### Daniel's Prophecy Timeline:

**From the decree to rebuild Jerusalem → 483 years → The coming of "the Anointed One" (Messiah)**

- The **starting point** is generally taken as the **decree by Artaxerxes** to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-8), issued around **445-444 B.C.**

- If you count **483 prophetic years** (or 173,880 days), this lands around **AD 30–33**, the time of Jesus’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and crucifixion.

This is why many scholars believe Daniel **accurately predicted the arrival of Jesus the Messiah** centuries in advance, not just in general terms, but with precise timing.

### The Suffering Servant

The New Testament confirms Jesus as the “Suffering Servant” foretold by Isaiah. Look up the following passages and compare them with Isaiah 53 which was written **700 years before Jesus was born**:

- Matthew 26:57–68
- Mark 14:53–65
- John 18:19–24
- 1 Peter 2:21–25

These passages mirror Isaiah’s description so closely that some have called Isaiah 53 “the forbidden chapter” in Jewish tradition because it is credited with opening many eyes to the identity of the true Jewish Messiah (Jesus Christ). Today there are estimated to be 350,000 to 500,000 Messianic Jews worldwide, with over 350 congregations in the U.S. and 80 in Israel. These numbers speak to the power of these prophecies.

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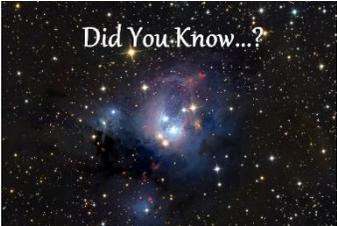
- “*Selected Messianic Prophecies and Their Fulfillment in the New Testament.*” Compiled from Old Testament references (Daniel, Isaiah, Zechariah, Psalms) and New Testament fulfillments (Matthew, John, Luke, Mark, 2 Corinthians).

# Chapter 4

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## Scientific Accuracy of the Bible

Many scientific facts confirmed only in recent centuries were recorded in the Bible thousands of years ago. This chapter offers a sampling of those insights, evidence that the Bible speaks truthfully not just in spiritual matters, but in observable reality.

1. **The Earth is a Sphere** - Long before telescopes and space travel, the Bible described Earth as a “circle.” While many ancient cultures thought Earth was flat, [Isaiah 40:22](#) says: “*He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth...*” This is strikingly consistent with modern scientific understanding.
2. **A Rotating Earth** – In [Luke 17:34-36](#), Jesus said that at His return some would be asleep at night while others would be working at daytime activities in the field. This is a clear indication of a revolving earth, with day and night occurring simultaneously in different parts of the world. Modern science didn’t recognize this until the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
3. **Light Can Be Divided**- Sir Isaac Newton studied light and discovered that white light is made of seven colors, which can be “parted” and then recombined. Science confirmed this four centuries ago – God declared this 3,500 years ago in [Job 38:24](#).
4. **Ocean Currents** - Three thousand years ago the Bible described the “paths of the seas” in [Psalm 8:8](#). In the 19th century, Matthew Maury – the father of oceanography – after reading Psalm 8, researched and discovered ocean currents that follow specific paths through the seas! Utilizing Maury’s data, marine navigators have since utilized those paths to reduce by many days the time and fuel required to traverse the seas.
5. **The Water Cycle** - The Bible describes evaporation, condensation, and precipitation centuries before meteorology existed: “*He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man*” ([Job 36:27-28](#)).
6. **Laws of Thermodynamics** - The First Law (energy conservation) and Second Law (increasing disorder) align with biblical truths about the unchanging nature of God and the decaying nature of creation ([Psalm 102:25–27](#)).
7. **Number of Stars** - Ancient astronomers thought there were just a few thousand stars. But God told Abraham and Jeremiah the stars were uncountable. Consider the three following verses, keeping in mind they were written long before confirmation by modern science:  


“*That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore...*” ([Gen. 22:17](#)) “*As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant*” ([Jeremiah 33:22](#)) “*...so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*” ([Hebrews 11:12](#))
8. **Springs in the Ocean** - The oceans are very deep with almost all the ocean floors being in total darkness. The pressure there is enormous. It would have been impossible for Job to have explored the “springs of the sea”. Until recently it was thought that oceans were fed only by rivers and rain. Yet in the 1970’s, with the help of deep diving research submarines, oceanographers discovered springs on the ocean floor. Here’s how the Bible says it: “*Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?*” ([Job 38:16](#)). How could Job have known these things 3,500-4,000 years ago?
9. **Strong and Weak Nuclear Force** - Physicists don’t fully understand what holds atomic nuclei together. But [Colossians 1:17](#) says of Christ: “*In Him all things hold together.*” This offers a spiritual parallel to the forces that sustain the universe.

Could these all be lucky guesses? One, maybe. Two? Unlikely. Three or more? Statistically impossible. The Bible’s repeated, accurate descriptions of natural laws point not to chance but to **divine inspiration** from the Creator Himself. God inspired His prophets of old to write the things that only the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent Creator of it all could know.

### End-of-Chapter Notes

For a deeper dive into the **laws of thermodynamics and Scripture**, see: <https://www.compellingtruth.org/laws-of-thermodynamics.html>

### More about the vast number of stars:

Before Galileo's telescope in the 1600s, most estimates of the number of stars ranged from **2,000 to 3,000** — about as many as can be seen with the naked eye. But the Bible described the stars as **uncountable**, likening them to the **grains of sand on the seashore** (Genesis 22:17, Jeremiah 33:22).

This seemed absurd at the time yet modern astronomy has now identified **sextillions of stars**, just as the Bible implied thousands of years ago.

Had a human writer guessed that, it would have sounded foolish. But God was revealing truth long before technology could confirm it, another quiet proof that **the Bible is from God, preserved by God, and trustworthy today**.

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- “*Paths of the Sea.*”  
Map overlay comparing Matthew Maury’s 19th-century ocean-current charts with modern satellite data.
- “*The Water Cycle as Described in Job 36.*”  
Diagram illustrating evaporation → condensation → precipitation.
- “*Number of Stars: Ancient Observation vs. Modern Cosmology.*”  
Visual comparing naked-eye star counts (~3,000) with modern estimates ( $10^{22}$ – $10^{24}$ ).
- “*Strong and Weak Nuclear Forces (Colossians 1:17 Parallel).*”  
Illustration connecting nuclear binding forces with Paul’s theological imagery of Christ “holding all things together.”



**20. Earth's Magnetic Field** - The Earth's magnetic field acts like a massive cosmic shield. If it were much weaker, our planet would be devastated by radiation. If it were much stronger, we would be devastated by electromagnetic storms with extreme solar winds, even possibly blowing our atmosphere away.

**21. Earth's Place in the Solar System** - If we were much further from the sun, our planet's water would freeze. If we were much closer, it would boil. This is just one of numerous examples of how our privileged place in the solar system allows for life on Earth.

**22. Our Solar System's Place in the Galaxy** - If our solar system were too close to the center of our galaxy, or to any of the spiral arms at its edge, or any cluster of stars for that matter, our planet would be devastated by cosmic radiation.

**23. Winds from the Polar Ice-caps** - Polar ice-cap winds help cool the rest of the planet to levels compatible for human life.

**24. The Color of our Sun/Heat Output** - If the sun were much redder (cooler), on the one hand, or bluer (hotter), on the other, photosynthesis would be impeded. Photosynthesis is a natural biochemical process crucial to life on Earth. Stars range from about 2,000K for the coolest to 40,000K for the hottest. Our sun is about 6,000K. If it were a little redder we would freeze, a little bluer and we would burn up.

**25. Elements, Minerals and Vitamins** - All of the naturally occurring elements, minerals and vitamins that the body can not produce but are necessary for life are available from the earth's crust. Did they come by way of coincidence from nothing or did God place them on this earth because we, as well as all plants and animals need them so that when combined with water and sunlight we have what we need to multiply, prosper and sustain life?

**26. The First Law of Thermodynamics** - Also known as the conservation of energy, this law states, "Nothing is now coming into existence or going out of existence; matter and energy may be converted into one another, but there is no net increase in the combined total of what exists." In other words, even if matter is converted to energy and vice versa, there will never be an increase or decrease in the total amount.

**27. The Second Law of Thermodynamics** - This law states that the entropy of a closed system cannot decrease: "Every system, left to its own devices, always tends to move from order to disorder, its energy tending to be transformed into lower levels of availability (for work), ultimately becoming totally random and unavailable for work." Author and scientist Isaac Asimov explained, "The universe is constantly getting more disorderly! . . . All we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself—and that is what the second law is all about." In other words, over time, everything tends toward disorder, randomness, and disorganization.

The above list is by no means exhaustive. It is just a small sample of the many factors which must be just right in order for life to exist on Earth. We are very fortunate to live on a privileged planet in a privileged solar system in a privileged galaxy in a privileged universe.

The question for us now is, with so many universal constants and cosmological parameters defining our universe, and with so many possible variables for each one, how did they all just happen to fall within the extremely narrow range of values required for our existence? The general consensus is that we are either here by fortuitous luck against tremendous odds or by the purposeful design of an intelligent designer.

Imagine innumerable lifeless universes in which one or more of the necessary variables fail to fall within the specific range of values required for life. The idea is that nature would eventually get it right, and apparently has done so as evidenced by the fact that we exist (or so the argument goes). We are the lucky ones whose universe stumbled upon the right combination of cosmological values.

Intelligent Design theorists hail the Anthropic Principle as further evidence in support of their thesis that life was engineered by a transcendent mastermind. Not only do biological systems bear the hallmarks of design (the information content of DNA, specified complexity, irreducible complexity, etc.), but the universe, which supports and provides a context for life, appears to have been designed as a means to that end.

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# Chapter 6

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## Miracles of Jesus

As is the case with prophecy, the miracles of Jesus were performed and recorded to show people that Jesus was exactly who He said He was (God in the flesh), and that He was and is omnipotent (all powerful).

37 Miracles of Jesus				
Miracle	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Turning Water into Wine				2:1-11
Healing an Official's Son				4:43-54
Driving Out an Evil Spirit	1:21-27		4:31-36	
Healing Peter's Sick Mother-in-Law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Healing Many Sick and Oppressed	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
Miraculous Catch of Fish on the Lake of Gennesaret			5:1-11	
Cleansing a Man with Leprosy	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
Healing a Centurion's Paralyzed Servant	8:5-13			
Healing a Paralytic Let Down from the Roof	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Healing a Man's Withered Hand on the Sabbath	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Raising a Widow's Son from the Dead			7:11-17	
Calming a Storm on the Sea	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
Casting Demons into a Herd of Pigs	8:28-33	5:1-20	8:26-39	
Healing a Woman with an Issue of Blood	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:42-48	
Raising Jairus' Daughter Back to Life	9:23-26	5:35-43	8:49-56	
Healing Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
Healing a Man Who Was Unable to Speak	9:32-34			
Healing an Invalid at Bethesda				5:1-15
Feeding 5,000 Plus Women and Children	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
Walking on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Healing Many Sick in Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
Heals a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Healing a Deaf and Dumb Man		7:31-37		
Feeding 4,000 Plus Women and Children	15:32-39	8:1-10		
Healing a Blind Man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Healing a Blind Man by Spitting in His Eyes				9:1-12
Healing a Boy with an Unclean Spirit	17:14-20	9:14-29	9:37-43	
Providing Temple Tax in a Fish's Mouth	17:24-27			
Healing a Blind, Mute Demoniac	12:22-23			
Healing a Woman Who Had Been Crippled for 18 Years			13:10-17	
Healing a Man with Dropsy on the Sabbath			14:1-6	
Cleansing Ten Lepers on the Way to Jerusalem			17:11-19	
Raising Lazarus from the Dead				11:1-45
Restoring Sight to Bartimaeus	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Cursing the Fig Tree	21:18-22	11:12-14		
Healing a Servant's Severed Ear				22:50-51
Miraculous Catch of Fish at the Sea of Tiberias				21:1-14

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# Chapter 7

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## Unity and Harmony of Scripture

More than thirty years ago, for the very first time, I read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with an open mind. At that time, though I was a true agnostic, I became utterly convinced that its words and message were truly from God. I realized then that I only had two choices:

1. Embrace the truth I had found, or
2. Bury my head in the sand and try to sing loudly.

Since then, I've spent years studying the Bible, and my conviction has only deepened. I am more certain than ever that the Bible contains the inspired words of a loving, benevolent God yet also a just and holy God who demands righteousness. One of my favorite sayings is, *"He came to pay a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay."* I don't know who first wrote those words, but they capture a profound truth in very few words.

You've probably heard this verse before, but it summarizes the core message of the Bible: ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*** ([John 3:16](#))

This is the amazing, good news: our debt paid, our sin forgiven for all who repent and truly believe. The Greek word used here for "believe" (πιστεύω) does not just refer to a casual belief, but to an "all-in" belief, one strong enough to rest in the full assurance of salvation.

This kind of belief also calls us to action. It isn't enough to show up on the football field in full gear and stand on the sidelines while others play. Jesus said, **"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."** ([Luke 9:23](#))

Some critics claim that the Bible's writers or transcribers simply crafted messages the people or kings of their day wanted to hear. Others suggest they wrote for political power, influence, or to control the masses.

In reality, the prophets were often sent to deliver unpopular messages. They warned of judgment and called out the people's wickedness and disobedience, often at great personal cost. God frequently rebuked Israel and its kings, calling them stubborn and rebellious.

In Elijah's day, God told him there were only 7,000 men in Israel who had not bowed down to idols ([1 Kings 19:10, 18](#)) a shockingly small number for a nation of millions. At one point, nearly the entire nation was engaged in idol worship: **"So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal."** ([2 Kings 17:16-17](#))

Israel's rebellion sometimes sank to the level of child sacrifice. This horror is documented throughout Scripture. (See: [Deut. 12:31](#); [Josh. 6:26](#); [Judges 11:29-40](#); [2 Sam. 21:1-9](#); [1 Kings 16:34](#); [2 Kings 3:26-27](#); [16:2-16](#); [17:29, 34](#); [21:1-7](#).)

The accusation that the prophets of the Old Testament wrote for their own political, economic or social gain is not the least bit logical. The prophets were often beaten, imprisoned, or even killed for their obedience to God. Why would anyone invent such messages, often at the cost of their own lives unless God had truly given them the words?

The Bible is like no other book in the world. It is filled with internal and external evidence confirming that it is the Word of God. No other religion has a book filled with prophecies, fulfilled one right after the other. *"... I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done."* ([Isaiah 46:9-10](#))

It is the magnificent detail of these prophecies that mark the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Only God could foretell events across millennia with such precision and then bring them to pass.

The Old Testament portion of the Bible, consisting of its first 39 books, shows the futility of human effort apart from God. Law-keeping, sacrifices, and religious rituals are all shown to fall short. At the same time, the Old Testament highlights God's plan for mankind, laying the foundation for redemption through the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

There are many prophecies in the Old Testament, going as far back as Genesis and Job, which prophesy about things which will not be completed until the future events described in the book of Revelation take place. Are we

to believe that the Old Testament prophets each decided to write the beginning of a story and then expected that in a few thousand years, more or less, someone would come along and write a good ending to this?

That would be absurd. These men lived centuries apart, often in different places and cultures, and had no communication with each other. Yet their writings fit together in remarkable unity. This points not to a conspiracy but to divine authorship.

Some claim to be only “New Testament Christians” or “Old Testament Jews.” But this overlooks the deep connection between the Old and New Testaments. You cannot fully understand God’s message without both.

The Bible itself consists of 66 books written over a period of 1,600 years, in three languages on three continents by 40 different people. These men, who were called and anointed by God, were from diverse backgrounds ranging from fishermen, shepherds, prophets, priests, kings, and a doctor. Not only did the writers of the Old Testament and New Testament not know each other, they were separated by as much as 1,600 years and 1,500 miles. Even with that, the Bible speaks with one voice and has one main message:

1. God created a perfect world.
2. Satan (formerly Lucifer) rebelled and fell.
3. Mankind, tempted by Satan, chose to sin.
4. God provided a path to redemption through Jesus Christ.

Given all these factors, the harmony of the Bible is remarkable. The Bible is not a man-made invention. Its message is too cohesive, its prophecies too accurate, and its origins too diverse. Over one-fourth of the Bible is prophetic, and the harmony of Scripture stands as profound evidence that the Bible truly is the Word of God. See some examples below.

1. *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”* ([Isaiah 53:5-6](#)). Let’s remember, the prophet Isaiah made this impressive prediction 700 years before it happened!

2. *“...the assembly of the wicked have enclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet”* ([Psalm 22:16](#)). Speaking 1,000 years before the fact, how did David predict Christ’s crucifixion? Stoning was the standard method of execution for the Jews at the time and continued right up until the time of the Roman occupation.

3. *“and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for His only son.”* ([Zechariah 12:10](#)) God gave the prophet Zechariah another perfect picture of Christ’s crucifixion. He was given divine inspiration to write the prophecy just as it would happen 500 years in the future.

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# Chapter 8

## Archaeological Evidence

There are currently 5,686 Greek still in existence. In fact, more fragments exist in museums, than for all other ancient works



manuscripts of the New Testament ancient biblical manuscripts and libraries, and private collections combined.

The New Testament was written Christ. Archaeologists have the New Testament. Some of after the original letters were reliability, the evidence for the accuracy of the Bible is superior to all other ancient writings. Compare these ancient fragments and manuscripts to Homer’s *Iliad*, which has the second most numerous ancient manuscripts with only 643 still in existence.

shortly after the death of Jesus found thousands of manuscripts of these are dated from 50 to 100 years written. In terms of historical

If critics dismiss the New Testament as unreliable, then to be consistent they must also dismiss Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, Homer, and all other classical authors because the manuscript evidence for them is far weaker. If, however, they accept those writings as historical, then they must also accept the New Testament. The evidence supporting its reliability is much greater than any other book of antiquity. The Christian has substantially superior criteria affirming the New Testament documents than for any other ancient writing.

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	---
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	---
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	---
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	---
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	---
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	---
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	---
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	---
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	---
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	---
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	---	???	20	---
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	---
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	---
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	---
Homer ( <i>Iliad</i> )	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

Chart from [Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability | carm.org](http://Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability | carm.org)

The New Testament remains one of the most thoroughly preserved works in history. Its manuscripts are not only numerous but also highly consistent with one another. Scholars estimate a 99.5% textual purity rate across copies. In addition, more than 19,000 manuscripts exist in Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic, bringing the total manuscript base to over 24,000.

As Matt Slick writes, “Almost all biblical scholars agree that the New Testament documents were all written before the close of the First Century. If Jesus was crucified in A.D. 30., then that means the entire New Testament was completed within 70 years. This is important because it means there were plenty of people around when the New Testament documents were penned; people who could have contested the writings. In other words, those who wrote the documents knew that if they were inaccurate, plenty of people would have pointed it out. But, we have absolutely no ancient documents contemporary with the First Century that contest the New Testament texts.”

One striking example is the John Rylands papyrus fragment, dated around A.D. 125. This piece of John’s Gospel was written only a few decades after the original, an unparalleled time span in ancient literature.

Consider the time gap for Homer’s Iliad, where the earliest surviving copy appears about 500 years after the original. A span that long naturally leaves more room for errors and alterations to creep in during transmission. By contrast, the New Testament documents were preserved with far less distance from their originals.

See the chart below from [Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability | carm.org](http://Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability | carm.org)

Important Manuscript Papyri	Contents	Date Original Written	MSS Date	Approx. Time Span	Location
<b>P<sup>52</sup></b> (John Rylands Fragment) <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">John 18:31-33, 37-38</a>	circa A.D. 96	circa A.D. 125	29 yrs	John Rylands Library, Manchester, England
<b>P<sup>46</sup></b> (Chester Beatty Papyrus)	<a href="#">Rom. 5:17-6:3, 5-14; 8:15-25, 27-35; 10:1-11, 22, 24-33, 35; 16:1-23, 25-27;</a> Heb.; 1 & 2 Cor., Eph., Gal., Phil., Col.; <a href="#">1 Thess. 1:1, 9-10; 2:1-3; 5:5-9, 23-28</a>	'50s-'70s	circa A.D. 200	Approx. 150 yrs	Chester Beatty Museum, Dublin & Ann Arbor, Michigan, University of Michigan library
<b>P<sup>66</sup></b> (Bodmer Papyrus)	<a href="#">John 1:1-6:11, 35-14:26;</a> fragment of <a href="#">14:29-21:9</a>	70's	circa A.D. 200	Approx. 130 yrs	Cologne, Geneva
<b>P<sup>67</sup></b>	<a href="#">Matt. 3:9,15; 5:20-22, 25-28</a>		circa A.D. 200	Approx. 130 yrs	Barcelona, Fundacion San Lucas Evangelista, P. Barc.1

The reliability of the Bible is further supported by archaeology.

Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College, famously stated: “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

Dr. William F. Albright, another leading archaeologist, affirmed: “Thanks to modern research we now recognize its substantial historicity. The narratives of the Patriarchs, Moses and the Exodus, the Conquest of Canaan, the Judges, the Monarchy, Exile, and Restoration have all been confirmed and illustrated to an extent that I should have thought impossible forty years ago.”

Consider the following verifiable proofs **in just a single chapter** from the book of Acts in the Bible that have been confirmed by historians and archaeologists:

- The proper location (Amphipolis and Apollonia) of where travelers would spend successive nights on this journey ([Acts 17:1](#))
- The reference to a synagogue in Athens ([Acts 17:17](#))
- The presence of a synagogue in Thessalonica ([Acts 17:1](#))
- The proper title, “politarchs,” used of the magistrates there ([Acts 17:6](#))
- The abundant presence of images in Athens ([Acts 17:16](#))
- The depiction of the Athenian life of philosophical debate in the Agora ([Acts 17:17](#))
- The use of the correct Athenian slang word for Paul, ([Acts 17:18](#))
- The proper characterization of the Athenian character ([Acts 17:21](#))
- The proper reaction of Greek philosophers who denied bodily resurrection ([Acts 17:32](#))
- An altar to an “unknown god” in Athens ([Acts 17:23](#))

The following pictures and corresponding descriptions are artifacts that prove the accuracy of the Bible.



#### A. The Pilate Inscription

The Pilate Stone is a carved block of limestone with a partially preserved inscription that names Pontius Pilate, Prefect of the Roman province of Judea from A.D. 26–36. It was discovered in 1961 at Caesarea Maritima and is now housed in the Israel Museum. This confirms exactly what the Bible records; that Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor during the ministry of Jesus Christ.

In addition, numerous coins minted under Pilate’s authority have been excavated in Jerusalem, dating to the very years of Jesus’ ministry (A.D. 29–31). In fact, some of these ancient coins are still available from coin dealers today. These findings provide yet another clear example of how archaeology supports the reliability of the Bible.

#### B. The Shekel Used in Jesus’s day

#### C. Hezekiah’s Tunnel ([2 Chronicles 32:30](#))

Hezekiah’s Tunnel is a massive water channel beneath Jerusalem. It was rediscovered in the early 1800s and remains a striking confirmation of the biblical account.



#### D. Taylor Prism ([2 Chronicles 32:1](#))

The Taylor Prism, rediscovered in 1830, records the Assyrian King Sennacherib’s campaign against Judah. This artifact vividly supports the biblical record of Assyrian activity during Hezekiah’s reign.

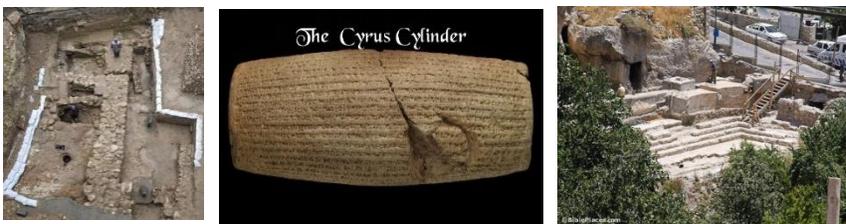
#### E. The David Inscription

Until 1993, some scholars claimed that King David was a legend because no archaeological evidence of his existence had been found. That changed when archaeologist Avraham Biran uncovered a stone inscription referring to the “House of David.” This discovery confirmed that David was a real historical figure, just as the Bible has always stated.

#### F. The Moabite Stone

The inscription was commissioned by King Mesha of Moab (ca. 840 B.C.), and it describes his rebellion against the king of Israel. This directly correlates with [2 Kings 3](#), which records Mesha’s revolt against Israel after the death of King Ahab.

The same events are mentioned in Scripture, confirming that the conflict was real and remembered on both sides. The Mesha Stele mentions Omri, king of Israel, and refers to the “House of Omri” and Israelite rule over Moab. This matches the biblical record of Omri’s dynasty ([1 Kings 16:23–28](#)) and Moab being subject to Israel until Mesha’s revolt.



#### G. The Nazareth House

In 2008, a skeptic named Rene Salm published a book called *The Myth of Nazareth*, arguing that no town of Nazareth existed in the first century because archaeology had uncovered no evidence of it. Yet, just a year later, in 2009, archaeologists unearthed a first-century house beneath modern-day Nazareth, decisive evidence that the town did, in fact, exist during the time of Jesus.

#### H. The Cyrus Cylinder

The Cyrus Cylinder, commissioned by King Cyrus of Persia (559–530 B.C.), records his decree allowing conquered peoples to return to their homelands. This directly confirms the biblical account that Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple ([Isaiah 44:28](#); [Ezra 1:1–11](#)).

Remember, Isaiah the prophet predicted that a man named Cyrus, who would not even be born for another 100 years, would give the command to rebuild the temple. Interestingly, the temple was still

standing in Isaiah's day and would not be destroyed for another 100 years in 586 B.C. by King Nebuchadnezzar. This prophecy was written 2,700 years ago, giving more proof that the Bible is true, preserved and reliable for us to this very day. Go to your Bible and check these amazing verses out for your own eyes to see.

#### I. Pool of Siloam

In 2004, the pool was uncovered showing where Jesus said in [John 9:7](#) "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." Though no sign identifies it as such, the discovery of a large, ancient pool in Siloam confirms the historical detail recorded in John's Gospel.



#### J. The Hittite Tablets

For years, critics mocked the Bible's mention of the Hittites, claiming they never existed. That changed in 1906, when archaeologist Hugo Winckler discovered more than 10,000 tablets in Bogazkoy, Turkey, recording the history of the Hittite people. Once again, archaeology validated the Bible.

#### K. Tyre's stones, timber and soil will be cast into the sea

In a remarkable prediction, the prophet writes in [Ezekiel 26:12](#) (written between 587-586 B.C.) that the stone, timber and soil of Tyre will be thrown into the sea! This was fulfilled 250 years later in 333-332 B.C. when Alexander the Great made a land bridge to the island of Tyre in his final conquest of the city. The debris can still be seen there to this very day.

#### L. Altar to an unknown God in Athens

This altar shows the accuracy of [Acts 17:23](#) "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you". Confirmation of this altar in Greece come from two early writers, Pausanius in his account entitled "Description of Greece," as well as Philostratus, in his work "Appolonius of Tyana." These ancient writings both refer to an altar "to an unknown god".

Not just these but thousands of additional unearthed archaeological finds confirm the reliability of the Bible. John Elder, author of "Prophets, Idols and Diggers," said "Nowhere has archaeological discovery refuted the Bible as history."



#### M. The Tel Dan Inscription

A later discovery (1993) of fragments at Tel Dan includes a line referencing "King of the House of David," which is widely taken as more secure evidence for the historicity of a Davidic dynasty.

Also see: [Where God Came Down: The Archaeological Evidence](#) by Joel Kramer. If you want to dig deeper (no pun intended), just type in the words "archaeology" and "Bible" into your favorite search engine and you will be able to spend weeks reading about hundreds of additional archaeological finds that prove the reliability of the Bible.

## Ancient Chinese pictographs prove the reliability of the Bible

Many characters, formed thousands of years ago, appear to preserve echoes of the Genesis account. Though some symbols have changed slightly over time, their original forms are still recognizable and verifiable through archaeology.



The Ancient Chinese Characters of **Dust + Breath + Two Persons + Enclosure = Garden.**

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and take care of it” ([Genesis 2:15](#)).



The Chinese Characters of **vessel/container + eight + people = Boat**

“On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.” ([Genesis 7:13](#)) The character for “boat” in ancient Chinese literally describes a vessel with eight people inside, exactly matching the Genesis account of Noah’s Ark.



The Ancient Chinese Characters of **Secret + Man + Garden + Alive = Devil** and the characters of **Devil + Trees/Forest + Cover = Tempter**

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created man in His image. (see [Genesis 1:27](#)). At that time, God and man lived in perfect harmony in a perfect world. Then the serpent (Lucifer/Satan), a fallen angel who wanted above all things to be as God himself, **tempted** Adam and Eve with the two biggest lies that have ever been told. These lies were: “Ye shall not surely die:” and “ye shall be as gods.” (see [Genesis 3:4-5](#) & [Deuteronomy 4:39](#)). Adam and Eve willingly embraced the lies of Lucifer (The Tempter) and rejected God’s plan and instructions for them. This is where sin entered the human race (see [Romans 5:12](#)).

These pictographs cannot be dismissed as coincidence. They are evidence that the earliest Chinese culture carried memories of the biblical events in Genesis, woven into their very language. Far from myth, these symbols add another layer of confirmation that the Bible is reliable and true.

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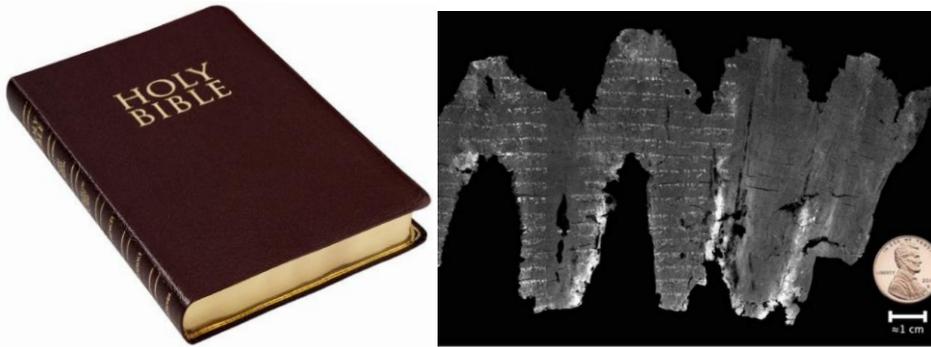
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# Chapter 9

## Ancient Manuscripts



In addition to the Dead Sea Scrolls, Christianity has overwhelming and undeniable evidence that today's Bible is virtually the same as it was when it was originally inspired by God and recorded by God's prophets and apostles.

One remarkable discovery involves an ancient Hebrew scroll once thought to be lost forever. This extremely fragile, fire-damaged scroll from En-Gedi had turned into a small, charred lump that disintegrated into ash when touched. Yet, through the use of modern technology, scientists were able to "virtually unwrap" it using micro-CT scans, which detect traces of metal in the ink, to reveal its text without physically opening it.

The *En-Gedi scroll* contains text from the *Book of Leviticus* and is dated to the third or fourth century A.D., possibly even earlier, according to a report published in *Science Advances*. This makes it the earliest known copy of Old Testament Scripture ever found outside of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Dr Michael Segal, head of the School of Philosophy and Religions at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said, "We were amazed at the quality of the images." In this case, modern technology has once again confirmed what believers have always known: the Bible is trustworthy and has been remarkably preserved.

As older biblical manuscripts continue to be discovered and displayed in museums around the world, scholars find astonishing consistency between these ancient copies and our modern translations. Thousands of such preserved manuscripts demonstrate only minimal variation in wording or structure.

No other ancient text in history has been copied and preserved with such accuracy over such a long span of time. The evidence shows that the Scriptures have remained essentially unchanged for millennia, further proving the reliability and divine preservation of God's Word. (See chapter 16 on *The Dead Sea Scrolls* for more on this topic.)





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# Chapter 10

## Mathematical Probability

Dr. Peter Stoner, a mathematician from the last century, conducted fascinating calculations on the mathematical probability of biblical prophecies coming true.

The most famous section of Stoner's book concerns Messianic prophecy. His theme verse for this section is [John 5:39](#) "Search the Scriptures because... it is these that bear witness of Me." Stoner proceeds to select eight of the best-known prophecies about the Messiah and calculates the odds of their accidental fulfillment in one person (Jesus) as being 1 to the 117<sup>th</sup> power.

Stoner asks the reader to picture the entire state of Texas covered in silver dollars, stacked two feet high. Now mark just one coin and mix them all thoroughly across the land. If a blindfolded person were then allowed to wander and pick up a single coin at random, the odds of choosing the marked one would be the same as the chance of one person accidentally fulfilling just eight prophecies about Jesus, the Messiah.

And remember, Jesus didn't fulfill only eight prophecies; He fulfilled **more than three hundred**. The likelihood of that happening by random chance isn't just small, it's **mathematically impossible**. Such precision could only come from the hand of God.

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# Chapter 11

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## The Resurrection of Christ

Upon the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ rests the entire foundation of Christianity. Throughout history, those who reject this truth have tried to invent their own explanations, which are not based on evidence.



The first faulty theory is sometimes referred to as the “play-act”, or “swoon” theory. Here, proponents claim that Jesus didn’t really die on the cross but that He simply pretended or appeared to be dead, then his disciples took Him down, put Him in the tomb, attended His wounds and removed Him to a safe location. The second scenario is similar, but they say Jesus did all of this on His own. To believe either scenario, one would have to accept that:

- Jesus endured the beatings at His trials, the crown of thorns, and the brutal scourging.
- He was nailed to a cross, pierced in His side with a spear, and pronounced dead by professional Roman executioners.
- His body was wrapped in linen with 100 pounds of spices ([John 19:39–40](#)), and placed in a sealed tomb.
- Then, after three days without food or water, He somehow revived, freed Himself from the grave clothes, rolled away the massive stone which was *up an incline*, broke the Roman seal, overpowered armed guards, and walked for miles on pierced feet.
- Finally, He convinced His followers that He had conquered death rather than barely clinging to life.

Such theories defy both reason and medical reality.

The Bible records what truly happened. Jesus suffered death by crucifixion. Jesus’ body was then placed in a securely guarded tomb. Upon finding out that the tomb was empty, the disciples ran neck and neck to see the empty tomb for themselves. Why would they do that if they had been the ones to empty the tomb? After all this, Jesus was seen over a period of forty days by many eyewitnesses, even to a group of 500 at one point ([1 Corinthians 15:6](#)). The evidence for His resurrection is abundant, logical, and historically sound.

And remember: the apostles didn’t die for something they *knew* was false. Most of the twelve disciples were martyred for boldly proclaiming that Jesus had risen. People may die for what they *believe* is true, but not for what they *know* is a lie.

One of the most striking testimonies to the resurrection comes from **Frank Morison**, a lawyer who set out to disprove it. His research, however, led him to the opposite conclusion. In his classic book *Who Moved the Stone?*, he wrote:

“...it is essentially a confession, the inner story of a man who originally set out to write one kind of book, and found himself compelled by the sheer force of circumstances to write quite another... Somehow the perspective shifted, not suddenly, as in a flash of insight or inspiration but slowly, almost imperceptibly, by the very stubbornness of the facts themselves.”

Morison’s transformation from skeptic to believer is one of many examples of honest seekers who, when confronted by evidence, find themselves compelled to faith.

For those who want to study the proofs for the resurrection more deeply, start with the biblical accounts in the Gospels and then explore one or more of these excellent resources:

- *Who Moved the Stone?* by Frank Morison
- *On the Resurrection: Volume 1 Evidences* by Gary Habermas

- *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach* by Michael Licona
- *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel

Each of these books presents powerful evidence for the resurrection of Jesus and is widely available from Amazon.com and other major booksellers.

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## Chapter 12

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### Indestructibility of the Bible and Christian Faith

No other book in history has faced as much opposition as the Bible. It has been **outlawed, banned, burned, ridiculed, and attacked** more than any other written work. Yet, through it all, it remains unshaken and unmatched — standing the test of time as the most read, most translated, and most transformative book the world has ever known.

The following are examples from history showing how rulers, councils, and governments have tried — and failed — to destroy or suppress God’s Word.

Decree of the Roman Catholic Council of Toulouse (1229 A.D.): “We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books.”

Ruling of the Roman Catholic Council of Tarragona of 1234 A.D.: “No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned...”

Fate of John Wycliffe’s Body at the Ecumenical Council of Constance in 1415 A.D.: Oxford professor, and theologian John Wycliffe was the first to translate the New Testament into English (1380 A.D.) to help “Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best Christ’s sentence.” For this “heresy” Wycliffe was posthumously condemned by Arundel, the archbishop of Canterbury. By the Council’s decree “Wycliffe’s bones were exhumed and publicly burned, and the ashes were thrown into the Swift River.”

Fate of William Tyndale in 1536 A.D.: William Tyndale was burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English. According to Tyndale, the Church forbid owning or reading the Bible to control and restrict the teachings and to enhance their own power and importance.

Before the Catholic Church was officially the Catholic Church, Eusebius, the historian wrote about Diocletian (284-316), the ruler immediately preceding Constantine, *“Royal edicts were published everywhere, commanding that the churches be leveled to the ground and the Scriptures destroyed by fire.”* Diocletian went on to say that if one had a copy of the Scriptures and did not surrender it to be burned, if it were discovered, he would be killed. Furthermore, if any other should know of one who had a copy of the Scriptures and did not report it, he also would be killed. During this time many, many copies of the Bible were burned, copies laboriously written in longhand. Of this period, the historian Newman said, *“Multitudes . . . hastened to deny the faith and to surrender their copies of the Scriptures; many more bore the most horrible tortures and refused with their latest breath to surrender the Scriptures or in any way to compromise themselves”* After this edict had been in force for two years, Diocletian boasted, *“I have completely exterminated the Christian writings from the face of the earth!”* Of course, we know that Diocletian did not completely exterminate the Christian writings from the face of the earth. Too bad Diocletian didn’t believe the Bible’s promise. *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God shall stand forever.”* ([Isaiah 40:8](#)).

As a matter of fact, history tells us that the next ruler following Diocletian, Constantine, became a Christian and mandated that 50 handwritten copies of the Scriptures be made at the government’s expense and distributed to all the churches.

Not only has the Bible survived. It has thrived. Since the invention of the printing press, it has been the **number one best-selling book in history**. Even before printing, handwritten copies were more numerous than any other ancient work. Even though every year it remains the best seller it hasn’t made the New York Times Best Seller List since 1934. “I wonder why”? (Newman, Church History, p. 169); (Rimmer, Seven Wonders of the Wonderful Word, p. 15); (Church History, Book VIII, Ch. 1).

*“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.”* ([Psalm 12:6-7](#)).

*“But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.”* ([1 Peter 1:25](#)).

Throughout history, many who set out to disprove the Bible ended up being transformed by it. Among them are:

- [Sir William Ramsay](#), the archaeologist who sought to discredit Luke’s Gospel and Acts but found them to be historically exact.
- [General Lew Wallace](#), author of *Ben-Hur*, began as a skeptic but became a believer after studying the evidence.

- [Stan Telchin](#), a Jewish businessman whose investigation to disprove Jesus as the Messiah led him to faith and the book *Betrayed*.

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# Chapter 13

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## Dirty Laundry of Bible Heroes

Put more simply, the Bible doesn't hide the faults of its heroes. It reveals their **failures and weaknesses** right alongside their triumphs. While most religions and belief systems tend to glorify their founders and followers, the Bible's *painful honesty* about its key figures is one of the clearest proofs of its divine reliability.

It is a universally established fact that when people want to be accepted or gain something, they always put their best foot forward. They conveniently forget to mention their dirty laundry. Consider every promotional piece of every political campaign. Do they ever include their downfalls and past negative character flaws? Think of the millions of resumes sent out every day around the world. Think of your own past resumes. If no one specifically asks, do people tend to include their negative baggage? No, they conveniently forget to mention those things. The Bible is different. It puts out both its clean and dirty laundry for all to see. The terrible character flaws of its heroes are not hidden. The Bible simply tells it like it is.

- **Abraham** – Lying and unbelief ([Genesis 12:10–20](#))
- **King David** – Adultery and murder ([2 Samuel 11:1–27](#))
- **Noah** – Drunkenness  
(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%209%3A20%E2%80%9322&version=NIV>)
- **Moses** – Anger, unbelief, and even murder ([Numbers 20:2–12](#); [Psalm 106:32–33](#))
- **Zacharias** – Doubt ([Luke 1:18–20](#))
- **Samson** – Breaking his Nazirite vow and sexual immorality ([Judges 16](#))
- **Isaac** – Lying to deceive the Philistines ([Genesis 26:1–33](#))
- **Zechariah** – Doubting God ([Zechariah 1:18](#))
- **Peter** – Denying Jesus three times ([Luke 22:59–62](#))

All of these and others had their sins or shortcomings exposed for all to read about over the centuries. The Bible writers were not interested in covering up, just accurately recording what God had conveyed for them to write.

These stories remind us that God doesn't wait for perfection to use people. He works through our brokenness. The Bible's heroes weren't perfect saints; they were ordinary men and women transformed by grace. “*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*” [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)

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# Chapter 14

## Ancient Non-Biblical Writings

Some skeptics claim that although the original manuscripts of Scripture may have come from God, the Bible we possess today has been changed so much through centuries of copying that it can no longer be trusted. The evidence says otherwise.

Among the thousands of ancient Greek manuscripts that survive, scholars find only about **2 percent variation**. The vast majority of these differences are minor scribal issues, misspellings, word order, punctuation, or accidental omissions and none affect any major doctrine of the Christian faith.

In fact, quotations from the **early church fathers** are so abundant that, even if not a single New Testament manuscript had survived, scholars could reconstruct **all but eleven verses** of the entire text from writings produced within 50 to 200 years of Christ. No other ancient document enjoys such preservation. Several respected non-Christian historians wrote about Jesus and the early church:

- **Flavius Josephus** (A.D. 37 – 100) – Refers to “Jesus, the so-called Christ.”
- **Cornelius Tacitus** (A.D. 52 – 120) – Notes that “Christus,” was “put to death by **Pontius Pilate**.”
- **Pliny the Younger** (A.D. 112) – Mentions the “troublesome sect of Christians.”
- **Suetonius** (A.D. 120) – Records disturbances in Rome over “Chrestus” (Christ).

These independent witnesses confirm the existence of Jesus, His crucifixion, and the early spread of Christianity. Without question, the Scriptures we hold today are the **inspired and preserved Word of God**, supported by overwhelming textual and historical evidence.

As you have just read, it was God’s plan from before the world began that Jesus (God Himself in the form of a man) would come to earth and be crucified as a holy, worthy and final offering for sin. Because of God’s deep love for each one of us, He provided the way of salvation; the only way that our sins could be completely washed away, and we could come into a righteous relationship with God the creator of all things. It was through Christ’s sinless, therefore worthy, atoning sacrifice on the cross.

The word **atonement** means *to make satisfaction for wrongdoing; to reconcile God and humankind through the sinless death of Jesus Christ*. If Jesus had sinned even once, He could not have paid our debt. “*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*” (Hebrews 4:15).



In A.D. 70 Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple within were destroyed, both leveled to the ground by the Roman general Titus.

Again, as recorded by the respected first century historian Josephus the end was total destruction and devastation for the Jews. Here is what Josephus wrote: “The Temple Mount, everywhere enveloped in flames, seemed to be boiling over from its base; yet the blood seemed more abundant than the flames and the numbers of the slain greater than those of the slayers. The soldiers climbed over heaps of bodies as they chased the fugitives.” This event fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy that not one stone of the Temple would be left upon another ([Matthew 24:2](#)).

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is the holiest day in Judaism, centered on repentance and the atonement sacrifice once offered in the Temple. According to the **Talmud**, this ceremony has not been performed in its biblical form since the Temple’s destruction in the first century.

Is it mere coincidence that, in the same century Jesus offered Himself as the final and perfect atonement for sin, the Temple sacrifices ceased forever? God's timing shows that the temporary shadow of ritual sacrifice gave way to the permanent reality found in **Christ's finished work on the cross**.

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# Chapter 15

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## Jesus's Teaching from the Old Testament

Jesus had complete confidence in the truth and authority of Scripture. He affirmed its **divine inspiration** ([Matthew 22:43](#)), **indestructibility** ([Matthew 5:17–18](#)), **infallibility** ([John 10:35](#)), **historical accuracy** ([Matthew 12:40; 24:37](#)), **factual reliability** ([Matthew 22:29–32](#)), and **spiritual clarity** ([Luke 24:25](#)).

He also emphasized the importance of **each individual word** of Scripture ([Luke 16:17](#)). At times, His reasoning rested on a single phrase or even a single word of the Old Testament text ([Matthew 22:32, 43–45](#); [John 10:34](#)).

When tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus relied on Scripture's authority by declaring three times, "It is written." ([Matthew 4:4, 7, 10](#)) He also said, "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished." ([Matthew 5:18](#)) These words show how deeply Jesus trusted the Scriptures.

By the time Jesus began His ministry, the Old Testament had already been preserved and transmitted for **more than 1,700 years**. Yet Jesus fully trusted these ancient writings. He used them as authoritative truth, taught from them regularly, and confirmed their divine preservation.

When confronting false teaching, Jesus appealed directly to the authority of the Word of God. "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God." ([Matthew 22:29](#)) He declared, "Your word is truth." ([John 17:17](#))

Jesus also affirmed the historical reality of the Old Testament figures that many skeptics now dismiss — including **Jonah** ([Matthew 12:40](#)), **Noah** ([Matthew 24:37–38](#)), and **Adam and Eve** ([Matthew 19:4–6](#)).

Jesus referred to the **Law and the Prophets** as a unified revelation of God's truth: "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill." ([Matthew 5:17](#))

After His resurrection, Jesus explained to His followers how all of Scripture pointed to Him: "Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." ([Luke 24:27](#)) And He confirmed the integrity of the Old Testament canon by referencing all the prophets and martyrs, "from Abel to Zechariah." ([Matthew 23:35](#))

The same Old Testament that Jesus taught from nearly two thousand years ago is the same Scripture we hold in our hands today. Its words endure, because they are the very words of God.

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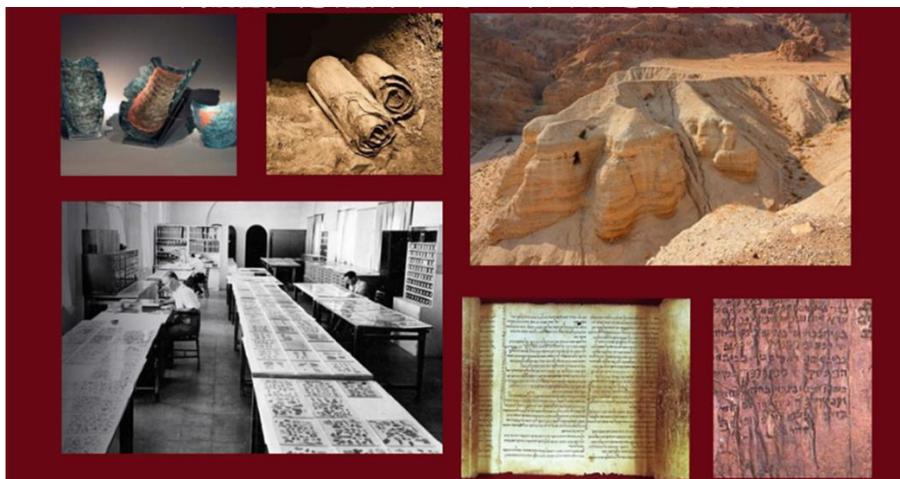
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# Chapter 16

## The Dead Sea Scrolls



In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd searching for a lost sheep in the desert cliffs near **Qumran**, on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, made one of the most remarkable discoveries in modern history. Hidden within a cave were ancient scrolls, the first of what would become known as the **Dead Sea Scrolls** — a collection of biblical manuscripts that scholars now recognize as **the most significant archaeological find of the 20th century**. These scrolls, written on parchment and papyrus, date more than **a thousand years earlier** than the oldest known Old Testament manuscripts previously available.

When the Qumran scrolls were compared to later manuscripts that had been copied centuries afterward, the results were astonishing: despite being separated by roughly a millennium, the texts were **virtually identical**. This consistency demonstrated that the Jewish scribes who transmitted Scripture over generations did so with extraordinary care and reverence. Their work preserved God’s Word with an accuracy unmatched by any other ancient literature.

The Dead Sea Scrolls include portions of every Old Testament book except Esther, as well as writings that shed light on Jewish history and life before and during the time of Jesus. Their discovery confirmed what believers have long held true, that **the Scriptures we read today are essentially the same as those used by Jesus and His disciples**.

When this is combined with the vast manuscript evidence for the New Testament, the conclusion is clear: **the Bible we hold in our hands today is trustworthy, reliable, and virtually unchanged**. It truly is the Word of God preserved through time as a divine guide for the path of life.

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# Chapter 17

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## Comparison to Other “Holy Books”

There are over 2,500 prophecies in the Bible, and every one of them up to this time has come true right on schedule without a single exception.

God has foretold the future through those prophecies. This fact sets the Bible apart from all holy books of other religions.



Only the Bible is from the one true God who knows everything from before time began to the end of time. These Biblical prophecies include foretelling about towns, cities, nations, empires, and political leaders, as well as prophecies about the Messiah, the nation of Israel, and the End Times. No other book with supposed prophecy comes anywhere near meeting the Biblical standard of 100% accuracy for a prophet of God. These spot-on prophecies by themselves show the reliability of the Bible. See [Deuteronomy 18:20-22](#) for requirements of a prophet of God.

So here is the test for the other religions of the world: Can they accurately foretell future events? After all, only the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator knows everything that will happen and has the ability to bring it to pass. Only God has this profound and unmatched ability. In [Isaiah 41:26](#), the Lord asks, “Who has declared from the beginning, that we may know?”

Through Isaiah, the Lord issued a challenge to all false deities:

“Let them declare to us what is going to take place... Declare the things that are going to come afterward, so that we may know that you are gods.” [Isaiah 41:22-23](#)

No other “holy book” can meet this challenge. None can predict the future with accuracy unless it borrows from the Bible itself. Prophecy is God’s divine fingerprint—proof of His sovereignty and authenticity.

The core message of Scripture culminates in Jesus’ words: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” [John 14:6](#) This single statement distinguishes Christianity from every other worldview. Other faiths may teach moral improvement or human effort; Jesus offers redemption by grace through faith in Him alone.

Here is a little assignment: open your Bible and read [2 Thessalonians 2:10](#). Look at the second half of the verse and consider what it means. It reveals why some will perish and others will live eternally. Then look at [2 Peter 3:3](#) for confirmation. These verses are meant to awaken the heart. I pray you will be among those who receive the truth and find life in Christ.

Here is the promise from God, I will leave you with: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” ([Jeremiah 29:13](#)). For the security of your eternal soul, please don’t delay in taking God up on this all-important promise and His gift of mercy and grace for those who repent and believe.

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# Chapter 18

## Radically Changed Lives

If you sincerely ask God to show you the true path of life, **He will**. That is His promise: [Jeremiah 29:13](#) (quoted in the last chapter) and [Hebrews 11:6](#), “*He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*”

Some people will show an immediate change, and some will see change for the positive come more gradually as they read God’s Word and grow in the Christian faith. This ongoing process of spiritual growth is called **sanctification**—the lifelong work of God shaping us into the likeness of Jesus. No matter how quickly it occurs, change for the better should become evident in every believer’s life.

The Bible is not merely a book of information, it is a **book of transformation**. Its truths reach into the heart, convicting, healing, and renewing those who believe. Across the world and throughout history, there are countless testimonies of lives radically changed by God’s grace. Entire families, communities, and even nations have been transformed through the power of His Word.

“*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*” [2 Corinthians 5:17](#).

Even in modern times, thousands of stories bear witness to this truth. Real testimonies are available of people whose lives have been completely turned around from addiction to freedom, despair to hope, bitterness to forgiveness; all through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. These are not isolated cases; they are reminders that **the gospel still changes lives today**.

If you have never experienced this transformation, it begins with a simple, sincere prayer asking God to forgive you and reveal Himself to you. The same God who raised Jesus from the dead can breathe new life into your heart. Transformation may not come overnight, but as you read the Bible, pray, and seek Him daily, He will renew your mind and reshape your character. The proof of God’s Word is not only in its accuracy but in **its power to change the human heart**.

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# Chapter 19

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## The Martyrdom of Apostles

The apostles of Jesus Christ were eyewitnesses to His life, death, and resurrection. They proclaimed what they had personally seen and experienced, and most paid for it with their lives.

Think about that for a moment: **no one dies for something they know is a lie.**

Many people throughout history have died for causes or beliefs they *thought* were true, but the apostles were in a position to *know* the truth. They had walked with Jesus, touched Him, and witnessed His resurrection with their own eyes. If their message had been fabricated, they would have known it and none of them would have willingly suffered torture or death for a deception.

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” [Acts 4:20](#)

These men, empowered by the Holy Spirit, wrote and preached the truth of God’s Word under divine inspiration. From Peter and Paul in Rome to Thomas in India and Andrew in Greece, the apostles held firm in their testimony even when faced with imprisonment, beatings, and execution. Their courage stands as one of the strongest historical pieces of evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They did not merely *believe* the Christian message; they were there when it happened.

Yes, followers of many religions have died for their faith. But there is a critical difference:

- Religious zealots may die for what they **believe** to be true,
- The apostles died for what they **knew** was true.

They were eyewitnesses to the risen Christ and that changes everything.

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# Chapter 20

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## The Moral Law

Con·science /'kän(t)SHəns/*noun* - “An inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behavior”. (Oxford Languages)

Con•science kŏn'shəns *n.* - “An awareness of morality in regard to one's behavior; a sense of right and wrong that urges one to act morally.” “A source of moral or ethical judgment or pronouncement.” (Webster Dictionary)

Seriously, how could evolution pull this one off?

The question presented here is: What is the moral argument for God's existence?

- **If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.**
- **Objective moral values and duties *do* exist.**
- **Therefore, God exists.**

Where did these moral values come from? A committee of ancient elders or a brain mutation that put them in the hearts of all men? Of course not.

Question: What is the moral argument for the existence of God?

Answer: The moral argument begins with the fact that all people recognize some moral code (that some things are right, and some things are wrong). Every time we argue over right and wrong, we appeal to a higher law that we assume everyone is aware of, holds to, and is not free to arbitrarily change it as he or she pleases. Right and wrong imply a higher standard or law, and law requires a lawgiver. Because the Moral Law transcends humanity, this universal law requires a universal lawgiver. This, I argue, is God.

Remote tribes isolated from modern society still possess moral categories like **courage, loyalty, honor, and shame**. They recognize virtues and condemn vices. Civil rules differ, but the *core moral categories* are universal. If morality were a human invention, it would differ wildly between cultures, but it doesn't. Scripture tells us why:

*“Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know His law when they instinctively obey it... They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts.”* [Romans 2:14–15 \(NLT\)](#).

God wrote His moral law into the human heart. That is why conscience exists at all.

This is extreme, but all men know that it is wrong to torture a baby for fun. In the movie Braveheart, everyone knew that taking another man's fiancée by force for his own pleasure was morally wrong, even though the king was sovereign and could decree any law he pleased, making it legal to do so.

If there is no God, what basis remains for objective moral duties? From the atheistic view, human beings are just animals, and animals have no moral obligations. In the animal kingdom when a lion kills a wildebeest it does not murder the wildebeest. When a shark forcibly mates with a female shark it is not rape. The law of the jungle says: “There is no moral dimension to these actions, they are neither prohibited nor obligatory.” Bulls of many species, because they are simply stronger or have mastered better fighting techniques gather a harem of as many females as they want just for themselves. No sense of right or wrong, simply, this is what the animal wants and is capable of getting.

Even America's national bird, the eagle, feels no remorse when he swoops down and takes the lunch of an osprey when the osprey is taking his hard-earned catch home to share with his hungry family. No, the fact is, that God put a conscience into the hearts of man alone. *“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them* ([Genesis 1:27](#)).

The New Testament concept of conscience is more individual in nature and involves three major truths. First, conscience is a God-given capacity for human beings to exercise self-evaluation. Paul refers several times to his own conscience being “good” or “clear” ([Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Corinthians 4:4](#)). Paul examined his own words and deeds and found them to be in accordance with his morals and value system, which were, of course, based on God's standards. His conscience verified the integrity of his heart.

Second, the New Testament portrays the conscience as a witness.

Paul says the Gentiles' consciences bear witness to the moral law written on their hearts, even without Moses' written law ([Romans 2:14–15](#)). He appeals to conscience as a witness to his honesty ([Romans 9:1](#)) and to his

sincere conduct ([2 Corinthians 1:12](#)).

He also says conscience confirms his actions before both God and people ([2 Corinthians 5:11](#)).

The third reference is to a conscience that is “seared” or rendered insensitive as though it had been cauterized with a hot iron ([1 Timothy 4:1-2](#)). Such a conscience is hardened and calloused, no longer feeling anything. A person with a seared conscience no longer listens to its promptings, and can sin with abandon, delude himself into thinking all is well with his soul, and treat others in a totally corrupt way with no feelings of guilt or remorse. As the apostle Paul warns, we must not let our conscience be seared.

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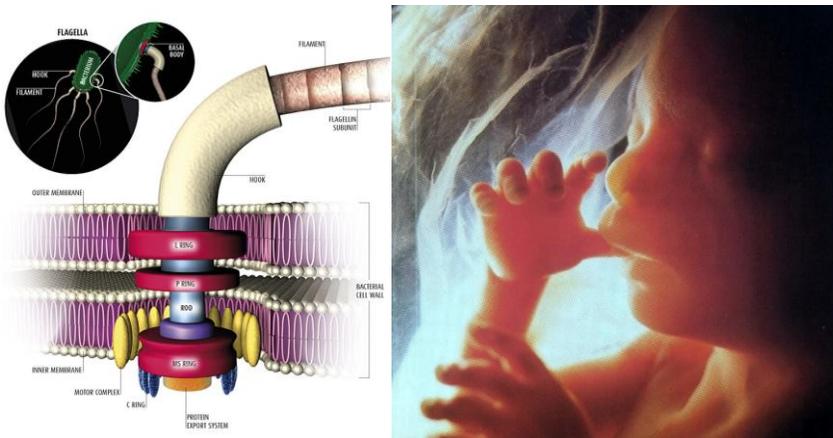
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# Chapter 21

## Function and Beauty of Nature



Anyone looking at this complex watch movement would, of course, say it had a designer. But when they look at the amazing micro-miniaturized flagellum motor below with its irreducible complexity or at a beautiful baby which is a trillions of times greater in complexity, and insist it designed itself over millions of years and came together by chance even though each part of each machine would have to evolve at the same time in order for the machine to work at all. Take out one piece from the watch movement or one piece from the flagellum motor and the whole machine doesn't perform its function and it dies.



The best argument that evolutionists have is that evolution could have found all the parts someplace else and then the parts came together by time and chance. How ludicrous can you get to try to avoid the truth that God designed them and set them in motion with the balance of perfection!

Watch “Amazing Flagellum”: Michael Behe and the Revolution of Intelligent Design (An amazing motor inside the cell). Let this three minute presentation spark your interest in learning more about irreducible complexity only possible by the hand of God. The evolution model just can't compete because the whole thing must exist at once for it to work at all. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jnf5OJGCeIo> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNR48hUd-Hw> <https://store.focusonthefamily.com/the-truth-project-small-group-curriculum/> Lesson 5 goes into the amazing Flagellum motor and its irreducible complexity.



The beauty of God's magnificent creation is all around us. Drink it in and consider whether evolution did this by chance or God created it with a purpose for you and me to enjoy and ponder His awesome power.

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# Chapter 22

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## Fulfilled Prophecy about Israel God's Promise, Scattering, and Sure Regathering

### Promise, Scattering, and Preservation

As we scan the pages of the Bible from Genesis through Revelation, we see prophecy after prophecy foretold and fulfilled, hundreds, and even as much as three thousand years after the prophecy was given. No topic is mentioned more than prophecies concerning God's chosen people the Jews, and the land God gave them. Here we will look at some of those prophecies and see for ourselves that the Bible could only be from the one true God who created it all and knows everything from the beginning to the end.

This includes a brief history of mankind from Adam and Eve to Noah, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel, and on to Joseph who was sold as a slave in Egypt but was favored by God and the Pharaoh at the time and became the second in charge of Egypt. With famine in the land, the Israelites were forced to flee for refuge to Egypt where unbeknownst to them God was using Joseph to provide a place for them to settle temporarily. Hundreds of years later, the Israelites in Egypt had become slaves to a new Pharaoh only to escape from his oppression in Egypt through the parting of the Red Sea and the guidance of God's appointed man, Moses. After wandering through desert wilderness for forty years, the Israelites were guided into the promised land by Joshua in about 1450 B.C.

In the promised land, the Israelites lived under the prophets, judges, and then Kings, including David and his son Solomon, who built God's great temple and the magnificent and prosperous city of Jerusalem, which was the envy of the world. Later, the Israelites would be overcome by Nebuchadnezzar and carried off into Babylonian captivity for seventy years, then unexpectedly freed by Cyrus the Great (which was also prophesied) to return and rebuild the temple which stood until it was destroyed by the Romans 40 years after the crucifixion of Jesus. Israel had already been occupied by the Romans for about 150 years when the final conquest and dispersion was carried out by Roman General Titus in 70 A.D.

Now, pushing forward.

*"You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be handed over to the king of Babylon'; but this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. ([Jeremiah 32:36-37](#))*

Not many prophecies need to be fulfilled to complete the timeline of this age. Here, however, is one of those prophecies that is yet to come. Read chapter 12 of Zechariah and consider that it was written about 2,500 years ago and claimed that in the End Times, all the nations of the earth would be gathered against Jerusalem. Why would Zechariah even consider writing such a thing about a nearly worthless piece of real estate considering that at the time this prophecy was written, Jerusalem was little more than a heap of rubble having been razed by King Nebuchadnezzar and the people taken into what is called the time of the Babylonian captivity? It was just a desolate wasteland, so why would it take the might of all the nations of the world to team up against this little almost worthless little plot of land with almost no Israelites left standing to put up a resistance when the prophecy was written? As you watch the news, can you not see the present shadow of danger lurking over that area of the world as you read this?

After the second conquer, the Bible tells us that the Israelites would be expelled from their homeland once again and dispersed to all parts of the world. Both of these predictions were fulfilled to the letter, the first in 607 B.C. and the second in 70 A.D., God's spokesmen further said that the Jews would remain scattered throughout the entire world for many generations without becoming assimilated into the general population of those nations and that the Israelites would, in the latter times, return to their ancient, deeded land to re-establish for a second time their ancient homeland ([Deuteronomy 29 and 30:3](#), [Isaiah 11:12](#), [Jeremiah 25:11](#), [Hosea 3:4-5](#), [Hosea 6:1](#), and [Luke 21:23-24](#)). Again, this miracle happened 1950 years after it was prophesied. Anyone saying this was just a coincidence is simply denying the near mathematical impossibility of such a thing happening by plan or accident. [Ezekiel 20:34](#) "I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath." It couldn't be clearer that what was prophesied here is exactly what happened so many centuries later.

Isaiah 11:12 *"He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."* This prophecy was written 2,700 years ago.



The World History Encyclopedia says: "The Arch of Titus is a Roman Triumphal Arch which was erected by Domitian in c. 81 CE at the foot of the Palatine hill on the Via Sacra in the Forum Romanum, Rome. It commemorates the victories of his father Vespasian and brother Titus in the Jewish War in Judaea (70-71 CE) when the great city of Jerusalem was sacked and the vast riches of its temple plundered. The arch is also a political and religious statement expressing the divinity of the late emperor Titus." The Arch still stands in Rome today as a witness to the accuracy of the Bible.

Nothing like this has ever happened before in the history of the world, but the Bible foretold it would happen to the Israelites in the latter times, and it did, and still is in the process of being completed right now (more on that later).

### **Regathering in the Latter Days**

After Jerusalem was taken by the Babylonians, Babylon was conquered by the Persians in about 539 B.C. Shortly after that, a Persian king named Cyrus, gave the decree to pardon the exiled Israelites and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This was around 160 years after the prophecy of Isaiah! If that wasn't a revelation from God, why would the prophet Isaiah say such a thing if the foundation had already been laid and the temple had already been re-built? How could he have known what would happen 160 years in the future?

[Leviticus 26:33-38](#) says: *"And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste."* This was the condition of the land and exactly what the case would be for the next 1950 years.

*"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"* ([Luke 21:23-24](#)).

Even the order of the end-time return of the Jews today was prophesied. The first returning Jews to Palestine came primarily from neighboring eastern Arab countries. The next major movement came from Germany and the western countries of Europe after WWII. Then they came in great numbers from the north (Russia). However, when it looked like the prophecy couldn't continue to be fulfilled because the biggest remaining pocket of dispersed Jews were stuck in the Soviet Union with its closed borders ("The Iron Curtain"), an amazing thing happened. The Soviet Union collapsed giving the Jews the freedom to leave, and this they did to the tune of over 1.2 million with smaller numbers still leaving every day from Russia and the former Soviet-block nations. The last great migrations of Jews returning to Israel came from Ethiopia in the south when Israel finally recognized the Beta Israel Jews and granted them the "Right of Return". This precise order of return was predicted by Isaiah the prophet.

[Isaiah 43:5-6,21](#) *"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..." "... the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."*

[Psalm 107:2-3](#) *"Let the redeemed of the LORD say this -- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south."*

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. and spoke of a day when Jews would once again purchase their own land that God had given them many centuries before. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting about a century ago. They started buying back much of their own inherited land. They started to rebuild previously named cities and left untouched those cities which were prophesied to never be rebuilt. For example, there are many cities in Israel that again bear the ancient Biblical names of previously destroyed Jewish cities, such as: Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron, Gaza, etc. Again, as the ancient nation was in the process of being destroyed, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, the prophets of old, predicted that many of the ancient cities would, in fact, be re-inhabited and settled in their exact ancient locations, and they have been. Prophecy fulfilled, one right after the other.

*[Jeremiah 32:44](#) "Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD." (written about 625 B.C.)*

*[Ezekiel 36:11; 24](#) "And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better [unto you] than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."*

In the past, scoffers liked to say the Bible was wrong as there was no evidence that many of these cities ever existed, but within the last 70 years, archaeologists continue to disprove the skeptics and affirm the accuracy of the Bible.

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## Chapter 23

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### Fulfilled Prophecy about Israel Jerusalem and the Reborn Nation: Signs on the Ground

#### Jerusalem: Burdensome Stone and Center of the Nations

Yeshua pronounced a curse on at least three cities within the land. These remain in ruins to this day.

[Matthew 11:21-23](#) *"Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day."*



#### Recent History of Israel's Fulfilled Prophecy

Why would the prophet Zechariah ([Zechariah 12:3](#)) claim that in the End Times Jerusalem would be a burdensome stone to all people of the world when all he saw while standing there was what the world would see for the next 2000 years after the Roman conquest, total destruction of the second temple and dispersion of the Jewish people into all the known world? This was, to say the least, a far cry from its glory days when Solomon's Temple and great riches was the case for Jerusalem, not a desolate and barren, nearly uninhabitable wasteland. Hardly a land worthy of being referred to as a burdensome stone for the whole world which it is today.

Why would the prophet Zechariah claim that in the End Times Jerusalem would be a cup of trembling, a burdensome stone **for the whole world** when it was little more than an undesirable pile of rubble and barren wilderness for the next 2,425 years from when he was writing that prophecy? Surely the prophecy of a reborn nation abundant in fruit, flowers and other agricultural items in a barren wilderness that God was showing him proves the consistency and the perfectly fulfilled reliability of the Bible.

#### Hebrew, the Dead Language of Israel Reborn

*"For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord."* ([Zephaniah 3:8&9](#) NASB). The NIV states that the Lord will *"purify the lips of the people."* The English Standard Version says: *"I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech."* The Living Bible paraphrase reads: *"At that time I will change the speech of my returning people to pure Hebrew so that all can worship the Lord together."* ([Zephaniah 3:9](#))

Today the dead language of Israel has been reborn, and the corrupted languages of the Jews are being replaced by pure Hebrew as the official language of Israel once again. Thus, the Bible prophecy of Zephaniah 3:9 has been fulfilled. Yiddish, Ladino etc. are out and Hebrew is back, just like Zephaniah said would happen in the End Times 2,600 years ago. Yes, prophecy proves over and over that the Bible is from God and is preserved for us to this day.

## Shekel Reborn

Another remarkable prophecy fulfilled is the rebirth of shekel, the ancient monetary system of Israel, dead for nearly 2000 years. Pictured here is Israel's reborn money, the shekel.

*"The shekel is to consist of twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels equal one mina.... All the people of the land will participate in this special gift for the use of the prince in Israel." (Ezekiel 45:12-16)* The prince of Israel is Jesus, and this is what will be in use when He returns.



## Military Miracles and Divine Protection

Many of Israel's modern military accomplishments have defied all odds and logic. Surprise victories in Israel's War of Independence in 1948, Six-Day War in 1967 and Yom Kippur War in 1973 will forever stand among Israel's most miraculous and unlikely historical achievements against overwhelming odds.

Although the nations agreed to let the Jews have their ancient homeland returned to them, they did not assist them in the war that began the following day. Within hours of the signing of the declaration of independence on June 5, 1948, Israel was attacked by the surrounding countries of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. When reading [Isaiah 66:7-8](#), keep in mind that Israel's status as a sovereign nation was established and reaffirmed during the course of a single day just 24 hours earlier. You will see a few of these miracle stories below.

As the war began, Israel found itself outnumbered and out-gunned on three fronts, Egypt to the south, Jordan to the east and Syria to the north. The Soviet Union had poured \$2 billion worth of arms into the Arab nations. Israel's enemies brought two times as many soldiers, three times as many tanks and four times as many airplanes to the battlefield.

The night before the war, Egypt's commander-in-chief, Abd al-Hakim Amer gathered his high command for a party at an air base far away from the front lines. "They were caught by surprise, totally," Yaari said. "I mean some of them tried to get into the air in order to join their units. They couldn't do it."

On the morning of June 5, Jordanian radar detected the Israeli Air Force taking off. They sent a red alert to Cairo, but the decoding officer used the wrong day's code and failed to decipher the vital information! The warning never came. Instead, the Israeli Air Force decimated the Egyptian Air Force on the ground, one of the miraculous keys to the outcome of the war.

Another miracle of the Six Day War in 1967 was when Gershon Salomon lay badly wounded and saw Syrian soldiers moving into their area shooting wounded Israeli soldiers. They were about to shoot him, when all of a sudden, they fled the area leaving their weapons behind. Some accounts even say that Syrian soldiers later reported to UN officers that they saw "thousands of angels" surrounding the wounded soldiers and that was why they ran away.

Another story of an encounter with angels is told of a small Jewish community, Pekin, that was under siege by Arabs who were determined to wipe them out. However, the Arabs encountered huge, strange beings with flaming swords, and they ran away in great fear, as the astonished village rabbi watched them.

There is no end to the stories that have been documented from the battles in Israel's wars. Another is of an Egyptian tank commander in the Sinai Desert who surrendered to a vastly inferior Israeli force on the second day of the war, because a desert mirage made him see hundreds of Israeli tanks, where there were no more than a dozen. Another is to the great surprise of the Jews when Jordanian forces welcomed the Israeli tanks under the command of Colonel Uri Ram into Shechem on the third day of the war, because faulty communications misled the Arabs into thinking that these were Iraqi tanks which had come to reinforce them.



Notice the tiny spec of red in the middle of all the green in the picture above showing Israel surrounded by mostly hostile enemies wishing only the destruction of the tiny nation. Although God has had His hand on Israel, attacks and wars have been the plight of the Jewish homeland over the centuries. Even now, in 2023, Israel is faced by near daily rocket fire coming in from proxies of Iran in Syria and Lebanon.

### Modern Day Israel

Take a good look at the picture below which was taken in 1947 at the beginning of the transformation of a wasteland to the beauty and agriculture wonder of the regathered nation of Israel today. Remember, Zechariah's prophecy was made about 2,425 years before this picture was taken. This shows the amazing fulfillment of what Zechariah wrote through the guidance of God. No coincidence or pre-planned plot could have seen a scenario like this come to fruition but by the hand of God.



*"I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."* [Joel 3:2](#)

*"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God."* ([Amos 9:14-15](#)). This was written by the prophet Amos about 750 BC, concerning the latter days. Today we see this prophecy unfolding before our very eyes.

*"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy..."* [Isaiah 35:1-2](#)

The restoration of the agriculture and of the trees and forests of Israel has been another remarkable miracle. Scarcely 75 years ago, the land was a desolate waste, full of malarial swamps and deserts. Today the replanted forests are flourishing and the Israeli agricultural production is one of the great wonders of the world. This tiny country exports quality produce around the world. Again, just as the Bible predicted!

Written in 750 B.C., [Isaiah 26:6](#) says, *"In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit."*



*"But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. [Ezekiel 36:8-10](#) (written about 580 BC)*

Today's marvel of a nation re-born, and a prophecy fulfilled. Remember it was the envy of the world under King Solomon and then occupied for most of the next 600 years after its return from Babylonian captivity and then it basically laid waste after being totally destroyed a second time by Roman General Titus in 70 AD and its people dispersed to the four corners of the world for the next 1950 years.

The Jews have had a long history of being oppressed, first by the Egyptians, then the Philistines, Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans, Greeks, Ottomans, Nazis and Czars.

*"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years" ([Jeremiah 25:11](#)). This was written about 150 years before Nebuchadnezzar completely destroyed Jerusalem for the first time and took the Israelites into what is called the Babylonian Captivity.*

*"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim" ([Isaiah 11:11-13](#)).*

Not only flowers and citrus, but over 250,000,000 trees have been planted since 1948 with 3 million more being planted every year reclaiming a desolate wasteland into a beautiful oasis of green. Again, how could the prophet Zechariah predict such a thing would take place approximately 2,425 years before it happened? Israel is on God's timetable. With the Jews, God's chosen people, and God's Holy Land, we see so much prophecy and then its fulfillment from hundreds to over three thousand years later.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the re-birth of Israel....

*"Before going into labor, she gave birth; before her pains came, she delivered a male child. Who ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Zion went into labor, she brought forth her children" ([Isaiah 66:7-8](#)).*

*"Whereas you have been hated with no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, A joy from generation to generation." [Isaiah 60:15](#)*



In [Isaiah 66:7-8](#), written between 701 and 681 B.C., the prophet Isaiah spoke of the rebirth of Israel, stating that a nation would be brought forth “in one day.” In this passage, the woman in labor symbolizes Israel. This description closely reflects what took place on May 14, 1948.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, global sympathy toward the Jewish people briefly increased, contributing to circumstances that allowed Israel to be restored to them. On that day, Israel declared independence as a united and sovereign nation for the first time in more than 2,100 years, dating back to the period of Roman rule. As Isaiah foretold, the nation was brought forth in a single day.

This prophecy was recorded approximately 2,600 years before its fulfillment. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution supporting the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. As the British Mandate drew to a close, Jewish leaders prepared to assume self-governance.

On the morning of May 14, 1948, the final day of British administration, a meeting of the People’s Council was held to decide upon the name of the new state and to finalize the declaration of independence. At exactly 4:00 p.m., a proclamation ceremony began in Tel Aviv. The 979 Hebrew words of the Declaration of Independence were read aloud. Those present stood, and the document was formally adopted.

British restrictions on Jewish immigration, including those established by the White Paper, were brought to an end. Members of the People’s Council then signed the declaration. David Ben-Gurion concluded the proceedings by striking the gavel and declaring, “The State of Israel is established. This meeting is ended.”

Israel was restored as a nation in a single day, precisely as Scripture had foretold centuries earlier. For believers, this convergence of prophecy and historical events cannot reasonably be viewed as coincidence. Instead, it affirms the truth and reliability of the Bible, which continues to speak with authority today.

Interestingly, one portion of the prophecy wasn’t fulfilled because the prophecy cited that Jerusalem would again be under Jewish control in the End Times ([Isa 28:14](#); [Ezek. 22:19](#)). However, this part was fulfilled as a result of the Six Day War in 1967 exactly as prophesied by Isaiah and Ezekiel over 2,600 years earlier.

Another prophecy that seemed to deny the possibility of fulfillment was the fact that the U.S.S.R. with its closed borders (the Iron Curtain) would not let any of its citizens emigrate, including the Jews. Then, as a Christmas present on December 25, 1991, Gorbachev resigned, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic dissolved. At that point the Jews were granted the freedom to leave, and this they did to the tune of over 1.2 million. Today, the last remaining Jews still trickle in from Russia and the former Soviet bloc nations.

These are just a few of the prophecies that were either fulfilled entirely or at least partially when Israel was reborn as a nation in 1948. Several others are found in [Isaiah 66:18](#), [Ezekiel 37:21](#), [Jeremiah 29:14](#), [Micah 5:3](#); [Ezekiel 38:8](#); [Isaiah 66:7-8](#) and elsewhere.

Anyone willing to look can clearly see that these ancient prophecies about the nation of Israel actually were fulfilled from many hundreds of years to a few thousand years after they were prophesied. There is no reason to believe that the relatively small number of prophecies remaining to be fulfilled will not be fulfilled just like the rest. A coincidence or pre-planned scheme could not make that happen, only the hand of God. They again prove the reliability and preservation of the Bible.

In the gospel of Mark, we learn of a man who had a son that was demon possessed. After hearing Jesus, he believed for his son’s deliverance, but somehow not strong enough so he said to Jesus “...I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” ([Mark 9:24](#)).

I put this here suggesting that this could be your prayer, if you are still having trouble fully believing. God knows where your heart is and how sincere you are. It is impossible to fool God. Here are the scariest words in the Bible. These are words you or I never want to hear and don’t have to hear, and the reason this book was written. “*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*” ([Matthew 7:23](#)).

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### Figures, Images, and Charts

- *Map: Modern Israel Surrounded by Neighboring Nations* — situating Israel as the small “red dot” amidst mostly hostile states in the region.
- *Before-and-After Photographs of the Land (c. 1940s vs. Present)* — contrasting malarial swamps and barren hillsides with modern agriculture, forests, and cities.
- *Hebrew Road Sign and Modern Newspaper Headline* — illustrating the rebirth of Hebrew as a spoken national language.
- *Ancient vs. Modern Shekel* — side-by-side images of a first-century Jewish shekel and today’s New Israeli Shekel coinage.
- *Israel’s Wars Timeline (1948–Present)* — chart highlighting the War of Independence, Six-Day War, Yom Kippur War, and major conflicts tied to prophetic themes.
- *Afforestation and Agriculture Map* — showing major forested areas and key agricultural regions (citrus, vineyards, flowers) fulfilling passages such as Amos 9 and Ezekiel 36.

# Chapter 24

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## Fulfilled Prophecy about Israel From Israel's Restoration to Israel's Messiah

The Bible is complex, diverse, and intricate, and yet it has one unified message: The creation of a perfect world and all that exists by God, the fall of the highest angel Lucifer, and then the fall of man into sin. This is followed by God lovingly redeeming and bringing back into relationship with Himself all who repent and believe in Jesus! “*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us*” ([Matthew 1:23](#)). The Bible is clear about who Jesus was and is, and the price He paid for our redemption on Calvary's cross.

Upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist tells us who Jesus was, and what He did for us. “...*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*” ([John 1:29](#)). This was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah about 700 years earlier. “*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God'*” ([Isaiah 40:3](#)). This is one more prophet who foretold that Jesus would be both Lord and God who would take away the sin of the world for all who believed.

This prophecy foreshadowed the life of John the Baptist, who played an important role in preparing the groundwork for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Also, the prophet Malachi about 300 years after Isaiah prophesied the same thing as he foretold of a messenger who would prepare the way for the Lord: “*I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come, says the Lord Almighty*” ([Malachi 3:1](#)). Yet another prophecy fulfilled exactly like the Bible said would happen hundreds of years later. Jesus Himself confirms what these prophecies were. In [Matthew 11:10](#), Jesus proclaimed that John the Baptist was the messenger who had been prophesied 700 years before the birth of John the Baptist. “*For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before You.'*”

There are, in fact, literally hundreds of prophecies which predict future events. The idea that the fulfillment of the predictions is a result of coincidence or chance, or some pre-planned conspiracy is absurd in light of the vast number of prophecies with evidence of their fulfillment available to us today. The evidence proves the truth and reliability of the Bible, just like its reliability was when Jesus taught from the ancient scrolls during the time of His ministry on this earth some two thousand years ago. For 50 more major prophecies and their fulfillment read the book [God's Work in History](#) by Don Stewart.

*"And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest..."* [Deuteronomy 28:64-65](#).

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## Figures, Images, and Charts

- “*Prophecies of Messiah’s First Coming*” — timeline showing Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 40:3, Micah 5:2, Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 22, Isaiah 53.
- “*John the Baptist: The Forerunner*” — diagram connecting Isaiah 40:3 → Malachi 3:1 → Matthew 11:10 → John 1:23.
- “*Types and Shadows of the Lamb of God*” — Passover (Exodus 12), sacrificial lamb (Leviticus 1–7), fulfillment in Christ (John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7).
- *Map: Israel Scattered Among the Nations* — illustrating Deuteronomy 28:64–65 and global dispersion.

## Chapter 25

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### Convergence of End Times Prophecy

*“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” ([Luke 21:28](#)).*

The reason for writing this chapter is to show the reliability of the Bible, the lateness of the hour in which we live, and to plead with you as the prophet Isaiah did all those centuries ago.

*“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will freely pardon ([Isaiah 55:6-7](#)).*

I have picked out a few of the ways that the Bible makes clear where we are in the timeline of prophecy and the world in which we live. Keep an open Bible in one hand and an open newspaper in the other and check them out for yourself. My prayer is that you will tie it all together and see the urgency to get right with God while there is still time. You don't need to be a mathematician to see that the chance of everything you have read here being merely a coincidence is beyond the realm of possibility.

*“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” ([Matthew 24:6-7](#))*

In John's report of Revelation, he saw a vision of four horsemen that would usher in the end of the age: the red horse pictures war and violence that will spread around the earth ([Revelation 6:4](#)).

Conflict has always existed, but today humanity possesses the capacity to annihilate itself—a first in history. At the time of this writing, the world is seeing conflict not experienced since WWII. Modern headlines point to rising tensions, arms races, persecution, and shifting alliances across the globe. Israel, in particular, the timeclock of world and Biblical events, is under constant threat. What will they do to protect their country's existence? These developments align with the Bible's portrait of an increasingly unstable world.

*“And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths” ([Revelation 9:16-18](#)).*

How would you describe military jets and tanks, rockets, missiles, if you were given such a vision 2,000 years ago? Would you say it was bow and arrows with their tips on fire? I don't think so. Instead, John's imagery fits the terror of modern warfare.

*“A measure of wheat for a penny... and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” ([Revelation 6:6](#))*

Joel foresaw a time when *“the grain is ruined... the harvest... has perished... Is not the food cut off before our eyes?” ([Joel 1:10-16](#))*

Recent years have brought severe droughts, famines, and outbreaks. For example, over 43,000 people died in Somalia as a direct result of drought in 2022. Revelation 6 paints a grim picture in which a fourth of the earth falls under death by sword, hunger, plague, and wild beasts ([Revelation 6:8](#)). With today's population, that would mean billions. Yet even this terrible season will be brief, and then Christ will return to establish true and lasting peace.

Therefore, the only hope for mankind is the Lord Jesus Christ, who can cleanse mankind and the world from sin, creating a real Utopia by His sinless blood sacrifice. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).*

*“And the LORD said, ‘Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they have started to do, and now nothing which they plan to do will be impossible for them’” ([Genesis 11:6](#)).*

With the aid of AI, it is projected that the knowledge curve will double every two months instead of every 1000 years as it was in the time of the prophet Daniel 2200 years ago.

*“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”* ([Daniel 12:4](#)). Wow! What God told Daniel in about the year of 200 B.C..

There is no doubt people are running to and fro in the day in which we live. Remember, at the time of the prophet Daniel’s writing people were only able to travel about twenty miles per day on foot or about the same on camel or donkey. For the few that had horses the average was 25 to 40 miles in a day, and for ancient sailing ships they could travel about 4 knots or 4.5 miles per hour if they had favorable winds. Daniel’s prophecy anticipated an era when information would surge, and the world would feel smaller by the day.

*“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved”* ([Matthew 24:12-13](#)).

*“...having their consciences seared as with a hot iron”* ([1 Timothy 4:2b](#)).

Scripture foretells a moral climate marked by self-love, pride, brutality, and spiritual pretense. Civilization is rapidly losing its civility.

*“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”* ([2 Timothy 3:1-5](#)).

The Bible prophesies in Revelation that there will be a counterfeit uniting of all religions under the Antichrist and the false prophet, a globalized economic system and a white horse rider who deceives and attempts to control mankind ([Revelation 6:1-8](#)). God warns His people:

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,’ saith the Lord Almighty.”* ([2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#))

We seek unity in truth, not a false unity that dilutes the Gospel.

Here are three future prophecies:

1. First, *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* ([Matthew 24:14-18](#)). We are getting close to when this one is completed. Even now predominant languages of every country have a translated version of the Bible. For example, ask your phone “How do you say [John 3:16](#) in Swahili?” Instantaneously you will hear [John 3:16](#) in Swahili.

2. The second future prophecy is the rapture of the true Church. It may sound a little hard to believe, but it is not based on wishful thinking. It is based on the reliability of the Bible with 100% of its prophecies coming true so far. Here is where you have to have a little faith that this one will also come true at the appointed time. At that glorious moment our sin nature will be removed from us and we will join Jesus. We don’t know the day or the hour of the rapture of Christ’s true Church, but with all the prophecies we have looked at so far it sure looks like the season is at hand.

*“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”* ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#))

*“In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”* ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#))

*“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”* ([Luke 12:40](#))

*“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”* ([Mark 13:32](#))

“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.” ([Revelation 3:10](#))

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.” ([Daniel 12:1–2](#))

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” ([1 Thessalonians 5:9](#))

In [Matthew 24:22](#), Jesus Christ prophesied about the coming great tribulation "... except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved ...." War on this scale would have been unthinkable in the first century when this prophecy was written.

3. The third and final future prophecy will be fulfilled when the 'False Covenant' is signed. The tribulation period begins when the Antichrist makes a seven-year covenant “with many” concerning Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

“He will make a strong covenant with many for one week... and in the midst of the week he shall cause sacrifice and offering to cease.” ([Daniel 9:27](#))

The antichrist will offer false solutions of peace and safety to alleviate the world’s problems while consolidating power. He will reveal his true colors and transition to a heavy-handed rule of the world through unspeakable and merciless oppression and tyranny. You don’t want to be here for that.

The challenge for the Church today is that no matter the difficulties we may face, God’s true church must stand and march forward towards the mark of His high calling and use the resources available to us for good. Satan does not have a monopoly on technology or any other modern resource. Now is definitely not the time to slumber or give up. It is time for the true church of Jesus Christ to boldly go forth and reach this world (which we see spinning out of control) with the message of hope, which is the truth of the Gospel.

Again, only Jesus Christ who was without sin can take away the sin of the world. Only he can ever bring peace and safety for mankind on earth and for eternity.

Become secure in His everlasting arms. You can go to the tract at the back of this book and get right with God now, if that is your desire. Will you put your faith in the ways and schemes of evil man or in the loving arms of Jesus Christ? Read the last pages over and over until you understand “God’s Plan of Salvation for Man” and are positive that you want to trust Christ and give your whole life to Him. The decision is only yours to make. We are all individually on our own in this decision, and it is the most important decision of your life.

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# Chapter 26

## Living What You Believe

Some may ask, “If salvation comes by faith alone by repenting and believing in Christ, why does the Bible command us to *do* anything afterward? Wouldn’t that be working for our salvation?”

The answer is no. Scripture is clear: no amount of human effort can earn eternal life. “*We are all dirty with sin. Even our good works are not pure; they are like blood-stained rags.*” [Isaiah 64:6 \(ERV\)](#).

Good deeds cannot save us. But genuine faith produces transformation. If there is no desire to obey God, serve others, or grow in the knowledge of His word, the Bible, it is worth asking whether one truly believes. Both extremes, trying to earn salvation through works and treating salvation as a quick, emotion-only experience miss the heart of the gospel.

“*The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” [2 Peter 3:9](#).

God saves by grace (undeserved favor towards us) through faith, yet He calls His people to live out that faith. Those who truly believe are forgiven, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and made new. Their names are written in the **Lamb’s Book of Life**, and their lives begin to reflect the One they follow. It’s a wonderful message that true believers should be eager to share.

At the close of His earthly ministry, Jesus urged His followers not to be hearers only but *doers* of His Word. “*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” [2 Timothy 2:15](#).

“*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*” [John 14:15](#).

“*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*” [James 1:22](#).

“*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” [Matthew 4:19](#).

“*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*” [John 10:27](#).

True faith moves us to action. A believer who has experienced God’s mercy should share that mercy with others — even when it costs comfort or convenience. Your neighbor’s greatest need is not wealth or success; it is reconciliation with God. If you don’t love them enough to tell them the good news, who will?

When questioned about the greatest commandment, Jesus gave a simple but all-encompassing answer: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ... Love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*” [Matthew 22:37-40](#).

Love for God and love for others summarize the entire moral law. And love is not passive, it acts. Jesus also commissioned His followers:

“*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*” [Mark 16:15](#).

He warned against living for temporary things:

“*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. ... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” [Matthew 6:19-21](#).

To be “born again” ([John 3:3](#)) is to begin a new life that values eternal treasure over earthly gain. The fate of your neighbor’s eternal soul is at stake!

Jesus calls us too live with eternal perspective.

“*No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.*” [Luke 9:62](#).

“*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*” [2 Corinthians 4:18](#).

Christianity is not a game of “playing church”. It is not a ritual or Sunday routine; it is a relationship that transforms our life and priorities. The world’s wisdom seeks comfort and recognition, but **God’s wisdom calls us to faithfulness and eternal focus**. The greatest act of wisdom is to love God wholeheartedly and to lead others to do the same.

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# Chapter 27

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## Final Thoughts

OK! You might be thinking,

“I’m convinced about the reliability of the Bible — and I want to be sure I’m a Christian, headed to Heaven when my time on this earth is over. So, what exactly do I need to do to be saved and spend eternity with God?”

The Bible gives us a clear answer:

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”* ([Acts 16:31](#)).

*“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...”* ([Acts 3:19](#)).

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”* ([Ephesians 2:8](#)).

*“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.”* ([Isaiah 26:4](#), ESV).

*“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.”* ([Isaiah 12:2](#)).

### **Belief. Repentance. Grace. Faith. Trust.**

These five words describe the foundation of salvation.

You must willingly submit your life to the lordship of Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him alone as Master. Anything that has taken His place like false religion, personal ambition, or worldly comfort must be surrendered. Let God be God on the rightful throne of His creation, including your life.

If you recognize the truth but refuse to accept it, then you are rejecting the free gift of God, which is the forgiveness of all your sins and eternal life.

There is only one thing required to be sure of your salvation:

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”* ([Acts 16:31](#)).

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* ([John 3:16](#)).

Salvation comes by believing in Jesus Christ — not as an idea or moral teacher, but as the living Son of God who died for your sins and rose again.

*“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we preach: that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* ([Romans 10:8–10](#)).

Faith begins in the heart and finds its expression in confession.

With that said, the word *believe* is often misunderstood.

In [Genesis 15:6](#) we read:

*“Abraham believed the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* In both Hebrew and Greek, the word “believe” is action oriented. It’s more than acknowledging truth intellectually. *“Even the demons believe and shudder.”* ([James 2:19](#)).

True belief requires genuine faith, which is trusting Jesus Christ. This is a faith that enables you to release your own agenda, desires, and will in submission to God. It shows action. Scripture often uses the words “believe” and “obey” interchangeably, emphasizing God’s view of faith as an obedient faith.

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* ([John 3:36](#)).

*“And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?... So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”* ([Hebrews 3:18–19](#)).

*“And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.”* ([Hebrews 5:9](#)).

*“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”* ([Luke 9:62](#)).

Believing, as God defines it, means trusting and obeying Him. It’s a living faith empowered by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to do what we could never do on our own.

Eternal salvation is for those who have this obedient faith. Belief that saves is belief that *acts*, motivated and strengthened by the Holy Spirit within. If you struggle with doubt but genuinely desire truth, pray as the father of the possessed boy prayed: “*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.*” ([Mark 9:24](#)).

Please know that I am not talking about sinless perfection. For that, we as believers eagerly await the rapture of the church when our sin nature will be removed. How I look forward to that day! Remember, even the apostle Paul had trouble with sin while walking on this earth. “*For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do*” ([Romans 7:19](#)).

Without the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, it isn’t possible to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. The Holy Spirit convicts, comforts, and empowers believers. Consider just a few ways He works:

- **He draws** – “*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.*” ([John 6:44](#)).
- **He instructs** – “*When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.*” ([John 16:13–14](#)).
- **He reminds** – “*The Helper, the Holy Spirit... will bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*” ([John 14:26](#)).
- **He regenerates** – “*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*” ([John 3:5](#)).
- **He baptizes** – “*By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.*” ([1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).
- **He indwells** – “*Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you.*” ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#)).
- **He seals** – “*Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*” ([Ephesians 1:13–14](#)).
- **He assures** – “*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*” ([Romans 8:16](#)).
- **He strengthens** – “*That you may be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner being.*” ([Ephesians 3:16](#)).
- **He fills and inspires thanksgiving** – “*Be filled with the Spirit... giving thanks always for all things.*” ([Ephesians 5:18–20](#)).
- **He liberates** – “*The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free.*” ([Romans 8:2](#)).
- **He directs** – “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*” ([Romans 8:14](#)).
- **He enables prayer** – “*by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit*” ([Jude 20](#)).
- **He enables worship** – “*We worship God in the Spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus.*” ([Philippians 3:3](#)).
- **He gives life** – “*He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.*” ([Romans 8:11](#)).
- **He calls to service** – “*The Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul.’*” ([Acts 13:2](#)).
- **He guides and speaks** – “*The Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’*” ([Acts 8:29](#)).
- **He illumines truth** – “*We have received the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us.*” ([1 Corinthians 2:12](#)).
- **He empowers and produces fruit** – “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*” ([Galatians 5:22–23](#)).

These blessings are very encouraging, but they are not applied in the fullest sense to every believer. We must yield daily to the Holy Spirit if we want His fruit to flourish in our lives.

“*He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’*” ([Matthew 16:15](#)).

This is the most important question you will ever answer, and your answer will have eternal consequences. Peter’s reply was:

“*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” ([Matthew 16:16](#)).

Jesus commended Peter for this confession. Sadly, many today claim to “believe in Jesus” but stop short of believing in the true Jesus.

Different religions redefine Him:

- Muslims call Him a prophet.
- Mormons claim He is a created being, a “god among gods.”
- Jehovah’s Witnesses deny His deity entirely.

But Scripture is clear:

“*For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by Him and for Him.*” ([Colossians 1:16](#)).

“*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*” ([John 1:1, 14](#)).

Jesus is not a created being — He is the eternal Creator, God the Son.

As I said on the first page, “I will begin and end this book with three promises from God. One from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament”. Here they are again:

“And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart” ([Jeremiah 29:13](#)).

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” ([James 4:8a](#)).

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- “Believe, Repent, Confess: The Biblical Response to the Gospel.” One-page flowchart summarizing Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9–10; John 3.
- “What the Holy Spirit Does in Salvation.” Diagram of drawing, regenerating, indwelling, sealing, empowering (with references listed in the chapter).
- “Faith that Works Through Love.” Visual showing the relationship of saving faith → obedience as fruit (John 3:36; Eph. 2:8–10; Jas. 2:14–26).
- “Assurance vs. Presumption.” Table contrasting biblical assurance (Rom. 8:16; 1 Jn 5:13) with false assurance.

## God's Plan of Salvation for Man

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created man in His image (see Genesis. 1:27). At that time, God and man lived in perfect harmony in a perfect world. Then the serpent (Lucifer/Satan), a fallen angel who wanted above all things to be as God himself, tempted Adam and Eve with the two biggest lies that have ever been told. These lies were: "Ye shall not surely die:" and "ye shall be as gods" (see Genesis 3:4-5 & Deuteronomy 4:39). Adam and Eve willingly embraced the lies of Lucifer and rejected God's plan and instructions for them. This is where sin entered the human race. (see Romans 5:12)

We further learn from the Bible that because of God's purity and holiness, He cannot have any sin in His presence (see Habakkuk 1:13, Psalms 5:4, Revelation 21:27 & Psalms 97:2). So when Adam and Eve, and subsequently every one of us in the human race, choose the way of sin and rebellion, (see Romans 3:10, 3:23 & 6:23) it is simply justice that demands our separation from God.

From the time of Adam and Eve until the present time, the Bible records several thousand years of man's efforts to do it his way (become as God), or to be reunited to God by his own efforts. These efforts, no matter how diligently pursued have never worked, nor can they ever work, because man with his sinful nature is not capable of reaching God's standard of absolute purity or sinlessness (see Isaiah 64:6).

So, if history has so clearly proven that man cannot become God, or even come back to God through his own self efforts, is there then any hope that we can escape this sinful fallen state and imperfect world in which we live? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" (see Romans 5:8). And this is what Jesus Christ and Christianity is all about.

God in His infinite mercy and love has provided a way (see John 14:6, 5:24, Acts 4:12, & Ephesians 2:8-9). It was a costly way, but it was the only way to bridge the separation that sin had caused between man and his creator (see Hebrews 9:22). God gave his only begotten and sinless Son as a ransom worthy of paying the price necessary to pardon us from the condemnation and just separation from God caused by our sin (see 2 Cor. 5:21 & John 3:16).

While Jesus Christ's willing sacrifice on the cross was worthy to cleanse all people from all sin and from eternal separation from God, (see 1 John 1:7) He has never forced anyone to accept the gift. He offers it to all who desire it and ask for it, though (see Romans 10:9 & 13 & Matthew 10:32). Kings and paupers must all come to Christ the same way. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Many would try to add good works, righteous deeds, church traditions or denominational affiliations as pathways to salvation (see Titus 3:5 & Romans 3:28); but the Bible is clear that doing so can only have the opposite effect. For if we try to add anything to grace; then "grace is no longer grace" (see Romans 11:6 & Galatians 5:4). It is only with a humble and thankful heart that God's grace is received by faith. And it is only there, at the foot of the cross, that we can be forgiven and rest in the assurance of our salvation from the punishment we deserve for the sins we have committed.

This brief explanation of God's plan of salvation is given that you too may come to the One who loves you more than you can imagine; if that is your desire. The steps below will guide you. Tell God in prayer that you are ready to make a true heart commitment to Him and accept the cleansing gift of His only begotten and sinless Son. Now is the time to make your decision. This is the most important decision of your life (see John 8:24). Please do not take it lightly. There may not be a "later" (see 2 Corinthians 6:2).

*Heavenly Father,*

*I see my sins (through the truth of Your word) and realize that my sins are what separate me from You. I am sorry for my sins and desire to turn from the wrong ways I have been directing my life. I repent and believe in the perfect life's work of your Son, Jesus, as revealed in the Bible, to cleanse me from my sin. From this day forward I ask that you come in to me and be the Lord and guiding light of my life. I thank you and accept as a free gift, the worthy sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross to pay for my sins. Thank you for forgiving my sins and saving my soul for all eternity.*

I have sincerely prayed the above prayer to the best of my understanding and ability. I understand there are no other requirements for becoming a Christian; but that full meaning and purpose in this life comes only when I willingly die to self and allow Jesus Christ to live through me. Increased blessings will also come in this life and in heaven as I am obedient and grow in the knowledge and application of my Christian faith through the Word of God, the Bible.

Although signing a piece of paper has nothing to do with salvation, signing may be helpful to you in recollecting your point of decision or commitment to Christ.

I (signature) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the above message and wish to acknowledge my acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of my life.

I (signature) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the above message and do not choose at this time to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

\*Notice (Matthew 12:30) that to make no decision about Jesus Christ, and your relationship to Him; is to make a decision against Him. Even though our God is a God of second chances, no decision is the same as a “NO” decision.

Bible References  
(Please also read this most important section)

*Gen 1:27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

*Gen 3:4-5 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”*

*Deut. 4:39 “Therefore know this day, and consider in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on earth beneath; there is no other.”*

*Rom 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all have sinned:”*

*Hab 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...”*

*Rev. 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it (Heaven) any thing that defileth...”*

*Rom 3:10 “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”*

*Rom 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

*Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

*Jam. 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

*Isa 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags...”*

*Rom 5:8 “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*John 14:6 “Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”*

*Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

*Heb 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of Blood is no remission.”*

*John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

*Eph 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

*Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”*

*Rom. 3:28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

*Rom. 11:6 “And if by grace, then it is no longer works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.”*

*Gal. 5:4 “You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”*

*John 6:28-29 "Then they said to Him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."*

*2 Cor. 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."*

*Gal. 2:21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."*

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

*1 John 5:12 "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*

*1 John 1:7 "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

*Luke 11:9 "And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."*

*Jer. 29:13 "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."*

*2 Cor. 7:10 "Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation."*

*Rom. 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

*Rom 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

*Matt. 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven"*

*John 8:24 "...If you do not believe I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."*

*2 Cor 6:2 "...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

*Matt. 12:30 "He that is not with Me is against Me..."*

\* If you have not yet settled the matter of your eternal destiny and relationship with Jesus Christ, please go back to the prayer on the proceeding page and give yourself to Him in complete trust. Jesus Christ loves you and invites you to accept the gift and payment which He has already made to rid you of your sins and the consequences they demand. He waits now (2 Corinthians 6:2), but the Bible tells us that a time will come when He can wait no longer. Please do not slumber this day only to awaken in hell for eternity. There is a way out. It is Jesus Christ. Now it is up to you to accept or reject the payment He has made and be willing to die to your old life of sin and rebellion. Remember, you are not expected to do this on your own. If you desire, however, and ask Him, He is sure to give you the help you need in the path of your new life. Read your Bible, pray, and gather for worship and study with other Bible believing Christians. The Bible we have today is still the infallible Word of God and contains the keys to the meaning of life and a light for the pathway to Heaven.