

WHY CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE HOLY BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

- I. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS MAKEUP (How It Is Put Together).
- A. The Bible Is one Unit (a library) Containing sixty-six different Books, Written during a Time Span Covering about 1,500 Years.
 - B. The Bible Was Written in three different Languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic – a Semitic language of the Ancient Near East) by forty Writers.
 - C. The Bible Contains History, Law, Prophecy, Biography and personal Letters.
 - D. The Bible Has one main Theme, *The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth*, and one main Person, *The King of that Kingdom* (the Lord Jesus Christ) (John 18:33-37).
- II. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE IT IS CONSISTENT AND ACCURATE.
- A. The Bible Is **Consistent** (in perfect agreement from beginning to end) Concerning God’s Plan for Mankind (Gen 2:9; Rev 21:2; 22:1-2).
 - B. The Bible Is **Accurate** (correct) when It Speaks on any Subject (science, botany, zoology, etc.). It Is Accurate even when It Uses figurative Language like “four corners of the earth” for North, South, East and West; or “sunrise” and “sunset” for the Earth’s Rotation (see any daily newspaper weather column for the time of *sunrise* and *sunset*).
 - 1. It is historically accurate even though it is not historically complete.
 - 2. The prophets were real persons whose existence can be verified in encyclopedias and in secular history books.
 - 3. Its historical statements have never been proven wrong.
 - 4. Its accuracy has been doubted in the past due to the lack of evidence, but many questionable passages have been proven correct by modern archaeological findings.
 - 5. Only God, Who knows the beginning and the end of History (Isa 57:15), could have known the historical accounts as accurately as they are found in the Bible.

III. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS GODLY ORIGIN AND PRESERVATION.

A. The Bible's Godly *Origin* (where it came from).

1. The Old Testament writers were divinely inspired (guided or instructed) directly by God through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:16; 28:25).
 - a. God used the prophets as His representatives to write the Old Testament (2 Kgs 17:13; Heb 1:1).
 - b. Jesus Christ recognized the human writers of the Old Testament.
 - 1) The Prophet Isaiah (Esaias) in Matthew 15:7-8 (cf. Isa 29:13).
 - 2) The Prophet-King David in Luke 20:42-43.
 - 3) The Prophet Moses in John 5:46 (cf. Deu 18:15).
 - c. Jesus Christ recognized the Holy Spirit as being the author of the Old Testament in Mark 12:35-36.
 - d. The Apostle Peter tells how God inspired the Old Testament writers in 2nd Peter 1:19-21 (cf. 2 Sam 23:1-3).
 - e. The actual writer of the Book of Jeremiah (Baruch) was not directly inspired, but was only guided by God indirectly by the Prophet Jeremiah, as in Jeremiah 36:4 and 32.
 - f. The Bible clearly states many times that the prophets actually wrote the very words that God spoke (see Eze 3:16-17 & cf. Mat 1:22-23 with Isa 7:14 & cf. Acts 4:24-26 with Psa 2:1-2; & cf. Mat 2:15 with Hos 11:1).
2. The New Testament writers were also divinely inspired directly by God through the Holy Spirit (the Holy Ghost).
 - a. The Holy Ghost spoke through them (cf. John 14:26 with 1 Cor 2:12-13 & 1 Thes 2:13).
 - b. Jesus Christ recognized both the human element and the Holy Ghost in producing the Scriptures (cf. John 14:16-17, 26 with John 16:12-15).
 - c. In some of the New Testament Books, the inspired writers did not actually pen the words themselves but dictated them to scribes (writers) (Luke 1:1-4; Rom 1:1, 7; 16:22; 2 Thes 3:17).
3. The Bible is inspired (influenced by God).
 - a. God *inspired* (told men to write down) His actual *W-O-R-D-S* (Mat 4:4; John 14:23; 15:7) and not just his "Word" (God's message) (Isa 1:10; Jer 1:2; Eze 1:3; Hos 1:1; Joel 1:1).
 - b. The way of inspiration (2 Tim 3:16) is given as first being written down (Luke 1:1-4) and then God gives life to the words that were written down (see Heb 4:12 & cf. 2 Tim 4:1), just as He gave life to Adam in Genesis 2:7 after he was formed out of dirt (Eze 37:1-10).
4. The Bible is reliable (dependable or trustworthy).

- a. The result of inspiration is that one can know that the written words of the Bible are in fact the words that God wants us to have (1 Thes 2:13).
 - b. Jesus Christ claimed that the Scriptures were both trustworthy and indestructible (Mat 5:18; 24:35).
 - c. Jesus Christ supported the belief in the accuracy of Old Testament historical information.
 - 1) He spoke of Adam, Eve and Abel as being literal (actual) people in Matthew 19:4 and Matthew 23:35.
 - 2) He spoke of Noah and the flood as being real in Matthew 24:37-39.
 - 3) He spoke of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David as being actual people in Matthew 8:11 and Matthew 12:3-4.
 - 4) He spoke of Moses as being a real person in John 3:14.
 - 5) He spoke of Jonah and the whale as actually existing in Matthew 12:40.
 - d. No true statement of the Scriptures (the Bible) has ever been proven wrong, even though many people have claimed that there are many discrepancies (mistakes) and contradictions (disagreements) in them (Rom 3:4).
5. The Bible is authoritative (has the power or right to give commands).
- a. Jesus Christ accepted and approved the Scriptures as having complete authority (Luke 4:4; Mat 22:29; Mark 10:18-19).
 - b. Jesus Christ determined (settled) matters of faith and doctrine (belief and teaching) by appealing to Scripture (calling on them for authority) (see Luke 24:25, 27, 44-46 & cf. Gal 4:30a).
- B. The Bible's Godly **Preservation** (how it is kept from destruction).
- 1. Its *preservation* is proclaimed (announced or declared) throughout the Scriptures Themselves.
 - a. God says that His words are *purified* and *preserved* (kept) in Psalm 12:6-7 (Mat 24:35), and *settled forever* in Psalm 119:89.
 - b. God declared that He does not want Mankind to add to His word (Deu 4:2, Pro 30:5-6; Rev 22:18), to take away from His word (Deu 12:32; Ecc 3:14; Jer 26:2; Rev 22:19), or to take His word out of its context (Mat 22:23-30).
 - c. Jesus Christ promised the preservation of God's words to sanctify (cleanse) believers in John 17:14-17.
 - 2. Its *preservation* is demonstrated (shown) throughout history.
 - a. Many groups have attempted, without success, to destroy the Bible. Even today many that believe the Bible suffer persecution and death.
 - b. Even though those who dared to read, print or translate the Bible were persecuted, and oftentimes suffered death (like Wycliffe, Tyndale, John Huss, etc.), the Bible was not destroyed.

- c. Many efforts have been made to weaken one's faith in (trust in) the inspiration and authority of the Bible without success.
 - d. Some countries even today have laws making it illegal for their citizens to own a protestant version of the Bible.
 - e. While most books are forgotten in a few hundred years, the Bible continues to be a "World's Best Seller" every year.
3. Its method of *preservation* is clear.
- a. The Old Testament was given to the Jews for safekeeping (Rom 3:1-2; Jer 36:2, 27-28, 32).
 - 1) The Jews copied the Old Testament by hand with pen and ink, first on treated animal skins and later on papyrus scrolls (rolls of paper).
 - 2) The Jewish Scribes (copyists and interpreters) counted the number of letters and words on each line and page in order to guard against errors and to insure that every word and letter was copied onto the new page.
 - 3) The Scribes also counted to the middle letter of each book and then checked it against the middle letter of their copy to insure the accuracy of the new manuscript. If the new scroll did not match the old one, the new manuscript was thrown away, burned or buried.
 - b. The New Testament writers were used of God to preserve both the written and the spoken words that God wanted Man to have (Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30-31; 21:25; 2 Pet 3:15-16; Rev 22:18-19).

IV. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS INERRANCY (It Has no Proven Error, Mistake or Contradiction in It).

- A. God Cannot Lie (Tit 1:2), so whatever He Says must Be True (Rom 3:4).
- B. The Bible Says that the Scriptures Are True (John 17:17) and Cannot Be Broken (Its prophecies cannot be destroyed or dissolved) (John 10:35).
- C. There Has never Been one *proven* Error, Mistake, Contradiction or Falsehood Found in the Bible.
 - 1. Many so-called errors, mistakes, contradictions and falsehoods are usually due to not having all the facts or due to a misunderstanding of the texts (verses or passages) involved (Mat 22:29).
 - 2. Most Bible difficulties are usually not too hard to solve. The reader only needs to take a closer look at the Scriptures that are involved to solve the problem.

- a. Compare 1st Kings 7:23 & 26 with 2nd Chronicles 4:2 & 5.
- b. Kings gives the amount of water that is *to be kept* in the molten sea (the container) and Chronicles gives the amount that the container *could hold* if it were filled to the very top.

V. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS PURPOSE.

- A. The Bible Was Written to Show Mankind's false Beliefs about the true God (Rom 1:21-32; Acts 17:22-25).
- B. The Bible Was Written to Show Mankind How to Get to Heaven (John 20:30-31; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor 15:1-4).
- C. The Bible Was Written to Explain to Mankind God's Plan for Man's Life (Eph 3:1-12; 1 Cor 15:21-28).
- D. The Bible Was Written to Show Mankind that God Is Immutable (God never changes) (Heb 6:17-18; Mal 3:6; Num 23:19; Jas 1:17).
- E. The Bible Was Written to Give Mankind a Standard to Live by, One that Can Be Checked (Mat 4:4; 22:35-40; Isa 34:16a; Gal 4:30a).
- F. The Bible Was Written to Be a Record for Mankind of God's Warnings and Justice (Exo 17:14; Isa 30:8-9; Rom 14:12; 2 Cor 5:10).
- G. The Bible Was Written to Benefit the Israelites (to help the Jews) (Jer 36:1-8; Deu 5:1) and to Benefit the Christians (the Gentiles) (Rom 4:23-25; Eph 3:1-6; 1 Cor 10:1-10; Heb 1:1-2).
- H. The Bible Was Written to Give Believers Joy (1 John 1:1-4).
- I. The Bible Was Written to Give Believers Hope (Rom 15:4).
- J. The Bible Was Written to Keep Believers from Sinning (1 John 2:1; Psa 119:9, 11).
- K. The Bible Was Written to Exhort Believers (to urge them to go on) (Jude v.3).
- L. The Bible Was Written to Bless Believers (Rev 1:3).

- VI. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS MORAL CHARACTER (Its High and Good Standards).
- A. The Bible Is morally Superior (having higher standards of right and wrong behavior) to all other religious Writings (Exo 20:1-17).
 - B. The Bible Caused the Israelites (the Jews) of the Old Testament to Become a People Having a high Value for Human Life and high Morals in the Middle of other Nations Having low Morals and a low Value for Human Life (Deu 18:9-14).
 - C. The Bible Caused the Christians of early New Testament Times to Stand out as a People Having high Morals and a high Regard for Human Life (Eph 5:1-20; Rom 13:8-10; 1 Pet 4:14-16).
- VII. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS TRANSFORMING POWER (Its Ability to Change People).
- A. The Greatest Value that the Bible Has Is Its positive Influence on those that Hear It, Read It, and Act on It.
 - 1. It converts sinners (saves them) (2 Tim 3:15; Jas 1:21).
 - 2. It changes lives (Psa 119:9, 11; 1 Thes 2:11-14).
 - 3. It furnishes believers unto good works (it provides a guide for them to follow to do good works) (Eph 2:10; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Eph 2:10).
 - B. The Bible Is Able to Provide for the different Needs of every Believer (Rom 15:4; 1 Pet 2:2).
 - C. The Believer Is Able to Learn Something new every Time He Reads or Studies the Bible (1 Cor 2:9-14; Isa 28:9-10; 2 Tim 2:15).
- VIII. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS FULFILLED PROPHECIES (Its Predictions that Came True).
- A. Only God Is Able to Have Knowledge of the Future that Is Infallible (unable to make a mistake) (Isa 41:21-23, 26; 57:15).
 - 1. The Prophets of God are always 100% correct (Deu 18:20-22).
 - 2. All other prophets are correct no more than about 80% of the time, usually around 50% of the time.

- B. The Following Are only *Some* of the many Prophecies Concerning the First Advent (coming) of Jesus Christ, which Were Fulfilled in *every* Detail.
1. **Fulfilled Prophecies that Predicted Events of Christ's Birth:**
 - a. In Genesis 3:15 it was predicted 4,000 years before it happened that Christ would be born of the seed of a woman instead of a man's seed (Luke 1:26-35; Gal 4:4).
 - b. In 2nd Samuel 7:12-13 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would be a descendant of King David (Mat 1:1; Acts 2:29-30).
 - c. In Isaiah 7:14 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would be born of a virgin (Mat 1:18, 21-23).
 - d. In Micah 5:2 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would be born in Bethlehem (Mat 2:1-6).
 2. **Fulfilled Prophecies that Predicted Events of Christ's Life:**
 - a. In Deuteronomy 18:15 it was predicted 1,500 years before it happened that Christ would be a prophet like Moses (Acts 3:20-22).
 - b. In Psalm 2:1-2 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that kings and rulers would take counsel against Christ (Acts 4:26-27).
 - c. In Psalm 41:9 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would be betrayed by His own familiar (close) friend (John 13:18-26; Mat 26:47-50).
 - d. In Psalm 69:4 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would be hated without a cause (for no just reason) (John 15:23-25).
 - e. In Psalm 78:2 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would speak using parables (Mat 13:34-35).
 - f. In Isaiah 9:1-2 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would be the light (preacher) that would bring the people out of spiritual darkness (Mat 4:12-17).
 - g. In Isaiah 35:5-6 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would heal the blind, the deaf and the lame (Mat 11:4-5).
 - h. In Isaiah 42:1-3 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would keep a low profile during His early ministry (Mat 12:15-20).
 - i. In Isaiah 53:9 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that no deceit (guile) would be found in Christ's mouth (speech) (1 Pet 2:21-22).
 - j. In Isaiah 61:1-2 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would preach the gospel (good news; glad tidings), heal the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:14-21).
 - k. In Hosea 11:1 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that God would call His son (Jesus Christ) out of Egypt (Mat 2:13-15).

- l. In Zechariah 9:9 it was predicted 550 years before it happened that Christ would enter Jerusalem riding on an ass (a donkey) as a King (Mat 21:1-5).
 - m. In Malachi 3:1 it was predicted 400 years before it happened that a messenger would prepare the way for Christ's ministry (Mark 1:2-3).
3. **Fulfilled Prophecies that Predicted Events of Christ's Death:**
- a. In Psalm 22:1 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would ask why He was forsaken by God (Mat 27:46).
 - b. In Psalm 22:7-8 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would be mocked (made fun of) at His death (Mat 27:39-44).
 - c. In Psalm 22:16 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would have His hands and feet pierced at His death (John 19:18; 20:24-27).
 - d. In Psalm 22:18 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ's garments (clothes) would be parted (divided) by casting lots (gambling) (Mat 27:35).
 - e. In Psalm 34:20 (cf. Exo 12:46) it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that none of Christ's bones would be broken at His death (John 19:32-33, 36).
 - f. In Psalm 35:11 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would be accused by false witnesses (Mat 26:59-60).
 - g. In Psalm 69:21 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would be offered gall and vinegar to drink at His death (Mat 27:34).
 - h. In Isaiah 50:6 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would be hit (smitten) and spit on (Mat 27:27-30).
 - i. In Isaiah 53:7 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would not defend Himself (openeth not his mouth) (Mat 27:12-14).
 - j. In Isaiah 53:9 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would be buried in a rich man's tomb (grave) (Mat 27:57-60).
 - k. In Isaiah 53:12 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would die between two criminals (transgressors) (Mark 15:27-28).
 - l. In Isaiah 53:12 it was predicted 750 years before it happened that Christ would intercede with God the Father to forgive those who had Him crucified (Luke 23:34; Heb 7:22-25).
 - m. In Amos 8:9 it was predicted 800 years before it happened that there would be total (complete) darkness on the earth at noon on the day that Christ died (Mat 27:45).
 - n. In Zechariah 11:12 it was predicted 550 years before it happened that Christ would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Mat 26:14-15).
 - o. In Zechariah 11:13 it was predicted 550 years before it happened that Christ's betrayal money (thirty pieces of silver) would be used to buy a potter's field (cast them to the potter) (Mat 27:3-7).

- p. In Zechariah 12:10 it was predicted 550 years before it happened that Christ would be stared at by those who pierced Him (John 19:34-37).
 - q. In Zechariah 13:7 it was predicted 550 years before it happened that Christ would be forsaken (abandoned) by His followers (Mat 26:31, 56).
4. **Fulfilled Prophecies that Predicted Events of Christ's Resurrection:**
- a. In Psalm 16:10 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ's Soul would not be left in hell and His Body would not see corruption (rot; decay) (Luke 24:1-9; Acts 2:22-31).
 - b. In Psalm 68:18 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ would ascend (go up) into heaven leading those who were held captive in "Abraham's Bosom" (Luke 16:19-26; 24:46-51; Eph 4:8-9; Heb 10:1-10).
 - c. In Psalm 118:22 it was predicted 1,000 years before it happened that Christ's resurrection would make Him the "head cornerstone" (the foundation of salvation) (1 Cor 3:11; Acts 4:10-12).
- C. Christians should Know there Was no Possible Way that Men could have Fulfilled these Predictions (made them come true).
- 1. They could not have fulfilled them because of the length of time between each prophecy and its fulfillment.
 - 2. They could not have fulfilled them because Jesus Christ, or His followers, had no control over many events (things that happened) that fulfilled prophecies.
 - 3. They could not have fulfilled them because some prophecies were not understood even when they were first received directly from God (1 Pet 1:9-11). Therefore, men would not think of controlling the events needed to fulfill them.