



EVOLUTION ILLUSION

THE BIBLE

[This is the transcript from the free **Evolution Illusion 3D Museum** program.
Download it free from www.NewHeartAndMind.com]

Welcome to the Bible exhibition!

It is said, and true, that faith without evidence is superstition. We all know that it is unreasonable to believe that breaking a mirror, or the number 13, or even black cats are unlucky. This is true because there is no evidence to prove that these superstitions are true. They are beliefs without evidence.

But what about the Bible? If the Bible has no evidence to back its claim to be the inspired word of God, then it, too, is nothing more than a book of foolish superstitions. However, Christians can be assured that the Bible has clear and powerful evidence backing its claim to be the inspired word of God.

People always have two great questions concerning the Bible. They are: 1) How do we know the text of the Bible has been unchanged all these years? And, 2) If the text of the Bible is unchanged, how can we know that it is actually the word of God?

In this exhibit we will address both of these questions.

A: We will begin by examining the historical authenticity of the actual text by examining archeological discoveries and numerous ancient documents. In doing this, we will establish the unchanged nature of the Scriptures.

B: Secondly, by using the powerful proof of indisputable prophecy, we will show why the Bible stands alone as the only book that can claim to be inspired by God.

C: And finally, we will look at how the Bible personally relates to you. The Bible has made a tremendous positive impact on the world. Because of what it is, " the word of God," it can also have a tremendous impact on your life.



CONTENTS

A. BIBLE RELIABILITY

1) Archeological evidence:

- a. Assyria,
- b. David, c. Shishak

2) Textual Evidence:

- a. New Testament Evidence:

- i. Ancient New Testament Manuscripts,
 - ii. Ancient NT translations,
 - iii. "Church Father" Quotations
- b. Old Testament Evidence:
- i. The Septuagint,
 - ii. Dead Sea Scrolls,
 - iii. The Talmuds,
 - iv. The Targums,
 - v. The Apocrypha

B. PROPHECY

- 1) Definition
- 2) Prophetic Rules
- 3) Jesus and Prophecy

C. THE BIBLE AND YOU

- 1) Impact on Society
- 2) Scientists and the Bible
- 3) The Bible and You



A. BIBLE RELIABILITY

1) Archeological evidence

Some have unjustly complained, "Oh, the Bible has been so distorted throughout the years. No one can honestly trust it."

This unfortunate statement reveals a myth that is believed by many people. Now a "myth" is something unsupported by evidence. But this is not the case with the Bible. There is a tremendous amount of evidence that proves the Bible to be what it claims to be, the actual word of God. In this exhibit you will learn about scientific evidence, as well as evidence within the Bible, that proves it to be God's word.

The renowned archeologist, Nobel Laureate and holder of doctorates from nine universities, Sir William Ramsay, wrote that Luke, the author of the Bible books, Luke and Acts, "was a historian of first rank...." Luke, he continued, "should be placed along with the very greatest historians."

The world famous archeologist, Nelson Gleuck, wrote,

"No archeological discovery has ever been made that contradicts or controverts historical statements made in Scripture."

Two centuries of archeological excavations in the Bible Lands have literally led to the discovery of hundreds of villages and towns mentioned in the Bible. The existence of numerous Biblical characters have been verified. Even entire lost civilizations described in Scripture, have been discovered beneath the sands of time. To be specific, since 1958, over 2,500 Biblical sites have been confirmed by archeological discoveries.

There are too many archeological discoveries to discuss in this exhibit. However, here are three very important and interesting discoveries that illustrate this exciting field of study.

a) Assyria: The existence of Assyria, one of the most powerful civilizations of the Old Testament world, was at one time doubted by some to have even existed. The ancient Greek writer, Lucian of Samosata, wrote,

"Nineveh has perished. No trace remains. No one can say where once it existed."

Until the 19th century, skeptics complained that the Bible was wrong because there was no historical or archaeological evidence that proved that the Assyrian Empire ever existed. The word of God, it seemed, stood alone in its testimony to the existence of Assyria.

But to the surprise of skeptics throughout the world, the first evidences of Assyria were unearthed by archaeologists. Incredible discoveries came to light that not only confirmed the existence of the Assyrian Empire, but also reminded us of the awesome reliability of God's Word.

In 1847, A.H. Layard was exploring the ruins of ancient Nineveh and discovered the palace of King Sennacherib, son of Sargon II, king of Assyria. Among the discoveries that were made, there were records where King Sennacherib described in his own words the extent of his empire:

"The god Assur has entrusted me with an unrivalled submission at my feet... all mankind has been brought in submission at my feet" "The Bible records that at the time of King Sargon's death and Sennacherib's assumption of his father's throne, Hezekiah, king of Judah, "rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him." (2 Kings:18:7)

Actual records found in Sennacherib's throne room detail how Sennacherib set out to destroy Jerusalem in response to Hezekiah's insurrection.

Before Sennacherib attacked Jerusalem, however, the Bible records:

"Now when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem, he decided with his officers and his warriors to cut off the supply of water from the springs which were outside the city, and they helped him." [2 Chronicles 32:2,3]

2 Kings 20:20 records how Hezekiah built a tunnel to bring the water from the spring to within the walls Jerusalem. The motivation behind the stopping and rerouting of the water was to make a siege of Jerusalem as difficult as possible for the Assyrians. The inhabitants of Jerusalem said, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find abundant water?" [2 Chronicles 32:4].

The Bible records, "Now in the 14th year of king Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them." [2 Kings 18:13]. Hezekiah then tried to negotiate a treaty. 2 Kings 18:14 tells how he sent a message to Sennacherib at a city called Lachish, saying, "Withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear." Sennacherib subsequently extracted 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold from Hezekiah. However, Sennacherib marched on to Jerusalem and threatened to take the city, even though Hezekiah had paid him tribute.

The Bible records that Hezekiah asked for the Lord's help. In response to Hezekiah's request, "the angel of the Lord went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when the men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home, and lived in Nineveh"" [2 Kings 19:35,36].

Now here's something very interesting. In the throne room of Sennacherib in Ninevah, there has been discovered a large wall engraving showing how Sennacherib destroyed the city of Lachish. There has also been discovered a six-sided Prism of Sennacherib whereon Sennacherib recorded events of his reign. This is Sennacherib's record of the Judean campaign. Here's what he said.

"Hezekiah, the Jew did not submit to my yoke. I laid siege to 46 of his strong cities, walled forts and countless small villages in their vicinity and conquered by means of ... ramps... battering rams... foot soldiers.... I made [Hezekiah] a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage."

Sennacherib also wrote that, "Hezekiah... did later send to me in Nineveh, my lordly city, ... 30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver...."

Note that nowhere does Sennacherib claim to have taken Jerusalem. He simply claims to have made Hezekiah a prisoner in Jerusalem, "like a bird in a cage."

Both the Prism of Sennacherib and the Bible state that Sennacherib returned to Ninevah. This is where Sennacherib's record ends, but the Bible continues. The Bible states, "And it came about as he [Sennacherib] was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword; and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esharhaddon his son became king in his place." [2 Kings 19:37]

Sennacherib was killed, and his son Esharhaddon seized the throne of Assyria. Archeologists have discovered the records of king Esharhaddon, the son of Sennacherib. In these records, Esharhaddon stated:

"In order to exercise royal authority they killed Sennacherib.... I ascended my father's throne with joy.... I am Esharhaddon, king of the world, king of Assyria... son of Sennacherib"

Assyria, the nation that was once considered a mythological kingdom of the Bible, has been proved to exist. It was a mighty kingdom of the ancient world. Therefore, the Bible was right when all skeptics were wrong. The Bible is historically accurate!

And what about the tunnel of Hezekiah?

As time passed, the Assyrian empire eventually fell. The empires of Babylon, the Medes, the Greeks, and the Romans also fell. And in all this time of the rise and fall of world empires, the tunnel that Hezekiah had built under the walls of Jerusalem was forgotten. Even Josephus, the first century historian, did not mention it in his description of Jerusalem. So was the mention of this tunnel in 2 Kings 20:20 a myth, as was suggested by many Bible critics?

Not so. In 1838, Edward Robinson and Eli Smith discovered and walked the entire length of the tunnel of Hezekiah. However, a fantastic discovery concerning the tunnel did not take place until 1880 when a small boy fell into the pool of Siloam. He raised his head and noticed strange engraving on the wall. Upon examination by Hebrew scholars, the engravings were identified as ancient Hebrew. Several months later, Professor A.H. Sayce made a translation of the six lines of letters. It read:

"The tunnel is complete. This is the story of the tunnel. While stonecutters were lifting up the pick, each towards his neighbor [from opposite ends], and while they were yet 3 cubits apart, there was heard a voice of one calling to another; and after that pick struck against pick; the waters flowed from the spring to the pool, 1200 cubits, and 100 cubits was the height of the rock above"

The style of the Hebrew lettering was discovered to be that of Hezekiah's day. So here again the Bible has been proved to be historically correct.

b) King David:

Several years ago, Philip Davies of the Sheffield University once scoffed concerning King David in the Bible.

He said: "King David is about as historical as King Arthur." Now if King David never existed, then our Bible cannot be trusted. Not only that, but the apostles of the New Testament were deceived for quoting from David's writings. If King David never existed, then our Lord Jesus Himself is an imposter, for He was a descendant of David. And if Jesus is an imposter, then our faith is futile. As you can see. If we deny the existence of David, the repercussions of this denial are enormous!

Well, did David really exist? Bible believers have never doubted his existence. We believe the Bible is God's word, but is there any proof outside the Bible that David existed?

In 1993 a fantastic discovery was made. In the city of Dan, among the ruins of an ancient monument, a stone inscription was found with references to the "king of Israel" and the "house of David." Now that is exciting!

Over the years, the names of other Jewish kings have also been found. King David can now be added to Ahab, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Jehoiachin, Jehu, and a host of other Israelite kings whose names have been found in archaeological discoveries. Yes, the Bible is historically accurate.

c) Shishak:

In 1 Kings 14:25 we read that, "Shishak, king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. And took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything." On the Amon temple in Karnak, Egypt, inscriptions by Shishak verify this Bible event. The inscription tells of Shishak's campaigns into Israel, as well of an inscription of Shishak presenting 156 prisoners to his god, Amon. On the south side of the temple is a list of the Judean and Israelite cities that Shishak captured.

Isn't it interesting that the Bible is always confirmed to be historically accurate? Only those who know little of history would dare accuse the Bible of not being historically accurate.



2) Textual evidence:

Now how can we know that the Bible has not been changed throughout its historical descent to us today? It is true that archeological evidence clearly proves that the Bible is historically accurate. However, what about the textual evidence of the Bible itself?

Below is powerful evidence to show why you can trust the Bible, and thus entrust your life to it!

Textual Evidence for the New Testament

The NT is translated from textual sources that can be traced back to the first and second centuries AD. Scholars have in their possession today manuscript evidence that dates back to within only a few years after the last NT documents were written by inspired writers. The amount of textual evidence we have to compare with our modern Bible is truly enormous.

In comparing the Bible to other classical writings, Dr. F. F. Bruce once wrote that we have ...

- 7 copies of Plato that were copied 1,200 years after the originals.
- 2 of Tacitus' Annals that were copied 1,000 years after the originals.

- 8 copies of Thucydides' History that were copied 1,300 years after the originals.
- 9 copies from Euripedes copied 1,500 years after the originals.
- 5 copies of Aristotle that were produced 1,400 years after the originals.

No one doubts the authenticity of these classical writings even though many changes could easily have been made in the many centuries between the original writings and the copies that now exist.

Now then, consider the textual evidence we have for the New Testament:

There are over 5,366 partial or whole Greek manuscripts of the New Testament in existence today. This by far makes the New Testament the most highly documented book of the ancient world! Add to this the fact that there are over 24,600 ancient copies of the New Testament, all written within 35 to 300 hundred years after the originals were written. In short, the amount of textual evidence available to authenticate the NT today is nothing short of staggering!

Every Christian, therefore, can say with absolute confidence that the NT we have today IS what God wants us to have in our possession. There is absolutely no reason to doubt its authenticity.

Below, please find more specific NT textual evidence.

a) Ancient New Testament Manuscripts.

These are just some examples of the more than 5.366 Greek documents available to us today.

- John Rylands Papyrus, Dating AD125-140 (Oldest NT manuscript, Content: Jn 18:31-33,37)
 - Chester Beatty Papyrus, AD200 (All Paul's epistles except Philemon, 1,2 Timothy 2 Thessalonians, Titus, parts of Revelation)
 - P. Bodmer 2, Ad 200 (Matt, Mark, Luke, John 1-14, Chronicles 15-21-fragmented)
 - P Bodmer 7,8, Early 3rdC (Fragments of Luke, John)
 - Barcelona, AD 200 (Portions of Gospels)
 - Oxford & Barcelona, AD 200 (Portions of Gospels)
- The Codex Sinaiticus (330 AD) - A manuscript that contained the Greek Bible. It was purchased from Russia in 1933 by Great Britain and is now housed in the British Museum.
- The Codex Alexandrinus (425 AD) - This Bible is another Greek translation. Currently housed in the British Museum, it is complete except for 40 leaves.
- The Codex Vaticanus (340 AD) - This manuscript is currently housed in the Vatican library in Rome. It originally contained the whole Bible, but parts have been lost.

b) Ancient NT translations

There are over 10,000 ancient translated NT documents available for our study today. They date from between the 2nd to the 7th centuries. The languages used in these documents include Syriac, Coptic, Gothic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Georgian and Nubian. With these, and the many other translations of those times, we have powerful comparative material with which to examine our NT of today. Here are 2 examples.

- The Peshito or Syriac (1st or 2nd century AD) - A common language translation of the entire Bible used in parts of Syria.
- The Vulgate (400 AD) - A Roman Catholic scholar in Bethlehem by the name of Jerome translated the entire Bible into Latin. This Bible became the standard in the Catholic church for well over 1,000 years.

c) "Church Fathers" Quotations

The “church fathers” were church leaders who lived between the 1st and 3rd centuries A.D. They wrote many letters to encourage the persecuted Christians and to defend Christianity against Rome. We have over 36,000 quotations of the New Testament in these letters.

J. Harold Greenlee wrote, "If every ms. [manuscript] of the NT [New Testament] itself were destroyed, the NT could virtually be reconstructed from another significant source, viz., the thousands of NT passages in the writings of the ancient Church Fathers, principally in Greek, Latin and Syriac."

Sir David Dalrymple said that if every copy of the NT had been destroyed, it would be possible to restore the NT, bar 11 verses, entirely from the 2nd and 3rd century church father writings!

Truly, no other book has this kind of solid and undeniable evidence to back it. With this in mind, let us examine just a few of the works of the church fathers.

i. Clement of Rome (A.D. 30-100)

In around AD 97, Clement wrote a letter to the Corinthian church. Here he shows familiarity with the books of Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, 1 Timothy, Titus, Hebrews and 1 John. From his quotes as well as other church fathers, we can see that they believed that the NT books were God inspired. [This Clement is possibly also the Clement Paul refers to in Ph 4:3.]

ii. Justin Martyr (A.D. 100-165)

Born a pagan in Samaria, converted to Christ (possibly in Ephesus), and became a Christian teacher in Rome. In his letters, he referred to the NT many times. Specifically he quoted 43 times from Matthew, 19 times from Luke. He also quoted from Mark and John. He was eventually killed for his faith – hence the name 'Martyr.'

iii. Irenaeus (AD125-192?)

Irenaeus was an elder of Lyons and wrote many letters in defense of Christianity. Most of his writings are lost, but one of his greatest works "Against Heresies" still survives. Here he quotes the NT 1,800 times. He refers to all the gospels, Acts, all 13 of Paul's epistles, 1 Peter, 1 John and Revelation. He considered all the NT books to be inspired of God.

These are just a few of the ancient church fathers and their works. All of these church fathers considered the 27 books of the NT to be inspired by God. From their writings, we see that they accepted no other book to be inspired by God than the Bible.



B. Textual Evidence for the Old Testament

The OT was written over a period of about 1,000 years, from around 1400BC to 400BC. Therefore, we have no original copies of the OT in existence today. However, we do have powerful evidence to show that the text of the OT has been preserved for us today in a manner that can be trusted.

a. The Septuagint

Around 285BC, 70 scholars began to translate the Hebrew OT into the Greek language. This translation became known as the Septuagint, which name means 70. For this reason, the Septuagint often went by its Roman numeral name, "LXX" Over 300 years later, Jesus quoted from the Septuagint during His ministry.

The New Testament writers also quoted from the LXX. Since the Holy Spirit inspired quotation from the Septuagint, we know, therefore, that God is pleased with the translation of His word into other languages. Another important point concerning the preservation of the Septuagint is that when we compare copies we have today with ancient copies, there are only negligible differences. The oldest portion we have of the Septuagint was found on an Egyptian mummy. It dates back to about 150 B.C.

b. Dead Sea Scrolls:

In 1947, two shepherds made an amazing discovery. They discovered a collection of scrolls consisting of 400 books and about 40,000 fragments. Ninety of these books were portions of OT manuscripts! Every OT book except Esther was represented in this discovery. Scholars were exceptionally interested in this discovery. The reason was, that at the time, the only OT manuscripts available were from the Massoretic scribes of the 9th and 10th century AD. But the Dead Sea Scrolls were dated between 175 B.C. and A.D. 68.

One of the most significant discoveries of the Dead Sea Scroll texts was a complete scroll of the book of Isaiah. When this scroll was compared with the Masoretic texts of the 9th and 10th centuries, there were only a few minor variations between the two texts. Think about this for a moment. Over nine hundred years of copy work with only a few variations. The scribes who copied the Bible were not inspired by God. However, they did a magnificent work in preserving for us today the word of God as God would want us to have it today.

c. The Talmuds:

The Talmuds are the collections of many Jewish sayings over several years that were eventually written down by 200 A.D., though some were later added. The Talmuds contain quotations of many OT passages. When comparing these quotations to OT manuscripts we use today, they are practically identical. Yes, we can conclude that the OT is reliable.

d. The Targums:

When the Jews first returned from Babylonian Captivity in 536 B.C., many spoke only Aramaic, the language of the Babylonians. In order to better teach their people, the Jews began translating and paraphrasing portions of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Aramaic. The Jewish religious leaders also felt that it was necessary to write commentaries on the OT Scriptures. The writing of these commentaries and translations became known as the Targums. At first, the material of the Targums was oral. Later, however, the sayings and commentaries of the Jews were preserved in writing. The Targums date primarily between the 1st and 11th centuries A.D., though some were written before the coming of Christ.

There are literally hundreds of other manuscripts and versions that support our OT. Besides this, there are also many translations of the OT in Aramaic, Syrian, Coptic and Gothic. All these translations support the OT text that we have today.

e. The Apocrypha:

The word "apocrypha" means "hidden" or "concealed." The apocryphal books were written between 200

B.C. and A.D. 100. The apocryphal books include books as 1 & 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Bel and the Dragon and 1 & 2 Maccabees.

There are many reasons why these books have never been included in the Bible by the scholarship of the world:

1. The apocryphal books do not claim to be inspired. If a book does not claim to be from God, as the Bible does, one wonders why some would consider the book to be inspired.

2. The apocryphal books do not adhere to clear Bible principles. Godless practices such as lying, suicide, assassination, magic incantation, and prayers for the dead are often approved and encouraged in the apocryphal books.
3. The apocryphal books were never considered to be from God by the Jews to whom they were written. In the time of the OT, when a prophet wrote a book, it was immediately added to the OT because the person writing the book was known to be a prophet. But the Jews rejected the apocryphal writings. When Jesus walked on the earth, neither He, nor the inspired NT writers ever referred to the Apocryphal books.
4. The Apocryphal books were only added to the Catholic Bible over 1,400 years after the completion in writing of Bible books. At the Council of Trent in 1546, it was decided to add some of the Apocryphal books to the Catholic Bible.



B. PROPHECY

1) Definition: Prophecy, Prediction and Charlatans

We live in a world where con men, deceivers and religious charlatans lurk around just about every corner. This has led us to become a very cynical and disbelieving society. As a result, when the word "prophecy" is mentioned, we become very suspicious.

Throughout recent years, many self-acclaimed prophets have made prophecies concerning future events. Many of these prophecies have centered around the end of the world. One such prophecy was made in the book, "The Late Great Planet Earth." It was affirmed in the book that the end of the world would happen in 1988. However, 1988 has come and gone, and the world is still here. The lesson that is learned from such prophecies is that we must caution ourselves about believing prophecies concerning those things that God only knows.

We must keep in mind what Carl Sagan wrote: "There isn't a religion on the planet that doesn't long for a comparable ability - precise and repeatedly demonstrated before committed skeptics - to foretell future events."

When Dr. Sagan wrote this statement, he was speaking in the context of those in the scientific world who could predict future natural events that were based on present physical knowledge. Granted, it is impressive when the weather unfolds as it is predicted, or the appearance of a comet or eclipse is foreknown because of the uniform occurrence of natural laws. However, we would not consider the ordinary occurrence of such natural events to be miraculous.

There is a difference between prediction and prophecy. Prediction is assuming what will happen in the future because of one's present knowledge of naturally occurring events. On the other hand, prophecy is foretelling the future without any present hints or evidence of what will happen. For something to be considered prophecy, there can be no present events in the life of the prophet that would indicate that which is foretold. In this way, therefore, a prophecy is truly a miracle in word.



2) Prophetic Rules

Because men want to be self-proclaimed prophets of the future, God knew that prophecy would be abused. Therefore, He established some strict rules concerning how we should judge one to be a prophet and how to test prophecies. Wayne Jackson explained,

"Prophecy must involve: (1) Proper timing, i.e., the oracle must significantly precede the person or event described. It must be beyond the realm of reasonable calculation so as to preclude the possibility of an educated guess. When one prophesies that it will rain tomorrow, with a weather front moving in, it hardly evidences divine intervention. (2) The prophecy must deal in specific details, not vague generalities which are capable of being manipulated to fit various circumstances. To predict that someone will do something at sometime is not terribly impressive. (3) Exact fulfillment, not merely a high degree of probability, must characterize the prediction. A prophet who is 80% accurate is no prophet at all!"

In Deuteronomy 18:21,22, God gave the true test of a prophet.

"And you may say in your heart, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him."

Let us sum up the identifying marks of true prophecy.

1) A prophecy must be spoken long enough before the fulfillment to leave no question that it was a prophecy, not an educated guess or prediction. For example, we might prophesy that within 20 years there will be tourists in space. But this is not a prophecy. It is an educated guess that is based on present knowledge. This would be a prediction.

2) A prophecy must be specific. It is not a prophecy to state, "My friend will make a journey in the future," or to say, "You will soon have some interaction with children or animals." These are only vague predictions of what will happen. 3) A prophecy must be 100% accurate. Some boast "an 80% success rate" in their "prophecies" of the future. But true prophecy is 100% accurate without exception. Only God knows the future. Therefore, when God makes a prophecy of the future, He is always 100% right.

Now please keep these simple rules in mind when considering the prophecies of the Bible. When one fully understands the nature of true prophecy, he or she comes to truly appreciate this "miracle in words" that we call prophecy.

3) Jesus and prophecy

Now let's put the Bible to the test of true prophecy. Did you know that there are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that refer to Jesus and His ministry? A vast majority of these prophecies were written hundreds of years before Jesus came into the world. According to biblical prophetic rules, if Jesus failed to fulfill just one of these prophecies, then He would not be the Messiah. Add to this the fact that the Bible would not be the inspired word of God as it claims to be.

Please keep in mind that a Bible full of unfulfilled prophecies would be just as great an evidence against it being the word of God as a Bible full of prophecies would be evidence that it is the word of God.

Now please seriously consider this. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that deal specifically with the coming of Jesus. If Jesus failed to fulfill just one of these prophecies, two things would be true:

1) Jesus would not be the Messiah because He did not fulfill all the Messianic prophecies.

2) The Bible would not be the Word of God, because the prophecies it makes about Jesus are not 100% correct.

These are very serious conclusions if Jesus did not fulfill all prophecy concerning the Messiah of Israel. Nevertheless, God is willing to rest His case on the fact that Jesus is the Messiah because of fulfilled prophecy. And what is exciting about this, is that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy to the last detail. For this reason, prophecy is a powerful evidence for the Divine inspiration of the Bible. Fulfilled prophecy sets the Bible apart from all other religious books.

Of the more than 300 prophecies of Jesus as the Messiah, here are twelve exciting prophecies that were fulfilled. As we study these prophecies, you must ask yourself two very important questions.

- 1) Could these prophecies have been fulfilled by anyone except Jesus?
- 2) Could Jesus have fulfilled these prophecies by accident?

Now consider these prophecies in reference to the Messiah that was prophesied in the Old Testament to come in Israel.

1. He was to be a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). 2,000 years later, Jesus was born a Jew of Abraham's lineage (Matthew 1:1).
 2. He was to be a descendant of Judah (Genesis 49:10). 1,800 years later, Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:1-3).
 3. He was to be a descendant of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16). 1,000 years later, Jesus was born a descendant of David (Matthew 1:1).
 4. He was to be born in the time of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:36-44). 600 years later, Jesus was born during the time of the Roman Empire (John 19:15).
 5. He was to be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2). 700 years later, Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-6).
 6. He was to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). 700 years later, Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary (Luke 1:34).
-
1. He was to teach in parables (Psalm 78:2). 1,000 years later, Jesus taught the people in parables (Matthew 13:34,35).
 2. He was to work miracles (Isaiah 35:5,6). 700 years later, Jesus worked miracles among the people of Israel (Luke 7:20-23).
 3. He was to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12,13). 500 years later, Judas agreed to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 27:2-7).
 4. He was to be pierced in His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16). 1,000 years later, Jesus was nailed to a cross (John 19:18).
 5. His clothes were to be gambled for (Psalm 22:18). 1,000 years later, soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes at the foot of the cross (Matthew 27:35).
 6. He was to be raised from the dead (Psalm 16:10). 1,000 years later, Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again (Matthew 28:7).

Now here's some things to seriously consider:

1) Could these prophecies have been fulfilled by anyone except Jesus? One individual of history could have fulfilled one, two or three of these prophecies. But Jesus fulfilled all of them to the last detail.

2) Could Jesus have fulfilled all these prophecies by accident? You know the answer to this. No one man of history could have ever fulfilled all these prophecies by accident. The probability of this happening would have been simply impossible.

Our only conclusion that we must have from Jesus' fulfillment of the more than 300 Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah is that Jesus was who He said He was. He was the Messiah, the Son of God.

But then, there are those who voice their objections. Some ask questions that are fair and must be answered.

Q1) "How can we be sure that the 'prophecies' were not doctored, that is, written after the 'fulfillment?'"

A1) The answer to this objection is simple. The Messianic prophecies are found in the Old Testament. It is a well known and accepted fact among secular and Christian scholars that the Old Testament writings were in existence at least 400 years before Jesus walked on this earth. Therefore, the prophecies were documented in the Old Testament hundreds of years before their fulfillment in Jesus.

Q2) "How can we be sure that the 'fulfillment' events of Jesus' life are true?"

A2) Again, there is a simple answer to this objection. If we consider the New Testament only as a simple historical document, it is a document that was written by many different men. All these men attested to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled all prophecies concerning the Messiah of Israel. They gave their lives in testimony to this fact. The witness of their persecuted lives for the One they accepted as the Messiah is evidence enough that Jesus was the One who fulfilled all prophecies concerning the Messiah of Israel.

Now we can come to no other conclusion that is different from that which those of the first century came. Jesus was the Messiah because He was proved to be such through the powerful evidence of fulfilled prophecy. He was thus more than a holy man of Israel. He was more than a good teacher and religious leader. He was the Son of God, and thus, the One to whom we must give more than just trivial historical notice.



C. THE BIBLE AND YOU

1) The powerful influence of the Bible on society:

No book has ever affected more people in the history of the world than the Bible. It has been hated and loved. Men have sought to destroy it and preserve it. Skeptics and atheists and misguided religionists have tried to ban it from society. Empires and kingdoms have set their forces against its distribution. And yet, it is still with us today. The Bible is still the most popular book of the world.

Here are just a few examples of how men have sought to destroy the Bible:

The Madman:

After the death of Alexander the Great, Antiochus Epiphanes ruled over the Jews. One of his goals was to totally destroy all the Jewish Scriptures. An ancient document recorded:

"And [the officials of Antiochus] rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, and set them on fire. And wheresoever was found with any a book of the covenant, and if any consented to the law, the king's sentence delivered him to death"

The result of this oppression produced a response that was contrary to the desires of Antiochus Epiphanes. Instead of discarding the Scriptures in fear for their lives, the Jews carefully preserved the Holy Scriptures from destruction. Antiochus Epiphanes eventually died, but the Bible lives on.

Diocletian and Constantine:

The Roman Caesar, Diocletian, decreed death to anyone who possessed a copy of the Bible.

Hurst noted that, "all assemblies of Christians were forbidden and churches were ordered to be torn down. Four different edicts were issued, each excelling the preceding in intensity. One edict ordered the burning of every copy of the Bible—the first instance in [Christian] history when the Scriptures were made an object of attack."

However, the very next emperor Constantine declared Christianity legal and authorized the duplication of 50 copies of the Bible.

Diocletian had failed, the Bible lives on.

The Council of Trent:

During the Dark Ages, the Roman Catholic church bought thousands of copies of Tyndale's Bible, and other so called "unauthorized" Bibles. They bought them in order to burn them. Thousands of Bibles were thus burned in public in an effort to keep the Scriptures out of the hands of the common people.

The intention of the misguided Roman Catholic church at this time in history at the Council of Trent was clear. The Bible was to be kept out of the hands and languages of the common people. All copies of the Bible in the common language of the people were to be destroyed.

William Tyndale himself was burned at the stake. Before his death he shouted out, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes!"

Many years later, King James of England authorized the first complete English Bible. It was called the King James Version.

Today, the Bible has been translated in part or whole into over 1,800 languages and dialects. It lives on as men treasure it in their hearts.

Voltaire:

In the 1700's, the French rationalist Voltaire, stated "Within 50 years, the Bible will no longer be discussed among educated people."

Voltaire's influence in France led many to reject the Bible. God's word was once tied to a donkey's tail, dragged through the streets, and ceremonially burned.

Voltaire further predicted that within 200 years of his death, Christianity would be swept into the past. Voltaire was obviously not a prophet. Christianity lives on.

Before his death, Voltaire signed a confessional begging God's forgiveness.

When he died, however, Mozart the composer wrote: "[T]he ungodly, arch-villain, Voltaire, has died miserably, like a dog, just like a brute. That is his reward."

So Voltaire, and many like him, are gone. But the Bible lives on!

Robert Ingersol:

In the early 1900's, the anti-Christian skeptic Robert Ingersol delivered a scathing attack on the Bible when he presented his famous "Mistakes of Moses" lectures.

He wrote the book, "The Age of Reason," as added attack of God's Word. Later, he admitted that he had actually never read the Bible before writing his own book against the Bible.

He once said of the Bible, "In fifteen years, I will have this book in the morgue." Well, Ingersol went to the morgue, but the Bible is still on the world's best seller list. Ingersol is gone. The Bible lives on.

World leaders speak out

Throughout all these centuries of biased and irrational opposition, there are more copies of the Bible in existence today than any other book in the world. The Bible has had more positive effect on the lives of people than any other book of history.

Helen Keller once wrote of the Bible, "The Bible gives me a deep, comforting sense that 'things seen are temporal, and things unseen are eternal'."

In 1636, the second Rule and Precept of Harvard University was:

"Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, [that] the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3), and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning."

The French skeptic, Rousseau, once said: "I must confess to you that the majesty of the Scriptures astonishes me If it had been the invention of man, the invention would have been greater than the greatest heroes."

President Woodrow Wilson once said in reference to the Bible, "A man has found himself when he has found his relation to the rest of the universe; and here is the Book in which those relations are set forth"

Abraham Lincoln said: "Take all this book upon reason that you can, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a happier better man."

Truly, the Bible has been the most loved book of all history. Though hated by those who have fought against its existence, it still lives on. It lives on according to the promise of Jesus, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

John Clifford was right about the Bible when he wrote,

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
When looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How may anvils have you had," said I, "To wear and batter all these hammers so?" "Just one," said he;
then said with twinkling eye, "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone!



2) Scientists and the Bible

A Renaissance Ruse

During the Renaissance of Europe, mankind was awakening to the marvels of science. However, history often portrays that one of the chief conflicts of this time of history was between the logical rationality of science, and the so called "myths" of the Bible. The fact is that there was no conflict between true science and the true facts of the Bible. There never is.

What was true during the time of the renaissance was that scientists as Galileo, Copernicus, Kepler and Newton had to oppose erroneous teachings of man-made religious beliefs, not the true facts in reference to science that are taught in the Bible. The fact is that these men were very religious in their beliefs and creationists in reference to the origin of all things.

Today, evolutionists are being as intolerant and dogmatic as the Middle Aged misguided religious people were in reference to science. Many evolutionists claim that no one can be a true scientist, and still believe that God created the world. In fact, this intolerance is often so malicious that in the 1980's, some legislators of the State of California "... attempted to close the ICR [Institute for Creation Research] Graduate school, branding those who believed in creation as nonscientists regardless of their scientific credentials and accomplishments."

Now imagine for a moment, that you had spent seven years or more of your life studying to be a scientist. When you graduated, imagine being told that your qualifications mean nothing, simply because you choose to believe in creation instead of evolution! Wouldn't that be unfair? Well, that's exactly what some have tried to do to graduates of universities who have maintained their faith in the Bible.

But we can praise God that by early 1992, the Courts of California had thrown out all negative reports against the Institute for Creation Research. This decision by the courts of California thus guaranteed freedom of private Christian institutions to teach creation as a scientifically proven conclusion for the answer to the beginning of all life.

Nevertheless, believing scientists are still under attack as is illustrated in this quote by Steven Schafersman, of Rice University's Department of Geology.

"I dispute Henry Morris's claim that thousands of scientists are creationists. No scientist today questions the past and present occurrence of evolution in the organic world. Those 'thousands of creationists' with legitimate postgraduate degrees and other appropriate credentials are not scientists, precisely because they have abandoned the scientific method and the scientific attitude, criteria far more crucial to the definition of a scientist than the location or duration of one's training or the identity of one's employer"

In response to the accusation, Henry Morris wrote: "At least we creationist scientists can take comfort in the fact that many of the greatest scientists of the past were creationists and for that matter, were also Bible-believing Christians, men who believed in the inspiration and authority of the Bible, as well as in the deity and saving work of Jesus Christ." Morris continued that one of these creationist scientists, "Sir Francis Bacon, is credited with formulating and establishing the scientific method!"

This is the same scientific method Schafersman and others claim creationists ignore. Would they accuse that the great men who developed the scientific method of study were not scientists because they believed in the creating hand of God?

Sir Francis Bacon himself wrote:

"I believe that the Word of God, whereby His will is revealed, continued in revelation and tradition with Moses ... to the time of the Apostles and Evangelists I believe that Jesus, the Lord, became in the flesh a sacrificer and a sacrifice for sin; a satisfaction and price paid to the justice of God ... a conqueror of death and the power of darkness in His resurrection; and that He fulfilled the whole council of God ... according to the eternal will of the Father."

Let's reconsider what Henry Morris said: The fact is that there are thousands of scientists who are not only creationists, but Bible believing Christians. We must pray for these men and women as they face often biased treatment simply because they choose to believe in God who created all life - as opposed to the nonexistent force of evolution. Pray that they may be bold enough to tell the world that there is a God, and all creation is the work of His mighty hand."

Below, please find a list of scientists who not only believed in creation, but who actually established branches of science! As you read through this list, you must make a decision never to let anyone convince you that all scientists are evolutionists. Such is just not true.

BRANCH OF SCIENCE FOUNDED CREATION SCIENTIST – source: www.icr.org

- ANTISEPTIC SURGERY - JOSEPH LISTER (1827-1912)
- BACTERIOLOGY - LOUIS PASTEUR (1822-1895) CALCULUS ISAAC NEWTON (1642-1727)
- CELESTIAL MECHANICS - JOHANN KEPLER (1571-1630)
- CHEMISTRY - ROBERT BOYLE (1627-1691)
- COMPARATIVE ANATOMY - GEORGES CUVIER (1769-1832)
- COMPUTER SCIENCE - CHARLES BABBAGE (1792-1871)
- DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS - LORD RAYLEIGH (1842-1919)
- DYNAMICS - ISAAC NEWTON (1642-1727)
- ELECTRONICS - JOHN AMBROSE FLEMING (1849-1945)
- ELECTRODYNAMICS - JAMES CLERK MAXWELL (1831-1879)
- ELECTRO-MAGNETICS - MICHAEL FARADAY (1791-1867)
- ENERGETICS - LORD KELVIN (1824-1907)
- ENTOMOLOGY OF LIVING INSECTS - HENRI FABRE (1823-1915)
- FIELD THEORY - MICHAEL FARADAY (1791-1867)
- FLUID MECHANICS - GEORGE STOKES (1819-1903)
- GALACTIC ASTRONOMY - WILLIAM HERSCHEL (1738-1822)
- GAS DYNAMICS - ROBERT BOYLE (1627-1691)
- GENETICS - GREGOR MENDEL (1822-1884)
- GLACIAL GEOLOGY - LOUIS AGASSIZ (1807-1873)
- GYNECOLOGY - JAMES SIMPSON (1811-1870)
- HYDRAULICS - LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452-1519)
- HYDROGRAPHY - MATTHEW MAURY (1806-1873)
- HYDROSTATICS - BLAISE PASCAL (1623-1662)
- ICHTHYOLOGY - LOUIS AGASSIZ (1807-1873)
- ISOTOPIC CHEMISTRY - WILLIAM RAMSAY (1852-1916)
- MODEL ANALYSIS - LORD RAYLEIGH (1842-1919)
- NATURAL HISTORY - JOHN RAY (1627-1705)
- NON-EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRY - BERNHARD RIEMANN (1826- 1866)
- OCEANOGRAPHY - MATTHEW MAURY (1806-1873)
- OPTICAL MINERALOGY - DAVID BREWSTER (1781-1868)
- PALEONTOLOGY - JOHN WOODWARD (1665-1728)
- PATHOLOGY - RUDOLPH VIRCHOW (1821-1902)
- PHYSICAL ASTRONOMY - JOHANN KEPLER (1571-1630)
- REVERSIBLE THERMODYNAMICS - JAMES JOULE (1818-1889)
- STATISTICAL THERMODYNAMICS - JAMES CLERK MAXWELL (1831-1879)
- STRATIGRAPHY - NICHOLAS STENO (1631-1686)
- SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY - CAROLUS LINNAEUS (1707-1778)
- THERMODYNAMICS - LORD KELVIN (1824-1907)
- THERMOKINETICS - HUMPHREY DAVY (1778-1829)
- VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY - GEORGES CUVIER (1769-1832)



3) THE BIBLE AND YOU

Applicable to your life!

Some have accused the Bible of being outdated. But anyone who knows the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible does not seriously consider this accusation to be true.

It is true that technologically man has advanced throughout history. But beneath the hi-tech shell in which we live, even astronauts become lonely.

The fact is that human nature has not changed at all. We still need to be loved. We still get depressed, angry, jealous and overpowered by the demands of our day. We still fight wars. We still are fearful of the actions of wicked individuals or the tremendous power of nature.

The truth is that the people of the Bible were no different than we are today.

1. The book of Ruth is a love story.
2. In the Psalms, King David wrote of his joys, fear, loneliness and victories.
3. Acts tells of the growth and difficulties faced by the first Christians.
4. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon debates the meaning of life.

For your own benefit, look through this list and read the suggested verses. God is your heavenly Father who loves you very much. He truly wrote the Bible with you in mind. He wrote the Bible in a way that would answer all your problems and struggles. For this reason, we know that the Bible is from God because it is relevant to all men's problems for all history. You need to give the Bible a chance to change your life.

Courage Psalm 27:14; 121; Philippians 4:4-13

Forgiveness Matthew 18:21-35; Psalm 32:3-7

Depression Psalm 32:1-7

Anger Ephesians 4:25-32

Family Ephesians 6:1-4

Love 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:7-5:12

Marriage 1 Corinthians 7; Ephesians 5:21-33

Anxiety Matthew 6:19-34

Death Matthew 10:28-31; Hebrews 2:14-16

Sin John 8:34-36; 1 John 3:4; Ezekiel 18:20

Being Saved Mark 16:15-16; John 3:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:18-22

Bible 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Psa 19:7-14

Prayer Philippians 4:4-7; James 5:16-18

Truth John 14:6; Ephesians 4:14,15

Freedom John 8: 31-36

Hope Jeremiah 29:11-14

2nd Coming 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Hardships Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:5-13; 1 Peter 1:3-9



References

- BACON, Francis, Literary and Religious Works of Francis Bacon Vol. II pp. 152-154. NORTHROP, Stephen Abbott, "A Cloud of Witnesses" (Portland, Or: American Heritage Ministries)
- BRUCE, F.F. Introduction to the New Testament Textual Criticism, p.25 cited by www.letusreason.com/org
- DALRYMPLE, David - cited by MC DOWELL, J, Evidence that Demands a Verdict, Vol 1, p50,52
- DAVIES, Philip - cited in www.askwhy.co.uk/awscrip/jm1/0300David.html
- EPIPHANES, ANTIOCHUS The Apocrypha, I Maccabees 1:56-57
- GLEUCK, Nelson - cited by DICKSON, Roger E (1997) The Dawn of Belief, p.292 (Winona: J.C.Choate Publications)
- GREENLEE, Harold - cited by BRUCE, F.F. Introduction to the New Testament Textual Criticism, p.25
- HARVARD University, "1636. Old South Leaflets" MODE, Peter G. , "Sourcebook and Biographical Guide For American Church History" (Menasha, WI: George Banta Publishing Co., 1991) pp. 74-75
- HEZEKIAH's Tunnel, by Wayne Jackson, www.christiancourier.org
- HURST, John F (1897), History of the Christian Church (New York: Eaton & Mains) - cited by JACKSON, Wayne (1994), The Holy Scriptures - Indestructible! (www.apologeticspress.org)
- ICRGS, Attempt to close the ICRGS info., Acts & Facts June 2002, www.icr.org
- INGERSOL, Robert - cited by DICKSON, Roger E (1997) The Dawn of Belief, p.335 (Winona: J.C.Choate Publications)
- JACKSON, Wayne (1988) Principles of Bible Prophecy (Apologetics Press, www.apologeticspress.org)
- KELLER, Helen, The story of my life (Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday) King David, www.askwhy.co.uk
- LINCOLN, Abraham - cited by DICKSON, Roger E (1997) The Dawn of Belief, p.337 (Winona: J.C.Choate Publications)
- LINDSEY, Hal (1987) The Late Great Planet Earth, p.54
- LUCIAN of Samosata - cited by ASHLEY, John (March/April 2002) The Good News, (United Church of God)
- MORRIS, Henry (1982) Bible-Believing Scientists of the Past, IMPACT No. 103, www.icr.org
- MOZART, Wolfgang Amadeus - cited by Parton, (1881) 2:617
- RAMSAY, William - cited by ASHLEY, John (March/April 2002) The Good News, (United Church of God)
- ROUSSEAU, Jean Jacques - cited by DICKSON, Roger E (1997) The Dawn of Belief, p.337 (Winona: J.C.Choate Publications)
- SAGAN, Carl (1997) The Demon-Haunted World, p.33 (Headline, London)
- SCHAFERSMAN, Steven - cited by MORRIS, Henry (1982) Bible-Believing Scientists of the Past, Impact No. 103, www.icr.org
- SCIENTISTS, Believing List, (1982) Bible-Believing Scientists of the Past, IMPACT No. 103, www.icr.org
- VOLTAIRE - cited by DICKSON, Roger E (1997) The Dawn of Belief, p.335 (Winona: J.C.Choate Publications)

WILSON, Woodrow - cited by DICKSON, Roger E (1997) The Dawn of Belief, p.337 (Winona: J.C.Choate Publications)