
the father of modern oceanography. Maury concluded that since the Bible said "Whatever passes through the paths of the seas" (Psa. 8:8), there must be paths in the seas. Within a few years he had charted sea lanes and currents and published the first book of oceanography in 1855.

The food, health and sanitation laws of the Law of Moses (Num. 19, Deut. 23:12-13, Lev. 7-9, 11, 13-15) forbidding the eating of unclean (contaminated or disease carrying) foods and requiring separation (quarantine) and cleansing for infectious diseases are comparable only to very modern health laws and practices. In just the last century the dangers of the communication of infection and disease by microorganisms has been discovered. Many nations, from ancient times to modern have been ravaged for being ignorant of or disregarding proper health and sanitation. But Jews faithful to God's Word were protected by the divine wisdom therein.

Confirmed By Fulfilled Prophecy

The Bible is the only "sacred" book to use prophecy to support its claim of inspiration. The Bible contains hundreds of prophecies purporting to tell of events before they occurred. Since men cannot declare events before they occur and the Bible declares events before they occur, the Bible cannot be from men, but from God.

The Bible rests its claim to be the Word of God upon fulfilled prophecy (Deut. 18:20-22; Isa. 41:21-23, 26; 42:9). Jesus explained, "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He" (Jn. 13:19). Over 8,000 (8,352) verses in the Bible contain prophesy. Twenty seven percent (27%) of the Bible is prophetic material. The Bible does not claim 60% accuracy, but 100%! Not one Bible prophesy has failed to come to pass. Peter said "we have the prophetic word confirmed" (2 Pet. 1:19), as these fulfilled prophecies continue to prove the Bible is truly the God's Word.

Tyre was a great Phoenician trading city on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. She was among the greatest and richest cities of the

ancient world, as much of the world's commerce went through her. At the height of her glory, the Bible declared, her enemies would destroy her, "scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock" and "lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water" and become "a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea and you shall never be rebuilt" (Ezk. 26:4, 12, 5).

After a 13 year siege, the Babylonians took and destroyed the mainland city in 573 B.C.. The persistent Tyrians rebuilt their city on a small island off the mainland shore while the old city ruins remained. Why would anyone want to bother to throw the rubble of old Tyre into the water? After 250 years, Alexander the Great swept across Asia Minor and was confronted with the problem of taking the island city of Tyre half a mile off the mainland. Alexander solved the problem by building a causeway from the mainland to the island scraping the rubble of the old city down to the bare rock and laying it in the water. Today, fishermen spread their nets to dry where once a rich city stood.

Two of the mightiest cities of the ancient world, Nineveh and Babylon were subjects of Bible prophesy. The thriving city of Nineveh was to become a desolate place for shepherds to pasture their flocks (Nah.; Zeph. 2:13-15). Likewise, Babylon was to become desolate, but no Arab would tent or flocks pasture there (Isa. 13:19-20; Jer. 50-51). A modern day visitor to these ancient ruins, confirmed seeing flocks on Nineveh's ruins but none on Babylon's (Ferrell Jenkins, *Introduction to Christian Evidences*, p. 104).

I have given just a small sample of the substantial and overwhelming evidence that the Bible is God's Word. God has not given us a revelation and left us to wonder how to pick out the genuine from the counterfeit. The real revelation from God shines out as brightly as a diamond among stones.

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"All Scripture
is given by
inspiration of God"

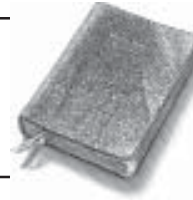
2 Timothy 3:16

Is the Bible God's Word?



Wayne Greeson

Is the Bible God's Word?



It is reasonable, probable and necessary that God has given man a revelation. If God has spoken, might his revelation be any one or all of the sacred books of the world's religions? How do we know that the Bible is God's revelation?

Some argue since many books claim to be divine, therefore none is divine (Volney, "Ruins of Empires"). Suppose a jeweler has twenty rhinestones and one diamond of great value. Can the customer reason since there are fake diamonds, there can be no real diamonds? Twenty men claim to be the one rightful heir to an estate. Should the judge not bother to hear the evidence and dismiss the case upon the principle that since all twenty cannot be the rightful heir, then none is? Is not everything of great value counterfeited, and does this not tend to prove there is a reality?

Claims To Be God's Word

It would first be appropriate to discover what the Bible claims for itself. Does the Bible claim to be from God? If the Bible denies it is a message from God then we can look elsewhere for a revelation. If the Bible claims to be from God, then we should examine the evidence of that claim.

Of all the "sacred" texts of the major world religions, only two actually claim to be revelations from God. The Zoroastrian scriptures of the Parsees of India, the *Zend-Vesta*, the Hindu scriptures, the *Vedas*, the Buddhist texts, the *Tripitka*, and the writings of Confucius, *Discourses and Dialogues*, claim to be the writings of wise and "enlightened" men, not revelations from God. Only the Qu'ran or Koran, the "Holy Book" of Islam and the Bible claim to be God's Word, revealed from God.

The Bible contains 66 books written by 40 different men over 1,500 years, yet it is unified in

its purpose and theme. Other "sacred" books whether written by one man or many, contain internal contradictions and inaccuracies. The diverse writers of the Bible simply, rationally and repeatedly claimed the words they wrote came not from themselves but from God. This amazing claim is made over 2,600 times in the Old Testament alone, including Moses (Ex. 20:1; Lev. 1:1; Num. 1:1; Deut. 1:3); David (2 Sam. 23:1-2); Isaiah (Isa. 1:2); Jeremiah (Jer. 10:1-2); Ezekiel (Ezk. 1:3) and virtually every other Bible writer.

Jesus and the New Testament writers accepted and confirmed this claim of divine authorship. Jesus called the Old Testament scriptures "the Word of God" (Jn. 10:35). Paul wrote "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16), which literally means "God breathed." Peter said, that scripture "never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:21). This claim includes the New Testament writings (Jn. 16:13; 2 Pet. 1:3; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-5).

Presents Accurate Historical Facts

The Bible reveals God's plan for man, of redemption and salvation, through the history of the Jewish people. That plan culminates in the real life and person of Jesus of Nazareth. Other religious books center upon one man's teachings and rarely if ever deal with actual historical persons and events. This is the case for Islam's Qu'ran, based upon Mohammed's teaching; Buddhism upon Buddha's teachings and Confucianism on Confucius' teachings.

Only the Bible is historically accurate. People, times and places have been confirmed historically in hundreds of instances. At least 44 Old Testament and 17 New Testament figures have been identified from ancient records outside the Bible. Bible skeptics have questioned the existence of many people mentioned in the Bible including Belshazzar (Dan. 5), Pontius Pilate (Mt. 27) and the Hittite people (Josh. 9:1).

In 1854 Sir Henry Rawlinson found an inscription referring to the eldest son of Nabonidus, Belshazzar. Belshazzar's name was recently found in Babylon, on banker tablets of receipts and contracts. In 1961 archaeologists excavating an ancient Roman amphitheater near Caesarea-on-the-Sea (Maritima) uncovered a part of a dedication inscription to Tiberius Caesar from "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea." Bronze coins from Pontius Pilate's rule (29-32 AD) have been found. In 1906 Hugo Winckler began excavation in Turkey which led to the recovery of 10,000 Hittite texts.

Such discoveries collaborating the historical accuracy of the Bible are frequent and numerous. Other "sacred" books either avoid historical reference or contain myths and legends of uncertain origin. The Bible stands or falls upon the objective history it presents and these claims are subject to investigation and tests of truthfulness.

Always Consistent With Scientific Facts

If the Bible is truly a revelation from God then we would expect it to be accurate and consistent with scientific facts, regardless of the level of knowledge or ignorance of the men of the age in which it was written. The Bible is always consistent with accurate scientific facts.

Every ancient civilization, except Israel, believed the earth to be a flat disc rigidly supported. While some Greeks, like Aristotle, argued for a spherical earth, but Roman maps pictured the earth as a flat disc with the oceans around it. The Hindu scriptures actually describe the earth as flat and borne on the back of a giant turtle. In contrast, the Bible describes the earth as a "circle" connotating "sphericity" or "roundness" (Prov. 8:27; Isa. 40:22) and declares that God "hangs the earth on nothing" (Job 26:7).

The Bible describes the ocean depths accurately where ancient men could not have gone or known. The Bible accurately describes the "recesses of the deep" or "channels" and "springs" or "fountains" in the ocean (Job 38:16; 2 Sam. 22:16; Gen. 7:11; Prov. 8:28). Matthew Fontaine Maury is called "The Pathfinder of the Seas" and

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If you have any questions you may contact the author at:

Wayne Greeson
208 Regency Place
Connersville, IN 47331
waynegr@dslmyway.com