

Is There Proof the Bible is the Word of God?

Guidelines V

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~ In this report from our Spiritual Safari we're going to deal with the question: how can we know the Bible is the Word of God? – That's a fair and legitimate question and it should be asked - and answered. Candidly, there are myriad answers to that question - and equally as many ways we can know the answer is true - and one of those ways is from internal evidence. Our previous safari reports have indirectly dealt with some of those internal evidences – but there are myriad external evidences, too; so, we're going to thoroughly examine each one individually as we move through the Bible text. In this report, we're simply going to answer our own question with the four most pertinent of select answers.

1. Preservation: the preservation of Scripture is certainly one of the compelling objective – or, external - truths revealing that the Bible is the Word of God. There have been times in history that the Bible has been reduced to just one volume. We will read about a king in the prophecy of Jeremiah who, when the Word of God was sent to him, he took a knife and cut it into pieces! Well, even with Bible burning, Bible banning and the actions of the king in Jeremiahs day - and even with the intense antagonism surrounding believers today – we still have God's marvelously preserved Word after all of these centuries.

Contemporary mankind believes he is too savvy and civilized to burn books today. So, what they do is outlaw them altogether in schools and other places. Then, we have a parade and talk about how we have freedom of religion and freedom of speech! Well, if that were true, then wouldn't a person be free to read and speak about the Bible whenever and wherever they chose to do so? – Some of the greatest literature ever inked is contained in Scripture - but it is being denied to young people today. It has

been outlawed in place of what pervert's call "fine" American and foreign prose.

However, in spite of all the attacks that have been made upon the Word of God - it still exists! It is still one of the best sellers, although it is not THE best seller, as it was for many years as I was growing up. I believe distribution of the Bible has slipped below that of man's conjecture; which is a sad commentary on our contemporary society of intellectual thinkers who have designated themselves the "leaders" of a "free" world. I think we would all agree that the Bible does not occupy the same position as it once did in our great nation. Even so, the preservation of the Bible is worthy of consideration for an answer to our question.

2. Archaeology: another external indicator and means by which we can know the Bible is the Word of God is through archaeology. The spade of the archaeologist has turned up many facts that prove Scripture is the Word of God. For instance, there were many years in which men denied the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. This denial was made upon the basis that writing was not in existence at that time in history – in Moses day. For that reason many believed he could not have written the first five books of the Bible – or anything, for that matter. Well, nobody is pursuing that theory anymore because, for years now, we have been turning up writings that date back much further than Moses.

Digging down in the dirt has also uncovered the city of Jericho and its walls that tumbled down. There was some dispute between the people that excavated there initially, but irrespective of their bickering, it has been well established that the walls of Jericho fell down. I will leave the debating about the time it happened and that sort of thing to them. I will just accept that the Bible was substantiated in regards to the walls of Jericho coming down – because they did. There are many other ways in which archaeology has demonstrated the accuracy of the Word of God. Many manuscripts demonstrate that; such as when the Dead Sea Scrolls were found; the liberal jumped up and clicked his heels because he thought they had uncovered a sure-fire argument that would discredit the Bible. It's quite

interesting how it did not discredit the Bible and how the liberal media quietly abandoned interest in that discovery. I have a thousand or more examples likewise – but this is an area in which Christians shouldn't be drawn into at any great length – so, this is where our safari moves along.

3. Fulfilled Prophecy: our third indication by which we can know that the Bible is the Word of God can be summarized in two words – fulfilled prophecy. I believe that fulfilled prophecy is conclusive evidence from which there's just no "getting around" by the atheist or the apostate; and the Bible is chock full of prophecy that has been literally fulfilled. One fourth of the scripture was prophetic when it was written; that is, it announced events that would take place in the future. Today, more prophecy has been fulfilled than most Christians seem to realize. We could turn to many passages of long-term prophecy that was prophesied of and fulfilled centuries later - and many of the local situations the prophets spoke of were fulfilled during the day of that particular prophet.

For instance, Michaiah warned Ahab that if Ahab went out to battle against Syria he was going to be killed. Ahab didn't like that very much because his false prophets had told him he would have a victory and that he would return as a great king. So, Ahab locked Michaiah up in prison because he didn't care for his prophecy. They fed Michaiah the "bread and water of affliction" and, as far as I can tell, Micaiah never got out of prison. The king told his men he would take care of Michaiah when he got back from the battle; but Michaiah had the last word because he said to Ahab, "you're not coming back!"

Well, it turns out that the Lord had spoken by Michaiah because Ahab didn't come back. He was killed in that very battle by a stray arrow and the Israeli army was defeated. Ahab had cleverly camouflaged himself, but one of the opposing soldiers "...pulled a bow at a venture." The battle was almost over when some Syrian soldier discovered he had just one arrow left in his quiver; so he took it and aimlessly shot it into the air to see if anyone screamed "ouch!" Well, that arrow had Ahab's name on it! That arrow went over trees and around rocks and down a road and up a path until it

finally found old man Ahab; and I say that facetiously, because, of course, it really just went right to its mark like an arrow! Why? – Because Michaiah had made an accurate prophecy.

In the same connection, in King Hezekiah's day, Isaiah said the Assyrian army that had surrounded Jerusalem wouldn't even shoot a single arrow into the city. There were 300,000 Assyrian soldiers and not one of them shot "a bow at a venture." Wouldn't you think that one of those men would have lobbed one arrow over the wall simply for good measure? Isaiah said that if the enemy shoots an arrow inside this city then he was not God's man. Well, none did! Those were local fulfillments of prophecy. Isaiah also said a virgin would bring forth a child seven hundred years later - also fulfilled.

A final example of fulfilled prophecy is that there were over three hundred prophecies concerning the first coming of Christ; and they were all fulfilled. He was hanging there on the cross dying – and there was one prophecy that had not been fulfilled – giving Him vinegar to drink. When He cried out, "I thirst" - the enemy himself went and got the vinegar and fulfilled that prophecy. Man can't guess, plan or scheme like that, friends. Impossible.

In Israel, a prophet had to be accurate or that would be his last prophecy! One inaccurate prophecy meant death by stoning. God Himself defined what accuracy meant, too. The prophet had to speak to a local situation first, like Isaiah did in our example. Then - and only then – could a prophet speak out about some future event. There are so many examples of fulfilled prophecy, such as Tyre, Sidon, Petra and Babylon, that we could make this topic a full report. Those lands are in exactly the condition that God's Word said they would be in twenty-five hundred years ago. Egypt is in the precise position that the Bible said it would be in today. These are amazing truths we can take as proof that the Bible is the Word of God because, again, man simply cannot guess like that - nor does man have any motivation to do so. The prophets didn't have any motivation to concoct their prophecies. It would have been easier for them to just blend in and shut up, quite frankly.

See, there is a mathematical law known as “problematical conjecture.” This is the law that precludes man from prophesying on his own volition. Quite simply, suppose I said it was going to rain tomorrow. Just by making that statement I would be reduced to a fifty-fifty chance of being correct; it’s either going to rain or it’s not going to rain. For some people it would be accurate and for others it would be false. Alright, suppose I add that the rain tomorrow will start at 9:00 in the morning. Adding that next uncertain element takes my fifty-fifty chance and reduces it to less than a twenty-five percent chance of being right; and each element that may be added exponentially reduces the odds of being correct.

So, suppose I say that the rain will not only start at 9:00 in the morning, but I also add that it will stop at 2:07 in the afternoon? – Well, can you imagine my realistic chance of being correct? – Alright, suppose three hundred more uncertain elements were then added concerning the amount of rain, direction of the rain and the area that would be rained on? – There is not a ghost of a chance of even being close! We simply would need to have ourselves committed to the nearest institution for making such claims; but the Bible hits it – every time - and a lot more than 300 times, too, by the way! It is totally accurate all the way through. Man making a prophecy based on his own man-made conclusions will just never come to pass – and you can just write that down!

There is nothing you can compare to this holy book that we call the Bible which is the Word of God on the face of the earth whatsoever. To me, this particular proof of the Bible being the Word of God by fulfilled prophecy is conclusive and not debatable, as no fruitful knowledge will result from debate. The examples I have given are but a drop of water in an ocean of them. In the Word of God there is prophecy after prophecy that has been fulfilled - and fulfilled literally. For me, personally, I could end this report here. But in the interest of a proper, correct and complete Bible study:

4. Transformed Lives: this will be the second to the last reason regarding proof that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is REAL – transformed lives! I have seen what the Word of God can do in the lives of men and

women that come to trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This is another one of those areas in which I could multiply the examples into sheer volumes of work - but - I am going to give you just one personal example from my life of how I know the Bible is the Word of God.

I generally am personal in these reports - but this may be a little more personal than the norm. Seeking answers to Bible questions through intellectual statements and then turning around and using those answers to criticize other people is rampant today. The worst thing in the world a Christian can do is criticize another man intellectually; because the moment you do that is the instant you alienate a person that might otherwise be able to be ministered to. You will never win over anyone with that approach; and you will never have another opportunity to witness to that particular person, either. I had a revelation of self-defeat; and that made me realize the Bible is the Word of God, my beloved. Think that all through to its final conclusion and see what you come up with.

Only the Spirit of God can make the Bible real to our hearts and in our lives and minds, friends. With that we shall move out of the realm of apologetics in our Spiritual Safari. I am not an apologetic by any means. This report is all you're going to hear about apologetics from me throughout this entire expedition through the entire Word of God. See, I try to give out the Word of God very simplistically. I am not attempting to convince you of anything. I doubt most people are even still watching. If this is not becoming real to you by now in your hearing - well, that's YOUR problem – not mine!

The reasons for this so called safari are certain developments in my own life – of which I will spare you the boring details. I have reached a place that I can honestly say I not only believe the Bible is the Word of God – I know it is the inspired and true Word of God! At the risk of being overly dogmatic, I say I KNOW this book is the Word of God; and the reason I know is because God has made Himself real to my own heart in it – in my own life; that's how I know. Paul said to the Colossians that he prayed they would be filled with the Spirit of God and with all knowledge and understanding. I thank God mainly for the people that pray for the work I am trying to do. I need

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physical strength. I also need to be filled with His wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment. I have found out that God can and will confirm these things to your heart if you invite Him to do so.

Frankly, the genuine Christian today doesn't need archaeology to dig up the truth out of the dirt and brush it off to explain what it is to us. Many people think that these discoveries are exciting – okay - I don't see anything inspiring in dirt, rocks and bones - personally. I know I can be nothing but a big disappointment to my viewers, too, but – the Spirit of God made this undeniable to me long before I could even pronounce the word archeology. Only the Spirit of God can make it real to you.

So, I ask you to pray for me as we prepare to enter the text of the Word of God. Pray that the Spirit of God will take these human teachings and open up a whole new life to you – eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ – which is all the Bible really teaches. I pray you will not only incorporate Holy Writ into your daily living - but that God will give you the assurance and joy of your salvation so that you can also say you KNOW the Bible is really the Word of God! If the Bible is the Word of God, then nothing else matters. If the Bible is NOT the Word of God then nothing matters. That's what's real, my beloved. If the Bible says two plus two equals five then there has been or will come a day that the math will add up – but the Bible does not teach such crazy things – only man makes those kinds of mistakes with figures – not God ~

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