

# The Bible is a Divinely Inspired and Accurate Book

## **1. Fulfilled Prophecies Demonstrate the Bible's Divine Origin**

There are approximately 1,800 prophecies contained within the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. (1) The three events below are examples of the many prophecies confirmed as historical events.

### **A. The Permanent Destruction of Babylon**

Around the year 742 BCE Isaiah prophesied the destruction of the Kingdom of Babylon (2) which occurred during the conquest by King Cyrus in 539 BCE nearly 200 years after Isaiah's prophecy. (3) Although Babylon was one of the greatest cities of the ancient world and the home of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, even the ruins of the City of Babylon have almost vanished.

"I will cut off from Babylon her name and her remnant, her offspring and her posterity," declares the LORD. I will make her a place for owls and for swamplands; I will sweep her away with the broom of destruction," declares the LORD of Hosts. Isaiah 14:22b-23 (4)

### **B. The Return of the Jewish Diaspora and Rebirth of the Nation of Israel**

The Jews of Israel were sent into captivity a second time after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE at the hands of the Roman general Titus. (5) Around the year 742 BCE the Prophet Isaiah predicted the return of dispersed Jews from around the world and the rebirth of Israel which occurred on May 14, 1948.

"On that day the Lord will extend His hand a second time to recover the remnant of His people from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will collect the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth." Isaiah 11:11-12 (4)

### **C. The Total Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem**

Jesus prophesied the total destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem which is recorded in the 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew in verses 1-2.

As Jesus left the temple and was walking away, His disciples came up to Him to point out its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" He replied. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."

The historian Josephus recorded in the fourth chapter of his sixth book that as the fire burned in and around the Temple, even General Titus could not restrain the Roman soldiers from burning and looting the Temple. (6) Compelled by rage and greed, "the hope of plunder induced many to go on, as having this opinion, that all the places within were full of money, and as seeing that all round about it was made of gold." (6) It is logical that the gold ornamentation melted during the fire, and the Romans dismantled each stone of the Temple to retrieve that gold.

## **2. The Scientific Accuracy of the Bible Confirms its Divine Origin**

**A. Medical and Health Accuracy in the Bible** – Although Moses lived approximately 1400 BCE, non -secular science has only recently adopted the health guidelines of ancient Biblical texts. In passages such as Leviticus

13 and Numbers 19 for example, the Lord commanded his people to: wash their bodies and clothing if they had a discharge, touched a dead human body, or an animal carcass. They were also instructed to keep feces outside of the camp and burn animal dung and the clothing of leprosy victims. The Israelites were instructed to practice quarantine and to cleanse their hands. It took Western scientist until the 1890's to adopt the practices of germ theory (7) that the Bible provided 3,300 years earlier.

**B. Dietary Accuracy of the Bible** – The Lord teaches which animals were good for consumption and which animals to avoid. In Deuteronomy 14 for instance, the Lord prohibits the consumption of bats and pigs in addition to aquatic life that lack both fins and scales. Pigs and shrimp are examples of Biblically forbidden animals that are confirmed as unclean. Wild pigs carry at least 24 separate diseases that are transmissible to humans (8) and, according to a Consumer Report as cited by Andrew Weil, “60 percent of 342 samples of frozen shrimp tested contained the bacteria Salmonella, Vibrio, Listeria or E. coli, and two percent were positive for the superbug methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).” (9)

Mitochondrial Eve,

Creation

**Patterns of the wind** - “The wind goes toward the south, and it turns around to the north; it whirls around continually; and the wind returns on its circuits.” (Ecclesiastes 1:6).

**The Earth is a Sphere** – “It is He Who sits above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.” (Isaiah 40:22).

**The Universe is Expanding** – “I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.”

**The Earth Hangs in Space** – “He stretcheth the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” (Job 26:7)

### **3. Archeology Confirms the Bible's Accuracy**

Archeology never contradicts the Bible and has confirmed countless locations, people, and events as recorded in the Bible. For example, at least 53 people from the Old Testament are corroborated by archeology. (10) Below are three examples of miraculous Biblical events corroborated by archeology.

**A. The remains of Sodom and Gomorrah** – “Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.” Genesis 19:24

The Bible teaches that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were completely destroyed when the Lord rained down sulfur (brimstone) and fire upon the inhabitants due to their wickedness and sexual immorality. The remains of an early Bronze Age city near the Dead Sea know by locals Bab Edh-Dhra is the site of the city known as Sodom. The site contains a layer of ash and countless balls of sulfur that ignite with the touch of a match. The ruins of Sodom are also littered with human skeletal remains whose bent bones indicate exposure to extreme heat. (11)

**B. Parting the Red Sea** - The Bible explains that when the Hebrews left slavery in Egypt they were pursued to the banks of a body of water. God held the Egyptian army back with a pillar of fire while he parted the waters and allowed the Hebrews to cross safely. When the Egyptians followed, the waters collapsed over their army and drowned them. Archaeological evidence confirms Nuweiba Egypt as the place of crossing. (12) First, sand

on the western point of Nuweiba beach are fused together as if it were melted by fire. In addition, the remains of Egyptian style Bronze Era chariots were discovered on the sea floor. Many remains are covered in coral, but some chariot wheels videoed are clear of coral and easily recognizable. In addition, human skeletal remains also litter the sea bed in this location. Finally, there is a stone pillar on the western and Eastern shores erected by King Solomon commemorating the location as the crossing site. (13)

**C. The Walls of Jericho** – The Biblical book of Joshua shares the account of the Hebrews conquering the City of Jericho. The Bible explains in the book of Joshua that during the time of harvest the Lord caused the city walls to collapse, the Hebrews did not plunder the city, but burned it with fire, and then the city was abandoned. The three major archaeological excavations of Jericho confirmed those Biblical details. (14) In addition, Dr. Bryant Wood, who is an expert in Bronze Age Pottery confirmed that the pottery used at the time of Jericho’s destruction matched the date known from Biblical records (1406 BCE). (14)

#### **4. The Manuscript Authority and Preservation of the Bible Demonstrates its Divine Origin and Accuracy**

**A. The Hebrew Bible is Accurate Because it was Carefully Copied Throughout History** - The Hebrew Bible can be trusted as an accurate document because it was meticulously hand copied throughout history by professional scribes known as “sofers”. (15) Although sofers memorized every line of the Torah (first five books of the Bible), they were required to rely on a model Torah when transcribing a copy. Sofers adhered to at least 20 requirements when producing copies that guaranteed accuracy. Examples of requirements include: the quality of the parchment & ink, spacing of letters, clarity of letters, alignment of text, proper margin spacing, pronouncing every word aloud before writing, and the destruction of manuscripts with errors. Sofers worked full time for approximately one year to produce a single perfect copy of the 304, 805 letters in the Torah. (16)

As a result, the manuscript accuracy of the Hebrew Bible is incredible. When compared letter by letter, a manuscript of the book of Isaiah written in 100 BCE recovered near the Dead Sea was 95% identical to a modern copy. Although written 2,000 years apart, there are variations in spelling but no meaningful differences. (17) The fact that this ancient text has passed accurately for over 2,000 years is a testament to its divine nature and the virtue of Jewish scribes and religion.

**B. The New Testament is Reliable Based on Manuscript Authority** - Manuscript authority is the ability to accurately reconstruct an original document from later versions of the document. New Testament manuscript authority is 1,000 times stronger than any other text from the Roman era. (18) Three factors are key to establishing manuscript authority: when extant texts are written close to the creation date of the original document, similarity between texts, and the number of manuscripts available for comparison.

There are over 5,800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament with the earliest written between 90-35 years after the original documents. (18) Although some manuscripts consist of only a few lines from the New Testament, the average size of a New Testament manuscript is over 450 pages. (18) There are variations between the thousands of manuscripts, but they do not impact the meaning of the text. In fact, 99.8% of variations between New Testament manuscripts involve spelling and other insignificant variations. According to a leading textual critic of the New Testament, “There’s no essential doctrine that’s jeopardized by any of these textual variants.” (19)

## **5. The Counter Cultural Message of the Bible is Evidence of its Divine Nature**

You can tell that the Bible was inspired by the Creator of mankind because the message contradicts the culture and views held by cultures of the time.

### **Recognition of Women**

The Bible promotes respect, independence, and authority for women. Proverbs 31 dedicates 21 verses to the praise of a woman of character. Verse 16a says, "She appraises a field and buys it" notice here that the ideal wife has the competence and authority to purchase property independently without consulting her husband or anyone else.

Wisdom is also referred to in the feminine in Proverbs chapter 1 and throughout the Bible v 20-21 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For just as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. 1 Corinthians 11:11

### **The Protection of Women**

"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. Exodus 21:22 ESV

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3:19

### **Jesus publicly defended the woman caught in adultery**

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." John 8:10–

**The Treatment of Children** At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:1-4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

### **The Protection of Slaves**

"You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him. Deuteronomy 23:15-16 ESV

We realize that law is not enacted for the righteous, but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for killers of father or mother, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for homosexuals, for slave traders and liars and perjurers, and for anyone else who is averse to sound teaching that agrees with the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. 1 Timothy 9-11 ESV

“When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth. Exodus 21:26-27 ESV

### **The Treatment of Animals**

A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel. Proverbs 12:10

### **Recognition of the Environment as a Living Entity**

The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but because of the One who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:19-22 ESV

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12 ESV

## **6. It is Clear that Men Who Wrote the Bible Were Inspired by God Because They Included Embarrassing Events and They Depict Women in a Superior Light**

**Jesus referred to Peter as “Satan”** - But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Mark 8:33 ESV

**All of the disciples fell asleep after Jesus asked them to pray with Him** - And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matthew 26:40

**A woman was the first person to arrive at the tomb and the first to see a resurrected Jesus** - Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb John 20:1 ESV

**One of the disciples betrays Jesus (not a religious or wealthy Jew, nor a Roman)** - Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. Matthew 26:14 ESV

**Peters Denys Knowing Jesus after his arrest** - Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” Matthew 26:69 ESV

## **7. The Disciples Would Not Have Travelled the World and Suffered Execution for a Lie**

The authors of the New Testament didn't receive any earthly benefits for following and professing Jesus. They didn't receive pay or recognition. The followers of Jesus would not have been willing to leave their occupations, donate their wealth, leave prestigious positions, join a movement looked down upon by Jewish and Roman cultures, travel the known world, face persecution and ultimately execution unless they were telling the truth and had witnessed the resurrection of Jesus. (20)

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