

* PART 2- 7 reasons we can trust the Bible

5. SCIENTIFIC

6. PROVIDENTIAL

7. PERSONAL

5. THE SCIENTIFIC REASON- Story of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” In these 10 words, we have the foundation for all scientific discovery. “

IN THE BEGINNING” introduces the concept of TIME- refers to a specific point when Creation took place-.

“GOD” is the basis for PERSONALITY

“CREATED” introduces us to the concept of energy-

“THE HEAVENS” refers to the regions of space. “EARTH” affirms the existence of matter.

This opening statement of Genesis REFUTES:





God existed BEFORE this beginning. In other words, **there was never a time when only nothing existed.**

If you don't believe that God created all that is, then you must either believe that (1) there once was nothing but something came about or (2) there is no explanation for the existence of the universe, and whatever life we see around us has arisen from impersonal random forces.

One theory is the BIG BANG THEORY- and it dates back to 1929, when Edwin Hubble proved that the universe is constantly expanding. Much like- if you were to mark a balloon and draw some galaxies on a balloon- when you blow it up, the “galaxies” move farther away from their starting point.

BUT MANY SCIENTISTS have fought the notion of the big bang, fearing that it might play into the hands of creationists

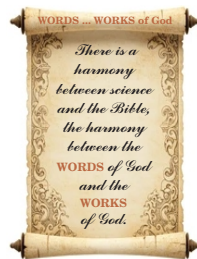

GEORGE SMOOT
"there is no doubt that
a parallel exists
between the big bang
as an event and the
christian notion of
creation from nothing."


Christians are not in the unhappy position of believing that which is contrary to all known laws of science, namely that matter can create itself or that random blind chance can organize itself into arrangements needed for life.

In fact, the biblical explanation for the existence of the universe is more rational, believable and more scientific.

VIDEO CLIP- I'll ask for it to be played before you pop it up

Christian theology maintains that there are 2 books : **the BOOK of God's written revelation and the book of nature.** These books CANNOT contradict each other. There is a harmony between science and the Bible,



In creation, God went public.

Ps 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."

Science is one more reason to believe that the Bible is the Word of God. **It's not just difficult to believe that the universe created itself, it's impossible to believe it.**

HOW GOD PREPARED THE EARTH FOR MAN-

***Earth** *Gen 1:1-2 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the

earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The earth is a huge ball covered with water, rock, soil, surround by air. It's orbiting the sun at **19 miles every second**, or 66,000 miles every hour. The earth is special because it has the ingredients needed for life.

If we ask what causes the earth, moon, and sun to be in such a predictable relationship, scientists say it is **GRAVITY**- If it were not for this force, the heavenly bodies would all fly off into space. If we ask a scientist what gravity actually is, we are told that it's the result of the presence of matter warping the space time continuum.

***Moon-** Gen 1:14-16” Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. **16** Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made the stars also.*”

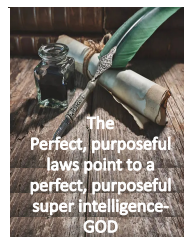
The moon travels around the earth once about every 29.5 days and follows the earth as it makes its yearly journey around the sun. The moon's gravity affects the earth and the water that is closest to the moon forming tides. “HIGH TIDES” are formed in the oceans and seas. These tides are necessary because without the moon, the tilt of the earth on its axis would be much less stable. HAVE we thanked God for Jupiter recently? Jupiter keeps comets from continually hitting the earth. Its powerful gravity alters the trajectories of these icy bodies so that most of them are flung out of the solar system.

* **Sun-** The sun is the closest star and the earth's volume would fit into the sun about 1 million times. The sun as a family of 9 planets along with many smaller bodies, like comets. **Gravity holds this family together as each planet moves in an orbit around the sun.**

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* Neh 9:6 “You alone *are* the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

* **Stars-** The size of the stars and their distances from us strain the limits of our imagination. The sun is a star but it’s about 93 million miles from us.

The next nearest star is 250,000 times farther away,.

If we could ride spaceship traveling at the speed of light, it would take us 8 minutes to get the the sun, and 4 years to get to the nearest star.

God told Abraham that is he could number the stars, he would also be able to count the number of this seed.

God’s point was not that Abraham would have as many descendants as there are stars, but rather neither can be counted.

WE ARE FACED with a decision: Do we believe that the universe came to be from next to nothing or that God spoke and the universe was created with order, design, and predictability?


IDENTIFYING THE CREATOR- What kind of God would be qualified to be the cause of all that we know about the universe?



The Bible teaches that before there was matter, the Creator was there. HE IS WITHOUT BEGINNING AND END/

Ex 3:14a “And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”

Finally ,the God who created, would also have the right to bring His creation to an abrupt halt whenever He chooses. If He is not only powerful, but also moral, He can if He desires judge those creatures created in His image.

 The Biblical teaching is that **HE** brought heaven and earth into existence and the same **WORD** that **created** will be the same **WORD** that will **judge**.



CONFESSIONS OF SCIENTISTS- Minds more brilliant than ours have thought about the immensity of the universe. Many have concluded that the universe does not have within itself the cause of its own existence.

* Albert Einstein- The scientist is possess by the sense of universal causation... His religious feeling takes the form of amazement at the harmony of natural law which REVEALS AN INTELLIGENCE OF SUCH SUPERIORITY that compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting o human beings is an insignificant reflection.

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**Carl Sagan...**

**ATHEIST~** "It's easy to see that only a very restricted range of laws of nature, are consistent with stars and galaxies. YES and the logical conclusion is that these highly ordered laws were created by a highly ordered super intelligence.

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**NO ONE WAS THERE TO HELP GOD
WHEN THE WORLDS WERE CREATED.**
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**GOD AT HIS BEST-** there was a pastor by the name of EV Hill who had a sermon "When was God at His best?" Theologians would remind us that **God is ALWAYS at His best.**

2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Both the physical and spiritual creation are miracles from the same Lord. Both creations were made without the help of pre-existing material. Second, both creations took place without human aid. **NO ONE WAS THERE TO HELP GOD WHEN THE WORLDS WERE CREATED.**

**The so- called conflict between science and religions simply do not exist.**

It's impossible for the Bible to contradict science since God is the author of both.

If we are pressed to explain generations of conflict, the answer is

(1) Many of us hold to a young earth, but since the Bible doesn't tell us when God created the heavens and the earth, we must respect those who believe that the earth is much older than come creationist have beleived.

(2) some Christians have made concession to evolutionary theory, BUT evolution stands in direct opposition to Christianity.

(3) If one takes the position that God did not or indeed could not have a role in creation, then the outcome of all scientific study is predictable.

David saw the heavens as leading him toward God not away from Him.

PS 8:3-4 "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and

the stars, which You have ordained,<sup>4</sup> What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit<sup>[a]</sup> him?

## 6. PROVIDENTIAL REASON-

Who decided what books would be in the Bible, and when did they do it? We are going to answer questions about the canon

 *What's a canon?*  
The word Canon originally meant a  
● "rule" or  
● "measuring rod"  
and is applied to the official list of authoritative books accepted by Christians.

So did the NT give birth to the church or did the church give birth to the NT? Catholicism teaches the primacy of the church over the canon of Scripture- it believes the church is just as infallible as the Bible.

The argument runs like this- The Bible alone cannot be our authority because the Bible does not tell us what books should be in the Bible. The church, the popes, determined which books are in the Bible; therefore, we must accept the authority of the church as infallible.

Sometimes we as protestant ask a catholic why do you pray to Mary since no such doctrine is found in the NT? They might reply with "It doesn't matter whether it's in the Bible or not, the teaching of the church is just as binding as the Scriptures and even more so." So here is the debate about the canon.

**HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE** - The Bible is a collection of 66 books united by a common theme- God's redemption of the human race.

**OT CANON-** When God authorized the writing of a manuscript and the people of God recognized it as such, it was preserved. Moses wrote "all the words of the Lord" Ex 24:4 and these writings were laid in the ark of the covenant (Deut 31:6)

If you were to look at the table of contents of a Hebrew OT, you would notice 2 differences from our English OT. It has only 22 books, not 39. But the content is identical. It's just the Hebrew bible combines certain books such as 1 and 2 Samuel.

Where in do we see the Providence of God? Remember, these books were selected by the people of God without the benefit of a council that debated the merits of each book. The council only ratified books that the Jews had already accepted five centuries earlier. The council neither rejected a single book nor did it add others to the list. The authentic books had already proved their worth.

**THE NT CANON** - Jesus commissioned the disciples to pass on the truth He had taught them. John 14:25-26 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Obviously there was a process of selection and verification done by early believers. And as long as the apostles were alive everything could be checked out. For example John could say in 1John 1:2-3 "The life was manifested and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us- what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you."

Peter assured us that he was an eyewitness of the Transfiguration and that his description was based on firsthand evidence, 2 Peter 1:16-18

Peter possessed a collection of Paul's letters and regarded them as Scripture. 2 Peter 3:15-16 "Interpret our Master's patient restraint for what it is: salvation. Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who don't know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it."

### **TO SUMMARIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NT CANON-**

\*Letters from apostles were written and received in the churches

\*By the end of the first century all 27 books in our present canon were written and received by the churches

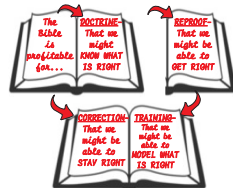
Here again we see the providence of God. These councils neither added nor subtracted books, but simply approved the 27 which has already been recognized by the early church.

In answer the question Who decided which books are in the Bible and then did they do it? Those decisions were made as the books were written; there were decisions made by the people of God who recognized these books as authoritative. They wrestled careful to observe all that the apostles taught and write, believing the apostles to be representative of the Christ they knew in the flesh.

Protestants stress that a book either does or does not have inherent authority; it's either from God or it isn't. If a letter wrecked written by Abraham Lincoln it would be authentic even if historians didn't recognize it as such. And if it were not written by him, all the councils could not make it become a later from his hand. If a book were inspired by God, it would be authoritative even if Israel in the OT and the NT failed to recognize it as such.

The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles, prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. The Scriptures are "god breathed"-

.2 Tim 3:16-17 "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."



**We need to understand that from Genesis to Revelation has ONE UNIFIED MESSAGE- it has to do with CHRIST -**

**7. A PERSONAL REASON-** Let's say you were stranded on a dimly lit street in NYC- your tires go flat and as you think about what to do, a dozen young men come out of a nearby building and come toward you. What difference would it make if you discovered that these men were on their way home from a Bible study? This would probably make an atheist feel better.

**One of the primary reasons we believe the Bible is the Word of God, is because of its POWER.** Jer 23:29 “Is not My word like a fire?” says the Lord, “And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?”

This doesn't mean that people cannot resist God's Word, they do that all the time. We've already learned that the Bible has been the target of criticism, yet millions who have accepted its message gladly speak of its transforming power.

An angry man threw his new bible his mother had given him as far as he could. Yet months later, he returned, repentant that he had mistreated God's book. He learned that the damaged Bible had fallen into the hands of a child who read it and was converted. Now both met as brothers in Christ. The one restored believer, the other as a newly converted 12 year old. **What other book could soften the heart of an angry man and convert a child? ONLY THE BIBLE**

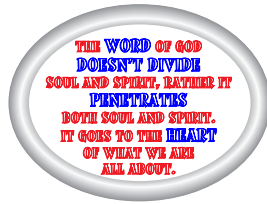
**A The Word of God is compared to a sword.** The Roman sword had 2 edges it cut both ways. God gave His Word to the nation Israel, but sometimes it didn't them any good. It did not profit them because it was not “mixed with faith.” So in Hebrews, there's a warning to us, that we alas could fail to benefit if we don't mix it with faith.

HEB 4:12-13- “For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.”

**The Word is ALIVE-** it's not just words on a page; the words of God are on the page- the message comes with God's authority.

✝ WHEREVER ✝  
THE  
WORD OF GOD IS,  
THE SPIRIT IS  
PRESENT TO MAKE  
THE WORDS  
FILLED WITH LIFE.

**(1)- the Word cuts us open** The Bible differs from other 2 edged swords in that sharper= tomoteros- to cut - piercing= “to go through”



The Word of God is also “able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

**JUDGE - “sift out”**  
“analyze  
as evidence”  
“it separates  
base motives from  
noble ones”



The WORD judges our thoughts- the things we ponder- what we think about as we drive- what we think about other people- Thousands of thoughts go through our minds each day and the WORD OF GOD monitors these thoughts moment by moment.

The Word separates the good thoughts from the tainted ones- and discerns the motivation of the mind and heart.

Paul said that he would not have known that lust was sin except by the Law. Rom 7:7 “What shall we say then? *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”*”

**(2) THE WORD LAYS US BARE-** The author of Hebrews passes easily from talking about God’s spoken Word to God’s incarnate Word. He wants us to understand that we are laid bare before the eyes of Christ. The Word of God, like an X-ray reveals who we really are and Christ examines us noting every speck. In other words, we lie on God’s surgical table- the Word of God has separated reality from fantasy - right from wrong- pure from tainted.

As long as we compare ourselves to others, we judge ourselves as doing pretty well. It's easy to find someone who is worse than we are: just look around and you will find someone who in your estimation make you feel better. But when we are spiritually laid out in God's operating room, we are answerable to Him .

God shows us as much of ourselves as we are able to handle. Until confronted by Him, our standard of comparison is other people; our frame of reference is our success our good deeds.

(3) THE WORD HEALS US- Our natural tendency is to run from someone who knows too much about us. Although God knows everything there is to know about us, there's no place to hide. But God doesn't live on on the operating table unattended. **THROUGH HIS WORD HE SHOWS US WHAT HE SEES, NOT WE SHOUD RUN FROM HIM, BUT THAT WE WOUOD RUN TO HIM .**

Heb 4:16 "Let us therefore drawn near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need,."

When we let the Word reign in our lives, we are letting God reign in our lives. PS 138:2 "I will worship toward Your holy temple,And praise Your nameFor Your lovingkindness and Your truth;For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

We shouldn't be surprised to learn that the Bible has some of the same characteristics as God. GOD IS LIGHT and the BIBLE IS LIGHT TOO. Ps 119:105 "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path."

**B. SIMILARITIES BETWEEN GOD and the BIBLE** - In Psalm 19 there are six adjectives that apply to the Bible, but they also apply to God.

**PERFECTION** Ps 19:7-The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul.” Perfection is a characteristic of God. He sets the standard for what perfection really is. The Bible probes into the inward part of us that no one sees; it brings us back to our senses. And back to God.

**FAITHFULNESS-** Ps 19:7- The law of the Lord *is* SURE , making wise the simple. - The word sure means faithful, dependable , certain. Staying close to the Word keeps us from those foolish decisions- God is Faithful!

**RIGHTEOUSNESS-** Ps 19:8 "The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart;The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes”- The Hebrew word RIGHT has the same root as righteousness which is one of God’s most prominent attributes.

**PURITY-** Ps 19:8- The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes”- Like the God whom they reflect, the Scriptures are PURE- free from the contamination of error.

**CLEANNES-** Ps 19:9 “The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever” The judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether.- The law of God is clean, unmixed with error- it does not misrepresent God. Those who follow its precepts honor that which endures forever.

**TRUTH-** Ps 19:9- ;The judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether”- God is the standard of truth by which all matters must be judged.

The Word of God is to the soul what food is to the body. And the Bible gives us a whole meal. ITs milk and meat, it’s bread and for dessert, it’s honey. The Bible is everything we need for soul maintenance. The Bible reflects the character of God.

The bottom line- THE BIBLE REFLECTS THE CHARACTER OF GOD.  
THEREFORE THE DESCRIPTIONS IT USES TO DESCRIBE ITSELF ARE THE DESCRIPTIONS THAT ALSO APPLY TO ALMIGHTY GOD HIMSELF

