

* PART 1- 7 REASONS WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE

1. LOGICAL REASON
2. HISTORICAL REASON
3. PROPHETIC REASON
4. CHRISTOLOGICAL REASON

INTRO

1. LOGICAL REASON

The Bible is the Word of God, because it claims to be the Word of God. How do you like that logic?

We can see **a. IN THE BIBLES OWN WORDS**

Of course the Bible declares itself to be inspired by God.

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

The English word “inspiration” **God breathed** into them, so that they were inspired.

The Greek word means that God “breathed out” and the result was the Scriptures.

In other words, THE BIBLE, is THE BREATH OF GOD.

PS 33:6 NKJV “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”

b. CLAIMS OF THE OT

Let’s look at the phrase “The Lord said”

EX 7:1-2 NKJV “**So the Lord said to Moses:** “See, I have made you *as* God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. **2** You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.”

IS 1:2 NKJV “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth!

For the Lord has spoken:“I have nourished and brought up children,And they have rebelled against Me;”

Jer 1:1-2 “The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who *were* in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, **2 to whom the word of the Lord came** in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.”

Jer 1:4 The Word of the Lord came to me saying

Jer 1:9 The lord said to me

Jer 1:11 The Word of the Lord came to me saying

There are hundreds of instances where God is describing as speaking. HE talked with Adam and Eve BEFORE and AFTER the fall.

There were extensive dialogues between Moses and God at the burning bush and the revelations of God to His prophets.

BUT The distinguishing characteristic of a true prophet is that he does not speak his own words but the words of God.

Deut 18:18 NKJV “ I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”

This accounts for the fact that prophets often spoke **for God in first person.**

The prophets claimed incredible authority .

Look at Samuel to Saul.

1 Sam 13:13-14 NKJV “ And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **14 But now your kingdom shall not continue.** The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

Psalm 12:6 “The words of the Lord are PURE WORDS; as silver tried in a furnace refined 7 times.”

The OT repeatedly claimed to be the Word of God, and those words are therefore as enduring as God Himself.

Ps 119:89 NKJV "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven."

Is 40:8 NKJV "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

c. CLAIMS OF NT

God spoke directly out of heaven at least 3 times during Christ's ministry on earth:

(1) Baptism of Jesus (2) Transfiguration (3) Christ groaned in agony as He approached the Crucifixion.

Paul, who authored at least 13 books of the NT, claimed to have received revelations from God.

1 Cor 14:37-38 "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him **acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.** **38** But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant."

1 Thess 2:13 "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, **you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God,** which also effectively works in you who believe."

Peter made a direct link between the word which he was preaching and the unchangeable words of the OT.

1 Pet 1:23-25 "**3** having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, **24** because "All flesh *is* as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, **25** But the word of the Lord endures forever."

Peter was speaking out of Isaiah

What if we were to systematically page through the Bible, listing all of the instances in which it claims to have a divine origin? We would find 1500 statements that claim its divine origin.

SO In effect, GOD SIGNED EVERY PAGE OF THE BIBLE.

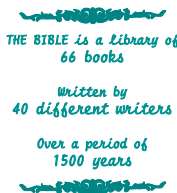
YOU SEE, LOGIC DEMANDS CONSISTENCY- The logic of God is Jesus Christ!
Does the Bible have a consistent story?

d. UNITY OF THE BIBLE

Joseph Smith claims to have received a message from an angel and then the book of Mormon came to be. These claims are false for at least 2 reasons.

FIRST the book of Mormon is untrustworthy because not a single geographical site recorded has been discovered.

SECOND there are no prophets who claimed to have a revelation that was consistent with his. The book of Mormon has 1 author - a man who plagiarized much of his material.



THE BIBLE is a library of
66 books
Written by
40 different writers
Over a period of
1500 years

The 40 authors were kings, fisherman, tax collectors, shepherds, prophets, and even a physician. It would be difficult to find a more diverse collection of writers. In the NT, Paul write independently of John; James didn't know what Paul was writing. IF there had been collusion, the writers would have consciously attempted to make their writings agree with others.

THE FACT THAT THE BIBLE HAS UNITY DESPITE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES IN CONTEXT, STYLE, PERSPECTIVE is a powerful witness to the independence of the author.

(2) unity of them - The writers selected what they wrote in light of the overall theme they intended to convey.

Because The Bible isn't a collection of books on many different topics, there is only ONE THEME- that is the TOPIC OF JESUS CHRIST and the redemption he PROVIDED.

We might say the theme of the Bible can be stated in 2 words : SIN and GRACE because God promised "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you o the head and you shall bruise him on the heel." Gen 3:15

Christ HIMSELF confirmed that the theme of the Bible was His own coming. He was Engaged in controversy with the Jews He said “**John 5:39** “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” Jesus frequently referred to Scripture as pointing to Himself. FROM THE EARLIEST EXPRESSION of the gospel in Gen 3:15 to REV 22:20 “Even so, come Lord Jesus” The Bible is unified.

*The NEW IS
in the
OLD CONCEALED;
the OLD IS
in the
NEW REVEALED!*

The Bible is either entirely true or entirely unreliable.
The God of the OT is the same as the God of the NT.
Some liberal theories that teach that the God of the OT is harsh and cruel, whereas the God of the New is loving and tolerant. .

The character of God in both testaments is one and the same.

God has chosen to tell us truths about Himself that we could not discover any other way. God has spoken.
Ps 119:130 “The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”

2. HISTORICAL REASON

Glance at any page of the Bible and you'll encounter stories about men like Abraham, Moses, and David. You'll read about Christ, His disciples, and Paul. The Bible is filled with thousands of events” births, deaths, hardships, miracles-

BUT Time Magazine had an article that said “there was no Moses” and no crossing of the Red Sea.

Peter Jennings said “They don't even know if Abraham lived.”

Did CHRIST EXIST? **We say a resounding YES** - Although Christ was referred to 13 times in contemporary secular literature, one scholar does not believe He existed. He reasons that no 1st century inscription mentions Jesus and no object or building survived which has a specific link to Him. BUT he disregards the NT manuscript evidence ,
Some scholars will accept nothing of the Bible unless it's independently confirmed.

Biblical history and biblical theology are often so closely entwined we cannot separate one from the other. Is the crucifixion of christ a historical event or is it a doctrinal event? IT IS BOTH!

The Bible cannot afford to have historical errors, we are encouraged to believe its doctrine because of the reliability of his history.

Christ challenged Nicodemus **John 3:12** “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”
When God speaks He is just as reliable about the earthly things as He is about the heavenly.

THINK THIS THROUGH! We can't separate the bible's history from the bible's theology.

Christ said to a paralytic **Mark 2:5** “My son, your sins are forgiven.”
But some scribes there were reasoning in their hearts, why does this man speak this way, He is blaspheming- who can forgive sins but God?
Christ knowing what they were thinking, asked a challenging question “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, your sins are forgiven or to say Arise and take up your pallet and walk. “
Vs 10-11 “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, **11** “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

My authority
to perform a
VISIBLE MIRACLE
gives credence to
MY authority
to perform an
INVISIBLE one.

MY HEAVENLY AUTHORITY is proven by MY EARTHLY AUTHORITY!

So is the Bible historically reliable? YES- we see this with archeology



The majority of archaeological finds have , if anything, confirmed biblical record.

With creation- Did Moses receive his information from God or did he simply rewrite accounts that were already in existence?

When Nineveh was excavated, thousands of clay tablets were discovered ,of which 7 tablets called the “Creation Epic” that listed 6 days of creation were found.

God revealed to Moses the account as it was originally given.

Another archaeological find called the Gilgamech Epic which records the Babylonian flood. Archaeology has discovered 31 separate versions of this gigantic flood .

Such stories tend to confirm that such a flood actually occurred.

Archaeology has supported NT placed and events.

- (1) existence of Pool of Bethesda
- (2) (Pilate, whose existence was doubted, has been confirmed)
- (3) (An altar to an unknown god was found in Athens Acts 17:23.

THE REASON
FOR THE
BIBLES LONGEVITY
CAN BE FOUND
NOT IN THE MEN
WHO WROTE IT,
BUT IN THE GOD
WHO INSPIRED IT.

Is 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

The NT writers knew that their faiths based on fact. Peter was an eyewitness to the Transfiguration of Christ and wrote

2 Pet 1:16 “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”

This shows there is enough evidence for those who seek, but not enough for those who take pride in their skepticism.

The attitude of the heart is just as important as the reasoning of the mind.

3. PROPHETIC REASON

a. **Prophecies of Nostradamus**- This famous soothsayer would sometimes put himself in a trance, by sitting on a brass tripod and the tripod's legs were placed at the same degree of the pyramids.

Although he died in France in 1566, many believe that he predicted events that would occur until year 8000.

What can we say about his predictions?

Second, there might be some predictions that came to pass, or some similar events occurred.

Nostradamus did NOT get his information from God for 2 reasons:

First, he violated the express teaching of God's word to shun astrology and second, even his most ardent followers admit that Nostradamus was often wrong.

b. WHEN IT COMES TO BIBLICAL PROPHECY

We might ponder the when, how, and why, but we are not left with confusing interpretations. Bible prophecy is written in plain language.

If God is God, we can expect His prophets to write about the future with the same assurance as historians write about the past!

(2) Predictions of Daniel

Daniel was a remarkable prophet who foresaw the major kingdoms that would arise in the Near East.

What is most startling is that Daniel gave vivid details of the rise of Alexander the Great and the fact that after his death his kingdom would be divided among 4 rulers.

DANIEL 11:3-4 “ Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. **4** And when he has arisen, his kingdom

shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

SOME 200 YEARS AFTER Daniel wrote, Alexander who had NO HEIRS, arose and after his death, his kingdom was divided among his 4 generals.

(3) Messianic Prophecies

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

PROPHECY IN OT FULFILLED

● HIS BIRTHPLACE	Micah 5:2	Matt. 2:6
● HIS ATTITUDE	Isaiah 53:7	Matt. 27:13-14
TOWARD ACCUSERS		
● HIS BURIAL IN	Isaiah 53:9	Matt. 27:57-60
RICH MAN'S TOMB		
● HE WOULD RISE	Psalm 16:10	Acts 2:29-31
FROM THE DEAD		

God predicted details regarding Christ first coming so that the identification of the Messiah would be obvious to those who wanted to know the truth.

HIS BIRTHPLACE- Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
*Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”*

NT FULFILLMENT- Wise men from the east to Bethlehem

HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS ACCUSERS- Is 53:7 “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth”

NT FULFILLMENT- Matt 27:13-14 “Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” **14** But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.”

HIS BURIAL IN A RICH MAN'S TOMB- Is 53:9 “And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence, Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.”

NT FULFILMENT- Matt 27:57-60 "Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. **58** This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. **59** When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed."

HE WOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD- Ps 16:10 "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

NT FULFILLMENT- Acts 2:29-31 "Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, **31** he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

HE WOULD BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

Ps 110:1 "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

NT FULFILLMENT- Acts 1:9 "After He has said these things, HE was lifted up while they were looking on and a cloud received Him out of their sight."

Because these predictions have been fulfilled, we can be confident that other prophecies regarding Christ also come to pass.

KEEP IN MIND that past fulfillment guarantees future fulfillment. There are still dozens of prophecies in the Bible that will be fulfilled in our lifetime. Peter trend that since Christ has not yet returned some would be come skeptical mocking the promises of God.

2 PET 3:3-4- "knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

4. CHRISTOLOGICAL REASON

Do you find your faith shaken when you read that the very existence of Christ is questionable?

There is a group of people known as the Jesus Seminar, who meet in California on what they believe Christ did or did not say or do.

They are left wing scholars and have stated their purpose is to change the way people think about Jesus. They want to “free the Bible from the religious right” and believe that our culture needs a new view of Jesus - a Jesus that speaks to modern feminism, political correctness.

Indeed the **JESUS SEMINAR IS JUST ONE MORE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CHRIST IS WHO THE NT WRITERS SAY HE IS.**

Their subjectivism has left them with random bits and pieces that do not easily fit together. They are faced with the realization that the gospel is either all true or all false.

Augustine lived before scholars chewed up the Scripture according to their personal whims. But even in his day, some people believed what they wanted and discarded the rest.



AUGUSTINE said ...

**“If you believe what you like
in the gospels, and reject
what you don't like,
it's not the gospel you believe,
but yourself.”**



a. BELIEVING WHAT JESUS BELIEVED

Why do we believe the Bible is God's Word: CHRIST'S AUTHORITY.

What is Christ's opinion of His bible, the OT?

Some folks think **Adam and Eve** are mythical but Jesus confirmed the Genesis story.

Matt 19:4-5 “And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who [a]made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ **5** and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

Some have discounted the **story of the flood** but Jesus said

Matt 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **38** For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Many do not believe Moses existed but Christ said

John 6:31-32 “ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.”

Christ quoted the OT to settle disputes. YEs, there were liberalism His day too. When the Saducees tried to ridicule the doctrine of the Resurrection, Jesus said “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you did not understand the Scriptures, or the power of God? Mark 12:24

Christ argued for the Resurrection on the basis of ONE WORD- a present tense verb. If there were no Resurrection, God would have said “I WAS the God of Abraham “ but because God used the present tense “I AM the God of Abraham” this must mean that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still alive.

Christ APPROVED OT Conduct-

Have you ever head that the OT is irrelevant as a guide to conduct and spiritual values? Christ didn't thinks. When a lawyer asked the question, “which is the greatest commandment in the law? Christ answered by linking together 2 quotes from the OT. MATT 22:37-40 “Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is *the* first and great commandment. **39** And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Keep in mind Christ faced temptation, 3 times He said to Satan “it is written” then quoted a relevant text from the OT. The expression “It is written” in the present tense is better translated “it STANDS written” which is the equivalent to saying GOD SAYS.

After the Resurrection, Jesus again pointed His disciples to the Scriptures, to those walking on the road to Emmaus, “And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in the Scriptures.” Luke 24:47

CHRIST AFFIRMED OT PROPHECIES-

He predicted His death -

Luke 22:37 “For I say to you that this which is written must still

be [a]ccomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."

Luke 24:25-26" Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

For Christ, the words of Scripture were God's words. For Him to say "have you not read?" Is equivalent to saying "do you not know that God has said?"

Picture Jesus with a group of angry Jews standing around, accusing Him os blasphemy because He claimed to be God. He said "Is it not written in your law, I said you are gods?"

Jesus appealed to the law because He knew that they would accept its authority. In this context Christ made an offhand comment that showed His high regard for the OT. John 10:34-36 "Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" ' ? **35** If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), **36** do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

Notice that Christ let the words "the scripture cannot be broken" come from His lips. He believed the OT to the letter.

So is the Bible pure and free from error? YES - We cannot circumvent that Christ believed that the OT words were inspired . For HIM, IF THE OT SAID IT, GOD SAID IT!

We cannot deny that Christ believed in the complete authority of the OT. It HE is our Savior, He is also our Teacher, and all who accept Him as a teacher much bow before him as Savior. The high priest questioned Christ, but until that moment He has kept silent.

"Are you the christ , the Son of the living God?" I am and you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."
Mark 14:61-62 THE WISE WILL BELIEVE WHAT HE BELIEVED AND FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS.