



A FIRM PLACE: Where do we find truth?

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Major Sources: Harold Lindsell, Carl Truman, Phillip Graham, J.F. Baldwin, Paul Chappell, Phillip Ryken, Answers in Genesis, Creation Research Institute

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. Psalm 40:2

I. Key Question: Where do we find truth and reality?

<p><u>Outward Source</u></p> <p>There is a Source of truth in the world, and we seek to align our lives with this reality.</p>		<p><u>Inward Source</u></p> <p>There is no objective truth in the world, and so we each create our own truth and reality based on our desires and experiences.</p>
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II. Key question: Is there a Designing God who determines truth?

A. Four Worldviews on God

- atheism (no god)
- polytheism (many gods)
- pantheism (everything is god)
- monotheism (one God)

German atheist Karl Marx (1845)

“The question whether objective truth can be attributed to human thinking is not a question of theory but is a practical question. Man must prove the truth, the reality and power, by what we choose and practice... My objective is to dethrone God...”

German atheist Friedrich Nietzsche (1873)

“God is dead...What then is truth? A movable host of metaphors, metonymies, and anthropomorphisms...Truths are illusions which we have forgotten are illusions.”

B. The Monotheistic Christian World View

- The universe was created by God.
- God communicates both his nature and truth to humanity.
- The universe and the Bible reveal God's truth.
- We can know the truth if we seek it.

C. The World's Honest Questions about the Bible's Truth

- Isn't the Bible just full of old stories and invented tales?
- Hasn't science disproved the Bible?
- How do we know it's accurate and true?
- Why should we trust the Bible?

III. Why I Believe the Bible is reliable as a source of Truth: Six Reasons

A. External evidence (outside of the documents of the Bible)

✓ REASON #6 The Bible is confirmed by human experience.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Cor 5:17-18.

2 billion Christians today. 20,000 new in Iraq this year. Some Examples of Transformation

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| • Saul of Tarsus (Jewish Leader) | • Rima Fasih (first Muslim Miss America) |
| • Constantine (Roman Emperor) | • Thomas Tarrants (violent Klansman) |
| • Augustine (pagan thrill-seeker) | • Mike Hume (Cambridge climatologist) |
| • Isaac Newton (depressed scientist) | • Brad Pitt and Tom Hanks (actors) |
| • John Newton (slave trader) | • Kanye West (Singer) |
| • C. S. Lewis (Oxford atheist) | • Bill Hayden (Australia's former Governor-General) |
| • Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (Marxist atheist) | • Rabi Maharaj (Brahmin guru) |
| • George Robert Price (atheist geneticist) | • Leah Libresco (atheist blogger) |
| • Chuck Colson (Watergate politician) | • Dion Sanders (athlete/coach) |
| • Rosalind Picard (MIT Director of IT Studies) | |

✓ REASON #5 The Bible is confirmed by science.

Example: Hydrologic Water Cycle

Bernard Palissy, a hydraulics engineer who, in 1580 discovered that water is always moving on our planet. Cycles through rain, streams, rivers, ocean, evaporation, condensation, rain...

According to hydrologist James Dooge, ancient ideas about water's relationship with the planet can be traced from as early as 1,000 B.C., with the Greek poet Homer depicting Earth "floating on a primal ocean." Or flowing from a large bucket which the gods dump when they feel like it. But the oldest book of the Bible sees clearly the cycle:

“He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.” Job 36:27-28

Example: Hematology

Antoni von Leeuwenhoek, in 1719, known as the father of microbiology, discovered the subparts of the body’s circulation system. We now know that, apart from traveling around the body to supply oxygen, nutrients, and other vital elements for continued survival, blood also protects the body via infection-fighting agents, prevents blood loss through clotting, regulates body temperature, and even ensures that waste products go to the liver and kidneys like they’re supposed to (via Hematology.org).

“Your blood could be viewed as the river of life; it is the substance that carries oxygen, water and nutrients to all your organs and tissues. Imbalances seen in the blood will affect all the organs and tissues, leading to malfunction and imbalance or even death.” (livebloodonline.com)

Written around 1450 BC according to scholars, Leviticus 17:11 reads,

“ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”

“For we cannot in any better manner glorify the Lord and Creator of the Universe than that, in all things, how small forever they appear to our naked eyes, which yet have received the gift of life and power if increase, we contemplate the display of his Omniscience and Perfections with the utmost admiration!” - Antoni von Leeuwenhoek, 1719

✓ **REASONS #4 The Bible is confirmed by archeology.**

Example: The curse Altar on Mt. Ebal, Israel

“When the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.” Deuteronomy 11:29

“Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.” Joshua 8: 30-31

Exactly as the Bible records, there is a curse altar of uncut stones on Mt. Ebal, discovered in 2009. A lead tablet found at the bottom of the oldest, round “Curse Altar” (c. 1400 BC) was discovered by Stephen Rudd in 2019. The Paleo-Hebrew text on it reads:

“Cursed, cursed, cursed / Cursed by the God YHWH / You will die cursed / Cursed you will surely die / Cursed by YHWH / Cursed, cursed, cursed.”

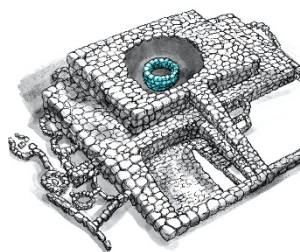
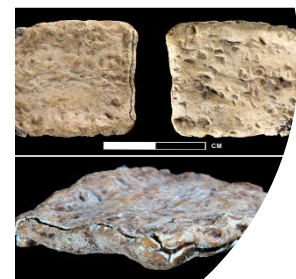


Diagram of “Joshua’s Altar” (1200 BC) and the “Curse Altar” (c. 1400 BC) on Mt. Ebal.



B. Internal evidence (from inside the Bible's texts)

✓ REASON #3 The Bible is confirmed by its unity.

- 66 books,
- Written by 40 human authors,
- With differing purposes and life situations,
- From palaces, fields, deserts, and prisons.
- In circumstances creating anger, despair,
- frustration, joy, surrender and love,
- Over a period of 2000 years,
- On 3 continents,
- Covering history, laws, poetry, prophecy, faith, ethics, and proverbs.

And yet there is one consistent message, without any major disagreements. As if there is One Author.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

✓ REASON #2 The Bible is confirmed by fulfilled prophecy.

1. **EXAMPLE FROM DANIEL** *"In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream..."
Daniel 7:1*

Daniel in 6th century BC Babylon correctly predicts the rise and fall of Kingdoms —from Babylon to Medo-Persia to Greece to Rome—over the next 500 years.

2. **EXAMPLE FROM ISAIAH** *"Tell us, you idols, what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods... I, Isaiah, was the first to tell Zion, 'Look, here they are!'" Isaiah 41:21-23, 27*

Isaiah then perfectly predicts the birth and reign of Persian King Cyrus, two hundred years before it happens. How does he do it? The Lord is giving him what to write, for he sees the future perfectly:

"I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand.'" Isaiah 46:9-10

3. EXAMPLE OF MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

At least 60 Old Testament prophecies predict the details of the coming Messiah. All sorts of details are furnished: his birth, life, lineage, suffering, words, enemies, death, resurrection, and reign. For example, he must be born in Bethlehem:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” -Micah 5:2

Fulfilling just 8 prophecies would require the same odds as picking one silver dollar from those covering all of Texas 2' deep Fulfilling 30 prophecies in one person has been calculated to be a 1 to 10¹⁵⁷!

✓ **REASON #1 The Bible is the Truth according to Jesus.**

Jesus uses Bible verses to argue with Satan and the Teachers of the Law. He uses them on the road to Emmaus to show the Messiah to discouraged followers. Of the many places where Jesus cites the Bible as his authority, Matthew 5:17-19 is without match:

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

IV. CONCLUSION: There is a God who has revealed his truth to us—through the ordering of the universe, through the bible, and through his son, Jesus. This is why I trust the bible to be true.

Philip Graham, in *Christian Worldview*, writes, “Because it is grounded in divine revelation, the Christian worldview has a fixed reference point in the mind of God, and thus it stands as something that connects all believers everywhere.”

Illustration of the Truth of Jesus and the Bible changing a life:

Isabell Baumfree was born a slave in New York in 1796. At age 30 she ran away from her owner with her young son, 3. She had an encounter with God, and was renamed by the Lord as Sojourner Truth. In the years that followed, her faith grew as she sensed God’s presence and leading. “Jesus loved me! I knowed it, I felt it,” she said. Soon God revealed a new calling to match her name: to travel declaring truth. She was given a new purpose—fight slavery through the Lord’s power of truth and hope.

Sojourner Truth focused on “‘testifying of the hope that was in her’—exhorting the people to embrace Jesus.” Truth spoke out against slavery and for women’s rights while remaining faithful to a consistent theme: “I has just one text to preach from. ... My text is, ‘When I found Jesus.’”

“She was fueled in her fight for freedom by love and godly conviction, rather than by rage and bitterness,” says Christine Caine, who is the author of *Unexpected*. “The thing that has impacted me the most is the strength she drew from knowing her identity in Christ. You cannot truly fight for the emancipation of others if you do not have an internal revelation of your own freedom in Christ. True change and transformation happen from the inside out, and—given that as a slave she was treated as a commodity and not a human being—it is no small thing that she did not see herself as her oppressors saw her. She saw herself as God saw her. When you see yourself as God sees you, you can then see others as God sees them.”