

FIREWALL: An Apologetics Seminar

10 Amazing Evidences to Prove Christianity

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

Christian Apologetics - *Why Should We Do It?*

1. Our **Conditions**

- On April 8th, 1966 *Time Magazine* published a front page issue with the bold title "**God is Dead**", vocalizing the belief of many that the idea of God is an intellectually bankrupt concept.
- **New Atheism** has been on the rise during the last decade. This can easily be seen throughout the publications of Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, or Richard Dawkins.
- Certain **Ideas & Philosophies** are gaining popularity and intellectual momentum in the university:
 - Skepticism - "We should question all truths."
 - Relativism - "Each person has their own truth."
 - Postmodernism - "No truth exists at all."
 - Pluralism - "Many truths are equally true."
- **Evolution & Darwinism** have been gaining ground in the world of science, since 1859, claiming that all complex biological life is product of randomness and genetic mutations.
- **Alarming Statistics** tell us that an average of approximately 85% of Christians who enter the university, will end up leaving the Christian faith by the time of their fourth year.
- Essentially, as Christians, we are engaged in full-blown "**War of Ideas**" in our current world..and ideas have consequences! We are **battling and fighting for the minds** of those around us!

2. Our **Commands**

- **Mk 16:15 NLT** - "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."
- **Rom 1:16 NKJV** - "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation.."
- **1 Pet 3:15 NKJV** - "..always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.."

- **Jude 1:3 NLT** - *"..I find that I must write about something else, urging you to **defend the faith** that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people."*
- **Phil 1:27 NLT** - *"..I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, **fighting together for the faith**, which is the Good News."*

3. Our **Common Sense**

- **1 Cor 9:20-22 NLT** - *"When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ.. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ...When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, **I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.**"*
- **Matt 13:18-19 NLT** - *"Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: The seed that fell on the footpath represents those **who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it.** Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts."*
- **Phil 2:5-8 NLT** - *"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; **He took the humble position of a slave** and was born as a human being. When **He appeared in human form, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died** a criminal's death on a cross."*
- **Acts 17:16, 22-24 NLT** - *"While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. ...So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And **one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.'** This God, whom **you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about.** He is **the God who made the world and everything in it.**"*

4. Our **Christ**

- **John 14:11 NLT** - *"Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or **at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.**"*
- **John 5:36 NLT** - *"But **I have a greater witness than John--my teachings and my miracles.** The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and **they prove that He sent me.**"*

- **John 10:38 NLT** - "But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

GOD REALLY EXISTS!

4 Great Arguments

As thinking human beings, we ask ourselves many deep and important questions about our existence:

- Question of **Origin** - "Where did we come from?"
- Question of **Meaning** - "Does life have an underlying purpose?"
- Question of **Morality** - "Is there truly a 'right' and 'wrong'?"
- Question of **Destiny** - "What will happen to me when I die?"

But, beyond this lies still a deeper and even more fundamental question. It is a question that will answer all of the rest; a question that will ultimately influence everything in a person's life; a question that will determine how you live now, and how you will spend your eternity:

"DOES GOD EXIST?"

We are going to train you how to answer this question in **4 different ways**, using **4 different types of evidence**.

We are going to show you how to do this **WITHOUT** using the Bible. Why???

- *Unbelievers don't respect the Bible* - 1 Cor 2:14
- *Unbelievers need us to speak their "language"* - 1 Cor 9:22; Acts 17

GOD knows this and has left us mountains of evidence to help reach them! Ps.19; Rom 1:18-20

The 2 "Books" that God has given us: 1. His **Word** 2. His **World**
He has revealed Himself to us through **Revelation** & **Reason**

A Good Argument must have certain qualities:

- It should be **Veridical**: The Premises are true.
- It should be **Logical**: The Premises follow the rules of Logic.
- It should be **Knowable**: The Premises can be known/discovered.
- It should be **Plausible**: The Conclusion is more probable than it's negation.

The Cosmological Argument (video)

- **Everything that begins to exist has a cause.**

Common Experience

Law of Causality

Scientific Investigation

- The **universe** began to exist.
 - Famous equations ($E=mc^2$ - 1915; AVG - 2003)*
 - Ripples of matter (COBE 1980)*
 - Expanding universe (Hubble 1929)*
 - Second law ()*
 - Heat radiation echo (1965 Penzias Wilson)*
- Therefore, the universe must have a **cause**.
 - It would have to be Transcendent.*
 - It would have to be Timeless.*
 - It would have to be Spaceless.*
 - It would have to be Immaterial.*
 - It would have to be Uncaused.*
 - It would have to be Unimaginably Powerful.*
 - It would have to be Personal Mind.*
- This Cause is **GOD**.

The Design Argument (video)

- **True Design** comes from an Intelligent Designer.
 - True design = Specified Complexity*
 - Automobiles, Jets, Mt. Rushmore, Paintings, Hieroglyphics*
 - The "Design Detector"*
- The **Human Body** contains true design.
 - The Super Cell*
 - Flagellar Motor*
 - ATP Rotary Engine*
 - Protein Machine*
 - DNA Program*
- Therefore, the Human Body was designed by an **Intelligent Designer**.

The Conceptual Argument

- There are concepts, ideas, and laws that are eternal, necessary, and unchanging.
 - *Numbers: 1, 8, 777*
 - *Mathematical Equations: $1+1=2$; $3 \times 3=9$;*
 - *Geometric Shapes: a Square; a Sphere; a Cube*
 - *Laws of Logic: Existence; Identity; Non-Contradiction*
- These concepts must originate from human minds, be Platonic objects, or come from an Mind.
 - *These are the only 3 possible options: 1. Humans invented them 2. They exist timelessly as Platonic forms 3. They come from a Mind that is also eternal, necessary, and unchanging.*

- **These concepts do not originate from human minds, and are not Platonic objects.**
 - *These concepts are beyond human minds and predate them. These ideas are eternal, they must exist, and are unchanging. Humans didn't invent them, but rather discovered them.*
 - *Though Plato (330 BC) believed in a realm of eternal "Forms", there is no evidence or reason to support their existence.*
- **Therefore, these eternal, necessary, and unchanging concepts must come from an eternal, necessary, unchanging Mind.**
 - *This is the only remaining option. An Eternal, Necessary, and Unchanging Mind is the source of the infinite amount of concepts, ideas, laws, equations, and numbers that exist. This mind would therefore also be Omniscient, in addition to Eternal, Necessary, and Unchanging.*
- **This eternal, necessary, and unchanging Mind is GOD.**

The Moral Argument (video)

- **If there is no God, then "evil" and "good" (OMV) are not real.**
 - This is not to say that an Atheist "can't do good" because he doesn't believe in God. It is to say that without God, there would literally exist no "good" or "bad" in the world. It is a question of existence, not behavior.*
 - The Theist agrees with this, because he knows that only God is the objective and universal standard in which to anchor and ground moral values.*
 - The Atheist also agrees with this, since they do not believe that there is a God, and therefore "without God all things are permissible."*
 - Culture, society, upbringing, etc...all fail in being a sufficient ground in which to anchor moral values. All of these would still leave moral values as something subjective and relative. There must be a "Point of Reference" for morality.*
 - Plato's Euthyphro Dilemma: "Is it good because God commands it, or is it good in itself?"*
- **However, "evil" and "good" (OMV) are real.**
 - There are things that even atheists or relativists find purely evil. There is at least one thing that humans will find to be truly evil: Torturing, raping, and then eating little children...for fun. This is truly evil, whether people believe it or not, or know it or not. It is objectively evil - an objective moral value.*
- **Therefore, GOD exists and is the Source of objective moral values.**

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD!

3 Powerful Evidences

The OLD Testament - "Can We Trust these Manuscripts?"

- I. The **QUANTITY** of the OT Manuscripts.
- II. The **QUALITY** of the OT Manuscripts.

I. The QUANTITY of OT Manuscripts

- **Number: +10,000 mss.**
- **Date: 250 B.C. ---> 1100 A.D.**

- **"Oriental 4445 Manuscript"**
 - Date: A.D. 820-850
 - Books: Gen. 39:20-Deut. 1:33 (minus Num. 7:43-73; 9:12-10:18)
 - Housed: British Museum.

- **"Codex Cairensis"**
 - Dated: A. D. 895
 - Books: Former & Latter Prophets
 - Found: In Egypt
 - Housed: Holy Land

- **"Aleppo Codex"**
 - Dated: A.D. 930
 - Books: Whole OT
 - Condition: Very good.
 - Housed: Hebrew University

- **"Codex Leningradensis"**
 - Dated: 1008 A.D.
 - Books: Complete OT mss.
 - Value: Basis for Hebrew Bible

- **"Cairo Geniza"**
 - Found: In Egypt in a storehouse (Geniza) for old mss.
 - Dated: A.D. 929-1121
 - Located: Throughout the world.

- ****DEAD SEA SCROLLS****

Location Found: Qumran Area

Value: Manuscripts that are 1,000 years older!

"**Paleo Exodus**" - Date: 250 B.C.

"**Samuel Fragment**" - Date: 225 B.C.

"**Leviticus Scroll**" - Late 2nd Cent B.C.

"**Hosea Scroll**" - Late 1st Cent. B.C.

"**Isaiah Scroll**" - Before 100 B.C.; Complete Book of Isaiah

Dating the Dead Sea Scrolls??

- Carbon 14 Dating: Dr. Libby (1950)—167 B.C. f.
- Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) (1991-1998)--202 to 93 B.C. (Isaiah Scroll).
- Type of Writing: From 250 B.C. to A.D. 70
- Type of Pottery: From 150 B.C. to A. D. 100
- Coins: From 135 B.C. to A. D. 135
- Cloth: Type and kind of cloth is from same period.
- Other Mss.: Younger Murabba'at mss. found south of Bethlehem (1952) are self-dated at A.D. 132-135 which places DSS before this time.

II. The QUALITY of the Manuscripts

The Quality & Accuracy of OT Mss. is Known From Several Practices:

- 1) *Comparing the **Greek (LXX)** trans. of OT.*
- 2) *The careful practice of **Jewish Scribes**.*
- 3) *Comparing **parallel passages** (e.g., Psa. 18 and 2 Sam. 22)*
- 4) *The large number (**10,000**) of Hebrew mss.*
- 5) *Cross-checking with **Dead Sea Mss.** which are a thousand years earlier.*
- 6) *Comparison with **other ancient books**.*

- **Millar Burrows:** *"It is a matter of wonder that through something like a **thousand years** the text underwent **so little alteration**.... Herein lies its chief importance, supporting the fidelity of the Masoretic tradition" (*The Dead Sea Scrolls*, 304).*
- **Gleason Archer:** *"Isaiah proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in **more than 95% of the text**. The 5% of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling" (*OT Introduction*, 19).*
- **F.F. Bruce:** *"It may now be **more confidently asserted than ever before** that the Dead Sea discoveries have enabled us to answer this question [of reliability of the OT text] in the affirmative with much greater assurance than was possible before 1948" (*MLDSS*, 61-69).*

The Bottom Line: After 1,000 years we see...

- Only very minor changes in the mss.
- No change at all in the message!
 - 1 word change in Isa. 53.
 - 13 changes in the entire book of Isaiah's 66 chapters.

The NEW Testament - "Can We Trust these Manuscripts?"

- I. The **QUANTITY** of the NT Manuscripts.
- II. The **IMMEDIACY** of the NT Manuscripts.
- III. The **QUALITY** of the NT Manuscripts.

I. The QUANTITY of the NT Manuscripts.

The New Testament vs. Other Ancient Books:

- Most ancient books ---> 10-20 manuscripts
 - Homer's Iliad ---> 643 manuscripts

 - The New Testament ---> **5,700** Greek manuscripts
 - The New Testament ---> **19,000** Latin Vulgate, Syriac, Coptic
-
- **N.T. TOTAL** -----> **Approx. 25,000 manuscripts!!**

II. The IMMEDIACY of the NT Manuscripts.

There are Earlier NT manuscripts

New Testament vs. Most Other Books

c. 25--150 yr. gap 1,000 yr. average gap

- **Manuscript Expert - Sir Frederick Kenyon:** *"The interval between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established"*

"John Ryland"

- 117f. A.D.
- Five verses from John 18

"Bodmer Papyri"

- c. 200 A.D.
- Most of John, 1&2 Peter, & Jude

"Chester Beatty"

- c. 250 A.D.
- Nearly all the NT books

"Codex Vaticanus"

- c. 325-50 A.D.
- most of OT and NT

- **The Dean of Archaeology, W. F. Albright:** *"In my opinion, every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the forties and the eighties of the first century A. D. (very probably sometime between about 50 and 75 A. D.)"*
- **No Time for Myths to Develop, W. Craig:** *"The writings of the Greek historian Herodotus enable us to test the rate at which a legend accumulates; the tests show that even the span of two generations is too short to allow legendary tendencies to wipe out the hard core of historical fact"*

III. The QUALITY of the NT Manuscripts.

#1. Accuracy of the NT

- Even Atheist **Bart Ehrman** admits: *"In fact, most of the changes found in early Christian manuscripts have nothing to do with theology or ideology"* - *"Misquoting Jesus"*, pg. 55
- **Westcott & Hort** estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above *"trivialities"* and can be called *"substantial variations."* It is **98.33%** pure.
- **Ezra Abbott** said about 9/20 (95%) of the readings are "various" rather than "rival" readings, and about 9/20 (95%) of the rest make no real difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is **99.75%** pure.
- **A.T. Robertson** said the real concern is with about a *"thousandth part of the entire text."* So, the reconstructed text of the New Testament **99.9%** free from real concern.
- **Philip Schaff** estimated that of the 150,000 variations known, only 400

affected the sense; and of those only 50 were of real significance; and of these not one affected "an article of faith...."

Other Books Accuracy??

- "Mahabharata" - 90%
- "Iliad of Homer" - 95%

The NT Accuracy??

- **98.33%—99.9%**
- *More accurately copied manuscripts...than any other book from the ancient world!!*

#2. Proximity of the NT

The writers of the NT based their work on **eyewitness** testimony.

- "The **man who saw it** [the crucifixion] has given testimony, and his testimony is true" (Jn. 19:35).
- "This is the disciple **who testifies to these things** and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true" (Jn. 21:24).
- "God has raised this Jesus to life, and **we are all witnesses of the fact**" (Acts 2:32).
- "For we cannot help speaking about **what we have seen and heard**" (Acts 4:19-20).
- "**We are witnesses of everything He did** in the country of the Jews and Jerusalem" (Acts 10:39).
- "We did not follow cleverly invented stories [myths]..., but **we were eyewitnesses of His majesty**" (2 Peter 1:16).
- "That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life" (1 John 1:1).

Phd Scholars claim the NT is based on **eyewitness** testimony:

- **Bauckham, Richard.** "Jesus and the Eyewitnesses"
- **Blomberg, Craig.** "The Historical Reliability of the Gospels"
- **Blomberg, Craig.** "The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel"
- **Bruce, F. F.** "The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?"
- **Bruce, F. F.** "Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament"
- **Carson, D. A.** "New Testament Introduction"
- **Craig, William Lane.** "Knowing the Truth About the Resurrection"
- **Dodd, C. H.** "History and the Gospels"
- **Guthrie, Donald.** "NT Introduction"
- **Habermas, Gary.** "The Historical Jesus"
- **Hemer, Colin.** "Acts in the Setting of Hellenic History"
- **Kenyon, Frederick.** "Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts"
- **Linnemann, Eta.** "Is There a Synoptic Problem?"

- Metzger, Bruce. "The Text of the New Testament"
- Wright, N. T. "Can We Trust the Gospels?"

#3. **Authenticity** of the NT

The nature of the New Testament writings is **extremely** authentic.

- They made **no attempt to harmonize** their accounts.
- They included material that **put Jesus in a bad light**.
- They left **many difficult passages** in their text.
- They retained many **self-incriminating details**.
- They included **many demanding sayings** of Jesus.
- They distinguished **their words from Jesus' words**.
- They **did not deny their testimony** under threat of death.
- They claimed their record was **based on eyewitnesses**.
- They had **women witnessing the resurrection** before men.
- They challenged readers to **check out the facts**.
- They **discarded long-held Jewish beliefs** overnight.
- They include **more than 30 historical people**.

#4. **Unity** of the NT

Most ancient books have one or two writers. Amazingly, the New Testament has **9 different authors** of **27 separate books**...and they all agree in their teaching and doctrine!!

New Testament Has 9 writers:

- (1) Matthew, (2) Mark, (3) Luke, (4) John, (5) Paul, (6) Peter, (7) James, (8) Jude, (9) the author of Hebrews.
- They wrote the **27 books** of the New Testament, and are **always consistent and unified in their testimony**, even though they wrote about dozens of different doctrines and teachings. Amidst their **DIVERSITY**, they express an incredible **UNITY** in their writings!

The Bible's Archaeology & History - "It's Trustworthy!"

I. **The ARCHAEOLOGICAL Confirmation of the Bible:**

- No archaeological evidence has **ever** refuted the Bible.
- Hundreds of archaeological finds **support** the Bible.
- **Nelson Glueck:** "As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible"

- **William F. Albright:** *“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament Tradition”*
- *“The narratives of the patriarchs, of Moses and the exodus, of the conquest of Canaan, of the judges, the monarchy, exile and restoration, have all been confirmed and illustrated to an extent that I should have thought impossible forty years ago”* - **Christian Century, Nov. 19, 1958**

Numerous O.T. Archaeological Confirmations:

- Amarna Tablets
- Atrahasis Flood Epic
- Babylonian Chronicles
- Behistun Chronicles
- City of Beth Shan
- City of Dan
- Cyrus the Great - Brick
- Cyrus the Great - Cylinder
- Cyrus the Great - Tomb
- Ebla Tablets
- Gath Inscription
- Gilgamesh Flood Epic
- Hezekiah's Tunnel Inscription
- Hezekiah's Wall
- Hittite Seal Ring
- Horned Sacrificial Altars
- House of GOD Inscription
- Ishtar Gate of Babylon
- King Ahaz Bulla
- Lachish Letters
- Merneptah Stele
- Mesha Stela
- Nabonidus Cylinder
- Royal Steward Inscription
- Sennacherib Prism
- Artaxerxes Silver Bowl
- Tel Dan Stele
- Uzziah Plaque
- Winged Bull of Sargon II

Numerous N.T. Archaeological Confirmations:

- Arch of Titus
- Areopagus of Athens
- Bema Seat

- Caesar Augustus
- Caesarea by the Sea
- Caesarea Philippi
- Cities of the Decapolis
- City of Capernaum
- City of Capernaum - Synagogue
- City of Corinth
- City of Ephesus
- City of Philippi
- Destruction of the Temple
- Erastus Inscription
- Gallio Inscription
- Herod's Fortress - Macherus
- Jordan River
- Lithostratos
- Pontius Pilate Inscription
- Pool of Bethesda
- Pool of Siloam
- Sergius Paulus Inscription
- Tomb of Jesus Christ

II. The HISTORICAL Accuracy of the Bible:

Does this Sound Like Myth...or History?

- *“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert” - Luke 3:1-2*
 - 1) An **exact date** is given--A. D. 29.
 - 2) All **eight people are known** from history.
 - 3) All were known to **live at this exact time**.
 - 4) This is **not a “once upon a time”** story (myth).

A Famous Myth-Writer Speaks Out - C.S. LEWIS

- *“All I am in private life is a literary critic and historian, that’s my job. And I am prepared to say on that basis if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legend or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic. I’ve read a great many novels and I know a fair amount about the legends that grew up among early people, and I know perfectly well the Gospels are not that kind of stuff.”*

Noted Roman Historian Confirms NT - A.N. SHERWIN-WHITE

- “So it is astonishing that while Greco-Roman historians have been growing confidence, the twentieth-century study of the gospel narratives, starting from no less promising material, have taken so gloomy a turn in the development of form-criticism...that the historical Christ is unknowable and the history of his mission cannot be written. This seems very curious” (187). He calls the mythological view “unbelievable”

Noted Roman Historian Confirms the Book of Acts - COLIN J. HEMER

He authored *"The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History"*

1. Nearly **100 details of Acts confirmed** by 1st century scholar.
2. **Not 1 single error found.**
3. Strong evidence Acts that was written **by A.D. 62.**
4. Same author wrote **Gospel of Luke** (Acts 1:1 & Lk. 1:1).
5. **Matthew and Mark** were written even earlier.
6. Therefore, at least 3 Gospels were written by **contemporaries of Jesus.**

Noted Legal Expert Confirms the 4 Gospels: SIMON GREENLEAF

- Professor of Law at Harvard University.
- He authored *"A Treatise on the Law of Evidences"* (1853) and *"The Testimony of the Evangelists"* (1874 edition).
- *"If they had thus testified on oath, in a court of justice, they would be entitled to credit.... If so, then it is believed that every honest and impartial man will act consistently with that result, by receiving their testimony in all the extent of its import" (53-54).*
- *"The result, it is confidently believed, will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth" (46).*

Other LEGAL ATTORNEYS Confirm the Historicity of the New Testament:

- **Thomas Sherlock**, *"The Trial of the Witnesses of the Resurrection"*
- **Frank Morrison**, *"Who Moved the Stone?"*
- **John Montgomery**, *"Christianity and History"*
- **Lee Strobel**, *"The Case for Christ"*
- **Irwin Linton**, *"A Lawyer Examines the Bible"*

The Bible's Divine Signatures - "It's Supernatural!"

This is God's "Authentication Technology"

I. Scriptural Foreknowledge:

PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE:

- Over **27%** of the Bible is Prophecy.
- There are over **1,800** specific predictions
- These focus on over **730** separate matters

- **Only the Bible** has legitimate Prophecy.
- **Only the Bible** is **100%** accurate in Prophecy.
- **Only the Bible** stakes its claim to truth on Prophecy. (Isa 41:20-24)
- **Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV** - *"Remember the former things of old, For 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.."*

PROPHECY IN DANIEL:

Daniel predicted the Major Empires of World History!

- Daniel 2,4

Daniel predicted the Rise, the Rule, and the Fall of Alexander the Great! (356-323BC)

- Daniel 8,11

Daniel predicted the day Messiah would present Himself to Israel! (April 6, 32AD)

- Daniel 9:25

PROPHECY IN EZEKIEL:

Ezekiel predicted the Destruction of Tyre (Alexander the Great 332BC)

- Ezekiel 26

Ezekiel predicted the Rebirth of National Israel (May 14, 1948)

- Ezekiel 36-37

PROPHECY IN ISAIAH:

Isaiah predicted Cyrus the Great's Victory over Babylon (539BC)

- Isaiah 44,45

PROPHECIES BY JESUS:

Jesus predicted the Destruction of Jerusalem (Titus Vespasian 70AD)

- Luke 19:43,44

Jesus predicted the Destruction of the Jewish Temple (Titus Vespasian 70AD)

- Matthew 24:1,2

Jesus predicted the Dispersion of the Jews (70AD) & Jerusalem's control (June 6, 1967)

- Luke 21:24

II. Scientific Foreknowledge:

Astronomy & Cosmology

- The Universe (T,S,M,E) had **a beginning**. (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:3; 1Tim 1:8-9)
- The Universe **is expanding**. (Isa 42:5; 44:24)
- The Universe was **designed to support human life**. (Isa 45:18; Ps.8:3-4)
- The Universe is **"running down"**. (Heb 1:10-12; Ps. 102:26)

- The Universe is **governed by Natural Laws**. (Job 38:33; Jer 33:25)
- The Stars are **too numerous to be counted**. (Gen 15:5; Jer 33:22)
- The Earth is **round/spherical**. (Isa 40:22)
- The Earth is "hung" in space and **free floating**. (Job 26:7)

Zoology & Geology

- All basic forms of animal life **begin together**. (Gen 1)
- Life forms **remain essentially the same**. (Gen 1:12,21)
- All types of life **began fully formed**. (Gen 1:20-21)
- Dinosaurs **co-existed with ancient humans**. (Job 40:15-24)

Hydrology & Oceanology

- Water **returns to it's original source**. (Ecc. 1:7; Job 36:27-28)
- Currents **exist in the ocean waters**. (Ps. 8:8; Isa 43:16)
- On the ocean floor there are **mountain ranges and springs**. (Job 38:16)

Biology & Microbiology

- Life does **not come from non-life**. (Gen 1:21,26)
- Life is **designed and incredibly complex**. (Gen 1:27; Ps.139)
- Life is in the **human blood supply**. (Lev 17:11,14)
- Sanitation avoids the **spread of bacteria and disease**. (Lev.12,14)
- Human body is **composed of earth's basic elements**. (Gen 2:7)
- Matter is constructed of **atomic particles**. (Heb 11:3)
- Laughter promotes improved **physical health**. (Prov 17:22)

III. Structural Foreknowledge:

The Structure of NAMES

- **Genesis 5 - Adams Genealogy**
 - The listed names: **Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah**
 - **The Hebrew meanings of these names displays an interesting prophecy of Christ:** *"Man (is) Appointed (to) Mortal Sorrow (but) the Blessed God Shall come Down Teaching His death shall bring The Despairing Rest."*

The Structure of TYPES

- **Genesis 22: The Father sacrifices the Son in worship.**
 - *The father, with instruments of **judgment**, takes the son, carrying **wood on his back**, up Mount **Moriah**. The father is intending to **sacrifice the son**, as an act of worship, and the son **humbly & obediently submits** to the father's will. The son is compared to a **sacrificial lamb** by the father. The son is spared and received **back "from the dead"** by the father.*

- **Genesis 24: The Servant seeks a Bride for the Son.**
 - The *father sends out the servant to find a bride for his son*. The servant *interacts with the woman*, who *responds positively to him*, there is *supernatural guidance*, and she *agrees to become the bride to the son*. The servant *gives precious gifts to the bride*, and it is prophesied that she will become the *mother of millions of descendants*. The *bride and the son are married*.

- **Genesis 30-50: Joseph is rejected, murdered, exalted, and worshipped.**
 - Over **100** similarities to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ
 - Cross reference Joseph's story with *Philippians 2:5-11*

- **Numbers 1-2 - The Formation of the Camp of Israel...was of a Cross!**
 - **Forms the shape of a Cross from the Air** (Num 22-24)
 - **4 Camp Banners: Ox, Man, Lion, Eagle**
 - **4 Living Creatures: Ox, Man, Lion, Eagle**
 - **4 Gospels of Christ:**
 - Mark: Jesus, the Servant (*Ox*)
 - Luke: Jesus, the Son of Man (*Man*)
 - Matthew: Jesus, the King (*Lion*)
 - John: Jesus, the Son of God (*Eagle*)

The Structure of SEVEN

- **Genesis 1:1 - Hebrew word construction - Multiples of 7**
 - Number of words: **7** (*universe, light, sound*)
 - Number of letters: **28** (7x4)
 - First Three words: **14** letters (7x2)
 - Last Four words: **14** letters (7x2)
 - Fourth & Fifth words: **7** letters
 - Sixth & Seventh words: **7** letters
 - Key words (God, heaven, earth): **14** total letters (7x2)
 - Four remaining words: **14** letters (7x2)

- **OT & NT significant words/phrases - Multiples of 7**
 - "Hallelujah" appears **28** times in Scripture. (7x4)
 - "Hosanna" appears **7** times in Scripture.
 - "Shepherd" appears **21** times in Scripture. (7x3)
 - "Jehovah-Sabaoth" appears **287** times in Scripture. (7x41)
 - "Isaac" appears **126** times in Scripture. (7x18)
 - "Aaron" appears **448** times in Scripture. (7x64)
 - "Christ at the right hand of God" appears **21** times in Scripture. (7x3)

- "After Melchizedek" appears **7** times in Scripture.
 - "The stone which the builders rejected.." appears **7** times in Scripture.
 - "Love you neighbor as yourself" appears **7** times in Scripture.
- **Matt 1:1-11** - Greek word construction - Divisible by 7
 - 1 The number of **words**.
 - 2 The number of **letters**.
 - 3 The number of **vowels**.
 - 4 The number of **nouns**.
 - 5 The number of **consonants**.
 - 6 The number of **names**.
 - 7 The number of **words that begin with a vowel**.
 - 8 The number of **words that begin with a consonant**.
 - 9 The number of **words that occur more than once**.
 - 10 The number of **words that occur in more than one form**.
 - 11 The number of **words that occur on only one form**.
 - 12 The number of **words that are not nouns**.
 - 13 The number of **other kinds of nouns**.
 - 14 The number of **male names**.
 - 15 The number of **generations**.

JESUS IS THE LORD!

3 Great Evidences

The Historical Evidence for Christ - "**Jesus truly existed!**"

18 Ancient Non-Christian Sources for Jesus

ANCIENT HISTORIANS (4)

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS, Jewish Historian (37-97 AD)

- The first reference is to James, "the brother of **Jesus**, who was called Christ."
- "At this time there was a wise man who was called **Jesus**. His conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to **be crucified and to die**. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had **appeared to them three days after his crucifixion**, and that **he was alive**; accordingly he was perhaps the **Messiah**, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders."

TACITUS, Roman Historian (55-120 AD)

- “Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. **Christus**, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and **a most mischievous superstition**, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man’s cruelty, that they were being destroyed.”

SUETONIUS, Roman Historian (40-120 AD)

- “Because the Jews at Rome caused continuous disturbances at the instigation of **Chrestus**, he expelled them from the city.”
- “After the great fire at Rome...Punishments were also inflicted on the **Christians**, a sect professing a **new and mischievous religious belief**.”

THALLUS, Roman Historian (52 AD)

- **Julius Africanus (221AD) quotes Thallus:** “On the whole world there pressed **a most fearful darkness**; and the **rocks were rent by an earthquake**, and many places **in Judea** and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun.”

ANCIENT GOVERNMENT SOURCES (3)

PLINY THE YOUNGER, Government Official (112 AD)

- “They (the Christians) were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to **Christ**, **as to a god**, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any

wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food - but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.”

EMPEROR TRAJAN, Roman Emperor (98-117 AD)

- “The method you have pursued, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those denounced to you as **Christians** is extremely proper. It is not possible to lay down any general rule which can be applied as the fixed standard in all cases of this nature. No search should be made for these people; when they are denounced and found guilty they must be punished; with the restriction, however, that when the party denies himself to be a **Christian**, and shall give proof that he is not (that is, by adoring our Gods) he shall be pardoned on the ground of repentance, even though he may have formerly incurred suspicion. Informations without the accuser’s name subscribed must not be admitted in evidence against anyone, as it is introducing a very dangerous precedent, and by no means agreeable to the spirit of the age.”

EMPEROR HADRIAN, Roman Emperor (117-138AD)

- “I do not wish, therefore, that the matter should be passed by without examination, so that these men may neither be harassed, nor opportunity of malicious proceedings be offered to informers. If, therefore, the provincials can clearly evince their charges against the **Christians**, so as to answer before the tribunal, let them pursue this course only, but not by mere petitions, and mere outcries against the **Christians**. For it is far more proper, if any one would bring an accusation, that you should examine it.”

ANCIENT Gnostic SOURCES (6)

THE GOSPEL OF TRUTH, Gentile source (3rd cent. AD)

- “the **Word** came into the midst . . . it became a body.”
- “For when they had **seen him and had heard him**, he granted them to taste him and to smell him and to touch **the beloved Son**. When he had appeared instructing them about the Father For he came by means of fleshly appearance.”
- “**Jesus** was patient in accepting sufferings . . . since he knows that **his death** is life for many . . . he was **nailed to a tree**; he published the edict of the Father **on the cross**. . He draws himself down to death through life . . . eternity clothes him. Having stripped himself of the perishable rags, **he**

put on imperishability, which no one can possibly take away from him.”

THE APOCRYPHON OF JOHN, Gentile source (2nd cent. AD)

- “It happened [one day] when Jo[h]n, the brother of James,—who are the sons of Ze[bed]ee—went up and came to the temple, that a [Ph]arisee named Arimanius approached him and said to him, “[Where] is **your master** whom you followed?” And he [said] to him, “**He has gone** to the place from which he came.” The Pharisee said to him, “[**This Nazarene**] deceived you (pl.) with deception and filled [your ears with lies] and closed [your hearts and turned you] from the traditions [of your fathers].”

THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS, Gentile source (2nd cent. AD)

- “..the secret sayings which the living Jesus spoke.”
- “**Jesus** said, “It is **I who am the light** which is above them all. It is **I who am the All**. From **Me did the All come forth**, and unto Me did the All extend. Split a piece of wood, and I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find Me there.”
- Jesus is identified as “living” or as the “**Living One**,” a reference to his post resurrection life.

THE TREATISE OF THE RESURRECTION, Gentile source (2nd cent. AD)

- “The **Lord** . . . existed in flesh and . . . revealed himself as **Son of God** . . . Now the **Son of God**, dear Rheginos, was also **Son of Man**. He embraced them both, possessing the humanity and the divinity, so that on the one hand he might vanquish death through his being **Son of God**, and that on the other through the **Son of Man** the restoration to the Pleroma might occur; because he was originally from above, a seed of **the Truth**, before this structure (of the cosmos) had come into being.”
- “For we have known the **Son of Man**, and we have believed that he rose from among the dead. This is he of whom we say, “He became the destruction of death, as he is **a Great One** in whom they believe.” Great are those who believe.”
- “The **Savior** swallowed up death... He transformed [himself] into an **imperishable Aeon** and raised himself up, having swallowed the visible by the invisible, and he gave us the way of our **immortality**... Do not think **the resurrection** is an illusion. It is no illusion, but it is truth. Indeed, it is more fitting to say that the world is an illusion, rather than the resurrection which has come into being through our **Lord the Savior, Jesus Christ**.”

ACTS OF PONTIUS PILATE, Gentile source (2nd cent. AD)

- **Justin Martyr (150AD) wrote:** “And the expression, “They pierced my hands and my feet,” was used in reference to **the nails of the cross** which were fixed **in His hands and feet**. And after **he was crucified**, they cast lots upon his vesture, and **they that crucified Him** parted it among them. And that these things did happen you can ascertain in the “Acts” of Pontius Pilate.”
- **Justin lists healing miracles and asserts,** “And that **He** did those things, you can learn from the Acts of Pontius Pilate.”
- **Tertullian (200AD) referenced this letter:** “Tiberius accordingly, in whose days the Christian name made its entry into the world, having himself received intelligence from Palestine of events which had clearly shown the truth of **Christ’s divinity**, brought the matter before the senate, with his own decision in favour of **Christ**. The senate, because it had not given the approval itself, rejected his proposal. Caesar held to his opinion, threatening wrath against all accusers of the Christians.”

PHLEGON, Gentile source (3rd cent. AD)

- **Origen (200AD) wrote this of Phlegon:** “Now Phlegon, in the thirteenth or fourteenth book, I think, of his Chronicles, not only ascribed to **Jesus** a knowledge of future events (although falling into confusion about some things which refer to Peter, as if they referred to Jesus), but also testified that the result corresponded to His predictions...And with regard to the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign **Jesus appears to have been crucified**, and the **great earthquakes** which then took place, Phlegon too, I think, has written in the thirteenth or fourteenth book of his Chronicles.”
- **Origen directly quoted Phlegon:** “**Jesus**, while alive, was of no assistance to himself, but that he arose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment, and showed how **his hands had been pierced by nails**.”
- **Julius Africanus (220AD) also quoted Phlegon:** “Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a **full eclipse of the sun** from **the sixth to the ninth hour**.”

ANCIENT JEWISH SOURCES (2)

TOLEDOTH JESU, Jewish Document (5th cent. AD)

- This anti Christian document not only refers to Jesus, but gives an interesting account of what happened to **Jesus’ body** after his death. It relates that his disciples planned to steal his body. However, a

gardener named Juda discovered their plans and dug a new grave in his garden. Then he removed **Jesus' body from Joseph's tomb** and placed it in his own newly dug grave. The disciples came to the original tomb, found Jesus' body gone and proclaimed him risen. The Jewish leaders also proceeded to Joseph's tomb and found it empty. Juda then took them to his grave and dug up the body of Jesus. The Jewish leaders were greatly relieved and wanted to take the body. Juda replied that he would sell them the body of **Jesus** and did so for thirty pieces of silver. The Jewish priests then dragged **Jesus' body** through the streets of Jerusalem.

THE TALMUD, Jewish Document (1st-3rd cent. AD)

- “On the eve of the Passover **Yeshu** was hanged. For forty days before **the execution** took place, a herald went forth and cried, “He is going forth to be stoned because he has **practiced sorcery** and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favour, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.” But since nothing was brought forward in his favour **he was hanged** on the **eve of the Passover!**”

ANCIENT GENTILE SOURCES (3)

LUCIAN, Greek satirist (2nd cent. AD)

- “The **Christians**, you know, **worship a man** to this day — the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and **was crucified** on that account. . . . You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that **they are immortal** for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by **their original lawgiver** that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and **worship the crucified sage**, and **live after his laws**. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property.”

MARA BAR SERAPION, imprisoned Syrian father (1st-3rd cent. AD)

- “What advantage did the Athenians gain from putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as a judgment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burning Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. What advantage did the Jews gain from executing **their wise King**? It was just after that that their kingdom was abolished. God justly avenged these three wise men: the Athenians died of hunger; the Samians were overwhelmed by the sea; the Jews, ruined and driven from their land, live in complete dispersion. But Socrates did not die for good; he lived on the statue of Hera. Nor did **the wise King die** for good; he lived on in the teaching

which he had given.”

THE KORAN 4:157 (7th cent. AD)

- “That they said (in boast), “**We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary**, the Messenger of Allah”;- but they killed him not, **nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear** to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not.”

THE KORAN 2:253 (7th cent. AD)

- “We have made some of these messengers to excel the others among them are they to whom Allah spoke, and some of them He exalted by (many degrees of) rank; and **We gave clear miracles to Isa son of Marium**, and strengthened him with the holy spirit. And if Allah had pleased, those after them would not have fought one with another after clear arguments had come to them, but they disagreed; so there were some of them who believed and others who denied; and if Allah had pleased they would not have fought one with another, but Allah brings about what He intends.”

The Prophetic Evidence for Christ - "Jesus truly is Messiah!"

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?

- **Only the Bible** has legitimate Prophecy.
- **Only the Bible** is **100%** accurate in Prophecy.
- **Only the Bible** stakes it's claim to truth on Prophecy. (Isa 41:20-24)
- Over **27%** of the Bible is Prophecy.
- There are over **1,800** specific predictions
- These focus on over **730** separate matters
- There are over **300** separate prophecies about "Messiah", a coming Deliverer.
- **HOW HARD WOULD IT BE FOR THESE 300 PROPHECIES TO BE FULFILLED BY ONE PERSON?**

CHANCES FOR 8 TO BE FULFILLED ACCIDENTALLY?

- Dr. Peter Stoner, was **Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy** at Pasadena City College until 1953; **Chairman of the science division**, Westmont College, 1953–57; **Professor Emeritus of Science**, Westmont College; **Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Astronomy**, Pasadena City College.
- Dr. Stoner, using **the Laws of Probability**, calculated the odds of one man fulfilling the major prophecies made concerning the Messiah. He submitted his figures for review to a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation. Upon examination, they verified that his

universal "**ball of atoms**" for every atom of our universe, which brings us up to 10^{132} - still too small. Let's repeat this exact procedure **once every second since the universe supposedly began**. That brings us to 10^{149} which is still not enough! We have to **repeat this entire procedure 100,000,000 times** to obtain the number of atoms we need. Finally, now we can imagine marking a single atom out of that unimaginably huge sphere. If a person, **blindfolded**, found it on **the first try**, those are the odds of 1×10^{157} .

The Resurrection Evidence of Christ - "**Jesus truly is God!**"

12 Historical Evidences Pointing to the Resurrection:

- 1 *Eyewitness Testimony*
- 2 *Early Sources*
- 3 *Excellent Manuscripts*
- 4 *Enemy Testimony*
- 5 *Embarrassing Testimony*
- 6 *Expert Soldiers*
- 7 *Entrance Stone*
- 8 *Empty Tomb*
- 9 *Empty Shroud*
- 10 *Early Church Growth*
- 11 *Elimination of Customs*
- Execution of the Apostles*