

- **2 Peter 1:15** "Indeed, I will also make every effort that, after my departure, you have a testimony of these things. ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly concocted fables when we made known to you the power and return of our Lord Jesus Christ; no, we were eyewitnesses of his grandeur. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory: "This is my dear Son, in whom I am delighted." ¹⁸ When this voice was conveyed from heaven, we ourselves heard it, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Luke 9:28-36 "Now about eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter, John, and James, and went up the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became very bright, a brilliant white. ³⁰ Then two men, Moses and Elijah, began talking with him. ³¹ They appeared in glorious splendor and spoke about his departure that he was about to carry out at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those with him were quite sleepy, but as they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ Then as the men were starting to leave, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he was saying. ³⁴ As he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him!" ³⁶ After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. So they kept silent and told no one at that time anything of what they had seen."

Hebrews 1:1-4 "After God spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets, ² in these last days he has spoken to us in a son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he created the world. ³ The Son is the radiance of

his glory and the representation of his essence, and he sustains all things by his powerful word, and so when he had accomplished cleansing for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.** ⁴ Thus he became so far better than the angels as he has inherited a name superior to theirs.”

- **19 Moreover, we possess the prophetic word as an altogether reliable thing. You do well if you pay attention to this as you would to a light shining in a murky place,**

Colossians 1:13 “He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

- **until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.**

The Church is comprised of believers from all nations, both Jews and non-Jews. Peter writes that we have to heed the prophetic word like a lamp that shines in a dark place **until** the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. Physically, the morning star appears when the night is almost over, shortly before the new day breaks. How should we understand this symbolic language? The night has been almost 2,000 years long and the earth is becoming an ever-darker place. Shortly before the day breaks, with the second coming of Christ, the Church will be taken away to be with the Lord forever.

- **20 Above all, you do well if you recognize this: No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by the prophet’s own imagination, 21 for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”**

1. What is “absolute TRUTH”?

2. Is the Bible “absolute TRUTH”?

- A recent poll taken found that 67 percent (2 out of 3) of Americans believe there is no such thing as “absolute truth”.
- Many today look at the Bible with a humanist viewpoint.

God has indeed communicated to us Spiritual truth, which, by its nature, has to be absolute.

John 18:36-38 “Jesus replied, ‘My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my servants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’ **37** Then Pilate said, ‘So you are a king!’ Jesus replied, ‘You say that I am a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world—to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’ **38** Pilate asked, ‘What is truth?’”

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God.”

Our answer to this question will not only determine how we view the Bible and its importance to our lives, but it will also have an eternal impact on us. If the Bible is truly God’s Word, then we should cherish it, study it, obey it, and fully trust it. If the Bible is truly the Word of God, then it is the final authority for all matters of faith, practice, and morality. If the Bible is the Word of God, then to dismiss it is to dismiss God Himself.

“We can hold a correct view of the truth only by daring to believe everything God has said about Himself. It is a grave responsibility that a man take upon himself when he seeks to edit out of God’s self revelation such features as he in his ignorance deems objectionable.”

– AW Tozer

- **What sets the Bible apart from being just another good book?**

The Bible is unique and sets it apart from other religious writings:

- Quran
- Book of Mormon
- The Vedas
- The Watchtower

Is there evidence that the Bible is God's word, that it is inherent, and totally sufficient in all matters of faith? Yes, the Bible has been proven by both internal and external evidences:

1. Internal evidences

A. The Bible attests to itself

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Ps 119:160 "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

Jesus said that His words would remain eternal: **Matthew 24:35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

B. Unity

66 books written on 3 different continents and in 3 different languages over a period of 1500 years by 40 different authors.

C. Prophecy

The Bible contains hundreds of detailed prophecies relating to the future of various nations, certain cities, and all mankind.

Prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah that are extremely detailed. There are over three hundred prophecies concerning Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. Not only was His lineage foretold and where He would be born, but also how He would die and that He would rise again. There simply is no logical way to explain the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible other than citing divine origin. There is no other religious book with the amount of detailed predictive prophecy the Bible contains.

D. Unique authority and power

The Bible's authority is unlike that of any other book ever written. This power is seen in the way countless lives have been supernaturally transformed. The Bible possesses a dynamic and transforming power that is only possible because it is truly God's Word.

5. External evidences

A. Archeological

The historical accounts of the Bible proved time and again to be accurate and true. In fact, all the archaeological and manuscript evidence supporting the Bible makes it irrefutable!

B. The best-documented book from the ancient world

The Bible accurately records historically verifiable events and substantiates its claim to be the very Word of God by supporting trust concerning other matters the Bible addresses.

C. Integrity of its human authors.

In studying the lives of the authors of Scripture, we find them to be honest and sincere. The fact that they were willing to die often excruciating deaths for what they believed testifies that these men truly believed God had spoken to them. The men who wrote the New Testament and many hundreds of other believers (1 Corinthians 15:6) knew the truth of their message because they had spent time with Jesus Christ after He had risen from the dead. They went from hiding in fear to being willing to die for the message God had revealed to them. Their lives and deaths testify to the fact that the Bible truly is God's Word.

D. Indestructibility of the Bible

The Bible has suffered more vicious attacks and attempts to destroy it than any other book in history. From early Roman Emperors like Diocletian, through communist dictators and on to modern-day atheists, the Bible has withstood a constant onslaught from detractors. Yet it endures and is still today the most widely published book in the world.

The Bible, unique among books, has transformed countless lives and swayed whole cultures. After looking at the evidence, one can say without a doubt that God has spoken and that, yes, the Bible is truly God's Word.

To reiterate verses 20-21:

“Above all, you do well if you recognize this: No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by the prophet's own imagination, for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”