**The Infallibility & Reliability Of The Bible**

**Mountain Men**

**Introduction:**

1. What is your moral compass in life?

* How do you know what “true North” is for you in your life?
* How do we know what is true and what’s not true?
* Is truth relative to culture, me or God?
* To know the Bible is God’s truth to us provides a moral compass.

2. What makes the Bible more reliable than other religious sacred writings?

* Koran – Muhammed (570-622), revelation counters other sacred writings held by Islam (Bible) – update, but conflicts (Abraham sacrifice Ishmael, not Isaac)
* Book of Mormon – historical inaccuracies and claims (American Indians – lost tribe of Israel), misquotes KJV
* Vedas (early Hinduism, 1500 – 800 BC) – no known authors, no known preserved manuscripts, not specify historical events, not accepted as inspired
* The Bhagavad Gita (later Hindu) – poetic, no historical confirmation, gain salvation by devoting yourself to a god
* The Lotus Sutra (Buddhism) – “As alluded to above, in Buddhism, scriptures constitute a veritable cafeteria counter of wisdom from which one may select to suit one’s appetite. Furthermore, since the Lotus Sutra contains a clear historical falsehood, namely, its origin from the Buddha himself,﻿﻿ to accept it as divinely inspired writing would be irrational.” (Winfried Corduan)
* The Bible is not a comprised of myths and fairy tales, but God working with His creation in history.

**3. Attacks on the Authority Of The Bible**

* Humanism – man has authority over the Bible
* Traditionalism – Tradition is equal to Scripture in Roman Catholicism
* Rationalism – Reason over Revelation
* Relativism – truth is relative to individual or culture, not absolute with God
* Subjectivism – subjective experience defines truth, not Scripture
* Pragmatism – whatever works defines truth, not Scripture
* Emotionalism – feelings guide more than the Bible
* Ecumenism – all religions and religious writings are acceptable

**4. Infallibility**

* **Inspiration**
  + James Sawyer: “Inspiration … refers to the process of God’s superintendence of the human author of Scripture whereby the veracity of the recorded message was ensured.” (“Inspiration & Inerrancy”)
  + **2 Timothy 3:16** 16All Scripture is breathed out by God (ESV)
  + Syllogism:
    - God is perfect
    - God communicates
    - God’s communication must be perfect
* **Inerrancy** = the Bible is without error because God is without error
* Inerrancy guarantees truthfulness.
* **Infallibility** =unbreakable, true, without fault
* Infallibility guarantees trustworthiness
* **“We affirm that Scripture, having been given by divine inspiration, is infallible, so that, far from misleading us, it is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses.”** (Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, 1978, Article 11)
  + “Infallibility means unable to mislead or fail in accomplishing the divinely intended purpose.” (MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, p. 109)

**Inerrancy Guarantees Infallibility: *If The Bible Is Inerrant, Infallibility Results***

* + Infallible Inspiration - every word is intentional and authoritative from God
  + **E. J. Young defines “infallible” as: “Scripture is unfailing, incapable of proving false, erroneous, or mistaken. Though heaven and earth should pass away, its words of truth will stand forever. It cannot be changed or destroyed.”** (*Thy Word Is Truth*, p. 113)

**John 10:35** 35If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

**Psalm 11:3** 3If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

* **“Inerrancy” was equivalent to “infallibility” until the 1960’s**, when some started to deny the total inerrancy of Scripture and began to claim a “Limited Inerrancy.”
  + They claim that the Bible is inerrant when it comes to doctrinal teaching about God and salvation, but is not reliable in history and science.
  + So they re-purposed “infallible” to say the Bible is infallible when it comes to God and salvation, but not in history or science.
  + Some churches accept the entire inspiration of the Scripture but deny that all of it was meant to be authoritative by God, such as the history and science portion of Scripture
* Inerrancy critic, Bishop John Shelby Spong, accuses the doctrine of “infallibility and inerrancy” as the Protestant concoction countering Papal Infallibility: "When Martin Luther countered the authority of the infallible pope, he did so in the name of his new authority, the infallible Scriptures. This point of view was generally embraced by all of the Reformation churches. The Bible thus became the paper pope of Protestantism.”

**5. Some Reasons Why Some Might Feel The Bible Contains Errors Or Discrepancies**

**a. A Time Gap (Chronological)**

* The earliest books were written about 3,400 years ago and the latest book circa 1,900 years ago
* Since we were not there and we can not interview the authors, we need to strive to see it as they saw it
* It is easy to misunderstand the events and impact of historical situations in biblical times.
* God’s mercy for Ninevah in Jonah vs. God’s wrath against Ninevah in Nahum can be understood by comprehending the historical situation of the Assyrians

**b. A Space Gap (Geographical)**

* Even if one has traveled to Israel, Egypt and Corinth, the modern day Bible reader still does not know what ancient Israel, Egypt and Corinth was like.
* The readers of Scripture in Bible times understood the plains of Megiddo, the fires of Gehenna, the obstacles of Canaan and the prisons in Rome.
* Modern readers must enter into the ancient geography so we can understand the significance of Jerusalem’s height, Golgotha’s description and the wilderness’ barrenness.

**c. A Customs Gap (Cultural)**

* We're far removed from the Middle-East culture, much less an ancient Middle-Eastern culture.
* There are many laws intended solely for the Nation of Israel that are no longer operative for today.

**Acts 10:13-15** 13And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” 14But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” 15And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.”

**1 Timothy 4:3** 3forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

* We are not familiar with ancient customs such as betrothal or covenants.
* One person can have several names (Peter, Cephas, Simon bar Jonah, etc.)

**d. A Language Gap (Linguistic)**

* Words meant different things in different languages, cultures and ages. We don’t know precisely how certain words were used 2,000 – 3,000 years ago.
* Hebrew & Greek idioms are misunderstood by today’s English readers.
* Grammar construction may also not be accurately conveyed.
* There were no punctuations, vowels or capitals used in the original writings, so no one is exactly sure how some texts are to be read.
* The goal in bridging the linguistic gap is to understand the words and phrases of the Bible as the original author and hearers understood it.
* Some problems are caused because translators are not always accurate in their translations.

**e. An Authorship Gap (Literary)**

* People may have different names
* Numbers may be rounded off
* Some biblical writers are more topical while others are more chronological
* Authors may or may not write on the same events or record similar aspects of the same event
* There are several styles of writing to be accounted for: narrative, legal treatise, apocalytpic

**f. Arrogance**

**6. “Recommended Procedures In Dealing With Bible Difficulties”**

(by Gleason Archer, *The Encyclopedia Of Bible Difficulties*, pp. 15-17)

a. “Be fully persuaded I your own mind that an adequate explanation exists, even though you have not yet found it. The aerodynamic engineer may not understand how a bumble bee can fly; yet he trusts that there must be an adequate explanation for its fine performance, as a matter of fact, it does fly! Even so we may have complete confidence that the divine Author preserved the human author of each book of the Bible from error or mistake as he wrote down the original manuscript of the sacred text.

b. “Avoid the fallacy of shifting from one a priori to its opposite every time an apparent problem arises. The Bible is either the inerrant Word of God or else it is an imperfect record by fallible men. Once we have come into agreement with Jesus that the Scripture is completely trustworthy and authoritative, then it is out of the question for us to shift over to the opposite assumption, that the Bible is only the errant record of fallible men as they wrote about God. If the Bible is truly the Word of God, as Jesus said, then it must be treated with respect, trust, and complete obedience…. When we are unable to understand God’s ways or are unable to comprehend His words, we must bow before Him in humility and patiently wait for Him to clear up the difficulty or to deliver us from our trials as He sees fit….

c. “Carefully study the context and framework of the verse in which the problem arises until you gain some idea of what the verse is intended to mean within its own setting. It may be necessary to study the entire book in which the verse occurs, carefully noting how each key term is used in other passages. Compare Scripture with Scripture, especially all those passages in other parts of the Bible that deal with the same subject or doctrine.

d. “Remember, no interpretation of Scripture is valid that is not based on careful exegesis, that is, on wholehearted commitment to determining what the ancient author meant by the words he used….

e. “In the case of parallel passages, the only method that can be justified is harmonization. That is to say, all the testimonies of the various witnesses are to be taken as trustworthy reports of what was said and done in their presence, even though they may have viewed the transaction from a slightly different perspective. When we sort them out, line them up, and put them together, we gain a fuller understanding of the event than we would obtain from any one testimony taken individually….

f. “Consult the best commentaries available, especially those written by Evangelical scholars who believe in the integrity of Scripture. A good 90 percent of the problems will be dealt with in good commentaries….

g. “Many Bible difficulties result from a minor error on the part of a copyist in the transmission of the text….

h. “Whenever historical accounts of the Bible are called in question on the basis of alleged disagreements with the findings of archaeology or the testimony of ancient non-Hebrew documents, always remember that the Bible is itself an archaeological document of the highest caliber….”

**I. The Evidence Of Jesus’ Testimony**

ie/ In the court of law, expert witnesses are brought in. Jesus is the most expert of any possible witnesses.

* Being the Son of God who was involved in the inspiration of the text, He would know if the Bible was authentic or not

**A. Jesus Affirmed The Old Testament As God’s Word**

* R. Laird Harris testifies: “We find pervading the sources, the doctrine of verbal inspiration, and this from the lips of Jesus Himself. Scattered throughout the Gospel record in every Gospel and in every type of record – parable, history, Passion record, etc. – from first to last, is the *assurance* in the teaching of Jesus that the Scriptures of the Old Testament, to which He referred so frequently are true. He makes no distinction in veracity between the religious and the practical. All the teachings of Scripture were alike true for Christ; He believed them all.” (*Inspiration And Canonicity Of The Bible*, p. 46)

**Luke 11:51** 51from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

* Abel is from the first book of the Jewish Old Testament (Genesis)
* Zechariah is from the last book of the Jewish Old Testament (2 Chron)

**Luke 24:44** 44Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

**Mark 7:8-9** 8For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men— the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” 9He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

* The Old Testament is called the “commandment of God”

**Matthew 5:17-18** 17“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

* The “Laws and the Prophets” was a description of the Old Testament
* Jesus did not come to destroy the Old Testament because it is eternal and authoritative

**B. Jesus Referred To Old Testament Historical References As Real, Not Mythological**

**1. Adam & Eve Are Real**

**Matthew 19:4-5** 4And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5and 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’ ?

**2. Noah Is Real**

**Matthew 24:39** 39and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

**3. Jonah Is Real**

**Matthew 12:40** 40For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

**4. Sodom & Gomorrah Is Real**

**Matthew 10:15** 15Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

**C. Jesus Promises That The Holy Spirit Will Enable Them To Communicate God’s Truth Through What Will Be The New Testament**

**John 14:25-26** 25“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

**John 16:12-13** 12“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**II. The Evidence Of Multiple Manuscripts**

Ie/ Court documents, depositions and written testimonies are scrutinized in the court.

* **Precise Copyists**
* **Numerous Manuscripts**
* **Close time to historical event and original writing**

**A. Precise Copyists**

* **Precise Methods In Copying The Old Testament**

1. **Talmudist (300 BC - 500 AD)**
   * Extreme care
   * If copy imperfect or damaged, it was immediately condemned and buried
   * Produced few but accurate copies
   * Most of the copies were destroyed by Syrians in Maccabean revolt 168 BC
2. **Massoretes (500 - 950 AD)**
   * Gave us modern form of the OT text
   * Inserted vowels and accent marks so we know what the pronunciation and grammatical form is
   * ie/ YaHWeH, aDoNaY, YaHoWaH
   * They also numbered occurrences of words, phrases, letters

**B. Numerous Manuscripts**

* The Number Of Corroborative Manuscripts Are Enormous For An Ancient Document
* **Confirming Manuscripts of the OT**
  + Cairo Codex (895 AD) - oldest known Masoretic mss of former and latter prophets
  + Leningrad Codex (1008 AD) - largest and oldest complete mss of OT
  + The Septuagint (LXX) (160 BC) – Greek translation of OT used by Jesu
* **Confirming Manuscripts of the NT**
  + 24,633 existing manuscripts in Greek, Latin, Ethiopic, and others
  + Other than Greek: Latin Vulgate (10,000 - maybe to 25,000), Ethiopic (2,000+), Slavic (4,101+), Armenian (2,587), Syriac Peshitta (350+), Bohairic (100)
  + (stats from J. McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*)
  + 5,309 existing Greek manuscripts
  + Uncials (267), Minuscules (2,764), Lectionaries (2,143), Papyri (88), Recent finds (47)
* John Warwick Montgomery: “... to be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.” (*History And Christianity*, p. 29)
* **The Dead Sea Scrolls**
* 200 BC to 68 AD
* Discovered Bedouin goat herder in 1947.
* Jars containing leather scrolls
* Caves on a side of a hill in Wadi Qumram, about a mile southwest of the Dead Sea
* Thousands of manuscript fragments
* 400 books of Essenes
* Essenes, a Jewish sect at the time of Christ
* These scrolls include the oldest copy of a complete book (Isaiah).
* Contains every OT book except Esther
* The Dead Sea Scrolls confirm the accuracy of Masoretic text

**C. The Proximity Of Time Between The Date Written And The Date Of The Manuscript Is Relatively Close For An Ancient Document**

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| **Reliability of the New Testament** | | | | | |
| **Author/**  **Book** | **Date**  **Written** | **Earliest**  **Copies** | **Time**  **Gap** | **No. of**  **Copies** | **Percent**  **Accuracy** |
| Hindu  *Mahābhārata* | 13th cent. b.c. |  |  |  | 90 |
| Homer,  *Iliad* | 800 b.c. |  |  | 643 | 95 |
| Herodotus  *History* | 480-425 b.c. | c. a.d. 900 | c. 1,350 yrs | 8 | ? |
| Thucydides,  *History* | 460-400 b.c. | c. a.d. 900 | c. 1,300 yrs | 8 | ? |
| Plato | 400 b.c. | c. a.d. 900 | c. 1,300 yrs | 7 | ? |
| Demosthenes | 300 b.c. | c. a.d. 1100 | c. 1,400 yrs | 200 | ? |
| Caesar,  *Gallic Wars* | 100-44 b.c. | c. a.d. 900 | c. 1,000 yrs | 10 | ? |
| Livy,  *History*  *of Rome* | 59 b.c. -  a.d. 17 | 4th cent. (partial)  mostly 10th cent. | c. 400 yrs  c. 1,000 yrs | 1 partial  19 copies | ? |
| Tacitus,  *Annals* | a.d. 100 | c. a.d. 1100 | c. 1,000 yrs | 20 | ? |
| Pliny  Secundus,  *Natural History* | a.d. 61-113 | c. 850 | c. 750 yrs | 7 | ? |
| New  Testament | a.d. 50-100 | c. 114 (fragment)  c. 200 (books)  c. 250 (most of N.T.)  c. 325 (complete N.T.) | ±50 yrs  100 yrs  150 yrs  225 yrs | 5366 | 99+ |

(Geisler & Nix, p. 408)

* J. W. Moore in “Is The Bible Historically Reliable?” points out:
  + “The Iliad is major epic of Greek antiquity written in a poetic literary style that is set in the final year of the Trojan War (c. 1200 B.C.), which forms the background for its central plot -- the story of the wrath of the Greek hero Achilles. Homer is the name traditionally assigned to the author of both the Iliad and Odyssey, the two major epics of Greek antiquity. Nothing is known of Homer as an individual, and in fact the question of whether a single person can be said to be responsible for the creation of these two epics is highly controversial. Linguistic and historical evidence, however, concedes a supposition that the poems were composed in the Greek settlements on the west coast of Asia Minor in the latter half of the 8th century B.C. Thus, historians doubt the actual existence of an individual named "Homer" credited as the author of the "Iliad;" but, they also presume that the literature was indeed written by ancient Greeks in the late 8th century B.C. Now, let us examine the bibliographical evidence of transmission of the Iliad to the present:
    - Written 900 B.C.
    - There are 643 manuscript copies of the Iliad.
    - The only preserved MS with the complete text dates to the 13th century A.D.
    - The earliest MSS with a portion of the whole text dates to 400 B.C.
    - The timespan from the latest date written (900 B.C.) to the earliest [partial] copy (400 B.C.) is 500 years.
  + “Thus, Homer's Iliad, with 643 MSS in existence, having an earliest MS copy dating only 500 years from the time of its writing is widely accepted as a completely reliable literature or history by scholars. In other words, there is no doubt in their minds that the existing MSS of Iliad are indeed actual copies of an original document that has never been located.
    - By comparison, let us examine the bibliographical evidence of transmission of the New Testament to the present:
    - Written A.D. 40-100
    - There are more than 24,000 manuscript copies of the books of the New Testament.
    - The earliest MSS copy dates to A.D. 125.
    - The timespan from the date written (A.D. 100) to the earliest copy (A.D. 125) is 25 years.
  + “Thus, the New Testament, with more than 24,000 MSS in existence, having an oldest MS dating to only 25 years from the time of its original writing is not considered as reliable literature or history by scholars!”
* Josh McDowell illustrates: “The earliest copy of Caesar's *The Gallic Wars* dates 1,000 years after it was written, and the first complete copy of the Odyssey by Homer dates 2,200 years after it was written. When the interval between the writing of the New Testament and earliest copies is compared to other ancient works, the New Testament proves to be much closer to the time of the original.  
    
  “The 5,500 copies are far and away the most we have of any ancient work. Many ancient writings have been transmitted to us by only a handful of manuscripts (Catullus - three copies, earliest one is 1,600 years after he wrote; Herodotus - eight copies and 1,300 years).”

(http://www.josh.org/apologetics/prev\_quest.asp?Subject=The%20Bible#072002)

* *The Gallic Wars* was not an unauthorized history which would lend to greater accuracy. It were written by a single historian hired by Caesar who would have his people make sure it was favorable to Caesar. Yet to have only 10 copies that are 1,000 years from the date of the single hired writer would put the evidence as potentially dubious. Yet there is little question of this historical record in Roman history.
* Sir Frederic Kenyon, the former director and librarian of the British Museum wrote: "The interval between the dates of the original composition (of the New Testament) 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 to us 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." (*The Bible and Archeology*, pp. 288-89)
  + Contrast that with Kenyon’s comments on Sophocles: “This may sound a considerable interval, but it is nothing to that which parts most of the great classical authors from their earliest manuscripts. We believe that we have in all essentials an accurate text of the seven extant plays of Sophocles; yet the earliest substantial manuscript upon which it is based was written more than 1,400 years after the poet's death.”

**III. The Evidence Of Early Manuscripts: There Are Very Few Differences In The Accuracy Of The Ancient Copies**

* The Dead Sea Scrolls discovery (200 B.C. – A.D. 68), which contains the whole Old Testament (except for Esther), shows that there is little variation among the OT texts.
* Ron Rhodes writes: “Even though the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were a thousand years earlier than the oldest dated manuscript previously known (A.D. 980), they proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text.  
    
  “The 5 percent of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling.

“From manuscript discoveries like the Dead Sea Scrolls, Christians have undeniable evidence that today's Old Testament Scripture, for all practical purposes, is exactly the same as it was when originally inspired by God and recorded in the Bible.” (“Manuscript Support for the Bible's Reliability”)

* **Glenn Harris writes: “Of the 0.5% of the New Testament variant readings, only one eighth of those amount to anything more than a stylistic difference or misspelling.**

“An example of a fairly typical variant reading:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MSS. 1 | Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole worl. |
| MSS. 2 | Christ Jesus is the Savior of the whole world. |
| MSS. 3 | Jesus Christ s the Savior of the whold world. |
| MSS. 4 | Jesus Christ is th Savior of the whle world. |
| MSS. 5 | Jesus Christ is the Savor of the whole wrld. |

(“Can I Trust the Bible?”)

* Norm Geisler & Ron Brooks write: “It is easy for someone to leave the wrong impression by saying that there are 200,000 “errors” that have crept into the Bible when the word should be “variants.” A variant is counted any time one copy is different from any other copy and it is counted again in every copy where it appears. So when a single word is spelled differently in 3,000 copies, that is counted as 3,000 variants. In fact, there are only 10,000 places where variants occur and most of those are matters of spelling and word order. There are less than 40 places in the New Testament where we are really not certain which reading is original, but not one of these has any effect on a central doctrine of the faith. Note: the problem is not that we don’t *know what* the text is, but that we are not *certain which* text has the right reading. We have 100 percent of the New Testament and we are sure about 99.5 percent of it.” (*When Skeptics Ask*, p. 160)

**D. The Reconstruction Of Content From The Scriptures Can Be Done From The Writings Of The Church Fathers Who Quoted The Scriptures**

* Even if the manuscript evidence was paltry, the NT could be reconstructed from the quotes of the Church Fathers from the 2nd & 3rd century.
* Ron Rhodes cites that: “There are also some 86,000 quotations from the early church fathers and several thousand Lectionaries (church-service books containing Scripture quotations used in the early centuries of Christianity).” (“Manuscript Support for the Bible's Reliability”)
* Only 11 verses would be missing (mostly 2nd & 3rd John)

**IV. The Evidence Of Unity: The Bible Is Written By 40 Different Authors Over 1,600 Years And Does Not Contradict Itself**

* 66 individual books of the Bible
  + The Old Testament contains 39 books
  + The Old Testament contains 929 chapters
  + The Old Testament contains 23,214 verses
  + The New Testament contains 27 books
  + The New Testament contains 260 chapters
  + The New Testament contains 7,956 verses
  + Total: 66 books; 1,189 chapters; 31,170 verses
* Over 40 diverse authors including an Egyptian aristocrat (Moses), a king (Solomon), a musician (David), a shepherd (Amos), a fisherman (Peter & John), a physician (Luke), a tax collector (Matthew), a lawyer (Paul).
* Diverse periods: war (David), peace (Solomon), Babylonian and then Assyrian domination (Daniel), Roman persecution (Paul)
* Diverse countries: Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East
* Diverse settings: prison (Paul), exile (John), desert (Moses), palace (Solomon)
* Diverse purposes: warning of judgment (Jeremiah), giving of law (Torah), proving Jesus is the Messiah (Gospels), history of the Church (Acts), instructions for the Church (Epistles), telling of things to come (Revelation)
* Time span of over 1,500 years (Job to Revelation)
* Diverse historical eras
* Diverse cultures
* Yet the agreement is remarkable and no inconsistency on the theme of God, Christ or it’s moral teaching exists.

**John 5:39** 39You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

* + Yet even one individual can have problems keeping a consistent story.

Ie/ Detroit Tigers pitcher Kenny Rogers was questioned about apparent pine tar on his hands during the 2006 World Series. He contradicted himself in saying the umpire asked him to wipe it off and then the umpire didn’t ask him to wipe it off and then he said he toweled it off in between innings. Rogers said it was dirt mixed with rosin. Tiger’s hitting coach Andy Van Slyke suggested it was a Tootsy Roll that melted being too close to the heater. Tiger’s closer Todd Jones suggested it was chocolate cake. If one person can’t stay consistent on one topic or if one team has a variety of opinions on one subject, how would 40 different authors over 1,500 years stay consistent on a host of controversial topics such as the deity of Christ, the authority of the Bible, moral conduct, etc.?

* + Josh McDowell recounts: “A representative of the *Great Books of the Western World* came to my house recruiting salesmen for their series …. I challenged him to take just 10 of the authors, all from one walk of life, one generation, one place, one time, one mood, one continent, one language and just one controversial subject (the Bible speaks on hundreds with harmony and agreement). Then I asked him: ‘Would they (the authors) agree?’ He passed and then replied, ‘No! You would have a conglomeration.’”﻿ (*Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, pp. 19–20).
  + Robert Saucy writes: “When we compare this diversity of human thought by only ten authors with the unity found in the Bible, the evidence for its supernaturalness is overwhelming. The Bible consists of the writings of more than forty people. From all walks of life—including kings, herdsmen, poets, philosophers, statesmen, legislators, fishermen, priests, and prophets—these people wrote over a time span of more than fifteen hundred years. They lived in diverse cultures, and wrote in a variety of literary styles. But the message of the Bible is one great drama in which all the parts fit together.

“From “Paradise Lost” in Genesis to “Paradise Regained” in Revelation, the Bible presents the unfolding of God’s great purpose for the human race that is worked out through His Son. Jesus Himself said that the Scriptures bear witness of Him (John 5:39). Christ and His work form the cord that ties all of Scripture together.”

**V. The Evidence Of Resilience: The Bible Has Withstood All The Attempts To Get Rid Of It**

**A. The Preservation Of The Bible When It Is One Of The Most Suppressed Book In History**

* The preservation and survival of the Scripture for thousands of years to being a perpetual best seller speaks to the amazingness of this book.
* Many have tried to get rid of the Bible, yet it has survived.
* Jehoiakim, king of Judah, tossed Jeremiah’s scroll into the fire, but God had Jeremiah rewrite it (Jer 36:21-32).
* Antiochus Epiphanes (second century BC) destroyed and burned any copy of the Torah that he would find. 1 Maccabees 1:56-57 records “Anyone found possessing the book of the covenant...was condemned to death by the decree of the king.”
* The Roman Catholic Church attempted to thwart Jerome’s Latin translation (the common language of the people) from being published (405 AD). Yet his Bible became “the” version all throughout Europe.
* John Wycliffe’s (1300’s AD) translation into a readable English were sought by the Roman Catholic Church to be burned around the necks of those who possessed them.
* William Tyndale (1500’s AD) updated the English version and had access to the printing press. The Roman Catholic Church burnt thousands of these Bibles along with Tyndale. At his martyrdom, his last words were “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes!” Three years later, King Henry VIII commissioned the Great Bible, which combined the Tyndale and Coverdale versions.
* Saucy adds: “French humanist Voltaire (1694–1778) boastfully proclaimed, ‘Fifty years from now the world will hear no more of the Bible.’ Yet in the year of his boast the British Museum purchased a manuscript of the Greek New Testament from the Russian government for $500,000, while a first edition of Voltaire’s book was selling for eight cents a copy! Fifty years after the death of Voltaire, Bibles were being printed by the Geneva Bible Society in the very house where Voltaire had lived and on his own printing presses!” (p. 44)
* “Atheist Thomas Paine (1737–1809) predicted that the Bible would soon be out of print. ‘When I get through,’ he announced, ‘there will not be five Bibles left in America.’ With the current variety of translations and editions available, many individuals today have more than that number themselves. Criticism of the Bible from the highest learned scholarship continues unabated, but the Word of God runs free throughout the world as never before.” (Saucy, p. 44)
* Deists, like Thomas Jefferson, edited out the miracles of the Bible.
* Liberals convinced the Enlightenment crowd that the Bible wasn’t the Word of God.
* Russia, China, Korea and some Muslim nations were among several countries that made the Bible illegal only a few decades ago.
* As the Huguenots (French Protestants) once stated about the Bible & Christianity: “The more they pound and the more they shout, the more they wear their hammers out!”

**Psalm 119:89** Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

**Psalm 119:152** Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

**1 Peter 1:24-25** 24because “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, 25But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

**B. The Integrity Of Authorship When Biblical Authorship Is The Most Criticized Aspect Of The Bible In The Last Century**

* Atheist R. G. Ingersoll: “The inspiration of the Bible depends on the ignorance of the gentleman who reads it.”

**1. The Documentary Theory: Moses Didn’t Write The Pentateuch**

* Liberals and critics of the Bible’s divine inspiration denied the authorship of Moses on the Pentateuch. Rather the Pentateuch evolved over centuries by several Rabbinic Schools.
* Gleason Archer summarizes this liberal position:

“**J**—written about 850 b.c.﻿﻿ by an unknown writer in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He was especially interested in personal biography, characterized by vivid delineation of character. He often portrayed or referred to God in anthropomorphic terms (i.e., as if He possessed the body, parts, and passions of a human being﻿﻿). He also had a prophet-like interest in ethical and theological reflection, but little interest in sacrifice or ritual.

“**E**—written about 750 b.c. by an unknown writer in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He was more objective than J in his narrative style and was less consciously tinged with ethical and theological reflection. He tended rather to dwell upon concrete particulars (or the origins of names or customs of particular importance to Israelite culture). In Genesis, E shows an interest in ritual and worship, and he represents God as communicating through dreams and visions (rather than through direct anthropomorphic contact, after the fashion of J). In Exodus through Numbers, E exalts Moses as a unique miracle worker, with whom God could communicate in anthropomorphic guise.

“About 650 b.c. an unknown redactor combined J and E into a single document: J-E.

**D**—composed, possibly under the direction of the high priest Hilkiah, as an official program for the party of reform sponsored by King Josiah in the revival of 621 b.c. Its object was to compel all the subjects of the kingdom of Judah to abandon their local sanctuaries on the “high places” and bring all their sacrifices and religious contributions to the temple in Jerusalem. This document was strongly under the influence of the prophetic movement, particularly of Jeremiah. Members of this same Deuteronomic school later reworked the historical accounts recorded in Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.

“**P**—composed in various stages, all the way from Ezekiel, with his Holiness Code (Lev. 17–26) ca. 570 b.c. (known as H), to Ezra, “the ready scribe in the law of Moses” under whose guidance the latest priestly sections were added to the Torah. P is concerned with a systematic account of the origins and institutions of the Israelite theocracy. It shows a particular interest in origins, in genealogical lists, and details of sacrifice and ritual.” (*A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, p. 97)

**2. The Source Theory**

* Until the last few centuries, it was understood that Matthew was the first Gospel written.
* But since Mark’s content was so similar to Matthew and Luke, critics began to think Mark was written first and that Matthew and Luke based their writing on Mark and a unknown source called “Q” or “*quelle*” (German for “source”).
* Critics also introduced the Markan priority theory which claims that Mark was written first and gave resource for Matthew and Luke.
* Because the Gospels are in such agreement with each other, critics have sought to find more of a conspiracy theory that places the writing of the Gospel much later than believed.
* The authorship of the Gospels are also questioned because the compatibility of the four Gospels is too good. When the critics deny the inspiration of Scripture, they can grab desperately for any other theory than the supernatural.
* Yet Eusebius, an early church father, attests to Matthew as the author of the earliest Gospel. Eusebius indicates that Matthew wrote the Gospel as he was exiting from Palestine and drew from his eyewitness account. As a disciple of Jesus, Matthew didn’t need Mark’s help nor a mysterious source called “Q.”
* Luke cites a number of sources that he drew his account from (Luke 1:1-4).
* Josh McDowell writes: “There is good reason to question this theory that Matthew and Luke used "Q" in the Gospel of Mark as sources. First, no such Document Q has ever been found. Second, there is no agreement of exactly what sayings should be in "Q." Third, there is no historical testimony for the existence of a Q-type document by any historian or writer. And fourth, as pointed out, the weight of historical evidence does not point to Mark as being the first Gospel written, which is imperative for this theory.” (“Apologetic Questions About The Bible”)

**VI. The Evidence Of Prophecy: Biblical Prophecy Has Been Amazingly Fulfilled**

**A. Tyre**

**Ezekiel 26:3-4** 3“Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. 4And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

**Ezekiel 26:6-9** 6Also her daughter villages which are in the fields shall be slain by the sword. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.’ 7“For thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, with chariots, and with horsemen, and an army with many people. 8He will slay with the sword your daughter villages in the fields; he will heap up a siege mound against you, build a wall against you, and raise a defense against you. 9He will direct his battering rams against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers.

**Ezekiel 26:11-12** 11With the hooves of his horses he will trample all your streets; he will slay your people by the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground. 12They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water.

**Ezekiel 26:14** 14I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken,’ says the Lord God.

* Ezekiel 26 (written in 587 BC) predicts the destruction of Tyre’s mainland city by Nebuchadnezzar. Then how the rubble would be used to destroy Tyre’s island addition. Tyre would never be a great city again – it would only be a place for fisherman.
* Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the mainland city in 573 BC after a 13 year attack. But he did not level the city.
* Alexander the Great destroyed the island city in 333 BC by using the rubble of the old city to cross the water.
* Instead of attacking Persia directly, he directed his army south through Palestine to cut off the Persian navy from the troops and supplies. So he sought to destroy the rebuilt city of Tyre that resurrected on an island. He took the ruins from the old city to build a causeway (bridge). Using the wood, he drove 2 rows of cedar piles into the sea bed. Then they used the stones, wood and dust to form the bridge.
* Today it’s a small fishing town where fishermen spread their nets.

**B. Daniel’s 70 Weeks**

* Daniel predicted in 583BC (Daniel 9:24-27) that Christ would come as Savior 483 years after the Persian emperor would give the Jews permission to rebuild Jerusalem. It was fulfilled exactly.

**C. Birth In Bethlehem**

**Micah 5:2** 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.”

* Micah 5:2 predicted Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, a small, insignificant town.

**D. The Star**

* Numbers 24:7 predicted a star that would indicate the birth of Israel’s king. Herod knew this prophecy as well as the wise men.

**Numbers 24:7** 7He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. “His king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted.

Isaiah 11:1 predicted Jesus would be a descendent of Jesse (David’s father).

* Isaiah 7:14 predicts a virgin birth and Matthew 1:18,23 confirmed it.
* The Dead Sea Scrolls were dated 100 – 120 years before Christ’s birth. Yet its confirmation of Old Testament texts and prophecies is an incredible witness.

**VII. The Evidence Of History**

* Some evangelicals claim that the Bible is historically inaccurate, but that doesn’t matter. Their doctrinal statement will say that they believe in the Bible’s infallibility, but not in the Bible’s inerrancy.
* But if the Bible is truly God’s Word, would God make historical errors?
* F. F. Bruce stresses the importance of the historical reliability of the New Testament: “But the character of Jesus can be known only from the New Testament records; the influence of His character is therefore tantamount to the influence of the New Testament records. Would it not, then, be paradoxical if the records which, on the testimony of a rationalist historian, produced such results, were devoid of historical truth? This, of course, does not in itself prove the historicity of these records, for history is full of paradoxes, but it does afford an additional reason for seriously investigating the trustworthiness of records which have had so marked an influence on human history. Whether our approach is theological or historical, it does matter whether the New Testament documents are reliable or not.” (*The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*)

**Luke’s Historical Accuracy**

* In Luke 2:1-2, Luke discusses a decree of taxation by Caesar during the Syrian rule of Cyrenius. Critics scoffed at the Biblical claim saying that Cyrenius (a.k.a. Quirinius) was not a Syrian governor until 6 A.D. This would have been too late for the birth of Christ so this would have been an error in Luke’s Gospel. But recent discoveries demonstrate that Cyrenius was governor over Syria for two terms. The first term was around 7 BC to 1 AD. Thus Luke was aware of the first term of Cyrenius and the critics were not.

**Luke 2:1-2** 1And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

* Norman Geisler in his *Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics* writes under the topic of “Archaeology: New Testament”:

*“The Census in Luke 2:1–5.* Several problems are involved in the statement that Augustus conducted a census of the whole empire during the reign of both Quirinius and Herod. For one, there is no record for such a census, but we now know that regular censuses were taken in Egypt, Gaul, and Cyrene. It is quite likely that Luke’s meaning is that censuses were taken throughout the empire at different times, and Augustus started this process. The present tense that Luke uses points strongly toward understanding this as a repeated event. Now Quirinius did take a census, but that was in a.d. 6, too late for Jesus’ birth, and Herod died before Quirinius became governor.

Was Luke confused? No; in fact he mentions Quirinius’ later census in Acts 5:37. It is most likely that Luke is distinguishing this census in Herod’s time from the more well-known census of Quirinius: “This census took place before Quirinius was governor of Syria.” There are several New Testament parallels for this translation.

*Gallio, Proconsul of Achaia.* This designation in Acts 18:12–17 was thought to be impossible. But an inscription at Delphi notes this exact title for the man and dates him to the time at which Paul was in Corinth (a.d. 51).

*Lysanias, Tetrarch of Abilene.* Lysanias was unknown to modern historians until an inscription was found recording a temple dedication which mentions the name, the title, and is in the right place. The inscription is dated between a.d. 14 and 29, easily compatible with the beginnings of John’s ministry, which Luke dates by Lysanias’ reign (Luke 3:1).

*Erastus.* In Acts 19:22, Erastus is named as a Corinthian who becomes a co-worker of Paul. If Luke were going to make up any names, this would seem to be the best place to do it. How would anyone know? In excavating Corinth, an inscription was found near the theater which reads, “Erastus in return for his aedileship laid the pavement at his own expense.” If these are the same men, then it explains why Luke would have included the detail that a prominent and wealthy citizen of Corinth had been converted and had given his life to the ministry.

In addition to these, Luke gives correct titles for the following officials: Cyprus, *proconsul* (13:7–8); Thessalonica, *politarchs* (17:6); Ephesus, *temple wardens* (19:35); Malta, *the first man of the island* (28:7; Yamauchi, 115–19). Each of these has been confirmed by Roman usage. **In all, Luke names thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities, and nine islands without an error.**”

**VIII. The Evidence Of Archaeology**

* Archaeological verification of Bible facts are in the hundreds of thousands
* Nelson Glueck, a Jewish archaeologist, asserts: “No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.” (*Rivers in the Desert: A History of the Negev* , Farrar, Strauss, and Cudahy Publishing, 1959, p. 31)
* Dr. William Albright, heralded as the foremost expert on archaeology in the Middle East, cited: “There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament.” (*Archaeology and the Religion of Israel* , John Hopkins Press, 1953, p. 176)
* The amount of ancient Biblical manuscripts that verify the authenticity of its contents is staggeringly high, especially in comparison to other ancient works (as previously discussed). Biblical manuscripts are prime archaeological evidence.

**A. The Tower Of Babel**

* Norman Geisler (*The Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics,* “Archaeology: Old Testament”) gives and example of “*The Tower of Babel.* There is considerable evidence now that the world did indeed have a single language at one time. Sumerian literature alludes to this several times. Linguists also find this theory helpful in categorizing languages. But what of the tower and the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11)? Archaeology has revealed that Ur-Nammu, King of Ur from about 2044 to 2007 b.c., supposedly received orders to build a great ziggurat (temple tower) as an act of worship to the moon god Nannat. A stele (monument) about five feet across and ten feet high reveals Ur-Nammu’s activities. One panel has him setting out with a mortar basket to begin construction of the great tower, thus showing his allegiance to the gods by taking his place as a humble workman. Another clay tablet states that the erection of the tower offended the gods, so they threw down what the men had built, scattered them abroad, and made their speech strange. This is remarkably similar to the record in the Bible.”



**B. Moses’ Ability To Write**

* Some critics deny that Moses wrote the Pentateuch because written language was mostly not practiced in this early period.
* Yet, archaeology has uncovered several written codes:
  + Hammurabi’s Code (ca. 1700 B.C.) – [pictured right]
  + Lipit-Ishtar code (ca. 1860)
  + The Laws of Eshnunna (ca. 1950 B.C.)

**B. David**

* David was ridiculed as a fictional character because only the Bible spoke of him, not any other discovery from that era. In 1993, an Aramaic stone found at Tel Dan had the inscription for the “House of David.” A year later, two more fragments were found mentioning David again.

**C. The Hittites**

* The Hittites, mentioned as powerful and plentiful in Old Testament writings, were denied to have existed by critics because there was no evidence for their existence outside of the Bible, at least prior to the late 1800’s and early 1900’s.
* Yet the Bible (Gen 15:20; 2 Sam 11; 1 Kings 10:29) discussed them as existing from Abraham’s day to David’s day (1750 BC – 1200 BC). In fact, David had a soldier named Uriah, the Hittite (Bathsheba’s first husband).
* In recent centuries, there have been so much archaeological evidence uncovered that there is now an entire museum for Hittite discoveries in Ankara, Turkey.
* In the ancient capital of the Hittites, a large library with thousands of Hittite tablets were uncovered in 1906.
* The Hittite language was recognized as an early Indo-European language.

**D. Measuring Silver**

* In 2 Kings 18:14, Hezekiah pay Assyria tribute 300 talents of silver, 30 talents of gold. But an archaeologist discovered an Assyrian record of that transaction: 800 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold. An apparent contradiction with history? The contradiction was solved through a later archaeological discovery that found out that there was a different standard of calculating silver between Judea and Assyria even though they measured gold the same.

**E. Jericho’s Walls**

* Jericho’s miraculous crumbling destruction with Joshua’s army was perceived to be a myth. But recent discoveries at Jericho have brought scholars into agreement with the biblical testimony.

**F. Pontius Pilate**

* Pontius Pilate was denied to have existed because there was no record of him. Josephus’ mention of Pilate in *Antiquities of the Jews* was thought to be added or edited in by Christians trying to verify the Bible. But a recent archaeological stone (5” thick) that mentions Pontius Pilate was found in the ruins of the Roman theater in Caesarea. Caesar was upset by Pilate and ordered all records and writings with Pilate’s name to be erased or destroyed. But the stone that was found was turned backwards so that Pilate’s name was merely hidden, not erased.

**G. Crucifixion**

* The practice of crucifixion was under question by critics. In 1968, an ancient burial site was discovered in Jerusalem with 35 bodies who were killed during the Jewish revolt against Rome in 70 AD. On of the bodies belonged to Yohanan Ben Ha’galgol, a man in his mid-20’s with a 7” nail driven through his feet. The feet were turned out so a square nail could penetrate the heel just before the Achilles tendon. Spike marks were also found on both his lower arms. His legs were also broken, which is consistent with *crucifragium*, a Roman practice of hastening death by not allowing the victim to push up for a breath (Jn 19:31-32). The details of the practice of Christ’s crucifixion were confirmed.

**H. Resurrection**

* The resurrection of Christ is even substantiated, to some degree, by archaeology. The *Nazareth Decree* from the Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD) was found on a stone slab in Nazareth in 1878. Claudius decreed that no grave should ever be disturbed, no body should ever be moved or removed, or the offender will receive capital punishment, which is much more intense than other uncovered notices (which would fine offenders). Claudius was most probably responding to Christian claims of resurrection and the empty tomb, while trying to respond to the Jewish proposition that His body was stolen (Mt 28:11-15).

**IX. The Evidence Of Science: Though Not A Science Book, The Bible Is Amazing Advanced In Scientific Truths That Were Difficult To Know Over 2,000 Years Ago**

* Though the Bible doesn’t follow the scheme of a scientific textbook with technical language and detailed explanations, it is amazing in what it records 2,000 to 3,000 years ago
* Atheist Julian Huxley: “Any view of God as a personal being is becoming frankly untenable. The difficulty of understanding the functions of a personal ruler in a universe which the march of knowledge is showing us ever more clearly as self-ordered and self-ordering in every minutest detail is becoming more and more apparent.” (*Essays of a Biologist*, p. 217).
* Atheist Bertrand Russell: "That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins--all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand" ("A Free Man's Worship" in *Selected Papers of Bertrand Russell*, p. 3).
* Dr. John MacArthur writes: “Many Christians assume the Bible contains scientific errors, and that it is authoritative only when it speaks on spiritual matters. But that is saying in effect that the God who wrote the Bible knew a lot about spiritual things, but not too much about science. To say that parts of the Bible are accurate, but others are not is to deny the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible. Since God knows all things, and what He speaks is true (cf., Titus 1:2), all that the Bible teaches is accurate, not just its spiritual truths.

“The issue is not between science and Scripture; the issue is whether man will submit to the Word of God. Romans 1:28 describes people who refuse to submit as those who ‘did not like to retain God in their knowledge.’ Because they rejected God's revelation of Himself as Creator, men came up with the only alternative: that the universe and everything in it just happened.” (“Is The Bible Reliable: Science & Scripture”)

**1. The Roundness Of The Earth**

**Isaiah 40:22** 22It is He who sits above the **circle** of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

**Job 38:14** 14It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment.

* There were cylinders used to put seals on a clay document. They had sticks in the center, similar to a rolling pin. They would roll the cylinder over the soft clay. This refers to the earth rotating on its access like the cylinder making a seal.
* Ancient views were:
  + The Flat-Earth Theory – the ancients thought that if you sailed through the Pillars of Hercules (the Straits of Gibralter), you would fall off the face of the earth
  + The Ptolemaic Theory – Ptolemy (2nd century A.D.) proposed a round earth was at the center of the universe and the sun, planet and stars revolved around it
* Copernicus advocated the heliocentric (sun) universe

**2. The Gravitation Of The Earth**

**Job 26:7** 7He stretches out the north over empty space; He **hangs the earth on nothing**.

* In ancient cultures, many thought that the earth rested upon pillars, people or animals

**3. The Innumerable Amount Of Stars**

**Genesis 15:5** 5Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the **stars** if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

**Jeremiah 33:22** 22As the **host of heaven cannot be numbered**, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.’ ”

**1 Corinthians 15:41** 41There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

* Astronomers estimate that there are 1025 stars

**4. The Infiniteness Of The Universe**

**Isaiah 55:9** 9“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**5. The Geology Of The Earth**

**Isaiah 40:12** 12Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

**Psalm 104:5,8** 5You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever, … 8They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them.

* John MacArthur writes: “Isostasy is a field of study within geology that deals with the balance maintained within the earth's crust. The differing weights of the various types of rock maintain a delicate balance; otherwise the earth would wobble in its rotation like a lopsided basketball … The Bible teaches that the earth is balanced.” (“Is The Bible Reliable: Science & Scripture”)

**6. The Topography Of The Oceans**

**2 Samuel 22:16** 16Then the **channels of the sea** were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At the rebuke of the Lord, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

**Genesis 7:11** 11In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the **fountains** **of the great deep** were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

**Genesis 8:2** 2The **fountains of the deep** and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.

**Proverbs 8:28** 28When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the **fountains of the deep**,

**7. The Currents In The Ocean**

**Psalm 8:8** 8The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the **paths of the seas**.

**8. The Hydrological Cycle**

**Isaiah 55:10-11** 10“For as the **rain** comes down, and the **snow** from heaven, And do not return there, But **water the earth**, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

**Job 26:8** 8He binds up the **water** in His thick **clouds**, Yet the clouds are not broken under it.

**Job 36:27-28** 27For He **draws up drops of water**, Which **distill as rain** from the mist, 28Which the **clouds drop down** And **pour** abundantly on man.

**Job 38:22** 22“Have you entered the treasury of **snow**, Or have you seen the treasury of **hail**,

**Psalm 135:7** 7He causes the **vapors** to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the **rain**; He brings the wind out of His treasuries.

* Evaporation and precipitation are in view

**Ecclesiastes 1:7** 7All the **rivers run** into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they **return** again.

**9. The Wind Currents**

**Ecclesiastes 1:6** 6The **wind** goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The **wind** whirls about continually, And comes again on its **circuit**.

**Job 28:25** 25To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure.

* “Weight for the wind” describes air pressure. The ancients had no idea that air had weight.

**10. The Laws Of Thermodynamics**

**a. The First Law Of Thermodynamics**

**Genesis 2:2** 2And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

* The matter and energy in this universe is finite. There is no more new matter or energy being created. The act of creation is ceased.
* The first law of thermodynamics focuses on the conservation of mass and energy where there is no creation or destruction of what is in the universe.

**Isaiah 40:26** 26Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

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

**Ecclesiastes 3:14-15** 14I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him. 15That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past.

**b. The Second Law of Thermodynamics - Entropy**

* John MacArthur writes: “This law, also known as the law of entropy, tells us that though energy cannot be destroyed, its ability to do useful work decreases. Systems tend to degenerate from a state of order to a state of chaos. Science tells us that eventually this process will lead to the death of the universe.

“The Bible teaches that the second law of thermodynamics is a result of the Fall. Romans 8:20-22 says, ‘The creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.’ Although that passage pictures the entire creation as progessively breaking down, it also gives us hope for the future. When God creates the new heaven and the new earth, the second law of thermodynamics will not operate. In that new creation there will be no more curse, death, decay, or sin.” (“Is The Bible Reliable: Science & Scripture”)

**Psalm 102:25-26** 25Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26They will **perish**, but You will endure; Yes, they will all **grow old** like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed.

**X. The Evidence Of Transformation: The Bible Changes Lives**

**Psalm 19:7-11** 7The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

**Hebrews 4:12** The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** 18But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**Jeremiah 23:29** 29“Is not My word like a fire?” says the Lord, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

**Isaiah 55:11** 11So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

**1 Peter 1:23** 23having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

**Conclusion:**

**1. The Bible is reliable on your salvation.**

Ie/ my salvation – apologetic search

* The Bible teaches the Gospel – 1 Cor 15 – Christ died, buried, rose again
* Gives proof of resurrection

**2. The Bible is reliable for life’s answers.**

Ie/ what is marriage, what’s a husband to do, what’s a wife to do

Ie/ what makes a Christian marriage different from the best of the world’s marriages? (sanctify each other, with Word)

Ie/ Why live? Why be moral?

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