

1. PROOF OF CHRIST AND THE BIBLE

Every religion in the world says that they are right and other religions are wrong. How do we know which one is right? Most people have asked this question at some time. Just because you are born into a certain religion does not prove that religion to be the right one, even though you may want it to be. The rightness of any religion is determined by the **credentials of its founder** and by the **evidence of divine inspiration of its textbook**. Try to put aside any previously held ideas as we study the unique credentials of Jesus Christ and of the Bible. Ask yourself if any other religions match these claims.

Let us summarise the credentials of Christ and the Bible as follows:

1. **Jesus Christ claimed to be God, the Truth and the only Way to eternal life because:**

- i) Many details of His life were **predicted** in the Old Testament, many years before his birth.
- ii) He did many supernatural **miracles** during His three-year ministry, showing his power to:
 - raise the dead
 - still storms
 - correctly predict the future
 - cast out demons from people
 - heal the sick
- iii) He **rose** from the dead after three days, never to die again. Nobody else has ever done this. This shows that those people who have Jesus Christ as their Saviour will rise from the dead also. He was seen by hundreds of people daily after His resurrection (I Corinthians 15:5-8).
- iv) He **solves the sin problem** by dying on the cross as our substitute to pay the penalty for our sins. Other religions say “be good, do your best, keep the rules, and you might make it, but you can never be sure, so keep trying hard”. Christ says, “Receive me as your Saviour, and I give to you eternal life, and you shall never perish” (John 10:28), because I have taken the punishment due for your sins. You may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).
- v) Jesus Christ **claimed to be God** and had the credentials to prove it.
- vi) Jesus Christ's life when scrutinised shows Him to be **sinless** as He claimed. No other religious founder claimed to be God or to be sinless. Other religions just have nice teachings.

2. **The Bible is the Word of God for these reasons:**

- i) Its Unity.
- ii) Scientific accuracy.
- iii) Archaeology
- iv) Fulfilled prophecies.
- v) Jesus Christ called it the Word of God (John 10:35; Mark 7:13; Luke 8:11 “seed is the..”).
- vi) It has **infinitely superior teachings** over any other book.
 - The Bible has in it nothing but truth, while all other books have truth mixed with error, like jewels mixed with mud
 - The Bible contains all truth. Every proven moral truth is found in the Bible.
 - The Bible contains more truth than all other books put together.

- vii) Its victory over attack, and its **survival** for over 2000 years.
- viii) The **character** of those who accept and those who reject the Bible.
 - The people best acquainted with God, and who live the most unselfish, moral lives, say that the Bible is God's book.
 - The people least acquainted with God, and who live more for self, say that the Bible is not God's word. Who will you believe? The stronghold of the Bible is the pure, unselfish happy home. The stronghold of unbelief is the pub, brothel, and the casino.
- ix) The **influence** of the Bible to save, purify, gladden, beautify and lift men's lives up to God. The Bible has transformed millions of the worst sinners into humble, loving, unselfish, and caring saints.
- x) The **inexhaustible depth** of the Bible. Most man-written books can be thoroughly understood and mastered in one or two readings. You can read the Bible over 100 times and still discover new, fresh, exciting and amazing truths. It comes from the mind of God.

PROOF OF THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.

Let us examine proof of the Bible from the viewpoints of unity, science, archaeology and prophecy. Our faith and understanding of God's Word can be greatly increased by studying Bible proofs available to us. This helps us to defend the faith and give good reasons to those who ask us why we believe in Christ and the Bible. (1 Peter 3:15).

1. **UNITY**

The Bible was given by God to 40 writers, over a period of 1600 years, in 66 books. It contains history, prophecy, science, law, doctrine, morality, origins and human biographies, yet never do we see even the slightest disagreement between the writers on any subject. If you ask 40 of your friends to discuss their opinions on the past, the future, morality, origins, law, philosophy, etc. you will find a very great disagreement and difference of opinion. The Bible, however, agrees 100% on every subject it discusses, giving strong proof that it comes from the mind of God.

2. FULFILLED PROPHECY as proof of the Bible.

PROPHECY FULFILLED OF NATIONS, CITIES and INDIVIDUALS.

Aim: To study Bible prophecies as proof of God authoring the Bible.

Introduction: "Show the things that are to come hereafter that we may know that ye are gods..." Isaiah 41:23.

Here **God challenges all other religions** claiming to be the truth to prove that they are from God by predicting the future. Nobody can correctly predict the future on every guess. The Bible is the only book in the world that correctly predicts the future hundreds of times, without making any mistakes. No other book does this. The Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim writings contain no cases of clearly fulfilled prophecies. This proves that they are not from God. Any man can write a book with moral teachings. Only God can write a book that always correctly foretells the future, as the Bible does.

Four tests to prove that a prophecy is from God:

i) His message had to be **according to God and His Word.**

"If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

ii) His prediction **must come true.** "If the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken..." Deuteronomy 18:22.

iii) Was the prophecy **far enough** before the predicted event to exclude chances of human guesswork?

iv) Is the prediction **ambiguous, vague** or capable of **several explanations**?

What is the significance of predictive prophecy?

i) It proves God's existence, as the mind behind the Bible.

ii) It proves that the Bible is God's inspired word, without error.

iii) It proves that Jesus Christ is God, whom the Old Testament predicts.

iv) It proves all other Bible doctrines to be true, giving us a strong foundation to base our life on.

The true prophet presents a message of conviction and **repentance**, calling the people to **obedience** and **righteousness**.

Consider the following examples of fulfilled Bible prophecies under the headings of Nations, Cities and Individuals.

I. NATIONS.

Consider the following 44 correct predictions concerning Israel, Edom, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and Egypt as proof of God authoring the Bible.

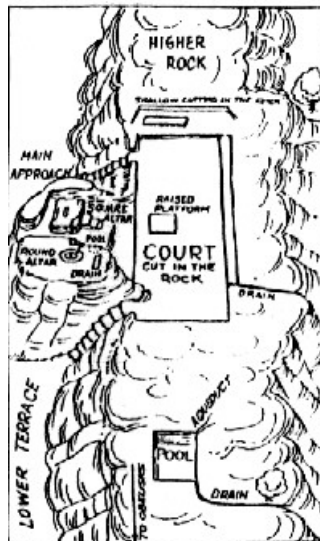
1. ISRAEL.

Date Prophecy Made	Date Prophecy Fulfilled	Prophecy
2000 BC	1948 AD	Israel would become a great nation . "I will make of thee a great nation." Genesis 12:1-3.
992 BC	975 BC	Israel would split into 10 tribes and 2 tribes . "I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give 10 tribes to thee (Jeroboam)". 1 Kings 11:31.
607 BC	536 BC	Israel would be captive in Babylon for 70 years . Jer. 25:11-14. "These nations shall serve the King of Babylon seventy years."
1451 BC	70 AD	Israel would be scattered among the nations of the world. "The Lord shall scatter thee from one end of the earth to the other." Deuteronomy 28:64. This was fulfilled in 70 AD when Titus the Roman General destroyed Jerusalem, killing one million Jews, and taking 100,000 Israelites as slaves.
1451 BC	100 AD	Israel would become a byword among all nations . "Thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations where the Lord shall lead thee." Deuteronomy 28:37. People refer to someone who holds his money tightly as a Jew.
1451 BC	70 AD 1939 AD	Israel would be persecuted among the nations . Hitler killed six million Jews in World War II. "Thy life shall hang in doubt before thee, and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life." Deuteronomy 28:66.
1491 BC 607 BC	2004 AD	Israel would not be completely destroyed , but retain her identity. "I will not destroy them utterly...." Leviticus 26:44. "I will not make a full end of thee". Jeremiah 46:28.
712 BC	33 AD	Israel would reject her Messiah . "He was despised and rejected of men; we esteemed him not." Isaiah 53:3.
538 BC	33 AD	Israel would kill her Messiah . "...shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself." Daniel 9:26.
538 BC	70 AD	Israel's city of Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed just after Israel rejects her Messiah. "The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." Daniel 9:26.
587 BC	1948 AD	Israel would return to Palestine in the latter years just before Christ's Second Coming. Ezekiel 37:11-14; 38:1-39:29. "I will gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water on you " Ezekiel 36:24,25.
714 BC	1967 AD	Israel will be militarily superior to Egypt . "The land of Judah shall be a terror to the land of Egypt." Isaiah 19:17.

2. EDOM and its capital city, Petra.

Esau, Jacob's brother founded Edom in 1800 BC (Genesis 36:8). 350 years later in 1450 BC Edom refused to help Israel pass through her land (Numbers 20). Edom delighted in persecuting Israel. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos and Obadiah condemned Edom. Petra was Edom's strongly fortified capital built into a rock cliff, accessible only by a very narrow entrance. This made them feel invincible. Mohammed captured Petra in 636 AD. It then became desolate. These events are prophesied for Edom.

Date	Prophecy
713 BC	Edom to become a desolation . "Thorns shall come up in her palaces" Isaiah 34:13
713 BC	Wild animals will inhabit Edom. "It shall be a habitation of dragons" Is.34:13-15
713 BC	Commerce will cease in Edom 'None shall pass through it for ever.' Isaiah 34:10
600 BC	Spectators will be astounded in Petra. "Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goes by it shall be astonished." Jeremiah 49:17.
600 BC	Never to be populated again. "No man shall abide there." Jeremiah 49:18.
590 BC	Israel would conquer Edom. "I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel." Ezekiel 25:14. This seemed a crazy prediction because Israel was then captive in Babylon, yet 400 years later Judas Maccabeus invaded and killed thousands of Edomites.
587 BC	Edom to have a bloody history . "Blood shall pursue thee." Ezekiel 35:6.
590 BC	Edom to become desolate as far as the city of Teman . "I will make it desolate from Teman." Ezekiel 25:13.



The Great High Place at Petra

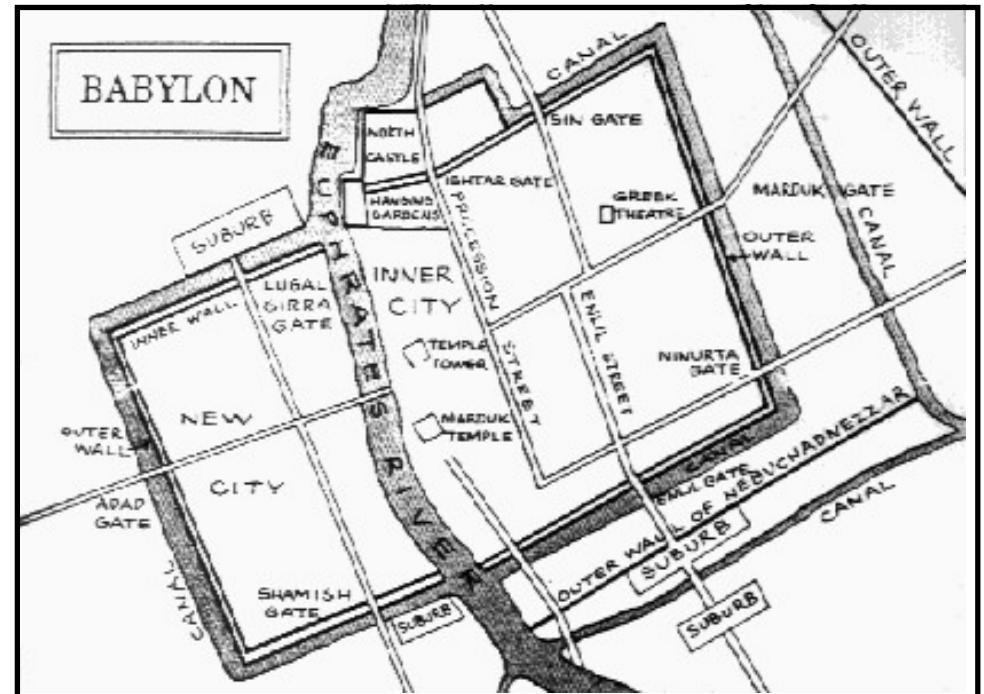
3. BABYLON

Babylon was the capital of the ancient world. It was a centre of trade, learning and culture. Babylon had four walls each 14 miles long, covering 196 square miles, surrounded by a 30 foot wide moat. The walls were 311 feet high, 87 feet wide, with 100 gates of solid brass. 250 watchtowers extended 100 feet higher than the walls. While the Babylonians were holding a drunken feast, Cyrus the Persian had diverted the Euphrates river away from its course underneath the walls of Babylon, and marched his troops along the dry riverbed. He then took the city in 536 BC.

Xerxes later plundered Babylon, as did Alexander the Great's troops. Trajan the Roman Emperor visited Babylon in 116 AD describing it as "mounds and legends of mounds." Layard writes of Babylon: "No Arab tents, no sheepfolds, and overrun by desert animals." Consider the following fulfilled prophecies concerning Babylon:

- i) These prophecies were given in 713 BC: Babylon will be **like Sodom and Gomorrah**.
"Babylon shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." Isaiah 13:19.
- ii) The **Medes and Persians** would conquer Babylon (536 BC). Isaiah 13:17;45:1-4.
- iii) Babylon shall **never be inhabited**. Isaiah 13:20.
- iv) **Arab tents** will **not** be pitched there. Isaiah 13:20.
- v) **Sheepfolds** will **not** be there. Isaiah 13:20.
- vi) **Desert creatures** will infest the ruins. Isaiah 13:21.
- vii) Babylon will be covered with **swamps of water**. Isaiah 14:23.

Part of Babylon today lies under silt and under the water table.



4. **MEDO-PERSIA.** Daniel 8:1-8, 20-22. These prophecies were given in 553BC. God tells Daniel of a series of battles that would occur 220 years later between Medo-Persia and Greece. **Alexander the Great** of Greece, pictured by a **He-goat** with a great horn (Alexander himself) severely crushes **Darius III** army of Medo-Persia (pictured by a **ram** with two horns).

This occurred in three battles: Granicus (334BC), Issus (333BC) and Guagamela (331BC) which took place beside a river.

"**The ram** having two horns are the kings of **Media and Persia.**" Daniel 8:20.

"**The rough goat** is the king of **Grecia**, and the great horn that is between his eyes is the **first king.**" (Alexander). Daniel 8:21.

Notice the following aspects of this prophecy:

- The **Ram** (Medio-Persia) pushes west, north, south. Daniel 8:4.
This prediction defines the area of influence of Medo-Persia from 536-330BC.
- One horn (**Persia**) was higher or stronger than the other (Medes). Daniel 8:3.
History proved Persia to be the stronger partner in the alliance.
- The **He-goat** (Greece) came from the West. Daniel 8:5.
Greece is west of Medo-Persia.
- The **He-goat** (Greece) crushed the Ram (Medo-Persia).
"He smote the ram, and brake his two horns." Daniel 8:6,7.
- The battle took place at a river. "He came to the ram which had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river ..." Daniel 8:6.

5. **GREECE.** Daniel 8:8,21,22.

These events were prophesied in 553BC and fulfilled in 331BC, 222 years later.

Notice these further accurate predictions:

- Alexander, after conquering Medo-Persia, went on to conquer all the ancient world across to India.
"The he-goat waxed **very great.**" Daniel 8:8,22.
- Alexander, at the age of 32 drank himself to **death** at the peak of his strength.
"When he was strong, the great horn was **broken.**" Daniel 8:22.
- After Alexander's death, the Greek empire was divided into four smaller powers, each ruled by one of his Generals.
"Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, **four kingdoms** shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power." Daniel 8:8,22.
The four empires into which Alexander's empire was divided were Greece, Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt.
- Alexander's kingdom was not given to his children but to his generals.
"A mighty king shall stand up.....his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided to the four winds of heaven, and not to his posterity..." Daniel 11:3,4.

6. **ROME.** Daniel 2:40,41.

"The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron it shall break in pieces and bruise the kingdom shall be divided." Daniel 2:40,41.

Notice the following prophecies about Rome:

- Rome, the fourth kingdom was as strong as iron. Rome ruled from England to Babylon, bringing peace, roads and strong government like an iron rule.
- Rome was the Empire ruling when Jesus Christ the **Messiah** first came, "shall **Messiah** be cut off.....and the **people** (Romans)....." Daniel 9:26.
- Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple in 70AD.

".....shall Messiah be cut off..... and the **people** (Romans) of the **prince that shall come** (Antichrist) shall destroy the **city** (Jerusalem) and the **sanctuary** (Temple)." Daniel 9:26.

- Rome was divided in **395AD** into the Western Empire ruled by Rome, and the Eastern Empire ruled by Byzantine (or Constantinople), pictured by the two legs of the image in Daniel 2. "The kingdom shall be divided." Daniel 2:41.

7. **EGYPT.** Ezekiel 29:1-15.

God promised that he would punish Pharaoh of Egypt because he claimed to be a god and to have created the Nile river. "Thus saith the Lord God: Behold I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt which hath said: 'My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.'" Ezekiel 29:2,9.

Notice these predictions that God made concerning Egypt

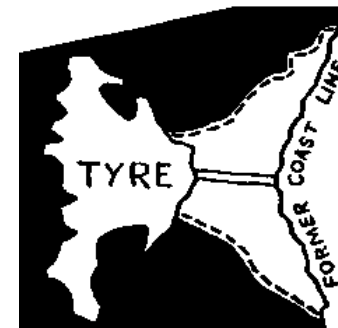
- Egypt would not be inhabited for 40 years but would be **desolate.**
"I will make Egypt utterly waste and desolate from the tower of Syene to the border of Ethiopia Neither shall it be inhabited **forty years.**" Ezekiel 29:10-12. This prediction was made in 588 BC. In 579 BC, Nebuchadnezzar conquered Egypt then deported the Egyptians to other nations from 576 BC until they returned in 536 BC.
- Egyptians would return to Egypt after 40 years. "Egypt...shall be desolate **forty years.**" 12
"Neither shall it be inhabited **forty years.**" v.11.
"At the end of **forty** years will I gather the Egyptians from the people where they were scattered & will cause them to return to the land of Pathros (South Egypt)" Ezekiel 29:13,14
- Egypt will be a base kingdom: "they shall be there a base kingdom." (Ezekiel 29:14) Egypt has been a base kingdom ever since 536 BC.
- Egypt will be afraid of Israel. This is true today ever since Israel defeated Egypt in the six-day war in 1967. "The land of Judah shall be a terror to Egypt." Isaiah 19:17.

II. CITIES. Four main cities have 30 detailed prophetic predictions given about them:

1. **TYRE.** Destruction of TYRE was foretold in Ezekiel 26:1-14 in 590 BC.

Ezekiel 26 contains six prophecies for Tyre that have been fulfilled. If Ezekiel had looked at Tyre in his day and made these predictions in human wisdom, there would have been only one chance in 75,000,000 of them all coming true.

- Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the mainland city of Tyre.** 26:7-11. "I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon." (27:7). This was prophesied in 590 BC. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Tyre four years after the prophecy was made. After a 13 year siege (586-573 BC), Nebuchadnezzar broke the gates down. He found the city empty. The people had fled to a 140 acre island 800 metres off the coast & fortified a city there. The mainland city was destroyed in 573 BC as foretold, but the island city of Tyre still remained.



- ii) "I will cause **many nations to come against thee**.....as waves." Ezekiel 26:3.
Invaders who attacked Tyre were Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander, Moslems and Crusaders.
- iii) "I will **scrape her dust from her** like the **top of a rock.**" 26:4.
When island Tyre refused to submit to Alexander, he demolished the old city on the mainland. With the debris of the old city, he scraped it off the ground like you scrape dust off a rock, pushing it into the water. He thus built a causeway 60 metres wide by 800 metres long out to the island of Tyre, where he laid siege to it, conquered it, and destroyed the island city in 332 BC. The **causeway** still remains and old Tyre is as **flat** as a **rock**. This prophecy was given 258 years before its fulfilment.
- iv) "Fishermen will **spread their nets over the site.**" Ezekiel 26:5,14.
Fishermen today dry their nets on the rocks of old mainland Tyre.
- v) "They shall **throw the city debris into the water.**" When Alexander's engineers built the causeway, they laid the stone, timber and dust remains of old Tyre into the water. Ez. 26:12.
- vi) The city will **never be rebuilt.** "Thou shalt be built no more." 26:14. Old Tyre has been bare as a rock for 2500 years as God said, even though 10 million gallons of fresh water supply the site daily with enough water for a city. The city has not been rebuilt even today.

2. JERUSALEM

Jesus Christ made the following predictions about Jerusalem:

- i) **Not one stone of Herod's temple would be left standing on another.** "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matthew 24:1,2.
The Roman army finally in September 70 AD stormed the walls of Jerusalem through the Antonia fortress. According to Josephus, they killed one million Jews and took 100,000 Jews captive as slaves. A soldier dropped a torch in the Temple setting it on fire. This melted the gold in the Temple, which flowed into the cracks in the Temple foundations. The Romans dug up the Temple's foundations thus destroying the Temple. The Roman soldiers fulfilled Christ's prophecy of not one stone of the Temple being left standing on another.
- ii) Jerusalem would be **surrounded by armies in a siege.** "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." Luke 21:20.
- iii) The **only way of safety was to flee Jerusalem when you see the armies.** "Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out, and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto." Luke 21:21.
The Roman army surrounded Jerusalem for five days and its troops battered at the walls. Had not Luke in 53AD recorded Jesus' warning to leave Jerusalem when armies surrounded it? How could they escape if armies were all around the walls? Josephus the historian writes that "The Roman army retired from the city, without any reason in the world." Josephus continues: "The Jews were greatly encouraged by this, but many of the most eminent Jews then left the city." Hegessippus, another historian tells us that those leaving were Christians who knew Christ's command to flee in Luke 21:20,21. This proves that Luke wrote well before 66AD when the Roman army first came.

- iv) Many Jews in Jerusalem would be **killed by the sword.** Luke 21:24.
"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations".
- v) Many Jews would be **led away captive into all nations.** Luke 21:24.
- vi) In the starvation of the siege **women ate their children.**
"He shall besiege thee thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters in the siege." Deuteronomy 28:52,57.
- vii) Jerusalem would be **under Gentile control until Christ returns.** "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24. This occurred 40 years after it was predicted, when Titus the Roman General conquered Jerusalem in 70AD. Jerusalem has been under Gentile (non Jewish) control since 70AD as prophesied by Jesus Christ.
- viii) **Jerusalem shall be plowed as a field.** In 135AD the Jews rebelled against Rome again. Hadrian the Roman General, in a three-and-a-half year war killed 580,000 Jews and ran a plough over Jerusalem, thus fulfilling Micah's prophecy written in 730BC. "Therefore shall Zion for your sakes be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps." Micah 3:12.
- ix) **Jews will return to Jerusalem in the end days.** We all know that the Jews occupy part of Jerusalem and Israel today since 1948. "I will gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land." (Ezekiel 36:24). God predicts that Jerusalem in the end days, being occupied by Jews, will be invaded by all nation's armies. Jesus Christ will then return to rescue the Jews, defeat the invading armies, and rule on earth in peace for 1000 years.
"I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle" Zechariah 14:1-4.
- x) **Jerusalem's East Gate will be Shut.** Today if you visit Jerusalem's East Gate, you will notice that it is completely bricked up. Jesus Christ, Who is the God of Israel, entered it on a donkey on His way to be crucified. Ezekiel wrote: "Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east and it was shut. Then the LORD (*Jehovah the Father*) said unto me: **'this gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD (*Jehovah the Son*), the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.'**" Ezekiel 44:1,2.
- xi) Jerusalem will be a **burdensome stone for all people.**
"In that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people." (Zechariah 12:3).
This prophecy has been fulfilled today because the Palestinian Muslim Arab conflict with Israel over Jerusalem is a very difficult problem to solve.

3. JERICHO.

Predicted in Joshua 6:26 (1451BC), and fulfilled in I Kings 16:34 (925BC). After the destruction of Jericho in Joshua's time, 1451BC, Joshua makes an amazing threefold prophecy about Jericho:

- "Cursed be the man that builds this city Jericho: he shall lay the **foundation** thereof in his **firstborn**, and in his **youngest son** shall he set up the **gates** of it." Joshua 6:26.
- i) Jericho would be **rebuilt** by a man with at least two sons.
 - ii) The builder's **oldest son** would **die** when the city **foundations** were laid.
 - iii) The builder's **youngest son** would **die** when the city and it's **gates** were finished.

I Kings 16:34 records that this prophecy was fulfilled in Hiel the Bethelite. No one would intend to fulfil this prophecy.

"In his (Ahab's) days did **Hiel the Bethelite** build Jericho: he laid the foundation in **Abiram** his firstborn, and set up the gates in his youngest son **Segub** according to the Word of the Lord which he spake by Joshua."

Unger writes: "The rebuilding of Jericho is confirmed by archaeological diggings there are no occupational levels from Joshua's time to Ahab's era, when small ruins from the 10th century BC point to Hiel's rebuilding the site." [*Ungers Bible Handbook*, p.220]

4. **NINEVEH.**

Predicted in Nahum (713BC) and fulfilled in 614BC.

God spared wicked Nineveh in 862BC at Jonah's preaching. At this time, archaeology reveals a change occurred from worshipping many gods to worshipping one god, called Nebo, the son in the Babylonian trinity.

Nineveh's wall was 100 feet tall, 50 feet thick, with 15 gates and 1200 towers each 200 feet high. Nineveh was 60 miles in circumference, with a 150 foot wide moat around it. Nahum in 3:8 writes just after Thebes (No) in Egypt was destroyed by King Ashurbanipal of Assyria in 663BC. Nineveh was destroyed in 612BC with ease after a three month siege. It fell like "first ripe figs falling if shaken." (3:12).

Three times Nahum predicts that Nineveh will be destroyed with a flood:

1:8 "overrunning flood"

2:6 "gates of rivers"

2:8 "like a pool of water".

In 613BC the Assyrian army was away fighting Babylon, when heavy rains swelled the Euphrates River, flooding part of Nineveh and casting down four kilometres of wall length.

The King, believing an ancient prophecy of the river becoming their enemy, panicked and ordered he and his palace to be burned down. Babylonians, Medes and Scythians attacked through this four kilometre gap, thus conquering Nineveh in 612BC. Twelve predictions about the destruction of Nineveh are given in Nahum 1-3.

Nahum's Prophecies

1. The Assyrian fortresses around Nineveh would be easily captured. 3:12.
2. The besieged Ninevites would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defence walls. 3:14.
3. The city gates would be destroyed. 3:13
4. In the final hours of the attack, the Ninevites would be drunk. 1:10; 3:11
5. Ninevites would be destroyed by a **flood**. 1:8; 2:6,8.
6. Nineveh would be destroyed by **fire**. 1:10; 2:13; 3:15,13

Historical Fulfillments

- Babylonian records state that the fortified towns around Nineveh began to fall in 614BC.
- To the south of the gate, the moat is still filled with stone and mud bricks from the walls, heaped up when they were breached.
- The main attack came on the north-west gate
- Siculus (20BC) wrote: "The Assyrian king gave much wine to his soldiers. Deserters told this to the enemy, who attacked that night."
- Diodorus: "In the third year of the siege heavy rains caused the river to flood part of the city and break part of the walls."
- The temple was burned as seen by a two inch layer of ash.

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| 7. Many Ninevites would be massacred. 3:3. | So many were killed that the flowing stream became blood red for miles. |
| 8. Plundering would follow the overthrow of Nineveh. 2:9-10. | They carried off much spoil, beyond counting. |
| 9. Its people would try to escape. 2:8. | King Sardanapalus sent away his three sons and two daughters. |
| 10. Ninevite officers would weaken and flee. 3:17. | The Assyrian army deserted the King (Babylonian Chronicle). |
| 11. Nineveh's idols would be destroyed. 1:14. | The Ishtar goddess lay headless in Nineveh's ruins. |
| 12. Nineveh would never be rebuilt . 1:9,14. | Many cities were rebuilt, eg. Jerusalem, but not Nineveh. |

III. INDIVIDUALS.

The Bible makes detailed predictions about five main individuals. Two are mentioned by name: Josiah was predicted 350 years before he lived, and Cyrus King of Persia was predicted 175 years before he lived. How can such detailed predictions be made? God wrote the Bible, is the only possible answer.

1. **JOSIAH**, King of Judah was prophesied by name in 975BC by an unnamed man of God in I Kings 13:1-3 that he would **burn idolatrous priests' bones** on the altar at Bethel. "Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, **Josiah** by name; and upon thee (*the altar*) shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee." Those idolatrous priests burned incense on the same altar under evil King Jeroboam I of Israel. 350 years later in 624BC **Josiah**, a King of Judah, while cleansing Israel of pagan practices, broke down the altar and high place of King Jeroboam at Bethel. "Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and **burned them upon the altar** and polluted it, according to the Word of the Lord, which the man of God proclaimed." II Kings 23:15,16.
The two main predictions here are that:
i) **Josiah's name** is given 350 years before the event. I Kings 13:2.
ii) Josiah's **action of burning** the false prophets' bones is given.
Question: What is the probability of guessing these 2 prophesies? How did the Bible know them?
2. **CYRUS**, King of Persia, was predicted by **name** and **action** in Isaiah 44:28-45:4 in 712BC, that he would conquer Babylon. "That saith of **Cyrus**. He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, thou shalt be built, and to the Temple, thy foundation shall be laid." Isaiah 44:28. "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to **Cyrus**, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him to open before him the two-leaved gates: and the gates shall not be shut." Isaiah 45:1. Notice the following prophesies that have been fulfilled about Cyrus:
i) **Cyrus** of Persia is named as the man who would conquer Babylon. Isaiah 45:1. This prophecy was made 176 years before the event occurred.

- ii) The **two leaved gates** of Babylon shall not be shut. According to Heroditus (1:191), the double gates of Babylon were carelessly left open during the night of revelry when the city was taken.
- iii) Cyrus gave permission for Jerusalem to be rebuilt and for the **Temple foundation to be laid**. II Chronicles 36:22,23; Ezra 1:1-4.
- iv) "I will give thee the **treasures of darkness** and the hidden riches of secret places." 45:3. God gave Cyrus possession of the treasures of darkness, which was the wealth of conquered nations. Valuables taken from nations were hidden in dark, secretly concealed, subterranean vaults. These prophecies given in 712BC were fulfilled in 536BC, 176 years later.

Question: What is the probability of guessing the exact name "Cyrus" of the man who would conquer Babylon?

Answer: It could not be guessed. This proves that the Bible is the Word of the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator/God.

3. ALEXANDER THE GREAT. Daniel 8:1-8, 20-22 and 11:1-4.

Although Daniel does not mention Alexander by name, he is clearly referred to in Daniel 8:21 as "the **great horn** that is between the He-goat's eyes is the **first king**." (Alexander). Alexander crushed the Persians at the Battle of Issus in 333BC. Josephus the historian who lived from 37 to 100AD, states that when Alexander approached Jerusalem to conquer it, he was met at the gates by Jaddua the High Priest who showed him in Daniel 8:1-8, 20-22 that he as the first king of the Greek empire, would conquer the Persians. This was prophesied in 553BC, and was fulfilled in 333BC, 220 years later. Alexander was so impressed at this prophecy of a Greek conquering the Persians, that he worshipped the God of the Bible, offered sacrifices to God and spared Jerusalem.

Note: Unbelieving critics who won't accept the Bible predicting the future, say that Daniel was written around 200BC which would make it after the events, as history not prophecy. This is clearly disproven by Josephus quoting Jaddua who quotes Daniel 8:1-8,20-22 to Alexander in 340BC. This proves that Daniel was written well before 340BC and is truly predictive prophecy of the supernatural God. (Antiquities of the Jews, Josephus, Book XI, Chap.8, p.244).

4. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of Jehovah, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3. John the Baptist is the one referred to here who prepared the way of Jesus Christ who is Jehovah God. This prophecy was made in 712BC and fulfilled around 30AD.

5. JESUS CHRIST FORETOLD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

So much is predicted about Jesus Christ in the Old Testament that we can only give here a brief summary. We know that the Bible is the Word of God because it predicts so many details of Jesus Christ's life. Consider the following prophecies:

1. Born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14; Genesis 3:15. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son".
2. Tribe of Judah. Genesis 49:10. "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah..."
3. House of David. Jeremiah 23:5. "I will raise unto Judah a righteous Branch, and a King"
4. Born at Bethlehem. Micah 5:2. "Thou, Bethlehem..Judah, yet out of thee shall come.."
5. Visited by wise men with gifts. Isaiah 60:3,6,9. "Gentiles shall come...and kings".
6. Would be in Egypt for a time. Hosea 11:1. "called my son out of Egypt".
7. Infants killed at His birthplace. Jeremiah 31:15. "Rachel weeping for her children".
8. Preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist) Isaiah 40:3. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

9. Ministry to begin in Galilee. Isaiah 9:1. "Zebulun, & Naphtali.. have seen a great light"
10. Perform miracles. Isaiah 35:5,6. "blind,..deaf,..lame,..dumb sing".
11. Teach parables. Psalm 78:2. "I will open my mouth in a parable..."
12. Heal many. Isaiah 42:7,16; Matthew 8:16,17. "To open the blind eyes.."
13. His miracles not believed. Isaiah 53:1. "Who hath believed our report?"
14. Enter Jerusalem on a donkey. Zechariah 9:9. "thy King cometh...riding upon an ass."
15. Betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver. Zechariah 11:12. "they weighed for my price 30"
16. Money then used to buy a potter's field. Zechariah 11:13. "cast them to the potter.."
17. Money thrown on the Temple floor. Zechariah 11:13. "cast them...in the house of the Lord"
18. Forsaken by His disciples. Zechariah 13:7. "Smite the Shepherd, & sheep shall be scattered"
19. False witnesses accuse Him. Psalm 35:11. "False witnesses did rise up:"
20. Silent before His accusers. Isaiah 53:7. "He was oppressed,...., yet he opened not his mouth."
21. Be scourged and spat on. Isaiah 50:6. "I hid not my face from shame and spitting."
22. Crucified between two thieves. Isaiah 53:9. "He made his grave with the wicked.."
23. Buried in a rich man's tomb. Isaiah 53:9. "His grave ... with the rich in his death."
24. His side pierced. Zechariah 12:10. "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced".
25. Given vinegar to drink. Psalm 69:21. "in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."
26. Garments gambled for. Psalm 22:18. "They part my garments among them, cast lots on my.."
27. No bones broken. Psalm 34:20. "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."
28. His forsaken cry. Psalm 22:1. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
29. Darkness over the land from noon. Amos 8:9. "I will darken the earth in the clear day."
30. Hands and feet pierced. Psalm 22:16. "they pierced my hands and my feet".
31. Raised from the dead. Psalm 16:10. "thou wilt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption"
32. Ascend to heaven. Psalm 68:18. "Thou hast ascended on high.."
33. Rejected by His own nation, Israel. Isaiah 53:3'He is rejected of men. We esteemed him not'
34. Gentiles believe on him. Isaiah 60:3. "Gentiles shall come to thy light."
35. Messiah comes, is killed, then Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed (fulfilled in 70AD). Daniel 9:26. "shall Messiah be cut off,.. people..destroy city and sanctuary"
36. Jews to lose power to pass the death sentence 23 years before the trial of Christ. Genesis 49:10. "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come;" This was confirmed by Josephus describing the Romans taking this power away from the Jews in 11AD.
37. Messiah would offer Himself as Prince to Israel 173,880 days after 5th March 444BC. Daniel 9:26,27; Luke 19:41-44. "From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to Messiah the Prince shall be 69 weeks (heptads=7x360 days)"

Conclusion:

If we assign a probability of guessing each of these predictions correctly, we see that from a human viewpoint it is impossible to predict these events as the Bible has. Not one prediction failed. All are correctly fulfilled. This proves that the Bible is not humanly authored, but authored by God who ALONE knows the future.

3. SCIENCE AS PROOF OF THE BIBLE

Whenever the Bible makes a scientific statement, it is always proven correct after man has discovered all the relevant facts. In the Library of the Louvre in Paris there are 3.5 miles of obsolete science books on the shelves. In 1861 the French Academy of Science published a list of 51 "scientific facts" which supposedly contradicted the Bible. Today all 51 of these "facts" are unacceptable to modern scientists.

Do other religious books contain scientifically accurate information? Consider the Vedas, the Hindu Scriptures of India, in the following quote. This shows them to be very unscientific, hence disproving Eastern religions and modern New Age thinking, which are based on the Vedas. "The moon is 50,000 leagues higher than the sun (?), and shines by its own light (?); night is caused by the sun's setting behind a huge mountain (?) several thousand feet high, located in the centre of the earth (?), that this world, flat (?) and triangular (?) is composed of 7 states (?) - one of honey, another of sugar, a third of butter, and still another of wine, (?) and the whole mass is borne on the heads of countless elephants (?) which in shaking produce earthquakes."

As you can see, there are at least nine clear scientific errors in this short passage of the Vedas.

The Bible on the other hand contains no scientific errors in its 66 books.

Key: The Bible contains scientific information that was not known by man at the time of writing. In many cases it was only discovered recently.

Question: How did the Bible possess knowledge not yet discovered by man?

Answer: God authored the Bible, and revealed information not yet known to man, so that the world would know that the Bible is God's Word, coming from a mind much greater than man's.

Question: Why did no other religious book reveal new scientific information?

Answer: Because other religious books are man made, are limited by man's then current state of knowledge, and have not come from the all-knowing Creator, but are counterfeits seeking to claim authority over us. Hence we reject them.

What examples of scientific facts revealed in the Bible, were unknown to man at the time of writing?

1. The Earth Hangs in Space.

"He hangs the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7 stated 1500BC.

Until modern times "experts" believed ideas such as the earth sat on four elephants, who stood on a giant turtle, who swam in the ocean. Man could not imagine how the earth could hang in space on nothing. Yet this is what happens due to gravitational attraction between the earth and the sun, giving the appearance that the earth hangs on nothing.

2. Earth at any time is part day-time and part night.

When the moment of Christ's second coming to earth is discussed in Luke 17:31-36, Christ's return interrupts people sleeping **at night** on one part of the earth, and interrupts others **in the daytime** grinding at the mill or working in the field. How did Jesus Christ know that the earth at any point of time is half dark and half light? Because He is the all-knowing God. "...in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (v.30). **In that day**.... he that is in the field. (v.31). **In that night** there shall be two in one bed, one shall be taken, the other left. (v.34). Two women shall be grinding together; one shall be taken, and the other left (v.35). Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." (v.36).

3. **Cloud Balancing.** "Dost thou know the **balancing of the clouds**?" Job 37:16.

Clouds are floating in the air, balanced by two forces: gravity pulling them downwards, and warm air pushing them upwards. How did Job know about this in 1500 BC? God told him.

4. Telephone Communication.

"Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, **here we are**?" Job 38:35. When we dial a telephone number, an electric current (lightning or electricity as we know it) moves through a wire to our friend's telephone, which rings a bell. He answers it and says "Hello, it's here." We then both have a conversation over long distance. The telephone works exactly as Job 38:35 says, yet man did not invent it until 1876. God revealed the telephone to Job in 1520BC, 3400 years before AG Bell invented it.

5. Very Great Number of Stars.

"As the host of heaven cannot be numbered." Jeremiah 33:22 in 590 BC.

"He (God) telleth the number of stars; he calleth them all by their names." Psalm 147:4.

Ptolemy in 150AD dogmatically said that 1056 stars existed.

Scientists now estimate that there are around $10^{11} \times 10^{11} = 10^{22}$ stars, and this is only a guess.

6. The Height of Stars.

"Behold the height of the stars, how high they are." Job 22:12.

Man did not realise how high and far the stars are until Bessel in 1838 measured the distances of stars using the parallax method. Alpha Centauri, earth's nearest star is 4×10^{13} kms (40,000 billion kms) away. It would take you 10 million years to get there if you could travel there in your motorcar at 100 km per hour.

7. Pleiades Constellation is a Bound cluster, not breaking up.

"Canst thou **bind** the **sweet** influences (cluster) of Pleiades?" Job 38:31.

In 1520 BC, God said that the Pleiades star cluster is **bound** together in a highly stable group.

Today using high-powered telescopes, this has been shown to be true. It is a bound cluster of about 500 stars, 50 light years across and 410 light years away from earth.

The individual stars cannot overcome the "chains" of gravity and allow them to break away from the cluster. The cluster is not expanding, nor breaking up, but is **bound** together. This situation is very uncommon as the reverse is usually true of all open or galactic clusters. Also, photographs reveal that some of it's stars are veiled in a faint transparent blue haze of gas and dust, which beautifully reflect the glory of the stars in the cluster with their various colours. The cluster is indeed **"sweet"** in colour as God said in Job 38:31.

Question: How did the Bible know these two details, which are not observable to the naked eye?

Answer: The all-knowing God Who created the stars, authored the Bible.

8. Orion's Bands are loosed.

"Canst thou loose the bands of Orion?" Job 38:31

The constellation of Orion is a star system that is steadily **expanding outwards**. The gravitational **"bands"** holding the constellation together have indeed been loosed, just as God told Job. Orion is 350 light years across and 1600 light years from earth. This expansion is not observable to the naked eye.

Question: How could the Bible tell the difference between two star systems in 1600 BC, Pleiades being bound and Orion being loosed?

Answer: God authored the Bible. "Canst thou **bind** the sweet influences (cluster) of **Pleiades** or **loose** the bands of **Orion**?" Job 38:31. God can and has done it.

9. Spherical Earth.

"It is he that sitteth upon the **circle** of the **earth**." Isaiah 40:22.

"..when he set a **compass** upon the face of the **depth**." Proverbs 8:27.

Circle 2329 = Compass 2329 in Hebrew is "Khoog" = to describe a circle, or circuit, meaning the horizon which is circular.

In 712 BC, when Isaiah wrote this, people thought that the earth was flat, and that you could sail over the edge of it and fall off. Columbus and Magellan proved that the earth was circular by sailing around it in a circle from East to West and then returning to the point of departure.

Question: How did the Bible know that the earth was spherical?

Answer: God wrote it.

10. Treasures of the Snow.

"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?" Job 38:22.

Snow crystals are invisible to the naked eye, but under a microscope every snow crystal is different. No two snow crystals are the same. They are all beautiful 6-sided patterns, just like exquisite treasures. How did the Bible know this 3300 years before the microscope was invented? God wrote it.

11. All Mankind came from One Woman.

"Adam called his wife's name Eve: because she was the mother of all living." Genesis 3:20.

DNA is found in every cell, in both the nucleus and the mitochondrion (energy station). Mitochondrial DNA is **always** and **only** inherited from the mother. Analysis of this DNA in humans from all over the world shows unmistakably that all humans have inherited it from **one woman**. This research was done by Wilson, Cann, and Stoneking from the University of California, Berkeley.

(Creation Ex Nihilo, Vol.12, No.2, March 1990).

12. The Bloodstream Carries Life.

"The life of the flesh is in the blood." Leviticus 17:11.

From 400 BC to 1900 AD, a procedure called "blood letting" was popular. Sick people had blood drained from their bloodstream as a supposed therapeutic measure. It was responsible for killing millions of people, such as George Washington. People thought that blood carried **disease** instead of **life**. By draining the blood, the patient died of blood loss. Now we give blood to some sick patients. The Bible was right again.

13. Diseases Caused by Pigs.

"And the swine...is unclean to you. Of **their flesh** shall ye **not eat** and their carcass shall ye **not touch**". Leviticus 11:7,8.

Forbidding to eat pigs was because of:

- lack of refrigeration, and
- roasting pork over an open flame does not destroy the parasites.

Parasites are obtained by handling fresh pork.

Some diseases are caused by eating pork that is not properly cooked. For example, **Trichinosis** larvae attach to the intestine when eaten. They then bore through the intestine into the blood stream, and the larvae are carried to all parts of the body. They develop and grow in a person's striated muscle.

Pork Tapeworm may feed off the intestine and grow to 12 foot long. It may be fatal in 10-20 years.

God, by forbidding people to eat or touch pork, shows His care for us.

Question: How did the Bible know about the dangers of pork in 1500 BC?

Answer: God wrote the Bible.

14. Leprosy to be Quarantined.

"he (the leper) shall **dwel alone**; outside the camp shall his habitation be. Thou shalt **burn** that wherein the plague is by fire." Leviticus 13:46,57. Moses laid down the rules to recognise and to quarantine the infected leper as contagious, lest other people catch leprosy.

15. Sanitation.

"Thou shalt have a place outside the camp.... when you will ease yourself, you shall dig (with a paddle) and shall turn back and cover that which cometh from thee." Deuteronomy 23:12,13.

Up until 1800 AD, human excrement was dumped onto the unpaved, filthy streets. Powerful stenches gripped villages and cities. Flies bred in the filth, spreading intestinal diseases that killed millions of people. Such deaths by diseases like typhoid, cholera and dysentery could have been avoided if they had obeyed the Bible.

Question: How did the Bible know this, when man couldn't understand it until 1800?

Answer: God wrote the Bible.

Moses never learned this information from Egypt, because Egypt's standard medical textbook was the "Papyrus Ebers." It contained quack cures like "lizards blood, pigs teeth, stinking fat and meat, pig's ear wax, excreta from humans, dogs, flies, cats, etc.!" Moses never referred to these false cures in his writings.

16. Hands and Clothes Washing.

Until 1900 AD, many hospital patients died due to infections caused by doctors not washing their hands or clothing after contact with infectious patients. The Bible required repeated washing in running water with time allowed for drying and exposure to the sun to kill the bacteria.

17. Fountains Under the Sea.

"Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea?" Job 38:16.

"When he strengthened the fountains of the deep." Proverbs 8:28.

There are at least 10,000 known underwater volcanoes, adding extra water to the oceans of 430 million tons each year.

Question: How did the Bible know what took place on the deep ocean floor?

Answer: God wrote it.

18. The Water Cycle.

"All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from where the rivers come, there they return again." Ecclesiastes 1:7.

Rain falls on the coast, runs down the rivers into the oceans, evaporates into clouds, and is blown back to land. It then rains, thus repeating what is known as the water cycle.

19. The Sun is the Source of the Earth's Wind Systems.

"By what way is the **light** parted, which scatters the **east wind** upon the earth?" Job 38:24. Wind is caused by the uneven heating of the **air** around the earth by the **sun**. The sun also heats the **surface of the earth** unevenly. Air above hot areas (such as land) expands and rises. Air from cooler areas then flows in to take the place of heated air. This is called circulation.

20. Light can be Parted or Dispersed into a Rainbow Spectrum.

"By what way is the **light** parted (Heb.2505)?" Job 38:24. "Parted" in Hebrew is "*chalaq*" which means, "separated".

White light can be separated into 7 colours of the spectrum which are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. This was not understood until experiments with light were performed in the 1600's.

Note: Light is like Jesus Christ: "I am the light of the world." John 9:5. As light has seven colours, so Christ has the seven spirits of God. See Isaiah 11:1,2.

21. Winds blow in Circuits.

"The wind goes toward the south, and turns about unto the north, it **whirls about continually** and the **wind turns again** according to his **circuits**." Ecclesiastes 1:6.

At the equator, the sun heats the air causing it to rise. In the upper atmosphere this air flows away from the equator. When the air returns to the earth's surface, it flows across the surface. This moving surface air produces the six belts of prevailing winds around the earth.

22. Winds have Weight and hence Air Pressure.

"To make the **weight** for the **winds**." Job 28:25.

Galileo in 1600 AD noted that a suction pump would not raise water more than 34 feet. Torricelli suggested that if air could support a column of water 34 feet high, then air should support a column of mercury about 2.5 feet high, because mercury is 13 times as heavy as water. Torricelli made a mercury barometer and proved that air has **pressure** and hence **weight** as the Bible says. God revealed that air has weight 3200 years earlier.

23. Sea Paths or Ocean Currents.

"Whatsoever passes through the **paths of the sea**". Psalm 8:8. "Paths" in Hebrew means "customary roads." Matthew Maury is the father of Oceanography. A statue of him exists in Virginia with charts of the sea in one hand and a **Bible** in the other. Until Maury's work there were no charts of sailing lanes. One day during a temporary illness, his son read from Psalm 8:8. Maury stopped him, asking him to read it again. Maury then said: "It is enough. If the Word of God says that there are paths in the sea, they must be there, and I am going to find them." Within a few years he had charted the sea lanes and ocean currents.

Question: How did the Bible know about sea paths or ocean currents?

Answer: God wrote it.

24. Laws of Physics control matter, energy and motion.

God asked Job: "Knowest thou the ordinances (laws) of heaven?" Job 38:33. Ordinances are physical laws that govern the movement of heavenly bodies, stars, planets, comets, meteors etc. Examples include:

- Kepler's laws of equal areas of orbits
- Solar Physics
- Newton's law of universal gravitation
- Quantum mechanics
- Newton's three laws of motion
- Radioactive decay
- The first and second laws of thermodynamics
- Sub atomic particle laws
- Laws governing blackholes, quasars, pulsars etc.

The more that man learns about science, the more he realises that there is to learn.

Question: How did the Bible know that science operates on laws in 1500 BC?

Answer: God wrote it

25. **The First Law of Thermodynamics** states that no new matter or energy is being created in the known universe; it is only being interconverted from one form to another.

"On the seventh day **God ended his work** which He had **made**." Genesis 2:2.

26. **The Second Law of Thermodynamics** states that the disorder of the universe is increasing. Systems are running from a high to a low state of energy.

"They (the **earth** and **heavens**) all shall **wax old** as doth a garment. And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail." Hebrews 1:11,12.

Scientists admit that with all the energy that the sun burns up, it must become cold one day in the distant future. The same must happen to all stars. This is called the "heat death of the universe." Without solar heat, life on earth could not exist. Thankfully Jesus Christ is going to remake this universe into a perfect state at the end of the Millennium.

27. Can a Whale swallow Jonah

"Now the Lord had prepared a **great fish** to **swallow up Jonah**. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17. Many people use this as their reason for doubting the Bible's truthfulness. How can a fish swallow a man?

Several cases in modern times have been reported of a whale swallowing a man who survived. One is reported by Francis Fox in "Sixty-three years of Engineering" p.298-300 and confirmed by two scientists, one being M. DeParville, the scientific editor of "Journal Des Debats" in Paris.

In February 1891, the whaling ship, "Star of the East" was near the Falkland Islands, where they sighted a large sperm whale. Two boats were sent out after the whale. One boat harpooned the whale, but the whale upset the other boat, drowning one man and the other sailor James Bartley, disappearing without a trace. After the whale was killed and cut open two days later, James Bartley was found unconscious and doubled up inside the whale. He had lost his senses through fright and not through lack of air. His skin was bleached white from stomach acid. He fully recovered. If a man can survive two days in a whale in 1891, surely Jonah could have survived three days in a great fish in 862 BC.

CONCLUSION:

The Bible not only includes that which is scientifically correct, but also totally avoids that which is scientific nonsense as found in the books of many other religions. For example, the ancient Egyptians believed that the world was hatched from a great cosmic egg which had wings.

Because the Bible avoids scientific nonsense, and because the Bible contains scientific information that was not known until recently, we conclude that the all-knowing Creator God authored the Bible. This is a powerful argument to warrant our complete confidence in the Bible's truth and reliability on every other issue of life.

4. PROOFS OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

The Bible never attempts to prove the existence of God, but simply declares His existence as a settled fact. The Bible commences: "In the beginning God..." Genesis 1:1.

Belief in God's existence is fundamental to life; otherwise man is not accountable to anybody. Belief in God's existence is a pre-requisite to being saved by faith in Christ. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God". Psalm 53:1.

Consider these proofs or arguments for God's existence:

1. CAUSE AND EFFECT (Cosmological)

Every effect has a cause. The cause is greater than the effect. "For every house is built by some man; but he that built all things is God". Hebrews 3:4. The world and the universe are here. This raises the question: "How did it all come into existence?" We know of nothing in this world that has no cause. Thus we must recognise that there is a cause behind this world and the universe. If the pieces of a watch were shaken up in a can forever, they would never produce a working watch by accident. The fact of a watch's existence demands that there was a watchmaker who made the watch. Hence there must be an intelligent First Cause (God).

2. DESIGN PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF A DESIGNER (Teleological)

Not only does the world and universe exist (with a cause), but it also has a perfect design and purpose. Everything has a purpose. For example, every part of your body has a useful purpose.

Order and useful arrangement imply that the Cause has intelligence and purpose. The intelligence, purpose and harmony in the universe prove the existence of a master architect. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork". Psalm 19:1.

God's purpose, design, harmony and intelligence is seen in:

1. The earth is the right distance from the sun to provide a life-sustaining climate on earth.
2. The moon is the right distance from earth to provide tides at a proper level.
3. Without a moon, we would have no light at night.
4. Every plant, animal and bacteria has a useful purpose.
5. Every part of your body is in the right place (eg: eyes, nose, ears), is the right size and shape (eg: thumb, fingers), and works perfectly to achieve a useful purpose.
6. **Flowers** are colourful. **Trees** provide oxygen, shade, and timber for building and heating, they prevent soil erosion, and they support many life forms.
7. How can these be explained? A benevolent Designer has given us all of these blessings because He loves and cares for us. Do you love and care for Him?
8. The **human body** functions so perfectly in every way.
9. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made". Psalm 139:14.

3. The UNIQUENESS and INTELLIGENCE OF MAN (Anthropological)

Man is vastly superior to animals, because of his intelligence, his engineering skill, his moral awareness and his awareness of God and eternity. "So God created man in his own image". Genesis 1:27.

4. MAN'S UNIVERSAL INTUITIVE BELIEF IN GOD (Ontological)

Man everywhere is born with an intuitive belief in God. This manifests itself in a desire to worship God. If man does not find the true God, he worships a God of his own making. Belief in God is intuitive. It is not the result of cultural conditioning.

5. THE MORAL ARGUMENT (Conscience)

Man everywhere has a moral awareness of right and wrong. He feels responsible to do what is right, and to avoid what is wrong.

Question: Where did this sense of moral justice come from?
If man is only a bunch of chemicals, why does he have a sense of moral obligation?
Do chemicals have morality?

Answer: The Bible states that moral awareness is God given. Such innate moral standards cannot be due to evolution from unintelligent matter. Romans 2:14,15 states that Gentiles who don't know the 10 Commandments have an inner, moral witness placed there by God. When a man violates his conscience he feels guilt and a fear of punishment. Man's moral awareness can be traced back to the moral values of his Creator. Man's conscience witnesses to the existence of a supreme Law-Giver and Judge who built this sense of right and wrong into man.

6. THE BIOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Only life can produce life. The theory of spontaneous generation of life has been proven false by science. (Louis Pasteur 1870). Unintelligent matter cannot produce intelligent life. The eternal, intelligent life source is God. "For with thee is the fountain of life". Psalm 36:9.

7. THE HISTORICAL ARGUMENT

Human history points to the unseen Hand of God. God controls, guides and governs the affairs of nations. Examples of God intervening in history are:

- i) When Hitler and Napoleon invaded Russia, winter came early, and was so severe that it led to their defeat. Job 38:22,23.
- ii) When Hitler had crippled England's airforce, he could have easily invaded and conquered Britain. But he delayed and was distracted to bombing English cities. He lost his moment of opportunity due to the prayer answering God.
- iii) When the Spanish Armada set out to invade England in 1588 with 130 ships, God sent a devastating storm which was timed perfectly to destroy most of the ships. God spared England for Protestantism, publishing of the King James Bible in 1611, and sending gospel preaching missionaries all over the world.

- iv) The allies and the United States developed the atomic bomb before Hitler in World War II.
- v) Roman peace had removed pirates from the seas allowing Paul and early missionaries to plant churches all over the world.
- vi) In 1453 the Moslems captured Constantinople. Just before it fell, all the precious New Testament manuscripts had been taken to Europe where printing had just been invented in 1440 by Gutenberg. Hence God preserved the New Testament manuscripts from Islamic destruction, and to be printed 10 years after printing was invented.
- vii) La Perouse was a French explorer who sailed into Botany Bay only 6 days after Arthur Phillip arrived there with the First Fleet. God wanted England to colonise Australia rather than France.
- viii) Men blasphemed God in 1912 by saying that "Not even God could sink the Titanic ocean liner." God judged their sin by sinking the Titanic on its maiden voyage from England to New York on April 15, 1912 when it struck an iceberg.

8. **THE CHRISTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT**

We cannot explain the Christ of history without the existence of God. Christ's life is affirmed by the Bible and by secular literature. Christ's virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, teachings, prophecies fulfilled at His death, His bodily resurrection and ascension can only be explained by God's existence. "Never man spake like this man". John 7:46. How Christ transforms lives for good, and continues to answer prayers is proof of God's existence. Millions of Christians world wide know Christ as God personally.

9. **THE BIBLICAL ARGUMENT**

Man could not have authored the Bible. We know that the Bible is authored by God because it foretells the future with 100% accuracy every time. No other book in the world has 100% fulfilled prophecy. This shows that it comes from the mind of God. Man would not write a book about how his God whom he loves and worships gets crucified. Man would teach that we get to God by our good works. The Bible is accurate from Science, Archaeology, Prophecy, Unity and Morality.

10. **MILLIONS OF PEOPLE KNOW GOD PERSONALLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ has answered millions of people's prayers and transformed millions of lives from misery, sin and despair to love, joy, peace, hope and victory. Do not be like the fool who says that there is no God. Receive Jesus Christ as your God and Saviour from sin today. Then you too will know God personally.

5. REASONS FOR BIBLE, HEAVEN, RESURRECTION, DEITY, CREATION and BAPTISM.

What Key Questions Need We Be Able To Answer?

Question 1: How do we know the Bible is God's Word?

1. **Fulfilled prophecy** regarding nations, Christ, individuals and second coming.
2. **Archaeology** - No archaeology discoveries contradict the Bible.
3. **Science** - The Bible contains scientific facts that were not known when the Bible was written.
4. **Unity** of the Bible written by 40 men over 1600 years agree without any contradiction.
5. **It contains all truth** and no error.
6. Bible principles for living all work when applied.
7. The Bible when printed, **delivered** man from the dark ages and brought blessing to the world. It freed men from superstitions.

Question 2: How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead?

1. Jesus after He rose, said that he had **flesh and bones**. Luke 24:39.
2. The **empty tomb** and the **ordered grave clothes** when the disciples examined the tomb. Mark 16:6
3. Christ **ate food** with His disciples after He rose. Luke 24:41-45.
4. People **recognised Him** after His resurrection, even the nail prints. John 20:25.
5. Christ **predicted that He would rise** bodily. John 2:19,22.
6. The mass psychological **change** of the disciples from being cowards at Christ's death, to become bold preachers after the resurrection. How else can this mass psychological change be explained?
7. Over **500 people saw Christ** after He had risen from the dead over a 40 day period. So convinced were they that they were willing to die as martyrs than to deny Christ's resurrection. Would you die for an event that you were not sure about? These witnesses have a high credibility having given the world it's highest moral code.
8. The **change from Saturday to Sunday** as the main day of worship. The Sabbath being so important to the Jews would not have been dropped by the Jews except for an immensely important event, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
9. The **church's** existence can only be explained by the miracle of Christ's resurrection.
10. **Angels** in the tomb declared that He had risen from the dead as He said. Luke 24:6-8.
11. Women who met Christ on this morning held Christ's feet. Matthew 28:9.

Question 3: Why do you believe that Jesus is God

1. **Jesus claimed to be God**. "if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24.

"**I AM**" is a name for "God", because;

- a) To God, no event is beyond Him in the future, and no event is out of His control in past. Only God is the eternal "**I AM**" in Exodus 3:14.
- b) "**I AM**" is **God's name forever** in Exodus 3:14,15.
- c) The Jews **rightly concluded** that Jesus was claiming to be God in John 8:58,59.
- d) The Septuagint translates Exodus 3:14 as "**I AM**" not as in the **NWT(JW)** version.

2. The Old Testament says that **JESUS IS GOD**. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called...The mighty God, The everlasting Father." Isaiah 9:6.
3. Jesus Christ has the **CREDENTIALS OF GOD**.
 - a) He **ROSE** from the dead.
 - b) He **DID MANY MIRACLES** showing His power over nature.
 - stilling storms, casting out demons, healing the blind, the lame and raising Lazarus.
 - c) He **PROPHESIED THE FUTURE** correctly. Eg: Rome destroying Jerusalem (70 AD).
 - d) He entered Jerusalem to proclaim himself King 173,880 days after March 5, 444 BC. This was the exact day that Daniel prophesied in Daniel 9:24-26.
 - e) He **solves the sin problem** by dying as our substitute, thus satisfying the law's demands.
4. **The Bible Declares that Jesus Christ is God** in these places: He is called "God" seven times in the New Testament:
 - i) "The Word was God". John 1:1.
 - ii) Thomas called Him "My Lord and my God". John 20:28.
 - iii) "The glorious appearing of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ". Titus 2:13.
 - iv) "God was manifest in the flesh". 1 Timothy 3:16.
 - v) "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". Colossians 2:9.
 - vi) "But unto the Son, he saith, 'Thy Throne, O God, is forever and ever'." Heb. 1:8.
 - vii) "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 1 John 5:7.
5. The **Old Testament predicted so many details about Jesus Christ's life** hundreds of years before He was born. Examples of such prophecies include:

PROPHECY	OT REFERENCE	NT REFERENCE
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18,24,25
Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:23,33
House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23
Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:1,2	Matthew 2:1
Preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist)	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1,2
Ministry to begin in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:12,13,17
Perform Miracles	Isaiah 35:5,6	Matthew 9:35
Teacher of Parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34
To enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:6-11
Gentile Nations to believe on Him	Isaiah 60:3	Acts 13:47,48
To rise from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31
To ascend to Heaven	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
Money to be thrown in the Temple	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
Money to buy a potter's field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7

PROPHECY	OT REFERENCE	NT REFERENCE
Forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 14:20
False witnesses accuse Him	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59,60
Silent before His accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
Beaten, wounded, spat on	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Garments parted and lots cast	Psalms 22:18	John 19: 23,24
Gall and vinegar offered Him	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
His forsaken cry	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
No bones broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:23
His side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Darkness over land from midday	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
Buried in rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
Messiah to offer Himself as Prince to Israel 173,880 days after March 5, 444 BC.	Daniel 9:26,27	Luke 19:41-44
Messiah comes, Messiah cut off (dies), Jerusalem and Temple destroyed	Daniel 9:26	by Titus in 70 AD
Jews to lose power to pass death sentence 23 years before the trial of Christ	Genesis 49:10	11 AD (Josephus, Antiquities, 17:13:1-5)

6. **Josephus the Jewish /Roman Historian** who lived from 37 to 100 AD, tells us that people of that time regarded Jesus Christ as God ("if it be lawful to call him a man.") This account is found in Josephus' "Antiquities of the Jews", page 379.

Now, there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, - a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was (the) Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

This confirms the Bible's account of Jesus Christ's :

- Historical existence.
- Deity.
- Miracles.
- Teacher.
- Pharisees suggesting that Pilate kill Jesus.
- Resurrection after three days.
- Fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.
- Followers known as the Christian Church.

Question 4: Why Creation Is Right and Evolution Is Wrong.

- God said "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. So **GOD CREATED MAN** in his own image..." Genesis 1:27.
- JESUS** said that God created man: "From the beginning of creation God made them male and female." Mark 10:6. "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be." Mark 13:19.
- SUDDEN APPEARANCE** of complex life in early Cambrian fossil layers.
- MAN'S RECORDED HISTORY** only goes back to about 3,000 BC, the first dynasty of Egypt and China, agreeing with the Bible's flood date of 2418 BC.
- SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS** says that systems go from order to disorder, yet evolution contradicts this by claiming systems go from "disorder to order".
- DATING METHODS** are greatly in error, giving an apparent age greater than the true age. This is due to unproven assumptions in the dating methods.
- 220 EVIDENCES** for a young earth of about 6,000 years old.
- ABSENCE OF TRANSITIONAL** fossil forms between species as predicted by evolution.
- Misplaced fossils.** For example:
 - Human shoe print on trilobite fossil.
 - Cave painting of brontosaurus in Zimbabwe.
 - Polystyrene tree trunks over many strata layers.
 - Human and Dinosaur footprints in Turkmenia.
- No beneficial mutations** have given a new species. There is no way to change the number of chromosomes in all the cells of an organism to change it to another species. For example, man has 46 chromosomes in every cell.
- Complexity** of sexual reproduction and eyes, can't be explained by evolution's random processes.
- Bad social effects of evolution**
 - "Survival of the fittest" of evolution justifies cunning, deceit, cruelty, animal behaviour and massacres, instead of **God's law of love and service**.
 - Militarism** of Germany starting World War I and World War II came from them applying evolution to encourage survival of the "fittest" nation Germany. This allowed the massacre of 6 million Jews and the destruction of other countries. This was just an evolutionary conflict.
 - Spread of **atheism**.
 - Spread of **Communism** and the arms race.
 - Spread of **immorality and divorce**. People acting like animals is just evolutionary behaviour.
 - No idea of right or wrong** because there is no authority of God to be accountable to.
 - Abortion.** Evolutionists say, "Don't worry, the foetus is only in the fish stage."

Question 5: Why we should believe in Baptism by immersion.

1. **Baptizo** in the Greek always means "immersion", never sprinkle. Sprinkle is "rantizo" in Greek.
2. **Everyone baptised** in the New Testament was a saved adult who could say "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:37.
3. **Only immersion pictures** the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, burial of our old sinful ways, and us rising to a new life with Jesus Christ.
4. **Only baptism by immersion** is the answer of a **good conscience towards God**. 1 Peter 3:21.
5. **Jesus** was baptised by immersion, and so should we. Mark 1:9-11.
6. Immersion was the **method of baptism up to 300 AD** as recorded by the Church Fathers.
The Roman Catholic Church changed it.

Question 6: Why do we believe that we are going to heaven?

1. Jesus told us of heaven and how to get there through Him.
2. The Old Testament tells us of heaven as the land that is very far off.
3. We have the Holy Spirit indwelling us, telling us of heaven.
4. We have the promises of God's Word.
5. Testimony of Godly people dying and going to heaven, such as Stephen (Acts 7:55,56).

WHY SHOULD WE GIVE A REASON

1. **Not to be ashamed** before men. 2 Timothy 2:15.
2. To be **approved by God**.
3. **To deliver people for error**, sin and false doctrine.
4. To **teach** answers to Christians.
5. To **strengthen** our faith.

HOW SHOULD WE ANSWER?

With meekness and fear, means to answer with modesty and gentleness.

Questions may sometimes be asked in an insulting manner.

Don't retort in anger or in a revengeful manner, but in a calm and gentle spirit, stating the reason for our hope. Let us give clear, intelligent and factual answers to establish the truth of God's Word satisfactorily in people's minds.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15.

CONCLUSION:

The probability of only eight prophecies about Jesus Christ coming true by guesswork is 1 chance in 10^{17} . What about the rest? Since the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) is right in predicting the future, we conclude that:

- a) Jesus Christ is the only way to God.
- b) The Bible is 100% accurate on issues that we have no normal knowledge on (such as the future). It therefore qualifies for our trust in it as God's only Word to man.
- c) It is therefore a suitable base for our thinking and our life. We conclude that,
THE BIBLE = TRUTH = REALITY = OUR LIFE'S FOUNDATION.