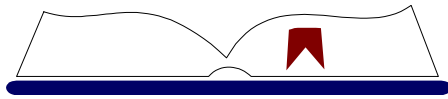


# WHY I BELIEVE the BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD



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## Why I Believe the Bible is God's Word

### 1. Because of its Universal Appeal

The Bible speaks to everyone. Every nation has its folk lore, sagas, and traditions which have limited appeal to its own people. The Bible is for every nation. It is read and loved all over the world by every race and people. It is translated into almost every language. Certain religious books are awkward when stripped of its original language, yet the Bible translates well and speaks to every heart that reads it. "For God so loved the world..." is a message for everyone. "Cretes and Arabians, we do hear [it] speak... the wonderful works of God."<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Because of its Unity

The Bible was written by many different men over fifteen hundred years and yet there is one spirit that moves through it like the living breathing thing it is. In a most remarkable way it all fits together. Amos said "How can two walk together except they be agreed."<sup>2</sup> Each part agrees with the others. The Bible is a collection of books and letters that never contradict each other, but rather clarify and complement each other like a song. Many religions have their "so-called sacred" books that

### 3. Because of its Own Claim

The Bible claims to be the Word of God. "as it is in truth, the word of God..."<sup>4</sup> 3,808 times the prophetic formula is used "Thus saith the LORD." That in itself should be enough to capture man's attention. Many religious books claim divine origin, but even they are the words of prophets or of angels "so-called." The Bible claims to be the very word of God. So as Moses turned aside when he saw the burning bush, many have been drawn by this Book's flaming profession. 2Tim 3:16 says "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable..." Long after the books of man are obsolete and have molded and turned to dust, the Bible will be as fresh as the day it was completed. "Forever, a LORD, thy word is settled in heaven"<sup>5</sup> Jesus said "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."<sup>6</sup> No other book dares to make such a claim about itself. Or "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."<sup>7</sup>

### 4. Because of its Moral and Cultural Excellence

The Bible has lifted all of humanity higher. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."<sup>8</sup> While this primarily means spiritual thoughts, it actually involves all thoughts. Christ is the Logos of God. While the Bible diagnoses man's problems as sin problems (exposing man at his worst), somehow the Bible has brought out the best of man as well. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me" could be said for the Bible as well as the saint.<sup>9</sup> The greatest poets, artists, musicians have drawn from its deep wells. Michael Angelo, Milton, Handel, gave the world their expressions of inspiration born of the Bible. Modern civilization can thank the Bible for helping make it be civil. The legal code of many nations found its moral template in the Bible. The golden rule, hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged, and cities of refuge find their roots in this book of books. Had the world never known the Bible it would be stripped of much of its art and beauty and may have never known the greatest things are faith, hope, and love.

### 5. Because of the Confirmation of Archaeology

Archaeology is a faithful witness and an ally to this book that claims to be the truth. Events so awesome and spectacular recorded in the Bible have raised eyebrows of skeptics and have brought ridicule from non-believers. Every turn of the archaeologist's spade uncovers habits, records and ways that confirm the Biblical account. What were dismissed as myths are again and again supported by the witness of the ancients. Everything from the strange arrangement of Jericho's walls that seem to have fallen out, to pools of bones that witness to a great flood, all declare the Bible to be accurate. Sir William Ramsay set out to prove the Book of Acts was not written by Luke and not in the first century, but

the second. At the end of his extensive study he gave up all his skepticism and was converted. Like the children of Jerusalem the stones of archaeology today cry out that the Bible is indeed the word of God.<sup>10</sup>

#### **6. Because of the Witness of Fulfilled Bible Prophecy**

The Bible itself condemns false prophets.<sup>11</sup> The Bible is the voice of prophecy. “How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?”<sup>12</sup> Again and again, the Bible’s predictions have come to pass. From the destruction of nations to the elevation of men, again and again the Bible proves itself to be true. Daniel predicted the fall of Babylon and the rise of Rome. The Bible predicted the Jewish Diaspora,<sup>13</sup> the destruction of Jerusalem<sup>14</sup> and the rebirth of modern Israel.<sup>15</sup> Where are the Hittites, Hivites, Jebusites, Ammorites, Moabites today? Israel, a small and seemingly insignificant nation is not only still existent, but also a major player in world affairs just as God said she would be. Then there are all the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. 1. Gen. 3:15 Seed of a woman. 2. Isa. 7:14 Born of a Virgin. 3. Gen. 12:3 Son of Abraham, Gen 17: 19 Isaac, Gen 28:4 Jacob. 4. Gen 49:9 10 Tribe of Judah. 5. 2Sam 7: 12-15 of the House of David. 6. Mic.5:2 Bethlehem. 7.Zech.11:12-13,Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver. 8. Isa.50:6 and Isa.53 Sufferings of Christ. 9. Ps. 22 Crucifixion and Casting lots. 10. Ps 16:10 Borrowed Grave. 11. Ps. 16:10 Resurrection, 12. Ps 8:56 the Ascension.

How can we know the word which the LORD has or has not spoken?<sup>16</sup> “When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously; thou shalt not be afraid of him.”<sup>17</sup> Jesus not only predicted his death and how he would die, he also predicted that after three days he would rise again.

#### **7. Because of the Testimony of Jesus Christ.**

No ancient life has undergone more scrutiny than the life of Jesus Christ. All other religious leaders and teachers have their good and their bad side. For example, Mohammad was a warrior and a polygamist. Even his followers will admit that “he was only human.” Jesus Christ was more. Once we accept Christ we accept the authority of his word. Jesus himself held the Bible to be the very Word of God. He said, “Ye do err not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.”<sup>18</sup> When tempted by Satan he could have overwhelmed the devil with his wisdom, instead he quoted the Scripture, “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”<sup>19</sup> He began his ministry reading the word of God.<sup>20</sup> All he did was the fulfillment of the word of God. Then he threw down a challenge. He said “Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”<sup>21</sup> He said he was the way, the truth and the life. I believe him.

#### **8. Because I have seen and experienced its life changing power**

No book has changed and transformed lives like this book, the Bible. It is the instrument used by the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of the soul. The Bible not only claims to be able to make [one] wise unto Salvation, it declares that it was written in order that men might “know” how to be saved.<sup>22</sup> While other religious books may attempt to explain “how” man was made, the Bible also tells us “why” we were made. The Bible tells us not only how to live, but it also tells us how to live forever. David said it well, “Thy word hath quickened me.”<sup>23</sup>

Yes, the Bible is the Word of God, therefore we should read every word, believe it, obey it, trust it. We should build our lives upon it<sup>24</sup>, and treasure it<sup>25</sup>. The Gospel of John tells us that before there was anything else, there was the WORD. The Bible also assures us that when all is said and done, God will have the final word. I believe God’s word is first and God’s word will be final.

<sup>1</sup>( Acts 2: II); <sup>2</sup>(Amos 3:3); <sup>3</sup>(2Tim 3: 16) ; <sup>4</sup>(IThes. 2: 13); <sup>5</sup>(PS. 119:89); <sup>6</sup>(John 6:63); <sup>7</sup>( Matt. 24:35); <sup>8</sup>(Isa. 55:9) ; <sup>9</sup>(PS. 23:6); <sup>10</sup>(Lk.19:40); <sup>11</sup>(Jer. 14:14); <sup>12</sup>(Deut. 18:21); <sup>13</sup>(Deut. 28:64); <sup>14</sup>(Lk. 19:44); <sup>15</sup>(Isa. 35: 1); <sup>16</sup>(Deut. 18:21); <sup>17</sup>(Deut. 18:21); <sup>18</sup>(Mat. 22:29); <sup>19</sup>(Matt. 4:4); <sup>20</sup>(Lk. 4: 10); <sup>21</sup>(Jn. 8:46); <sup>22</sup>(Ijn. 5: 13); <sup>23</sup>(PS. 119:50); <sup>24</sup>(Lk. 6:48); <sup>25</sup>(Ps.19:10)