

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

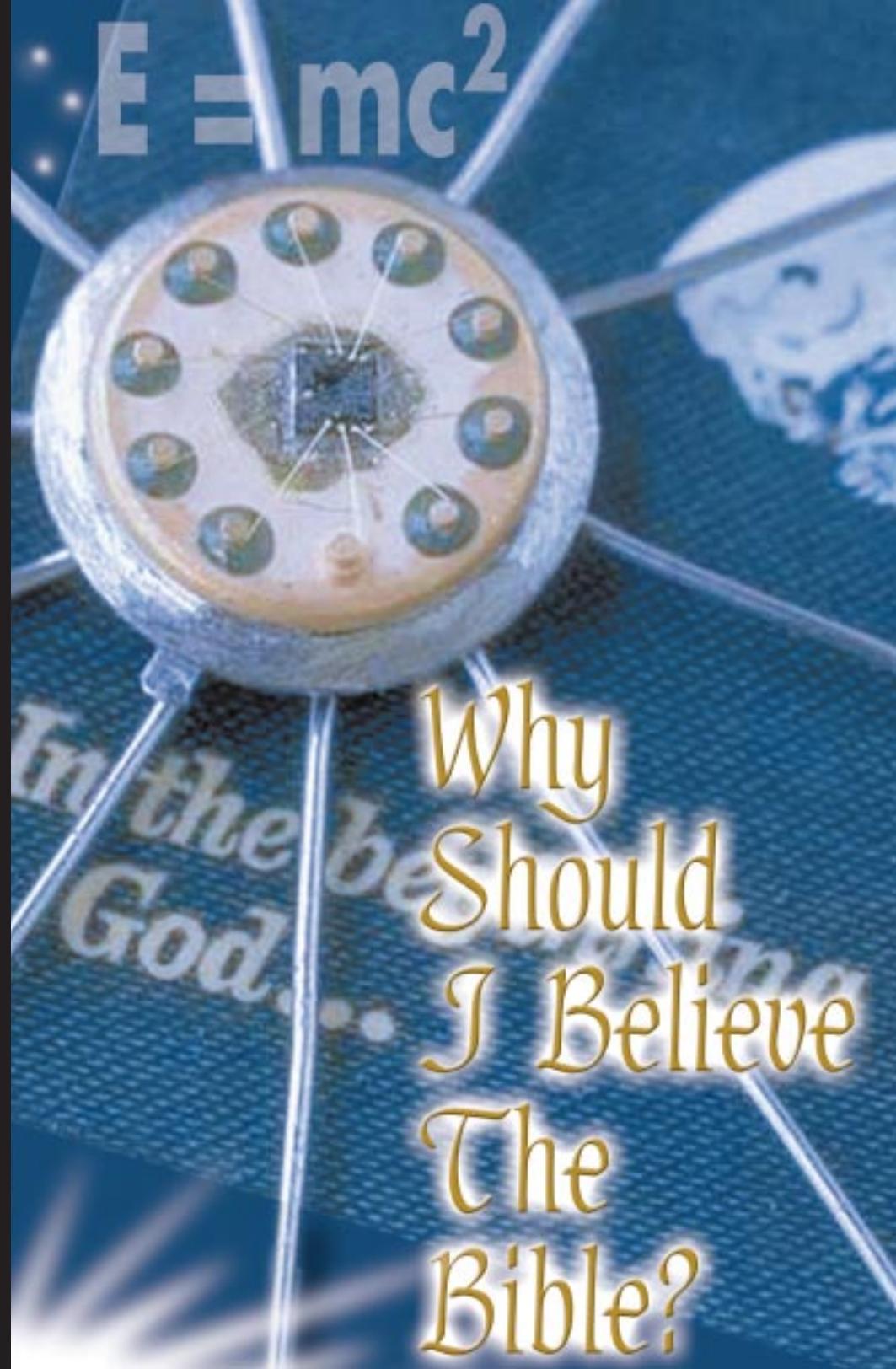
Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

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Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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Why Should I Believe The Bible?

“I am awed by the majesty and brilliance, not to mention the power, of the Scriptures. Take away the Scriptures and you take away Christ. Take away Christ and you take away life.”

— R. C. Sproul

There is a movement today in television, books, magazines, and motion pictures that is openly antagonistic to Christianity. It is attempting to distort and discredit the truth about the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Perhaps the evil of every kind that is plaguing our society today is, in part, what the apostle Paul was referring to in Romans 1:18 when he said that the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against people who suppress the truth about Him. The Greek word used here for suppress means “hinder” or “stifle truth.” The cover-up Paul is referring to is a cover-up of the truth about the who God is and what He is really like.

Paul goes on to say in Romans 1:19-20 that “what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Paul says that God has made Himself known through what He

created, and not only can you find God through the evidence in creation, but you don’t have to be an Einstein to figure out the clues.

In his book, *God, the Atom and the Universe*, James Reid says: “Science is preparing

a surprise for mankind! At least it will be a surprise for those who have doubts about the Bible and its God. It will also come as a surprise for those who are laboring under the misapprehension that science has undermined the Bible. In fact, it may even shock some scientists, who may be startled to find that their newly uncovered fact, or accepted theory, provides still

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another link in the chain of evidence that is showing that the facts of the universe support the Bible’s statements—including creation.” Mr. Reid goes on to say that for years, as a man of science, he had used the old classic physics, the Newtonian physics, and that he made an earnest attempt to find support for these in the Bible but was unable to do so. Then as the old classical physics gave way in this century to the new quantum physics, the atomic theory; a whole new concept of the universe emerged. As Einstein’s theory of relativity revealed the inner relationship of mass and energy, James Reid suddenly found that the new discoveries of science were establishing the teachings of the Scriptures.

The Bible says in Psalm 19:1: "The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." Astronomers look more closely at a large portion of God's handiwork than do any other group of scientists and 90 percent of them believe in God. Sir James Jeans, a great modern astronomer, said that the more he examined the expanses of space and the tremendous complexity of these things; the more the universe seemed to be one gigantic thought of a great mathematician.

The cosmological argument comes from the term cosmos, which means the universe, and from which we get the word cosmetic. It means "ordered and beautiful," and it is evident to even the most hardened sceptic that the universe has so much order that it would be impossible to list it all. Pierre Simon de La Place, a great astronomer, said that the evidence for God as opposed to the evidence against Him as Creator of this universe was as infinity to one. It could not even be measured.



Dr. James Kennedy gives us some examples in nature that declare the existence of God. Consider the mass and size of this planet upon which we live. If the earth were either 10 percent larger or 10 percent smaller, life would not be possible on this planet. It is just the right distance from the sun; so we receive just the right amount of heat and light. If the earth were farther away, we would freeze, and if it were closer we would not be able to survive. The earth is the only planet that is tilted 23 degrees on its axis. This angle provides that the earth is slowly turned in all parts of its surface before the rays of the sun. If there were no tilt, the poles would accumulate masses of ice, and the center part of the earth would become intensely hot.

The moon and its relationship to the earth are equally amazing. Without the moon, life on earth would be impossible. God created the moon to clean up the oceans and the shores of all our continents. Without the tides created by the moon, all our harbors and shores would become one pool of garbage, and it would be impossible to live near them. The tides cause continuous waves to break on the shores of the ocean, aerating the oceans of this planet and providing oxygen for the plankton, the foundation of the food chain of our world. Without the plankton, there would not be oxygen and man would not be able to live on this planet. God made the moon the right size and placed it the right distance from the earth to perform these and other functions.

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence for our creator God is our atmosphere. We live under an ocean of air that is 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, and the other 1 percent is made up of almost a dozen different trace elements. No other planet in our known universe is made of these same ingredients. These elements are not chemically combined but are continually mixed by the tidal effect of the moon upon the atmosphere. This has the same effect that it has upon the seas and always provides the same amount of oxygen. Even with the incredible amount of carbon dioxide man dumps into the atmosphere, it is absorbed into the ocean, and man is able to continue to live on planet earth. The thickness of our atmosphere keeps us from being crushed by the billion pieces of cosmic debris and meteorites that fall continually upon our planet. The nitrogen that is in the air is needed for

plants in the ground. God gets the nitrogen out of the air and into the soil with lightning bolts; one hundred thousand bolts of lightning strike this planet every day, creating a hundred million tons of usable nitrogen plant food in the soil every year.

We also see God's handiwork in the ozone layer that is forty miles up. It is a very thin layer, that if compressed would only be a quarter of an inch thick, but without it life on earth could not exist. Without ozone, the eight killer rays from the sun would blind and burn us to death in a matter of days. The ozone layer screens out the dangerous longer rays, while allowing the shorter rays, which we must have to sustain life, in. Only enough of the deadly rays are allowed in to kill the green algae, which otherwise would grow to fill all the lakes, rivers, and oceans of the world.

The Heavens declare the glory
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shows His handiwork.

9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Water is only found in abundance on planet earth. Water cleanses and nourishes the earth as rain and as vapor, it provides moisture to aerate the land. We have exactly 50 percent of the earth covered by clouds at any one time, which allows just the right amount of sunlight to come through to the earth. When water freezes it becomes lighter and rises so it does not freeze rivers at the bottom, which would kill all the fish, destroy all the algae, and eliminate our oxygen supply. Dust is even evidence of the greatness of God. If it were not for dust, we would not see a blue sky. If it were not for dust, it would never rain. One drop of rain is made up of eight million droplets of water, and each one of those eight million droplets is wrapped around a tiny particle of dust.

As amazing as all of this evidence is, God was not content to only reveal Himself in creation. He gives us personal and specific words that have been conveyed through verbal revelation. This revelation, the Bible, has come from the mouth of Creator God, who is the supreme and powerful Source of ultimate truth. All of Christianity revolves around the Bible and we believe that the Scriptures, which means "writings," are words that have come from the mouth of God. Christians believe that God wants to be heard and has spoken to us through His Word, the Bible.

In II Timothy 3:16 it says, "All Scripture is

The extensiveness of Paul's preaching to Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation, which is not of God, but is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." Paul used the word "inspired" in this verse and it literally means "God breathed"—all Scripture is God breathed. This verse doesn't say that the writers of Scripture were inspired; it says that what they wrote was inspired. It also tells us the Scripture is trustworthy. We can trust it to reveal truth to us.

That the Bible claims to be the Word of God is not enough to authenticate the claim. Any book can make such a claim. But the fact that the claim is made is significant, and, if the Bible proves to indeed be trustworthy, then we must take this claim seriously.

The Bible has been a subject of an enormous amount of criticism which has left its trustworthiness in serious doubt. Many unbelievers have convinced themselves that the Bible contains so many errors that it can't be trusted.

People today have also used words like fiction, legend, and mythology to describe the Bible. Why do we hear it said so often that the Bible is full of myths? One reason is because of parallel accounts between ancient events like the Biblical account of the flood and the mention of that same flood in Babylonian mythology. This is a very weak argument, however. It should come as no surprise that something as catastrophic as a world-wide flood would be recorded in the writings of ancient people.

Paul sendeth divers salutations

10 Salute Apol'les approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristob'lus' household.

11 Salute Hero'dion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are

The primary reason people argue that the Bible is full of myths is because of the many accounts of miracles that are found in the Scripture. This argument really comes down to a God issue. If we believe that there is a God who is omnipotent (all powerful), then we must also believe that miracles are possible and the Biblical accounts of them can't be dismissed as myths. A consultant in the space program related the following story as proof that there are no myths in the Bible:

"I think one of the most amazing things that God has done for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists. They were checking out where the positions of the sun, moon, and planets would be 100 years and

1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we won't send up a satellite and have it bump into something later on in its orbits. We lay out the orbits in terms of the life of the satellite and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down.

The scientists ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries, and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong with either the information fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out, and they found that there was a day missing in space in elapsed time.

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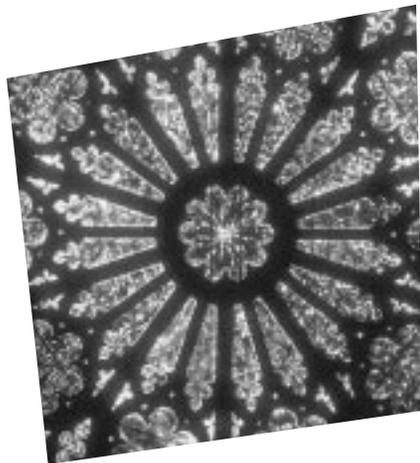
...God was not content to only reveal Himself in creation. He gives us personal and specific words the Bible.

Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches give thanks. So all the churches salute you. Greet the brethren, and salute Lucius, and Jason, and Sosip'ater, my kinsmen, salute Christ, and Stach'ys my beloved.

We should always remember...

The scientists couldn't find the answer. Finally a Christian man on the team said, 'You know one time I was in Sunday School and I heard a Bible story about God making the sun standing still for a day.' He got a Bible and went to the Old Testament book of Joshua where he found a verse that says, 'The Lord said to Joshua, Fear them not, I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.' The man explained to his team members that Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy, and if darkness fell, the enemy would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still and the sun stood still and the moon stayed and lasted not to go down (Joshua 10:8,12-13).

The astronauts and scientists checked the computers going back in time when this was written and found that it was close, but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing



back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes—not a whole day. They reread the Bible and discovered that it said the sun stood still for "about" (approximately) a day. But they still needed to account for 40 minutes in time.

The Christian man thought about it and remembered he had also been taught that somewhere in the Bible it says that the sun went backwards. He searched and found this account in II Kings 20:9-11: Hezekiah, on his death bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof of Isaiah's words. Isaiah said, 'Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?' Hezekiah said, 'It is nothing for the sun to go ahead ten degrees, but let the shadow return backwards ten degrees.' Isaiah asked this of the Lord and the sun brought the shadow ten degrees backwards. Ten degrees is 40 minutes! Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in the book of Joshua, and 40 minutes in the book of II Kings equals the missing 24 hours!" There are no myths in the Bible—just miracles!

Another charge leveled against the Bible is that there are conflicts between religion and science. The Bible is not a science textbook. It was not given to us to teach us calculus, physics, or chemistry. Over the centuries the church has made some serious errors when it

comes to the Scriptures and science. For instance, Galileo was condemned by the church for teaching that the sun, not the earth, was the center of our solar system. So closed minded were the church bishops of Galileo's day that they refused to look into his telescope and examine the evidence for themselves.

Nowhere does the Bible say that the earth is the center of the universe. In the Scripture the world of nature is described as it appears to the naked eye. The sun is described as moving across the heavens, and the Bible speaks of sunrises and sunsets. This is not unscientific—it is just an example of the Biblical writers describing things as could be seen by the human eye. We should always remember that the Bible is to be read seeking to understand the clear intention of the writer. He may use symbols and figures of speech, but the literal meaning will be his obvious intention.

Some people argue that the Bible teaches a view of reality that is in conflict with modern science. This is simply not the case. An example would be the origin of man. A biologist can hold to a position that is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. But the question of the origin of man can never be determined by the study of biology—that is a question of history not science.

Many unbelievers have been told and accept that the Bible is not trustworthy because it is full of contradictions. This is completely false. Most people who hold to this belief are not only ignorant of what the Bible does say—they are also ignorant of the laws of logic and use the word "contradiction" incorrectly. The fact that there are different Biblical writers describing the same events from different perspectives is not the issue. Whether those accounts are truly contradictory is the real issue.

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For example, it has been charged that the Gospel writers contradict each other regarding the number of angels present at the tomb of Jesus. One writer mentions one angel while another writer says there were two. This is not, however, a contradiction. The writer who mentions one angel does not say that there was only one angel—he just calls attention to one. There are a very few discrepancies in the Bible that have not yet been completely resolved. But as knowledge of language and text, as well as context increases, these discrepancies become smaller and smaller. There is less reason today, than at any other time in history, to believe that the Bible has contradictions.

Some people mistakenly believe that because the Bible has gone through many translations and languages that it can't possibly be historically accurate. There are three tests that historians use to establish the reliability of any ancient, historical manuscript. These are: The bibliographical test, the internal evidence and the external evidence test. Let's look at these three tests in relation to the New Testament.

1. The Bibliographical Test.

Since we don't have the originals of any book of the Bible, how reliable are the copies we have? This question is answered in two ways: By the number of manuscripts and by the

time that elapsed between the original and the oldest existing copy. There exist today 13,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament. There are 5,000 Greek manuscripts that contain all or part of the New Testament.

Dr. F. F. Bruce in his book *New Testament Documents* shows the comparison between New Testament and other ancient historical writings:

"Perhaps we can appreciate how wealthy the New Testament is in manuscript attestation if we compare the textual material for other ancient historical works. For Caesar's *Gallic War* (composed between 58 and 50 B.C.) there are several extant manuscripts, but only nine or ten are good, and the oldest is some 900 years later than Caesar's day. Of the 142 books of the Roman history of Livy (59 B.C.- A.D. 17), only 35 survive; these are known to us from not more than 20 manuscripts of any consequence, only one of which, and that containing fragments of Books III-VI, is as old as the fourth century. Of the 14 Books of the *Historiae* of Tacitus (A.D. 100) only four and a half survive; of the 16 books of his *Annales*, 10 survive in full and two in part. The text of these extant portions of his two great historical works depends entirely

on two manuscripts, one of the ninth century and one of the eleventh. The extant manuscript of his minor works (*Dialogus de Oratoribus*, *Agricola*, *Germania*) all descend from a codex of the tenth century. The *History of Thucydides* (c. 460-400 B.C.) is known to us from eight manuscripts, the earliest belonging to about the beginning of the Christian era. The same is true of the *History of Herodotus* (B.C. 488-428). Yet no classical scholar would listen to an argument that the authenticity of Herodotus or Thucydides is in doubt

because the earliest manuscript of their works which are of any use to us are over 1,300 years later than the originals."

Where Biblical material touches on areas where historical research is possible, it has come out very well. The Biblical historians have stood up much better under close scrutiny than other ancient historians like Josephus and Herodotus. According to the bibliographical test, if the New Testament isn't accurate, reliable history, then there is no such thing as ancient history.

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2. The Internal Evidence Test.

This test has to do with authorship and style to determine historical reliability. The New Testament writers claim to be eyewitnesses to the historical Jesus and His miracles. Examples would be Luke 1:1-3, I John 1:3, Acts 2:22, and Luke 3:1. The writers of the New Testament knew that their firsthand testimony would be very valuable. The reasonable question then would be, "Is their testimony reliable?" This is a valid question because if the apostles lied or exaggerated the truth in any way, then we would have reason to doubt the accuracy of their witness.

The New Testament writers knew that they would be attacked and exposed for fraud if they were not extremely accurate and detailed in their accounts. At Pentecost Peter documented the facts carefully because he knew there were critics everywhere. He said in Acts 2:22, "We are witnesses of these things...as you yourselves know." For example, the Jewish and Roman authorities would have liked nothing better than to have disproved the Resurrection. This would have ended the Christian movement before it ever began. If the apostles had in any way lied, there were thousands of living witnesses who could have easily invalidated their testimony,

but none came forward. The Bible says that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at one time (I Corinthians 15:6) The Romans would have given anything to put a stop to the message of Jesus, but it wasn't possible. The empty tomb, the resurrected Jesus, and the testimony of the eyewitnesses could not be overcome. The New Testament passes the internal evidence test with flying colors.

3. The External Evidence Test.

In this test historians look for other sources that will substantiate the accuracy, reliability, and authenticity of a document. The Bible is without question, the world's most documented piece of ancient literature. There is a large amount of material written from the first through the fourth century which is either knowledgeable of or quotes from the New Testament. Men such as Clement of Rome (A.D.95), Ignatius (A.D. 70-110), Polycarp (A.D. 70-156), and Irenaeus (A.D.180) along with many other recognized the New Testament as divine Scripture written by the apostles.

Tatian (A.D. 170), an Assyrian Christian, put together what is thought to be the first collection of the Gospels. Tatian organized the Scriptures and sought to harmonize the four Gospels. His work is called the Diatessaron

and is recognized as external evidence for the Scriptures as valid historical documents.

Another external evidence to support Scripture is archaeology. In Luke 19:40 Jesus said that if men fail to praise Him that the stones will cry out. This very Scripture has been fulfilled in archaeology because it has always authenticated the Bible. Many people have often wondered why the Bible is so full of details that seemingly have nothing to do with its central message. For example, the thirty-third chapter of the book of Numbers in the Old Testament lists forty-two different sites that were used in the Exodus. Numerous cities, places, kings and individuals are named throughout the Old Testament for no apparent reason. But, God had a reason and the science of archaeology has uncovered a wealth of information from

these details about the Bible. As the details are brought out and confirmed or denied, the truth of the story is also confirmed or denied.

For instance, the Bible says that the Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites and made them build for him the store cities of Pithom and Raamses. We are told that they first built with mortar and straw. Then they had to gather their own straw, and finally they had to build the bricks without

any straw at all (Exodus 5). When Sir Flinders Petrie later discovered the sites of Pithom and Raamses, he noted some incredible things about them. They were built with mortar—something found nowhere else in Egypt. He also found that the lower layers were built of brick in which was stubble instead of straw. In the second and upper layers were bricks made without straw.

If the apostles had in any way lied, there were thousands of living witnesses who could have easily invalidated their testimony, but none came forward.

The Scriptures tell us that the Jews fought an enemy nation called the Hittites who are mentioned in eight chapters of the Old Testament. Critics of the Bible have called this a “mythical” nation. But when Dr. Hugo Winckler went to the area to dig where the Hittites were supposed to have lived, he discovered over forty of their cities, including their capital, along with a great number of monuments describing their activities. Spelled out on a palace wall in one of the uncovered cities of Egypt was found the whole treaty between Egypt and the Hittites. It has now been proven that the Hittites were a great superpower located between Egypt and Babylonia.

Sir William Ramsay was an atheist and the son of atheists. He was a wealthy Ph.D. from Oxford who gave his whole life over to archaeology and determined that he would disprove the Bible. He went to the Holy Land and decided to discredit the book of Acts. After twenty-five years or more, he was overwhelmed by the accuracy of Luke in his writings and finally declared that Luke was exact, down to the smallest detail. In his attempt to disprove the Bible Sir William Ramsay uncovered hundreds of things that confirmed the historicity of the Book of Acts. Finally, in one of his books, Sir William shocked the whole critical world by declaring himself to be a Christian.

Archaeologists have uncovered countless facts that confirm the Scripture. Over twenty-five

thousand sites have been discovered that pertain to the Bible. Records of tens of thousands of individuals and events have been found. Nelson Glueck, a Jewish archaeologist, wrote: “It may be stated categorically that archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.” The famous archaeologist, William F. Albright said: “There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition. As critical study of the Bible is more and more influenced by the rich new material from the ancient Near East we shall see a steady rise in respect for the historical significance of now neglected or despised passages and details in the Old and New Testament.”

Biblical prophecy is another proof as to the accuracy of Scripture. Many people have rejected the prophecies of the Bible because they have never examined them to determine if they are true. But Bible prophecies are real and they are unique because they don’t exist anywhere else. In the writings of Buddha, Confucius, and Lao-tse, there is not a single example of predicted prophecy. In the Koran (the writings of Muhammad) there is one instance of a specific prophecy that Muhammad himself would return to Mecca. This was a prophecy that any human could fulfill, unlike the prophecy of Jesus who said He would return from the grave.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 gives God’s requirement for a true prophet—he must be 100 percent accurate, 100 percent of the time. This means if the Bible is the Word of God every fulfilled prophecy it contains must be 100 percent correct. In the Old Testament alone there are two thousand predictive prophecies. The prophecies in the Bible are not vague in any way—they are all very specific and they are about many different subjects and span thousands of years. Probably the most remarkable Old Testament prophecies are those which refer to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah. The Old Testament was completed 350 years before Jesus was born; yet He

fulfilled every prophecy down to the last detail!

The prophecies of the Scripture must be exactly fulfilled. They cannot be just good guesses, because they are about things of which there was (or is) no likelihood that they would ever come to pass. They predicted the opposite of people’s natural expectations. They cannot have been written after the events because in hundreds of instances the fulfillment of the prophecy did not take place until hundreds of years after the death of the prophet. In many cases, the fulfillment came after the completion of the Old Testament and even its translation into Greek in 150 B.C.

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It is one thing to argue that the Bible is a reliable source of history, ...

There is nothing like the Bible in all the literature of the world, religious or irreligious. Dr. Skip Smith gives us a wonderful overview of this amazing book: "There were about thirty-six God-inspired men who penned the Bible, and they wrote over a period of about 1500 years, beginning with Moses and ending with the Apostle John. The Old Testament was written by about 28 men from 1500 B.C. to about 400 B.C. The New Testament was written by about eight men from about 35 A.D. to about 96 A.D. All these writers were separated by 1500 years. Among them were kings, prime ministers, lawmakers, shepherds, prophets, soldiers, priests, judges, apostles, evangelists, fishermen, a farmer, a tax collector, a physician, a tent maker and a governor. The writing was done in Rome, Greece, Asia Minor, Palestine and Babylon.

The fact that these men, living through a period of approximately 1500 years when writing was unknown, could write a single book of sixty-six disconnected parts that when collected and put together should make a complete whole which does not contradict, but compliment each other without divergence, discrepancy, or error, giving the origin, history, and prophetic destiny of man, reveals the harmony of the Bible. The first writer never met the last writer. This is one of the most remarkable evidences yet produced as proof of the divine origin of the Holy Scriptures."

It is one thing to argue that the Bible is a reliable source of history, but it is another thing to say that the Bible is the Word of God and is inspired, inerrant, and infallible. How have Christians come to this conclusion?



The issue of infallibility goes far beyond general trustworthiness. The final conclusion is built on a series of premises. R. C. Sproul helps us with our reasoning regarding these premises:

A. The Bible is a basically reliable and trustworthy document.

B. On the basis of this reliable document we have sufficient evidence to believe confidently that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

C. Jesus Christ being the Son of God is an infallible authority.

D. Jesus Christ teaches that the Bible is more than generally trustworthy; it is the very Word of God.

E. The word, in that it comes from God, is utterly trustworthy because God is utterly trustworthy.

Conclusion: On the basis of the infallible authority of Jesus Christ, the church believes the Bible to be utterly trustworthy, i.e., infallible.

Jesus Christ was brought before Pontius Pilate and was put on trial in his court. In an attempt to understand why people hated Jesus so much that they wanted to see him crucified, Pilate asked Jesus what He was doing and if He was trying to become king. Jesus gave Pilate this answer in John 18:37b: "For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me." Pilate was asking Jesus to summarize the intent of His entire mission. Jesus told Pilate that He had come to answer the question of truth and that He was the source of truth.

If we are convinced that Jesus Christ is the sinless Son of God then we must take seriously His view of Holy Scripture. We cannot submit to the authority of Christ without accepting His view of Scripture as authoritative. Therefore, our faith in the infallibility of Scripture is based on Christ's view of Scripture.

...but it is another thing to say that the Bible is the Word of God and is inspired, inerrant, and infallible.

The real question is:

The passage in Romans 1 referred to at the beginning of this booklet goes on to say in verses 21 and 25: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened...They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised."

Paul says in these verses that because people prefer to live in denial, they are making a choice not to know the truth. They refuse to acknowledge God because they do not want to acknowledge their dependence on God or His claim on their lives. Their sin is in the refusal to acknowledge what they know to be true, thereby robbing God of who He is. People who do not accept the Bible as the Word of God have a much greater problem: They have suppressed the truth from their thought life because they know if they acknowledge that the Word of God is true, they will also have to acknowledge their accountability to the God of the Word.

W. O. Saunders, wrote in the American Magazine: "I would like to introduce you to one of the most lonesome and unhappy individuals on earth. I am talking about the man who does not believe in God. I can introduce you to such a man because I myself am one, and in

introducing myself, you shall have an introduction to the agnostic or skeptic in your own neighborhood, for he is everywhere in the land. You will be surprised to learn that the agnostic envies your faith in God, your settled belief in a heaven after life, and your blessed assurance that you will meet with your loves ones again in an afterlife where there will be neither sadness or pain. He would give anything to be able to embrace that faith and be comforted by it. For him there is only the grave and the persistence of matter. After the grave all he can see is the disintegration of the protoplasm and psycho plasm of which my body and personality are composed. But in this materialist view, I find neither ecstasy nor happiness. The agnostic may face life with a smile and a heroic attitude. He may put on a brave front, but he is not happy. He stands in awe and reverence before the vastness and majesty of the universe, knowing not whence he came, nor why. He is appalled at the stupendousness of space and infinitude of time, humiliated by the infinite smallness of himself, cognizant of his own frailty, weakness, and brevity. Certainly he sometimes yearns for a staff on which to lean. He, too, carries a cross. For him, this earth is but a tricky raft adrift in the unfathomable waters of eternity with no horizon in sight. His heart aches for every precious life upon the raft—drifting, drifting, drifting, whither no one knows."

Dr. H. M. Morris said: "Therefore, men who reject or ignore God do so, not because science or reason requires them to, but purely and simply because they want to!" Dr. James Kennedy has said, "The whole tenor of human life is affected by whether men regard themselves as the supreme being in the universe, or acknowledge a superhuman being whom they conceive of as an object of fear or love and a force to be defied or

a Lord to be obeyed." People do not believe the Scripture or do not believe in God because they can't but because they won't. They are simply unwilling to surrender their lives to the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ.

R. C. Sproul says, "The most convinced atheist is not intellectually unaware of the reality of God. The unbeliever has another problem: He or she does not like the God who is. God's existence cannot be deduced through theoretical thought, empirical thought, or rational deduction. Paul says we need not prove God. Rational human beings know (instinctively) that God exist—and know it clearly. They just don't want to hear Him."

Zedekiah was king of the nation of Judah. He was a hardened unbeliever, who had never before cared about truth or about what God had to say about anything. But Zedekiah found himself in a terrifying and desperate situation one day. He had the most feared army on the face of the earth breathing down his neck, so he asked the prophet Jeremiah this question in Jeremiah 37: "Is there a word from the Lord?"

The answer then, and the answer today, is a resounding "yes." God has given us His Word. It is inspired, inerrant, infallible, reliable, and trustworthy. In light of this, the question for us should not be—"Is there a word from the Lord?" The real question is: "Are we ready to receive His Word and submit ourselves to its life-changing authority and power?"

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