



*"Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book; and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. the hammers of the infidels have been pecking away at this book for ages, but the hammers are worn out, and the anvil still endures. If the book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die, and the book still lives."*

*-Hastings*

**Matthew 5:18 & 24:35**

*For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished... Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

**Psalms 18:30, 19:7-8, & 119:160**

*This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true... The law of the Lord is perfect... the testimony of the Lord is sure... the precepts of the Lord are right... the commandment of the Lord is pure... The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*

**2 Peter 1:16-21**

*For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty... knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

**Deuteronomy 32:44-47**

*Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life.*

**Psalms 1:1-3**

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

**1 John 1:1-4**

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

**Romans 10:17**

*...faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

**Acts 20:32**

*I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

**2 Timothy 3:16**

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*Learning to live by faith is similar to how a pilot must learn to trust in his instruments as an **A**ccurate **E**xternal **S**tandard of **R**eference. Without instruments, the pilot would get disoriented and crash. The results are the same when we choose not to trust in the Bible. To live by faith we have to trust in the Bible as our **A.E.S.R.***

**How we  
got the  
English Bible**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God..." John 1:1

**ca 4000-1900 BC:** The *toledoths* (historical records) are written and presumably passed down from God, Adam, Noah...to Jacob. Genesis 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25;12; 25;19; 36: 9; 37:2

**1500 BC:** God tells Moses to write down the Law (Pentateuch). Written in Hebrew.

**1500-400 BC:** Books of history, prophecy & poetry are written by Samuel, David, Daniel, etc. Written in Hebrew and Aramaic.

**1500-400 BC:** Scribes copy as originals wear out.

**450 BC:** Ezra collects & arranges the books. These are the 39 books of the Old Testament.

**4 BC-AD 33:** Jesus comes. "Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled! Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

**100 BC-AD 100:** Copies of OT books are sealed in clay jars & hidden in caves (DSS).

**200 BC:** Papyrus plants are cut into strips & pressed into sheets of writing material. NT books are most likely written first on these.

**250-100 BC:** Jewish Scholars translate Hebrew Scriptures into Greek (LXX).

**AD 90:** At the Council of Jamnia. Jewish elders confirm the 39 books of the OT cannon.

**AD 45-100:** The followers of Jesus write letters & historical accounts to churches & friends throughout the Roman Empire. They quote from nearly all the OT books.

**200-300:** Christianity reaches Britain. Early Bible translations appear in Latin, Egyptian, & Syrian.

**250-397:** Church fathers accept the writings of the Gospels & Paul's letters as canonical. The Council of Carthage lists 27 books as authentic.

**676:** Caedmon, an illiterate monk, paraphrases portions of Scripture in Anglo-Saxon (Old English) poetry psalms.

**500-900:** Mazorettes (special Jewish scribes) meticulously make copies of the Hebrew Scriptures.

**410-35:** Jerome translates the Scriptures into Latin. The Vulgate is the basic Bible for the next 1,000 years.

**700-735:** Bede, a monk and scholar, makes an Old English translation of portions of Scripture.

**955-1020:** Aelfric translates portions of OT into Old English.

**1382:** The first English Bible is translated from Latin (Wycliffe Bible).

**1408:** It becomes illegal in England to translate or read the Bible in common English without permission from a bishop.

**1525:** William Tyndale, Priest & Oxford Scholar, translates the New Testament from Greek. From Germany, he smuggles the Bibles into England in sacks of corn & flour. Much of the style & vocabulary we know as "Biblical English" is traced to his work.

**1516:** Erasmus, priest and Greek scholar, publishes a new Greek edition of the NT, so all can read the Bible. His text forms the basis of the "*textus receptus*," used later by Luther, Tyndale, & Authorized Version (KJV) translators.

**1455:** Johann Gutenberg invents the printing press & the Gutenberg Bible is the first book ever printed.

**1535:** The Cloverdale Bible is the first complete Bible to be printed in English.

**1537:** John Rogers translates the Matthew's Bible, nearly identical to the Tyndale Bible, with the King's permission.

**1560:** Exiles from England flee to Switzerland and print the Geneva Bible, a complete revision of the Great Bible with the OT translated from Hebrew. This is the Bible of Shakespeare & the Pilgrims.

**1539:** The Great Bible is placed & chained in every church by order of Thomas Cranmer.

**1568:** Queen Elizabeth commissions the Bishop Bible in answer to the Geneva Bible.

**1582-1609:** The Rheims-Douai Bible was translated into English from the Vulgate. Standard for Catholic Church.

**1885-2008:** These manuscripts along with better understanding of ancient languages give rise to new English translations (ASV, RSV, PHI, NASB, NIV, NKJ, NLT, ESV).

**1629-1947:** Several of the earliest known copies of the Bible are found, including the DSS.

**1611:** The Authorized Version is completed using the Bishops & Tyndale Bibles, as well as available Greek & Hebrew manuscripts. Revised in 1769 it was the most popular Bible for 300 years.

## **Can we trust the Bible? Yes!**

*In the entire world, there is no other book that comes close to comparing to it.*

## **The Bible is truly one of a kind!**

### **Unique in its Continuity**

*Written over a 1600 year span.*

*Written by more than 40 different authors:*

|                  |                         |                    |                     |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Kings</i>     | <i>Military Leaders</i> | <i>Peasants</i>    | <i>Philosophers</i> |
| <i>Fishermen</i> | <i>Tax Collectors</i>   | <i>Poets</i>       | <i>Musicians</i>    |
| <i>Statesman</i> | <i>Scholars</i>         | <i>Shepherds</i>   | <i>Servants</i>     |
| <i>Doctors</i>   | <i>Rabbis</i>           | <i>Secretaries</i> | <i>Etc.</i>         |

*Written in different places:*

|                   |                        |                          |                |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Wilderness</i> | <i>Dungeons</i>        | <i>Hills</i>             | <i>Palaces</i> |
| <i>Prisons</i>    | <i>While Traveling</i> | <i>In Exile</i>          | <i>Wartime</i> |
| <i>Peacetime</i>  | <i>Heights of Joy</i>  | <i>Depths of Despair</i> | <i>Etc.</i>    |

*Written on three continents: Asia, Africa, & Europe*

*Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, & Greek*

*Written in a wide variety of literary styles:*

|                 |                          |                                |                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Poetry</i>   | <i>Diaries</i>           | <i>Historical Narrative</i>    | <i>Satire</i>   |
| <i>Song</i>     | <i>Biography</i>         | <i>Romance</i>                 | <i>Law</i>      |
| <i>Memoirs</i>  | <i>Didactic Treatise</i> | <i>Autobiography</i>           | <i>Prophecy</i> |
| <i>Parables</i> | <i>Allegory</i>          | <i>Personal Correspondence</i> |                 |

*Written concerning hundreds of controversial subjects:*

|                               |                   |                      |                              |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Marriage</i>               | <i>Sin</i>        | <i>Divorce</i>       | <i>Character Development</i> |
| <i>Lying</i>                  | <i>Remarriage</i> | <i>Parenting</i>     | <i>Homosexuality</i>         |
| <i>Obedience to Authority</i> | <i>Adultery</i>   | <i>Nature of God</i> | <i>Etc.</i>                  |

***And yet, amidst all this diversity, there is a perfect harmony of purpose as the Bible presents one unified story of God's redemption of man.***

### **Unique in its Circulation**

*The number of Bibles ever sold eclipses any other work reaching well into the billions!*

*If I gave you a Bible every second of every minute of every hour of every day, it would take over 190 years to get close to the number of Bibles sold. If you laid all the Bibles ever sold end to end, they would circle the earth...more than 31 times.*

### **Unique in its Prophecy**

*The Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies of the coming Messiah. They were all fulfilled in Jesus.*

|                                    |                               |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Born in Bethlehem</i>           | <i>Born of a virgin</i>       | <i>Preceded by a messenger</i>    |
| <i>Slaughter of Children</i>       | <i>Out of Egypt</i>           | <i>Presented with gifts</i>       |
| <i>Betrayed by a friend</i>        | <i>30 pieces of silver</i>    | <i>Rejected by his own</i>        |
| <i>Remained silent</i>             | <i>Struck on cheek</i>        | <i>Accused by false witnesses</i> |
| <i>Crucified with criminals</i>    | <i>Given vinegar and gall</i> | <i>Side pierced</i>               |
| <i>Soldiers gamble for garment</i> | <i>Darkness over the land</i> | <i>No broken bones</i>            |
| <i>Buried with the rich</i>        | <i>Resurrected</i>            | <i>Etc.</i>                       |

## Unique in its survival

Earliest copies of N.T. date back to 14 years after original writing

(Homer's Iliad –the best manuscript evidence of antiquity: 400 years)

More than 5,686 known Greek manuscripts of the N.T. today

More than 10,000 Latin manuscripts

More than 9,300 other early manuscripts

And more than 25,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence today! (Homer's Iliad 643 copies)

*"The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."*

*-Sir Fredric G. Kenyon, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum*

## Unique in its Historicity

With each archaeological dig, the historicity of the Bible is further upheld.

There are already more than 25,000 sites already discovered that show connections to the Bible.

Critics of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were agreed that Abraham could not have existed as he is described in the Bible. They were convinced that he would have been unable to read and would lack knowledge of law and history.

Now, excavations of Ur of the Chaldees reveal a highly developed city.

For years, the Genesis 14 account of the victory of Abraham over Chedorlaomer and the Mesopotamian kings has been held to be fictitious and the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar as mere legend.

The Ebla tablets discovered in 1974 refer to all five cities.

The historicity of King David has been questioned for years.

In 1993, Israeli archaeologist discovered the first known reference outside the Bible to King David.

The Bible has endured two millennium of persecution, yet survives. The noted French pagan declared that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. He died in 1778. By 1828 the Geneva Bible Society was using his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.

Nearly all of Jesus' followers died for their belief in the truth that is held in our Bible. Though their death, in and of itself, does not prove the validity of the Bible, it does prove, beyond any doubt, that they believed it to be valid!

*"No other book has been so chopped, knived, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology or belles lettres of classical or modern times has been subject to such mass attack as the Bible? With such venom and skepticism? With such thoroughness and erudition? Upon every chapter, line and tenet? The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions."*

*-Bernard Ramm*

**Live by faith: Trust God a little more today than you did yesterday by reading, listening to, studying, memorizing, obeying, applying, sharing, teaching, & enjoying God's Word.**

For a fuller explanation of why we can trust the Bible, see  
Josh McDowell's *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*.



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