

Bible Inspiration — Evidence

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1 Cor. 14:33

Is the Bible the inspired work of the Almighty God?

Evidence can come from two sources: external and internal. (We will consider mostly internal).

The evidence shows that the Bible is inspired of God.

Unity of the Bible

The Bible exhibits a unity that on purely human terms is quite simply incomprehensible. To full appreciate the unity, one first must learn how the Bible was put together.

It was written by forty different men from practically every walk of life.

- Peter was a fisherman.
- Luke was physician.
- Matthew a tax collector.
- Paul was a tent maker.
- Others were farmers, kings, etc.

They wrote from almost every conceivable human condition.

- David wrote from heights of joy on the rolling, grassy hills of Judea.
- Paul wrote from despair caused by Roman incarceration.

They wrote in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), from at least two continents (Europe and Asia), over a period of time that spanned approximately sixteen centuries (1500 B.C. to A.D. 100). Yet, the Bible maintains such perfect harmony from beginning to end (The fall and salvation of man), that it defies any explanation.

Suppose we got forty contemporary men to write independently on one subject — what would be the outcome?

Factual accuracy of the Bible

For the Bible to be the inspired Word of God it has to be accurate in whatever subjects that it discusses. 1 Cor. 14:33, *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*

Time and time again the Bible has withstood accusations levied at it.

Moses writing the Pentateuch.

The Bible says that Moses wrote the Pentateuch. (2 Chron. 34:14; Ezra 6:18; Neh. 13:1; John 5:46; Mark 12:26).

Some say that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible, because the art of writing had not been developed until well after his death. Also, they claim the laws he wrote about were too advanced)

Archeologist have unearthed evidence in the ancient city of Lachish, Ras Shamra, Susa (now Iran) that shows that writing was common hundreds of years before Moses time. E.g., the Code of Hammurabi, (2,000-1700 B.C.) was discovered by a French archeology team. It was written on a piece of black diorite stone and contained advanced laws similar to those of Moses.

Isaiah’s Sargon, king of Assyria (Isa. 20:1) was criticized by skeptics.

Isa. 20:1, *“In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;”*

In 1843, Paul Emile Botta, unearthed Sargon’s palace.

Today, a forty-ton stone slab is on display at the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute.

Luke’s account of the book of Acts was questioned.

Sir William Ramsey, famous archaeologist of the last century, set out to disprove the events and places that Luke described. He finally admitted that Luke was right in every account.

Today, where checkable, all the events, countries, and cities have been found where Luke said they were. (Even Sergius Paulus the proconsul of Cyprus (Acts 13:7) has been questioned, but historians have proved that he existed and was a proconsul.)

Acts 13:7, *“Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.”*

The Hittites came under the eye of the critics of the Bible.

They said they never existed.

They are mentioned over forty times in the scriptures. (Exo. 23:28; Josh. 1:4; 2 Kings 7:6).

In the late 1800's, A.H. Sayce discovered inscriptions in Syria that proved the Hittites did exist and were powerful. In their book, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, Geisler and Nix wrote: "Confirmation of the Bible's accuracy in factual matters lends credibility to its claims when speaking on other subjects."

Prophecy of the Bible

One of the most impressive internal proofs of the Bible's inspiration is its prophetic utterances. For a prophecy to be credible it must meet certain criteria. It must be a specific, detailed declaration, as opposed to being nebulous, vague, or general in nature.

There must be sufficient amount of time between the prophetic statement and its fulfillment. (Suggestions as to what might happen in the future do not qualify as prophetic pronouncements. Also, there must be no chance whatsoever of the prophet having the ability to influence the outcome.)

The prophecy must not have historical overtones. (In other words, true prophecy should not be based on past (or current) societal or economic conditions.)

A clear, understandable, exact prophecy must have a clear understandable, exact fulfillment. (It is not enough to suggest that a certain event came true with a high degree of probability. The fulfillment must be unmistakable, and must match the prophecy in every detail.)

Notice these:

Ezekiel predicted the fall of the city of Tyre with miraculous precision.

He predicted that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, would destroy the city. Ezek. 26:7-8, "*For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people. He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against*

thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee.”

Many nations would come against it. Ezek. 26:3, *“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.”*

The city would be leveled and scraped clean like a bare rock. Ezek. 26:4, *“And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.”*

The cities stones, timbers and soil would be cast into the sea.

History records that each of these predictions came true. Tyre, a coastal city from ancient times, also had an island three-fourth of a mile offshore. Nebuchadnezzar besieged the mainland city in 586 B.C., but when he finally was able to inhabit the city in about 573 B.C., his victory was hallow. He found that the inhabitants had fled to the island. This was unchanged for 241 years. Finally, in the year of 332 B.C., Alexander the Great conquered the city, but not with ease. To get to the island he literally had his army scrape clean the inland city of its debris, and he then used those materials (stones, timbers, and soil) to build a causeway to the island — literally they were cast into the sea.

Josiah had his life’s work foretold (his name even being provided within the prophetic utterance) more than three hundred years before he was born.

1 Kings 13:2, *“And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burnt upon thee.”*

The Old Testament contains more than three hundred messianic prophecies. And all found exact fulfillment in the New Testament. E.g. the virgin birth of Jesus was predicted in Isa. 7:14 and found fulfillment hundreds of years later in Matthew 1.

Isa. 7:14, *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

Conclusion

This evidence should be more than enough to prove the Bible is inspired.

