

Why The Bible ?

GREAT PROPHECIES that give proof that the Bible is truly supernatural, and therefore, **the inspired Word of God.**

Ezekiel 4:1-8; Luke 16:31 *“If they do not listen to **Moses and the prophets**, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.”*

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One of the arguments a Christian often hears is that the Bible is too old to be accurate. Another complaint is that it has been translated so often, we can't be sure of its original form and accuracy. Some think the Bible is too complicated to understand, and they prefer the clear teaching of the scientist (solar optical depth is expressed as $t(z) = kp^{\wedge}z$ where k (m²/kg) represents a mass absorption coefficient, p (kg/m³) is the density of the absorber, and z (m) is the thickness of the atmosphere).

In response, the following are points to defend the Bible. I would, however, point you to the most convincing arguments, which come right out of the Bible itself (**the prophecies**), which are discussed in the last part of this message. There are about 3,850 verses directly, or indirectly, concerned with prophecy in Scripture—300 concerning Jesus alone (which were all fulfilled).

The Bible is the most scrutinized and authenticated historical document in all of human history. Thousands of manuscripts have been analyzed and compared, from a variety of languages and countries, which provide the basis for our being able to accept the authority of the Bible. Further, Jesus quoted from the Old Testament, which provides us with direct evidence from God Himself of its truth. Additionally, despite the fact that we have very little first century New Testament documents, about 97% of the New Testament can be reconstructed from the writings of the early church fathers, as they quoted the Bible in their writings.

The archeological evidence (especially the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered in 1948, and have been shown scientifically to pre-date the birth of Jesus by hundreds of years), is overwhelmingly in support of the Bible's accuracy. Also, there have been new discoveries. Within the last 20 years, evidence now shows that the long-held Egyptian time-line is actually off...by 200 to 300 years. This new evidence actually supports the Bible, all the way back, thousands of years, to the Genesis accounts.

Yes...there are thousands of errors in the translations. Most of these are spelling and punctuation errors. NONE of these however, affect the doctrinal position (the truths presented), of the text.

Yes...there are some verses which have been added, and some verses which have been altered, or a word changed. These are all known, because of the comparison of thousands of documents. Actually, today, most Bibles note which passages have been changed, or added (**Deut. 32:7-8** for example). Most modifications actually support the biblical text or are historical in nature (informing us about the traditions, or history of the people), and thus, have been left in...but they are noted. If there is any conflict in understanding, it is easily resolved by reviewing other verses which bear upon the same subject matter. So, if one has a confusing verse, then one need only check out other verses to clarify it.

Yes...there are many translations to choose from. One must choose a translation which remains close to the original text--not a paraphrase, or a translation which has been deliberately changed (usually to support unbiblical concepts such as Jesus not being the uncreated eternal God), as used by various so-called “Christian” groups, such as Jehovah's Witness and certain Seven Day Adventists (which were together back in the 1,800's, and split), and Mormon, and Islam. Each of these so-called “biblical faiths,” which claim the Bible as the base for their faith, also claim the Bible has been “corrupted,” and therefore, they have written their own version, or even another book (some newer revelation). However, there is no historical evidence, or foundation for their “corrections” (**Gal. 1:8-9**). The vast overwhelming majority of Christian scholars do not accept these.

So, the Bible is historically accurate, reliable, and documented by ancient parchments (like the Dead Sea Scrolls, and thousands of Greek, Syriac, Coptic, and Latin manuscripts, as well as the early Church fathers writings).

There is a way to prove that the Bible is truly the Word of God...*Prophecies*. In **Luke 16:31**, Jesus states – “*If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.*” If prophecies, written hundreds of years before an event actually occurs, are accurate (predicted to the very year...even the very day), this is startling evidence of supernatural knowledge (not just a good guess by some man).

The fulfillment of a prophecy is an amazing event. Only one source in all of mankind’s history has proven fully accurate in the fulfillment of prophecies—the Bible—God’s Word. Even mankind’s so-called great prophets outside the Bible, have only been shown to be accurate up to about 20% of the time, and this is only if the prophecies are “general” in nature, and do not require specifics, such as predicting a specific date.

Since the time of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, in 1948, we now have conclusive scientific evidence that prophecies from the Old Testament were actually written hundreds of years before the time of Christ.

Many of the Bible’s prophecies were fulfilled at the time of Christ’s arrival 2,000 years ago, and many more are being fulfilled today, as a prerequisite to the return of Christ. Let us examine just a few of the more prominent ones.

The Prophecy of Jesus’ arrival 2,000 years ago:

Genesis 49:10 – The scepter (authority to administer justice and punishment), was removed from Judah just before the arrival of Jesus. Rome removed this authority from Judah, and gave it to Herod (an Edomite, not a Jew). Therefore, the arrival of the Messiah (Shiloh, the Messiah, “God in their presence”), was at hand at the time of Herod, and fulfilled.

Isaiah 7:14 – The Virgin Birth was fulfilled, as recorded in **Matthew 1:22-23**.

Micah 5:1-5 – Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as recorded in **Matthew 2:1-6**.

Jeremiah 31:15 – Herod called for the massacre of all infants in an attempt to kill the baby Jesus, as recorded in **Matthew 2:17-18**.

Hosea 11:1 – Jesus was taken out of harm’s way to Egypt, and after the death of Herod, God called Jesus out of Egypt, to return to Israel, as recorded in **Matthew 2:15**.

Daniel 9:24-26 – Jesus was made known to all, as the Messiah (the long awaited King), upon His arrival at Passover (when He was to be killed). This occurred exactly, *to the very day*, as recorded here in Daniel 9, over 500 years before Jesus was born, and confirmed by science in writings dating to 200 years before Jesus was born (the Dead Sea Scrolls). In 1894, Sir Robert Anderson, in his work “*The Coming Prince*,” calculated the exact number of days in the 69 weeks of years in this prophecy of Daniel (69x7 years—the Hebrew prophets used a day to refer to a year in God’s prophecies—**Numb. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6**). The number of days as calculated from knowing the date of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (**Dan. 9:25; Neh. 2:1-10**, which dates to March 14, 445 B.C., per the decree of Artaxerxes), to the Passover week at which Jesus was killed, including all the leap years and leap days, etc., totals 173,880 days. This prophecy was fulfilled *exactly*, to the very day, when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the 10th of the Jewish month of Nisan, which is the exact day the lamb to be sacrificed is to be selected (**Ex. 12:3-6**--see *Feasts of Israel* Study – Target Truth Ministries.com).

Jesus, at His “triumphful” entry, claimed to be the awaited King, sitting as a king on a donkey (**Zech.9:9**), on Saturday (the 10th of the month on the *Jewish* calendar—April 8th on our *modern* calendar), the *exact day* the lambs were selected for the Passover sacrifice (**Ex. 12**). When Jesus arrived that day, He wept over Jerusalem (**Luke 19:41**), because, as He said in **Luke 19:44**; “*You did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.*” Do you think this was just a coincidence? Note in **Luke 19:37-40**, that the song the disciples were singing (**Psalms 118**), was a reference to the coming “King,” and also, note that the Pharisees wanted Jesus to rebuke His disciples for blasphemy (**Luke 19:39** -declaring Jesus as the Messiah—the Christ). Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah’s Witness (who came out of the Seventh Day Adventists), mistakenly use the rebuilding of the

temple in 457 B.C./455 B.C. respectfully, as their starting point to count the days in the Daniel 8 and 9 prophecies. But, rebuilding the *temple* does not agree with Daniel 9, which states the rebuilding of the *city*, which began in 445 B.C.

Leviticus 23 – The 7 Feasts of Israel – Jesus has fulfilled each of these seven “feasts” (actually the word in Hebrew means “*appointments*”), which were given to Moses 1,500 years before Jesus was born, and Jesus fulfilled each one of them to the very day (see the Study on **The 7 Feast of Israel – Target Truth Ministries.com**). These predicted the exact days of the coming of the Messiah, which Jesus fulfilled at His first coming, and it is expected that these also foretell of Jesus’ second coming as well (see **2068** at Target Truth Ministries.com).

The Prophecy of Jesus’ ministry and death :

Isaiah 29:18-19 – Jesus healed the blind and the deaf, as recorded in **Matthew 11:5; Mark 7:37; John 9:39.**

Zechariah 11:12-13 – Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, and that money was used to buy a potter’s field, as recorded in **Matthew 26:14-15, 27:9-10.**

Zechariah 9:9-10 – Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, as recorded in **Matthew 21:4-5.**

Isaiah 50:6 – Jesus was scourged, and spat upon, on His way to death, as recorded in **Matthew 26:67, 27:26, 30.**

Isaiah 53:7 – Jesus was the Lamb slaughtered as a sacrifice for those who trust in Him, as recorded in **John 1:29, 36.**

Numbers 21:8-9; Deuteronomy 21:23 - Jesus was killed upon a tree (wooden pole), as recorded in **John 3:14-15; Galatians 3:13.**

Isaiah 53:5; Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:16 – Jesus’ hands and feet were pierced, as recorded in **John 19:34-37; Matthew 27:31, 35-36; Romans 4:25, 5:6, 8.** Archeologists tell us that when these prophecies were made, that the punishment of crucifixion had not even been invented yet.

Isaiah 53:12 – Jesus was killed along with criminals (transgressors), as recorded in **Mark 15:27-28.**

Psalm 69:21 – Jesus was given gall and vinegar, as recorded in **Matthew 27:34, 48.**

Psalm 22:18 – Jesus’ coat was gambled over, as recorded in **Matthew 27:35.**

Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20 – Jesus died with no broken bones, as recorded in **John 19:36.**

Isaiah 53:9 – Even though condemned as a criminal, Jesus was buried in a rich man’s tomb, as recorded in **Matt. 27:57-60.**

Psalm 16:8-10, 49:15, 86:13 – Jesus rose from the dead, as recorded in **Acts 2:27, 13:35; Matt. 28:1-10.**

Psalm 68:18 – Jesus ascended into heaven, as recorded in **Ephesians 4:9; Acts 1:9-11.**

Leviticus 23 – The 7 Feasts of Israel – Jesus has fulfilled each of these 7 “Feasts” (actually the Hebrew word means *appointments*), given to Moses 1,500 years before Jesus was born, and Jesus fulfilled each one of them to the very day (see the Study on **The 7 Feasts of Israel – Target Truth Ministries.com**).

The Prophecy of Israel’s Restoral:

Ezekiel 4:1-8; Jeremiah 25:8-12; Leviticus 26:1-18; 2 Kings 24 & 25 – Chuck Missler, in 1998, determined that this great prophecy of Ezekiel 4:1-8, had been fulfilled by the restoration of Israel as a nation, once again, after almost 2,500 years of being under other nation’s control. In Ezekiel 4:1-8, God commands Ezekiel to lay on his side, as a prophecy against Israel for their iniquity. In verse five, the 390 “days” are to represent years of oppression they will have to endure, and in verse six, another 40 more “days” (years - Ezek. 4:6; Numb. 14:34), are added, because of iniquity, for a total of 430 “days” (or years). God is telling Israel that they face 430 years of judgment for their disobedience.

In Leviticus 26, God tells Israel that: **1)** Verse 16 – if they disobey Him, they will suffer their enemies ruling over them (this happened beginning with the 70 years of captivity by Babylon prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 25:8-12, 29:10), which happened in 605 B.C., with the first siege of Israel, and then, **2)** Verse 18 – if they

still do not obey, He will increase the punishment *seven times* for the remaining punishment yet to be served. Israel served 70 years punishment (a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy), and yet, they still failed to worship God. Therefore, the remaining 360 years of punishment would now be multiplied by seven, resulting in another 2,520 years of punishment (390+40=430, -70=360, x7=2,520 years, or 907,200 days). Accounting for the Jewish 360 day years, all the leap years, and days, etc., this amounts to 2,483 years, 9 months, and 21 days (on our 365-day calendar), that Israel must serve in oppression under other nation's rule (on top of the first 70 years they served in oppression under Babylon).

The Persian cylinder of Cyrus (held in the London Museum), records the sieges of Israel and Jerusalem (the beginning of Israel's punishment, as well as the destruction of Jerusalem later). From the first siege of Israel (2 Kings 24:1 ff), to the establishment of Israel as a nation once again (which took place on May 14, 1948), this prophecy was fulfilled *exactly* to the year of the 70 years plus 2,483 years, 9 months, and 21 days. By the way, this fulfilled another prophesy as well, because Israel became a nation in one day—within a 24 hour period (Isa. 66:8).

Further, from the third siege (which was of the destruction of Jerusalem), which took place in 586 B.C. (2 Kings 25:1 ff), to the uniting of the city of Jerusalem to the nation of Israel on June 7, 1967 (the Six Day War), this prophecy of Ezekiel 4 was again fulfilled *exactly* to the year of the 70 years plus 2,483 years, 9 months, and 21 days. Do you think this is just a coincidence? History and science confirm the Bible's accuracy.

There are prophecies remaining to be fulfilled. Jesus is due to return to bring an end to this earth age, and Satan's domain.

The 7 Feasts of Israel are also considered a prophecy of this return (the word "feasts" actually is the Hebrew word for "appointments"), and Jesus is expected to fulfill the last three of these Feasts one more time--to the very day--exactly! (see the Study - **The 7 Feasts of Israel**, and also **2068** at Target Truth Ministries.com).

Remember Jesus' words in **Luke 16:31**; "*If they do not listen to **Moses and the prophets**, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.*"

The Prophecy of Jesus' Return:

Jesus gave us a prophecy in **Luke 21:29-32** (which is also referenced in **Matthew 24:32-35**), concerning Israel and the end-times. In **Luke 21:29-32**, Jesus gives us a prophecy of *the generation* which would see His return. This generation (which sees the fig tree, and all the trees, coming out of dormancy), will see the return of Christ. The reference to "this generation" is *not* to the generation of Jesus time. Jesus Himself said that He would give His generation "no sign, except the sign of Jonah" (**Matthew 16:4**), emphasizing that this prophecy of the fig tree is given to the generation which actually sees the fig tree come to life again. The fig tree coming out of dormancy is Israel (1948-1967). The fig tree is a common Jewish reference to Israel (**Joel 1:6-7; Hosea 9:10**). The other trees coming out of dormancy also were established at the same time (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Iran, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and many others). These were all part of the Byzantium and Ottoman empires from the time of the Jesus and the Roman Empire to WWI, and all became countries again at the time of Israel.

It is interesting that God picked the fig tree as a reference for Israel, and the clock by which we may understand the return of Jesus and the harvest of all those who love Him. Why a fig tree? The fig tree has two primary harvests each year, with the long harvest period over the summer. The first (or early harvest), is in spring, and the fruit comes off of the old growth. The next harvest is from new growth, and extends through the summer, and ends in the final harvest when summer ends with the first frost. This is a picture of the resurrections (the harvest of souls). The first resurrection was with Jesus—in the spring, at the Feast of First Fruits (**Matthew 27:50-54**), and today, the harvest continues, and the harvest will be completed when Jesus returns—possibly at the exact time of the final harvest period at the end of summer—at the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Atonement in the fall (see the Feasts of Israel in the book "*Revelation, Apostasy, End Times, & This Generation*"—Target Truth Ministries.com).

As to a sign of the year, or timing of this last generation, we read within the context of this same prophecy of the fig tree (**Matthew 24:32-35**), that Jesus return will be like the days of Noah (**Matthew 24:36-39**), where God declared 120 years as the maximum limit of time which God would tarry with man (**Genesis 6:1-7**). A generation can be interpreted as 20 years, 40 years, 70 years, and also 120 years, as 120 years is the maximum period someone from “that generation” could hope to live (there are documented cases of people living up to 120 years...even 127 in one case, but it cannot be reliably verified). This can be interpreted that Jesus could return any time before 2068--120 years after 1948 (**Matthew 24:22**). This does not mean that we know the date of Jesus return and the end of the age. Jesus said that no one knows the date (**Matthew 24:36, 42**), and that because events in the end-times will be so bad, Jesus will shorten the time (**Matthew 24:22**). Even if we recognize that these prophecies point to the period of history between 1948 (when the fig tree—Israel—came to life), and 120 years later around 2068...Jesus can shorten the time to anywhere in between...could end this world today if He wanted! No one knows the exact date, except God. But, we are told to watch the signs!

Perhaps you have noticed that all these *signs* have already been fulfilled--except for the Gospel being given to every nation. Ironically, the gospel being given to every nation may point to the millennium to come--not to our age. In the millennium Jesus Himself will share the gospel with every nation. Does this mean that we are in the end-times now? Very similar to Israel when Jesus came 2,000 years ago, we, today, are living in a period of time when Jesus could very well return during our time – “*this generation*.” And, just like Israel back then, the world today is going about its business each day, with no regard for their eternal destiny, believing that somehow, someday, God will take care of everyone—or, even denying God, because it has been almost 2,000 years since He promised to return.

I wonder at times, how people can read the prophecies of the Bible, and see that they have been scientifically proven accurate, and read the eyewitness testimonies recorded for us, and yet, still deny that Jesus is fully God. We learn that without trusting in Jesus, we will be forever separated from God. But, we also read that God loved us enough, to die in the flesh, to pay the price of sin (death), so that whoever trusts in Him can be reconciled to Him (**Philip. 2:5-8; John 1:1-18, 6:33,38; Heb. 2:9; Col. 2:8-9**). See also the Message “*Top Gun*” --Target Truth Ministires.com.

The Bible gives us evidence of being supernatural—from God. There is no other explanation for all these extremely complicated prophecies being fulfilled to the *exact* years, and in some cases, to the *exact* day.