

1 **Where do we find truth?**

What We Believe

2 **Our Statement of Faith**

- The Scriptures are God's inerrant revelation, complete in the Old and New Testaments, written by divinely inspired men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21). Those men wrote not in words of human wisdom but in words taught by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:13).

3 **1 Corinthians 2:13**

- 1 Corinthians 2:13 (LEB) — *things which we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.*
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 (KJV 1900) — *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

4 **Our Statement of Faith**

- The Scriptures provide the standard for the believer's faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16, 17), reveal the principles by which God will judge all (Heb. 4:12; John 12:48), and express the true basis of Christian fellowship (Gal. 1:8, 9; II John 9-11).

5 **Hebrews 4:12; John 12:48**

- Hebrews 4:12 (KJV 1900) — *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
- John 12:48 (KJV 1900) — *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

6 **2 John 9-11**

2 John 9–11 (KJV 1900) — *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

7 **Definition of “the authority of the Bible”**

The Bible, as the expression of God's will to us, possesses the right supremely to define

1. what we are to believe, and
2. how we are to live

8 **Falsehood must be intentionally resisted**

Galatians 2:4–5 — *And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*

9 **Some would pervert the Gospel of Christ**

Galatians 3:1 — *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*

10 **Error masquerades as "gospel"**

Galatians 1:6–10 — *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

11 **The devil's tools to derail us from truth**

- Distractions, philosophies, and bad theology derail us from the truth
- Galatians 5:7 — *Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

12 **WHERE DO WE FIND THE WORD OF GOD?**13 **Several books claim to be "The word of God"**

- The Bible (Christians)
- The Koran (Muslims)
- The Book of Mormon (Mormons)
- The New Kingdom Translation (JWs)
- The Bhagavad Gita (Hindus)

14 **How do YOU know that the Bible is the Word of God?**15 **The Bible was written**

- By 40 authors
- In 3 languages
- On 3 continents
- Over a span of 1500 years
- Covers hundreds of controversial subjects

16 **4 categories of evidence for the authority of the Bible**

- Internal evidence
- External evidence
- Bible prophecy
- Power of the Word
-

17 **INTERNAL EVIDENCE**

Evidence that is found within the Bible itself

18 **Self-Proclamation**

- The Bible claims to be the Word of God

19 **2 Timothy 3:16**

- LEB -- *All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*
- 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV 1900) — *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

20 **2 Peter 1:20-21**

2 Peter 1:20–21 (KJV 1900) — *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

21 **Jesus on the Old Testament**

- Jesus quoted the Old Testament as the Word of God throughout His ministry on earth.

22 **The unity of the Bible**

- The Bible covers hundreds of topics, yet it does not contradict itself.
- It remains united in its theme. \
- Well, what's so amazing about that?" you may ask.

23 **1. Time span**

- The Bible was written over a span of 1500 hundred years
- That is too long a time period to maintain unity; too long for the "story" details to maintain harmony.

24 **2. Diversity of authors**

- The Bible was written by more than 40 people from every walk of life including scholars, royalty, fishermen, prophet, Jews and Gentiles
 - Moses was educated in Egypt and became a prophet over Israel.
 - Peter was a simple fisherman
 - Solomon was a king
 - Luke was a doctor
 - Amos was a shepherd
 - Matthew was a tax collector

25 **3. Geographic distribution**

- The Bible was written on 3 different continents
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - Europe

26 **Geographic distribution (2)**

- Moses wrote in the desert of Sinai
- Paul wrote in a prison in Rome
- Daniel wrote in exile in Babylon
- Ezra wrote in the ruined city of Jerusalem

27 **4. Diverse circumstances**

- David wrote during a time of war
- Jeremiah wrote at the sorrowful time of Israel's downfall

- Peter wrote while Israel was under Roman domination
- Joshua wrote while invading the land of Canaan

28 **5. Different purposes for writing**

- Isaiah wrote to warn Israel of God's coming judgment on their sin
- Matthew wrote to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah
- Zechariah wrote to encourage a disheartened Israel who had returned from Babylonian exile
- Paul wrote addressing problems in different Asian and European churches

29 **So, the Bible was written**

- Over 1500 hundred years
- by 40 different authors
- on 3 continents over 2500 square miles
- under diverse circumstances
- addressing a multitude of issues

30 **Still, an amazing unity**

- And yet in the midst of all the diversity, there is amazing unity in the Bible.
- Hundreds of controversial subjects are addressed and yet the writers do not contradict each other.
- One central theme: God's redemption of man and of all creation

31 **EXTERNAL EVIDENCE**

32 **External Evidence**

Evidence that is found outside the Bible such as

- archaeology
- history
- philosophy
- ancient manuscripts

33 **Nelson Gluek**

- Renowned Jewish archaeologist
- *"It...may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."*

34 **Archaeology confirms the Bible**

- Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.
- Just one example:
 - Secular scholars used to deny the existence of Nebuchadnezzar as described in the book of Daniel.
 - Saddam Hussein initiated a building project in Babylon during which bricks were found with Nebuchadnezzar's name inscribed on them.

35 **"After personally trying to shatter the historicity and validity of the Scriptures, I have come to the conclusion that they are historically trustworthy."
--Josh McDowell**

36 **WHY THE BOOK OF MORMON IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD**37 **A contrast in the *Book of Mormon***

- The Book of Mormon contains numerous anthropological problems.
- Archaeological discoveries refuse to substantiate the claims made by the Book of Mormon regarding the cultural conditions of an imaginary tribe called the Nephites. Contrary to the Book of Mormon, churches and synagogues did not exist among the American Indians prior to the arrival of settlers.

38 ***Book of Mormon* problems (2)**

- Also, the Book of Mormon claims that a man named Lehi led the exodus from Jerusalem, ca. 600 B.C. But Jeremiah made no mention of such an important figure.

39 ***Book of Mormon* problems (3)**

- The book of Nephi indicates that records in Jerusalem were kept in both Hebrew and Egyptian languages. "It would be utterly incredible for a devout Israelite, even granting that he might have been familiar with the Egyptian language, to use that language, which was profane to any pious Israelite, to make a record of the learning of the Jews." (9)

40 ***Book of Mormon* problems (4)**

- Perhaps the Mormon's greatest apologetic difficulty in the Book of Mormon concerns the book of Ether. This book describes the exodus of a group – the tribe of Jared -- from the valley of Nimrod. These people left because they did not agree with the construction of the Tower of Babel.

41 ***Book of Mormon* problems (5)**

- They made ships out of large trees and put holes in the top and bottom of the vessel (the hole in the bottom of the vessel was to let air into the boat in the event it turned upside-down -- a design which any ship maker can tell you is doomed to instant failure).
- They carried the animals, seed, and tools necessary to start life in a new land. Several problems arise with this trip.

42 ***Book of Mormon* problems (6)**

- According to the account God cautioned the people that they were not to have any windows in the boats, lest they break during the violent ocean storms.
- Joseph Smith obviously did not know that the Phoenicians had not yet invented glass and would not do so until the 14th century B.C.

43 ***Book of Mormon* problems (7)**

- Also, after the tribe of Jared settled (as described in the book of Ether), they prospered exceedingly until a civil war started and the tribe was completely and totally annihilated ca. 600 B.C. But archaeology has not unearthed any evidence to support the mammoth-sized battle which the Book of Mormon teaches.
- In fact, archaeology has never verified any detail of the Book of Mormon.

44 ***Book of Mormon* problems (8)**

- Also, if Smith's teachings in the Book of Ether are followed, the tribe which left the country did not fall under the confusion of languages started by God at this time.

- So, if the *Book of Mormon* was right, the descendants of the tribe of Jared would have names that did not correspond to the known languages that came from the confusion of tongues at Babel.

45 **Book of Mormon problems (9)**

- If the tribe of Jared was spared the judgment of God in the confusion of languages, why are there 25 Hebrew names in the accepted Anglicized form of the King James version, 18 names that are synthetic but fabricated from "Hebrew phonemes and quite without any etymological significance," and 34 names manufactured by Smith from Indo-Aryan phonemes?

46 **WHY the Book of Mormon has problems?**

- Mormons staunchly defend the *Book of Mormon* as the Word of God.
- But in the first edition, Joseph Smith is identified as "author and proprietor."
- So it is NOT God's Word, but Joseph Smith's word.
- Joseph Smith even claimed that because it was written in Reformed Egyptian instead of Hebrew, that the translator could not create a translation without error.
-

47 **BIBLE PROPHECY**

48 **Bible prophecy**

- Bible prophecy can only be explained by divine revelation and inspiration
- The Bible accurately foretells specific events in detail many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur.
- There are 333 specific OT prophecies containing 456 specific details about the Messiah, which were fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus Christ.

49 **Prophecy (continued)**

- Approximately 2000 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible which have already been fulfilled with no errors.
- The odds for all these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in 10^{2000} (a mathematical impossibility – far greater than the # of electrons in the known universe)
- <http://www.reasons.org/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-reliability-bible>

50 **Jesus fulfilled 300 prophecies**

- Jesus fulfilled 300 prophecies – all of which were made more than 500 years before His birth in Bethlehem.
- Let's look at just 8 of those!

51 **A MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS OF JESUS' PROPHECY FULFILLMENT**

52 **Just these 7 prophecies**

- Prophecy: The Messiah would be from the lineage of King David. Jeremiah 23:5 (600 B.C.) – Fulfillment: "Jesus ... the son of David ..." Luke 3:23, 31
- Prophecy: The Messiah would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Zechariah 11:13 (487 B.C.)

- Fulfillment: “They gave him thirty pieces of silver.”
Matthew 26:15 (30 A.D.)

53 **These 7 prophecies (2)**

- Prophecy: The Messiah would have his hands and feet pierced. Psalm 22:16 (1000 B.C.)
– Fulfillment: “They came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there-Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.” Luke 23:33 (30 A.D.)
- Prophecy: People would cast lots for the Messiah’s clothing. Psalm 22:18 (1000 B.C.)
– Fulfillment: “The soldiers ... took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said, ‘Let’s not tear it but throw dice to see who gets it.’ ” John 19:23-24 (30 A.D.)

54 **These 7 prophecies (3)**

- Prophecy: The Messiah would appear riding on a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 (500 B.C.)
– Fulfillment: “They brought the animals to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.”
Matthew 21:7 (30 A.D.)
- Prophecy: A messenger would be sent to herald the Messiah. Malachi 3:1 (500 B.C.)
– Fulfillment: John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not know.” John 1:26 (27 A.D.)

55 **These 7 prophecies (4)**

- Prophecy: The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah
– “You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.” (Micah 5:2, NLT)
– Fulfillment: Luke 2:4 (KJV 1900) — 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Beth-lehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

56 **The study**

- Professor of mathematics Peter Stoner gave 600 students a math probability problem that would determine the odds for one person fulfilling eight specific prophecies. (This is not the same as flipping a coin eight times in a row and getting heads each time.)

57 **The study (2)**

- First the students calculated the odds of one person fulfilling all the conditions of one specific prophecy, such as being betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver. Then the students did their best to estimate the odds for all of the eight prophecies combined.

58 **The study (3)**

- The students calculated that the odds against one person fulfilling all eight prophecies are astronomical-one in ten to the 21st power (10^{21}).

59 **An illustration**

- To illustrate that number, Stoner gave the following example: “First, blanket the entire Earth land mass with silver dollars 120 feet high. Second, specially mark one of those dollars and randomly bury it. Third, ask a person to travel the Earth and select the marked dollar, while blindfolded, from the trillions of other dollars.”¹

60 **A scientific review**

- Stoner's work was reviewed by the American Scientific Association, which stated, "The mathematical analysis ... is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound, and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way."
- (Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1958), 97-110.)

61 **POWER OF THE WORD**62 **"It is written..."**

- Jesus being tempted by Satan
- Jesus quoted the Old Testament to deal with temptation.
- The Bible has power to overcome temptation.

63 **Matthew 4:1-5**

Matthew 4:1–11 (KJV 1900) — *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

64 **Matthew 4:6-9**

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

65 **Matthew 4:10-11**

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

See also Luke 4:1-13

66 **Power to redeem**

- Only the Bible has the power to redeem men.
- "The *Book of Mormon* has no power to redeem men. No rescue missions have successfully used the *Book of Mormon* to rehabilitate drunks. Only the Bible's message has power to redeem sinners from the drastic affects of sin. No great truths are expressed in the *Book of Mormon* which are not better expressed in the Bible." – Robert Rohlin (<http://www.firstbaptistlascolinas.com/mormonism-101>)

67 **Conclusion**

The Bible is none other than the Word of God: not some part of it more, some part of it less; but all alike the utterance of Him who sits upon the Throne, absolute, faultless, unerring, supreme.

—John William Burgon, *Dean of Chichester Cathedral, 1876*

68 **Martin Luther**

I have learned to ascribe the honor of infallibility (to the Bible). I am profoundly convinced that none of these writers has erred.