

LIGHT IT UP!

Believing the Bible To Be The Word of God (week 6)

Various Scriptures

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Bottom Line:

The Bible is often attacked by the skeptics of this world. It is important for followers of Christ to have a solid rationale for believing the Bible to be the Word of God!

2. Objection #2: "I don't believe the Bible." 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-2

Summary: The Bible consists of 66 books: 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT. The Bible took about 1600 years to write. The Bible was written in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) by about 40 authors and is internally consistent throughout. (Miraculous)

A. Preservation of the Bible - The Bible is inspired by God

2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is inspired (theopneustos) by God."

Inspiration: God guarantees an accurate recording of His Revelation to us by guiding the selection of the very words to be written, and by so doing, "breathing out" what He wanted known.

- 1) Miraculously preserved.
- 2) Text we have is incredibly accurate to the original Greek text. (98.33% accuracy) No other writing from antiquity comes close!
- 3) ½ percent that is uncertain consists mainly in variations of wording and spelling.
- 4) NT has over 5000 supporting Greek manuscripts (another 20,000 manuscripts in other languages).
- 5) Some of the manuscripts date to within 15 years of the original writing. (New Testament books completed around 90 A.D.)



B. Prophecies of the Bible

- 1) Odds of Jesus fulfilling just some of the prophecies in the Bible boggles the mind:
 - Odds of 48 of the 61 major prophecies concerning Him are 1 in 10 to the 157th power.
 - The number of electrons in the entire known universe is about 10 to the 79th power.

Peter W. Stoner in his book entitled *Science Speaks* determined that the odds of any one man in all of history fulfilling even only eight of the 60 major prophecies would be only 1 in 10¹⁷. That many silver dollars would be enough to cover the state of Texas two feet deep, and having a blindfolded man, heading out of Dallas by foot in any direction, pick up one specifically marked silver dollar.
- 2) Virgin Birth - Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18,25
- 3) Born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
Fulfilled: Matthew 2:1

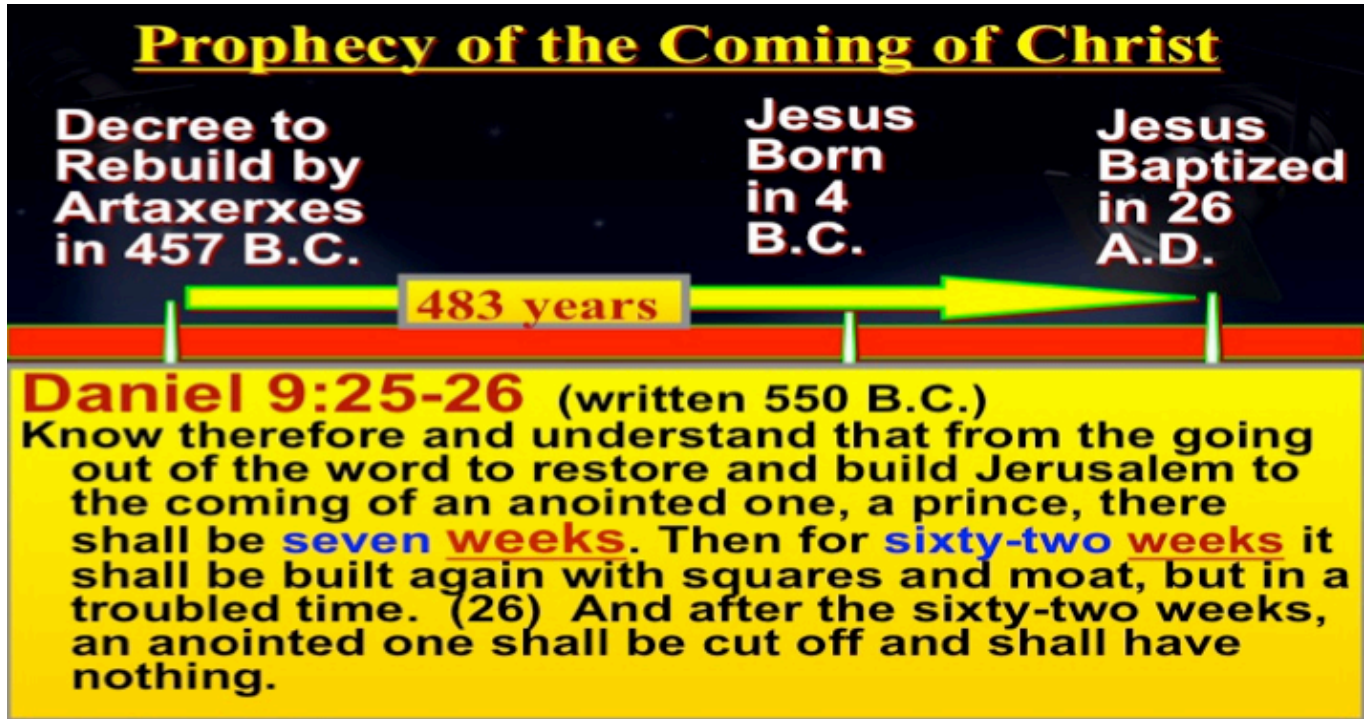
4) **Preceded by a Messenger** – Isaiah 40:3 / Matthew 3:1-2

5) **Side Pierced** – Zechariah 12:10 / John 19:34

6) **Crucifixion Details** – Psalm 22:16-18 / Luke 22:33 / John 19:23

Psalm 22 was written in 1012 B.C. and specified that the Messiah's hands and feet would eventually be pierced—a clear reference to death by crucifixion—*800 years before the Romans ever even instituted crucifixion as a form of capital punishment!*

7) **Daniel's Prophecy of the Coming of the Messiah:**



C. Archaeology and the Bible

Dr. William F. Albright, known as one of the great archaeologists: "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition."

Dr. Nelson Glueck, probably the greatest modern authority on Israeli archaeology:

archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."

D. Jesus' View of the Scriptures – Matthew 5:18; Luke 24:44

Matthew 5:18 – "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."

Luke 24:44 – "Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

E. The Apostles' View of Their Own Writings

- Paul called his own words "commandments of the Lord." (I Corinthians 14:37)

"...not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

- Peter included Paul's epistles with "the other Scriptures." (2 Peter 3:16)

- Peter placed himself and fellow apostles on the same level as the O.T. prophets. (2 Peter 3:2)

- John claimed to write information given to him by God. (Revelation 1:1)