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Frederic Kenyon said concerning this, “The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world. The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries.” (*Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*, p. 55)

It was this point that prompted Dr. Norman Geisler and Dr. William Nix to write: “...no book from the ancient world comes to us with more abundant evidence for its integrity than does the New Testament.” (*A General Introduction To The Bible*, Revised and Expanded, p. 405)

Dan Wallace once observed we have more than 5,800 Greek manuscripts, over 14,000 hand-written manuscripts in Latin, Syriac, and Coptic languages. We have more than 1,000,000 quotations from N.T. early church fathers. The New Testament has more hand-copied manuscripts than anything else in the world.

Now how do we explain this? Only one way, the Bible is what it claims to be: the inspired Word of God, carefully copied and carefully preserved.

It is clear that the Bible has survived through time as no other book in history. Manuscript preservation proves that. This is clear evidence that the Bible is in fact the Word of God.

**(Area of Survival #2)** - The Bible has survived through persecution.

From its inception, many in history have tried to rid the world of the Bible. In fact, we may recall that Moses became so angry one time that he inadvertently threw the tablets down and destroyed the Word of God (Ex. 32:19). God, Himself, replaced the written Scriptures (Ex. 34:1-28). As we already saw, King Jehoiakim tried to destroy the Scriptures, which God also replaced (Jer. 36:21-23).

In the early days of the N.T. era, when the Romans hated and persecuted Christianity, there was an attempt to ban and burn and outlaw the Bible. In fact, in some countries this is still the case.

One such example was Diocletian. He issued an edict in AD 303 that Christians and their sacred writings were to be destroyed. Eusebius, in his Church History, writes: “...an imperial letter was everywhere promulgated, ordering the razing of the churches to the ground and the destruction by fire of the Scriptures...” Obviously, as we have already discussed, the existence of so many manuscripts from this very time period proves that the attempt to destroy the Bible was unsuccessful. The Bible survived.

It is no coincidence that the Satanic world has tried to destroy God’s Divine Book. It is also no coincidence that the Bible has never been able to be destroyed. This is a powerful evidence that not only is the Bible the inspired Word of God, but it is protected by the God who inspired it.

**(Area of Survival #3)** - The Bible has survived through criticism.

There is no question that the Bible has had its share of critics. Infidels, atheists, pseudo-intellectuals, agnostics, unbelievers, college professors, skeptics have all taken their verbal shots at the Bible in an attempt to mock it, discredit it, and cause people not to believe it.

There is no other book in the world that has drawn as much criticism as the Bible. Yet in spite of all the verbal attacks and abuse, the Bible is still loved, read, studied, and believed by untold millions.

From a personal perspective, I have thousands of books on all kinds of subjects. But only one prompts me to read through it every year. No other book prompts me to examine it in the original language in which it was written. I readily accept English translations of Luther's German or Calvin's Latin or French. But when it comes to the Bible, I am drawn to examine Hebrew and Greek. I have never been interested in carefully examining verb tenses and sentence structure in any other book except the Bible. I have never been interested in grammatically diagramming and syntactically assessing any other book I own.

The sales of the Bible continue to soar. You will find the Bible for sale in most secular bookstores. Now one must wonder, in view of the criticism that it has received, why is this book still valued? How is it that it can withstand all kinds of criticism?

Truth is, the critics come and go, but the Bible still stands. It is a book that has survived as no other book ever written. It continues to move through history. Any intelligent person who desires to know truth and accepts objective facts had better take a serious look at the Bible. Long after every person is gone, the Bible will still be here. Regardless of the critic or scoffer, whether a neighbor or entertainer or politician or coworker, manager, medical doctor or professor, they will all come and go, but the Bible will stand forever. No critic can stop it.

Without a doubt, there is a supernatural, eternal, survival lifespan to the Bible. Whether the destructive danger was time, persecution, or criticism, the Bible survives and will always survive. There is eternal value and eternal character because the Bible is God's eternal book.

Just looking at these areas of survival: time, persecution, criticism, clearly proves it!

**Proof #9** - The fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.

Here is one of the most remarkable evidences that the Bible is the inspired Word of God that you will ever see. This proof sets the Bible apart from any other book that has ever been written. In fact, this proof was actually used by God to actually convince His own disciples of the fact that the Bible is the inspired Word of God (John 2:19, 22).

No other book in all of history has been able to predict, with perfect accuracy, specific things that would take place in the future. Yet hundreds of times, this is exactly what the Bible does do.

Many make predictions today. In fact, there are fortune tellers and psychics who make a fortune by charging people to make predictions. It has been observed that most of their predictions are generally not short term predictions; they are often very general in nature and are usually wrong. A study was made of the top psychics and their predictions and it revealed that 92 percent of the time the predictions were wrong (*The People's Almanac*, 1976).

One of the most famous was Jeanne Dixon, who died in 1997. When she was growing up in California, some gypsy gave her a crystal ball and read her palm and predicted she would be a great psychic. The problem is most of her predictions were wrong. Her own biographer, Ruth Montgomery, admitted that she made false predictions. For example, she predicted that Red China would plunge into world war in 1958 that did not happen. She predicted that Walter Reuther, the labor leader, would seek presidency in 1964, which did not happen. On October 19, 1968, she predicted that Jacqueline Kennedy was not considering remarriage and the next day she wed Aristotle Onassis. She predicted that World War III would begin in 1954; it did not. She predicted the Vietnam War would end in 1966; it did not (1975). She predicted that Castro would be banished from Cuba in 1970; he was not (*he was in office until 2011*). As for the general nature of her predictions, when she was dying in 1997, her final words were "I knew this would happen."

Psychic predictions are mostly general and wrong. This is also true of Nostradamus. He gave vague predictions and was often wrong in what he predicted. One of the predictions that he allegedly made in the 1500's was the rise of Adolf Hitler, which supposedly he named. But upon examining his writings, he predicted something about a place named "hister" not a person named "Hitler."

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer said, "Based on obvious conditions, a man might make a fortunate guess as to the turn of events on the day that follows; but the Bible prophecy disregards the element of time. ... Who would be prepared to believe that hundreds of predictions which are fulfilled in the pages of history and extending over thousands of years of intervening time are the work of unaided men? Yet there is no other alternative for the one who questions the divine origin of Scripture" (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 30).

The Bible makes some very specific predictions that are not general in nature that absolutely prove that the Bible is the inspired, prophetic Word of God. We would like to present just a few of those predictions and their fulfillment:

### **Prophetic Text #1 - Isaiah 45:1**

It is specifically mentioned in this text that God would raise up a leader whose name was Cyrus. It is also predicted exactly what he would do. This prediction was made at least 150 years before he was born. How is it possible that Isaiah could predict the exact name of a person who would fulfill everything stated in this verse 150 years before he was even born? Only one answer, the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

**Prophetic Text #2 - Psalm 22.**

If we examine verses 1, 7, 16, 17, 18, it is clear that David is graphically describing the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. He is carefully laying out the entire scene. This Psalm was written 1,000 years before Jesus Christ was born.

This Psalm begins with the very words Jesus Christ would cry out while hanging on the cross (Mark 15:34). This is an amazing prophecy that specifically predicts the actual words that will be spoken with pinpoint accuracy:

- 1) “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Ps. 22:1/Mark 15:34)
- 2) “All who see me sneer at me, they separate with the lip, they wag the head”  
(Ps. 22:7/Luke 23:35; Matt. 27:39; Mark 15:29).
- 3) “They pierced my hands and feet” (Ps. 22:16/John 20:25-29)
- 4) “They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots”  
(Ps. 22:18/Matt. 27:35)

When we consider that this prediction was made 1,000 years before Jesus Christ was born and would fulfill it, it is one of the most amazing predictions ever made.

However, perhaps the most amazing factor of this prediction is that it was written hundreds and hundreds of years before crucifixion was even an invented form of punishment. Crucifixion was really a punishment that became a specialty of Rome. This certainly was never a Jewish form of punishment.

The earliest record of any crucifixion occurred 500 years after David wrote this Psalm. The *Grolier International Encyclopedia* says, “Though closely associated with Rome, crucifixion originated with the Phoenicians and Persians. It was practiced from the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. until the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The Roman emperor Constantine I banned crucifixion in A.D. 337 (Vol. 5, p. 364).

What all of this practically means is that somehow King David was able to accurately describe a type of death that Jesus Christ would endure before this type of death was even in existence. This type of death was not even in existence until 500 years later and was not even really known until 1,000 years later.

How was it possible for David to predict this? How was David able to describe the death and the very words that Jesus would utter? How could any person write about a type of death that was not even in existence?

There is only one true answer to this question. Whoever was behind the writing of the Bible had the supernatural ability to look hundreds of years into the future and clearly see and accurately predict the precise events. **The only person capable of doing this is God.** The fulfillment of Psalm 22 proves that the Bible is the miraculous, inspired, prophetic Word of God.