THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

BACKING UP OUR CLAIM

- WHENEVER ANYONE MAKES A CLAIM THAT SEEMS TO BE OUT OF THE ORDINARY, HE SHOULD HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO BACK UP HIS CLAIM

- AS BELIEVERS IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND NOT THE WORD OF MAN

BACKING UP OUR CLAIM

- THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH EVIDENCE TO BACK UP THAT CLAIM
- INTERNAL EVIDENCE
- EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- **THE PROPHETS BELIEVED GOD SPOKE TO THEM**
  - **“Moreover, the Lord said to me” (Isaiah 8:1)**
  - **“Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me saying, . . . “ (Jeremiah 2:1)**
  - **“Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me saying . . . “(Ezekiel 7:1)**

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

1. The **Apostle Peter** claimed that Scripture was God's inspired Word – "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21)

2. The **Apostle Paul** claimed that Scripture was the "breathed out" (inspired) Word of God – "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- JESUS' OWN TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE SCRIPTURES
- WHEN TEMPTED BY SATAN HE QUOTED FROM SCRIPTURE (Luke 4:4,8,9)
- HE BELIEVED IT WOULD LAST FOREVER (Matthew 5:18)
- HE BELIEVED THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT SPOKE ABOUT HIM (Luke 24:44; John 5:39)
- HE BELIEVED IT WAS THE TRUTH (John 17:17))

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

MAPS

MANUSCRIPTS	ARCHAEOLOGY	PROPHECY	STATISTICS

OLD TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

- THE WORD ”MANUSCRIPT” COMES FROM TWO LATIN WORDS (MANU – HAND + SCRIPTUS – WRITING)
- A MANUSCRIPT IS ANY ANCIENT DOCUMENT WRITTEN BY HAND
- BOTH THE OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS WERE SCROLLS WRITTEN BY HAND. TODAY WE CALL THEM MANUSCRIPTS.
- UNTIL 1947, OUR OLDEST COMPLETE HEBREW MANUSCRIPT WAS **THE LENINGRAD CODEX (1009 AD)** WRITTEN IN CAIRO
- ANOTHER OLD HEBREW MANUSCRIPT CONTAINING MOST OF THE HEBREW BIBLE IS **THE ALEPPO CODEX (920 AD)** COPIED IN TIBERIAS, ISRAEL
- ANOTHER HEBREW MANUSCRIPT IS **THE MASORETIC TEXT (10th CENTURY)** COPIED IN TIBERIAS

MANUSCRIPTS

- **THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS**, SOME OF WHICH DATE BACK TO 250 BC
- WHEN COMPARING TODAY'S OLD TESTAMENT WITH THESE MANUSCRIPTS, YOU FIND LITTLE DIFFERENCE
- THE LAST BOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS MALACHI, WRITTEN AROUND 450 BC

THE VALUE OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

OVER 1,000-YEAR DIFFERENCE YET 95% IDENTICAL

259 B.C. 150 A.D.	**DEAD SEA SCROLLS**	One of the greatest discoveries of all time was found near Qumran, Israel in eleven caves. The discovery was made by a Muslim shepherd boy, This is the wisdom of God - He chose an uneducated Muslim shepherd, to find a Hebrew treasure to bless the world.
250 B.C. 200 B.C.	**LXX**	Due to Greek becoming the official of the world, the Jews in Alexandria, Egypt needed and asked for a copy of their Bible in Greek.
500-900 A.D.	**MASORETIC TEXT**	The Masoretic Text was create over a period of years from 500- 900 A.D. It was copied, edited, and distributed by the Masorah, who worked from Tiberias, Israel.
930 A.D.	**ALEPPO CODEX**	Once held in Aleppo, Syria, a good portion was burned by rioters. It remained in Syria for 600 years, but now resides in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Today only 294 of the 478 pages remain.
1008 A.D.	**LENINGRAD CODEX**	The oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Bible in Hebrew. It is in the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg.

It was Dr. Bernard Ramm who stated, *“A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and the committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put”*.

Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*
(Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers. P. 11)

NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

- TODAY, WE HAVE OVER **5,800 GREEK MANUSCRIPTS** BY WHICH WE CAN COMPARE AND GET BACK VERY CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
- WE ALSO HAVE OVER 10,000 LATIN VULGATE MSS
- MORE THAN **25,000 COPIES OF PORTIONS** OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
- WE ALSO HAVE OVER **86,000 QUOTES** FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
- NOT ONLY DO WE POSSESS MANY GREEK MSS, BUT WE HAVE EXCELLENT **QUALITY** OF MSS, SOME DATING TO THE **2ND CENTURY**
- THERE IS MORE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT THAN ANY OTHER ANCIENT LITERATURE

OLDEST GREEK MANUSCRIPTS

- JOHN 18:36 – 19:7– P90 (2ND CENTURY)
- JOHN 18:31-33 (JOHN RYLAND PAPYRI – P52 (100 – 150 AD)
- CODEX SINATICUS – A 4TH CENTURY GREEK MSS
- CODEX VATICANUS – ANOTHER 4TH CENTURY MSS

ARCHAEOLOGY

THE BIBLE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

1. THOUGH ARCHAEOLOGY DOES NOT PROVE THE BIBLE, IT VERIFIES ITS HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ACCURACY
2. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF REAL PEOPLE LIVING IN REAL PLACES, WHICH MUCH OF ARCHAEOLOGY HAS VERIFIED
3. CRITICS SAID THAT THERE NEVER WAS A **"HOUSE OF DAVID"**. THEN BETWEEN 1992-94, AN AMAZING DISCOVERY WAS MADE AT TEL DAN. A STONE BEARING THE NAME "HOUSE OF DAVID" WAS DISCOVERED IN 1994
4. SCHOLARS CLAIMED THAT THERE NEVER WAS A **PONTIUS PILATE**. THEN IN 1961, ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND A STONE IN CAESAREA WITH AN INSCRIPTION – "PONTIUS PILATE, PREFECT OF JUDAEA, MADE AND DEDICATED THE TIBERIEUM TO THE DIVINE AUGUSTUS".
5. SCHOLARS CLAIMED THAT **ISRAEL WAS NOT A GREAT KINGDOM** UNTIL 1868, WHEN A STONE FROM MOAB WAS UNCOVERED, LISTING NAMES OF VARIOUS KINGS OF ISRAEL IN THE 9TH CENTURY BCE – **THE MOABITE STONE**

FULFILLED PROPHECY

ONE OF THE GREATEST EVIDENCES FOR THE BIBLE'S RELIABILITY IS ITS PROPHETIC STATEMENTS

THE PROPHECIES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED HAVE BEEN FULFILLED LITERALLY AND IN EXACT DETAIL

“Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. 9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me” (Isaiah 46:8-9).

“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you” (Isaiah 42:8-9).

“Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. 9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me” (Isaiah 46:8-9).

THE BIBLE'S FULFILLED PROPHECY

Daniel 2:31-45 - Daniel predicted five future world kingdoms (the 5th being the Kingdom of God). Babylon was the first kingdom

Daniel 8 - a "Ram" and a "Goat." Daniel interpreted the vision and stated that the Ram is Media-Persia and the Goat is Greece. Daniel prophesied during the Exile. Soon after this prophecy, Persia became the next great kingdom, followed by Greece. The fourth great kingdom was Rome

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- WHEN HE WOULD BE BORN – DANIEL 9:25
- HOW HE WOULD BE BORN – ISAIAH 7:14; LUKE 1:34-35
- WHERE HE WOULD BE BORN – MICAH 5:2
- WHERE HE WOULD MINISTER – ISAIAH 9:1-2; MATTHEW 4:13-16
- THAT HE WOULD BE KILLED – Daniel 9:26; Matthew 16:21)
- THAT HE WOULD BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD (ISAIAH 16:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
- THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO JUDGE MANKIND (Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 19:11-16)

STATISTICS

Dr. Peter Stone, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Astronomy, Pasadena City. College: “We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power.

Like laying silver dollars across the State of Texas up to two feet and marking one silver dollar, then blindfolding a man and asking him to find that one marked silver dollar. The chance of him finding that one silver dollar is the same as eight prophecies concerning Jesus coming true.

DUCTS

”D” – THE DIVERSITY OF THE BIBLE

- 66 BOOKS
- OVER 1500 YEARS
- WRITTEN ON 3 DIFFERENT CONTINENTS (ASIA, AFRICA, & EUROPE)
- WRITTEN IN 3 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES (HEBREW, ARAMAIC, & GREEK)
- WRITTEN BY 40 DIFFERENT WRITERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE (KINGS, FARMERS, FISHERMEN, DOCTOR, TAX COLLECTOR, PRIEST, ETC.)
- WRITTEN IN A VARIETY OF LITERARY STYLES (LAW, HISTORY, POETRY, PROPHECY, LETTERS, APOCALYPTIC, NARRATIVE, AND WISDOM)

“U” – THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE

1. ONE MAJOR THEME – REDEMPTION
2. ONE MAJOR PROBLEM – SIN
3. ONE MAJOR PRICE FOR SIN - BLOOD
4. ONE MAJOR PERSON – JESUS CHRIST
5. ONE MAJOR NATION - ISRAEL

“C” - THE CHANGED LIVES OF THE BIBLE

- MOSES – FROM MURDERER TO LAWGIVER
- DAVID – FROM A SHEPHERD TO A KING
- MARY MAGDALENE – FROM A DEMON-POSSESSED WOMAN TO A FOLLOWER OF JESUS
- JAMES & JOHN – FROM MEN WITH A SHORT TEMPER TO HUMBLE SERVANTS OF CHRIST
- THE APOSTLE PAUL – FROM PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH TO TEACHER OF THE SCRIPTURES TO THE CHURCH
- MILLIONS OF BELIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE MET THE SAVIOR AND EXPERIENCED DRAMATIC LIFE CHANGE

“T” - THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE

- CREATION - THAT GOD CREATED THE WORLD OUT OF NOTHING (Genesis 1:1)
- SIN - THAT MAN IS SEPARATED FROM GOD AND IS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD (Hebrews 4:13)
- INCARNATION - THAT GOD BECAME MAN AND LIVED AMONG US (John 1:14)
- RECONCILIATION - THAT MAN CAN ENJOY A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CREATOR (John 1:11-12)
- 2ND COMING - THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN TO THE EARTH AND WILL HOLD MANKIND ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS ACTIONS (Revelation 19:11-16)

“S” – THE SURVIVAL OF THE BIBLE

- MANY COUNTRIES HAVE PASSED LAWS TO FORBID THE BIBLE TO ENTER THEIR COUNTRY
- DICTATORS HAVE BURNED THE BIBLE AND IMPRISONED THOSE WHO LOVE IT
- CRITICS CONTINUE TO DENY ITS AUTHENTICITY
- BUT THE BIBLE CONTINUES TO BE A BEST SELLER IN BOOKS (5-7 billion copies)
- LIVES CONTINUE TO BE CHANGED BY READING AND APPLYING IT

THE SURVIVAL OF THE BIBLE

Bernard Ramm writes, *“A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow , the corpse never stays put.”*

- *McDowell, Josh, (1999). The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict. P.11*