

*“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”
(Psalms 119:89)*

David the psalmist tells us that the word of God is a finished matter and one that will not change. A thousand years later, David’s Lord and Successor, Jesus Christ echoed that same truth.

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

But is this book we call the Bible merely a large collection of helpful suggestions and opinions authored by a handful of philosophers who were speculating on the nature of truth and reality?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [literally: God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star [Jesus] rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:19-21)

The Scriptures are clear that God was at the heart of writing the Holy Bible just as much as the men were. The fact that men wrote down the words does not mean that it contains errors, not when God is involved. More than that, we have assurance by the Apostle Peter that there is an intended meaning and that intimate knowledge of the Scriptures is a key principle in having Jesus arise in our hearts.

With the Lord God as our Creator, His written word becomes an owner’s manual for humanity. Is it not wise to follow the instructions given to you by the engineer of your car? Yes. Especially since the engineer knows more than you do about the vehicle. How much more than should we trust the Grand Engineer who made man?

But it is not good enough to simply say that the Bible is reliable because the Bible says so.

Here are six reasons to believe the Holy Bible is the authoritative, infallible, inspired, inerrant word of the Living God.

I. The Bible is remarkably well preserved.

Starting more than two centuries prior to Christ’s first coming in the Jewish settlement of Qumran near the Dead Sea was a cave used as book storage. In 68 AD, the Roman General Titus destroyed the city, and the collection of writings was left undisturbed until just a few decades ago when a Bedouin shepherd boy found the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The contents of the storage caves confirmed traditional conservative dates for the writing of Old Testament canon, and comparison of modern manuscripts to the ancient ones found at Qumran shows that there has been no significant change in more than 2000 years. This is concrete proof that the oft-repeated criticism that churchmen of differing opinions have subjected the Bible to countless errors from constant retranslation and reinterpretation through the centuries is not true.

Though all the Old Testament books were found at Qumran, only the *Book of Isaiah* was found in its completion. This is significant because the *Book of Isaiah* contains the greatest number of prophecies about the Messiah of any Old Testament book. This copy, written two hundred years before Christ’s birth, also contains the controversial Chapter Fifty-Three, which has been recently challenged by Jews claiming it to be a later Christian invention. *Isaiah 53* is a detailed description of the Messiah as the Suffering Servant who dies for the sins of the world. The Qumran copy proves that Chapter Fifty-Three was part of the original document.

II. The Bible is an unapproachable continuity of writings.

The Holy Bible is a compilation of 66 books written by more than 40 authors over an 1800-year time span. And yet the word of God shows total agreement in the worldviews of all of its authors from theology, philosophy, and psychology to politics, government, and economics. No other collection of books by so many authors over so many years on so many subjects can remotely approach the internal consistency of the Bible. In *Genesis 22:4* and *Revelation 20:5-6* we see that

Abraham the father of faith and the Apostle John, two men separated by 2000 years of history and culture believe in the very same God who resurrects the dead. Such agreement is unknown outside of the Holy Bible.

III. The Bible has impeccable documentation.

The Bible no longer has autographic documents to stand in its defense, but more than 8000 ancient manuscripts from the third and fourth centuries of the church attest to the history and authenticity behind the Bible. And there are a small handful of manuscripts that date as far back as the first and second centuries AD, near the time of the autographs themselves. Documentation on this scale is unheard-of for any other ancient work of literature, fiction or nonfiction.

IV. The Bible is flawless where it touches science.

It was pagan cultures that gave humanity the idea that the earth was flat, the sky was a dome, and that the world stood upon four pillars. But from centuries before Christ’s first advent, the word of God was reassuring us in *Isaiah 40:22*, *Genesis 1:6-7*, and *Job 26:7* that the world was a sphere, the sky was not solid, and the earth was not suspended upon anything. And when modern science emerged and grew, it simply reaffirmed what the word of God had always said. One of the oldest books of the Bible, *Job* is filled with scientifically accurate information on such subjects as geology, meteorology, physics, and animal behaviorism. Investigation into the early 1600’s AD reveals that it was the Christian mindset created most of the disciplines of science. Biblical thought is the creator of science, not the destroyer.

V. The Bible is flawless where it touches history.

Scoffers always mock the Bible for what they see as outrageous claims, but have later been shown to speak too quickly as new evidence emerges. Archeology has always shown the Bible to be completely correct about the past. For countless years, people doubted the Bible because they could not find evidence of the Hittites; then

archeologically the Hittite culture was discovered. More recently, liberal scholars have taught that King David was just a myth. But in the late 1990's, ancient Israeli pottery was unearthed with the inscription: THE HOUSE OF DAVID THE KING.

VI. The Bible is flawless where it touches prophecy.

The word of God is one quarter to one third prophecy. There are 300 specific prophecies relating to Jesus. 100 were precisely fulfilled in His first coming. 200 are waiting on His second coming. Many prophecies cannot be simulated because of their uncontrollable requirements. And we know with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls that all of the prophecies regarding Jesus legitimately predate His birth by at least 200 years and probably more.

Prophetic examples concerning Jesus Christ:

Virgin Birth: *Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14*

Born in Bethlehem: *Micah 5:2*

The Christmas Star: *Numbers 24:17*

Early years in Egypt: *Hosea 11:1*

Ministry in Galilee: *Isaiah 9:1*

His entry on a donkey: *Zechariah 8:9*

His betray for 30 pieces of silver: *Zechariah 11:12*

30 silver pieces used to buy a field: *Zechariah 11:13*

The year of His death: *Daniel 9:26*

Death by crucifixion: *Psalms 22:16, Zechariah 12:10*

Cast lots for His garments: *Psalms 22:18*

Death with criminals: *Isaiah 53:9*

Burial with the rich: *Isaiah 53:9*

We know from *John 1:1-18* that Jesus Himself is the eternal Word of God made flesh. And the Apostle Paul tells us in *Colossians 2:5-11* that Jesus was fully God and fully Man, the two natures join not mixed.

The same could equally be said of the written word of God. The Holy Bible is fully of God, and fully of Man, the two natures joined not mixed. Men were not merely treated as pens whereby God forcibly wrote the Scriptures; each author had his total liberty to express the truth through the 'color' and 'flavor' of his own personality and experiences. And the Holy Spirit did not simply put abstract ideas in the minds of men and allow them to work out the details; the Spirit of the Lord was still intimately

involved in the placement of every word, every syllable, every comma, and crossing of a line.

And just as the eternal Word of God and the written word of God share the similarity of two natures, they also share the same sins of blasphemy and rejection. For one to blaspheme the written word and to belittle and mock its teachings is to be part of the rebellious crowd chanting, "Crucify Him!" For one to reject the written word as useless or inconvenient is to be one of the Roman Centurions nailing Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh to the cross and to hang the Lord of Glory to die like a criminal. Make no doubt about it; the treatment of the written word of God is no small matter in the eyes of the Lord of heaven and earth.

The extreme nature of the statements that Jesus makes about Himself and that the Bible makes about itself leave a person with only four choices as to the identity of either.

Jesus is either:

- (1) A liar next of kin to the Devil,
- (2) A lunatic surpassed by no one,
- (3) A legend of a repressed people,
- or (4)...

He is indeed the Lord our God.

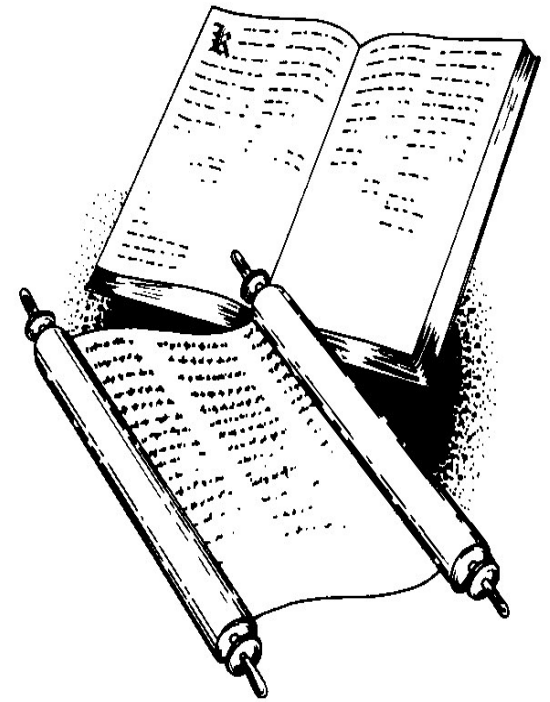
Likewise, the Bible is either:

- (1) A lie from the pit of hell,
- (2) A lunacy from the imagination of a maniac,
- (3) A legend to bring hope to the naïve,
- or (4)...

It is indeed the Love Letter and Commandments of the one and only Living God who loves His own precious people.

Maranatha Christian Fellowship

**315 10th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Email: mcf@tc.umn.edu
www.noapathy.org
612-378-2299**



**Six Reasons
You Can Trust
The Bible**

By Aaron Siver