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(External Proof #9) - The Bible as Literature.

The Bible, from a pure literary perspective, is an amazing writing, which clearly proves that it is a very unique book and that it is the Word of God. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer wrote:

"No unaided human writer has ever been able to imitate the simplicity of the Bible language. The greatest truths God has spoken to man are couched in the language of children. To illustrate: Seven monosyllables, not one of which exceeds three letters, serve to state the two most vital relationships which the saved sustain to the resurrected Christ. These are: "you in me, and I in you" (John 14:20). Similarly, no human skill in condensation could ever compare with declarations found in the Scriptures. No "short story" writer ever produced a thrilling narrative comparable to that found in Luke 15:11-32. The four Gospels, like all other books of the New Testament, are inexhaustible in the ever unfolding truth they convey; yet the text itself is restricted to the point of inimitable brevity. On the other hand, the Bible message is never hurried, cramped, or unreadable. In fact, the narrative at times seems unnecessarily explicit (Matt.25:34-45). (Vol.1, p.33)

There has never been any literary work comparable to the Bible. No other book has been able to put into writing words that can fascinate a child and yet, at the same time, intimidate a scholar. For example, a math book written for a first grade level is not studied and poured over by scholars of mathematics. They will be pouring over Physics, Algebra and Geometry. No other book has been able to cross racial and national barriers as the Bible. No other piece of literature has been translated into so many languages and dialects as the Bible. No other writing in existence is so diverse, featuring love stories, war stories, good stories, evil stories, stories of success and failure, stories about God and Satan and information about heaven and hell. There has never been any other writing which has been so scrutinized and studied. There can be no question that as literature, the Bible is in a distinct class, totally set apart from any other writing.

What is the explanation for this literary phenomenon? How can one book, the Bible, be such a literary masterpiece, far above and beyond any other book? The **only** explanation is that the Bible is God's word, precisely what it claims to be.

Naturally, we would expect literature which is inspired by the infinite God to far surpass any book written by any other person. That is precisely what the Bible does. Unquestionably, the Bible, analyzed as pure literature, is in a class all by itself giving more evidence that the Bible is God's word.

(External Proof #10) - The freshness of the Bible.

Here, indeed, is another external evidence that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God. No other book in the world comes to life like the Bible. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer wrote: "As no

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other literature in the world, the Bible invites and sustains a ceaseless rereading. ... Of no other book than the Bible could it be said truthfully that its message is perennially fresh and effective, and this ... demonstrates the divine character and origin of the Bible." (Vol.1, p.35)

How is it possible to read and reread the same portions of Scripture and never grow weary? In times of sorrow or bereavement, why do people reach for and desire to read the Bible? How is it possible that in life's loneliest hours, the Bible becomes such a meaningful friend? How can one passage, which has been read many, many times speak to one's heart in a new, flesh, exciting way? How is it possible for a book written thousands of years ago to be so fresh and relevant to our lives and culture? There is only one answer- the Bible is and must be exactly what it claims to be- God's inspired word.

(External Proof #11) - The transforming power of the Bible.

Here is one of the most amazing, visible, external evidences that the Bible is truly the Word of God. The words written in the Bible have the power to totally transform lives. Men and women, from the worst backgrounds to the best backgrounds, continually are transformed by the words written in the Bible.

The pages of the Bible continually cause people from all walks of life, all cultural settings, from all types of sins to make dramatic, life changing radical decisions. How do we explain this phenomenon? How is it possible for words written in one book to so dramatically change lives? How can we explain the impact that this book continues to make on such a variety of people? The Bible has transformed political officials (Chuck Colson), medical doctors (M.R DeHaan), successful business men (D.L. Moody), attorneys (C.I. Scofield), sports figures (Billy Sunday), wealthy people (R.G. Letourneau), poor people (Lewis Sperry Chafer), educated people (Martin Luther, John Wycliffe), uneducated people (H.A. Ironside), drunks (Mel Trotter), prostitutes (entire house of prostitution in St. Louis), people from all occupations and situations.

How is it that words from one book can make such a profound and dramatic impact on people? There is only one logical answer- the Bible has a transforming power like no other book because the Bible is God's book. The Bible is the inspired word of God. It has changed lives in the past and it continually is in the process of changing lives in the present and it will continue to change lives in the future. The Bible is God's word to man.

(External Proof #12) - The agreement of the Bible and Science.

The Bible **is not** a science book, however, all humanity can be absolutely certain that when the Bible speaks on scientific matters it does so with complete accuracy and with the complete authority of God. Even though science must discover things by means of theorizations, speculations, assumptions and hypotheses, when the facts are known, they NEVER contradict the Bible. True science based on true facts (not theories or speculations) has NEVER contradicted the Bible.

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In fact, 21 scientists, in one book, clearly testify that they have never found anything that was contradictory between science and the Bible. In fact, for many of these scientists, it was this fact that brought them to salvation. Certainly logic would force us to admit that if we cannot trust the Bible in areas that may be proved, we certainly could not trust the Bible in areas that could not be proved. It is also logical to assume that if we can trust the Bible in areas that can be proved, then we can also trust the Bible in areas which cannot be proved. The scientist who believes the Bible will discover that the Bible **will never** contradict scientific fact. True scientific facts (not speculative theories) **will always** agree with the Bible. (For excellent reading on this subject see: Eric C. Barrett & David Fisher, Scientists Who Believe: 21 Tell Their Own Stories, Moody Press)

To establish the fact that the Bible and true science are in agreement, we offer two factual examples:

(Factual Example #1) – The example of archaeology.

Time and time again, archaeological discovery has proved the Bible is totally factual and accurate. Nelson Glueck, a highly respected Jewish archaeologist, said: "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference." Millar Burrows of Yale University said: "On the whole, however, archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine."

The connection between archaeology and science is explained by Dr. Howard Vos: "Basically, his (archaeologist) method of procedure is scientific. His knowledge is acquired by systematic observation of study, and facts discovered are evaluated and classified into an organized body of information. On the basis of facts assembled, hypotheses are formulated and tested; but normally the tests are conducted at such places as the mounds of the Near East instead of with test tubes in laboratories." (Vos, An Introduction to Bible Archeology, p.13)

In this study, we cite two factual discoveries:

Discovery #1 - The amazing discovery that proved the remarkable statement found in Joshua 6:20.

One of the more amazing scientific discoveries in recent times was the discovery made by John Garstang in the 1930's. Typically, when a city with walls is conquered, the walls are bashed-in and various piles of rubble are formed, enabling the attackers to enter the city over various mounds of debris. Some who knew the Bible wondered how it was possible for walls of a city to fall flat. Skeptics challenged this text until the discovery of John Garstang.

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John Garstang headed an expedition at Jericho from 1930-36. He was fully supported financially by Sir Charles Marston. Garstang discovered that the city of Jericho had been surrounded by a double wall, an outer wall six feet thick and an inner wall twelve feet thick. He discovered that the city was so crowded that houses were built upon the walls, which completely coincides with Rahab's house situation (i.e. Josh.2:15). But perhaps the most amazing discovery of all was that pertaining to the walls of the city. Garstang discovered that instead of the walls caving into the city, they had fallen down flat out away from the city. Garstang writes: "As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over the ruins into the city." (John Garstang, p.146) This discovery of John Garstang agrees precisely with what was stated and described thousands of years ago in Joshua 6:20: "...and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city."

Discovery #2 - The amazing discovery that proved the remarkable statement found in II Sam. 5:8. (II Sam.5:6-8/I Chron.11:4-8)

It is very clear from these passages that the Jebusites believed that they were so secure that the blind and the lame could stop David from getting into the city. David said the way into the city would be "through the water tunnel" (II Sam.5:8). Sir Charles Warren discovered that there was no natural water supply within the walls of ancient Jerusalem. Therefore, a water channel had been cut leading from a point inside the walls to a spring or fountain on the outside of the walls. Dr. Howard Vos writes: "More specifically, a horizontal tunnel leading from the spring had been dug into the hill on which the city was located; this ended in a cave that served as a cistern. Above the cave rose a 52-foot vertical which connected with a sloping passageway 127 feet long." (Vos, p.61) Kathleen Kenyon, in her excavations in this area from 1961-67 said: "Therefore, if Joab and his men had ascended the channel of the city water supply in their conquest of Jerusalem, they would have been able to enter the strategically important parts of the town." (Ibid. p.62) Again, archaeology confirms the specific accuracy of the Bible.

(Factual Example #2) - The example of the Earth.

Another example of agreement between true science and the Bible is found, believe it or not, in discoveries concerning the universe. During Biblical times there were many varied, bizarre, speculative "scientific" theories pertaining to this earth. For example, the Egyptians believed that the earth was supported by five great pillars. The Greeks believed that the earth was bore on the neck and shoulders of Atlas. The Hindus believed that the earth was held up by an elephant. Even in the 15th century, when Christopher Columbus was about the begin his voyage to explore new lands, the prevailing scientific opinion was that the earth was flat and if someone went far enough out into the ocean, he would drop into oblivious eternity.

The Bible, however, gave specific information that contradicted all of these theories and revealed specific data that was remarkable: