

Biblical Reliability

- Is the Bible the Word of God?
 - Yes!
- Can YOU prove it?
 - Hmm.
 - You should be able to.
- We'll go over some reasons you can trust it.



The Biblical Jesus Christ

- Start with the foundation – Jesus Christ.
 - The Bible reveals Jesus Christ to us.
- He declared Himself to be God (John 8:25; 58); asserted omnipresence (Matt 18:20).
- C.S. Lewis's options
 - Liar, Lunatic, or Lord.
- The idea of Christ has never been topped by any other idea. Intuitively, we can't top it.
- Take all ideal human qualities and He has them all. Take all ideal divine qualities and He has them all.

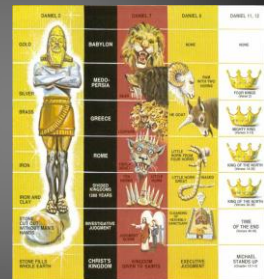
The Bible's Own Claims

- Just like Christ left us with only two options, the Bible has done the same.
 - Over 3,000 times, the authors of Scripture claim their message is from God.
 - "Thus says the Lord," nearly 500 times in the Torah/Pentateuch.
 - Over 1,200 times in the prophets we see the same.
 - This is what you would expect if God inspired a book.
- Thus, the Bible declares itself to be the Word of God. It is self-attesting.



Empirical Evidence Through Prophecy

- Proof of the claims can be seen in prophecy.
 - Humans cannot know the future.
 - Only an omniscient God can.
- The Bible accurately predicts in detail the future at least 1,000 times.
- Many prophetic categories
 - E.g. names, empires, Messiah, etc.



Prophecies of Names

- Cyrus of Persia.
 - Isa 44:26-45:1 – who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, "She shall be inhabited," and of the cities of Judah, "They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins"; who says to the deep, "Be dry; I will dry up your rivers"; who says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose"; saying of Jerusalem, "She shall be built," and of the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:



Prophecies of the Messiah

- Prophecies of the Birth
 - To be born of a specific lineage.
 - Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - Isaac (Genesis 17:19)
 - Jacob (Genesis 28:14)
 - Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - David (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
 - The date of His birth.
 - Daniel 9:25 makes it clear that He had to be born before A.D. 30 since that is when Daniel's 69 weeks would expire (445 B.C. – A.D.30).
 - The place of His birth.
 - Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - The supernatural birth of a virgin.
 - Genesis 3:15 (Seed of the woman).
 - Isaiah 7:14 (The virgin will be with child).

Prophecies of the Messiah

- Prophecies of His life on earth. To be a Savior and Deliver (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53).
 - His Deity (Isaiah 7:14 – God with us; 9:6-7 – mighty God; Micah 5:2 – eternal origin).
 - To be preceded by a messenger (Malachi 3:1a; Isaiah 40:3-5).
 - To be a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15).
 - To be a priest (1 Samuel 2:35; Psalm 110:4).
 - To be a king (Genesis 49:10; Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2; Isaiah 2:1-4).

Prophecies of the Messiah

- Prophecies of His death.
 - Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)
 - Falsely accused (Psalm 35:11)
 - Spit upon (Isaiah 50:6)
 - Pierced (Psalm 22:16-17)
 - Ridiculed (Psalm 22:6-7)
 - Forsaken of God (Psalm 22:1)
 - Bones not broken (Psalm 34:20)
 - Silent before the accusers (Isaiah 53:7)
 - To die with the wicked (Isaiah 53:9)
 - Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)
 - To be a sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 53:5-6,12)

Prophecies of the Messiah

- Prophecies of His resurrection.
 - Psalm 16:10 – will not undergo decay or be abandoned to the Pit.
 - Isaiah 53:12 – After His death, He receives many as His portion. Therefore, He must be alive.



Prophecies Concerning Nations

- Babylon would fall and be uninhabited.
 - Isaiah 13:19-22 – And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance. Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged.
- The fall of Nineveh was predicted at its height.
 - Zephaniah 2:13 – And he will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, and he will make Nineveh a desolation, a dry waste like the desert.

Prophecies Concerning Nations

- The fall of Tyre.
 - Ezekiel 26:3-5 therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. They shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers, and I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock. She shall be in the midst of the sea a place for the spreading of nets, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD. And she shall become plunder for the nations,
- Prophecies about Israel.
 - They would be blessed – Genesis 12:3
 - They would endure as a people – Jeremiah 33:25
 - They would be horrifically punished for breaking the covenant – Deuteronomy 28.

Convicting, Convincing, and Converting Power

- The Bible changes lives.
 - It changed mine.
- It convicts.
 - You don't see it in bars and nightclubs.
- In the last 2,000 years, MILLIONS of lives have been transformed by this book. No other book can claim this.
- It is also the book most attacked.



Inexhaustible

- The Bible is inexhaustible.
 - You can never reach the cap of what it teaches. You can always go deeper.
 - Since God is infinite, His word is infinitely inexhaustible.

Unity of Plurality

- There clearly is a unified message in the Bible that centers of Jesus Christ and redemption of sinners.
- Yet, consider the following:
 - At least 36 authors.
 - Written over a period of 1,600 years (1450 B.C. to A.D. 100).
 - Written in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
 - Written on three continents spreading over 2,000 miles.
 - Authors come from a diversity of occupations and backgrounds.
 - They did not know they were writing an anthology.
- Yet, you have a united and non-contradictory message.

Unity of Diversity

- Counter Example:
 - *Great Books of the Western World*.
 - It has 450 works, by nearly 100 authors, spanning 2,500 years.
 - These are the greatest minds of the West.
 - Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Hobbes, Spinoza, Calvin, Rousseau, Shakespeare, Hume, Kant, Darwin, Tolstoy, Whitehead, and Joyce, etc.
 - For the most part, they all were from the same class (intelligentsia) and had less occupational diversity.
- The anthology is pathetic – contradictions and no united theme.

Unity of Diversity

- The *Great Books of the Western World*, were focused on science and philosophy.
- The Bible books are focused on a variety of subjects. Yet, there is unity in the Bible, but not in the worldly anthology.
- This can only come from God.
 - God Himself is a unity of diversity.
 - So too is His Word.

Demonstration of the Diversity.

Person	Occupation	Genre	Books
Moses	Politician	History	Historical Narratives and Torah
David	Shepherd/King	Biography	Gospels
Samuel	Prophet	Hygiene/Holiness	Leviticus
Peter	Fishermen	Poetry	Psalms
Isaiah	Politician	Theology	Epistles
Luke	Physician	Prophecy	Daniel
Matthew	Tax Collector	Letters	Paul's Epistles
Paul	Theologian	Psychology	Ecclesiastes
Amos	Herdsmen	Genealogy	Chronicles
Joshua	General		
Job	Businessman		
Nehemiah	Butler/Cupbearer		
Jeremiah	Prophet		

Trans-cultural Appeal of the Message

- Universal appeal throughout time.
 - Always relevant, no matter the era.
- Appeals to all nations, tribes, and tongues.
 - It is translatable into all languages.
- Appeals to the rich and poor, old and young.
- No other book can come close to claiming this.
 - Compare Islam.



Unmistakable Honesty of the Scriptures

- Authors record their own misdeeds.
- They record the sinful actions of the heroes of the faith.
- Humans will mess up, so God wants our eyes off of man and fixed upon Him.
- What does this prove? The sinfulness of the writers proves:
 - The unity, cohesiveness, and non-contradictory nature of the Bible are truly the work of God

Bible Figure	Sins Recorded
Noah	Drunkenness
Abraham	Lied about his wife
Moses	Pride
Eli	Undisciplined and wicked sons
David	Adultery / Murder
Solomon	300 wives, 700 concubines, and apostasy
Elijah	Ran from Jezebel
Peter	Denied the Lord and was a hypocrite.
Thomas	Doubter
Paul	Cursed the High Priest

Conclusion

- Bibliology is the Study of the Bible
- God reveals Himself in two ways
 - General and Special Revelation
 - General is enough to condemn ; Special is the only type that can save.
- The Bible is reliable.
 - As such, it is the final rule and authority for faith and practice for the Christian.