

12 PROOFS THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

ACKNOWLEDGING THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF THE BOOK GOD INSPIRED

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

~ Romans 10:17

Questioning the Word of God

- a. The first question in the Bible, "Hath God said?"
- b. Only 2 of 10 Americans believe the Bible is the actual word of God to be taken literally.
- c. Proof is demanded, but how do you prove what someone said without knowing them?
- d. God is not required to prove to us - "In the beginning God" "don't tempt the Lord" "him only shalt thou serve" "that they should seek the Lord, if haply..."
- e. Which comes first, faith or scriptures? Yes – Rom 1:20, 1Th 2:13, 1Cor 2:14, Heb 11:6, 3
- f. We should not believe a *book* to be God's words without having heard it - Rom 10:17
- g. Before we can judge, we must know the God we are listening for.

Qualifying Criteria

- a. These qualities are necessary but are also in common with uninspired books.
- b. Relatively few books qualify as candidates for divine inspiration.
- c. Self-proclaimed – 2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:21, 2 Sam 23:2 - "Thus saith the Lord" – 1500x
- d. Historicity – It gives accurate history over a long period (1400 yrs, 2000 yrs ago)
- e. Miracles – creation, divine intervention, supernatural - 1 Kings 18:36, John 3:2
- f. Veracity – It speaks truth of man, sin, justice, good, love, wisdom (Solomon, Jesus)
- g. Much of the battle over the Bible is to disqualify it for consideration. John 3:12
- h. *What are unique qualities that mark the Bible as being the word of the Lord?*

1. It's Brevity

- a. 789,000+ words, 31,102 verses, 66 books. (Vedas = billion verses) – Ecc 5:3, Pro 15:2
- b. The length is diminished when we consider the variety of genres (history, poetry, law)
- c. It says so much in so few words (consider the epistles, proverbs, etc.)

2. It's Simplicity

- a. It excels in this area - Ps 19:7-9, 119:100, 130
- b. Children can learn from it, but its wisdom is deep – 2 Tim 3:15, Rom 11:33
- c. The genius of invention is found in the simplest designs. Wisdom = brevity.

3. Israel

- a. The book was created by the God of one small despised scattered nation. Deu 7:7
- b. It did not prevail due to the faithfulness or the historical success of Israel, yet Isa 40:8
- c. It is a national record of sin, corruption, downfall, judgment, and salvation of a nation.

4. General Prophecies

- a. God owns prophecy (none else) - Isa 41:22-23, 46:9-10
- b. Prophecies to Abraham – Gen 12-16, Josh 21:43-45
- c. Prophecies made and fulfilled in the book itself (eg Jericho, Edom, Tyre, Egypt)

5. Prophecy of the Fall of Babylon

- a. Made before Babylon was an empire that ruled the world, before its rise.
- b. The prophecy made about the empire that would destroy them (Medes) – Isa 13:17
- c. The name of the king who would conquer Babylon (not yet born 100 yrs) – Isa 45:1
- d. Also in this prophecy is the year it would occur, and the strategy to do it.

6. Prophecies of Empires

- a. Daniel prophecies the rise and fall of empires before they occurs
- b. The book of Daniel prophecies the rise of the Persian, Greek, Roman empires.
- c. Daniel prophecies Alexander the Great before his birth, his rise and fall. Dan 8:21, 11:2

7. Prophecy of Israel's Return

- a. Jeremiah prophesied the fall of Jerusalem, and its return in 70 yrs. Jer 29:10, Dan 9:2
- b. The prophets detail the return of Jerusalem/Israel, necessary for Jesus/Christianity.

8. Prophetic Types

- a. These prophecies concern the writing of history that foreshadows the future
- b. This requires the inspiration be of God, since the writer could not know it
- c. "as... so" – Joseph, David, Jonah, Solomon - Col 2:17, Acts 7:9, 51-52, Heb 11:19

9. Prophetic Knowledge

- a. Wisdom and knowledge not knowable until much later by men
- b. The beginning of the earth – Gen 1:1, number of stars – Jer 33:22
- c. Wind/water cycle – Ecc 1:6-7, paths of the seas – Ps 8:8
- d. Health, quarantine, sanitation, marriage, technology (geckos, turbine fins, DNA)
- e. Unknown OOP – spiritual things, angels, dragons, Ecc 11:5

10. Prophecies in the Time of Jesus

- a. Prophecies concern king Herod (at the time of Jesus' birth)
- b. Prophecies require Israel will be under Roman rule.

11. Prophecies of Jesus (Messianic)

- a. Daniel prophesied when the Messiah would come to the year – Daniel 9
- b. Details of his life that could not be managed: birth, time, his cousin, his betrayal.
- c. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus was prophesied in detail: crucifixion, nails in the hands and feet, who was around him, how long he would be dead. Ps 22, Isa 53

12. Wisdom of God in a Mystery

- a. Prophecy was only in part until the will of God in mystery was revealed – 1 Cor 13:9
- b. The gospel of Jesus Christ with its love, grace, manifest wisdom – 1 Cor 2:7
- c. When you rightly divide, it opens your eyes – Eph 1:18, Eph 3:10-11, 2 Tim 2:7
- d. The word of the Lord endures forever, it is for us to hear it and believe unto salvation.