

How can you tell the Bible is true?



The Bible makes assertions that have proven to be true, silencing its highest critics. It is the only ancient writing that can be verified historically, physically, and philosophically. Ask yourself this question, the bible contains 66 books and was written by 40 authors over a span of 1500 years; its scriptures contain historical, prophetic, philosophical thinking, theological thinking, and systematic thinking yet its content is very accurate. The scriptures bring to light God's prophetic scheme all the way down to the person of Jesus Christ; and to the end of the world. No other historical document can make this claim.

Here are some prophetic claims written in the bible:

Daniel 7: 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. **3** And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. **4** The first was like a **lion (Great Britain)**, and had **eagle's wings (U.S. symbol)**

I beheld till the **wings** thereof were **plucked**, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a **man (Uncle Sam)**, and a **man's heart** was given to it. (*United States of America – a humanitarian nation*) Daniel 7: 2 - 4



In studying the book of Daniel, Chapter 7, you can clearly see the United States, Great Britain, and Russia unfold in this prophetic vision. You will also notice that Jesus Christ will return to earth during the lifetime of these nations. This amazing book was written in 165 B.C.; yet it describes an accurate account of the history of our nation and the declaration of Independence from Great Britain. No doubt that God knew long ago that there will be a need for a Christian Nation who would be instrumental in promoting the Gospel. Don't you think that a nation like ours will be under scrutiny from Satan, because of our position with God? And don't you think that Satan's best defense is to corrupt our social order, our laws, our government, and even our churches? History has proven that when our social order becomes corrupted, *truth* is no longer a reality – *anything goes!*

There is no other ancient document that has the historical support than the Bible:

1. The Old Testament includes about sixty different prophecies concerning Jesus.
2. The Old Testament has more than 300 references, of the coming of the Messiah.
3. It was through the fulfillment of these prophecies that Israel was told she would be able to recognize the true Messiah when He came.
4. The four gospels record several times when Jesus said that He was fulfilling a prophecy of the Old Testament. Luke 24:27: *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."* Jesus made documented claims as being the truth ... *"I am the way, the truth, and the life:"* John 14: 6.

Three Common Myths about the Bible

Myth 1: The bible is hard to understand, or study.

If the bible was hard to understand, then God would not have encouraged us to study his word. Jesus said “*Search the scriptures; for in them ye **think** ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*” (John 5:39)

- II Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself **approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**”

Myth 2: You have to go to a religious seminary to understand the bible.

If only those who attend religious seminary could understand the bible, then the Apostle Paul would not have prayed for the church of ordinary believers to receive a “*spirit of wisdom and revelation*” in the knowledge of Christ.

- Ephesians 1: 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the **spirit of wisdom** and **revelation** in the **knowledge** of him: 18 The eyes of your **understanding** being **enlightened**; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Myth 3: The English bible has been translated so many times that it lost its true meaning.

This is a common misconception. Some people think that the Bible was written in one language, translated to another language, then translated into yet another and so on until it was finally translated into the English. The truth is the bible was translated from the original language into our English language. It is a one-step process and not a series of steps that can lead to corruption.

- Psalm 119: 89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.
- Revelation 22: 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ have been verified by many scholars

When you consider that many of the prophecies concerning Jesus coming into the world have been verified by historians and scholars; its truth claims need no further scrutiny. You must admit that the story of Jesus is an amazing story. In fact, during the early days of the church a man named Theophilus, who was a high government official, assigned an historian/physician named Luke to verify such claims. Luke, who credited for writing the Book of Luke, and the Book of Acts, confirmed emphatically that Jesus Christ was that person whom the prophets spoke about. Interestingly, there are over 300 undisputable prophetic claims concerning Jesus Christ in the Old Testament alone. Since we know that these prophecies can be verified; we must also conclude that they were planned events by an intelligent being, a higher mind, immeasurable wisdom, foreknowledge, supreme thinking, etc ... sounds like God?

Here is a glimpse of prophecies concerning Jesus.

- Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a **child is born**, unto us a **son** is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his **name** shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Written 780 BC)
- Isaiah 53: 4 Surely he hath **borne our griefs**, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God**, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his **stripes we are healed**. (Written 780 BC)
- Jeremiah 23: 5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous **Branch**, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. (Written 630 BC).

Why did Jesus come into the world?

Why did Jesus come into this world? When asked this question a wave of answers may flow through your mind ranging from to *“fulfill Old Testament prophecies”* to *“saving the world.”* Did you know that Jesus answered this question himself? The gospels records that during Jesus trial he states *“You are right in saying I am a king... for this **reason I was born**, and for this I **came into the world**, to **testify to the truth**. Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.”*

There are two powerful claims made by Jesus; once understood will change your life forever:

1. “I came into the world, to **testify to the truth**”, which strongly implies that truth was on trial. God’s truth is constantly scrutinized by philosophy, science, education, religious tradition, Governmental policies, evolution, ideology, humanism, and other world systems.
2. “Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me”, which strongly implies that there is another side to truth – deception!

Deception and lies opposes truth

Deception and lies has it origin as far back as the garden of EDOM; where Satan first convinced man to disobey God. Therefore, every sin can be traced to an influence from a lie. Satan, the god of this world, has influence over the worlds’ system; and he keeps men in darkness by his lies. Jesus claim “to testify to the truth” combated Satan’s truth claims and won. In fact, in the Gospel Jesus is recorded as saying “I am the truth”; or “I tell you the truth”; or God Word is “true”. Jesus uses the phrase “Truly” several times in the New Testament.

Jesus presence alone created a battle between the God’s truth claims and lies of the world, the flesh and the devil.

God’s Word is the Source and Final Authority of Truth

Jesus said *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17). The word “sanctify” means to **purify or free from sin**. Jesus did not say “sanctify” them through *“whatever they think”*,

but He said *“through thy truth”*. Jesus undoubtedly makes the claim that the Word of God is that *“truth”*.

- John 4: 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Jesus said that in order to be a *true* worshipper, you must worship in *Spirit* and in *Truth*. Proper worship is a combination of getting involved emotionally, physically, and mentally. Your worship must be equally balanced. Too much emphasis on the *“spiritual”* leads to emotionalism and irrationality. On the other hand, too much emphasis on the *“letter of the law”* leads to carnal formalism. (See I Corinthians 14:31-33; II Corinthians 3:6.)

- John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. . . . And the **Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

This is a very revealing scripture, because you cannot separate a person from his word. They are one and the same, and so it is with God. In the Old Testament, God communicated to us primarily through His written Word and His prophets. In the New Testament, however, God chose to speak to us Himself; how, by becoming the *“living Word”* – in the body of Jesus Christ. The scriptures reveal that God made himself a body and walked among us while at the same time unveiling His saving name – *Jesus!* Therefore, Jesus claim of *“I and my Father are one”* is a truth. (Also see Judges 13:18)

The scriptures give an accurate account of world events.

- Matthew 24: 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the **sign of thy coming**, and of the **end of the world**? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**
- Matthew 24: 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of **wars and rumours of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things **must come to pass**, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**
- Matthew 24: 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the **love of many shall wax cold**. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.
- Revelation 13: 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that **no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark**, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is **Six hundred threescore and six.**

After reading the above scriptures; can you see how these prophetic claims are in operation in our culture?

The Word of God Will Judge You

- Revelation 20:11-12 “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: **and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**”

The Bible says, on judgment day, you will be “*judged out of those things which were written in the books* “. Don’t you think that if you will be judged from the bible that you need to be totally sure that you know and understand what it says about how you can develop a relationship with God? Why is this important? He will look in the book of your life to see if you have obeyed the gospel. The truth is that it is very important to know what the Bible says because the Book, not denominational or personal beliefs, will be the source from which you will be judged.

The Word Cannot Be Changed or Modified

- II Peter 1:20-21 “Knowing this first, that **no prophecy** of the scripture is of any **private interpretation**. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Two people cannot have **different interpretation** of a particular verse of Scripture. Why? Because the Bible very plainly says what it means and means what it says. For example, in math, two plus two equals four no matter who is reading the textbook.

- Revelation 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man **shall add** unto these things, God **shall add** unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man **shall take away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God **shall take away** his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Does Revelation 22 sound serious? Absolutely, neither man nor religion is permitted to **add** or **take away** from God’s Word. Interestingly, this same warning was mentioned after the Ten Commandments were given to Moses. Deuteronomy 4:2 “*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it,...*” To illustrate, if the Bible says that you must wear blue pajamas to go to heaven, then pink, purple or any other color will not do. It doesn’t matter how close the shade of color or if your personal preference is red, you must do exactly what the Bible says—*no more, no less*.

These are pages from my self-teaching book “There is a U in TrUth”. If you are interested in receiving a copy email me at stevep7517@gmail.com.

© Steve Palmer, Pastor: Church on the MOVE ▪ 2805 S. Ohio ▪ Sedalia MO 65301