

Parenting Tools:

**- Is There Any Real
Proof That The Bible Is
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An inspired historical record

Our children are often challenged in times that we are not even aware of. The Bible could be questioned by other children, other parents, or different people at school, so it would be wise to teach them the truth to better equip them to understand their faith. Although some critics have accused the Bible of merely recounting fanciful stories and having no higher merit than that of a classical literary work, this wonderful book has proved to be much more. The Bible gives historical accounts not only of those nations favored by God but also of other historically renowned individuals and nations, allowing the Bible's historical record to be compared with secular histories. The historical accuracy of the Scriptures has been verified repeatedly, proving far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations. As one writer said, "Despite the continuing media assaults on the Bible's claim to be a supernatural revelation from God, evidence from historical inscriptions and manuscripts discovered in the last century proves that the Word of God is inspired."

Accuracy confirmed by ancient texts and archaeological findings

Ancient writings discovered in the past century have revealed that the forty-one kings named in the Old Testament who ruled either Israel or surrounding nations really existed and were not fabricated personalities as some had previously thought. On the contrary, rulers such as David (2 Samuel 5:3), Solomon (1 Kings 4:1), Nebuchadnezzar (1 Kings 24:1), and others have been found to be

actual historical individuals. Amazingly, these discoveries came as an unwelcome surprise to numerous Bible critics, who, in past decades, made accusations against the Scriptures, claiming that these Bible characters were merely mythical people.

In the past, unbelieving scholars have also alleged there are no ancient manuscripts about Jesus outside the New Testament. Such claims have been shown to be absurd and without merit. Writings confirming Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection include, but are not limited to, Flavius Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews* (AD 93), the Babylonian Talmud (AD 70-200), Pliny the Younger's letter to the Emperor Trajan (around AD 100), the Tacitus' *Annals* (AD 115-117), the writings of Mara Bar-Serapion (post AD 73), and Suetonius' "Life of Claudius" and "Life of Nero" (AD 120).

The Bible's record of many historical events has also been confirmed to be accurate. For instance, Diodorus Siculus (90-21 BC), a Greek historian who traveled extensively throughout the Middle East acquiring a vast knowledge of ancient history, spoke of the Exodus in his literary work, *Library of History*. Within his writings, he spoke of "a great plague in Egypt," "many strangers in the land," and described how "these emigrants were led by Moses, who was superior to all in wisdom and prowess." In fact, Siculus' account is not the only one to record the marvelous event of the Exodus. Manetho and Cheremon, two Egyptian priest-scholars, also wrote of the Exodus, the Israelites, and Moses, confirming the historical accuracy of one of the greatest Bible stories ever recorded.

In addition to written history, the unearthing of archeological sites—resulting in discoveries of specific cities, unique individuals, and other ruins—has shed new light on the historical accuracy of the sacred text. In fact, many archeologists and historians have gained enough respect for the Bible's precise record of historical

events that they now use it as a historical guide in their relentless pursuit of lost civilizations.

Today, the Bible remains a reliable guidebook for fascinating discoveries in archeology. From the excavation of Jericho's crumbled walls (Joshua 6:20; Hebrews 11:30) to the discovery of chariot wheel remnants scattered along the seafloor in the Gulf of Aqaba, part of the Red Sea, (Exodus 14:21–25) to the uncovering of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24–29) to the findings related to the house of David, King of Israel (2 Chronicles 8:11)—it is overwhelming to consider the innumerable antiquities constantly found by archeologists that are just as the Scriptures claim.

Another striking proof of the Bible's divine origin is that the Bible recorded several modern principles of science as fact long before science was able to confirm the scientific principles experimentally. At the time the Bible was written, it contradicted many early scientific hypotheses and theories of the era. However, it is amazing that of all the remarkable statements made by the Spirit-guided writers of the Bible regarding the natural realm, not one biblical statement regarding natural phenomena has ever been contradicted by the laws of science or modern scientific discoveries, even though some of the statements seemed ridiculous during the era they were made.

For example, consider the following evidence. The Bible claims that the stars cannot be numbered (Genesis 15:5; 22:17), a fact astronomers did not agree with until 3,000 later. The Scriptures also state that the universe is running down, a discovery not made by man until 2,500 years after it was initially revealed in the Bible (Isaiah 51:6; Psalms 102:26; Romans 8:20 – 21). Regarding the earth, the Bible says it is round (Isaiah 40:22), rotates on an axis (Job

38:12; Luke 17:31-34), and is suspended in the vastness of space (Job 26:7)—amazingly, these biblical statements were made 1,600, 3,550, and 3,600 years, respectively, before scientists were able to prove their validity independently. The Scriptures also foretold that man was made from the same materials as the earth (Genesis 2:8, 3:19, Psalms 103:14) 3,200 years before scientists reached this same conclusion. The Bible states that blood sustains life (Leviticus 17:11), a fact that physicians agreed with 3,300 years after it had already been revealed in Scripture.

Science has proved biblical statements regarding natural phenomena to be scientifically accurate, and these truths have assisted some scientists in their pursuit of knowledge and truth. For example, Matthew Fountain Maury often referred to and accredited as the father of oceanography, simply “took God at His Word” and set out to discover the natural occurrence of oceanic currents as described in the Bible.

A spiritual text that affirms scientific principles of the nature world

Though the Bible often refers to the physical realm, it is not a scientific textbook—its primary concern is with those things that are spiritual. Nevertheless, biblical references to the facts of nature, whether alluded to or specified, are completely in accord with provable, scientific facts.

As in a courtroom, if the testimony is found to be accurate on internal and external grounds, then the case is strong and believable. Based on a careful examination of the evidence, we can confidently conclude: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, 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).