

**IS THE BIBLE REALLY GOD'S WORD?**  
**2 TIMOTHY 3:16 / 1-19-20 / A.M.**

**I. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE GOD'S WORD.**

**2 PETER 1:20-21**

**2 Timothy 3:16**

**II. THE BIBLE IS A UNIQUELY WRITTEN BOOK.**

- A. Comprised of 66 books.
- B. 40 different authors.
- C. Written over 1,500 years.
- D. Written in three different languages—Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.
- E. Written in 13 different countries.
- F. Written on 3 different continents.
- G. Yet for 3,600 hundred years, God's Word continues to survive—Isa. 40:8.

**III. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY IS A FAITHFUL COPY OF THE ORIGINAL?**

- A. There are no original copies of any ancient book, including the Bible.
- B. One line of evidence are the number of copies we have of the Bible.
  - 1. There are 800 copies of Homer's Iliad in existence today.
  - 2. However, there are 5,800 copies of the Bible in existence today including complete books and portions of books.
  - 3. In addition, there are 20,000 fragments of the Bible available today.
- C. Another line of evidence is the timeline between the originals and our copies.
  - 1. For example, Homer wrote the Iliad in 800 B.C. and the oldest copy dates to 400 B.C.
  - 2. The timeline between the originals of the N.T. and copies available today is much shorter.
    - a. The Chester Beatty Papyrus dates to 250 A.D.

- b. The Bodmer Papyrus dates to 200 A.D.
- c. The John Ryland Fragment of John dates to 125 B.C.
- D. How old are our copies of the O.T.?
  - 1. Before 1947 the oldest copy of the O. T. was the Masoretic Text dating to 900 A.D.
  - 2. However, in 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered containing every O.T. book except Esther. These scrolls date to 100 B.C.

#### IV. **SCIENTIFICALLY, THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE.**

- A. We must admit that the Bible isn't a science book.
- B. However, there other several things the Bible says that are scientifically correct. For example.
  - 1. Genesis 1:1 says the universe had a beginning.
  - 2. Jeremiah 33:22 says the stars are countless.
  - 3. Isaiah 40:22 says the earth is a circle.
  - 4. Isaiah 42:5 says the universe is expanding.
  - 5. Job 26:7 says the earth hangs on its own in space.

#### V. **THE BIBLE IS ARCHAEOLOGICALLY ACCURATE.**

- A. For example, archaeology has confirmed the existence of hundreds of cities mentioned in the Bibl.
- B. Four archaeological discoveries are worth citing.
  - 1. **"The Cylinder of Nabonidus"** discovered in 1854 confirms that Belshazzar was a coregent with Nabonidus and thus the last king of Babylon confirming Daniel 5.
  - 2. **"The Pilate Stone"** was discovered in 1961 in Northern Israel confirming that Pontus Pilate was governor in Israel when Jesus was crucified.
  - 3. **"The Caiaphas Ossuary"** was discovered in 1990 confirming that he was the high priest when Jesus was crucified.
  - 4. **"The Heel Bone of a Crucified Man"** discovered in 1968 is the only confirmation the Romans practiced crucifixion as a form of capital punishment at the time of Jesus.

VI. **PROPHETICALLY THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE.**

- A. Over one-fourth of the Bible is made of prophecies and two-thirds of these have already been fulfilled.
- B. Josh McDowell writes that the Bible contains 61 prophecies relating to Jesus alone, which Jesus fulfilled during his life time. Prophecies like...
  - 1. Micah 5:2—born in Bethlehem.
  - 2. Isaiah 7:14—born of a virgin.
  - 3. Isaiah 40:3—proceeded by a messenger.
  - 4. Isaiah 53:3—rejected by his own people.
  - 5. Psalms 22—crucified.
  - 6. Zechariah 12:10—pierced in his side.
  - 7. Psalms 16:10—resurrected.
- C. Statistician Peter Stoner in his book, **“Science Speaks”** calculated the probability of Jesus fulfilling just 8 prophecies at one hundred million billion. That’s 1 followed by 17 zeros.