

**IS THE BIBLE FAKE NEWS?
2 TIMOTHY 3:16 / 4-22-18 / A.M.**

I. FIRST, THE BIBLE, ITSELF, CLAIMS TO BE GOD'S WORD.

- A. For example—2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.
- B. These verses and many others preclude the possibility that mankind considers the Bible something it never claims for itself.

II. THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY IS JUST AS RELIABLE AS WHEN IT WAS FIRST WRITTEN.

- A. This is a huge, if not arrogant claim, given the fact the Bible consists of 66 different books, written over a period of 1,500 years, by 40 authors, on three different continents and in three languages.
- B. How can we be confident that the Bible we read today is the same Bible that was originally written?
 - 1. For comparison there are 643 copies of Homer's Iliad in existence today.
 - 2. What about the Old Testament?
 - a. We have no original copy today. The oldest copy of the O.T. we have dates to 900 AD.
 - b. In 1947 the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in caves near the Dead Sea. These scrolls are 1,000 years older than any of our existing O.T. manuscripts.
 - 3. What about the New Testament?
 - a. Remember there are 643 copies of Homer's Iliad in existence today.
 - b. Compare this with the fact we have nearly 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the N.T. today and nearly 19,000 translations in other languages.

III. IS THERE ANY EXTERNAL EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE?

- A. Let me share two external evidences cited by Dr. Adrian Rogers, who before his death was the pastor of the 29,000 member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN.
- B. Dr. Rogers said, "I believe the Bible is the Word of God because of its scientific accuracy." Then he listed two verses of scripture to prove his point—Job 26:7 and Isa. 40:22a.
- C. Dr Rogers also said, "I believe the Bible is the Word of God because of its historical accuracy—Daniel and Belshazzar.

IV. PROPHECY IS STRONG INTERNAL EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE.

A. There are more than 300 prophecies concerning Jesus in the O. T. that he fulfilled in the N.T. For example...

1. Born in Bethlehem—Micah 5:2.
2. Proceeded by a Messenger (John the Baptist)—Isa. 40:3-4; Micah 3:1.
3. Betrayed by a friend—Ps. 41:9.
4. Sold for Thirty pieces of silver—Zech. 11:12.
5. The silver pieces to be used to buy a field for the poor to be buried—Zech. 11:13.
6. Mocked and ridiculed before crucifixion—Ps. 22:7
7. Hands and feet pierced—Psa. 22:16
8. Clothes divided among his accusers—Ps. 22:18,
9. Crucified—Zech 12:10.
10. Buried in a rich man tomb—Isa. 53:9.
11. Resurrected from the dead—Psa. 16:8-11.

B. What are the mathematical probabilities that one man could fulfill all 300 prophecies?
Peter Stoner in "Science Speaks" (Moody, 1963)....

1. The probability that one man could fulfill just 8 prophecies are 1 in 10¹⁷ (1 with 17 zeroes behind it).
2. The probability that one man could fulfill just 48 prophecies are 1 in 10¹⁵⁷ (1 with 157 zeros behind it).