

## How Do You Know the Bible Is God's Word?

### Introduction:

- A. The question "how you do know the Bible is God's word?" is an important one to ask and even more relevant, an important one to be able to answer.
1. Without the word of God there is no faith in Him (**Romans 10:17**).
  2. There would be no evidence for our faith to be based upon (**Hebrew 11:1**).
- B. God promised, in what we know of as His word, to preserve His word:
1. **Isaiah 40:8** *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."*
  2. **Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, and Luke 21:33** *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*
  3. **I Peter 1:23-25** *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."*
- C. Realizing the preservation of the Scriptures is significant, because we understand that the word of God brings salvation:
1. **John 6:63** *"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."*
  2. **James 1:21** *"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted [implanted] word, which is able to save your souls."*

### I. How We Got the Bible in English Today (A Historical Account)

#### A. Timeline:

1. Sometime near 1500 - 1400 B.C. we have the books of Moses written (Genesis – Deuteronomy).
2. Around 95-96 A.D. the book of Revelation was completed finalizing the writing of what we have as the Bible.
3. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. Both have a little Aramaic within them.
4. Around 250 B.C. the LXX (Septuagint) was penned - being a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. This document serves as some of the best evidence of the reliability of the texts we have today.
5. In A.D. 70 a devout sect of the Jews (the Essenes) buried hundreds of scrolls in caves just prior to the fall of Jerusalem (later found [1947-1950] and known as the "Dead Sea Scrolls").
6. During about 98 A.D. through 490 A.D. there was an Aramaic translation (The Targums).
7. Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. there were Aramaic, Greek, Syriac, Latin, Coptic, Gothic, Armenian, Georgian, and Ethiopic translations of the word of God.
  - Prior to invention of the movable type printing press in 1455 by Gutenberg, all copies of the Bible were hand copied by scribes and were called manuscripts. Because they were individually produced by human hands, they were prone to mistakes in manual copying.
8. 1383 A.D. Wycliffe's Bible was the first English translation and was taken from the Latin Vulgate.
9. 1525-1526 A.D. William Tyndale translated the New Testament in a complete modern English version. He died in 1536 while translating the Old Testament.
10. 1535 Miles Goverdale completed and published the first complete English version of the Old and New Testament using much of Tyndale's work in the New Testament.
11. 1537 John Rogers does "Matthew's Bible" based upon the work of Goverdale and Tyndale.
12. 1539 Coverdale does of Revision of Rogers "Matthew's Bible" calling it the Great Bible.
13. 1560 The Geneva Bible is produced by Protestant scholars in Geneva.
14. 1568 The Bishop's Bible was done under the authority of the Church of England.

15. 1582 and 1609-1610 Rheims / Douai translation was done as the English - Roman Catholic version of the Latin Vulgate.

16. 1611 The King James Version of the Bible was published (NOT WHAT CIRCULATES TODAY; the version widely used today is the **1769** edition).

17. From 1885 through today many more translations have occurred into English.

B. Historical evidence of the authenticity of the Scriptures:

1. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the caves at Qumran, Israel, an ancient Essene community, now in ruins. The scrolls were found in 1947 and more in 1950, in multiple Qumran caves. These scrolls have been dated between 150 – 100 B.C.

a. About 800 scrolls have been identified to date.

b. These scrolls reveal that the English translation of such versions as the KJV and NKJV are over 99 % reliable with the majority of errors found being grammatical or slips of the pen in the manuscripts (none of which are doctrinally disputable errors).

2. About 5,000 copies of the Greek text of the New Testament exist in safekeeping around the world. The great majority of these are identical or almost identical to the "Received Text" (also called "Majority Text," "Textus Receptus," or "Byzantine text") opposed to the Westcott and Hort texts.

3. The Septuagint written about 250 B.C. continues to be proof of the reliability of the O.T. texts we have today.

4. Ryland Papyrus (A.D. 115 -125) shows the reliability of authorship and work of John in fragments.

5. Bodmer Papyri (A.D. 150- 200) shows reliability of portions of the Gospel accounts of Luke and John.

6. Chester Beatty Papyri (2<sup>nd</sup> century) shows major portions of the full New Testament and confirms their reliability.

7. Codex Vaticanus (Early 300's) nearly complete copy of the Bible written in Greek from manuscripts of old, again affirming the reliability of today's texts.

8. The Vulgate (400 A.D.) Jerome used Greek and Hebrew manuscripts of the ancient texts to form what was and still is a standard of texts (used in translating the KJV).

9. Ralph O. Muncaster writes: "Having more surviving early manuscripts means having more cross-checks to verify accuracy. Today's Bible is verified to a textual certainty of 99.5 percent, compared with the 95 percent for the BEST of other ancient works." (Page 27; Can You Trust the Bible)

\*\*Sources (History of the Bible; Robert R. Webb – The Canon of Scriptures; F.F. Bruce – Can You Trust the Bible; Ralph O. Muncaster – Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions).

## II. Textual Evidences Showing the Word of God is True and from the Lord

A. Evidences of God's supreme knowledge and understanding (the point – man could not have forged a document with that which he had no knowledge of):

1. OCEANOGRAPHY

a. Paths of the sea not found until 1927 by the US Naval Institute: **Psalms 8:8** "The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas."

b. Fresh water springs in the ocean found in 1976 by the US Geological Survey: **Job 38:16** "Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? Or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?"

c. In 1876 the Challenger Expedition found recessed (Channels) in the Ocean: **II Samuel 22:16** "And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, At the rebuking of the Lord, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils."

2. Meteorology: In 1690 Pierre Perrault and Edme Mariotte found water cycles that formed the rain from large bodies of water:

- a. **Ecclesiastes 1:7** *"All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again."*
- b. **Ecclesiastes 11:3** *"If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be."*
- c. **Amos 9:6** *"It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: the Lord is his name."*

3. Biology:

- a. The fact that the life of the flesh is in the blood was not found until the late 1800's: **Leviticus 17:11; 14** *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. 14. For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off."*
- b. In 1935 Prof. H. Dam realized that babies blood clot abilities (VIT. K) is best on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth: **Genesis 17:12** *"And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed."*

4. ASTRONOMY: The Earth is round was found by Christopher Columbus 1492: **Isaiah 40:22** *"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."*

B. Consistency of prophecies and their fulfillments (Just a few of MANY):

- 1. Christ would be crucified with the transgressors: **Isaiah 53:12** *"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."* Fulfilled: **Matthew 27:38**
- 2. Christ would be pierced and lots cast for His garments: **Psalms 22:16; 18** *"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. 18. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."* Fulfilled: **Matthew 27:31; 27:35** – btw, crucifixion was not practiced by the Romans during this 600 - 1,000 years before it occurred prophesy of David about the death of Christ.
- 3. Gall and vinegar: **Psalms 69:21** *"They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."* Fulfilled: **Matthew 27:34**
- 4. Triumphant entry to Jerusalem: **Zechariah 9:9** *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."* Fulfilled: **Matthew 21:4-5**

C. Jesus and the Apostles quoted from the O.T.:

- 1. **Matthew 13:13-15 (Isaiah 6:9-10)** *"Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."*
- 2. **Romans 9:27 (Isaiah 10:22)** *"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved."*
- 3. **I Peter 2:6 (Isaiah 28:16)** *"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."*

- D. The word of God also includes eye witness testimony, as yet another - historically proven evidence:
1. **Acts 3:13-15** *"The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses."*
  2. **Acts 10:38-39** *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree."*

### III. The Word of God is Inspired, All-Sufficient, Inerrant, and Complete

#### A. Inspired [God-breathed]:

1. **II Timothy 3:16**
2. **II Samuel 23:2** *"The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."*
3. **Jeremiah 1:9** *"Then the Lord put forth his hand, And touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."*
4. **Matthew 10:19-20** *"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."*
5. **I Corinthians 2:9-13**
6. **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."*

#### B. All-Sufficient:

1. **II Timothy 3:17** *"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*
2. **John 20:30-31** *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*
3. **II Peter 1:3** *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."*
4. You need nothing else, and anything outside of is sinful – **Galatians 1:6-12**

#### C. Inerrant (without error):

1. **Psalms 12:6** *"The words of the Lord are pure [clean; without corruption] words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."*
2. **Proverbs 30:5** *"Every word of God is pure [tried; tested]: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."*
3. The word of God is truth (**John 17:17**); if there are any mistakes it is in translation!

#### D. Final – complete:

1. We have been "thoroughly furnished [equipped]" (**II Timothy 3:17**).
2. The word has been "was once delivered unto the saints" (**Jude 3**).
3. There is to be no change to what God has written:
  - a. **Deuteronomy 4:2** *"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."*
  - b. **Luke 4:4** *"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every** word of God."*
  - c. **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."*

#### IV. The Version Questions Asked and Answered

A. We must realize that while the original text was inspired there are many translations of that text that fall very short, and no translator is inspired.

1. Some translations make an effort to use Dynamic Equivalence as a method of translation which results in: *"The first concern of the translators has been the accuracy of the translation and its faithfulness to the meaning of the biblical writers. This has moved the translators to strive for more than a word-for-word rendering of the original texts. Because thought patterns and syntax differ from language to language..."* – NIV and TNIV Preface.

2. The 54 KJV translators had a purpose to use a superior method in translating called formal equivalency. Formal Equivalence, sometimes called Verbal Equivalence is a method of translation, which takes the Greek, and Hebrew words and renders them as closely as possible into English. The NKJV follows this method as well.

3. Common sense and Bible knowledge will help you identify unreliable versions of the Bible! - Let us see how:

B. NIV:

1. **NIV Psalms 51:5** *"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."*

a. Sin is breaking God's Law: **I John 3:4**

b. Sin is not passed on: **Ezekiel 18:20** *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."*

c. Man causes himself to be a sinner Ecclesiastes 7:29 *"Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."*

d. Sin has do be done by someone realizing right and wrong: **James 4:17** *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*

e. Can a baby sin? God says that we are to become as these little children not little sinners **Matthew 18:3**.

2. **NIV Romans 10:10** *"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

3. **NIV John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

4. The NIV completely removes these verses and skips over them to the next numbered verse (**Matthew 17:21; 18:11; 23:14, Mark 7:16; 9:44; 9:45; 9:46; 11:26; 15:28; 16:10-20, Luke 23:17, John 5:4; Acts 8:37; 15:34; 24:7; 28:29, and Romans 16:24. - NIV John 7:52** [[The earliest and most reliable manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have **John 7:53-8:11.**]] - but, it is still quoted there.

5. How are the NIV translators any different than Jehoiakim (**Jeremiah 36:2-4; 16-23**).

C. NASB preface: "In the history of the English Bible translations, the King James Version is the most prestigious." - Why look to replace it THEN?

1. The NASB uses "immorality" in places like **Matthew 19:9** instead of "fornication"

2. **NASB Amos 3:3** *"Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?"*

3. **NASB Romans 10:10** *"for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*

4. **NASB Matthew 5:17** *“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.”* **OR NASB Ephesians 2:15** *“by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace.”*

D. Taking the virgin out and just making Mary a young woman:

1. **RSV Isaiah 7:14** *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el.*

2. **NRSV Isaiah 7:14** *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”*

#### **Conclusion:**

A. We are to walk by faith (**II Corinthians 5:7**).

1. That faith needs to be based upon evidence (**Hebrews 11:1**).

2. If we do not know the Bible is the word of God how can we teach others it will save them (**Romans 1:16**)?

B. **Romans 10:11** *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”*

1. If you know the facts of the existence of God you will boldly proclaim them!

2. If not, you will be lost (**John 8:24**).

C. There is no 100 % correct translation of the word of God, but there are a couple versions that stand far above the rest (KJV and NKJV).

1. The word of God says that truth will set you free (John 8:32).

2. Truth does not come by way of perversion!

3. There is a reason the devil wants many modern translations: **Luke 8:12** *“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”*