

**TITLE: THE VALIDITY OF THE BIBLE (Christian Evidences #4)**

**TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17**

**THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to show evidence from the scriptures that Bible IS inspired.**

**INTRO:** Christian Evidences, by definition, gives us evidences for why we should be Christians.

1<sup>st</sup> – we provided the evidence for the existence of God (Cosmological, Teleological, Moral Arguments)

2<sup>nd</sup> – we disproved the “theory” of evolution, showing that it can’t even be a hypothesis, much less a theory.

So, since we’ve proven God’s existence (by nature, not by scripture) and that He created everything in this world, including mankind (again by nature, not by scripture), we must next determine if He has attempted to communicate with His creation. He must have had a purpose for creating us. What was it? As His creation, we would certainly expect that He would’ve let us know why He did it and what it is that He wants from us.

We started discussing the existence of God by commenting that the best evidence for the existence of God is the Bible itself. Now we will look at this further. Is the Bible from God? If not, it carries little if any weight. But if so, then we must do what it says. Why do we believe the Bible is from GOD?

## **I. Because of what is NOT in the Bible:**

### A. Ideas regarding origins

1. Egyptian teaching during Moses’ time: Earth was hatched from a winged egg, that frogs and toads arose from silt deposited by the Nile River, and that man was produced from white worms that crawled in the river’s slime.
2. The Earth was balanced on the back of a huge turtle, floating in a giant cosmic sea.
3. The Chaldeans believed that the Earth was a sleeping monster, covered with feathers and scales (trees and rocks), and that man was merely vermin on that monster.
4. The Babylonians believed that man was a product of a strange spitting monster. A monster roamed the earth and wherever it spit, a man came up. And wherever a man would spit, a woman came up.
5. Aristotle taught that insects and worms were born out of dewdrops and slime, that mice were generated by dank soil, and that eels and fish were produced by algae (spontaneous generation). (Louis Pasteur disproved this later).

\*\*If the Bible were written by men alone, these things would be the view of the Biblical writers.

**Moses** was schooled in Pharaoh’s house. As the writer of the Pentateuch, we should expect that these views regarding origins would be his views also. Yet his writings are completely different that what he would have been taught!

- ### B. The Bible has no contradictions. (Contradiction is two or more statements that *cannot* be brought into harmony.)
- The Bible is a book of 66 books, written by about 40 different authors over a period of 1600 years. These 40 authors were from every walk of life (shepherds, farmers, fishermen, scribes, poets, doctors, and even kings). They were written from different countries, social backgrounds, etc., but yet it still has one central theme and never contradicts itself. Can you imagine asking a banker from NY, surfer from LA, farmer from OK to write an essay on US history...imagine the contradictions! And these would all be writing at the same time!

- Death of Jesus – Psalm 22:16-18 (1000 yrs before), harmonizes with Mt 27:35

## **II. Because of what IS in the Bible:**

- ### A. The unity of the Bible (again, no contradictions; rather the writings harmonize. What are the chances of that happening?)
- ### B. The Bible claims to be God’s word
1. **2 Tim 3:16**
  2. **1 Cor 14:37** – The things which I write unto you...they are the commandment of the Lord
  3. “Word of the Lord” – 255; “word of God” – 48; “the Lord said” – 219; “God said” – 43; “the Lord spoke” – 144; “God spoke” – 13; “Lord commanded” – 103; “God commanded” – 14; “saith the Lord” – 815; “saith God” – 4; “commandment(s) of the Lord” – 56; “commandment(s) of God” – 9; “oracles of God” – 3. **Total = 1717! Over 26 times per book of the Bible! (And these examples are not exhaustive)**
- ### C. Historical accuracy – tons of detailed events, places, names, etc. have been mentioned in the Bible.
1. In Luke and Acts, Luke names 32 countries, 54 cities, 9 Mediterranean islands, and 95 people (62 of whom are not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible). These names can be verified. Sir William Ramsey, archaeologist, spoke disrespectfully of Luke as a historian. However, after 10 years of research, he wrote a book in which he described Luke as a historian of first rank.
  2. Gen 16 & 30 – a man has children by his wife’s handmaid because the wife is unable to have children. This seems to be a strange thing. However, the discovery of the Nuzi tablets in modern Iraq showed records on clay tablets (marriage contracts, etc.) showing that this was indeed a practice of the day.
  3. Hittites
  4. In 1861, the French Academy of Science listed 51 facts they knew were true that they believed were in contradiction to the Bible. By the end of the century, every one of these “facts” had been replaced with modern discovery, and the Bible was never wrong.
- ### D. Medical practices –

1. **Lev 17:11-14**—“life of the flesh is in the blood.” Each red blood cell carries about 270 million molecules of hemoglobin, the substance in the cell that carries oxygen. Indeed, life *is* in the blood. But we haven’t known this for long. G. Washington was bled to death by his doctors. In the late 1700’s and early 1800’s, doctors did this because they believed blood contained evil “vapors,” and the only way to remove the vapors was to get rid of some blood. How could Moses have known the truth about blood over 3000 years earlier?
  2. **Deut 23:12-13** – human waste to be buried outside the camp (Bubonic plague; human waste dumped in the streets; the germ was carried from the fleas in the waste to rats on which they jumped, which carried them to the humans; killed 13 million people).
- E. Science – Listen to some of the things in the Bible that were discovered by science centuries later:
1. **Gen 6:15**—dimensions of the ark (30:5:3-length/breadth/height). In 1844, Isambard K. Brunel built his giant ship, the *Great Britain*, using the same ratio. These dimensions turned out to be the perfect ratio for a huge boat built for cargo seaworthiness, and not for speed. During WWII, shipbuilders used this same ratio to build barge-like boats to carry tremendous amounts of cargo. They used what had been established as the perfect ratio. BUT how did Moses know?
  2. **Acts 17:26**—“all men made of one blood”—for many years, scientists believed that blood differed by races.
  3. **1 Cor 15:39** – “one type of flesh for humans and one for animals, etc.” Scientifically, we’ve known that there are differences in tissue for less than 100 years. Yet Paul knew almost 2000 years earlier!
  4. **Jer 33:22** – “as the host of heaven cannot be numbered.” This was written about 2600 years ago. Even now, we still are incapable of numbering the stars.
  5. **Psalm 19:5-6** – “his going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it” (The sun). It used to be believed that the earth was the center of the universe and the sun revolved around the earth.
  6. **Ecc 1:7** – Solomon tells of the water cycle. Again, this was over 2000 years before science discovered it.
  7. **Job 26:7** – the earth hangs from nothing
  8. **Job 38:16** – “springs of the sea” (**Gen 8:2** –fountains of the deep); **Psalm 8:8** – the paths of the seas (currents).
- F. Higher code of ethics – **Matt 7:12**. **Romans 12:20** – Feed your enemy. **Matt 5:44** – pray for your enemies.
- G. Accuracy of Prophecies
1. **Isa 13:19-22 (Jer 50-51)**—destruction of Babylon – told when Babylon was an emerging nation. Isaiah calls it a glorious kingdom, then tells of its destruction. Jeremiah goes into details...
    - a. God would raise an assembly of nations from the north against Babylon (50:9)
    - b. I will dry up her sea & make her springs dry (51:36). The river, which went under the city wall, was rerouted & dried up, giving easy entrance into the city.
    - c. I will make them drunk, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake (51:39). When the soldiers entered the city under the wall, the inhabitants were drunk. The soldiers pretended to be drunk too, and by the time the people realized who they were, all the soldiers were inside the city.
  2. **Isa 44:28** – Cyrus to command the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple. This prophecy is given 150 years before Cyrus was even born. This is fulfilled at the end of **II Chronicles** and **first of Ezra**. Modern explanation is that someone living after Cyrus wrote this and added it to Isaiah’s work. The Dead Sea Scrolls proved this wrong when the entire book of Isaiah was discovered in 1948.
  3. **Eze 26** – 6 prophecies about the fall of Tyre
    - a. Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the city (v. 7-8)
    - b. Many nations would come up against Tyre (v. 3)
    - c. The city would be leveled and scraped clean like a bare rock (v. 4)
    - d. Its stones, timbers, and soil would be cast into the sea (v. 12)
    - e. The surrounding area would become a spot for the spreading of fishermen’s nets (v. 5)
    - f. The city would never be rebuilt to its former glory (v. 14)
 These prophecies were fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, then the Muslims (in 1291).
  4. Isaiah’s Messianic prophecies – Dead Sea Scrolls
  5. **2 Pet 1:20-21** – These prophets knew these things because they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
  6. Dan 2 – the four kingdoms – he knew this 600 years before it happened.
  7. Matt 24 – Jesus foretold of the destruction of Jerusalem.

### III. Because of the NATURE of the Bible:

- A. Indestructible nature of the book.
1. Diocletian wanted to destroy the Bible. He made a decree, that anyone having in their possession any part of the Bible would have all their possessions taken from them, given to the one who reported it, and the Roman army had the right to go through people’s homes at any time and, if anyone was found with one, they could be put to death. Diocletian died in 305 AD.  
 Later, Constantine became the “Christian” emperor of Rome. He brought a decree that said that anyone who wanted a copy of the Bible could have one. Soon after they found 4,000 copies of the Bible. Though death had been decreed to anyone who had a Bible, it obviously hadn’t had the desired effect.
  2. Voltaire, a Frenchman (late 1700’s), was very volatile in his opposition to the Bible. He would declare that by the time he was dead, the Bible would be dead. We still sell approximately 35,000 Bibles per day. The irony is that after his death, Voltaire’s office was later used to make Bibles. **Matt 24:34** (my words shall not pass away).

3. "If there is anything that can destroy the Bible's influence, it would be the apathy of its believers"

B. Possible origins of the Bible.

The Bible exists. There is no arguing this. Who created it?

1. Satanic forces - This is not logical because of how the Bible talks about Satan.
2. Evil men with evil intent - This also is illogical. Why would an evil man write the Bible, condemning himself?
3. Good men with good intentions – This is probably the leading explanation by those who don't believe. However, thousands of times these good men with good intentions say that **God** wrote the Bible!
4. Inspired men of God wrote it. John 14:26 is correct. The Holy Spirit came and brought to the apostles' remembrance the things Jesus had said.

**CONCLUSION:**

The best evidence for the existence of God is the Bible. It's a book that can be examined, analyzed with the senses and determined whether or not it has the marks of inspiration by an omniscient God. The Bible is a book that couldn't have been written by man alone, even if he would; and wouldn't have been written by man alone, even if he could. There are too many rules, restrictions, facts, etc.

**RESULTS OF INSPIRATION**

1. The Bible **IS** the word of God (1 Cor 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Pet 1:20-21)
2. The Bible **CAN** be understood (2 Cor 1:13 – Paul said he wrote what could be read and understood. Eph 5:17 – knowing/understanding the will of the Lord. We can understand it alike.
3. The Bible is a standard by which man will be judged (John 12:48; Rom 2:6, 16; 2 Cor 5:10)