



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

THE 10 SIMPLE PROOFS

A Study in the Trustworthiness of the Bible

A Three Part Series



The Church at Ellerslie
Presented by Eric Ludy

Sunday Morning
September 21, 2014

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THE POSITION AND PREEMINENCE OF THE WORD

Understanding its Supernatural Prominence

KEY TRUTH POINTS

Truth #1 - God's Word is, in fact and in truth, God's Word

The 66 canonized books of Scripture are of Divine origin and bear the very nature of God Almighty (they are pure, holy, unchanging, without lie, and wholly authoritative). What the Word of God says, goes.

When it speaks, the true believer doesn't argue, negotiate, or critique - rather he bends his knee, submits, and says, "Yes, Lord!" There is no other book, outside the Bible, that bears such position, honor, and authority.



Truth #2 - Jesus is God, and is, in fact and in truth, God's Word made Flesh

As God's Word is Truth, so is God's Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. As the Scriptures that testify of Him, He too is of Divine origin. He is God Almighty, revealing the pure, holy, unchanging, guileless, and wholly authoritative nature of Jehovah God. There is no other man, outside of Jesus, that bears such position, honor, and authority.

Your Position on the Word of God Defines Your Response to the Word of God

- ◆ **Above it** - Critique, Correct, Contour it to meet your sensibilities
- ◆ **Equal to it** - Esteem it as good, treat it as friend, bask in its kind phrases, but ignore its call to give up all
- ◆ **Below it** - Believe it with unquestioning fervor, Reckon it with unwavering Faith, and Bend to it with loyal, worshipful devotion

The Crafty Voice

Calling into Question the Obvious Truth

Did God really say that?

- The Serpent

Now the serpent was more subtle (cunning, shrewd, and crafty) than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said?

Genesis 3:1

Hath God said? - KJV

Has God indeed said? - NKJV

Did God really say? - NIV

Did God actually say? - ESV

Indeed, has God said? - NASB

Did God say? - RSV

Is it true that God hath said? - YNG

Now the serpent was more subtle (cunning, shrewd, and crafty) than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said? *Has God indeed said? Did God really say? Did God actually say? Indeed, has God said? Did God say? Is it true that God hath said?*

Genesis 3:1 (expanded)

The Basis of Belief

The Word of God is the Word of God and it CANNOT Lie

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but **as it is in truth, the word of God**, which effectually works also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things (*the great promises declared and an oath given by God to seal the deal*), **in which it was impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope **we have as an anchor of the soul**, both sure and stedfast, and which entered into that within the veil;

Hebrews 6:17-19

God is not a man, that he should lie . . . hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Numbers 23:19

. . . the Strength of Israel **will not lie . . .**

1 Samuel 15:29

. . . **Let God be true**, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou might be justified in thy sayings, and might overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 3:4

The 66 Books of the Bible

a.k.a. - The Word of God

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, **the Word**,
and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

1 John 5:7

λόγος - Logos

Is it Text or is it a Person?

A Brief History of the Logos

wielding the Septuagint

For **the word (the Logos) of the LORD** is right; and all
his works are done in truth. ... By **the word (the Logos) of
the LORD** were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the
breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33:4,6

Logos - Lah-gahs

A word expressed, something spoken, a thing revealed through speech, the vehicle of revelation

In the beginning was **the Word (the Logos)**, and **the Word
(The Logos)** was with God, and **the Word (the Logos)**
was God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any
thing made that was made . . . And **the Word (The Logos)** was
made flesh, and dwelt among us . . .

John 1:1,14

The Revelation of God throughout the Ages

Thy word (Logos) is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:105

In Him (The Logos) was life; and the life was **the light of men**.
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:5

The word (Logos) that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1) . . . Then came **the word (Logos) of the LORD** to Isaiah (Isaiah 38:4) . . . Jeremiah . . . to whom **the word (Logos) of the LORD** came in the days of Josiah (Jeremiah 1:1-2) . . . **The word (Logos) of the LORD** came expressly unto Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:3) . . . **The word (Logos) of the LORD** that came unto Hosea (Hosea 1:1) . . . Now **the word (Logos) of the LORD** came unto Jonah (Jonah 1:1) . . . **The word (Logos) of the LORD** that came to Micah (Micah 1:1) . . . In the second year of Darius the king . . . came **the word (Logos) of the LORD** by Haggai the prophet (Haggai 1:1) . . . In the second year of Darius, came **the word (Logos) of the LORD** unto Zechariah (Zechariah 1:1).

And **the Word (The Logos)** was made flesh, and dwelt among us . . .

John 1:14

The Word of God

Has Been Brought to us in Textual Revelation and in Personal Revelation

The Logos - The Lah-gahs

Jesus Christ, The Word of God, The Vehicle of Revelation, the Perfect Expression of the Father, The Embodiment of the Divine Word of Scripture in Human Form, Jesus Christ

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it suffices us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believe thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwells in me, he does the works.

John 14:7-10

Our Terminology

- The Word (The Logos) of God revealed in Text - *The Scriptures*
- The Word (The Logos) of God revealed in a Person - *Jesus Christ*

Rightly Handling the Word

How We Handle the Word of God in Text, is how we are handling the Word of God in Person, Jesus Christ

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (handling) **the word (the Logos) of truth.**

2 Timothy 2:15

- If we diminish the Word of God in Text, we will diminish the Word of God in Person
- If we challenge the Word of God in Text, we will challenge the Word of God in Person
- If we remove the Divinity from the Word of God in Text, we will remove the Divinity from the Word of God in Person

The Position of the Textual Revelation is the Same as the Position of the Person

(Jesus) who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things **He might have the preeminence.**

For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell;

Colossians 1:15-19

SESSION TWO

THE PEDIGREE AND PERFECTION OF THE SCRIPTURES

Beholding its Amazing Architecture

KEY TRUTH POINTS

Truth #1 - God's Word is, in fact and in truth, God's Word



Truth #2 - Jesus is God, and is, in fact and in truth, God's Word made Flesh



Truth #3 - The Construction of the Bible is Supernatural

The Ten Simple Proofs

A child can accept the Bible as Divine, but the most learned men of this earth reject it

In Him (The Logos) was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not . . . He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even

to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:4-5, 10-13

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Mark 10:15

Is This Book Lacking Intellectual Credentials?

Quite the opposite

The greatest minds in history (i.e. Newton, Copernicus, Galileo, Pascal, Faraday) - the greatest inventors (i.e. Pasteur, Carver, Fleming, Kelvin, Gutenberg), the greatest intellects (i.e. Bacon, Descartes, Mendel, Planck, Kepler), the greatest composers (i.e. Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Haydn), and the greatest world leaders (i.e. Wallace, Washington, Lincoln, Churchill) believed it to be, in truth, God's Word.

I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.

Isaac Newton

English mathematician and scientist, 1642-1727

We must not build on the sands of an uncertain and ever-changing science . . . but upon the rock of inspired Scriptures.

Sir Ambrose Flemming

British electrical engineer and inventor, 1849-1945

Education is useless without the Bible.

Daniel Webster

American politician and noted orator, 1782-1852

I consider an intimate knowledge of the Bible an indispensable quality of a well educated man.

Dr. Robert Milikan

Nobel Peace Prize winner

[The Bible is] . . . the book of God's word.

Francis Bacon

English statesman and writer, 1597

I look upon all four Gospels as thoroughly genuine, for there shines forth from them the reflected splendor of a sublimity proceeding from Jesus Christ.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

German writer and scientist, 1749-1832

Tell your prince that this book (The Bible) is the secret of England's success.

Queen Elizabeth

Ten Simple Proofs

Proof #1

It is Supernaturally Built

The most learned, acute, and diligent student cannot, in the longest life, obtain an entire knowledge of this one Volume. The more deeply he works the mine, the richer and more abundant he finds the ore; new light continually beams from this source of heavenly knowledge to direct the conduct, and illustrate the work of God and the ways of men; and he will at last leave the world confessing that the more he studied the Scriptures the fuller conviction he had of his own ignorance, and of their inestimable value.

Sir Walter Scott

The great Scottish novelist and poet

The Bible's pedigree is astounding . . .

Written over a 1,400 year span, over 40 generations.

*Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life
including kings, peasants, philosophers,
fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.*

Who were its writers? (Here's only a mere sampling)

- Moses, a political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt
- Peter, a fisherman
- Amos, a herdsman
- Joshua, a military general
- Nehemiah, a cupbearer
- Daniel, a prime minister
- Luke, a doctor
- Solomon, a king
- Matthew, a tax-collector
- Paul, a rabbi

Where was it written? (Again, only a small sampling)

*Moses in the wilderness, Jeremiah in a dungeon, Daniel on a hillside and
in a palace, Paul inside prison walls, Luke while traveling, John on the
Isle of Patmos, Others in the rigors of a military campaign*

The Work of an Anthologist?

Any part of the human body can only be properly explained in reference to the whole body. And any part of the Bible can only be properly explained in reference to the whole Bible. The Bible, at first sight, appears to be a collection of literature - mainly Jewish. If we enquire into the circumstances under which the various Biblical documents were written, we find that they were written at intervals over a space of nearly 1400 years. The writers wrote in various lands, from Italy in the west to Mesopotamia and possibly Persia in the east. The writers themselves were a heterogenous number of people, not only separated from each other by hundreds of years and hundreds of miles, but belonging to the most diverse walks of life. In their ranks we have kings, herdsmen, soldiers, legislators, fishermen, statesmen, courtiers, priests and prophets, a tent-making Rabbi and a Gentile physician, not to speak of others of whom we know nothing apart from the writings they have left us. The writings themselves belong to a great variety of literary types. They include history, law (civil, criminal, ethical, ritual, sanitary), religious poetry, didactic treatises, lyric poetry, parable and allegory, biography, personal correspondence, personal memoirs and diaries, in addition to the distinctively Biblical types of prophecy and apocalyptic. For all that, the Bible is not simply an anthology; there is a unity which binds the whole together. An anthology is compiled by an anthologist, but no anthologist compiled the Bible.

F.F. Bruce

It's Sixty-Six Books All Saying the Same Thing

Proof #2

It Performs What it Promises

- Approximately 2500 prophecies appear in the Bible
- Roughly 2000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—with no errors

- The remaining 500 point to the future and will still be certainly fulfilled

What are the Odds?

For this book to present 2,000 future events and have them occur, by chance, and without error, is statistically inconceivable. Conservatively, if you gave each event a lenient chance of 1 in 10, the odds of all that has transpired over these past thousands of years in proving the Biblical prophecy accurate would be less than one in 10 to the 2000th power. That is a 1 with 2000 zeros written after it.

And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, you might believe.

John 14:29

And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

Joshua 23:14

The Messiah Test

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

750 years before Jesus Christ

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.

Micah 5:2

750 years before Jesus Christ

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Psalm 22:16-18

1000 years before Jesus Christ

Cyrus the King

The prophet Isaiah foretold that a conqueror named Cyrus would destroy seemingly impregnable Babylon and subdue Egypt along with most of the rest of the known world. This same man, said Isaiah, would decide to let the Jewish exiles in his territory go free without any payment of ransom (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1; and 45:13).

Isaiah made this prophecy 150 years before Cyrus was born, 180 years before Cyrus performed any of these feats (and he did, eventually, perform them all), and 80 years before the Jews were taken into exile.

Josiah the King

One unnamed prophet of God declares that a future king of Judah, named Josiah, would take the bones of all the occultic priests (priests of the "high places") of Israel's King Jeroboam and burn them on Jeroboam's altar (1 Kings 13:2 and 2 Kings 23:15-18).

This event occurred approximately 300 years after it was foretold.

Proof #3

God Himself Declares it to be a Supernatural Revelation

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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 perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

For **the word (the Logos) of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

THE POWER AND THE PATHOS OF THE REVELATION

Relishing its Ability to Transform

KEY TRUTH POINTS

Truth #1 - God's Word is, in fact and in truth, God's Word



Truth #2 - Jesus is God, and is, in fact and in truth, God's Word made Flesh



Truth #3 - The Construction of the Bible is Supernatural



Truth #4 - The Preservation of the Bible is Supernatural



Truth #5 - The Accuracy of the Bible is Supernatural



Truth #6 - The Life-Giving Impact of the Bible is Supernatural

The Ten Simple Proofs - *A Quick Review*

1. Proof #1 - It is Supernaturally Built
2. Proof #2 - It Performs What it Promises
3. Proof #3 - God Himself Declares it to be a Supernatural Revelation

Proof #4

Though Strong Empires Have Sought to Destroy it, No One Has Been Able to Stamp it Out

The Bible has withstood vicious attacks of its enemies as no other book. Many have tried to burn it, ban it and outlaw it from the days of Roman emperors to present-day Communist-dominated countries. Voltaire, the noted French infidel who died in 1778, said that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. But what has happened? Voltaire has passed into history, while the circulation of the Bible continues to increase in almost all parts of the world, carrying blessing wherever it goes. For example, the English Cathedral in Zanzibar is built on the site of the Old Slave Market, and the Communion Table stands on the very spot where the whipping-post once stood! The world abounds with such instances...As one has truly said, 'We might as well put our shoulder to the burning wheel of the sun, and try to stop it on its flaming course, as attempt to stop the circulation of the Bible.

Josh McDowell (*A Ready Defense*)

Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels, with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt. When the French monarch proposed the persecution of the Christians in

his dominion, an old statesman and warrior said to him, “Sire, the Church of GOD is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.” So the hammers of infidels have been pecking away at this book for ages, but the hammers are worn out, and the anvil still endures. If this book had not been the book of GOD, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the book still lives.

H.L. Hastings

A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put . . . No other book has been so chopped, knived, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology or *belles lettres* of classical or modern times has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible? with such venom and skepticism? with such thoroughness and erudition? upon every chapter, line and tenet? And yet the Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions.

Bernard Ramm

Proof #5

It Has Been Better Preserved than Any Book in History

Being written on material that perishes and having been copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press did not diminish the style, correctness, or existence of the Bible. Compared with other ancient writings, it has more manuscript evidence than any ten pieces of classical literature combined.

Josh McDowell (*A Ready Defense*)

Pile them (all the sacred eastern books of antiquity), if you will, on the left side of your study table; but place your own Holy Bible on the right side—all by itself, all alone—and with a wide gap between them. For . . . there is a gulf between it and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly hopelessly, and forever... a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought.

Professor M. Montiero-Williams

former Boden prof. Of Sanskrit who spent 42 years studying Eastern books

The interval between the dates of original composition (of the N.T.) and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible and the foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed; both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the N.T. may be regarded as firmly established.

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon

Director and principal librarian of the British Museum
and second to none in authority for issuing statements about MSS

There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament.

F.F. Bruce

Scholars are satisfied that they possess substantially the true text of the principal Greek and Roman writers whose works have come down to us, of Sophocles, of Thucydides, of Cicero, of Virgil; yet our knowledge of their writings depends on a mere handful of manuscripts, whereas the manuscripts of the New Testament are counted by hundreds, and even thousands.

F.F. Bruce

Proof #6

It is Astoundingly Accurate in its Histories and Accounts

In all of my archeological investigation I have never found one artifact of antiquity that contradicts any statement of the Word of God.

Nelson Glueck

Former President of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati

There are about forty of these kings living from 2000 BC to 400 BC. Each appears in chronological order '...with reference to the kings of the same country and with respect to the kings of other countries...no stronger evidence for the substantial accuracy of the Old Testament records could possibly be imagined, than this collection of kings.' Mathematically, it is one chance on 750,000,000,000,000,000,000 that this accuracy is mere circumstance.

Robert Dick Wilson

Famous linguist (master of 45 ancient languages) and scholar of ancient manuscripts

In 144 cases of transliteration from Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian and Moabite into Hebrew and in 40 cases of the opposite, or 184 in all, the evidence shows that for 2300 to 3900 years the text of the proper names in the Hebrew Bible has been transmitted with the most minute accuracy.

That the original scribes should have written them with such close conformity to correct philological principles is a wonderful proof of their thorough care and scholarship; further, that the Hebrew text should have been transmitted by copyists through so many centuries is a phenomenon unequaled in the history of literature.

Robert Dick Wilson

Famous linguist (master of 45 ancient languages) and scholar of ancient manuscripts

The discoveries here summarized have restored considerable credit to those chapters of Genesis that record the early traditions of the Jews . . . the story of the Jews as unfolded in the Old Testament has stood the test of criticism and archeology; every year adds corroboration from documents, monuments, or excavations. Potsherds unearthed at Tel Ad-Duweir in 1935 bore Hebrew inscriptions confirming part of the narrative of the Books of the Kings. We must accept the Biblical account provisionally until it is disproved.

Will Durant

famed secular Historian, (Story of Civilization, vol. 1, p. 300)

Proof #7

It's too Honest to be Human

This book had to be written by one of three people: good men, bad men, or God. It couldn't have been written by good men because they said it was inspired by the revelation of God. Good men don't lie and deceive. It couldn't have been written by bad men because bad men would not write something that would condemn themselves. It leaves only one conclusion. It was given by divine inspiration of God.

John Wesley

Proof #8

The Power of Darkness Stands Virulently Against this Book

The powers of darkness have been attempting to snuff it out, discredit it, and undermine its credibility since the beginning

Why not pick on the books of Homer, Sophocles, Thucydides, Cicero, or Virgil? What is it about the Bible that deserves such spite, such hate, such

opposition? Is it that it teaches love, kindness, and mercy? Is it that it commands equity and justice? Is it that it gives hope, ministers peace, and offers salvation? If this book was just a simple literary anthology of wise thoughts it would not receive the attacks it has received.

Proof #9

Simply put, this Book Changes Lives

The great Christian men and women from history past all agree that if you heed its words, if you believe its content, and if you obey its commands - you really do live!

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by **the word (The Logos) of truth**, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures . . . Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness **the implanted word (Logos)**, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of **the word (Logos)**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:17-18, 21-22

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by **the word (Logos) of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:23

Proof #10

Men and Women throughout history have Gladly Died to Preserve its Every Jot and Tittle

I prefer to believe those writers who get their throats cut for what they write.

Blaise Pascal

French philosopher and mathematician,
developed the modern theory of probability, 1623-1662

And it's not just the original writers that were willing to die, but throughout history, the men and women that read these words, and believed these words were so transformed by these words that they too were willing to suffer cruel deaths and endure great privations in order to preserve the integrity of every word within the Bible

Bonus Proof #11

I Have Personally Been Changed by this Book

I have personally witnessed its power in my life. I have personally stood in awe at its complexity yet simplicity of focus.

APPENDIX A

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

and their reflections on the Bible

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible.

George Washington

First President of the United States

Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people...so great is my veneration of the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read, the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens in their country and respectful members of society.

John Adams

2nd President of the United States

It has been my custom for many years to read the Bible in its entirety once a year.

John Quincy Adams

6th President of the United States

The Bible is the rock on which this Republic rests.

Andrew Jackson

7th President of the United States

I am busily engaged in the study of the Bible. I believe it is God's word because it finds me where I am . . . I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good of the Savior of the world is communicated to us through the Book.

Abraham Lincoln

16th President of the United States

To the influence of this Book we are indebted for the progress made in civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

Ulysses S. Grant

18th President of the United States

The more profoundly we study this wonderful book [the Bible], and the more closely we observe its divine precepts, the better citizens we will become and the higher will be our destiny as a nation.

William McKinley

25th President of the United States

A thorough understanding of the Bible is better than a college education.

Theodore Roosevelt

26th President of the United States

I am sorry for men who do not read the Bible every day. I wonder why they deprive themselves of the strength and pleasure . . . When you have read the Bible, you know it is the word of God, because it is the key to your heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.

Woodrow Wilson

28th President of the United States

There is no other book so various as the Bible, nor one so full of concentrated wisdom. Whether it be of law, business, morals, etc . . . He who seeks for guidance . . . may look inside its covers and find illumination.

Herbert Hoover

31st President of the United States

The fundamental basis of this nation's law was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teaching we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I

don't think we emphasize that enough these days. If we don't have the proper fundamental moral background, we will finally end up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in the right for anybody except the state.

Harry S. Truman

33rd President of the United States

Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible.

Ronald Reagan

40th President of the United States

APPENDIX B

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY ATTEST TO THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

By Richard M. Fales, Ph.D.

No other ancient book is questioned or maligned like the Bible. Critics looking for the flyspeck in the masterpiece allege that there was a long span between the time the events in the New Testament occurred and when they were recorded. They claim another gap exists archaeologically between the earliest copies made and the autographs of the New Testament. In reality, the alleged spaces and so called gaps exist only in the minds of the critics.

Manuscript Evidence. Aristotle's *Ode to Poetics* was written between 384 and 322 B.C. The earliest copy of this work dates A.D. 1100, and there are only forty-nine extant manuscripts. The gap between the original writing and the earliest copy is 1,400 years. There are only seven extant manuscripts of Plato's *Tetralogies*, written 427–347 B.C. The earliest copy is A.D. 900—a gap of over 1,200 years. What about the New Testament? Jesus was crucified in A.D. 30. The New Testament was written between A.D. 48 and 95. The oldest manuscripts date to the last quarter of the first century, and the second oldest A.D. 125. This gives us a narrow gap of thirty-five to forty years from the originals written by the apostles.

From the early centuries, we have some 5,300 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Altogether, including Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic, we have a whopping 24,633 texts of the ancient New Testament to confirm the wording of the Scriptures. So the bottom line is, there was no great period between the events of the New Testament and the New Testament writings. Nor is there a great time lapse between the original writings and the oldest copies. With the great body of manuscript evidence, it can be proved, beyond a doubt, that the New Testament says exactly the same things today as it originally did nearly 2,000 years ago.

Corroborating Writings. Critics also charge that there are no ancient writings about Jesus outside the New Testament. This is another ridiculous claim. Writings confirming His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection include Flavius Josephus (A.D. 93), the Babylonian Talmud (A.D. 70–200), Pliny the Younger's letter to the Emperor Trajan (approx. A.D. 100), the *Annals* of Tacitus (A.D. 115–117), Mara Bar Serapion (sometime after A.D. 73), and Suetonius' *Life of Claudius* and *Life of Nero* (A.D. 120). Another point of contention arises when Bible critics have knowingly or unknowingly misled people by

implying that Old and New Testament books were either excluded from or added into the canon of Scripture at the great ecumenical councils of A.D. 336, 382, 397, and 419. In fact, one result of these gatherings was to confirm the Church's belief that the books already in the Bible were divinely inspired. Therefore, the Church, at these meetings, neither added to nor took away from the books of the Bible. At that time, the thirty-nine Old Testament books had already been accepted, and the New Testament, as it was written, simply grew up with the ancient Church. Each document, being accepted as it was penned in the first century, was then passed on to Christians of the next century. So, this foolishness about the Roman Emperor Constantine dropping books from the Bible is simply uneducated rumor.

Fulfilled Prophecies. Prophecies from the Old and New Testaments that have been fulfilled also add credibility to the Bible. The Scriptures predicted the rise and fall of great empires like Greece and Rome (Daniel 2:39, 40), and foretold the destruction of cities like Tyre and Sidon (Isaiah 23). Tyre's demise is recorded by ancient historians, who tell how Alexander the Great lay siege to the city for seven months. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had failed in a 13-year attempt to capture the seacoast city and completely destroy its inhabitants. During the siege of 573 B.C., much of the population of Tyre moved to its new island home approximately half a mile from the land city. Here it remained surrounded by walls as high as 150 feet until judgment fell in 332 B.C. with the arrival of Alexander the Great. In the seven-month siege, he fulfilled the remainder of the prophecies (Zechariah 9:4; Ezekiel 26:12) concerning the city at sea by completely destroying Tyre, killing 8,000 of its inhabitants and selling 30,000 of its population into slavery. To reach the island, he scraped up the dust and rubble of the old land city of Tyre, just like the Bible predicted, and cast them into the sea, building a 200-footwide causeway out to the island.

Alexander's death and the murder of his two sons was also foretold in the Scripture.

Another startling prophecy was Jesus' detailed prediction of Jerusalem's destruction, and the further spreading of the Jewish diaspora throughout the world, which is recorded in Luke 21. In A.D. 70, not only was Jerusalem destroyed by Titus, the future emperor of Rome, but another prediction of Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:1,2 came to pass—the complete destruction of the temple of God.

Messianic Prophecies. In the Book of Daniel, the Bible prophesied the coming of the one and only Jewish Messiah prior to the temple's demise. The Old Testament prophets declared He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) to a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12,13), die by crucifixion (Psalm 22), and be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9). There was only one person who fits all of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament who lived before A.D. 70: Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Mary.

Yes, the Bible is an amazing book.

