

4. _____

Many Old Testament prophecies have come to pass.

- King Cyrus of Persia – Isaiah 44:26, 28 and 45:1,3
- The City of Tyre – Ezekiel 26:3-6 and 26:12, 14
- Daniel 11:1-35 (approx. 135 prophecies)

The Bible contains over 300 prophecies about Jesus.

“The Old Testament contains numerous predications about the coming Messiah, and when you piece them all together they create a “fingerprint” of who he would be and what he would do.”

Lee Strobel

- a) Born of a _____: Isaiah 7:14
- b) Born in _____: Micah 5:2
- c) Betrayed for _____ of silver: Zechariah 11:12-13
- d) He would be _____: Psalm 22:16
- e) His garments would be gambled for: Psalm 22:18
- f) Buried in a rich man’s tomb: Isaiah 53:9
- g) Jesus would _____ from the _____: Psalm 16:10
And he (Jesus) said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Luke 9:22 NIV

5. _____

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they

provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 NIV

The Bible Say’s It’s God-breathed, so You Trust It?

You seem smarter than that.

October 16, 2016

Paul F. Knight

HOPE Church ~ Grand Cities Mall

With a desire to give confidence

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:19-21 NIV

With a desire remove barriers

- A. _____ Barriers – a barrier of understanding
- B. _____ Barriers – a barrier of surrender

On understanding God’s Word...

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

_____ = God in partnership with human authors the very message and words to communicate.

“Without violating the author’s personalities, they wrote with their own feelings, literary abilities and concerns. But in the end, God could say, That’s exactly what I wanted to have written.”
Lewis Sperry

_____ (ἀπολογία) = “give a defense”

1. _____

- A book of books: _____
- Authors: _____
- Over a period of _____ yrs.
- _____ different languages
- _____ continents
- In a variety of circumstances
- An amazing consistency

This degree of consistency would be difficult enough to achieve within a single book by a solo author – but when you add the complexity of multiple writers, from multiple countries, in multiple languages, over multiple centuries, dealing with multiple problems and situations, the Bible’s incredible cohesion and unified message are nothing short of miraculous.

-- Mark Mittleberg,
Confident Faith

2. _____ Can we have historical confidence in the Scriptures?

- Do we have a reasonable belief that people were seeking to record the events accurately?
- Have historical inaccuracies in the bible been found?
- The _____ dating of the New Testament
 - _____ AD
- _____
- _____

3. _____

- The Cities: Sodom and Gomorrah
- Jericho
- Ebla Tablets
- The Hittites
- Solomon’s _____
- 1947 _____
- Pilate _____

Today, so many Bible cities, names and events have been unearthed through archaeology that the Bible is considered the single most important historical document in existence. Many lost cities have been located using the Bible as a road map. So startling and impressive are some of the finds that one archaeologist was compelled to say, "They are digging up Bible stories!" Steve Rudd, Bible Archeology

INTRODUCTION

I believe the Bible... the stories, the miracles, the teachings... I have questions and

With a desire to give confidence

We also have the prophetic message as something completely **reliable**, and **you will do well to pay attention to it**, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:19-21 NIV

RELIABLE -- trustworthy

Do well to pay attention to it.

Like a light shining in a dark place . . .

With a desire remove barriers

A. **Intellectual Barriers** – a barrier of understanding

We may not remove all of them but hopefully for those of us who have genuine intellectual

struggles with the message of whether the Bible is reliable or not – that we will answer some of them and provide courage or motivation to search our additional answers.

The intellectual barriers are an issue of “CAN I BELIEVE.”

The next type of barrier, and I believe the greatest is a, “WILL I BELIEVE.”

B. **Volitional Barriers** – a barrier of surrender

On understanding God's Word...

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB

An additional component that I would like to mention in understanding the Bible – that is the Spiritual component – or the work and or yieldedness to the Holy Spirit.

Two levels of understanding:

1. an cognitive or intellectual understanding. I get the message: I understand the nouns and verbs, the content of the story . . . that is one level

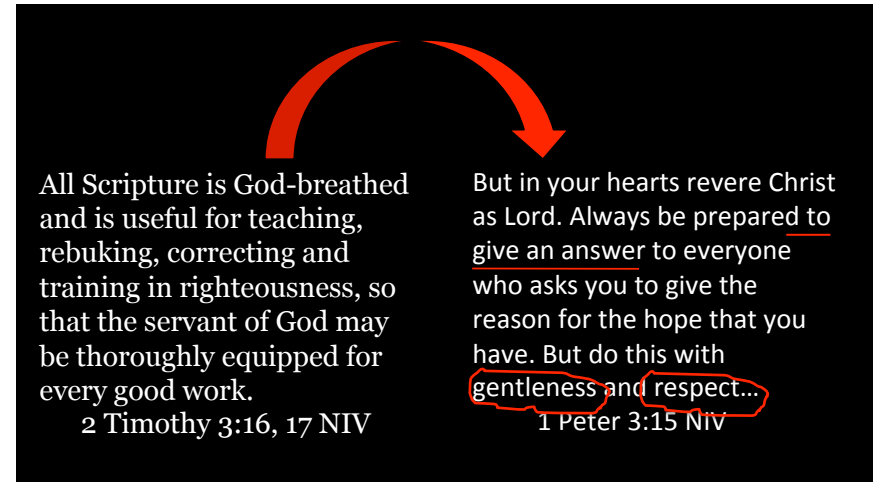
2. An additional level is when a person understands with their head but also understands with their heart . . . When a person allows themselves to, I believe under the influence of the Holy Spirit, understand with their heart.... They see the value of a message.

But a **natural man** does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are **foolishness** to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

2:14 NASB

1 Corinthians

- Natural man -- a person not guided or taught by the Holy Spirit
- No value
- Spiritually appraised: Valued!!!



As Christ followers I would like to encourage us to trust and believe the left side of this diagram – I do.... That all Scripture is God-breathed . . .

GOD BREATHED = God in partnership with human authors gave/breathed the very message and words to communicate.

But I would like to move our public discourse from the left side to the right side. The right side being more about this phrase: **To give an answer**

APOLOGIA (ἀπολογία) = “give a defense”

NOT TO BE DEFENSIVE, BUT TO GIVE A THOUGHTFUL APOLOGETIC – RESPONSE.

- **GENTLENESS**
- **RESPECT**

The Bible as a Unique and Divine Text
Realities that help us believe that the Bible is indeed God-breathed

WHAT IS THE DEFENSE FOR OUR CONSIDERING THE BIBLE TO BE UNLIKE ANY OTHER BOOK
6 WEEKS TOGETHER

I. UNITY/Continuity

a. A book of books: 66 books

(first) Old Testament = 39
New Testament = 27

b. Authors: 40 (plus)

Kings, fishermen, tax collectors, shepherds, prophets, and a physician.

Moses – highly educated to Peter an uneducated fisherman... Isaiah – a Shakespeare type scholar

c. Over a period of 1,500 years

d. Using 3 different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek

e. On 3 continents

f. In a variety of circumstances

From prison, palaces ????

g. An amazing consistency

This degree of consistency would be difficult enough to achieve within a single book by a solo author – but when you add the complexity of multiple writers, from multiple countries, in multiple languages, over multiple centuries, dealing with multiple problems and situation, the Bible's incredible cohesion and unified message are nothing short of miraculous.

-- Mark Mittleberg, Confident Faith

It is an amazingly consistent message about God and humanity's relationship, about sinfulness, and rescue... it is an amazing story of a God who loves people and is seeking to get their attention and to restore them to Himself...

A second DEFENSE FOR OUR CONSIDERING THE BIBLE TO BE UNLIKE ANY OTHER BOOK

2. HISTORICITY

QUESTION: Can we have historical confidence in the Scriptures?

First discussion –

a) Do we have a reasonable belief that people were seeking to record the events accurately?

When you read the record... We do have reasonable belief that they were seeking to be accurate . . . the stories include wonderful things but also things that you wouldn't want written – it has the good, the bad, and the ugly A king who is an adulterer, followers who deny, argue, and misunderstand...

b) Have historical inaccuracies in the bible been found?

There are for sure question and historically there have been assumptions that the Bible was inaccurate but thus far there is not proof that it is inaccurate... it is actually going the other way... proofs are being found frequently – it is

c) The early dating of the New Testament

Page 260/261 Dr. Craig Blomberg – early dating of ACTS and then Luke . . .

There is discussion on the dating of the New Testament – most biblical scholars date the New Testament

Richard Dawkins writes: Scholarly theologians have made an overwhelming case that the gospels are not reliable accounts of what happened in the history of the real world. All were written long after the death of Jesus.”

But this is actually not true and has been refuted

The standard dating for the New Testament is AD 70's, 80's and 90's

a. 70 AD – The Fall of Jerusalem

the book of ACTS does not have any record of Paul's death or the fall of Jerusalem – written prior to those events

Dr. Craig Blomberg – supports a dating of Luke and Acts prior to AD 62 – about 30 years of Jesus' death

Strong support for early dating

d) Jesus

- He believed the Old Testament

- One of the reasons the New Testament is trustworthy is because of the scrutiny any thing connected to his name has received and the 2,000 plus years of influence of his teachings and his life.

e) Eye Witnesses

The accounts in the New Testament are clearly the work of eye witnesses . . . details that only ‘witnesses’ would include and also the reality that these books stood up to the test of those who were there.... Clearly: The other disciples and followers did not refute the accounts nor have any secular witnesses!!

I don't know for 100% certainty that my mother and father are actually my mother and father. I have no “direct knowledge” that my folks are my

folks. There are no video recordings of the event and the transfer of my little new born body into the hands of my parents. I have never had a DNA test to prove it. But there are records that I have no reason to doubt. There is personal evidence in my life that seems to indicate that my parents are my parents – our genes are thick. It is a reasonable historical reality that I was born to Charles and Janice Knight. Actually I have unwavering confidence, even though I don't have substantive proof, that my parents are the real deal.

**A third DEFENSE FOR OUR
CONSIDERING THE BIBLE TO BE
UNLIKE ANY OTHER BOOK**

3. ARCHEOLOGY

a) The Cities: Sodom and Gemorrah

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was thought to be mythology until evidence was uncovered that all five of the cities mentioned in Genesis were, in fact, situated just as the Old Testament says

According to the Torah, the kingdoms of Sodom and Gomorrah were allied with the cities of Admah, Zeboim and Bela. These five cities, also known as the "cities of the plain", (from Genesis in the Authorized Version) were situated on the Jordan River plain in the southern region of the land of Canaan.

b) Jericho and the Walls

Kathleen Kenyon declared the Biblical story to be false and the academic world accepted her conclusions. Do her conclusions hold up to scrutiny?

Article published in 2003

In spite of such major problems with her conclusions, Kenyon's view remains entrenched in the minds of many to this day. Yet in reality what Kenyon, Garstang and other excavators have found at Jericho correlates *precisely* with the account in the book of Joshua. They found collapsed walls, not walls that were *broken* down from the outside but that had *fallen* down (Jos 6:20). The walls had not fallen inward, but *outward*, creating a ramp of fallen bricks by which the Israelites "went up into the city, every man straight before him" (Jos 6:20).

c) **Ebla Tablets --** God-breathed McDowell pg.161, 162

Critics have scoffed at the idea of such advanced cultures: commerce, social structures, and writings – especially during the time frame the Old

Testament teaches the nation of Israel came into being.

Common understand was that cultures of such advanced structure couldn't have come to being until 800's BC

IN 1976 an Italian archeologist Paolo Matthiae discovered the Ebla Tablets at Tell Mardikh in Alepo Syria. These tablets represent a royal archive of more than 16,000 clay tablets dating from 2,400 BC – they teach us of the lifestyle, vocabulary, commerce, geography and religion of the people who lived near Canaan (later called Israel) in the time immediately before Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

These clay tablets refer to names that are also mentioned in the bible: Nahor, Israel Eber, Michael, and Ishmael. And several of the cities mentioned in the Bible: Sodom, Zeboiim, Admah, Hazor, Megiddo, Canaan, and Jerusaelm.

God Breathed McDowell

d)The Hittites

The Old Testament writers invented the Hittite tribe.

Discoveries in modern day Turkey, in 1911, 12, have found that in actuality there was a Hittite nation. They have found 10,000 clay tablets from the former capital of the Hittite nation. and that the accounts in Scripture can be trusted.

e)Solomon's Wealth and Horses

In the excavations from Meggido, one of 5 chariot cities – thousands of horse stalls have been found. I have been there and walked along the stalls and looked at the mangers.¹ Kings 10:26-29

f) The spring of 1947 – The Dead Sea Scrolls

- a. the rock throwing shepherd boy.

g)Pilate Stone

Italian archaeologists led by Dr. Frova were excavating an ancient Roman amphitheatre near Caesarea-on-the-Sea (Maritima) and uncovered this interesting limestone block. On the face is a monumental inscription which is part of a larger dedication to Tiberius Caesar which clearly says that it was from "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea."

<http://www.bible-history.com/empires/pilate.html>

**A fourth DEFENSE FOR OUR
CONSIDERING THE BIBLE TO BE
UNLIKE ANY OTHER BOOK**

4. PROPHECIES

Prophecies – in this context are statements of events and happenings that were told at one time and occurred later in the future and or will occur.

The Bible has many of these prophetic statements – many have come to pass – many are yet to come.

Many Old Testament prophecies that have come to pass.

King Cyrus of Persia – Isaiah 44:26, 28 and 45:1,3

These prophecies were made about 100 years before King Cyrus was born and about 150 years prior to him becoming King.

-
- **The City of Tyre – Ezekiel 26:3-6 and 26:12, 14**
- **Daniel 11:1-35 (approx. 135 prophecies)**

“The Old Testament contains numerous predications about the coming Messiah, and when you piece them all together they create a “fingerprint” of who he would be and what he would do.”

Lee Strobel

The Bible contains over 300 prophecies about Jesus.

- a) Born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14**
- b) Born in Bethlehem Micah 5:2**
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- d) He would be crucified Psalm 22:16**
- e) His garments would be gambled for: Psalm 22:18**
- f) Buried in a rich man’s tomb: Isaiah 53:9**

g) Jesus would rise from the dead Psalm 16:10

And he (Jesus) said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Luke 9:22 NIV

“If you want to know what happened yesterday, read the morning paper; if you want to know what happened today, listen to the evening news; if you want to know what will happen tomorrow; read the Bible!” Origin unknown

A fifth DEFENSE FOR OUR CONSIDERING THE BIBLE TO BE UNLIKE ANY OTHER BOOK

5. RELEVANCY

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the **encouragement** they provide we might have **hope**. Romans 15:4 NIV

Learning about forgiveness

Marriage

Raising Children'

Finances

I believe there is evidence all around you for the trustworthiness and relevance of the Bible in the lives of people here.... LIFE CHANGE:

- **MARRIAGES RESTORED**
- **LIVES PUT BACK TOGETHER**
- **PURPOSE**
- **JOY**
- **LOVE**
- **GRACE..**

It is relevant for learning about the Love God has for you

Did you know that approx. 100 million copies of the Bible are printed every year , and it is estimated that worldwide there are nearly 8 billion bibles in print. The text of the Bible has been published in 450 languages and the gospel of Mark in 2,370 languages. Not to mention the digital versions of the Bible. Youversion Bible has ????

<https://www.youversion.com> (show this on the screen if we can!!)

1396 versions of the Bible available

1027 Languages supported

Downloads: **242,815,759 as of 7:25 on October 12th**

Next Sunday:

Real or Ridiculous...

Copies of copies of copies, it seems impossible.

A grand overview of some of these topics.... Like a fly over – we won't be able to land but we will, on a few items, draw close. My goal is increased confidence or motivation to dig in yourself....

**The Bible, the Old and New Testaments
are Unique Books!**

What I want to do and don't want to do . . .

- **I want to help people have a confidence in the Bible; the Old and New Testaments.**
- **I do not want to pretend that people have honest questions**
- **I want to encourage people to be faithful with their questions and to demonstrate that there are “possible” answers**

- **I do not want to pretend that I have all the answers**
- **I want to respect the honest questioner**
- **I do not want to remove the challenge of belief and soften the call of Jesus Christ as the**

We don't have any of the original books of the bible, the Autographa.
Next week we will talk about whether or not we can be confident the message was preserved

God-breathed = God in partnership with human authors the very message and words to communicate.

The writings of the Bible reflect the personality of the authors but superintended by God in a way that prevented error in the message.

“We aren't given a lot regarding the process of inspiration, but we know the Bible wasn't' dictated by God. Look at the Old Testament: Isaiah has a huge vocabulary and is often considered the Shakespeare of the Hebrew prophets, while Amos was a simple farmer with a much more modest vocabulary. Yet both books were inspired. Obviously, this doesn't mean verbal dictation. God wasn't looking for stenographers but holy men to write his book. Daniel B. Wallace of Dallas Theological Seminary

LEWIS SPERRY:

“Without violating the author's personalities, they wrote with their own feelings, literary abilities and concerns. But in the end, God could say, That's exactly what I wanted to have written.”

Apologia (ἀπολογία) = “give a **defense**”

A series to help remove barriers

- A. **Intellectual** Barriers – a barrier of understanding
(I just have too many real questions and too much
lack of understanding about the Bible)

hopefully address some of the intellectual barriers

so that you can deal with the volitional barriers....

Mark Twain:

It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't
understand that bother me, it is the parts that I
do understand. Mark Twain

- B. **Volitional** Barriers – a barrier of surrender

On Understanding God's Word

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1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB

On Understanding God's Word

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1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB

Two levels of Understanding:

1. Through the ability to read and understand there are basics that can be easily grasped in the story of God. That is one of the reasons I am so excited that we have so many people reading the New Testament.

This is not an intellectual ability thing . . .

But it is an inability to recognize or appropriate the value of the word of God into their lives . . . the value of God's Word is something granted through His Spirit.

2 But there is a spiritual level of understanding that illicit life-change – an understanding that is Spirit inspired.... This is one of the reasons I encourage people to pray for understanding when they open up the scriptures.

“The manual is one of a kind. The Communists had their Manifesto. The Maoists had their Little Red Books. The Muslims have their Koran. But only the Bible contains the writings taught not by human wisdom but by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:13). Only the Bible reveals "what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). The Christian manual of operation is unique because it reveals "the things of the Spirit of God"—things from God that man can't find out on his own, things that are often very foreign to our way of thinking. And therein lies a great problem.” John Piper, Bethlehem Baptist Church