



A P O L O G E T I C S

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Week 4

THE BIBLE

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THE WORDS

Scripture, why it can be trusted.

- **Inspiration:** means “God’s breathed.”
- **Inerrancy** - means the words are without error.
- **Infallibility** - means the words CANNOT error.
- **Canonicity** - means we have the RIGHT words contained in the Bible.
- **Archeology** - means that the words have been confirmed through archeology.
- **Prophecy** - the words have predicted future events accurately.

Inspiration: The bible is about the God Breathed words, along with inerrancy and infallibility makes the bible unlike any other book that ever been written.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* All scripture is *theopneustos*.
- **2 Peter 1:21** *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* Carried along is the word *pherō*. This word refers to people on a ship being carried above the waters.

Theopneustos: Theos (God) Pneustos (Spirit), all the words are expired by God.

Grphe: the words.

“What about the writers, didn’t they have anything to do with it?” Yes and no.

Plenary verbal inspiration: Plenary verbal inspiration asserts that God inspired the complete text(s) of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, including both historical and doctrinal details.

Acts 1:16 the Apostle Peter says *“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.*

This is the idea that the Holy Spirit guided (carried) the writers along while allowing their own personalities and freedom to produce the Bible we have today. This view recognizes and asserts both the human and divine element within Scripture.

Revelation/Inspiration → Transmission → Translation → Interpretation → Application

God

Your Life

- Step #1 – **Revelation**: God reveals Himself and His Truth to someone and inspires them through the power of the Holy Spirit to write down what He has to say perfectly.
- Step #2 – **Transmission**: That is a copy.
- Step #3 – **Translation**: When the books are translated into native tongues.
- Step #4 – **Interpretation**: When someone reads the Bible in a language they can understand and determines what the meaning of the verses they read.
- Step #5 – **Application**: The result of taking what we learn from the principles in the Bible and making changes in our thoughts and actions so that our life is congruent with the Bible.

Four things inspiration is not

- 1) Mechanical dictation, or automatic writing, or any process which involved the suspending of the action of the human writer's mind.
- 2) God obliterating someone's personality, style, outlook, and cultural conditioning. If God wished to give His people a series of letters like Paul's, He prepared a Paul to write them, and the Paul He brought to the task was a Paul who spontaneously would write just such letters
- 3) The perfection of a copy, but only the text as originally produced by the inspired writers.
- 4) To be equated with the inspiredness of great literature, not even when (as is often true) the biblical writing is in fact great literature.

2 Peter 1:21 *For no prophecy was ever produced (Aorist Passive) by the will of man, but (Adversative conjunction) men spoke from God as they were carried (Phero) along by the Holy Spirit.* It wasn't the will of man that brought it, but the carrying along of the Spirit. Their wills were passively joined to the Spirit.

Archeology: The words have been confirmed through archeology (See the end of these notes for many examples).

Karl Barth said *"the bible is like a scratched record where you can hear the masters voice in spite of all the imperfection of that record."* This all comes out of what is known as TEXTUAL CRITICISM:

Textual criticism is supposed to mainly concern itself with the identification and removal of what are known as "transcription" errors in the texts of manuscripts.

Historical criticism is supposed to establish the authorship, date, and place of composition of an original text.

Biblical Criticism - In the 18th century these criticisms came together and formed "Biblical criticism" which seeks to destroy the word of God for no seeming purpose except to try and discredit it.

Today, in regard to the bible, we have source criticism, form criticism, redaction criticism, tradition criticism, canonical criticism, and dozens of other "isms" all trying to destroy the word of God as we know it.

Types of Errors the Bible Contains

1. Spelling and Nonsense Errors

Errors that occur when a scribe wrote a word that makes no sense in its context, usually because they were tired or took their eyes off the page.

2. Minor Changes

These are as small as the presence or absence of an article such as “the” or changed word order, which can vary considerably in Greek. Depending on the sentence, Greek grammar allows the sentence to be written up to 18 different ways, while still saying the same thing.

3. Meaningful but Not Plausible

These have meaning but aren’t a plausible reflection of the original text.

4. Meaningful and Plausible

These have meaning and that the alternate reading is plausible as a reflection of the original wording. These types of errors account for less than 1% of all variants and typically involve a single word or phrase.

Is the Bible Reliable?

The reliability of our English translations depends largely upon the quality of the manuscripts they were translated from. Our manuscript evidence is quite impressive:

- There are 18 (maybe 20 plus) second-century manuscripts (written in the 100s). If the Gospels were completed between AD 50–100, then this means that these early copies are within 100 years.
- Manuscripts that date before AD 400 number 99, including one complete New Testament called **Codex Sinaiticus**. So the gap between the original, inerrant autographs and the earliest manuscripts is pretty slim. This comes into focus when the Bible is compared to other classical works that, in general, are not doubted for their reliability.

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# of copies
Caesar	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Pliny (History)	AD 61 - 113	850 AD	750 years	7
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	5

Histories	Oldest Manuscripts	Number Surviving
Livy 59 B.C.–A.D. 17	4th century	27
Tacitus A.D. 56–120	9th century	3
Suetonius A.D. 69–140	9th century	200+
Thucydides 460–400 B.C.	1st century A.D.	20
Herodotus 484–425 B.C.	1st century A.D.	75
New Testament	c. 100–150	c. 5,700 (counting only Greek manuscripts) (plus more than 10,000 in Latin, more than a million quotations from the church fathers, etc.)



The New Testament more copies than any other work, numbering 5,700 (Greek). If we take all manuscripts into account (handwritten prior to printing press), we have 20,000 copies of the New Testament.

- We can be a thousand times more confident about the reliability of the Bible. It is far and away the most reliable ancient document.

When someone asserts that the Bible has errors, we can reply by saying:

Yes, our Bible translations do have errors—let me tell you about them. But as you can see, less than 1% of them are meaningful and those errors don't affect the major teachings of the Christian faith. In fact, there are a thousand times more manuscripts of the Bible than the most documented Greco-Roman historian. The Bible is, in fact, incredibly reliable. Dan Wallace says that we have "an embarrassment of riches when it comes to the biblical documents."

Using Paul (Mill's) philosophical argument we could say:

1. The Bible is the most reliable and trustworthy document of history.
2. On the basis of this we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
3. Jesus Christ teaches that the Bible is the very Word of God.

Conclusion: Since the Bible is the Word of God, then Christianity is true.

C.S.Lewis said that we hold to "chronological snobbery" as "modern" thinkers, we somehow have gotten the notion that "ancient" writers are "pre-scientific" and thus are uninterested in accuracy."

As far as the biblical writers were concerned, the historical accuracy of the events was absolutely indispensable to the truth and significance of the Christian faith. Its why Paul argues **1 Cor 15-17** *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.:*

Tests: Anything to gain from a lie?

The early followers of Jesus had absolutely nothing to gain and everything to lose by claiming what they did about Him. The reliability of eyewitness testimony is strengthened if it can be shown that the witness has a vested interest in the opposite of what he is claiming.

Tests: Any presence of adverse testimony?

Is there a testimony of those who could have contradicted the New Testament writers if the events had not taken place. **Matthew 28:12-15** *And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.*

Earmarks of Historicity are characteristics which indicate the historical authenticity of documents.

- The Gospel writers have Jesus speaking in memorable form common among Rabbis (verily, verily, amen, amen, truly, truly).The most reasonable explanation for why the New Testament writers have Jesus talking the way He does is that He really talked that way.
- There is material in the Gospel accounts that was irrelevant to any issues in the early church.
- There is material lacking in the Gospel accounts that would have been extremely relevant to the needs of the early church.

- There is material in the Gospel accounts that was counterproductive to the purpose of the writings.

Extra Biblical References

Sometimes uninformed critics of the Bible, particularly of the New Testament, claim there are no references outside the New Testament for New Testament events. The truth is that there are several references to New Testament events outside the New Testament.

- Suetonius, in his The Twelve Caesars says: *Because the Jews at Rome caused continuous disturbances at the instigation of Crestus [a Latin reference to Christ], he [Claudius] expelled them from the city.* (Acts 18:2 refers to the same event).
- Tacitus in his work The Annals of Imperial Rome. *To suppress this rumor [that the massive fires of Rome had been deliberately set by men], Nero fabricated scapegoats - and punished with every refinement the notoriously depraved Christians (as they were popularly called). Their originator, Christ, had been executed in Tiberius' reign by the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilatus.*
- The Jewish historian Josephus (ca. 90-95 AD) mentions the martyrdom of the apostle James, refers to James as Jesus' brother, mentions the martyrdom of John the Baptist, and mentions Jesus a second time.
- Roman historian Thallus (52 AD) as quoted by Julius Africanus talking about the darkness at the crucifixion.
- The Roman author and administrator Pliny the Younger (112 AD) mentions of the early Christians' worship of Christ.

Ken Rhodes says *"Modern biblical scholarship has become an elegant dance with unbelief"* because of how we treat the bible today.

The right words lead to CANON.

Canon refers to the authoritative list of books we accept as scripture. The scripture is 66 books written by 40 different authors on 3 continents over 1600 years that tells one story, the redemption of us all. The word Canon means a standard, rule, or list.

Col 4:16 *And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.* They intended their letters to be passed on and read. This shows that the canon of scripture started from day one with the Apostles.

Norman Geisler says *"this clearly shows that the Apostolic letters were intended to have a broader application than just one congregation."*

In **Revelation 1:11** Jesus says to John ***"Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches,***

1 Peter 1:1 *To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,* He is intending all those places to read his letter. Peter would have copied, sent out...those churches would have copies, collected and passed it on.

Why was the Canon officially put together:

- 1) Ecclesiastical** - There had to be the public reading of scripture. As the church grew churches wanted to know what books they should read at the public gathering.
- 2) Theological** - The church wanted to be true to what was handed down.
- 3) Political** - The Diocletian persecution. Diocletian ordered the destruction (by fire) of the scriptures. The early church wanted to know what to cling to and resist over.

How did they determine the books?

- 1) The book had to be inspired by God (it had authority).
- 2) The book had to be shown as prophetic. It had to be written by or approved by an apostle.
- 3) The book had to be authentic.
- 4) The book had to be life changing (transforming).
- 5) The book had to adhere to the Rule of Faith, was it consistent with the preaching of the Apostles.
- 6) The book needed to be received by the church. Was it read publically?

Further Reading:

Wayne Grudem – Understanding Scripture: An Overview of the Bible’s Origin, Reliability, and Meaning.

F.F. Bruce, The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?

Josh McDowell, Evidence that Demands a Verdict.

R. C. Sproul - “The Case for Inerrancy: A Methodological Analysis” Article

<http://www.ccel.us/godsinerantword.ch11.html>

J. I. Packer’s - The Origin of the Bible

Dan Wallace’s Mark Manuscript - <http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnfarrell/2012/02/27/fragments-of-marks-gospel-may-date-to-1st-century/>

<http://codexsinaiticus.org/en/>

B.B. Warfield - The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible

Robert Graves, revised with and introduction by Michael Grant - The Twelve Caesars, trans.

Archeological Extras

King David

Recent archeological investigations have demolished the position of those who rejected the biblical account of Israel's kings, like King David. In 1993, archeologists digging at Tel Dan in Galilee, in northern Israel, found a fragment of a stone inscription that clearly refers to the "house of David" and identifies David as the "king of Israel." This is the first inscription outside the Bible that confirms the Bible's statement that David was the king of Israel in the ninth century before Christ. Many Bible critics who had rejected King David as a myth were upset to discover their position could no longer be defended. Some critics suggested that the fragment was a "fake." The following summer, two additional fragments of the original inscription were found that provided scholars with the whole inscription, confirming that it referred to David as king of Israel.

Andre Lemaire from the College de France, discovered another ninth century B.C. stone inscription created by King Mesha of Moab that also referred to "the House of David." These inscriptions, recorded a century after David's death, confirm that David was king of Israel at the time the Bible stated and that he established a dynasty, the "House of David" as the Scriptures said.

Israel

A stone inscription from Egypt confirms that Israel was established as a nation in Canaan centuries before the reign of King David, just as the Bible claims. The Merneptah Stela is a seven-and-a-half-foot-high stone inscription discovered in the temple of Pharaoh Merneptah at Thebes in Egypt. Scholars determined that Pharaoh Merneptah ruled Egypt from 1213 to 1203 B.C. and confirmed that he launched an invasion into the area of the modern-day West Bank of Canaan, defeating the Jewish inhabitants of the land. The second line from the bottom of this inscriptions boasts, "Israel is laid waste; his seed is not."

In addition to the archeological evidence for King David, we now have confirmation of other kings of Israel. The name of Omri, king of Israel, is recorded on an inscription known as the Stela of King Mesha of Moab. In addition, Omri's name appears on the rock inscriptions of three kings of Assyria, the annals of both Tiglath-Pileser III and Sargon II, and the Black Obelisk of King Shalmaneser III, who wrote, "I conquered . . . all of the Land of Omri (Israel)."

Other Assyrian inscriptions found in Nineveh confirm the Bible's records about these kings of Israel: Ahab, Jehu, Joash, Menehem, Pekah, and Hoshea. In addition, the names of many of the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah are also recorded on inscriptions of the nations that fought against the Jews. The inscriptions found by archeologists also confirm the names of these kings of Judah: Ahaziah, Uzziah, Ahaz,



Ur Nammu, the king of Ur who claimed to build a famous tower

Hezekiah, Manasseh, and Jehoiachin. Scholars found ration records of the army of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (606 to 562 B.C.) that state, “ten sila of oil to Jehoiachin, king of Judah. . . .” The fact that these foreign nations listed the kings of Israel and Judah provides the strongest evidence confirming the accuracy of the Bible.

The Walls of Jericho

During excavations of Jericho between 1930 and 1936, Professor John Garstang found one of the most incredible confirmations of the biblical record about the conquest of the Promised Land. “As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up and over their ruins into the city.” This fact is important because the evidence from all other archeological digs around ancient cities in the Middle East reveal that walls of cities always fall inwards as invading armies push their way into a city. In the account in Joshua 6:20, we read, “the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city every man straight ahead, and they took the city.”

Patriarchs

Dr. Millar Burrows, a professor at Yale University, studied the evidence that indicates the historicity of Abraham and the other patriarchs of Israel as recorded in Genesis. “Everything indicates that here we have an historical individual. As noted above, he is not mentioned in any known archaeological source, but his name appears in Babylonia as a personal name in the very period to which he belongs” (Millar Burrows, *What Mean These Stones?*, [New York: Meridian Books, 1956], pp. 258-259). Burrows wrote about the underlying reason most scholars reject the authority of the Bible, “The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous predisposition against the supernatural... On the whole, however, archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the scriptural record.”

Abraham’s home city of Ur was excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley.

The Archeological Evidence of the New Testament

The English scholar, William Ramsay, traveled as a young man to Asia Minor over a century ago for the sole purpose of disproving the Bible’s history as described by Luke in his Gospel and in the Book of Acts. Ramsay and his professors were convinced that the New Testament record must be terribly inaccurate. He believed that Luke could not be correct in his history of Christ or in his account about the growth of the Church during the first decades following Christ. Dr. Ramsay began to dig in the ancient ruins of sites throughout Greece and Asia Minor, searching for ancient names, boundary markers, and other archeological finds that would conclusively prove that Luke had invented his history of Christ and His Church. To his amazement and dismay, William Ramsay discovered that the statements of the New Testament Scriptures were accurate in the smallest detail. Finally, Dr. Ramsay was convinced by the overwhelming evidence proving the Bible’s accuracy. As a result, he accepted Jesus Christ as His personal Savior. He became both a Christian and a great biblical scholar. As a result of his conversion to belief in Jesus Christ, Sir William Ramsay’s books became classics in the study of the history of the New Testament. Another great scholar, A. N. Sherwin-White, was a great classical historical scholar at Oxford University who studied the extensive evidence for and against the historical accuracy of the Book of Acts. Sherwin-White wrote his conclusion after studying the evidence, “For Acts the confirmation of historicity is overwhelming . . . any attempt to reject its basic historicity even in matters of detail must now appear absurd” (Quoted by Rubel Shelley, *Prepare To Answer* [Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990]).

Dr. William F. Albright was unquestionably one of the world’s most brilliant biblical archeologists. In 1955 he wrote: “We can already say emphatically that there is no longer any solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after circa A.D. 80.” However, additional discoveries over the next decade convinced him that all the

books in the New Testament were written “probably sometime between circa A.D. 50 and 75.” Significantly, Albright concluded that the writing of the New Testament within a few years of the events it described made it almost impossible that errors or exaggeration could have entered the text. He wrote that the duration between the events of Christ’s life and the writing was “too slight to permit any appreciable corruption of the essential center and even of the specific wording of the sayings of Jesus.” Dr. John A. T. Robinson was a distinguished lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge and developed a reputation as a great scholar. Naturally, he accepted the academic consensus universally held since 1900, that denied the disciples and Paul wrote the New Testament and concluded that it was written up to a hundred years after Christ. However, an article in Time magazine, March 21, 1977, reported that Robinson decided to personally investigate for himself the arguments behind this scholarly consensus against the New Testament’s reliability because he realized that very little original research had been completed in this field in this century. He was shocked to discover that much of past scholarship against the New Testament was untenable because it was based on a “tyranny of unexamined assumptions” and what he felt must have been an “almost willful blindness.” To the amazement of his university colleagues, Robinson concluded that the apostles must have been the genuine writers of the New Testament books in the years prior to A.D. 64. He challenged other scholars to complete original research necessary to truly examine the question fairly. As a result of such a new analysis Robinson believed that it would necessitate “the rewriting of many introductions to-and ultimately, theologies of-the New Testament.” Robinson’s book, *Redating the New Testament*, published in 1976, suggests that Matthew’s Gospel was written as early as A.D. 40, within eight years of Christ.

Bible critics had long sneered at references in the Bible to a people called the Hittites (Genesis 15:20; Exodus 3:8, 17; Numbers 13:29; Joshua 1:4; Judges 1:26). Their opinion was that the Hittites were simply one of the many mythical peoples made up by Bible writers. At the end of the 19th century, Hittite monuments were uncovered at Carchemish on the Euphrates River in Syria, proving the Bible right. Later, in 1906, excavations at Boghazkoy (ancient Hattusas, capital of the Hittite Empire) in Turkey uncovered thousands of Hittite documents, revealing a wealth of information about Hittite history and culture.

Jewish Captivity

The Bible gives specific details about the captivity of Judah by the armies of Babylon early in the 6th century b.c. (2 Kings 24-25). Scholars have said it’s all just another Jewish myth. However, between 1935 and 1938, important discoveries were made 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem at a site thought to be ancient Lachish. Lachish was one of the cities recorded in the Bible as being besieged by the king of Babylon at the same time as the siege of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 34:7). Twenty-one pottery fragments inscribed in the ancient Hebrew script were unearthed in the pre-exilic levels of the site. Called the *Lachish Ostraca*, they were written during the very time of the Babylonian siege. Some of them are exchanges between the city’s military commander and an outlying observation post, vividly picturing the final days of Judah’s desperate struggle against Babylon. Since the 1930s, there has been more unearthing of Babylonian historical texts describing the conquest of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. The historical fact of the Babylonian captivity is firmly established.



King Sargon of Assyria.

Isaiah 20:1 was challenged by critics because they knew of no king named Sargon in lists of Assyrian kings. Now Sargon's palace has been recovered at Khorsabad, including a wall inscription and a library record endorsing the battle against the Philistine city of Ashdod (mentioned in *Isaiah 20:1*).

Recent News

Workers repairing a sewage-pipe break uncovered the Pool of Siloam in Old Jerusalem. The Pool of Siloam is central to the account of the miracle of Christ healing a man blind from birth (John 9:1-7). The *Los Angeles Times* reported about this, "*Scholars have said that there wasn't a Pool of Siloam and that John was using a religious conceit' to illustrate a point, said New Testament scholar James H. Charlesworth of the Princeton Theological Seminary. 'Now, we have found the Pool of Siloam ... exactly where John said it was.' A Gospel that was thought to be 'pure theology is now shown to be grounded in history,' he said.*"

PROPHECY EXTRAS

This is a class and not a book so what follows is a few things taken from books about prophetic events.

(1) Some time before 500 B.C. the prophet Daniel proclaimed that Israel's long-awaited Messiah would begin his public ministry 483 years after the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25-26). He also predicted that the Messiah would be "cut off," killed, and that this event would take place prior to a second destruction of Jerusalem. Abundant documentation shows that these prophecies were perfectly fulfilled in the life (and crucifixion) of Jesus. The decree regarding the restoration of Jerusalem was issued by Persia's King Artaxerxes to the Hebrew priest Ezra in 458 B.C., 483 years later the ministry of Jesus Christ began in Galilee. (*Due to calendar changes, the date for the start of Christ's ministry is set by most historians at about 26 A.D. Also note that from 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. is just one year.*) Jesus' crucifixion occurred only a few years later, and about four decades later, in 70 A.D. came the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus.

(2) In approximately 700 B.C. the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah (Micah 5:2). The fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth of Christ is one of the most widely known and widely celebrated facts in history.

(3) In the fifth century B.C. a prophet named Zechariah declared that the Messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave—thirty pieces of silver, according to Jewish law (and also that this money would be used to buy a burial ground for Jerusalem's poor foreigners) (Zechariah 11:12-13). Bible writers and secular historians both record thirty pieces of silver as the sum paid to Judas Iscariot for betraying Jesus, and they indicate that the money went to purchase a "potter's field," used—just as predicted—for the burial of poor aliens (Matthew 27:3-10).

(4) 400 years before crucifixion was invented, both Israel's King David and the prophet Zechariah described the Messiah's death in words that perfectly depict that mode of execution. Further, they said that the body would be pierced and that none of the bones would be broken, contrary to customary procedure in cases of crucifixion (Psalm 22 and 34:20; Zechariah 12:10). Again, historians and New Testament writers confirm the fulfillment: Jesus died on a Roman cross, and his quick death eliminated the need for the usual breaking of bones. A spear was thrust into his side to verify that he was dead.

(5) The prophet Isaiah foretold that a conqueror named Cyrus would destroy 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.

(6) Babylon, 196 miles square, was enclosed not only by a moat, but also by a double wall 330 feet high, each part 90 feet thick. It was said by unanimous popular opinion to be indestructible, yet two Bible prophets declared its doom. These prophets claimed that the ruins would be avoided by travelers, that the city would never again be inhabited, and that its stones would not even be moved for use as building material (Isaiah 13:17-22 and Jeremiah 51:26, 43). Their description is, in fact, the well-documented history of the famous citadel.

(7) The exact location and construction sequence of Jerusalem's nine suburbs was predicted by Jeremiah 2600 years ago (Jeremiah 31:38-40). This rebirth became history in 1948 and the construction of the nine suburbs has gone forward precisely in the locations and in the sequence predicted.

(8) The prophet Moses foretold (with some additions by Jeremiah and Jesus) that the ancient Jewish nation would be conquered twice and that the people would be carried off as slaves each time, first by the Babylonians (for a period of 70 years), and then by a fourth world kingdom (which we know as Rome). The second conqueror, Moses said, would take the Jews captive to Egypt in ships, selling them or giving them away as slaves to all parts of the world. Both of these predictions were fulfilled to the letter, the first in 607 B.C. and the second in 70 A.D. God's spokesmen said, further, that the Jews would remain scattered throughout the entire world for many generations, but without becoming assimilated by the peoples or of other nations, and that the Jews would one day return to the land of Palestine to re-establish, for a second time, their nation (Deuteronomy 29; Isaiah 11:11-13; Jeremiah 25:11; Hosea 3:4-5 and Luke 21:23-24).

This prophetic statement sweeps across 3500 years of history to its complete fulfillment—in our lifetime.

(9) Jeremiah predicted that despite its fertility and despite the accessibility of its water supply, the land of Edom (today a part of Jordan) would become a barren, uninhabited wasteland (Jeremiah 49:15-20; Ezekiel 25:12-14). His description accurately tells the history of that region.

(10) Joshua prophesied that Jericho would be rebuilt by one man. He also said that the man's eldest son would die when the reconstruction began and that his youngest son would die when the work reached completion (Joshua 6:26). About five centuries later this prophecy found its fulfillment in the life and family of a man named Hiel (1 Kings 16:33-34).

<http://www.reasons.org>



Concerning His birth	Prophesied	Fulfilled
1. Born of the seed of woman	Gen 3:15	Gal 4:4
2. Born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:18-25
3. Seed of Abraham	Gen 22:18	Mt 1:1
4. Seed of Isaac	Gen 21:12	Lk 3:23+34
5. Seed of Jacob	Num 24:17	Lk 3:34
6. Seed of David	Jer 23:5	Lk 3:31
7. Tribe of Judah	Gen 49:10	Rev 5:5
8. Family line of Jesse	Isa 11:1	Lk 3:32
9. Born in Bethlehem	Mic 5:2	Mt 2:1-6
10. Herod kills the children	Jer 31:15	Mt 2:16-18
Concerning his nature	Prophesied	Fulfilled
11. He pre-existed creation	Mic 5:2	1 Pet 1:20
12. He shall be called Lord	Ps 110:1	Acts 2:36
13. Called Immanuel (God with us)	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:22-23
14. Prophet	Deut 18:18-19	Acts 3:18-25
15. Priest	Ps 110:4	Heb 5:5-6
16. Judge	Isa 33:22	Jn 5:22-23
17. King	Ps 2:6	Jn 18:33-37
18. Anointed by the Spirit	Isa 11:2	Mt 3:16-17
19. His zeal for God	Ps 69:9	Jn 2:15-17
Concerning his ministry	Prophesied	Fulfilled
20. Preceded by a messenger	Isa 40:3	Mt 3:1-3
21. To begin in Galilee	Isa 9:1-2	Mt 4:12-17
22. Ministry of Miracles	Isa 35:5-6	Mt 9:35;11:4
23. Teacher of parables	Ps 78:1-4	Mt 13:34-35
24. He was to enter the temple	Mal 3:1	Mt 21:10-12
25. Enter Jerusalem on donkey	Zech 9:9	Mt 21:1-7
26. Stone of stumbling to Jews	Isa 28:16; Ps 118:22	1 Pet 2:6-8
27. Light to Gentiles	Isa 49:6	Acts 13:46-48
The day Jesus was crucified	Prophesied	Fulfilled
28. Betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9	Jn 13:18-27
29. Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech 11:12	Mt 26:14-15
30. 30 pieces thrown in Temple	Zech 11:13	Mt 27:3-5
31. 30 pieces buys potters field	Zech 11:13	Mt 27:6-10
32. Forsaken by His disciples	Zech 13:7	Mk 14:27+50
33. Accused by false witnesses	Ps 35:11+20-21	Mt 26:59-61
34. Silent before accusers	Isa 53:7	Mt 27:12-14
35. Wounded and bruised	Isa 53:4-6	1 Pet 2:21-25

36. Beaten and spit upon	Isa 50:6	Mt 26:67-68
37. Mocked	Ps 22:6-8	Mt 27:27-31
38. Fell under the cross	Ps 109:24-25	Jn 19:17; Lk23:26
39. Hands and feet pierced	Ps 22:16	Jn 20:24-28
40. Crucified with thieves	Isa 53:12	Mt 27:38
41. Prayed for enemies	Isa 53:12	Lk 23:34
42. Rejected by His own people	Isa 53:3	Jn 19:14-15
43. Hated without cause	Ps 69:4	Jn 15:25
44. Friends stood aloof	Ps 38:11	Lk22:54;23:49
45. People wag their heads	Ps 22:7;109:25	Mt 27:39
46. People stared at Him	Ps 22:17	Lk 23:35
47. Cloths divided and gambled for	Ps 22:18	Jn 19:23-24
48. Became very thirsty	Ps 22:15	Jn 19:28
49. Gall and vinegar offered Him	Ps 69:21	Mt 27:34
50. His forsaken cry	Ps 22:1	Mt 27:46
51. Committed Himself to God	Ps 31:5	Lk 23:46
52. Bones not broken	Ps 34:20	Jn 19:32-36
53. Heart broken	Ps 69:20;22:14	Jn 19:34
54. His side pierced	Zech 12:10	Jn 19:34+37
55. Darkness over the land	Amos 8:9	Lk 23:44-45
56. Buried in rich man's tomb	Isa 53:9	Mt 27:57-60
His Resurrection & Ascension	Prophesied	Fulfilled
57. Raised from the dead	Ps 16:8-11	Acts 2:24-31
58. Begotten as Son of God	Ps 2:7	Acts 13:32-35
59. Ascended to Heaven	Ps 68:18	Eph 4:8-10; John 3:13
60. Seated beside God	Ps 110:1	Heb 1:3+13