

Internal and External Evidence that Substantiates the Claim that the Holy Bible is  
Divinely Inspired

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## INTRODUCTION

The Holy Bible is by far the most popular book of all time, nonetheless there are few people that realize the true significance of this special book. As long as the Scriptures have existed it has been a target for never ending scrutiny and attacks mainly because the Holy Bible claims to be the divinely inspired Word of God. Unfortunately, many misconceptions about the content and nature of the Bible have formed in the general population because of these attacks. These misconceptions include but are not limited to the unsubstantiated claims that the Holy Bible: is not a reliable source of information, lacks uniqueness, lacks supernatural attributes, is contrary to science, is not historically accurate, and ultimately has no evidence to support the claim that the Bible is divinely inspired. This paper seeks to prove that all of these claims are demonstrably false.

Contrary to popular belief there is an inexhaustible amount of evidence that unequivocally proves that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired. The first goal of this paper will be to prove that the Holy Bible of today is an accurate depiction of the original writings of the past. It is important to establish that the content found in the Holy Bible today is identical to the many ancient manuscripts of the past in order to dispel the inaccurate claim that the biblical content has changed over time. After the Bible's historical reliability is established this paper will provide evidence that a higher power exists. This is necessary because in order for the Bible to be divinely inspired a higher power would have to exist. Afterwards, the rest of this paper will be devoted to presenting different evidences that prove that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired. Some of the different evidences that will be reviewed are the Bible's uniqueness, prophetic evidence, scientific evidence, and historical evidence. After carefully investigating the

body of evidence available the only rational conclusion to be made is that the Holy Bible is of a supernatural origin. By the end of this paper readers will discover a major dilemma that will surprise many. Altogether, this paper will be an eye opening journey that will hopefully give many readers hope, encouragement, and purpose in this life.

## CHAPTER 1

### Reliability of the Ancient Biblical Manuscripts

The sole purpose of this chapter is to give readers confidence that the Bible used today is a reliable source for readers. This reality can be proven because the Bibles of today hinge upon the reliability of the extensive collection of ancient biblical manuscripts found throughout history. An ancient biblical manuscript is a hand copied partial or complete portion of Scripture discovered through archaeology. One of the first questions readers may ask concerning ancient biblical manuscripts may perhaps be: how exactly are the dates for a biblical manuscript or any ancient writings in general determined? Although the majority of ancient manuscripts found in history are not dated there are many ways that archeologists today are able to determine the approximate dates of any ancient writings.<sup>1</sup> For example, one method used to determine an approximate date for an ancient writing is based on what materials were used for writing.<sup>2</sup> Ancient civilizations used materials such as stone, leather scrolls, and eventually papyrus codices or books.<sup>3</sup> Other methods to determine an approximate date for ancient writings include: the study of letter formation or paleography, the color of ink used, the language that was used in the writing, punctuation, and other documents that may be dated found with the manuscript in question.<sup>4</sup> In addition, there are methods such as carbon 14 dating and accelerator Mass Spectrometry that can be used to give fairly precise dates to ancient

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<sup>1</sup> Don Stewart, “How Is the Age of an Ancient Manuscript Determined?” Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/words-bible/question8-how-is-the-age-of-an-ancient-manuscript-determined.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/words-bible/question8-how-is-the-age-of-an-ancient-manuscript-determined.cfm) (accessed September 15, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Stewart, “How is the Age of an Ancient Manuscript Determined?”

documents.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, readers can be confident that the ancient biblical manuscripts are dated accurately by experts in their respected fields.

The following paragraphs will first review the reliability of the ancient New Testament manuscripts available. Afterwards, the manuscript reliability of the Old Testament will be reviewed. Lastly, this chapter will establish that many modern translations of today are a trustworthy rendering of the ancient biblical languages.

### Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts

The skeptic's natural reaction to the supernatural accuracy of the Bible is to assume the present day translations of the Bible were changed to falsely support the claim that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired. Thankfully there is an abundance of ancient biblical manuscripts preserved throughout history that the biblical translations of today can be compared to. Therefore, Bible readers can be confident in the fact that the modern translations of today reflect the original writings of Scripture.

Unfortunately, the original writings for each book of the Bible are no longer available; however, there is a reliable way to determine that the textual transmission of the Bible has been preserved over the course of thousands of years.<sup>6</sup> According to Dr. Clay Jones,

For more than forty years Christians have appealed to what is called the “bibliographical test” as a means of establishing the New Testament’s (NT) transmissional accuracy. The bibliographical test examines the overall number of extant manuscripts (sometimes abbreviated to MSS or MS for the singular) and the difference between the date of the autograph (original handwritten document) and the date of the earliest surviving, or extant, manuscript. Since we do not

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<sup>5</sup> Stewart, “How is the Age of an Ancient Manuscript Determined?”

<sup>6</sup> Josh McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990), 33.

possess the autograph of even one ancient document, this test best determines transmissional accuracy for any ancient document.<sup>7</sup>

In other words, the bibliographical test is the method used to establish the reliability of any ancient writings by determining the overall number of existing ancient manuscripts available for an ancient text; and by determining the length of time between the original writings and the earliest surviving ancient manuscript. The following paragraph will review the amount of ancient New Testament manuscripts available today and subsequent paragraphs will review the length of time between the original writings of the New Testament and some of the earliest biblical manuscripts that have been discovered in archaeology.

### The Prevalence of the New Testament Manuscripts

There are three bodies of evidence that can be used to reconstruct an accurate rendering of the original writings of the New Testament. These three areas are the Greek manuscripts, the versions or translations, and the early writings of the Church Fathers.<sup>8</sup> The ancient Greek manuscripts prove to be the most valuable resource used to reconstruct the original text.<sup>9</sup> This is because the New Testament was originally written in the ancient language known as Koine Greek or common Greek. Koine Greek had spread as a result of Alexander the Great conquering the Persian world empire and establishing the Greek

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<sup>7</sup> Clay Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated," Christian Research Institute, April 12, 2023, <https://www.equip.org/articles/the-bibliographical-test-updated/> (accessed September 15, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> Don Stewart, "The Reliability of the New Testament Text," Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/the-case-for-christianity/04-the-reliability-of-the-new-testament-text.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/the-case-for-christianity/04-the-reliability-of-the-new-testament-text.cfm) (accessed September 15, 2023).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

empire as the major world empire around 333 BC.<sup>10</sup> As Alexander's empire spread Greek culture and language became prevalent in these conquered territories.<sup>11</sup> The majority of these territories would begin to speak Koine Greek instead of or along with their native language.<sup>12</sup> Historians refer to the spread of Greek influence around the ancient world as the process of Hellenization.<sup>13</sup> Koine Greek would be the international language used for international commerce during the Greek and Roman empire. The prevalence of Koine Greek in the ancient world would be comparable to the prevalence of the English language in the world today.

Altogether there are over 5800 partial and complete portions of Greek manuscripts of the New Testament that had been hand copied between the second and fifteenth centuries.<sup>14 15</sup> Many of these ancient biblical manuscripts can be found in museums, libraries, and private collections throughout the world.<sup>16</sup> The collection of ancient Greek manuscripts for the New Testament available today surpasses the amount of ancient manuscripts available for any other ancient writings found in history.<sup>17</sup>

In addition, ancient manuscripts of the New Testament can be found translated into various other languages. This is because early Christian missionaries had spread the

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<sup>10</sup> "Why Was the New Testament Written in Greek?" A Christian Guy, July 6, 2020, Video, 2:49, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSh846pLDB0> (accessed September 28, 2023).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 34.

<sup>15</sup> "Testing the Historical Reliability of the New Testament," Josh McDowell Ministry Team, <https://www.josh.org/historical-reliability-new-testament/> (accessed September 28, 2023).

<sup>16</sup> Stewart, "The Reliability of the New Testament Text."

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

Christian faith to many different peoples and cultures throughout the world.<sup>18</sup> The translation of ancient literature into another language was an extremely rare occurrence, however the New Testament writings were an exception in the ancient world.<sup>19</sup> According to Josh McDowell's book, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, the many different languages the Greek New Testament had been translated into in the ancient world include: Latin, Ethiopic, Slavic, Armenian, Syriac, Coptic, Arabic, Old Latin, Anglo Saxon, Gothic, Sogdian, Old Syriac, Persian, Frankish, and Georgian.<sup>20 21</sup> The total number of translated New Testament manuscripts that have been discovered exceed 19,000 copies.<sup>22</sup> Some of these translated New Testament manuscripts are dated as early as 250 AD.<sup>23</sup> These translated ancient biblical manuscripts are of course not as valuable as the Greek manuscripts, however it does give another witness to the reliability of the New Testament.<sup>24</sup>

It is also impressive to consider that if all the scriptural quotations contained within the commentaries, treaties, and sermons written by the early church fathers were gathered together one could practically reconstruct the entire New Testament.<sup>25</sup> This would mean that if there was not a single ancient New Testament manuscript available today the entire New Testament would still be able to be reconstructed through secondary

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<sup>18</sup> Stewart, "The Reliability of the New Testament Text."

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 34.

<sup>21</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

<sup>22</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 34.

<sup>23</sup> Stewart, "The Reliability of the New Testament Text."

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

sources. In fact, every book of the New Testament except 2 John and Jude had already been quoted by 110 AD by only three church fathers: Clement of Rome, Ignatius, and Polycarp.<sup>26</sup> The early church fathers were notable Christian philosophers and theologians that lived between the second and fifth centuries who had altogether quoted from the New Testament over one million times according to Dr. Edward D. Andrews.<sup>27 28</sup> Thankfully the quotes from the early church fathers do not have to be relied upon because of the substantially more reliable biblical manuscript collection available to scholars today. Nonetheless, the significant amount of references to the New Testament writings in early church history is more evidence that points to the reliability of Scripture.

The writings that comprise the New Testament are by far the most copied and circulated books of the ancient past.<sup>29</sup> The number of New Testament manuscripts available today is around 30,000 copies.<sup>30 31 32</sup> By comparison, it has often been reported by Christian apologists that the second most copied ancient document is Homer's Illiad with 643 ancient manuscripts; however, the current updated number indicates that there are 1,757 ancient manuscripts available for Homer's Illiad.<sup>33</sup> Regardless of the increased

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<sup>26</sup> Joseph Holden, "Were The New Testament Manuscripts Copied Accurately?" Calvary Chapel, July 11, 2019, <https://calvarychapel.com/posts/were-the-new-testament-manuscripts-copied-accurately/> (accessed September 17, 2023).

<sup>27</sup> Edward D. Andrews, "New Testament Quotations In Patristic Writings," Christian Publishing House Blog, <https://christianpublishinghouse.co/2018/08/10/new-testament-quotations-in-patristic-writings/> (accessed September 17, 2023).

<sup>28</sup> Holden, "Were The New Testament Manuscripts Copied Accurately?"

<sup>29</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 34.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

<sup>32</sup> Stewart, "The Reliability of the New Testament Text."

<sup>33</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

number of manuscripts for Homer's Iliad it still remains self-evident that the number of biblical manuscripts available dominates the number of ancient manuscripts for any other ancient writings. Also, it is worth noting that the director of The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, Dr. Daniel B. Wallace, attests that many of the classic ancient texts have few original manuscripts but many copies of the same manuscripts; whereas, New Testament scholars know of very few manuscripts that have been directly copied from another manuscript.<sup>34</sup>

When considering all ancient historical writings, it is easily provable that the New Testament books are the most valued writings of the ancient world. To reach this conclusion it must first be determined what time period a historical writing would have to be written to be considered an ancient writing. According to Dr. Josho Brouwers, the beginning of the ancient historical era is said to have begun in 3000 BC because of the written evidence available for that time period, whereas the conventional date for the end of the ancient era is said to be the fall of the Western Roman empire in 476 AD.<sup>35</sup> Therefore, for a historical writing to be considered ancient it would have had to be written over the span of 3500 years starting from 3000 BC up until the fall of the Roman empire in 476 AD. It is impressive to consider that over the course of 3500 years the New Testament which is comprised of 27 books and written over a period of approximately 60 years from 40 AD to 96 AD were the most copied and quoted books in the ancient world by far.<sup>36</sup> For example, when adding together the total number of manuscripts for what

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<sup>34</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

<sup>35</sup> Josho Brouwers, "Defining the ancient world," *Ancient World Magazine*, March 12, 2018. <https://www.ancientworldmagazine.com/articles/defining-ancient-world/> (accessed September 9, 2023).

<sup>36</sup> Don Stewart, "What Happened Historically to Cause the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament to Be Recognized as Scripture?" *Blue Letter Bible*,

would be regarded as fifteen of the most credible writings in ancient history apart from the New Testament the total number would be 3,417 ancient manuscripts.<sup>37 38</sup> This list would include the writings of Homer, Demosthenes, Caesar, Plato, Pliny the Younger, Sophocles, Livy, Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristotle, Tacitus, Aristophanes, Euripides, Suetonius, and Lucretius.<sup>39</sup> When the New Testament manuscripts are included the total number of manuscripts for sixteen of the most credible writings of ancient history would be 28,417 manuscripts where the New Testament represents 88 percent of the total. Keep in mind this significant percentage is reached when adding a conservative 25,000 New Testament manuscripts. By comparison, the total number of manuscripts for Homer's Iliad would reflect a little over six percent out of the 28,417 manuscripts. There is clearly a substantially larger collection of ancient manuscripts for the New Testament when compared to the amount of ancient manuscripts available for all other ancient writings. This fact proves that the ancient world valued the New Testament writings significantly more than any other ancient writings.

### The New Testament Manuscripts Are Reliable

Thus far it has been established that the New Testament writings were the most prevalent and copied writings of the ancient world; however, this fact would be

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[https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/right-books-in-the-new-testament/question6-new-testament-scripture.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/right-books-in-the-new-testament/question6-new-testament-scripture.cfm) (accessed September 9, 2023).

<sup>37</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

<sup>38</sup> Matt Slick, "Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability," Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, December 6, 2008, <https://carm.org/about-the-bible/manuscript-evidence-for-superior-new-testament-reliability/> (accessed September 9, 2023).

<sup>39</sup> Slick, "Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability."

considered worthless if it was determined that the body of ancient biblical manuscripts are not identical to one another and that they do not ultimately reflect the original writings of the New Testament. The following paragraphs will determine how close some of the earliest biblical manuscripts are to the New Testament's original writings and how identical the ancient biblical manuscripts are when compared to one another.

The first step to determine how close the ancient biblical manuscripts are to the original New Testament writings is to discover the approximate dates that the New Testament books were written. Earlier in this paper it had been briefly discussed how ancient biblical manuscripts are dated, however an equally important question that should be considered is: How do scholars determine when the original New Testament writings were written? Scholars are able to approximately date the original writings of the New Testament with the help of internal and external evidence.<sup>40</sup> One of the obvious conclusions that can be made when dating the New Testament books is that the original writings cannot be dated later than the earliest copied manuscript for that particular book.<sup>41</sup> For example, many scholars had believed the gospel of John had been written in the second half of second century AD until the biblical manuscript known as the Rylands fragment of John chapter 18 was dated in the first half of the second century AD through paleography.<sup>42</sup> Another useful method to determine the dates for the original writings is

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<sup>40</sup> "How do we know when the books of the Bible were written?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/when-Bible-written.html> (accessed September 28).

<sup>41</sup> F.F Bruce, "On Dating the New Testament," [Biblical Studies.org.uk](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eternity/dating-nt_bruce.pdf), June, 1972, [https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eternity/dating-nt\\_bruce.pdf](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eternity/dating-nt_bruce.pdf) (accessed September 28).

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

by dating the book based on a historical event that is being referenced in the book.<sup>43</sup> For instance, Paul's letter to the Corinthians was written after he had evangelized and established a church in the city of Corinth. Based on external evidence a precise date can be provided for when Paul evangelized Corinth because there is inscriptional evidence that revealed that Gallio's governorship of Achaia started while Paul was in the city of Corinth. Based on this insight Paul's letter to the Corinthians cannot be dated earlier than 52 AD. In addition, other historical documents that have been dated and that reference the original New Testament books can help pinpoint a more precise date. For example, Clement of Rome wrote a letter to the church of Corinth quoting Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in about 96 AD. Therefore, Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth would have existed before 96 AD.<sup>44</sup> Moreover, other outside sources such as the work of Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian that lived during the first century AD, have in their writings historical accounts that corroborate with the events described in the New Testament.<sup>45</sup> All of these methods mentioned can assist in providing reliable dates for the original writings of the New Testament.

By now readers should be familiar with some of the methods used to ascribe dates to the original writings and the copied manuscripts of the New Testament. The next logical step is to determine how close in time the earliest existing manuscripts are to the original writings of the New Testament. As of now the earliest ancient biblical manuscripts available for the New Testament are dated less than 100 years from the

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<sup>43</sup> Bruce, "On Dating the New Testament."

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> "How do we know when the books of the Bible were written?"

original writings of the New Testament books.<sup>46</sup> According to Dr. Daniel Wallace, executive director of The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, there are eighteen New Testament manuscripts dated in the second century AD which can account for more than 43 percent of the entire New Testament.<sup>47</sup> This would mean that almost half of the New Testament verses are accounted for in the earliest New Testament manuscripts within 150 years of the original writings. The earliest Greek New Testament manuscript available is the Ryland Papyrus P52 which is a fragmented manuscript of the Gospel of John which is dated to 130 AD.<sup>48</sup> Along with Rylands P52, there are the Greek New Testament manuscripts papyrus P90, P98, and P104 that have all been dated in the second century AD. Additionally, papyrus P32, P46, P66, P77, P103, and majuscule GA 0189 are dated in the late second century or early third century AD. Papyrus manuscripts were the manuscripts copied onto cheap ancient writing material, whereas Majuscules were the manuscripts that were written on parchment or animal skins.<sup>49</sup> Papyrus is believed to be the material that the original New Testament writings were written upon.<sup>50</sup> The ten Greek New Testament manuscripts mentioned above contain portions of fourteen

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<sup>46</sup> Jones, “The Bibliographical Test Updated.”

<sup>47</sup> Daniel B. Wallace, “Dr. Wallace: Earliest Manuscript of the New Testament Discovered?” Voice Dallas Theological Seminary, May 23, 2018, <https://voice.dts.edu/article/wallace-new-testament-manuscript-first-century/> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>48</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 38.

<sup>49</sup> Stewart, “The Reliability of the New Testament Text.”

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

New Testament books which can be viewed in The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts digital database.<sup>51 52</sup>

Next, the time gaps between the four earliest dated Greek New Testament manuscripts mentioned above and the original New Testament writings that are being referenced will be determined. As noted before, the earliest ancient Greek manuscript known as Rylands P52 is dated at 130 AD and references the Gospel of John. C.I. Scofield says in, *The Scofield Study Bible*, that the Gospel of John is usually dated between 85 and 90 AD.<sup>53</sup> This means that the earliest ancient Greek manuscript referencing the book of John could have a time gap as little as 40-years between the original and copied manuscript.<sup>54</sup> Another ancient manuscript of the Gospel of John is Papyrus P90 which is dated in the second century AD and is dated between 100 and 150 years from the original writing of John.<sup>55</sup> Also, there is papyrus P104 referencing the book of Matthew that is also dated between 100 and 150 years from the original writing.<sup>56</sup> Lastly, papyrus P98 is a manuscript of the book of Revelation that was copied sometime during the second century AD which is within 100 years of the original writing of Revelation.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Bryan Windle, “The Earliest New Testament Manuscripts,” Bible Archaeology Report, February 15, 2019, <https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2019/02/15/the-earliest-new-testament-manuscripts/> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>52</sup> “MANUSCRIPT SEARCH,” The Center For The Study Of New Testament Manuscripts, <https://manuscripts.csntm.org> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>53</sup> C. I. Scofield, ed., *The Scofield Study Bible, New King James Version.*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), 1449.

<sup>54</sup> “Survey of John,” BibleRef, <https://www.bibleref.com/John/>, accessed September 30, 2023.

<sup>55</sup> Windle, “The Earliest New Testament Manuscripts.”

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

The time gap between the earliest dated Greek New Testament manuscripts and the original New Testament writings surpass the time gap between many other ancient manuscripts and its original writing. As noted earlier, there are no original writings for any ancient historical document. Therefore, in order to establish the reliability of any ancient writing found in history, scholars rely on: the number of copied manuscripts available, and the time gap between the original writings and the ancient manuscript copies. The earliest time gap for an ancient source other than the Bible are the plays of Sophocles which have a gap of between 100 and 200 years and Thucydides work with a time gap of 200 years.<sup>58</sup> The three writings with the most ancient manuscripts available outside of the New Testament is Homer's Illiad, Demosthenes speeches, and Caesar's Gallic Wars which have time gaps of 400 years for Homer, over 1100 years for Demosthenes, and a 950-year time gap for Caesar's work.<sup>59</sup> Whereas, the New Testament has ancient manuscripts accounting for over 43 percent of the writings within 150 years and a complete ancient manuscript for the entire New Testament known as the Codex Vaticanus within 250 years of the original writings.<sup>60</sup>

Despite the massive number of New Testament manuscripts available the presence of significant variation between the manuscripts are almost nonexistent. It is reasonable to expect a writing that has been hand copied over the course of 2000 years to have differences especially when there is a large amount of ancient manuscripts available for comparison.<sup>61</sup> Altogether between 80 and 85 percent of the Greek manuscripts for the

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<sup>58</sup> Jones, "The Bibliographical Test Updated."

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Stewart, "The Reliability of the New Testament Text."

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

New Testament are exactly the same.<sup>62</sup> Of the 15 to 20 percent of variant readings only 1 percent or between 400 and 600 of these variants affect the translation of the text.<sup>63</sup> When considering the entire New Testament there are only 50 variants that are of importance.<sup>64</sup>

Dr. Joseph Holden sums up the nature of these variants:

Technically speaking, any deviation from the base accepted text is an error, but the kinds of “errors” represented in the New Testament text are not errors of historical, geographical, spiritual, or scientific fact. Instead, they are rather trivial. Therefore, the term “variant(s)” has been employed by scholars to avoid this confusion, since misspellings, omissions, differing word orders, updated words (substitution), and additions are much different in nature than errors of fact that would threaten biblical inerrancy or the truth value of the message.<sup>65</sup>

Christian apologist Don Stewart says, “With respect to the variations found in the New Testament manuscripts, most were unintentional. The few that were intentional consisted mostly of grammatical improvements. There is no evidence of any widespread altering of the text for doctrinal reasons.”<sup>66</sup> In addition, Dr. Bart Ehrman, a biblical scholar that argues against Christianity, concedes that the New Testament manuscripts that contain variant readings never affects essential Christian beliefs.<sup>67</sup> Therefore, even the small minority of notable variants in manuscripts do not affect anything of importance in the New Testament text. For this reason, many biblical scholars have calculated that the New Testament has a 98 to 99 percent accurate transmission rate.<sup>68</sup> By comparison, it has been

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<sup>62</sup> Stewart, “The Reliability of the New Testament Text.”

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Holden, “Were The New Testament Manuscripts Copied Accurately?”

<sup>66</sup> Stewart, “The Reliability of the New Testament Text.”

<sup>67</sup> Erick Erickson, “Bible is the most reliable of ancient manuscripts that have made their way to us,” *The Telegraph*, December 11, 2018, <https://www.macon.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article222919590.html> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>68</sup> Holden, “Were The New Testament Manuscripts Copied Accurately?”

calculated that Homer's Iliad was copied with a 95 percent accuracy, and the Hindu Mahabharata with a 90 percent accuracy.<sup>69</sup> Nonetheless, it only takes 90 to 95 percent accuracy in the transmission process to be able to communicate 100 percent of the original message which is illustrated by Dr. Joseph Holden.<sup>70</sup>

When all of the evidence is considered the reliability of the New Testament writings prove to be in a class of its own. If all the other ancient writings are deemed as reliable sources, then the New Testament is more so. If one is to reject the New Testament's reliability, then one is essentially rejecting the reliability of every ancient historical writing.<sup>71</sup>

#### Reliability of the Old Testament Manuscripts and Modern Translations

Since the principles for establishing the reliability of the Old Testament is the same for establishing the reliability of the New Testament this section will be much more succinct. As noted earlier the bibliographic test is the standard test for determining the reliability of any ancient historical documents. The following paragraphs will apply the bibliographic test to the Old Testament. Afterwards, the last section will address the reliability of the modern translations of the Bible.

#### Reliability of the Old Testament Manuscripts

There is an abundance of ancient manuscript evidence that attests to the reliability of the Old Testament books. The Old Testament was predominantly written in ancient

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<sup>69</sup> Holden, "Were The New Testament Manuscripts Copied Accurately?"

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> "Testing the Historical Reliability of the New Testament."

Hebrew with select passages of the book of Daniel and Ezra written in Aramaic.<sup>72</sup> It has been estimated by Christian apologist Josh McDowell and other experts that there is at least 17,000 Hebrew scrolls and codices that are dated earlier than the eighteenth century.<sup>73</sup> The most significant of these ancient Old Testament manuscript discoveries are the Leningrad Codex and the Qumran scrolls.<sup>74</sup> The majority of modern Old Testament translations of today derive from the Leningrad Codex which is the oldest Hebrew manuscript for the entire Old Testament dated at 1008 AD.<sup>75 76</sup> These later dated Hebrew manuscripts were often a point of attack by critics because the 39 original books of the Old Testament were written at a much earlier date. The first five books of the Old Testament were written in circa 1500 BC and the whole canon of the Old Testament had been completed by circa 400 BC.<sup>77 78</sup> This left scholars with a substantial gap between the original writings of the Old Testament and the oldest dated Hebrew manuscripts. The natural assumption would be that the original writings of the Hebrew Old Testament had

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<sup>72</sup> Geoffrey Khan, "The Languages of the Old Testament," Cambridge University Press, May 5, 2013, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/new-cambridge-history-of-the-bible/languages-of-the-old-testament/E04B54E7DB694A8ADFBB0C5CB381A83D> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>73</sup> Josh McDowell, "Testing the Historical Reliability of the Old Testament," Jesus Film Project, February 6, 2020, <https://www.jesusteam.org/blog/testing-historical-reliability-old-testament/> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> "Biblical Manuscripts," Houston Christian University, <https://hc.edu/museums/dunham-bible-museum/tour-of-the-museum/past-exhibits/biblical-manuscripts/#:~:text=A%20manuscript%20is%20a%20hand,9%2C300%20manuscripts%20in%20other%20languages> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>77</sup> Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, 1284.

<sup>78</sup> Dale Weinbaum, "When Was The Old Testament Written?" California Business Journal, <https://calbizjournal.com/when-was-the-old-testament-written/#:~:text=The%20Old%20Testament%20was%20written,the%20prophets%2C%20and%20the%20writings> (accessed September 30, 2023).

to have changed by 1008 AD. However, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls which were found in 11 desert caves between 1947 and 1956 would prove that the Old Testament had been accurately transmitted over the course of 1000 years.<sup>79</sup> These desert caves better known as the Qumran caves were located about twelve and a half miles southeast of Jerusalem.<sup>80</sup> The Dead Sea Scrolls are comprised of around 1050 ancient scrolls including about 300 biblical scrolls dated between the third century B.C and the first century AD.<sup>81</sup> <sup>82</sup>This discovery is so significant because it gives scholars access to ancient Hebrew manuscripts from various Old Testament books that are over 1000 years older than the oldest Hebrew manuscripts previously available. Every book of the Old Testament was referenced in the Dead Sea Scrolls with the exception of the book of Esther.<sup>83</sup> However, the majority of these ancient Hebrew scrolls are fragmentary portions of the Old Testament books.<sup>84</sup> The most preserved Hebrew scroll is the Great Isaiah Scroll which contains all 66 chapters of the book of Isaiah which is dated between 207 and 107 BC.<sup>85</sup>

The most remarkable insight gained from the Dead Sea Scrolls is the fact that when these ancient Hebrew scrolls were compared to modern versions of the Hebrew Bible the wording was identical in over 95 percent of instances.<sup>86</sup> The five percent

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<sup>79</sup> Justin Rogers, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible," Apologetics Press, November, 2019, <https://apologeticspress.org/the-dead-sea-scrolls-and-the-bible-5741/> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> Mcdowell, "Testing the Historical Reliability of the Old Testament."

<sup>82</sup> Rogers, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible."

<sup>83</sup> Mcdowell, "Testing the Historical Reliability of the Old Testament."

<sup>84</sup> Rogers, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible."

<sup>85</sup> "Biblical Manuscripts."

<sup>86</sup> Mcdowell, "Testing the Historical Reliability of the Old Testament."

deviation from the text were for the majority of instances spelling variations.<sup>87</sup> This would mean that over the course of 1000 years the transmission of hand copied Hebrew manuscripts had maintained an astonishing percentage of accuracy. However, the reliability of the Dead Sea Scrolls is often misapplied to the Old Testament as a whole. Unfortunately, the reality of the Dead Sea Scrolls is that much of the writings of the Old Testament are missing because the majority of the scrolls are fragmented, therefore these scrolls cannot offer a clear comparison to the entire Old Testament as a whole.<sup>88</sup> Nonetheless, this does not change the fact that the numerous Dead Sea Scrolls containing in some instances substantial portions of the Old Testament writings are unbelievably accurate to the modern Hebrew Bible. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were compared to the two most important medieval manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible the Aleppo and the Leningrad Codices, which are both over 1000 years' older than the Qumran scrolls, notable differences in the texts were very infrequent.<sup>89</sup> Dr. Justin Rogers says:

there are relatively few examples of passages that are totally different in the Dead Sea Scrolls than they appear in the Medieval Hebrew manuscripts. And the majority of the passages that are different match some other known version of the Old Testament (usually the Greek translation). This means that the Old Testament has been copied and transmitted with remarkable accuracy. It is not a stretch to say the Hebrew Bible known to Jesus is essentially the same as the one known to us.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> Mcdowell, "Testing the Historical Reliability of the Old Testament."

<sup>88</sup> Rogers, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible."

<sup>89</sup> Mcdowell, "Testing the Historical Reliability of the Old Testament."

<sup>90</sup> Rogers, "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible."

Although the original discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is deemed reliable there have been forgeries that had been uncovered by the Museum of the Bible.<sup>91</sup> The Museum of the Bible had displayed 17 fragments of forged Dead Sea Scrolls purchased from four different antiquities dealers between 2009 and 2014 that were discovered to be fraudulent after the museum contracted an independent analysis of the fragments.<sup>92</sup> Dr. Daniel Silliman attests that the good forgeries within the past 40 years would have definitely been by experts within the field.<sup>93</sup> The sad reality is that the antiquities market has tempted forgers because of the lucrative prices that an ancient fragment can be sold at.<sup>94</sup>

Dr. Daniel Silliman says:

When a piece from the market surfaces and it's a probable or a certain modern forgery, based on my analysis, I debunk it rapidly. I try to get out there in a day or two at most. You have to immediately say, "This thing has some problems." That way, people don't publish on it, become invested in it, and commit to it, even though it might be a lost cause.

Although laws can be passed to prevent such forgeries the reason the forgery was able to be sold in the first place was because Israel's law enables an ancient piece that is part of a collection prior to 1970 to be sold in the antiquities market.<sup>95</sup> Dr. Daniel Silliman has recommended that anything that is purchased from the antiquities market should forever be flagged whether authentic or not.<sup>96</sup> Despite these troubles mentioned

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<sup>91</sup> Gordon Govier, "Fake Dead Sea Scrolls Displayed at Museum of the Bible," Christianity Today, March 26, 2020, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/march/bible-museum-dead-sea-scrolls-fakes-forgery-exhibit.html> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

the Dead Sea Scrolls are the most important ancient Hebrew Scrolls that attest to the reliability of the Old Testament.

There is an additional witness to the reliability of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. As noted earlier, the majority of the ancient world spoke Koine Greek including many Jews that lived outside of Israel that no longer understood Hebrew.<sup>97</sup> Therefore, in order for these Jews to understand the Hebrew bible the Old Testament would have to be translated into Koine Greek. Around 250 BC a collection of Hebrew Scribes gathered in Alexandria, Egypt to translate the Hebrew Old Testament into Koine Greek.<sup>98</sup> This would enable the Jews and the rest of the world known as Gentiles to be able to read the Hebrew Bible.<sup>99</sup> The earliest fragments of the Septuagint are dated between the second and first century BC.<sup>100</sup> The oldest nearly complete ancient manuscript of the Septuagint is found within the Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus which are both dated in the fourth century AD.<sup>101</sup>

It is also worth noting that the original authors of the New Testament deemed the Old Testament to be reliable historical writings. This is evidenced by the numerous direct quotations and allusions referencing the Old Testament found in the books of the New

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<sup>97</sup> “Why Was the New Testament Written in Greek?”

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

Testament. The New Testament quotes or alludes to the Old Testament up to 889 times.<sup>102</sup>

Altogether the number of scrolls and ancient manuscripts available for the Old and New Testament combined are over 66,000.<sup>103</sup> When analyzing the historical evidence for the reliability of the Bible it is clearly the most trustworthy and well attested document in ancient history. Scholars rarely if ever question the authenticity of other historical books of antiquity even though none of these other ancient texts have the original writings and not nearly as many ancient manuscripts.<sup>104</sup> Therefore, it must be concluded that there is a clear bias against the books of the Bible when it comes to establishing the historical reliability for these 66 peculiar books.

#### The Reliability for the Modern Translations of the Bible

Not only was the Holy Bible the most translated book in the ancient world but as of today the Holy Bible still remains to be the most translated book of all time.<sup>105</sup> Altogether at least some portion of the Bible has been translated into 3,658 languages accounting for 7.23 billion people or around 97 percent of the world population.<sup>106</sup> By comparison, the second most translated book is *The Little Prince* which is translated into 380 languages.<sup>107</sup> The difference between the amount of languages the Holy Bible has

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<sup>102</sup> “Quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/pnt/pnt08.cfm> (accessed September 30, 2023).

<sup>103</sup> “Testing the Historical Reliability of the New Testament.”

<sup>104</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 36.

<sup>105</sup> “10 Most Translated Books in the World – 2023 Updated Edition,” Translate Day, January 10, 2023, <https://www.translateday.com/most-translated-books-in-the-world/> (accessed October 3, 2023).

<sup>106</sup> “2023 Global Scripture Access,” Wycliffe Global Alliance, <https://www.wycliffe.net/resources/statistics/> (accessed October 3, 2023).

<sup>107</sup> “10 Most Translated Books in the World.”

been translated to compared to all other writings that exist today and throughout history is astounding. The Bible has been reliably translated to nearly the entire world. This section will briefly address why some of the modern translations of the Bible are reliable.

Most of the general population are not Hebrew or Greek scholars, therefore it is essential that modern translations of the Bible are provided to the public in order for them to read an accurate rendering of Scripture. Dr. Gordon D. Fee and Dr. Douglas Stuart say in the book, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, the first concern of a biblical translator should be that the Hebrew and Greek texts being used are the closest representation to the original writings of the Bible.<sup>108</sup> Since there is a remarkably vast collection of ancient Greek and Hebrew manuscripts readers can be confident that the modern Hebrew and Greek editions of the Bible which are in their original languages reflect the original writings of the biblical authors. Since the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament of today is accurate readers can be confident that the modern translations of the Bible are also accurate because they are translated from the Bible's original languages. Therefore, any modern translations can be compared with the Bible in its original languages to determine accuracy.<sup>109</sup> Tools such as Hebrew and Greek lexicons or interlinear Bibles can enable readers to study the Bible in its original languages without the need to be proficient in either language.

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<sup>108</sup> Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), 35.

<sup>109</sup> Andy McClurg, "Dear Theophilus: Is the Old Testament Trustworthy to the Original?" Grand Canyon University, February 11, 2020, <https://www.gcu.edu/blog/theology-ministry/dear-theophilus-old-testament-trustworthy#:~:text=We%20have%20evidence%20from%20comparing,back%20and%20recheck%20their%20work> (accessed October 3, 2023).

The modern translations of the Bible are either a word for word, thought for thought, or a complete paraphrase derived from the Bible's original languages.<sup>110</sup> A word for word translation seeks to maintain the strictest adherence to the original languages of the Bible by translating each word into the corresponding word of a modern language; therefore, these translations most accurately reflect the ancient biblical manuscripts. Some examples of word for word translations would be the KJV, NASB, and ESV translations of the Bible. For a thought for thought translation of the Bible scholars seek to determine what a specific sentence is saying in the original language and translate that thought in a manner that is usually easier to read in a modern language for contemporary readers. Although these types of translations can be accurate and helpful the readers are essentially trusting the scholar to interpret the thought being expressed correctly. An example of a thought for thought translation would be the NIV bible translation. Lastly, a paraphrased version of the Bible would be the easiest to read because it is basically a scholarly commentary of the original text.<sup>111</sup> An example of a paraphrased version of the Bible would be The Living Bible.<sup>112</sup> As for readers looking for the most accurate rendering of the original languages of the Bible a word for word translation will convey the ancient biblical languages exceptionally well to readers today.

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<sup>110</sup> "Bible Translation Spectrum," Logos Wiki, September 30, 2023, [https://wiki.logos.com/Bible\\_Translation\\_Spectrum?campaignid=18467614031&adgroupid=141420567069&keyword=&device=c&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=advertising\\_cpc&utm\\_campaign=google\\_search-keyword\\_dsa\\_logos\\_us\\_en&gclid=CjwKCAjw38SoBhB6EiwA8EQLnwCu-CVJ8ZYmUD31WAtvWKAMI8Tb38cKJpVgnklJeiuwI716tYOphoCDkgQAvD\\_BwE](https://wiki.logos.com/Bible_Translation_Spectrum?campaignid=18467614031&adgroupid=141420567069&keyword=&device=c&utm_source=google&utm_medium=advertising_cpc&utm_campaign=google_search-keyword_dsa_logos_us_en&gclid=CjwKCAjw38SoBhB6EiwA8EQLnwCu-CVJ8ZYmUD31WAtvWKAMI8Tb38cKJpVgnklJeiuwI716tYOphoCDkgQAvD_BwE) (accessed October 3, 2023).

<sup>111</sup> "Bible Translation Spectrum."

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

Also, many of the modern translation study Bibles available today are transparent about the minor differences found in the ancient manuscript variants. According to Dr.

Amy Orr-Ewing:

The reality is that the textual variants that do exist are mostly single letters or grammatical differences. Our modern translations are extremely forthcoming at mentioning these minor differences; they are not hidden away but clearly noted and referenced in the margins and footnotes on each page. When we bear in mind that we are talking about large numbers of ancient, hand-copied manuscripts (around 24,000 manuscript copies for the New Testament alone), the Bible we have today is astoundingly free from questions.<sup>113</sup>

The main objective of this chapter was to set a foundation for the rest of this paper to build upon. Before substantiating the claim that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired it must be proven that the Bible of today is identical to the original writings of the ancient past. Scholars are able to determine the content of the original writings of the Bible because of the numerous ancient scrolls and manuscripts that are available. The more manuscripts that an ancient writing has the more accurately an ancient writing of the past is able to be reconstructed for readers today. The Bibles of today can be trusted as a reliable conveyance of the original writings of the past because Hebrew and Greek manuscripts are overwhelmingly represented in history and are in many cases close to their original writing. When the ancient manuscripts of the Bible are compared to one another it reveals a remarkable accuracy in the transmission of the Scriptures over the course of thousands of years. In addition, modern translations such as the word for word translations are reliable because they are directly translated from the Bible in its original languages. The evidence available attests to the fact that the Bible is by far the most

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<sup>113</sup> Amy Orr-Ewing, "Are Biblical Manuscripts Reliable? CS Lewis Institute, December 4, 2006, <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/are-biblical-manuscripts-reliable/> (accessed October 3, 2023).

represented and reliable writings of the ancient world. There is an abundance of additional evidence that can be provided to further validate the New Testament and Old Testament as a reliable historical document, however the information provided is sufficient enough for the purpose of this paper. Although the preponderance of evidence proves that the Bible of today is a reliable witness to the original writings of the past the information provided thus far does not conclusively prove that the Bible is divinely inspired. Therefore, the goal of the subsequent chapters in this paper is to substantiate the claim that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired.

## CHAPTER 2

### Evidence for the Existence of God and the Miraculous Accuracy of Prophecy

Thus far it has been established that the 66 books of the Holy Bible are the most prevalent and reliable writings preserved from the ancient world. The preceding chapter is foundational to this paper because it proves that the Bible of today accurately reflects the original writings of the past. It is also essential for this paper to provide evidence for the existence of God because proving the Bible to be divinely inspired presupposes that there is a higher power that exists. After some evidence for the existence of God is provided this paper will review some examples of prophecy found throughout the Bible.

### Evidence for the Existence of God

The fact that there is a creation that exists demands causation. The existence of creation leaves everyone with two options: creation is attributed to a random event that occurred naturally, or creation is the work of a highly intellectual infinite Being outside of creation who created everything that exists. Both options involve a supernatural occurrence because something that did not exist came into existence. The first option demands that a person places their confidence in a mysterious random natural occurrence that created matter and eventually life. It is important to note that option one's phenomenon has never been able to be observed in the real world, repeated, or confirmed by the scientific method. There are simply no other instances where something has come from nothing which would corroborate with option one's theory. Option two demands that a person places their confidence in the belief that everything that exists was created by an eternally existing God. According to Dr. Stephen Meyer, starting in the late nineteenth century many scientists began to adopt the belief system known as

methodological naturalism.<sup>114</sup> This ideology excludes the possibility of intelligent design as a possible scientific explanation for creation.<sup>115</sup> Therefore, according to methodological naturalism in order to be scientific the explanation of creation can only be limited to a natural cause.<sup>116</sup> However, this belief system is biased and contradictory to the justifiable inferences of intelligent design that humans make in everyday life.<sup>117</sup> For example, when a person walks into a building of any sort the normal conclusion to make is that the structure had been constructed by an intelligent designer. Likewise, when looking at ancient archeology such as the ancient hieroglyphic inscriptions in Egypt the normal and logical conclusion is that there was an intelligent designer behind these ancient inscriptions. No one would ever believe that these inscriptions were a result of natural causes such as erosion or a sandstorm.<sup>118</sup> According to Dr. William Dembski's book, *The Design Inference*, the logical way to conclude that something has been designed by an intelligent agent is by observing a highly improbable event or object that also forms a recognizable pattern.<sup>119</sup> For example, the sculpture of Mount Rushmore is a highly improbable formation of rocks which also includes recognizable intelligent patterns which match the faces of four famous presidents.<sup>120</sup> Anyone who visits Mount Rushmore would logically conclude that an intelligent designer had made these rock

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<sup>114</sup> "Documentary Unlocking the Mystery of Life Intelligent Design," Talal Mansour, January 5, 2014, video, 0:51:00- 0:55:30, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzj8iXiVDT8> (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

formations even though they were not present when the sculpture was being created. If these inferences of intelligent design are acceptable in normal everyday life, then why should the explanation of an intelligent designer behind creation be artificially ruled out? According to Dr. Paul Nelson, when attempting to discover the truth about the world all possible explanations should be considered within the scientific community.<sup>121</sup>

This insight leads to the main question that will be addressed in this section: is there any evidence found in creation that points to an intelligent designer? If God created everything then logically creation would have evidence that points to there being a Creator. When analyzing the world, it becomes self-evident that God has provided a general revelation of Himself through creation. This general revelation of God is intended for humans because humanity is preeminent in God's creation. Humans are distinct from other living creatures by their superior intellect which enables them to reason and their conscience which allows them to know right from wrong. God chose to reveal Himself to humanity because He loves every person He created and desires to have a relationship with each individual. The subsequent paragraphs will discuss how God has revealed Himself to humanity by general revelation.

### General Revelation Through Nature

When analyzing God's creation many footprints of superior intellectual design are discovered. These complex footprints found within creation reveal that there is a general revelation of God that has been manifested to all of humanity. Although a general revelation of God is not sufficient in and of itself it is nonetheless an essential factor that

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<sup>121</sup> "Documentary Unlocking the Mystery of Life Intelligent Design," 0:51:00- 0:55:30.

points to the fact that there is a Creator. Dr. Paul Enns says in his book, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, “General revelation is God revealing certain truths and aspects about His nature to all humanity, which revelation is essential and preliminary to God’s special revelation.”<sup>122</sup> One area that God has provided a general revelation of Himself is through nature.<sup>123</sup>

God’s revelation through nature is arguably the most prominent general revelation.<sup>124</sup> According to the book of Psalms this general revelation by God is given to humans through the heavens and the earth.<sup>125</sup> God’s revelation through nature is continuous, wordless, and revealed to every human on earth.<sup>126</sup> Romans chapter one verse twenty says, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” Therefore, all humans that bear witness to the revelation of God’s power revealed through nature are without excuse according to the Bible.<sup>127</sup>

A few examples of the divine order and design found throughout creation include: the perfect distance of the sun relative to the earth, the perfect distance of the moon relative to the earth, and the marvelous intricacies of DNA.<sup>128</sup> These three examples must

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<sup>122</sup> Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014), 160.

<sup>123</sup> *ibid.*, 161.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*, 160.

<sup>125</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” The Lockman Foundation, Bible Gateway, Ps 19: 1-6, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+1&version=NASB1995> (accessed October 8, 2023).

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, Ps 19: 2-4.

<sup>127</sup> “What is general revelation and special revelation?” Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/general-special-revelation.html> (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>128</sup> Enns, *Moody*, 160.

be further illuminated in order to appreciate the significance of each phenomenon. For instance, if the sun was any closer to earth the temperature of the earth would be too hot to sustain life. Likewise, if the sun was too far away from the earth the temperature of earth would be too cold to sustain life. Also, if the moon was any closer to earth the gravitational pull of the moon would cause the oceans of earth to fully submerge the planet.<sup>129</sup> These necessary cosmic precisions point to an established order found in creation which could only be attributed to intellectual design.

In addition, the complexities of DNA points to superior intellectual engineering by God. DNA is made up of 4 base nucleotides that combine into 20 different amino acids that are then used by the body to create over 100,000 proteins.<sup>130</sup> The complexity of DNA can be compared to computer engineered software. For example, if any nucleotides are out of order a cell does not have the proper instructions to build the human body. Likewise, if computer engineered software is not coded correctly, then the software cannot function properly.<sup>131</sup> According to Ray Comfort's book, *How To Know God Exists*, the physical Chemist Dr. Charles Thaxton said:

The DNA code is a 'genetic language' that communicates information to the cell... The DNA molecule is exquisitely complex, and extremely precise: the 'letters must be in a very exact sequence. If they are out of order, it is like a typing error in a message. The instructions that it gives the cell are garbled. This is what a mutation is. The Discovery of the DNA code gives the argument from design a new twist. Since life is at its core a chemical code, the origin of life is the origin of a code. A code is a very special kind of order. It represents 'specified complexity.'<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> Enns, *Moody*, 160.

<sup>130</sup> "DNA—The Language of Life," Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/genetics/dna-similarities/dna-a-summary/> (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>131</sup> "The most common coding errors," Parker Software, <https://www.parkersoftware.com/blog/the-most-common-coding-errors/> (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>132</sup> Ray Comfort, *How To Know God Exists* (Alachua, FL: Bridge- Logos, 2007), 42.

Therefore, DNA proves to be a systematically organized information database.

The average human body contains a massive amount of DNA within each individual cell. If the DNA contained in only one cell was stretched out it would reach a distance of six feet.<sup>133</sup> It is estimated that an adult male weighing about 154 lbs. is comprised of between 30 trillion to over 70 trillion cells with each cell containing roughly 3 billion nucleotides.<sup>134</sup> <sup>135</sup> If all of the DNA in an average adult human body was stretched out it would equal a distance of over 34 billion miles.<sup>136</sup> To better appreciate this fact consider that the Earth and Pluto at their closest is 2.66 billion miles apart.<sup>137</sup>

The amount of information that DNA is capable of storing is mindboggling. Every living animal, plant, tree, and human has this organized instruction manual known as DNA embedded into the very first cell which enables the cell to multiply and design the specific living organism. For example, a human's very first cell has the specific instructions for the trillions of cells that multiply and create the different tissues, organs, bones and muscles of the human body. The diversity of plants, trees, animals, and humans are made possible because of the specific information code contained within each

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<sup>133</sup> “The astounding amount of DNA in the human body,” Insider Business, September 12, 2016, video, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cM51\\_6Iipq0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cM51_6Iipq0) (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>134</sup> Carl Zimmer, “How Many Cells Are In Your Body?” National Geographic, October 23, 2013, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/how-many-cells-are-in-your-body#:~:text=37.2%20trillion%20cells.,magnitude%20except%20in%20the%20movies>, (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>135</sup> “DNA—The Language of Life.”

<sup>136</sup> “The astounding amount of DNA in the human body.”

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

living organism. Additionally, an extraordinary amount of information is tightly packed within DNA. For example, it only takes one pinhead of DNA to store a monumental amount of organized information. One pinhead of DNA would be equivalent to the information contained within a stack of books reaching the earth and moon 500 times.<sup>138</sup> If each book is 160 pages with a total of about 250,000 letters this would equate to over 15 trillion books with over a quadrillion pages and over a quintillion individual letters. The amount of information in DNA is so large that it is estimated that a male and female are able to create a combination of 10 to the 2017<sup>th</sup> power of genetic combinations when having a child.<sup>139</sup> In other words, the number of different children two adults can have without any of their children being identical to each other is 10 with 2017 zeroes behind it.<sup>140</sup> For comparison, the estimated number of atoms that exist in the world is 10 to the 80<sup>th</sup> power.<sup>141</sup> The extraordinary amount of variety between two adults is only possible because of the enormous amount of information contained within DNA.

The overwhelmingly astronomical amount of organized information contained within DNA cannot possibly be attributed to random and natural causes but to a super intelligent Creator. The former United States National Human Genome Research Institute's Director, Dr. Francis Collins, said concerning DNA:

When you have for the first time in front of you this 3.1-billion-letter instruction book that conveys all kinds of information and all kinds of mystery about humankind, you can't survey that going through page after page without a sense

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<sup>138</sup> <sup>138</sup> "DNA—The Language of Life."

<sup>139</sup> "Science Confirms the Bible," Ken Ham, February 13, 2017, video, 0:17:00-0:17:30, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74UIt8uHQPs> (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid.

of awe. I can't help but look at those pages and have a vague sense that this is giving me a glimpse of God's mind.<sup>142</sup>

Also, Antony Flew a famous British philosopher recanted his atheistic views as a result of the newfound discoveries regarding DNA: Antony Flew said, "It now seems to me that the findings of more than 50 years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design."<sup>143</sup> Scientists that reject God never have an answer for the origin of information. Matter cannot create information, therefore anywhere there can be found complex information in creation demands its origin from an intellectual designer. Unfortunately, much of mainstream science today equates the transcendental complexities of DNA to random happenstance; this enigmatic and godless scientific conclusion is perpetuated despite DNA being overwhelmingly more complex than any man-made computer engineered software, information database, or any other intellectual language. If humans are to make inferences of intellectual design when looking at buildings, paintings, sculptures, ancient artifacts, tablets, or any other things designed by humans; then it is only logical to comprehend DNA as being a language created, organized, and sustained by the Creator. It would be more realistic that a house could build itself by chance than information in DNA to be created and organized by chance. The variety of living organisms found in creation reveals how complex DNA is. When analyzing DNA, it becomes evident that it is by far the most massive, efficient, and complex information database in existence.<sup>144</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> Comfort, *How To Know God Exists*, 43.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

Arguably the greatest scientific minds in the world have acknowledged that the complexities of creation demand a superior intellectual mind. Albert Einstein said, “The deeper one penetrates into nature’s secrets, the greater becomes one’s respect for God.”<sup>145</sup> Sir Isaac Newton who is known for discovering the law of gravity said, “This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.”<sup>146</sup> Johan Kepler who is considered the founder of physical astronomy said, “The chief aim of all investigation of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God.”<sup>147</sup> <sup>148</sup> Biologist Louis Pasteur said, “The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator.”<sup>149</sup> Physicist Lord Kelvin said, “With the regard to the origin of life, science...positively affirms creative power.”<sup>150</sup> Nobel prize winner physicist Dr. Arthur Compton said: “Science is the glimpse of God’s purpose in nature. The very existence of the amazing world of the atom and radiation points to a purposeful creation, to the idea that there is a God and an intelligent purpose back of everything... An orderly universe testifies to the greatest statement ever uttered: ‘In the beginning, God...’”<sup>151</sup> Francis Bacon, who invented the scientific method, said “There are two books laid out before us to study, to prevent our falling into error; first, the volume of the

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<sup>145</sup> Comfort, *How To Know God Exists*, 17.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*, 16.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*, 69-70.

<sup>148</sup> “DON’T THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE OPPOSE EACH OTHER?” Spirit and Truth, August 7, 2013, <https://spiritandtruthonline.org/dont-the-bible-and-science-oppose-each-other/> (accessed November 16, 2023).

<sup>149</sup> Comfort, *How To Know God Exists*, 70.

<sup>150</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*

Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the Creatures, which express His power.”<sup>152</sup> Some of the other prominent scientists who had acknowledged God as Creator include: Michael Faraday, James Maxwell, Robert Boyle, John Dalton, Blaise Pascal, William Ramsay, John Ray, Carl Linnaeus, Gregor Mendel, Nicolas Steno, John Woodward, Frederic Brewster Loomis, Louis Agassiz, Galileo Galilei, William Herschel, and Edward Maunder.<sup>153</sup> Altogether these names mentioned are some of the greatest and most influential scientists to ever exist who all acknowledged that their study of nature pointed to a super intelligent God as being Creator. Collectively the scientists mentioned above are credited with founding and developing the main disciplines of science in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy.<sup>154</sup> Many of these scientists did not have the luxury of studying the most compelling evidence that points to God which is DNA. Nonetheless, the discovery of order and design in their respected fields had led all of these great scientific minds to acknowledge the presence of God in nature.

#### General Revelation Through Providence and Conscience

Next, God’s general revelation has been revealed through His providential care for humanity. The most evident example of God’s providential care for humanity is His provision of sunshine and rain every day to sustain life on earth. Also, the abundance of other necessary natural resources found on earth demonstrates God’s provision for humanity. Unfortunately, greed has played a major role in preventing certain regions and nations from having an adequate amount of necessary resources.

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<sup>152</sup> “DON’T THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE OPPOSE EACH OTHER?”

<sup>153</sup> Comfort, *How To Know God Exists*, 69.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

Although God's providential care is universal it can be argued that providential care should not be included as a part of God's general revelation to humanity.<sup>155</sup> This is because many people have experienced famines, droughts, or other factors that may influence their subjective experience.<sup>156</sup> However, even if one's subjective experience is extremely difficult God's providential care is still observable to humanity as a whole.<sup>157</sup> For example, one's subjective difficulties does not negate the fact that all of humanity is sustained by the hydrologic cycle. Nonetheless, subjective experiences of God's providential care in each individual's life should be addressed when teaching or discussing the topic of general revelation. However, it must be determined that no matter how terrible a person's life may appear relative to other human experiences God is still involved in each individual's life to provide them with every good thing.<sup>158</sup> God's provision is clearly experienced in humanity as a whole, therefore it should be considered a general revelation by God.

Lastly, the conscience of each person is a general revelation given by God to humanity. Everyone on earth has an innate sense of what is right and wrong because God instilled His moral law in each individual. This is why children innately know it is wrong if they lie to their parents. In addition, Dr. Kerry Trahan's book, *A Complete Guide to UNDERSTANDING THE DISPENSATIONALISM CONTROVERSY*, demonstrates that ancient cultures exhibited an innate knowledge of God's moral law. According to Dr.

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<sup>155</sup> Don Stewart, "WHAT IS GENERAL REVELATION? (NATURAL OR UNIVERSAL REVELATION)," Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/god-has-spoken-to-us/04-what-is-general-revelation.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/god-has-spoken-to-us/04-what-is-general-revelation.cfm) (accessed November 1, 2023).

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Matt 5:45.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid., James 1:17.

Trahan, this is evidenced by the fact half of the laws found in the Mosaic law given to the Jews can also be found in non-biblical sources in the East.<sup>159</sup> These non-biblical eastern sources include the laws of Lipit-Ishtar, the laws of Eshunna and Hammurapi, the Hittite laws, and the Middle Assyrian laws among others.<sup>160</sup> This phenomenon is possible because the law of God was written on the hearts of the Gentiles according to the Bible.<sup>161</sup> The conscience of humanity is universally a witness to each individual on earth, however one's conscience may become seared through habitual sin according to the Scriptures.<sup>162</sup> The conscience of each individual gives humanity an instinctual knowledge that God's moral judgment awaits them after death. This is why an overwhelming majority of humanity throughout history have been overtaken by immense fear when facing death. One of the biggest issues for someone that self-professes the denial for the existence of God is the anomaly of morality. If humanity is not accountable to a higher power, then what is right and wrong becomes subjective to each individual. Therefore, if morality is subjective it would be contrary to human nature to follow arbitrary rules of what is good. Each person becomes their own god, therefore each individual should rationally do everything to benefit themselves such as cheat, steal, lie, and manipulate along with whatever else the individual can get away with. Being a good person simply does not make sense if humans are not accountable to a higher power. One may say that the governing authorities prevent an individual for living such a lifestyle of crime and

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<sup>159</sup> Kerry Trahan, *A Complete Guide to UNDERSTANDING THE DISPENSATIONALISM CONTROVERSY* (Port Neches, TX: Disciple of Jesus Ministries, 2007), 258.

<sup>160</sup> Ibid.

<sup>161</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Rom 2:14-15.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid., 1 Tim 4:2.

deceit. Why then would the population submit themselves to the subjective rules of right and wrong issued by the government? This would essentially mean the governing authorities are playing the role of god over the population. In addition, what if the governing authorities also viewed morality as subjective? Some of the most wicked governments to ever exist had been atheistic communist regimes. One only has to observe the prior century to see the consequences of this type of governing authority which resulted in the death of roughly 262 million civilians by the hands of their own government, according to Dr. R.J. Rummel.<sup>163</sup> These democides of the 20<sup>th</sup> century reveal the devastating consequences of an atheistic totalitarian government which inevitably leads to the abuse of power and the perception that the general population is useless and disposable.

Many more examples can be provided to support the conclusion that there is a super intelligent Creator that exists, nonetheless the few examples provided are sufficient enough to prove that the attributes of creation clearly point to a God. The main question everyone should consider now is: How does an individual know who God really is and what He demands from His creation? Although God's general revelation glorifies Himself it is not sufficient to reveal His character and will to humanity. Thus a special revelation from God would be required in order for humans to know God's character and will. This paper seeks to establish that the Holy Bible is God's special revelation to humanity which reveals His character and what He demands from His creation.

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<sup>163</sup> R.J. Rummel, "DEATH BY GOVERNMENT," <https://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/NOTE1.HTM> (accessed November 5, 2023).

## The Miraculous Accuracy of Prophecy

The most convincing evidence that proves the Holy Bible is in fact the Word of God is the witness of the miraculous accuracy of prophecy contained within the Scriptures. There are two types of prophecies contained within the Bible those that are forthtelling and those that are predictive.<sup>164</sup> A forthtelling prophecy is a message from God concerning the present period of time, and a predictive prophecy is a message of God concerning the future.<sup>165</sup> The total number of prophecies found in the Bible is determined by how each prophecy is counted.<sup>166</sup> For example, some scholars may count single verses as one prophecy, whereas other scholars may separately list three or four prophetic elements found within that same verse.<sup>167</sup> J. Barton Payne's book, *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, lists that there are 1,239 prophecies found in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies found within the New Testament for a total of 1,817 prophecies found in the Bible.<sup>168</sup> In total there are 8,352 verses containing prophecy out of the 31,124 verses of the Bible.<sup>169</sup> This means that prophecy comprises 26.8 percent of the entire Bible which equates to over one out of every four verses according to Payne's count.<sup>170 171</sup> It is important to note that the original books of the Bible were not divided

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<sup>164</sup> Matthew Tingblad, "How Do We Count the Number of Fulfilled Biblical Prophecy?" Josh McDowell, <https://www.josh.org/how-do-we-count-fulfilled-prophecy/> (accessed November 5, 2023).

<sup>165</sup> Ibid.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> Jack Kelley, "HOW MUCH OF THE BIBLE IS PROPHECY?" Grace thru faith, November 12, 2015, <https://gracethrufaith.com/ask-a-bible-teacher/much-bible-prophecy/> (accessed November 6, 2023).

<sup>169</sup> Ibid.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.

<sup>171</sup> "How much of the Bible is prophecy?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-prophecy.html> (accessed November 6, 2023).

into chapters and verses but these divisions were later added for convenience.<sup>172</sup> The subsequent paragraphs will review some examples of the remarkable accuracy of prophecy.

Before providing examples of prophecy found throughout Scripture it is important to address how the Bible is expected to be interpreted. The normal way a written document is interpreted is with the literal method of interpretation.<sup>173</sup> The literal method can also be referred to as the grammatical-historical method of interpretation.<sup>174</sup> This method of interpretation is determined by grammatical and historical factors.<sup>175</sup> In other words, the literal method interprets a writing based on the rules of grammar and context. For example, the literal method interprets figures of speech based on contextual and historical factors. The reason historical factors may play a part in interpretation is because different time periods and cultures may have utilized specific figures of speech. For instance, a culture may have utilized figures of speech such as similes, metaphors, and idioms that were common and only recognizable to a particular culture. On the contrary, the other basic method that has been used to interpret the Bible is the allegorical interpretation method. This method of interpretation seeks to derive a hidden spiritual meaning out of the written text.<sup>176</sup> Therefore, the interpretation of the Bible would be based on the reader's subjective interpretation of the text which essentially means there is

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<sup>172</sup> "Who divided the Bible into chapters and verses?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/divided-Bible-chapters-verses.html> (accessed November 6, 2023).

<sup>173</sup> Trahan, *Dispensationalism*, 100

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid., 99.

<sup>176</sup> Trahan, *Dispensationalism*, 98.

no basis of determining a correct interpretation.<sup>177</sup> When using the allegorical method there is practically an innumerable amount of interpretations that could be perceived from a writing. This method of interpretation led to many doctrinal errors and a lack of agreement when it came to interpreting Scriptures. Clement of Alexandria was one of the first scholars to interpret the Bible allegorically because he sought to reconcile Greek philosophy with Scripture.<sup>178</sup> The allegorical method would become popularized by Augustine and become the prominent interpretation method used by the Roman Catholic Church during the Dark ages.<sup>179</sup> It was not until the Protestant Reformation where scholars began to reject this method of interpreting the Bible in favor of returning to the normal literal method.<sup>180</sup> The allegorical method of interpretation should not be adopted when reading the Bible because it is not justified nor is it the normal way to interpret any other writings. When interpreting any writings, the main goal of the reader is to determine what the authors intended meaning was to the audience at the time it was written. The intended meaning conveyed by the author is the only correct interpretation when reading any historical writings. The literal or grammatical-historical method should be used when interpreting Scripture because the Bible authors never state that their writings should be interpreted any different or special way. Every time the Old Testament is cited in the New Testament it is always used in a literal sense.<sup>181</sup> In addition, the literal method was used by Jewish rabbis, the Apostles, and Jesus Christ when interpreting the

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<sup>177</sup> Trahan, *Dispensationalism*, 99.

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*, 110.

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid.*, 106, 110.

<sup>180</sup> *Ibid.*, 110.

<sup>181</sup> *Ibid.*, 123.

Old Testament.<sup>182</sup> Also, the Old and New Testament Scriptures were interpreted solely using the literal method by the early church fathers.<sup>183</sup> The literal method is the normal and customary method to interpret any writing and will lead to one correct interpretation rather than a multitude of conflicting and ambiguous interpretations.<sup>184</sup> All prophecies that have been fulfilled in the Bible have always been fulfilled in a literal sense. The rest of this section will focus on predictive prophecy which is a specific message that is revealed by God through a human agent at an earlier period of time and is later fulfilled with 100 percent accuracy at a future period of time.

### Predictive Prophecy of the Bible

Predictive prophecies can be divided into three categories: unfulfilled prophecy, prophecy in the process of being fulfilled, and fulfilled prophecy.<sup>185</sup> This section will specifically focus on fulfilled prophecy. Out of all the prophecies found throughout the Bible at least half have already been fulfilled in the exact way it was foretold with 100 percent accuracy. The witness of fulfilled prophecy validates that the writings of the Bible were not derived from finite human minds but had to be derived from an omniscient God that has perfect knowledge of all future events. What makes the Bible unique is that this is the only book that has consistently foretold events in detail with 100 percent accuracy many times centuries in advance.<sup>186</sup> The phenomenon of prophecy has

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<sup>182</sup> Trahan, *Dispensationalism*, 123.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*, 110.

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*, 123.

<sup>185</sup> Arno C. Gaebelien, "Fulfilled Prophecy a Potent Argument for the Bible," Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/torrey\\_ra/fundamentals/25.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/torrey_ra/fundamentals/25.cfm) (accessed November 6, 2023).

<sup>186</sup> Hugh Ross, "Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible," Reasons, rev. Krista Bontrager, August 22, 2003, <https://reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-for-the-reliability-of-the-bible> (accessed November 6, 2023).

also been observed to a lesser extent at times through clairvoyants, mediums, and spiritists among other practitioners of occultism. Some of their predictions have even foretold a specific event with around 60 percent accuracy in rare instances, however none of these predictions are ever declared in advance with 100 percent accuracy as the Bible does consistently.<sup>187</sup> There was a study done between 1975 and 1981 involving the top 25 psychics in the world where they made a total of 72 predictions with only 6 of those predictions being correct to some extent.<sup>188</sup> One of the correct predictions made by the psychics was that the United States and Soviet Union would remain the two main superpowers which had been an obvious trend up to that period of time.<sup>189</sup> Altogether these psychics had missed every specific major news event.<sup>190</sup> The majority of predictions by psychics are completely wrong when it comes to foretelling any specific future event. Anyone who practices divination is seeking to uncover knowledge of the future by supernatural means.<sup>191</sup> According to the law of Israel, Jews were forbidden to practice occultism such as attempting to contact the dead, divination, witchcraft, interpreting omens, sorcery, casting spells, and using or practicing as a medium or spiritist.<sup>192</sup> The prophet Jeremiah writes in the book of Jeremiah chapter 14 verse 14: “Then the Lord said to me, ‘The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you

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<sup>187</sup> Ross, “Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible.”

<sup>188</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 194.

<sup>189</sup> Ibid.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

<sup>191</sup> “What does the Bible say about divination?” Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-divination.html> (accessed November 6, 2023).

<sup>192</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Deut 18:9-14.

a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.”<sup>193</sup> God had specifically warned Israel that practicing occultism was forbidden and would lead to deception. Under the Jewish law anyone that made a prediction of the future that did not come to pass was labeled a false prophet and put to death.<sup>194</sup> The Bible specifically reveals that God would choose prophets out of Israel that would speak on behalf of Him: The book of Deuteronomy chapter 18 verses 18, 21, and 22 says:

“I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. . . You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.’<sup>195</sup>

Therefore, a message was validated to be from God when the specific events that were predicted came to pass exactly as were foretold with 100 percent accuracy. Anything less than perfect was falsely spoken and thus not a message given from God. The Bible is the only book that consistently points to the fulfillment of prophecy as evidence that the message originated from God.<sup>196</sup> For example, 2 Peter chapter 1 verses 19 through 21 says:

*So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*<sup>197</sup>

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<sup>193</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Jer 14:14.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid., Deut 18:20-22.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid., Deut 18:18, 21-22.

<sup>196</sup> “How much of the Bible is prophecy?”

<sup>197</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” 2 Pet 1:19-21.

In addition, Isaiah chapter 46 verses 9 and 10 says: “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.’”<sup>198</sup> It is evident that the Scriptures bear witness to God’s ability to foretell the future perfectly.

Some of the predictive prophecies concerning the nation of Israel will first be reviewed. Deuteronomy chapter 28 verses 45, 46, 64, and 65 says:

So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the Lord your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. They shall become a sign and a wonder on you and your descendants forever... Moreover, the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known. Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul.<sup>199</sup>

According to the Book of Exodus, the nation of Israel had willingly entered into a covenant with God to obey His commandments.<sup>200</sup> Under the terms of this covenant, if they obeyed God’s commandments Israel would be blessed, however if they disobeyed the commandments they would be cursed.<sup>201</sup> As Israel continued to disobey the commandments of God the judgments against Israel would become progressively harsher.<sup>202</sup> If Israel did not repent but continued in their wicked ways the final judgment

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<sup>198</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Isa 46:9-10.

<sup>199</sup> Ibid., Deut 28: 45-46, 64-65.

<sup>200</sup> Ibid., Exod 24:1-8.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid., Deut 11:26-28.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid., Lev 26:14-46.

would be to scatter Israel from their land. The verses above declare that Israel would be scattered over the whole world because of their disobedience to God. In addition, it is declared that the nation of Israel would have no rest among the nations and experience great turmoil. This predictive prophecy written around 1450 BC has clearly been fulfilled in the history of Israel.<sup>203</sup> The nation of Israel was conquered by the Roman empire in 70 A.D.<sup>204</sup> As a result the Jews were driven out of their nation which subsequently led to the worldwide diaspora of the Jewish population. The Jews were spread throughout the globe and would come to face heavy persecution through the centuries. The scattering of the Jews globally is thoroughly documented in history. In addition, Ezekiel chapter 36 verses 22 through 26 says:

Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord,” declares the Lord God, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

This predicted prophecy in the book of Ezekiel written in the sixth century BC is part of a much larger prophecy concerning Israel, therefore the prophecy as a whole given within its context is partly fulfilled.<sup>205</sup> However, the element of this prophecy that has been fulfilled is that Israel has been regathered into their own land. God declared that He would regather the nation of Israel into their own land again for His name sake.

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<sup>203</sup> Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, 253.

<sup>204</sup> Kate Lohnes, “Siege of Jerusalem,” Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Siege-of-Jerusalem-70> (accessed November 7, 2023).

<sup>205</sup> Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, 1094.

According to Scripture, God had promised that Israel would never be destroyed and that they would have a land inheritance forever.<sup>206</sup> Therefore, God is demonstrating His faithfulness to what He had promised to Israel even though they do not deserve it. This prophecy was fulfilled in modern times on May 14, 1948 when Israel became a nation once again.<sup>207</sup> This phenomenon was also predicted in Isaiah chapter 66 verse 8 which says, “Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.”<sup>208</sup> It was on May 14, 1948 that Israel had declared itself an independent nation once again. According to Dave Hunt’s book, *Judgment Day!* within minutes of that proclamation U.S President Harry Truman authorized the recognition of Israel as an independent state, the Soviet Union next, and many other nations had followed.<sup>209</sup> Unbeknownst to many of the nations they had participated in one of the most remarkable prophecies ever.<sup>210</sup> Never had a nation been literally born in one day until the nation of Israel as foretold in the book of Isaiah written in the eighth century BC.<sup>211</sup> Also, it is important to note that the word Zion is used throughout the Bible to refer to Jerusalem.<sup>212</sup> The allusion to Zion travailing is of course a reference to the loss of six

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<sup>206</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Isa 65:1-8, Gen 17:1-6.

<sup>207</sup> “Creation of Israel,” Office of the Historian, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/creation-israel> (accessed November 7, 2023).

<sup>208</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Isa 66:8.

<sup>209</sup> Dave Hunt, *Judgment Day! 3<sup>rd</sup> ed* (Bend, OR: The Berean Call, 2006), 97.

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, 98.

<sup>211</sup> Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, 910.

<sup>212</sup> “Strong’s H6726,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h6726/nasb95/wlc/0-1> ( accessed November 7, 2023).

million Jews as a result of the holocaust.<sup>213</sup> The tragic reality of the holocaust had brought forth the fulfillment of an improbable prophecy. The Jewish population were wanderers without a nation for 1,878 years but God supernaturally protected and preserved a remnant of His people. Just as phenomenal is the fact that the Jewish nation maintained their language, traditions, religion, and all other unique attributes that make up their identity during their exile from Israel for nearly two millennia. Nothing remotely close to this phenomenon has ever occurred in history. There is no logical explanation for this outcome other than to recognize that God had preserved Israel for over 1000 years outside of a homeland because He promised to not allow them to be destroyed and to fulfill all future prophecies concerning them. Most of the world fails to realize that the existence of the ethnic Jew is a modern day miracle. Dr. Chuck Missler gives a brief overview of the history of attempted genocide against the Jewish population: “Again and again, throughout the many centuries and empires, attempts to wipe out the Jews have always failed. The Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Crusaders, and the Nazis of Germany all failed in their aggressive attempts at genocide.”<sup>214</sup> In summary, the three specific prophecies that were foretold and fulfilled with perfect accuracy are: Israel would be scattered across the entire world, Israel would be regathered into their own land, and Israel would become a nation in one day. These three prophecies concerning the nation of Israel foretold over a millennium before their fulfillment include distinct, unique and improbable events that have irrefutably been fulfilled in recent history with 100 percent accuracy. These three

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<sup>213</sup> Hunt, *Judgment Day!* 98.

<sup>214</sup> Chuck Missler, “Prophecy Past and Future: an Example,” Koinonia House, October 1, 2006, <https://www.khouse.org/articles/2006/674/> (accessed November 7, 2023).

prophecies alone are sufficient to prove that these accurately foretold historical events could not have been predicted by a finite human but only an infinite God that has perfect knowledge of future events.

There are also Scriptures that anticipate the technological advancements that would be available in the world today. Matthew chapter 24 verses 21 and 22 says, “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” Jesus Christ is describing a future period of time where the world will be experiencing great tribulation unlike any period of time. This referenced period of time has not come to pass yet; however, it is said during this period that if those days had not been cut short no flesh would survive. This verse anticipates that humans would have the capability to wipe out all of mankind in the future. This bold proclamation was made when the most advanced weapons were swords and spears along with other primitive weapons.<sup>215</sup> This prediction has evidently come to pass with humans possessing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that are capable of destroying all of humanity.<sup>216</sup> Also, Revelation chapter 11 verses 9 and 10 says:

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who dwell on

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<sup>215</sup> “101 End Times Bible Prophecies,” [https://admin.thrive.am/files/186/101%20End%20Times%20Bible%20Prophecies-1\(9-31-14\).pdf](https://admin.thrive.am/files/186/101%20End%20Times%20Bible%20Prophecies-1(9-31-14).pdf) (accessed November 7, 2023).

<sup>216</sup> Ibid.

the earth *will* rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.<sup>217</sup>

This verse describes an event that will take place in the future during the Tribulation. The Tribulation is a seven-year period of time that will take place and will conclude with the second coming of Christ. The book of Revelation describes this particular time period in great detail. During this seven-year tribulation period there will be two witnesses that will be preaching and doing miracles on behalf of God. The beast which is the antichrist will kill these two witnesses and the whole world will be able to see their dead bodies for three and a half days. The apostle John is writing in the first century AD about a future time period where the whole world will be able to see the same thing. Today's world now has the ability to see an event at the same time thanks to global satellite technology. This technological ability was not even possible less than one hundred years ago.<sup>218</sup> Therefore, the book of Revelation accurately anticipates that the future would have global communication capabilities which is available today in the modern world.

### Predictive Prophecy Concerning Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the most popular, influential, and written about person in the history of mankind.<sup>219</sup> There have been around 109 million books written about Jesus

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<sup>217</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Rev 11:9-10.

<sup>218</sup> Jimmy Evans, "How biblical prophecy predicted today's technology," Christian Post, July 6, 2020, <https://www.christianpost.com/voices/how-biblical-prophecy-predicted-todays-technology.html> (accessed November 8, 2023).

<sup>219</sup> Steven Skiena and Charles B. Ward, "Who's Biggest? The 100 Most Significant Figures in History," Time, December 10, 2023, <https://ideas.time.com/2013/12/10/whos-biggest-the-100-most-significant-figures-in-history/> (accessed November 8, 2023).

Christ which is far more than any person in history.<sup>220</sup> Even the Gregorian calendar the most widely used calendar in the world separates history with the birth of Christ.<sup>221</sup> Before reviewing some of the prophecies concerning Christ a couple ancient secular sources referencing Jesus Christ will be provided. These are sources derived from non-Christian individuals which were antagonistic of Christianity.<sup>222</sup> These sources make a good witness to the historicity of Jesus Christ because these references cannot be labeled as biased for Christians.<sup>223</sup> The Greek Satirist Lucian of Samosta wrote in the second century AD:

The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduce their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. . . . You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property.<sup>224</sup>

Also, Pliny the Younger the Governor of Bithynia wrote in 112 AD:

They affirmed, however, that the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verse a hymn to Christ as to a god, and bound themselves to a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft,

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<sup>220</sup> “Guess Who Leads The Top 10 People Books Have Been Written About,” Hill Faith, <https://www.hillfaith.org/bible/guess-who-heads-the-list-of-the-top-10-people-authors-have-written-books-about/> (accessed November 8, 2023).

<sup>221</sup> Jay Bennett, “The Case for Changing Our Calendars to 12,017 Next Year,” Popular Mechanics, December 7, 2016, <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a24195/case-for-a-new-calendar-12017/#:~:text=The%20Gregorian%20calendar%2C%20developed%20more,the%20process%20of%20calculating%20years> (accessed November 8, 2023).

<sup>222</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 120.

<sup>223</sup> Ibid.

<sup>224</sup> Ibid., 121.

adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up.<sup>225</sup>

Lastly, Tacitus who has been referred to as Ancient Rome's greatest Historian said:

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.<sup>226</sup>

Christus was a common misspelling of Christ made by ancient pagan writers.<sup>227</sup> Tacitus who lived during the first century AD gives clear reference to the crucifixion of Christ.<sup>228</sup>

Also, contained within this quote is a possible allusion to the early church spreading the gospel of the resurrection of Christ rapidly throughout the ancient world.<sup>229</sup> Altogether these ancient quotes help confirm the rapid influence of Christianity spreading as a result of the death of Christ in the ancient world

Some of the greatest prophecies concerning the life of Christ was written by the prophet Isaiah. The book of Isaiah written in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC foretells multiple elements concerning the life and death of Jesus Christ. Isaiah Chapter 53 verses 1 through 5 says:

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and

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<sup>225</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 122.

<sup>226</sup> "Cornelius Tacitus," Early Christian Writings, <https://www.earlychristianwritings.com/tacitus.html> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>227</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 120.

<sup>228</sup> "Tacitus summary," Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/summary/Tacitus-Roman-historian#:~:text=For%20the%20full%20article%2C%20see,%2C%20public%20official%2C%20and%20historian> (accessed November 12, 2023).

<sup>229</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 120.

forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.<sup>230</sup>

The opening verses describe that the Messiah would have an appearance that was not appealing to humanity. This is contrary to the depictions of Christ throughout history portraying him as good-looking in art. Verses two through four anticipate that the Messiah would be rejected by God and man during His life.<sup>231</sup> When Jesus paid the price for the sins of the world He had endured momentary separation from God experiencing the fullness of God's wrath against sin. This is why Christ uttered the words, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" when He was dying on the cross<sup>232</sup> The ultimate demonstration of the rejection of Jesus by man was the crucifixion of Christ at the hands of the Jews and Pontius Pilate. This rejection of Christ by the Jews is still present to this day. The death of Christ on the cross is foretold in verse 5 of chapter 53 and also in the book of Psalms. Psalms chapter 22 verses 16 through 18 says, "For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me. They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots." This Psalm written by King David around 1044 BC corroborates with the account written by Isaiah foretelling the crucifixion of Christ.<sup>233</sup>

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<sup>230</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Isa 53:1-5.

<sup>231</sup> Robert J. Morgan, *EVIDENCE AND TRUTH* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003), 54.

<sup>232</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Psalm 22:1.

<sup>233</sup> Probable Occasion When Each Psalm Was Composed," Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/parallel/paral18.cfm> (accessed November 12, 2023).

Also, notice in verse 18 of Psalms that the dividing of garments and betting over them corroborates with the account of the crucifixion of Jesus given in the four gospels.<sup>234</sup>

These first five verses of Isaiah chapter 53 contain three prophetic elements that perfectly corroborate with the life of Christ: His rejection, being pierced, and being a sacrificial death. In addition, the three verses referenced in Psalm 22 explicitly mention the piercing of Christ's hands and feet and the disrobement of Jesus and the betting over His clothing which were both fulfilled in the life of Christ.

The rest of chapter 53 further provides prophecy fulfilled in Christ. Isaiah chapter 53 verses 6 through 12 says:

All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.<sup>235</sup>

Although Christ was attacked, accused, and unjustly dealt with He did not open His mouth to complain once.<sup>236</sup> Instead Christ would say: "Father, forgive them; for they do

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<sup>234</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24; Matt 27:35; Mark 15:24.

<sup>235</sup> Ibid., Isa 53:6-12.

<sup>236</sup> Morgan, *EVIDENCE AND TRUTH*, 54.

not know what they are doing,” as He suffered immensely on the cross.<sup>237</sup> In addition, Christ was crucified with criminals yet He was buried in a rich man’s tomb which was accurately foretold in verse 9. Also, verses 10 through 12 declare that He would be righteous, that His death would justify many, that He would ultimately see life, and that His name would be great.<sup>238</sup> Collectively Isaiah chapter 53 paints a picture of a righteous servant that would be rejected, humiliated, and put to death for the purpose of accomplishing God’s redemptive plan to save humanity from the penalty of sin.<sup>239</sup> All of the verses in Isaiah 53 perfectly embody who Jesus Christ is and what most of the world knows about Him. Many people do not realize that the life and death of Christ was foretold in advance centuries before He was born. As noted earlier, the Dead sea scrolls discovery contains a complete scroll of the book of Isaiah written in ancient Hebrew and is dated between 207 and 107 BC. That means the earliest manuscripts available for the verses reviewed above predate the birth of Christ by up to two centuries. In summary, the ten predictive prophecies foretold in Isaiah chapter 53 which are all fulfilled in Christ are: His rejection, His hands and feet being pierced, He did not complain when facing death, He was crucified with criminals, He was righteous, His death was sacrificial, He was buried in a rich man’s tomb, His death would justify many, He would ultimately see life, and His name would be highly exalted.

Professor Peter Stoner author of the book, *Science Speaks*, had picked out eight specific prophecies concerning Christ found in the Old Testament to see what the

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<sup>237</sup>“New American Standard Bible 1995,” Luke 23:34.

<sup>238</sup> Morgan, *EVIDENCE AND TRUTH*, 56.

<sup>239</sup>Ibid., 55.

mathematical probability of all eight predictions being accomplished in the life of one man.<sup>240</sup> Author Robert J. Morgan in his book, *Evidence and Truth*, said of Stoner,

He and his students wanted to know what the chances were that any one man, in accordance to predictive prophecy, would be born in Bethlehem, preceded by a forerunner, enter Jerusalem as a king riding a donkey, be betrayed by his friends for thirty pieces of silver, be placed on trial and though innocent make no defense for himself, and be crucified.<sup>241</sup>

Robert Morgan subsequently provides the mathematical probability in accordance to the work of Dr. Peter Stone:

What is the chance that any man might have lived from the day of these prophecies down to the present time and fulfilled all eight of these predictions? His answer? The chance calculates to 1 in  $10^{17}$ . What kind of chance is that? Cover the state of Texas with Silver dollars to a depth of two feet, then mark one of those silver dollars and drop it somewhere into the pile, stirring thoroughly. The chance of a blindfolded man choosing the marked silver dollar is equal to the chances of all eight of those prophecies being fulfilled in one man in history.<sup>242</sup>

Dr. Stone's mathematical probabilities concerning just eight prophecies make it evident that Messianic prophecy could not have occurred by chance. Yet there are scholars that have estimated that the Old Testament contains between 456 and 574 verses that somehow point to the life of Christ.<sup>243</sup> Prophecy concerning Jesus Christ is prominent throughout the Old Testament. There are conservatively 300 specific prophecies

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<sup>240</sup> Morgan, *EVIDENCE AND TRUTH*, 56.

<sup>241</sup> Ibid., 57.

<sup>242</sup> Ibid.

<sup>243</sup> "How many prophecies did Jesus fulfill?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html> (accessed November 13, 2023).

describing the life and ministry of a future Messiah that was foretold by the Old Testament authors and every single prophecy was fulfilled in the life of Christ.<sup>244 245</sup>

There are two conclusions that can be made concerning these prophecies fulfilled in Christ: God had supernaturally revealed specific details of a future messiah through human authors, or the New Testament authors among many others had all conspired in the first century AD to give a false account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. This false account of Christ would have to corroborate with the specific and detailed depiction of the future Messiah foretold by the Old Testament authors and be propagated by many conspirators. A skeptic may perhaps claim that the four gospels had falsely added these various prophetic elements found in the Old Testament to convince future generations that the life of Jesus Christ was foretold in advance. This theory would require that a fabricated account of the life of Christ be created and propagated by the first century Christian church to deceive countless future generations into believing that the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Countless Christians during the first century would then have to face brutal persecutions by the hands of the Roman empire and essentially commit themselves to die for a lie. Nonetheless, there is historical and present evidence available today that confirms prophecy found in Isaiah 53 has irrefutably been fulfilled in Christ. For example, the evidence for the rejection of Christ is still evident to this day. One needs to only watch a movie, TV show, or overhear in a conversation the name Jesus Christ being mocked or used as a curse word and a name of derision. This universally recognizable scorn for the name of Christ does not change the

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<sup>244</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 164.

<sup>245</sup> “How many prophecies did Jesus fulfill?”

fact that Jesus Christ is the most highly exalted person to ever exist. Not only was Jesus Christ rejected and exalted in the past but is still presently rejected and highly exalted. The person of Jesus Christ is universally recognized to be acquainted with righteousness and his death is always associated with the forgiveness of sins even though much of the world rejects those claims about Him. Also, the overwhelming historical evidence provided by ancient sources which include Jewish, Christian, and secular sources confirm that Jesus Christ was in fact crucified among other historical facts about Him. The book of Isaiah foretold over one thousand years ago foretold that the future Messiah would be rejected, highly exalted, and crucified. Jesus Christ has undoubtedly fulfilled these predictions. Therefore, many of the specific prophecies foretold in Isaiah chapter 53 that are only fulfilled in Jesus Christ can be confirmed outside of the four gospel accounts by various ancient historical sources and present day objective and empirical evidence.

The creation in and of itself points to an all-powerful Creator and the Bible points to an all knowing God. The organization, precision, and universal laws that govern the heavens and the earth do not logically infer that creation is random or by chance. On the contrary, the many attributes of creation such as nature, providence, and conscience reveal that there is a superior intellectual mind that implemented and currently upholds the universe and life. Anyone with eyes to see and a mind to reason can clearly see the glory of God when analyzing the attributes of creation. Some of the greatest scientific minds in the world such as Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, and Galileo Galilei had all acknowledged the glory revealed in creation as evidence that pointed to a superior Architect. As glorious as creation is it does not reveal what God's will is and what He requires from humanity. Therefore, God had to reveal a special revelation of Himself to

humans. The evidence of predictive prophecy in the Bible proves that God's special revelation to humanity is the Bible. God has substantiated that the Bible is His Word by foretelling specific future events with 100 percent accuracy consistently throughout Scripture. These predictive prophecies found in the Bible foretell specific events about Israel, specific events about history, and specific events about the life of Jesus Christ among other things. Many of the predictive prophecies foretold thousands of years ago have irrefutably been fulfilled in the contemporary world today. The authors of the Bible had claimed their predictions were from God; therefore, the fulfillment of the improbable events accurately foretold authenticate their claims. Prophetic evidence in the Bible proves that God did in fact reveal specific events concerning the future through human agents.

## CHAPTER 3

### Internal and External Uniqueness of the Bible

The amount of manuscript evidence and the transmission accuracy of the books of the Bible over the course of thousands of years are no doubt unique external factors concerning the Bible. Likewise, the predictive prophecy found in Scripture that consistently and accurately foretells specific future events are an internally unique phenomenon of the Bible. However, there are additional internal and external factors that make the Holy Bible unique to any other books ever written.

### Unique Attributes of the Bible

There are many attributes that the Bible possesses that make it unique to all other writings of the past and present. When analyzing the history and internal content of the Bible it becomes apparent that this book is unusually special. This section will review some general and specific attributes that make the Holy Bible unique.

### The Bible is Unique in General

The contemporary world views the Bible as somewhat of an anomaly because it is by far the most popular and influential book of all time yet many people rarely read it.<sup>246</sup> The influence of the Bible has contributed to many spheres of human activity such as directly inspiring the works of some of the world's greatest poets, musicians, artists, and scientists all the way to being used as a moral compass for humanity.<sup>247</sup> It seems to be a

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<sup>246</sup> Arthur W. Pink, "The Divine Inspiration of the Bible," Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 39, <https://ccel.org/ccel/p/pink/inspiration/cache/inspiration.pdf> (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>247</sup> Ibid.

contradiction that the most influential and read book to ever exist is also a book that is largely neglected by the world.<sup>248</sup> Not only is the Bible the best-selling book of all time but it is the best-selling book every single year.<sup>249</sup> According to the British and Foreign Bible Society, it is estimated that between five and seven billion copies of the Bible have been printed over the past 1500 years.<sup>250</sup> In addition, the entire Bible has been translated into 700 languages giving roughly six billion people the ability to read all 66 books of the Bible.<sup>251</sup> One would assume since the Bible is the best-selling book every single year and the most prevalent book in the world it would also be the most read book, however that is not the case. There are two billion professing Christians in the world, however it is estimated that less than 30 percent of Christians have read their entire Bible. Based on an annual survey by the American Bible Society in 2022 only 39 percent of the adult population read their Bible as little as three to four times throughout the year outside of a church setting.<sup>252</sup> Also, a survey from 2021 revealed that only 11 percent of Americans

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<sup>248</sup> Jennifer Polland, “The 10 Most Read Books In The World [Infographic],” Business Insider, <https://www.businessinsider.com/the-top-10-most-read-books-in-the-world-infographic-2012-12> (accessed October 22, 2023).

<sup>249</sup> Daniel Radosh, “THE GOOD BOOK BUSINESS,” The New Yorker, December 10, 2006, <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2006/12/18/the-good-book-business#:~:text=The%20familiar%20observation%20that%20the,of%20the%20year%2C%20every%20year> (accessed October 22, 2023).

<sup>250</sup> Laura Bailey, “The Bible: A True Bestseller,” Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, January 7, 2022, <https://billygraham.org/story/the-bible-a-true-bestseller/> (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>251</sup> “2023 Global Scripture Access.”

<sup>252</sup> Ryan Foley, “American Bible Society survey finds ‘unprecedented drop’ in Bible reading,” The Christian Post, <https://www.christianpost.com/news/american-bible-society-finds-unprecedented-drop-in-bible-users-report.html> (accessed October 4, 2023).

read their Bible daily.<sup>253</sup> This is despite the fact that roughly nine out of ten households in America own a Bible.<sup>254</sup> The biggest reason Americans aren't reading their Bible is because only 21 percent of Christians in America believe that the Bible is divinely inspired.<sup>255</sup> Not only are Americans not reading their Bible but the percentage of Americans that identify as Christian is drastically decreasing. For example, 90 percent of the American population identified as Christian in 1970, whereas in 2020 that number has decreased to only 64 percent.<sup>256</sup> It is certainly an enigma to consider that the most popular book that has ever existed is also one of the least read books.

Although the Bible is unified as one book that was not always the case. Over the course of roughly 1500 years 40 different authors who for the most part did not know each other wrote the 66 books that comprise the Bible.<sup>257</sup> Many of these authors lived in different cultures and had a variety of different backgrounds. The Holy Bible is one of a kind in regards to it being a unified book with such a diverse group of authors ranging from outcasts, regular people, and people in positions of great power. For example, the authors of the Bible came from many different walks of life which included traders,

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<sup>253</sup> Amy Watson, "Bible readership in the U.S. 2018-2021," Statista, May 23, 2022, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/299433/bible-readership-in-the-usa/> (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>254</sup> Bob Smietana, "Study: Americans fond of Bible, but how many read it?" Baptist Press, April 25, 2017, <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/study-americans-fond-of-bible-but-how-many-read-it/> (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>255</sup> "Christians Don't Read Their Bible," Ponce Foundation, <http://poncefoundation.com/christians-dont-read-their-bible/> (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>256</sup> Sarah McCammon, Michael Levitt, and Kathryn Fox, "America's Christian majority is shrinking, and could dip below 50% by 2070," New Orleans Public Radio, September 15, 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/15/1123289466/americas-christian-majority-is-shrinking-and-could-dip-below-50-by-2070> (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>257</sup> "Who wrote the Bible?" Bible Info, <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/who-wrote-the-bible> (accessed October 4, 2023).

shepherds, fishermen, soldiers, government officials, army generals, priests, kings, physicians, preachers, tax collectors, peasants, and outlaws.<sup>258 259</sup> The Bible is essentially a collection of writings that were separated and preserved over the course of history by Jewish rabbis and Christians that discerned that these particular writings were inspired by God. The collection of writings that were unanimously recognized to be the inspired Word of God were eventually compiled together into one book.

### The History of the Bible is Unique

The Bible has a truly fascinating history that makes it a one of a kind collection of books. The sad fact is that many people are unaware of the unique history of the Bible. The following paragraphs will give a brief overview of the history of the Bible and determine why exactly these sixty-six historical writings were singled out, prioritized, and determined to be the divinely inspired Word of God.

First, it will be determined whether the authors of the Bible viewed their writings as being divinely inspired. Altogether the authors of the Bible had different perspectives on how they viewed their writings.<sup>260</sup> For example Luke the physician, the author of the Gospel of Luke, had knowledge of what he was writing but did not initially recognize his writings as being divinely inspired.<sup>261</sup> Luke had recognized that many written accounts of

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<sup>258</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” Believers Testimonies, June 11, 2019, Video, 3:00-3:30, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_n0qGUDjIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_n0qGUDjIM) (accessed October 4, 2023).

<sup>259</sup> “Who wrote the Bible?”

<sup>260</sup> Don Stewart, “Did the Biblical Writers Always Understand That They Were Recording the Word of God?” Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question16-did-biblical-writers-understand.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question16-did-biblical-writers-understand.cfm) (accessed October 8, 2023).

<sup>261</sup> Stewart, “Did the Biblical Writers Always Understand That They Were Recording the Word of God?”

eyewitness testimonies were circulating about the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, whereafter Luke had decided to compile a historical account of the life of Christ himself.<sup>262</sup> The opening verses of the Gospel of Luke says:

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.<sup>263</sup>

Luke was confident in his endeavor to compile a chronological and accurate biographical narrative of the life of Jesus Christ to the recipient, Theophilus.<sup>264</sup> Luke, who had been a traveling companion with the Apostle Paul, had likely spoken to and received first-hand accounts of the events from the eyewitnesses themselves.<sup>265</sup> Luke's main goal was to prove to Theophilus that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah foretold in the Old Testament and that Christ in fact died and resurrected from the dead.<sup>266</sup> Luke was unaware his writings would eventually be deemed to be inspired from God by the apostles and the early Christian church. On the other hand, the Apostle Paul had recognized his own writings to be divinely inspired which is evidenced in his letter directed to the church he had established on his second missionary journey in the city of

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<sup>262</sup> “What does Luke 1:3 mean?” BibleRef, <https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/1/Luke-1-3.html> (accessed October 8, 2023).

<sup>263</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Luke 1:1-4.

<sup>264</sup> “What does Luke 1:3 mean?”

<sup>265</sup> Ibid.

<sup>266</sup> “Who is Theophilus in the Bible books of Luke and Acts?” Bible info, <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/who-was-theophilus> (accessed October 8, 2023).

Thessalonica. Paul says, “For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”<sup>267</sup> Also, it is evident in Paul’s book 2 Timothy that he regarded his writings along with all other Scriptures as being divinely inspired. The book 2 Timothy is Paul’s second letter that was personally addressed to Timothy a young leader in the Christian church who had been converted to Christianity by Paul. The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”<sup>268</sup> Paul’s letter to the church in Thessalonica and Timothy clearly emphasizes his recognition of the authority and divine inspiration of his writings and the writings of other New Testament authors. Also, there are instances where a different Bible author verifies the writings of another author as being divinely inspired throughout the Bible. Such is the case for Luke’s writing when the apostle Paul’s first letter to Timothy quotes from the Gospel of Luke referencing it as Scripture.<sup>269</sup> It is evident that not every author would recognize their writings were inspired such as Luke; however, many of the other bible authors did recognize their writings to be divinely inspired evidenced by the many different authors claiming to be speaking on behalf of God in over 3000 instances in their writings.<sup>270</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” 1 Thess 2:13.

<sup>268</sup> Ibid., 2 Tim 3:16-17.

<sup>269</sup> Don Landis, “Claims of Divine Authorship,” Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/2-claims-of-divine-authorship/> (accessed October 8, 2023).

<sup>270</sup> Landis, “Claims of Divine Authorship.”

The establishment of the biblical canon was not decided immediately but was a gradual process.<sup>271</sup> The term canon refers to the books that are divinely inspired and thus included in the Holy Bible.<sup>272</sup> The history of the Bible begins with the nation of Israel and the eventual establishment of the Old Testament canon. The book of Exodus reveals the origin of the first five books of the Old Testament which were immediately recognized as the Word of God by the Jews. According to the book of Exodus, the Israelites had willingly entered into a covenant with God after the nation of Israel had been liberated from Egyptian slavery by Him.<sup>273</sup> God had chosen Moses to be an intercessor for the nation of Israel so that God could reveal Himself to the Jews. Eventually God would call Moses up to Mount Sinai to reveal the commandments that Israel was to follow under this covenant.<sup>274</sup> Moses would write the commandments God had revealed and present them to the nation of Israel. The Jews had emphatically agreed to follow all of the commandments given by God, therefore they entered into a covenant with God.<sup>275</sup> Under the terms of this covenant, Israel would be blessed by following the commandments of God, however if they disobeyed the commandments Israel would be cursed.<sup>276</sup> The books of the law are the first five books of the bible that were directly revealed to Moses by God.<sup>277</sup> The books of the law contain a historical account of the

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<sup>271</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

<sup>272</sup> “How and when was the canon of the Bible put together?” Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/canon-Bible.html> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>273</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Exod 24:1-3.

<sup>274</sup> Ibid., Exod 24:1-8, Numb 12:7-8.

<sup>275</sup> Ibid., Exod 24:1-18.

<sup>276</sup> Ibid., Deut 11:26-28.

<sup>277</sup> Don Stewart, “Were the Writings of Moses Considered to Be Scripture?” Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question5-moses-considered-scripture.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question5-moses-considered-scripture.cfm) (accessed October 9, 2023).

beginning of creation, Israel's history, and the 613 commandments that the nation of Israel was obligated to follow in their covenant with God.<sup>278</sup> Under the covenant God had instituted a priesthood class within the Levite tribe of Israel which were a special class of Israelites called to be mediators between God and the nation of Israel.<sup>279</sup> The responsibilities of the Levitical priesthood varied from carrying out religious duties required under the law to safekeeping the divinely inspired writings of Moses.<sup>280 281</sup> Throughout the history of Israel, the collection of writings that were divinely inspired by God increased and were safeguarded by the Jews.<sup>282</sup>

Many of the authors of the Old Testament books were prophets that lived in Israel who would testify that the words they spoke were from God.<sup>283</sup> The book of Numbers which is part of the books of the law revealed that God would communicate to a prophet through dreams and visions.<sup>284</sup> However, Scripture also warned of false prophets that would rise among Israel claiming to speak on behalf of God. The book of Deuteronomy taught the nation of Israel how to identify a prophet and the penalty for a false prophet:

I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My

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<sup>278</sup> Kerry Trahan, *A Complete Guide to UNDERSTANDING THE DISPENSATIONALISM CONTROVERSY* (Port Neches, TX: Disciple of Jesus Ministries, 2007), 249.

<sup>279</sup> "What was the Levitical priesthood?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Levitical-priesthood.html> (accessed October 9, 2023).

<sup>280</sup> Ibid.

<sup>281</sup> Stewart, "Were the Writings of Moses Considered to Be Scripture?"

<sup>282</sup> "The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible)," 4:10-7:30.

<sup>283</sup> Don Stewart, "Who were the People Who Spoke for God During the Old Testament Period? (The Old Testament Prophets)," Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question1-who-spoke-for-god-old-testament.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question1-who-spoke-for-god-old-testament.cfm) (accessed October 9, 2023).

<sup>284</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Numb 12:6.

name, I Myself will require *it* of him. But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.<sup>285</sup>

The accurate fulfillment of prophecy was what authenticated when an author was speaking the divinely inspired Word of God. Anyone who claimed to be a prophet of God needed to back up their claims with the evidence of fulfilled prophecy. Those that were proven to be a false prophet were put to death according to Jewish law. Over the course of Israel’s history Hebrew believers had recognized when a messenger was from God through fulfilled prophecy and thus accepted their writings as the authoritative Word of God.<sup>286</sup> Unfortunately there are no writings found in ancient Israel that listed the exact criteria for the process of determining whether a book was divinely inspired. However, the fulfillment of prophecy was undoubtedly the most important element to determine that a writing was divinely inspired by God.<sup>287</sup>

The Old Testament canon had begun to be established after the Jews returned from Babylonian exile.<sup>288</sup> The nation of Israel was once a unified kingdom comprised of twelve Israelite tribes, however this unified kingdom would eventually be divided into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

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<sup>285</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Deut 18:18-22.

<sup>286</sup> “How and when was the canon of the Bible put together?”

<sup>287</sup> Don Stewart, “What Criteria Were Used to Recognize Which Books Belonged in the Old Testament?” Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question9-criteria-recognize-old-testament.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question9-criteria-recognize-old-testament.cfm) (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>288</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

Eventually the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrian empire in 722 BC, and the southern kingdom of Judah would be conquered in 586 BC by the Babylonian empire.<sup>289</sup> The Babylonians would destroy the Jewish temple and take the Jews into captivity for 70 years.<sup>290</sup> The Medo-Persian empire eventually took over the Babylonian empire under king Darius the Mede.<sup>291</sup> Afterwards the Medo-Persian ruler King Cyrus the Great would allow the Jews to return to the land of Israel after they were scattered over all of the Eastern world.<sup>292 293</sup> After many Jews had returned to Israel they began to build multiple synagogues all over Israel to teach and worship because they no longer had a temple.<sup>294</sup> Therefore, each synagogue would need a Bible to teach the Word of God.<sup>295</sup> This requirement led to the establishment of the Jewish scribes.<sup>296</sup> The scribes were a specialized class of scholars known as the Soferim who viewed the Scriptures preserved by Israel as the authoritative Word of God.<sup>297</sup> The establishment of the Soferim around 500 BC is when the official process to identify the Old Testament canon began.<sup>298</sup>

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<sup>289</sup> “Ancient Jewish History: The Two Kingdoms,” Jewish Virtual Library, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-two-kingdoms-of-israel> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>290</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

<sup>291</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Dan 5:25-31.

<sup>292</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

<sup>293</sup> “Babylonian Captivity,” Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Babylonian-Captivity#:~:text=The%20captivity%20formally%20ended%20in,permission%20to%20return%20to%20Palestine> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>294</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

<sup>295</sup> Ibid.

<sup>296</sup> Ibid.

<sup>297</sup> “What was the process of deciding on the old testament canon?” Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-canon.html> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>298</sup> Ibid.

The Soferim revered the Scriptures to such high regard their method of copying manuscripts was a painstaking process.<sup>299</sup> For example, they would only use a special black ink to copy Scripture, if the copied writings needed correction on three pages the entire document would be replaced, and if any of the letters touched in their copy the document was considered invalid.<sup>300</sup> Also, the scribes were required to wash their pen and entire bodies every time they wrote the Hebrew word for God in their copies.<sup>301</sup> These requirements for the scribes along with others were factors that led to the near perfect transmission of the Old Testament Scriptures to future generations. By the time of Christ and the apostles the canon of the Old Testament had been well established.<sup>302</sup> This is evidenced by the fact that the New Testament authors quoted or alluded to the Old Testament Scriptures up to 889 times. The majority of the Old Testament books that were referenced were cited as being Holy Scripture.<sup>303</sup> The only books not cited from the Old Testament were Ezra, Nehemiah, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, however there are arguably allusions made to these books found in the New Testament.<sup>304</sup> Also, the Apostle Peter had said in his letter 2 Peter that the entire Old Testament was divinely inspired by God. Most importantly, Jesus Christ had regarded the

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<sup>299</sup> “What was the process of deciding on the old testament canon?”

<sup>300</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

<sup>301</sup> Ibid.

<sup>302</sup> Tony Watkins, “Why do our Bibles contain these books and not others?” Tyndale House, April 4, 2023, [https://academic.tyndalehouse.com/explore/articles/canon-development/#\\_edn4](https://academic.tyndalehouse.com/explore/articles/canon-development/#_edn4) (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>303</sup> Don Stewart, “Does the New Testament Quote the Old Testament as Authoritative Scripture?” Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question17-new-testament-quote-old-testament.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/right-books-in-old-testament/question17-new-testament-quote-old-testament.cfm) (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>304</sup> Stewart, “Does the New Testament Quote the Old Testament as Authoritative Scripture?”

Old Testament Scriptures as being the Word of God and said He had fulfilled the Scriptures.<sup>305 306</sup> Also, in extra biblical sources such as the writings of Josephus Flavius the Old Testament Scriptures are referred to as divinely inspired around 90 AD.<sup>307</sup> Josephus says, “For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another [as the Greeks have] but only twenty-two books, which contain the records of all the past times; which are justly believed to be divine.”<sup>308</sup> Josephus’ confidence in the credibility of the Old Testament books gives evidence that the Jewish scholars of that time considered the Old Testament canon to be well established.<sup>309</sup> This is also evidenced by the council of Jamnia held by Jewish scholars between 90 and 100 AD which further examined the Old Testament Scriptures that had been regarded as inspired.<sup>310</sup> There was practically universal agreement for what the Hebrew canon of Scripture consisted of by 250 AD.<sup>311</sup>

It must be clarified that the Hebrew Bible was divided into 22 or 24 books depending on the version.<sup>312</sup> For example, Josephus refers to the Hebrew Scriptures as 22 books because he is referring to the version of the Hebrew Bible that joined the books Ruth to Judges and Lamentations to Jeremiah.<sup>313</sup> The Old Testament writings of today are

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<sup>305</sup> Landis, “Claims of Divine Authorship.”

<sup>306</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” 2 Pet 5:17-20.

<sup>307</sup> Brian H. Edwards, “Why 66?” Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/why-66-books/> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>308</sup> Ibid.

<sup>309</sup> “What was the process of deciding on the old testament canon?”

<sup>310</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>311</sup> “How and when was the canon of the Bible put together?”

<sup>312</sup> “What was the process of deciding on the old testament canon?”

<sup>313</sup> Ibid.

divided into 39 books but are comprised of exactly the same content of the Hebrew Old Testament.<sup>314</sup>

Although the Hebrew canon of Scripture is agreed upon there is some debate of whether additional books should be included in the Old Testament canon.<sup>315</sup> This debate revolves around the deuterocanonical books known as the apocryphal books.<sup>316</sup> This is a collection of fourteen books written after the Old Testament canon had been completed.<sup>317</sup> It is important to note that the Jews had never regarded these particular books to be a part of the Hebrew Scriptures.<sup>318</sup> These fourteen books were written between 400 BC and most likely completed by the early first century AD.<sup>319</sup> This 400-year gap between the close of the Old Testament canon and the beginning of the New Testament period is referred to as the silent years.<sup>320</sup> The Jews had testified themselves that there was no prophet in their land during that period of time and that they were awaiting for the time a faithful prophet would arrive.<sup>321</sup> The reason that there is some controversy regarding the apocryphal books is because the earliest copies of the Greek translation of the Bible, the Septuagint, had included these fourteen books at the very end. However, there is no evidence that the original Septuagint translation had included

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<sup>314</sup> “The Indestructible Book (The Story of The Bible),” 4:10-7:30.

<sup>315</sup> Watkins, “Why do our Bibles contain these books and not others?”

<sup>316</sup> “Who Decided Which Books To Include In The Bible? Biblword, July 9, 2022, <https://www.biblword.net/who-decided-which-books-to-include-in-the-bible/> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>317</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>318</sup> Ibid.

<sup>319</sup> Ibid.

<sup>320</sup> “What were the 400 years of silence?” Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/400-years-of-silence.html> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>321</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

the apocrypha.<sup>322</sup> Also, Jesus nor the Apostles, who would have used the Greek Septuagint translation of the Bible during the first century AD, had ever quoted from these fourteen books.<sup>323</sup> In addition, Josephus Flavius used the Septuagint however he did not consider the apocryphal books as part of the inspired Scriptures.<sup>324</sup> Early Christian scholars such as Jerome who translated the Latin Vulgate viewed the apocrypha books as uninspired whereas Augustine argued these books should be accepted.<sup>325</sup> Typically, the Western church holds Jerome's view that these books are not inspired, whereas the orthodox churches had accepted Augustine's view that these books were inspired.<sup>326</sup> After the Protestant Reformation Martin Luther and John Calvin had viewed the apocryphal books as not being divinely inspired which led to the rejection of these particular books by the Protestant church.<sup>327</sup> It was only until the Council of Trent between 1546-1563 that the Roman catholic church would accept seven of the apocrypha books as authoritative.<sup>328</sup> <sup>329</sup> During the Council of Trent Catholic Bishops had argued that seven of the apocrypha books should be regarded as Scripture as with the other 66 books that were unanimously agreed upon.<sup>330</sup> Although there are many reasons to reject the divine inspiration of these particular books a few reasons will be given. Most

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<sup>322</sup> Edwards, Why 66?"

<sup>323</sup> Ibid.

<sup>324</sup> Ibid.

<sup>325</sup> Watkins, "Why do our Bibles contain these books and not others?"

<sup>326</sup> Ibid.

<sup>327</sup> Ibid.

<sup>328</sup> Don Stewart, "Why Were the Books of the Old Testament Apocrypha Rejected as Holy Scripture by the Protestants?" Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_395.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_395.cfm) (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>329</sup> "Who Decided Which Books To Include In The Bible?"

<sup>330</sup> Watkins, "Why do our Bibles contain these books and not others?"

importantly, these books should be rejected because it teaches a different doctrine that is contrary to what the 66 books of the Bible teaches. For example, there are verses in Tobit and 1 Maccabees that indicate that a person is saved by works, whereas the 66 books of the Bible are all consistent in teaching that a person is only saved by grace through faith in Christ not by works.<sup>331</sup> Also, the apocrypha books were not included in the Hebrew Bible and were never considered to be inspired scripture by the Jews. In addition, the apocrypha books are never quoted or referred to as being divinely inspired by any of the New Testament authors or by Jesus Christ.<sup>332</sup> The early Christian church had made various lists of the books that were accepted as divinely inspired which always included the Old Testament books, however the earliest lists never included the apocrypha books and didn't even appear on a list until late fourth century AD.<sup>333</sup> Altogether the apocrypha books contain evident historical errors, lacks objective evidence to indicate its divine authority such as prophecy, and the authors of the apocrypha never claimed that their writings were divinely inspired.<sup>334</sup>

The formation of the official New testament canon was likewise a gradual process. According to Don Stewart, “The books that make up the New Testament canon of Scripture were used authoritatively by the church from the very beginning. However, like the Old Testament, their collection, and distinction from other written documents, was a gradual and continuous process that took a couple of centuries to complete.”<sup>335</sup> The

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<sup>331</sup> Stewart, “Why Were the Books of the Old Testament Apocrypha Rejected as Holy Scripture by the Protestants?”

<sup>332</sup> Ibid.

<sup>333</sup> Ibid.

<sup>334</sup> Ibid.

<sup>335</sup> Don Stewart, “What Happened Historically to Cause the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament to Be Recognized as Scripture?” Blue Letter Bible,

Apostolic era is the period of time when the New Testament documents were first written and subsequently spread throughout the many churches that had been established in the first century AD.<sup>336</sup> The New Testament writings soon after being completed were accepted as authoritative by the early Christian churches, however it took some time for all the writings to be disseminated to the various churches established throughout the Roman empire.<sup>337 338</sup>

In the first century AD when a letter was coming from the Apostle Paul or Peter it was accepted by the church; however, many other letters and gospels begin to spread during the first century which led to the early church implementing different tests to authenticate whether certain writings were divinely inspired.<sup>339</sup> One of the primary tests was to determine if the writing had apostolic authority. In other words, this test would verify whether the writings came from an apostle or someone closely associated with an apostle.<sup>340</sup> For example, Luke was associated with Paul, and Mark was associated with Peter, therefore both Mark and Luke's gospels were accepted because the apostles Peter and Paul had viewed these writings as authoritative Scripture.<sup>341</sup> Another way to

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[https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/right-books-in-the-new-testament/question6-new-testament-scripture.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/right-books-in-the-new-testament/question6-new-testament-scripture.cfm) (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>336</sup> “What Happened Historically to Cause the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament to Be Recognized as Scripture?”

<sup>337</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>338</sup> Ibid.

<sup>339</sup> Ibid.

<sup>340</sup> Matthew Mittelberg, “How Do We Know the Right Books Made it into the New Testament?” Bible Study Tools, March 29, 2013, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/how-do-we-know-the-right-books-made-it-into-the-new-testament.html> (accessed October 10, 2023).

<sup>341</sup> Ibid.

determine if a writing was divinely inspired was the internal evidence.<sup>342</sup> For example, many of the New Testament writers claimed that their writings were inspired by God. In addition, the contents of Scripture were analyzed in order to verify whether it aligned with the teachings of Jesus which were ultimately communicated by the Apostles and validated by the Old Testament Scriptures.<sup>343</sup> Therefore, in order for a writing to qualify as divinely inspired it must not contradict the truth that had already been revealed by the Old Testament Canon and Jesus Christ. Furthermore, another test was to determine if the early Christian church at large accepted the writings as divinely inspired.<sup>344</sup> This test is important because the Christian church believed that God would ultimately guide them in their judgment in determining whether a writing was divinely inspired. As noted earlier, many of the New Testament authors either recognized each other's writings or even their own writings as being divinely inspired.

After the New Testament authors and the many early Christians that had been taught firsthand by the Apostles had died the early Christian church began to closely examine the writings of the first century AD. The purpose of this examination was to officially recognize which writings were divinely inspired.<sup>345</sup> The authoritative writings were already being distinguished from the non-authoritative writings in the first century evidenced by the warning found in the last chapter of the book of Revelation.<sup>346</sup> The Apostle John writes, "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this

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<sup>342</sup> Edwards, Why 66?"

<sup>343</sup> Mittelberg, "How Do We Know the Right Books Made it into the New Testament?"

<sup>344</sup> Ibid.

<sup>345</sup> Stewart, "What Happened Historically to Cause the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament to Be Recognized as Scripture?"

<sup>346</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Rev 22:18.

book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.” There is a clear warning to anyone who attempts to add or subtract to the official body of divinely inspired writings. It is important to understand that any idea that is communicated by God through an individual is divinely inspired from its inception. Humans did not arbitrarily choose which books were divinely inspired but the church at large had recognized which writings were divinely inspired from the beginning and had eventually compiled these writings together. It was ultimately the divine overruling of God to guide humans in producing, preserving, and compiling the writings that were inspired by God.<sup>347</sup> Many of the early church fathers such as Polycarp a disciple of John the Apostle, Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus of Lyons, Hippolytus, Justin Martyr, Tertullian of Carthage, and Origen of Alexandria had acknowledged several or all of the New Testament books as being divinely inspired in the first, second and third century AD.<sup>348 349 350</sup> The earliest list of the New Testament canon is known as the Muratorian canon which is dated around 150 AD.<sup>351</sup> The compiler of this list claims that the books listed were accepted by the church universally.<sup>352</sup> The only New Testament books not found on this list is Hebrews, James, and 1 and 2 Peter.<sup>353</sup> The acceptance of

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<sup>347</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>348</sup> “How and when was the canon of the Bible put together?”

<sup>349</sup> Watkins, “Why do our Bibles contain these books and not others?”

<sup>350</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>351</sup> Ibid.

<sup>352</sup> Ibid.

<sup>353</sup> Ibid.

the 27 New Testament books as being divinely inspired were nearly universal by 180 AD in the early Christian church.<sup>354</sup> However, a minority of churches had hesitated to accept seven New Testament writings as divinely inspired this included Hebrews, Jude, James, 2 and 3 John, 2 Peter, and Revelation.<sup>355</sup>

Also, there were lists provided and councils held in the fourth century to recognize the official New Testament canon. The council of Laodicea was held in 363 AD where 30 church leaders had recognized all of the New Testament books as inspired except the book of Revelation.<sup>356</sup> In 367 AD Athanasius a bishop in Alexandria had sent out a letter during Easter that had recognized the 27 books of the New Testament as the only inspired writings of the first century.<sup>357</sup> The Bible scholar Jerome who translated the New Testament in Latin had affirmed the 27 books of the New Testament as inspired.<sup>358</sup> Also the Council of Hippo in 393 AD and the Council of Carthage in 397 AD had all reaffirmed the 27 New Testament books were inspired by God.<sup>359</sup> Despite the abundance of evidence to support the fact that the inspired writings of the New Testament era had long been recognized there is a misconception held by some that believe a handful of bishops had formed the New Testament canon of Scripture in 325 AD during the Council of Nicaea.<sup>360</sup> According to Dr. John Meade, “There is no historical basis for the idea that

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<sup>354</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>355</sup> Ibid.

<sup>356</sup> Stewart, “What Happened Historically to Cause the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament to Be Recognized as Scripture?”

<sup>357</sup> Ibid.

<sup>358</sup> Ibid.

<sup>359</sup> Ibid.

<sup>360</sup> John D. Meade, “DID NICAEA REALLY CREATE THE BIBLE?” Text & Canon Institute, November 11, 2021, <https://textandcanon.org/the-council-of-nicaea-and-the-biblical-canon/> (accessed October 10, 2023).

Nicaea established the canon and created the Bible.”<sup>361</sup> The historical progression for the recognition of the New Testament Canon is sufficient to dispel this myth. This view is demonstrably false for two main reasons. First, prior to the council of Nicaea the early church had recognized the New Testament writings as divinely inspired. Secondly, after the council of Nicaea the book of Revelation was still not universally accepted by the Christian church which is evidenced by the Council of Laodicea not recognizing the book of Revelation as being divinely inspired. Although the majority of the early church had recognized the 27 books of the New Testament as inspired it would not be until the fourth century AD that the church would begin to officially recognize the New Testament canon to be comprised of 27 books.<sup>362</sup>

At this point the main question that needs to be addressed is: why exactly did it take so long for the Christian church to establish an official New Testament Canon? There are a handful of reasons the New Testament canon took some time to be established. Early Christians from the first century AD had recognized the authority of the four gospels and the Apostles and would often quote from them, therefore a standard canonization of the inspired writings were not immediate.<sup>363</sup> The original documents by the New Testament authors were spread throughout the Roman empire, therefore it took time for the Christian churches to be made aware of the authoritative writings and make copies of those writings to further propagate.<sup>364</sup> Also, it took time to disseminate copies of the New Testament writings because scrolls could only fit up to one or two writings

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<sup>361</sup> “DID NICAEA REALLY CREATE THE BIBLE?”

<sup>362</sup> Stewart, “What Happened Historically to Cause the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament to Be Recognized as Scripture?”

<sup>363</sup> Edwards, Why 66?”

<sup>364</sup> Ibid.

and ancient books known as codices were bulky and expensive to produce.<sup>365</sup> Therefore, the inspired writings were usually copied one at a time and in small groups.<sup>366</sup> Nonetheless, the New Testament writings had still spread rapidly throughout the Roman empire evidenced by the fact that the majority of the early church had recognized the 27 books of the New Testament to be divinely inspired by the second century AD. It was not until heretical writings started to become an issue in the mid second century AD that the Christian church would be prompted to officially distinguish which writings were divinely inspired. Many of these false writings were created by a sect known as the Gnostics which claimed to have received secret knowledge, however these writings were rejected because they had no historical precedent and were contrary to the truth revealed in the Old Testament canon.<sup>367 368</sup> Altogether there was a myriad of different reasons for the gradual establishment for an official New Testament Canon. However, this should not undermine the fact that the original New Testament writings were accepted as authoritative by the New Testament authors and the early Christian churches shortly after the Scriptures were completed.<sup>369</sup>

The External Assaults on the Bible and Christianity, and the Internal Evidence  
that Validates the Bible's Divine Inspiration

The formation of the Biblical canon was undoubtedly a unique attribute of the Bible's history. However, the history of the persecutions directed against the Bible and

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<sup>365</sup> Edwards, Why 66?"

<sup>366</sup> Ibid.

<sup>367</sup> Ibid.

<sup>368</sup> Mittelberg, "How Do We Know the Right Books Made it into the New Testament?"

<sup>369</sup> Edwards, Why 66?"

Christianity are even more unique. The fact that the Bible still exists today is evidence that God has protected this book throughout history. Christians have been willing to suffer persecution and even martyrdom for their faith in the Bible being the Word of God. Also, when analyzing the internal contents of the Bible it proves to be unique from any other books that have ever existed. The following paragraphs will highlight some of the assaults that the Bible and Christians have faced throughout history, and also review some of the internal evidence that prove that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired.

### The Assaults on the Bible and Christianity throughout History

There have been many assaults on Christians and the Bible by governments throughout history attempting to rid the world of Christianity altogether. These attempts to exterminate the Christian faith have been altogether in vain. The Holy Bible is adamant in proclaiming that the Word of God will never be destroyed.<sup>370</sup> 1 Peter chapter 1 verses 24 and 25 says, “For, ‘All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, But the word of the Lord endures forever.’ And this is the word which was preached to you.”<sup>371</sup> Also, in the Gospel of Matthew it is documented that Jesus Christ said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”<sup>372</sup> The book of Isaiah chapter 40 verse 8 says, “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

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<sup>370</sup> Cecil Willis, “The Indestructibility of the Bible,” Truth Magazine, June 12, 1975, <http://www.truthmagazine.com/archives/volume19/TM019211.html> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>371</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” 1 Pet 1: 24-25.

<sup>372</sup> Ibid., Matt 24:35.

It is clear that these authors believed that the inspired writings from God would not be destroyed but would always exist. Russ Whitten, minister of Destin Church of Christ, says “Many people, empires and governments throughout the ages have tried to destroy, extinguish, suppress and discredit the Bible, yet it survives and continues to flourish.”<sup>373</sup> This statement becomes self-evident even with a cursory review of the history of the Bible. The books of the Bible were a target of attack long before the completion of the biblical canon. After Alexander the Great had died the Greek empire had been divided into four separate empires with each region having a separate ruler.<sup>374</sup> After this division Israel had been subjected to the ruler of the Seleucid empire, Antiochus Epiphanes IV.<sup>375</sup> In 100 BC Antiochus had launched a brutal assault on the Jews burning all of the writings he could find and killing any Jews that possessed Hebrew Scriptures.<sup>376</sup> The historian Josephus says about the incident, “And if there were any sacred book of the law found, it was destroyed, and those [Jews] with whom they were found miserably perished also.”<sup>377</sup> This failed attempt of the extermination of the Jews and the Hebrew Scriptures had backfired because it ultimately resulted in a more thorough examination of which Hebrew writings were divinely inspired and which writings lacked inspiration.<sup>378</sup> By the time of the first century AD the Roman Empire had achieved world dominance. As a result of the

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<sup>373</sup> Russ Whitten, “HAVE YOU WONDERED?: Is the Bible really the word of God?” The Destin Log, May 5, 2017, <https://www.thedestinlog.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2017/05/05/have-you-wondered-is-bible-really-word-of-god/21121045007/> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>374</sup> Wayne Jackson, “The Holy Scriptures—Indestructible,” Christian Courier, <https://christiancourier.com/articles/the-holy-scriptures-indestructible> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>375</sup> Ibid.

<sup>376</sup> Whitten, “HAVE YOU WONDERED?: Is the Bible really the word of God?”

<sup>377</sup> Jackson, “The Holy Scriptures—Indestructible.”

<sup>378</sup> Ibid.

resurrection of Jesus Christ the Christian faith had been introduced to the world and would subsequently spread like wildfire throughout the Roman empire.<sup>379</sup> At that time the Roman empire had an established cult of emperor worship that began with Julius Caesar's death in 44 BC.<sup>380</sup> This imperial cult belief system was used to help unify the Roman empire.<sup>381</sup> However, The Christian faith would take the world by storm in introducing a belief system that was in opposition to the predominantly pagan ancient world. It did not take long until the Roman empire had viewed Christianity as a threat to the empire's security.<sup>382</sup> The Roman empire was threatened by Christianity because these practically innumerable number of Christian converts would reject to worship the emperors of Rome as divine gods and the various other Roman gods. The Roman empire viewed the worship of these pagan gods as a means of maintaining public order, therefore Christians were considered to be dangerous revolutionaries to the Roman government.<sup>383</sup> The first Christian martyr to be killed for his faith was Stephen an early church leader who was stoned to death by the Pharisees and Sadducees.<sup>384</sup> Stephen was stoned because he accused the Pharisees and Sadducees of killing the Messiah and had compared them to their forefathers that had killed the prophets of Israel who had foretold the coming of

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<sup>379</sup> Jackson, "The Holy Scriptures—Indestructible."

<sup>380</sup> "Cult of Emperor," Harvard Divinity School, <https://rpl.hds.harvard.edu/faq/cult-emperor#:~:text=Also%20known%20as%20the%20Imperial,be%20%20divus%20or%20divine> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>381</sup> Ibid.

<sup>382</sup> Jackson, "The Holy Scriptures—Indestructible."

<sup>383</sup> Kevin Di Camillo, "11 Roman Rulers Who Tried to Destroy Christianity (and Failed)," National Catholic Register, <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/11-roman-persecutors> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>384</sup> "History of Christian Persecution," Baltimore Church, March 1, 2017, Video, 0:40-3:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF2Xr7HPJ54&t=2s> (accessed October 17, 2023).

Christ.<sup>385</sup> Also, most of the apostles were killed for their faith in Christ in the first century AD.<sup>386</sup> This would include the Apostle Paul who had originally persecuted the Christian church until he had a dramatic conversion to Christianity.<sup>387</sup> Paul would forego the authority and honor he received as a Pharisee to suffer immensely as a Christian spreading the Gospel of Christ. Paul would be lashed 39 times on 5 different occasions, beaten with rods 3 times, survive being stoned, be imprisoned on multiple occasions, until eventually being beheaded by the Roman emperor Nero in 65 AD.<sup>388 389</sup> These intense persecutions were not only limited to the apostles but to all Christians living in the Roman empire. Nero would be the first emperor to implement a wide scale persecution against Christians in 64 AD.<sup>390</sup> This widespread persecution had begun after Nero had blamed Christians for a massive fire that had burned much of Rome.<sup>391</sup> During this period Christians would suffer humiliating deaths such as being fed to lions and being dipped into oil and lit on fire during the night to be a candle for sporting events.<sup>392</sup> The ancient Roman Historian Tacitus wrote of these persecutions,

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<sup>385</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Acts 7:51-53.

<sup>386</sup> “History of Christian Persecution,” 0:40-3:00.

<sup>387</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Acts 9:1-21.

<sup>388</sup> Ibid., 2 Cor 11: 23-28.

<sup>389</sup> “Christian History Timeline: Persecution in the Early Church,” Christian History Institute, <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/persecution-in-early-church-timeline> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>390</sup> “History of Christian Persecution,” 0:40-3:00.

<sup>391</sup> James M. Rochford, “Persecution of Christianity (AD 33-325),” Evidence Unseen, <https://www.evidenceunseen.com/theology/historical-theology/persecution-of-christianity-ad-33-325/> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>392</sup> Nigel T. Faithfull, “Persecution throughout history,” Evangelical Magazine, July/August 2015, <https://www.evangelicalmagazine.com/article/persecution-throughout-history/> (accessed October 17, 2023).

Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.<sup>393</sup>

Starting with Nero, over the course of 250 years Christians would suffer persecution and martyrdom under the reign of ten Roman emperors.<sup>394</sup> Hypothetically this would be equivalent to America's government persecuting Christians for the nation's entire existence up to this current year of 2023. One of the most significant persecutions by a Roman emperor was by the hands of Diocletian. In spite of Diocletian's wife and daughter being Christian he would carry out arguably the most terrible persecutions out of all the Roman emperors.<sup>395</sup> Diocletian first purged his army of any Christians and then passed edicts for the empire to destroy churches, burn Scriptures, ban Christian worship, and use the Roman army to hunt down and slaughter Christians.<sup>396</sup> Many of these

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<sup>393</sup> "Cornelius Tacitus."

<sup>394</sup> "The Book of Revelation – Session 4 of 24 – A Remastered Commentary by Chuck Missler," Koinonia House, May 24, 2022, Video, 36:40- 38:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jn4fZ4jBc-I&list=PLRj8AJuzeJRxA-Oahh6U5yeusZuRaRUW&index=5> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>395</sup> Rochford, "Persecution of Christianity (AD 33-325)."

<sup>396</sup> Ibid.

Christians were brought before the royal court and ordered to sacrifice to the Roman gods in order to spare their own lives, however several Christians willingly rejected this order and were as a result put to death.<sup>397</sup> Diocletian who had burned thousands of Scriptures of the Bible had built a monument to commemorate what he thought to be a complete eradication of all Scriptures throughout the Roman empire.<sup>398</sup> Diocletian boasted, “The Christian name has been extinguished!” and “I have completely exterminated the Christian writings from the face of the earth!” naively believing that he had burned all Christian Scriptures.<sup>399</sup> Ironically, “Five hundred years after Diocletian’s death, his grave (a huge mausoleum) became a Christian church,” according to Whitten.<sup>400</sup> As tragic as these early persecutions were these events would actually perpetuate the rapid spread of Christianity in the ancient world.<sup>401</sup> The most powerful empire in the ancient world failed in their attempts to destroy the inspired writings that comprised the Holy Bible because these writings were being protected by God. Also, during the Middle ages the Holy Roman empire had tried to prevent the Bible from being translated into the common vernacular to prevent the common people from being able to read the Bible. To this effect many translated Bibles were burned to prevent the Word of God from spreading into other languages.<sup>402</sup> Also, the translators of the Bible were murdered throughout the Middle ages because of their noble desire to translate the Word of God to the common

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<sup>397</sup> Rochford, “Persecution of Christianity (AD 33-325).”

<sup>398</sup> Whitten, “HAVE YOU WONDERED?: Is the Bible really the word of God?”

<sup>399</sup> Ibid.

<sup>400</sup> Ibid.

<sup>401</sup> Rochford, “Persecution of Christianity (AD 33-325).”

<sup>402</sup> Willis, “The Indestructibility of the Bible.”

people.<sup>403</sup> Christian missionaries to this day are being murdered for translating the Bible.<sup>404</sup> Even secular leaders throughout history had noticed the unique indestructability of the Bible.<sup>405</sup> For example, Napoleon Bonaparte said, ““The Bible is no mere book, but it is a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it.”<sup>406</sup> Altogether since the inception of Christianity there have been many attempts by governments to exterminate Christians on nearly every eastern continent.<sup>407</sup> Persecution of Christians is not just an early phenomenon but is actually at its very worst presently. Several countries in the eastern world today enact capital punishment for being a Christian or significant time in prison.<sup>408</sup> According to the Voice of the Martyrs ministry there have been more Christians killed for their faith in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century than all prior centuries of the churches existence combined.<sup>409</sup> In the modern world every month 322 Christians are martyred and 214 churches and Christian properties are demolished.<sup>410</sup> In addition, 772 various forms of violence are directed towards Christians which include rape, beatings,

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<sup>403</sup> Harry Freedman, “The murderous history of Bible translations,” History Extra, May 2, 2019, <https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/murderous-history-bible-translations-catholic-murder-version-who-wrote-when/> (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>404</sup> Ibid.

<sup>405</sup> “Learn the Bible in 24 Hours – Hour 1 – Small Groups – Chuck Missler,” Koinonia House, September 4, 2016, Video, 2:45-3:00, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ3hESj\\_\\_M8&list=PLRj8AJuzeJRwHdeFua3pzmwPB\\_JCS0mIq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ3hESj__M8&list=PLRj8AJuzeJRwHdeFua3pzmwPB_JCS0mIq) (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>406</sup> Ibid.

<sup>407</sup> “History of Christian Persecution,” 0:40-3:00.

<sup>408</sup> Ibid.

<sup>409</sup> Andy Woods, “Seven Signs of Christ’s Return,” Spirit and Truth, Audio, 43:32-43:50, [https://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/topics\\_by\\_andy\\_woods\\_12/121\\_Seven\\_Signs\\_of\\_Christ\\_s\\_Return/20181116\\_seven\\_signs\\_of\\_christs\\_return.mp3?x=x](https://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/topics_by_andy_woods_12/121_Seven_Signs_of_Christ_s_Return/20181116_seven_signs_of_christs_return.mp3?x=x) (accessed October 17, 2023).

<sup>410</sup> “Persecuted Church Statistics,” The Esther Project, <http://theestherproject.com/statistics/> (accessed October 22, 2023).

arrests, and kidnappings each month. Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century between 100,000 and 160,000 Christians have been killed for their faith every year according to the World Christian Database.<sup>411</sup> There are currently 360 million Christians in the world suffering persecution which amounts to 1 out of every 7 Christians.<sup>412</sup> Altogether over 70 million Christians have been killed for their faith since the establishment of the church in the first century AD.<sup>413</sup> Half of the 70 millions plus Christians have been martyred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone.<sup>414</sup> This was of course anticipated by Jesus Christ when He said, “You will be hated by all because of My name.”<sup>415</sup> The statement of Jesus has surely stood the test of time evidenced by the immense persecution the Christian church has suffered since the first century AD. For the most part Christians in America have been largely spared from the martyrdoms and persecutions experienced by Christians throughout the entire world. Ultimately, all of the attempts to either exterminate and suppress the Bible or wipe out Christians in general have failed. The Bible is currently the most popular, available, and translated book in history; and Christianity still remains to be the most popular faith in the world.<sup>416</sup> It is remarkable to consider that the most viciously attacked book in history over the course of thousands of years has the most ancient manuscripts by

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<sup>411</sup> “Persecuted Church Statistics.”

<sup>412</sup> Lisa Zengarini, “Over 360 million Christians suffering persecution in the world,” Vatican News, <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2023-01/over-360-million-christians-suffering-persecution-in-the-world.html> (accessed October 22, 2023).

<sup>413</sup> “Persecuted Church Statistics.”

<sup>414</sup> Ibid.

<sup>415</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Matt 10:22.

<sup>416</sup> “The Global Religious Landscape,” Pew Research, December 18, 2012, <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2012/12/18/global-religious-landscape-exec/> (accessed October 22, 2023).

far and remains to be the most popular book that has ever existed.<sup>417</sup> The main question that should perplex readers is: why would anyone in the world want to be a Christian throughout history and presently? Christians have suffered various persecutions and vicious and humiliating deaths throughout its history. Christians are called to not hate their enemies but to pray for their enemies which would include those that are actively persecuting the church.<sup>418</sup> So are Christians psychopaths, foolish, or wishful followers looking for a purpose in life? If Christianity is not the truth more than 70 million Christians throughout history have died for a lie. Christians obviously genuinely believe that salvation is only through Jesus Christ, however they are either right or wrong in that belief. If there is any truth in the world it will be absolute and unchanging. This paper seeks to convince the reader that over 70 million Christians throughout history have died for the absolute and unchanging truth of the Holy Bible being the Word of God. Many Christians have sacrificed the most important thing they possess, their own life, because of their unwavering faith in the following truths revealed in the Bible: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who paid the price for their personal sins in full; that they are righteous in the presence of God through Jesus Christ alone; and that they have received the free gift of eternal life promised to them by faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross.

#### Internal Evidence that Proves the Holy Bible is Divinely Inspired

The contents of the Holy Bible are truly unlike any other writings in history. As noted earlier a variety of different authors such as traders, shepherds, fishermen, soldiers, government officials, army generals, priests, kings, physicians, preachers, tax collectors,

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<sup>417</sup> Jackson, "The Holy Scriptures—Indestructible."

<sup>418</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Matt 10:44.

peasants, and outlaws have all contributed to writing the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible of today is the work of 40 different authors written over the course of 1500 years. The Holy Bible itself attests that it is divinely inspired evidenced by the fact that the authors had claimed their writings were originating from God in over 3000 instances throughout the Bible. These particular writings were separated, prioritized, and eventually compiled together into one unified book. These compiled writings are made up of various literary styles such as narrative, poetry, and prose discourse.<sup>419</sup> The narrative writings of the Scriptures make up 44 percent of the Bible which include different types of narrative writings such as historical narratives, narrative parables, and biographical narratives.<sup>420</sup> Next, poetry comprises 33 percent of the Bible and is characterized by the use of metaphors and other figures of speech.<sup>421</sup> The different types of poetry in the Bible are poetry songs, wisdom poetry, and prophetic poetry.<sup>422</sup> Lastly, prose discourse makes up 24 percent of the Bible and would include speeches, letters, and essays.<sup>423</sup> The majority of the individual writings usually have a primary literary style which may incorporate other literary styles such as poems and parables.<sup>424</sup> Therefore, each writing is a unique mixture of literary styles.<sup>425</sup> Altogether there are many internal facets that point to the Holy Bible's divine inspiration.

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<sup>419</sup> "Literary Styles," The Bible Project, June 22, 2017, Video, <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/literary-styles-bible/> (accessed October 22, 2023).

<sup>420</sup> Ibid.

<sup>421</sup> Ibid.

<sup>422</sup> Ibid.

<sup>423</sup> Ibid.

<sup>424</sup> Ibid.

<sup>425</sup> Ibid.

When analyzing the Holy Bible as a whole there is presented a common theme. The Bible teacher Arthur Pink says, “the Bible is *one* Book, behind its many parts there is an unmistakable organic unity. It contains *one* system of doctrine, *one* code of ethics, *one* plan of salvation and *one* rule of faith.”<sup>426</sup> This unity of the Bible is also evidenced by the up to 340,000 cross references that have been discovered in the 66 books of the Bible.<sup>427</sup> These cross references identify commonalities throughout the 66 separate books which highlight the similar words, people, events, or themes which reveal that the 66 books together have a cohesive unity.<sup>428</sup> This unity is unexplainable because naturally there should be disunity in a book that is comprised of a diversity of authors from different backgrounds, time periods, and different cultures.<sup>429</sup> Every other writing in history will reflect their culture, generation, and background, however the Bible authors never reflect the beliefs and spirit of their culture within their writings.<sup>430</sup> Collectively the writings of each Bible author inevitably stood out relative to the contemporary writings of their time period and culture. The unity of the Bible is expressed in two central themes that run throughout the 66 books of the Bible: the plan of redemption and the biography of the Son of God being that redeemer.<sup>431</sup> Arthur Pink describes the progression of the revelation of Jesus Christ revealed throughout the Scriptures:

In the Old Testament we have the *Promise* of our Lord’s Incarnation and Mediatorial work. In the Gospels we have the *Proclamation* of His Mission and the *Proofs* of His Messianic claims and authority. In the Acts we have a

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<sup>426</sup> “The Divine Inspiration of the Bible,” 36.

<sup>427</sup> Bible Cross References,” Open Bible Info, <https://www.openbible.info/labs/cross-references/> (accessed November 28, 2023).

<sup>428</sup> Ibid.

<sup>429</sup> “The Divine Inspiration of the Bible,” 36.

<sup>430</sup> Ibid.

<sup>431</sup> Ibid., 37.

demonstration of His saving *Power* and the execution of His missionary *Program*. In the Epistles we find an exposition and amplification of His *Precepts* for the education of His People. While in the Apocalypse we behold the un- veiling or *Presentation* of His *Person* and the *Preparation* of the earth for His *Presence*. The Bible is therefore seen to be peculiarly the *Book of Jesus Christ*. Christ not only testified to the Scriptures but each section of the Scriptures testify of Him. Every page of the Holy Book has stamped upon it His photograph and every chapter bears His autograph. He is its one great theme, and the only explanation of this fact is that, the Holy Spirit superintended the work of each and every writer of the Scriptures.<sup>432</sup>

When considering the circumstances for the origin of the Bible this perfect unity of theme and doctrine expressed throughout the 66 books can only be attributed to God ultimately being the mastermind behind these writings.<sup>433</sup> If one was to ignore all the evidence available that attests to the Holy Bible's divine inspiration and consider the phenomenon of the unity of Scriptures alone there is only two logical conclusions: The supernatural unity of Scriptures reveal that God is the author, or the construction of the Holy Bible is the biggest conspiracy in the history of mankind involving centuries of collusion and deceit by numerous perpetrators. Frankly, the opinion of this author is that humans could not possibly pull off an integrated conspiracy of this magnitude. However, thankfully Christians do not have to only rely on the remarkable evidence of unity because of the other irrefutable domains of evidence that are available which unequivocally disproves the proposal that the Bible's unity is a result of a multigenerational conspiracy. One may ask, if the books of the Bible are inspired by God why do these writings reflect the various authors distinct personality and writing style? Dr. Andy McClurg gives a great analogy using a master musician. In this example, the master musician is an expert in

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<sup>432</sup> "The Divine Inspiration of the Bible," 38.

<sup>433</sup> Ibid.

multiple instruments such as playing the violin, flute, piano, and guitar among others.<sup>434</sup> Each instrument makes a different sound yet it is still the same master musician using the different instruments.<sup>435</sup> Likewise, the authors of the Bible are likened to being an instrument used by God to perfectly express the ideas of God personified in the unique personality of each individual author.<sup>436</sup>

Also, the honesty of the Bible and the character of the Bible's teachings are unlike any other writings in history. A universal habit for historians writing about their nation and culture is to always paint a picture of their ancestors and history as righteous and blameless.<sup>437</sup> Ultimately a one-sided view of the virtues and accomplishments of a culture and their historical figures are given without uncovering any vices or failures of the nation.<sup>438</sup> Not so with the Jewish authors of the Bible who portray their nation with full transparency disclosing their military defeats and their moral failures.<sup>439</sup> The Bible authors had not given excuses for the moral failures of their nation but had strongly condemned them.<sup>440</sup> Israel's history is given by the Bible authors honestly by fully displaying the failures of human nature.<sup>441</sup> A reader may first conclude after reading the Bible that the nation of Israel had been an inordinately wicked nation, however the truth is the history of Israel has been the most honest transmission of a nation's history ever

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<sup>434</sup> "Dear Theophilus: Is the Old Testament Trustworthy to the Original?"

<sup>435</sup> Ibid.

<sup>436</sup> Ibid.

<sup>437</sup> "The Divine Inspiration of the Bible," 11.

<sup>438</sup> Ibid.

<sup>439</sup> Ibid., 10.

<sup>440</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>441</sup> Ibid.

recorded.<sup>442</sup> This is because the Holy Bible is a divinely inspired account of Israel's history revealed by God portraying Israel's accomplishments and failures with absolute honesty and truth. For a striking comparison, when reviewing the work of the Jewish historian Josephus, a solely positive account of Israel's history is provided without disclosing any negative things that would be perceived as unfavorable about his nation.<sup>443</sup> It becomes clear that the books of the Bible were not governed by the principles of human nature which would ultimately involve the propensity to cover up the failures of one's nation.<sup>444</sup> Also, when analyzing what the Bible teaches it is unparalleled to any other writings in history. The Bible condemns humanity in a way that is unique to any other writings found in history.<sup>445</sup> The gospel of Mark in Chapter 7 verses 21 through 23 describes the sinful state of humans as such: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."<sup>446</sup> Also, Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 9 describes the heart of humans as such, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"<sup>447</sup> In addition, the book of Romans chapter 3 verses 11 through 18 says:

"There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is

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<sup>442</sup> "The Divine Inspiration of the Bible." 12.

<sup>443</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>444</sup> Ibid.

<sup>445</sup> Ibid., 16.

<sup>446</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Mark 7:21-23.

<sup>447</sup> "King James Version 1987," Public Domain, Bible Gateway, Jer 17:9, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jeremiah+17&version=KJV> (accessed November 29, 2023).

none who does good, There is not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The poison of asps is under their lips”; “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”; “Their feet are swift to shed blood, Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”<sup>448</sup>

This description of humanity is unlike anything ever recorded in history and could not possibly have been derived from a human mind.<sup>449</sup> Humans are described at their very worst and humanity is described as being utterly corrupt which leaves no one, not even the human authors who wrote these verses, untouched from the strong condemnation of these verses. If anyone is honest with themselves each individual knows that something is wrong with humanity as a whole. Chances are the reader has been cheated, stolen from, lied to, cursed at, slandered, betrayed, unfairly treated, and rejected among other evil things that may have befallen oneself. The Bible condemns every human as a sinner and ultimately teaches that all of humanity needs to be redeemed from sin.

Although the honesty and character of Scripture is undoubtedly unique there is also hidden phenomenon embedded within the text of the ancient Hebrew and Greek biblical manuscripts that would be improbable to occur randomly. When analyzing the ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts it becomes evident that there are numerical patterns embedded within the text that can only be attributed to intellectual design. Before providing any examples it must be noted that the number seven or a multiple of the number seven is frequently found throughout the Bible.<sup>450</sup> The number seven occurs over six hundred times throughout the Bible and is used more than fifty times in the book

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<sup>448</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Rom 3:11-18.

<sup>449</sup> “The Divine Inspiration of the Bible.” 16.

<sup>450</sup> Chuck Missler, “Beloved Numerologist,” Koinonia House, February 1, 1995, <https://www.khouse.org/articles/1995/102/> (accessed October 24, 2023).

of Revelation alone.<sup>451</sup> <sup>452</sup> There are numerous instances where the number seven occurs in Scripture: God finished creation in seven days, there were seven days of rain after Noah entered the ark, the Jewish Sabbath is on the seventh day, there are seven feasts of Israel celebrated every year, King Solomon built the first Jewish temple in seven years, and the seven churches that were addressed in the book of Revelation are a few of the many examples.<sup>453</sup> <sup>454</sup> When the number seven is used in Scripture it is often associated with divine perfection and completeness.<sup>455</sup> Not only is the number seven prevalent openly in the Scriptures but there are numerical patterns of seven and multiples of seven underlying the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. The first example that will be provided pertains to the vocabulary words used in each of the 27 books of the New Testament. When writing any piece of literature there are specific vocabulary words that are used and many of those vocab words will be repeated in a writing such as definite articles, indefinite articles, and pronouns. Therefore, it would be fairly easy to write a 2,000-word essay using only 500 vocabulary words.<sup>456</sup> According to Dr. Chuck Missler's book, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT*, when analyzing the vocab words that are

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<sup>451</sup> "Hidden Treasures of the Bible – Chuck Missler," Jessica Riley, August 2, 2013, Video, 49:50-50:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYiuM43u0Q4&t=3s> (accessed October 24, 2023).

<sup>452</sup> "What is the biblical significance of the number seven/7?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/number-7-seven.html> (accessed October 24, 2023).

<sup>453</sup> Chuck Missler, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT* (Coeur d' Alene, ID: Koinonia House, 2003), 25.

<sup>454</sup> Hope Bolinger, "Why Is Number 7 So Important in the Bible?" Cross Walk, August 8, 2022, <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/why-is-number-7-so-important-in-the-bible.html> (accessed October 24, 2023).

<sup>455</sup> "What is the biblical significance of the number seven/7?"

<sup>456</sup> Missler, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT*, 30.

unique to the Gospel of Matthew it is discovered that this book uses 42 words that the 26 other New Testament books do not.<sup>457</sup> When counting each letter for these 42 vocab words it totals 126 letters overall.<sup>458</sup> Both of these numbers are evidently multiples of seven (7x6 and 7x18) which uncovers what seemingly seems like a coincidence. However, the Gospel of Mark also has this quality with 98 (7x14) vocab words being used in this book which are not used in the other 26 books with the total number of these vocab words being comprised of 553 letters (7x79).<sup>459</sup> It may surprise readers to discover that all 27 books in the New Testament also possesses this unusual quality.<sup>460</sup> That is, the number of unique words for each individual book when compared to the other 26 books is always a multiple of seven and when counting the number of letters that comprise the unique vocab words it always equals a multiple of seven. This phenomenon could not possibly happen by chance but could only be included in the text by deliberate design.<sup>461</sup> If this was a contrivance by all eight authors of the New Testament books they would have had to make prior agreements to not use those certain words and then assure that the vocab words that they used solely in their book would be a multiple of seven and the letters of those vocab words would also have to be a multiple of seven. It would undoubtedly be a bizarre and seemingly impossible process for the authors to include numerical patterns imbedded within their writings. Not to mention none of the New

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<sup>457</sup> Missler, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT*, 30.

<sup>458</sup> Ibid.

<sup>459</sup> Ivan Panin, "INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES SCIENTIFICALLY DEMONSTRATED," Internet Archive, <https://web.archive.org/web/20090815114753/http://members.cox.net/8thday/panin.html> (accessed October 24, 2023).

<sup>460</sup> Missler, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT*, 30.

<sup>461</sup> Ibid., 31.

Testament authors had bragged about these hidden mathematical patterns which indicate that they had no knowledge that these mathematical patterns existed within their writings. Another example of this phenomenon can be found in the opening verse of Genesis which says: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”<sup>462</sup> In this verse alone there are over thirty numerical features that involve the number seven within the Hebrew text.<sup>463</sup> The mathematical probability of these numerical features involving seven occurring by chance only sixteen times would be one chance out of thirty-three trillion.<sup>464</sup> Many more examples of these mathematical patterns can be provided, however the two examples given are sufficient to prove that these intricate mathematical patterns would have to be incorporated in the text by deliberate design. The numerical patterns found in the two examples given had been discovered thanks to the research of Dr. Ivan Panin. There had been many scholars that had independently discovered numerical patterns found within the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible prior to Panin.<sup>465</sup> For example, works by F.W. Grant, E.W Bullinger, and Henry Browne had all published work on the improbable numerical patterns found in the Bible in its original languages; however, the research of Dr. Ivan Panin is the most prominent and abundant.<sup>466</sup> Dr. Ivan Panin was a

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<sup>462</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Gen 1:1.

<sup>463</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 7, <https://s3.amazonaws.com/winkiepratneydotcom/Tracts-WrittenTeachings/A+MATHEMATICAL+CHALLENGE>, accessed October 25, 2023.

<sup>464</sup> “Hidden Treasures of the Bible – Chuck Missler,” 55:28.

<sup>465</sup> F.C. Payne, “THE SEAL OF GOD IN CREATION AND THE WORD,” 110, ed. E.R. Finck, November 5, 2000, [https://webfiles.acu.edu/departments/Library/HR/restmov\\_nov11/www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/texts/efinck/GODSEAL.HTM#Page110](https://webfiles.acu.edu/departments/Library/HR/restmov_nov11/www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/texts/efinck/GODSEAL.HTM#Page110) (accessed October 25, 2023).

<sup>466</sup> “A Highly Interesting Case for Divine Inspiration of the Bible,” Elisha’s Outcast Eagles, October 2, 2015, <https://www.elishasoutcasteagles.com/a-highly-interesting-case-for-divine-inspiration-of-the-bible/> (accessed October 25, 2023).

Harvard graduate and a mathematical genius who had first discovered numerical patterns underlying the Hebrew and Greek Text of the Bible in 1890.<sup>467</sup> <sup>468</sup> The body of manuscripts that Panin had analyzed was the Received Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Westcott and Hort published work of the New Testament in Greek.<sup>469</sup> The ancient Hebrew and Greek languages were unique in that these languages had a numerical value attached to each letter thus each word, sentence, and paragraph had an arithmetic sum.<sup>470</sup> Through painstaking research Panin had discovered a uniform numerical design embedded within the 66 books of the Bible.<sup>471</sup> Panin would afterwards devote 50 years of his life discovering a complex and consistent numerical structure which was incorporated from the very first verse of Genesis all the way to the last verse of Revelation.<sup>472</sup> In other words every verse of the Bible in its original languages has embedded within the text a complex numerical design. Panin had even tried to calculate the time it would take for such an intricate mathematical design to be incorporated into a writing while still being able to convey a message that is comprehensible to readers, he had ultimately determined that it would be impossible for a finite human to achieve this feat.<sup>473</sup> There are no other writings found in history that have an intricately and complexly designed numerical structure embedded within the text other than the 66 books of the Bible.<sup>474</sup> Panin had

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<sup>467</sup> Missler, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT*, 31.

<sup>468</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 2.

<sup>469</sup> “A Highly Interesting Case for Divine Inspiration of the Bible.”

<sup>470</sup> Ibid.

<sup>471</sup> Ibid.

<sup>472</sup> Ibid.

<sup>473</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 3.

<sup>474</sup> Ibid., 7.

been challenged by others to review other classic Hebrew and Greek texts to see whether such remarkable numerical patterns had existed, however after much examination he could find no other writings that possessed such a phenomenon.<sup>475</sup> Panin's research would ultimately generate over 43,000 pages of detailed analysis of these numerical patterns underlying the Bible's original languages.<sup>476</sup> His research would discover intricate patterns of seven and multiples of seven interwoven throughout the 66 books of the Bible with these patterns of seven being the most prominent, however other numerical patterns were discovered as well.<sup>477</sup>

There have been many independent studies on Dr. Ivan Panin's work by others who validate and endorse Panin's work. For example, Panin had provided the Nobell Research Foundation founded by Albert Nobell with over 43,000 pages of research with Panin claiming that the evidence given validated that the 66 books of the Bible are the Word of God.<sup>478</sup> <sup>479</sup> The Nobell Research foundation had responded, "As far as our investigation has proceeded we find the evidence overwhelmingly in favor of such a statement." In addition, Karl Sabiers author of the book, *Astounding New Discoveries: Thousands of Amazing Facts Discovered Beneath the Very Surface of the Bible Text*, had been given access to the over 43,000 pages of numerical data by Dr. Ivan Panin and had personally examined Panin's work for two and a half years.<sup>480</sup> Sabiers regarded the

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<sup>475</sup> "A Highly Interesting Case for Divine Inspiration of the Bible."

<sup>476</sup> Missler, *Hidden Treasures IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT*, 31.

<sup>477</sup> Payne, "THE SEAL OF GOD IN CREATION AND THE WORD," 110.

<sup>478</sup> Oswald Thompson Allis, "Bible Numerics," *Truth Defined*, 5, <https://www.truth-defined.com/PDFs/Numerics-Allis.pdf> (accessed October 25, 2023).

<sup>479</sup> "A Mathematical Challenge," 3.

<sup>480</sup> Allis, "Bible Numerics," 5.

numerical patterns found in the Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible as a scientific demonstration that indisputably proves that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired.<sup>481</sup> Christian minister and author William Pratner says, “The Holy Bible in its original languages is the skillfully designed product of a Mathematical Master-mind far beyond any earthly capability and far above any human possibility of deliberate structuring.”<sup>482</sup> <sup>483</sup> Also, the notable scientist Sir Ambrose Fleming known as the father of modern electronics had also acknowledged that there is a consistently interwoven numerical pattern throughout the Bible which could not be found in any other literature that exists.<sup>484</sup> <sup>485</sup> Many others that had endorsed his work include Professor. A. Gordon Melvin, of New York city, Canadian scientist Dr. W. Bell Dawson, and Canadian and medical scientist, Dr. Arthur I. Brown.<sup>486</sup> It is also significant to note that Dr. Ivan Panin’s work has never been successfully refuted.<sup>487</sup> <sup>488</sup> Pratner presents two possible ways to refute Dr. Ivan Panin’s work: Show that the facts presented in Panin’s research aren’t true or prove that Panin’s mathematics is incorrect, therefore the statistical conclusions cannot be justified.<sup>489</sup> Pratner says:

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<sup>481</sup> Allis, “Bible Numerics,” 5.

<sup>482</sup> “MEET WINKIE,” Winkie Pratney, <https://www.winkiepratney.net/about/> (accessed October 25, 2023).

<sup>483</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 1.

<sup>484</sup> Jerry Bergman, “Sir Ambrose Fleming: Father of Modern Electronics,” Institute For Creation Research, November 1, 2009, <https://www.icr.org/article/sir-ambrose-fleming-father-modern-electronics/> (accessed October 25, 2023).

<sup>485</sup> Payne, “THE SEAL OF GOD IN CREATION AND THE WORD,” 110.

<sup>486</sup> “A Highly Interesting Case for Divine Inspiration of the Bible.”

<sup>487</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 1.

<sup>488</sup> “INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES SCIENTIFICALLY DEMONSTRATED.”

<sup>489</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 1.

To check the first is simply a matter of verifying the author's statements from the original languages and sources. To check the second requires only a knowledge of high-school arithmetic, and a little knowledge of the laws of arithmetic and geometrical progression. If, then, neither can be faulted (and the author knows of no successful attempt to date) there is left no other reasonable or scientific answer to the evidence.<sup>490</sup>

Dr. D.M Panton, a Bible teacher from London, sums up the significance of Panin's discovery:

“Mr. Panin's discovery, as astounding as any discovery that could be made, is one of God's solvents for the final crisis. It is the deathblow of all disintegrating criticism, not alas, that the critics will be convinced, for the foundations of their doubt lie far deeper than the intellect, and where confirmed belief is confuted, it merely shifts its ground; nevertheless it remains for all who appeal to the intellect, a response from the intellect, in the mercy of God who meets every soul on its own grounds. The destructive analyzer of the Scripture stands revealed as an infant analyst in the grasp of a complexity of which he never dreamed. Verbal inspiration is here mathematically proved, past all cavil. The Scripture discloses itself as a parchment which, when held up to the light reveals the autograph of its Maker; a script that bears exactly that imprint of a miraculous arithmetic which is borne by the snowflakes falling in a flawless mathematical pattern, or by the perfect convolutions of a shell. To Dr. Panin's critics I would say, “Do you challenge his figures? If so, where are they wrong? If not, his inferences are indisputable. You can not argue with mathematics.”<sup>491</sup>

The significant research of Dr. Ivan Panin reveals a divine watermark from God found within the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts of the Bible that cannot be ignored nor refuted. Dr. Ivan Panin has much of his research on the Bible numeric patterns published for those readers who are zealous to do more research on the subject.<sup>492</sup> It seems fitting to close out this paragraph with a verse found in the book of Proverbs that can better be appreciated upon this remarkable evidence that has been brought to light: Proverbs chapter 25 verse 2 says, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a

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<sup>490</sup> “A Mathematical Challenge,” 1.

<sup>491</sup> “A Highly Interesting Case for Divine Inspiration of the Bible.”

<sup>492</sup> “Ivan Panin,” Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan\\_Panin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan_Panin) (accessed October 25, 2023).

matter.”<sup>493</sup>

The Holy Bible is in a class of its own when it comes to being unique. It is the most popular, translated, and available book of all time. It is comprised of the writings of 40 different authors written over the course of 1500 years who lived in different cultures and had different occupations. In spite of these various circumstances the 66 books of the Bible present a unified message that transcends the human authors occupation, intellect, cultural background, and nature. The history of the Bible proves that if it was up to human government this book would no longer exist today. Over 70 million people have died and many more have been persecuted for their unwavering trust in the integrity of the Bible’s message. The honesty and character of the Bible’s content rips the veil off of the self-righteousness of humanity to present all of humankind as an imperfect and immoral individual in desperate need of a redeemer. This presentation of humanity by the authors is contrary to human thought and is altogether humbling. There is embedded within the ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts highly intellectual numerical patterns that can be paralleled with the intellectual design and complexity of human DNA. Altogether the historical and internal facts concerning the Bible only makes sense when one recognizes that an infinitely intellectual God accomplished all of the following factors: God progressively revealed His Word to humanity through 40 very different authors, He accurately transmitted His Word for thousands of years for all future generations to read, He protected His word from external threats throughout humanity, He propagated His Word to become the most widely available to humanity, and He

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<sup>493</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Prov 25:2.

incorporated highly improbable attributes within the Scriptures internally that prove that it is in fact His Word.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Supplementary Evidence and The Main Dilemma

There are many other evidences that strengthen the claim that the Holy Bible is divinely Inspired. These evidences cover a broad spectrum and help build even greater confidence in the reality that the Holy Bible had to have been revealed by a higher power. The subsequent paragraphs will briefly cover three additional areas of evidence, and the last section of this chapter will address the main dilemma.

### Supplementary Evidence

The three supplemental areas of evidence that will be reviewed in this chapter are: scientific evidence, historical evidence and current prophetic trends in the world. This paper could easily devote itself in its entirety to the evidences available for each of these domains; however, the goal of this paper is to give a broad spectrum of evidence to the readers to substantiate the claim that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired. The following paragraphs will cover scientific evidence and the current prophetic trends in the world today, then afterwards historical evidence for the most significant event described in the Bible will be reviewed.

### Scientific Evidence and Current Prophetic Trends

Although the Bible was written thousands of years ago contained within the Scriptures are undeniable scientific facts that were revealed before technology could confirm them. The truth is science has always been catching up with what the Bible had already revealed about the universe. Many of the greatest scientists ever had used the Bible to lead them to make groundbreaking discoveries about the universe. The book of

Job which is arguably the oldest book in the Bible reveals many scientific facts about the world. According to Dr. Charles Stanley's book, *The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible*, it is uncertain when the book of Job was written. According to Dr. Stanley, there are scholars that believe Job is the oldest book in the Bible and thus written before 1500 BC, whereas others believe Job may have been written during the Babylonian Exile between 605-530 BC.<sup>494</sup> Regardless, if the book of Job was written as late as the Babylonian exile this does not change the fact that this book reveals profound truth about creation that was unknowable to the ancient world because they lacked the technology to confirm the scientific insights revealed within this book. For example, in Job chapter 26 verse 7 it says: "He stretches out the north over empty space And hangs the earth on nothing."<sup>495</sup> In this verse the book of Job reveals that the earth is floating.<sup>496</sup> This was written at a time when there were ancient civilizations that believed the earth was sitting on a large animal.<sup>497</sup> Nonetheless, this fact revealed in Job would not scientifically be discovered until 1650 AD which is over a thousand years later.<sup>498</sup> Also, Job chapter 28 verses 23 through 25 says: "God understands its way, And He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens. When He imparted weight to the wind And meted out the waters by measure."<sup>499</sup> The book of Job

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<sup>494</sup> Charles F. Stanley, ed., *The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible*, 2nd ed., (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2019), 767.

<sup>495</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Job 26:7.

<sup>496</sup> Ray Comfort, "TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE," *Living Waters*, 2, accessed May 17, 2023, <https://www.livingwaters.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Ten-of-the-Top-Scientific-Facts-SG.pdf> (accessed November 15, 2023).

<sup>497</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>498</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>499</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Job 28:23-25.

declares that air has mass which was not scientifically confirmed until the first half of the seventeenth century AD.<sup>500</sup> Galileo wrote a letter to Baliani on March 12, 1613 AD describing his way of measuring the gravity of air.<sup>501</sup> Again, a scientific fact revealed in the book of Job was not confirmed until over a thousand years later. In addition, the hydrologic cycle is clearly portrayed in Scripture before science understood this essential water cycle that sustains life. Amos chapter 9 verse 6 says: “The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth, The Lord is His name.”<sup>502</sup> Job chapter 36 verses 26 through 28 says: “Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable. For He draws up the drops of water, They distill rain from the mist, Which the clouds pour down, They drip upon man abundantly.”<sup>503</sup> Ecclesiastes chapter 1 verse 7 says: “All the rivers flow into the sea, Yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, There they flow again.”<sup>504</sup> Each of these three Old Testament authors who claimed their writings were inspired by God reveal a profound knowledge of the hydrologic cycle over 2500 years ago.<sup>505</sup> On the contrary, it took until the seventeenth century AD for humans to begin to fully understand the hydrologic cycle.<sup>506</sup> Leonardo Davinci has been credited for

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<sup>500</sup> A.N. Meldrum, “The Discovery of the Weight of the Air,” *Nature*, July 30, 1908, <https://www.nature.com/articles/078294a0#citeas> (accessed November 16, 2023).

<sup>501</sup> “The Discovery of the Weight of the Air.”

<sup>502</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Amos 9:6.

<sup>503</sup> *Ibid.*, Job 36:26-28.

<sup>504</sup> *Ibid.*, Eccl 1:6-7.

<sup>505</sup> Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, 886, 1215.

<sup>506</sup> Comfort, “TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE,” 5.

observing the hydrologic cycle in the fifteenth century AD, however he did not understand where the source of river water was derived from.<sup>507</sup> It took until the seventeenth century AD for Pierre Perrault to correctly conclude that rainfall alone was sufficient to fill the rivers and generate river flows.<sup>508</sup> However, long before the world understood the hydrologic cycle, God had revealed this scientific fact through human authors thousands of years ago. Also, Ecclesiastes chapter 1 verse 6 says, “Blowing toward the south, Then turning toward the north, The wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns.” In this verse the circuit of wind is accurately described in the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. Modern society understands these circular wind patterns by way of balloons, airplane, and satellite technology; however ancient civilizations did not have the technology to understand or realize wind followed a pattern yet the ancient Bible reveals this fact.<sup>509</sup> Next, Psalms chapter 8 verses 8 and 9 says, “The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!”<sup>510</sup> Interestingly King David writes that the sea has paths over 3000 years ago in the book of Psalms. Matthew Maury who is known as the father of oceanography took this statement seriously saying, “If God said there are paths in the sea, I am going to find them.”<sup>511</sup> Maury would then discover the great ocean currents found at the various depths of the sea that essentially flow as road

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<sup>507</sup> “Hydrological Cycle,” Observational Hydrology, <https://www.observationalhydrology.com/hydrological-cycle.html> (accessed November 16, 2023).

<sup>508</sup> Ibid.

<sup>509</sup> “DON’T THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE OPPOSE EACH OTHER?”

<sup>510</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Ps 8:8-9.

<sup>511</sup> Comfort, “TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE,” 4.

paths in the nineteenth century AD.<sup>512</sup> Additionally, the book of Isaiah says in chapter 40 verse 20: “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.” In this verse the prophet Isaiah refers to the earth as being round over 2500 years ago. Many of the ancient Greeks proposed that the earth was a sphere beginning with Pythagoras around 500 BC.<sup>513</sup> Around 350 BC Aristotle would suggest that the earth may be a sphere based on his observation of an eclipse revealing the earth’s shadow was curved on the moon; and also when he observed that a ship would dip below the horizon when watching from a distance.<sup>514</sup> However, the Greek mathematician Eratosthenes is credited to be the first to mathematically prove the earth was spherical around 240 BC when he measured the angle of the sun’s rays at two different locations in order to calculate the earth’s circumference.<sup>515</sup> Nonetheless, it was the prophet Isaiah who would be the first to authoritatively say that the earth is round in the eighth century BC. The rest of Isaiah chapter 40 verse 20 says, “Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.”<sup>516</sup> In this verse God is said to be stretching the heavens which corroborates with the scientific fact that the universe is expanding. This scientific fact was first discovered by Edwin Hubble with the help of the most

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<sup>512</sup> “DON’T THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE OPPOSE EACH OTHER?”

<sup>513</sup> “StarChild Question of the Month for February 2003,” StarChild, <https://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question54.html> (accessed November 17, 2023).

<sup>514</sup> Comfort, “TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE,” 4.

<sup>515</sup> Rick Winegard, “The Shape of the Earth: Who Discovered the Fact that the Earth Is Spherical?” Replogle Globes, <https://replogleglobes.com/blog/the-shape-of-the-earth-who-discovered-the-fact-that-the-earth-is-spherical/> (accessed November 17, 2023).

<sup>516</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Isa 40:20.

powerful telescope at the time.<sup>517</sup> Hubble would notice that the farther away a galaxy was the faster it receded into space.<sup>518</sup> Hubble's discovery in 1929 AD proved that the universe had a finite age and that it was uniformly expanding in every direction.<sup>519</sup> Lastly, Leviticus chapter 17 verse 11 says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement."<sup>520</sup> Doctors nowadays know to test a patient's blood to check their health or provide more blood to someone sick or injured because the source of life is in the blood.<sup>521</sup> However, the practice of bloodletting or draining the blood had been practiced for 3,000 years beginning with ancient Egypt.<sup>522</sup> George Washington who believed bloodletting was an effective method to cure illness had died as a result of his doctors draining an excessive amount of his blood when he became ill.<sup>523</sup> <sup>524</sup> According to Dr. Gerry Greenstone, It was not until the late nineteenth century that bloodletting would be discredited as a treatment for illness.<sup>525</sup> Nonetheless, the Bible had once again stated a scientific fact declaring that blood was the essence of life 3500

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<sup>517</sup> "One of Hubble's Key Projects Nails Down Nearly a Century of Uncertainty," HUBBLESITE, <https://hubblesite.org/mission-and-telescope/hubble-30th-anniversary/hubbles-exciting-universe/measuring-the-universes-expansion-rate#:~:text=In%201929%2C%20Edwin%20Hubble%20provided,expanding%20uniformly%20in%20all%20directions> (accessed November 17, 2023).

<sup>518</sup> Ibid.

<sup>519</sup> Ibid.

<sup>520</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Lev 17:11.

<sup>521</sup> Comfort, "TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE," 3.

<sup>522</sup> Gerry Greenstone, "The history of bloodletting," BC Medical Journal, January/February 2010, <https://bcmj.org/premise/history-bloodletting> (accessed November 17, 2023).

<sup>523</sup> Comfort, "TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE," 3.

<sup>524</sup> "The history of bloodletting."

<sup>525</sup> Ibid.

years ago.<sup>526</sup> Also, notice in verse 11 of Leviticus that it foreshadows Jesus Christ offering His life as a sacrificial death to make atonement for the sins of humanity. Altogether the verses referenced had accurately revealed the eight following facts before scientists had understood them: The earth is floating in space, the earth is round, the universe is expanding, air has mass, the hydrologic cycle, the wind circuits, the oceans current paths, and life is in the blood. It is evident that the God who created the world had revealed these scientific truths through the human authors of the Bible thousands of years ago to provide further evidence to future generations that their writings were the Word of God.

Next, the Global trends of today indicate that many of the prophecies that are foretold in the book of Revelation are currently in the process of being fulfilled. For example, the continual globalization and cooperation of the world governments and the worsening state of the national and global economies that are being experienced today are both predicted in the book of Revelation. Governments around the world are more interconnected than they have ever been with multiple global organizations such as the United Nations, World Economic Forum, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, World Bank and World Government Summits consistently working together to shape the future of the world. For example, The World Government Summit of 2023 had the main theme of “Shaping Future Governments” and “Shaping a better future for humanity.”<sup>527</sup> These global organizations consistently bring together the heads of state for governments around the world and the leaders of the biggest multinational

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<sup>526</sup> Comfort, “TEN OF THE TOP SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE BIBLE,” 3.

<sup>527</sup> “World Government Summit 2023,” World Government Summit, <https://www.worldgovernmentsummit.org/events/world-government-summit-2023> (accessed November 29, 2023).

corporations that exist today. Which means the people that gather at these annual events realistically have the power to shape the future for humanity. The desire for global cooperation between all the nations is not something new but has been ongoing according to prominent people of the past. One of the wealthiest men in the world banker David Rockefeller openly claimed in his memoir back in 2002:

For more than a century ideological extremists at either end of the political spectrum have seized upon well-publicized incidents such as my encounter with Castro to attack the Rockefeller family for the inordinate influence they claim we wield over American political and economic institutions. Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as 'internationalists' and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure--one world, if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it.<sup>528</sup>

Also, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Sir Winston Churchill said, “The creation of an authoritative world order is the ultimate aim toward which we must strive.”<sup>529</sup> Strobe Talbott, who served as U.S President Bill Clinton’s Deputy Secretary of State, said in 1992 Time Magazine: “In the next century, nations as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority.”<sup>530</sup> Former United Nation’s assistant secretary general Robert Muller said: “We must move as quickly as possible to a one-world government; a one-world religion; under a one world leader.”<sup>531</sup> In addition, former secretary general of NATO Paul Henry Spaak said in 1957: “What we want is a

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<sup>528</sup> “David Rockefeller > Quotes,” Goodreads, [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/9951.David\\_Rockefeller](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/9951.David_Rockefeller) (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>529</sup> “Megiddo I – The March to Armageddon,” Isaiah Ministries – Eric Wilson, January 26, 2020, video, 1:15:00- 1:28:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMQEujYf0dA> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>530</sup> Ibid.

<sup>531</sup> Ibid.

man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of the people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking... Send us such a man, and be he God or the Devil, we will receive him.”<sup>532</sup> Former U.S secretary of state Henry Kissinger said in 1992: “[The New World Order] cannot happen without U.S. participation, as we are the most significant single component. Yes, there will be a New World Order, and it will force the United States to change it’s perceptions.”<sup>533</sup> Other prominent leaders claimed that the world was moving towards a New World Order government system such as former leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, former German dictator Adolf Hitler, former South African president Nelson Mandela, and former U.S president George H.W Bush among many others.<sup>534</sup> One needs to only look at the back of a U.S one dollar bill to read the Latin phrase *Novus Ordo Seclorum* which translates to New World Order.<sup>535</sup> This is significant because the book of Revelation predicts that there will be a global empire divided into ten kingdoms in the future.<sup>536</sup> The ten kings that rule during this period will eventually give all authority to the antichrist who will rule as a one world leader for three and a half years.<sup>537</sup> According to William Cooper’s book, *BEHOLD A PALE HORSE*, the globalist group known as the Club of Rome released a report titled, “REGIONALIZED AND ADAPTIVE MODEL OF THE GLOBAL WORLD SYSTEM”

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<sup>532</sup> “Megiddo I – The March to Armageddon,” 1:15:00- 1:28:00.

<sup>533</sup> Ibid.

<sup>534</sup> Ibid.

<sup>535</sup> “William Cooper-Behold a Pale Horse,” Academia, 94, [https://www.academia.edu/36399763/William\\_Cooper\\_Behold\\_a\\_Pale\\_Horse?auto=download](https://www.academia.edu/36399763/William_Cooper_Behold_a_Pale_Horse?auto=download) (accessed December 4, 2023).

<sup>536</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Rev 17:12

<sup>537</sup> Ibid., Rev 13:7-8.

on September 17, 1973.<sup>538</sup> In this report the world is divided into ten global groups referred to as kingdoms.<sup>539</sup> This uncovered report reveals the preparatory stages for the formation of this future ten kingdom empire. In addition, the book of Revelation predicts that the world will experience global poverty during this future period of time.<sup>540</sup> The inevitable reality of future global poverty is reflected in the state of economics in the world today. As of now, the national debt of the United States is over 33.8 trillion dollars and is increasing rapidly.<sup>541</sup> Additionally, the global debt for all the nations around the world which include global debt, unfunded liabilities debt, and derivatives market debt reach over 2.3 Quadrillion dollars.<sup>542</sup> The current state of global economics is without a doubt moving the overwhelming majority of the world's population into a poverty stricken state of living. However, this steady destruction of the global economic system does not seem to bother the World Economic Forum members. The World Economic Forum released a video in 2016 titled "8 predictions for the world in 2030" where one of the predictions they claim are, "You'll own nothing, And You'll be happy"<sup>543</sup>

Also, what is arguably the most popular prophecy in the book of Revelation is in the beginning stages of being fulfilled. Revelation chapter 13 verses 16 and 17 says:

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<sup>538</sup> "William Cooper-Behold a Pale Horse," 449-456.

<sup>539</sup> Ibid.

<sup>540</sup> Ibid., Rev 6:5-6.

<sup>541</sup> "US Debt Clock," US Debt Clock, <https://www.usdebtclock.org> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>542</sup> Egon Von Greyerz, "THE \$2.3 QUADRILLION GLOBAL DEBT TIMEBOMB," Gold Switzerland, April 16, 2021, <https://goldswitzerland.com/the-2-3-quadrillion-global-debt-timebomb/> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>543</sup> "The Top 10 Creepiest and Most Dystopian Things Pushed by the World Economic Forum (WEF)," The Vigilant Citizen, June 1, 2022, <https://vigilantcitizen.com/vigilantreport/top-10-insane-wef/> (accessed November 29, 2023).

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.<sup>544</sup>

If there is going to be a monetary system in place for the future that would enable total economic control over the population, then there would logically be evidence that the preparatory stages for this system of control is being implemented into the global financial world of today. This is exactly what can be observed when considering the implementation of central bank digital currencies on a global scale. According to Reuters writer Marc Jones, “A total of 130 countries representing 98% of the global economy are now exploring digital versions of their currencies, with almost half in advanced development, pilot or launch stages, a closely-followed study shows.”<sup>545</sup> There is a total of 11 countries that are already using a central bank digital currency.<sup>546</sup> These central bank digital currencies being implemented around the world will give governments unprecedented power over the general population. The Bank of International Settlements which serves as the main bank for all international central banks released an annual economic report in 2023 titled, “Blueprint for the future monetary system: improving the old, enabling the new.”<sup>547</sup> <sup>548</sup> In this report it is proposed that there will be a central bank

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<sup>544</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Rev 13:6-7.

<sup>545</sup> Marc Jones, “Study Shows 130 countries exploring central bank digital currencies,” REUTERS, June 28, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/study-shows-130-countries-exploring-central-bank-digital-currencies-2023-06-28/> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>546</sup> Ibid.

<sup>547</sup> “About BIS – overview,” BIS, <https://www.bis.org/about/index.htm?m=2> (accessed December 6, 2023).

<sup>548</sup> “III. Blueprint for the future monetary system: improving the old, enabling the new,” BIS, June 20, 2023, <https://www.bis.org/publ/arpdf/ar2023e3.htm> (accessed November 29, 2023).

digital currency that will be used as the new global reserve currency in the future.<sup>549</sup> Also, this report says that all physical assets would be represented by a digital token which will include rules to govern how each asset can or cannot be used.<sup>550</sup> Under this proposed system the general population would be able to be controlled by a central bank.<sup>551</sup> There are also testimonies that claim that the banking industry elites have the desire to control humans through a digital banking system by implanting people with microchip technology. The German banking economist and professor Richard Werner, who was selected to be in the Global Leaders for Tomorrow program by the World Economic Forum in 2003, warned about central bank digital currencies in an interview with Ivor Cummins in 2023.<sup>552 553</sup> According to Werner, a central banker had told him that the final goal is to have a Central bank digital currency chip the size of a grain of rice be implanted underneath the skin of the general population.<sup>554</sup> Werner says that this invasive chip implant will be accepted by the population as a result of a global financial crises.<sup>555</sup> Also, Werner says the governments will then issue a universal basic income and require those who receive it to be implanted with the latest chip implant technology.<sup>556</sup>

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<sup>549</sup> “III. Blueprint for the future monetary system: improving the old, enabling the new.”

<sup>550</sup> “Banking Insider Warns CBDCs Will Be Implanted Chips,” Greg Reese, July 19, 2023, video, <https://banned.video/watch?id=64b7d5816d90d9096d7c0e8f> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>551</sup> Ibid.

<sup>552</sup> “Crucial CBDC’s with Professor Richard Werner: YOUR Future is Being Decided!” Ivor Cummins, July 7, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=KGpQLbZXKME&t=3902s> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>553</sup> “Banking Insider Warns CBDCs Will Be Implanted Chips.”

<sup>554</sup> Ibid.

<sup>555</sup> Ibid.

<sup>556</sup> Ibid.

These claims by Dr. Werner also corroborate with the claims filmmaker Aaron Russo made when he was interviewed by Alex Jones back in 2009. According to Aaron Russo, when he was running for the governor of Nevada he received a phone call from an attorney who told Russo that Nick Rockefeller wanted to meet him.<sup>557</sup> After Russo's meeting with Nick Rockefeller they would subsequently form a friendship.<sup>558</sup> The lawyer Nick Rockefeller who was part of the Rockefeller banking dynasty family would eventually reveal to Russo the ultimate goal of the global banking industry.<sup>559</sup> According to Russo, Nick Rockefeller revealed to him that all the central banks of the world are working together to create a one world government that the banking industry would run.<sup>560</sup> In addition, Rockefeller said the plan of the banking elites is to get rid of cash and implant the general population with RFID chips in order to access their money and make financial transactions.<sup>561</sup> This plan would give the banking industry total control over the population and the ability to take money or prohibit access to money digitally. According to Russo, Nick Rockefeller said the end goal is for the banking elite to have total control over the global population.<sup>562</sup> These claims should be taken seriously based on what the largest global business leaders of today are saying out in the open. Hannes Sjöblad founder of Bionyfiken told tech insider back in 2015, "We are updating our bodies with

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<sup>557</sup> "Reflections & Warnings – The Interview with Aaron Russo, Rockefeller Insider," JSlayUSA, video, 22:45- 34:00, <https://rumble.com/v2uejvi-reflections-and-warnings-the-interview-with-aaron-russo-rockefeller-insider.html> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>558</sup> Ibid.

<sup>559</sup> Ibid.

<sup>560</sup> "Reflections & Warnings," 22:45- 34:00.

<sup>561</sup> Ibid.

<sup>562</sup> Ibid.

technology on a large scale already with wearables. But all of the wearables we wear today will be implantable in five to 10 years.”<sup>563</sup> The Nokia CEO Pekka Lundmark had said at the annual World Economic Forum meeting in 2022 that, “smartphones will be directly implanted into the body” by 2030.<sup>564</sup> In addition, the founder of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab writes in his book, *The Fourth Industrial Revolution*, that the next industrial revolution will be characterized by merging humans with technology.<sup>565</sup> If these statements are not unsettling enough consider that the FDA had approved a computer chip implant for humans back in 2004.<sup>566</sup> In addition, the FDA has approved Elon Musk and Neuralink to begin human trials for testing a computer chip implant for the brain beginning in 2024.<sup>567</sup> Also, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded MIT to develop a quantum dot ink tattoo which would store medical information and be able to implement vaccine immunizations.<sup>568</sup> The information stored in this quantum dot tattoo would be able to be accessed and monitored through smart phone

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<sup>563</sup> Alexandra Ma, “Thousands of Swedish people are swapping ID cards for microchips,” World Economic Forum, May 16, 2018, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/05/thousands-of-people-in-sweden-are-embedding-microchips-under-their-skin-to-replace-id-cards/> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>564</sup> The Top 10 Creepiest and Most Dystopian Things Pushed by the World Economic Forum.”

<sup>565</sup> “The Fourth Industrial Revolution, by Klaus Schwab,” World Economic Forum, <https://www.weforum.org/about/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-by-klaus-schwab/> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>566</sup> “666 The Mark Of The Beast Has Arrived,” Greg Reese, April 20, 2020, video, <https://banned.video/watch?id=5e9dbbbe960c7900cc1d021b> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>567</sup> Jyoti Mann, “Elon Musk’s Neuralink raises more cash ahead of human trials next year,” Business Insider, <https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-neuralink-raises-more-cash-human-trials-2023-11> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>568</sup> “Biocompatible near-infrared quantum dots delivered to the skin by microneedle patches record vaccination,” National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7532118/> (accessed November 29, 2023).

technology.<sup>569</sup> Interestingly there was also a patent filed by Microsoft technology in 2020 with the patent number 060606 titled, “CRYPTOCURRENCY SYSTEM USING BODY ACTIVITY DATA.”<sup>570</sup> The description for this technology says:

Human body activity associated with a task provided to a user may be used in a mining process of a cryptocurrency system. A server may provide a task to a device of a user which is communicatively coupled to the server. A sensor communicatively coupled to or comprised in the device of the user may sense body activity of the user. Body activity data may be generated based on the sensed body activity of the user. The cryptocurrency system communicatively coupled to the device of the user may verify if the body activity data satisfies one or more conditions set by the cryptocurrency system, and award cryptocurrency to the user whose body activity data is verified.<sup>571</sup>

In other words, after a person completes a task a body sensor detects that the task has been completed and sends this data to a cloud service which is then sent to a cryptocurrency system to reward the completion of a task with money. This technology is designed to be implanted into the human body to create a digital currency. People from Sweden, the United States, France, Germany, and Mexico among other countries are already embracing chip implant technology.<sup>572 573</sup> According to World Economic Forum writer Alexander Ma, beginning in 2015 thousands of Swedes have elected to implant a microchip the size of a grain of rice into their hand for technological conveniences.<sup>574</sup> Ma interjects, “There is no technological reason the chips couldn't also be used to buy things

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<sup>569</sup> Anne Trafton, “Storing medical information below the skin’s surface,” MIT News, December 18, 2019, <https://news.mit.edu/2019/storing-vaccine-history-skin-1218> (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>570</sup> “1. WO2020060606 – CRYPTOCURRENCY SYSTEM USING BODY ACTIVITY DATA,” Patentscope, [https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=WO2020060606&\\_cid=P10-LPIVTR-05851-1](https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=WO2020060606&_cid=P10-LPIVTR-05851-1) (accessed November 29, 2023).

<sup>571</sup> Ibid.

<sup>572</sup> “Banking Insider Warns CBDCs Will Be Implanted Chips.”

<sup>573</sup> Ma, “Thousands of Swedish people are swapping ID cards for microchips.”

<sup>574</sup> Ibid.

just like a contactless credit card, but nobody appears to have started testing that yet.”<sup>575</sup>

It is self-evident that the book of Revelation’s prophecies about the future of the world is in the beginning stages of being fulfilled. The most powerful global organizations which gather the most powerful people in the world every year openly profess their desire for a one world government, a digital currency, and the merge of humans with technology. The technology available today can realistically give a one world leader the power to control all financial transactions globally. The world today is witnessing the preparatory stages of the eventual implementation of the mark of the beast.

### Historical Evidence

The main goal of this next section is to determine whether there is historical evidence for the most significant miracle recorded in the Bible, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But first it is important to provide some background information concerning the miracles found throughout the Bible. Unfortunately, there are many people who will automatically reject the whole body of Scripture because the Bible includes miracles. However, miracles aren’t as common in the Bible as one might assume. According to Dr. Joel Arnold, there is a total of 265 passages that contain miracles in the Bible.<sup>576</sup> This means that miracles make up only 5 percent of the entire Bible.<sup>577</sup> In addition, 178 of these miracles are said to be directly performed by the triune God which accounts for 67

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<sup>575</sup> Ma, “Thousands of Swedish people are swapping ID cards for microchips.”

<sup>576</sup> Joel Arnold, “Is there a pattern to the Bible’s Miracles?” Rooted Thinking, February 2, 2021, <https://rootedthinking.com/2021/02/02/is-there-a-pattern-to-the-bibles-miracles/#:~:text=But%20it%27s%20not%20as%20much,the%20biblical%20accounts%20record%20miracles.> (accessed November 18, 2023).

<sup>577</sup> “Is there a pattern to the Bible’s Miracles?”

percent of all miracles mentioned in the Bible.<sup>578</sup> The majority of these 265 miracles recorded in the Bible were performed during distinct time periods<sup>579</sup> These miracles were primarily performed during the Exodus, the time of the prophets, the ministry of Christ, and by the Apostles in the early Christian church.<sup>580</sup> Although the Bible covers roughly 4000 years of history the Scriptures only record 81 miracles that were performed through regular humans.<sup>581</sup> 73 of these miracles performed through humans were accomplished by the prophets Moses and Elijah in the Old Testament and by the Apostles in the New Testament.<sup>582</sup> Therefore, an overwhelming majority of the miracles recorded in the Bible that involve humans cover roughly 80 years of biblical history.<sup>583</sup> Also, of the 265 miracles found in the Bible 63 percent of these miracles are recorded in the New Testament period during the first century AD.<sup>584</sup> This was undoubtedly a unique period of time which involved an unusual amount of miracles for the main purpose of authenticating the Deity of Jesus Christ.<sup>585</sup> The book of Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be associated with miracles.<sup>586</sup> Isaiah chapter 35 verses 5 and 6 says: “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

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<sup>578</sup> Andrew Rappaport, “The New Testament Case for Fading Miracles,” *Striving For Eternity*, November 19, 2022, <https://strivingforeternity.org/miracles/> (accessed November 18, 2023).

<sup>579</sup> Arnold, “Is there a pattern to the Bible’s Miracles?”

<sup>580</sup> Ibid.

<sup>581</sup> Rappaport, “The New Testament Case for Fading Miracles.”

<sup>582</sup> Ibid.

<sup>583</sup> Ibid.

<sup>584</sup> Ibid.

<sup>585</sup> Ibid.

<sup>586</sup> Sean McDowell, “10 Predictive Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus,” *Core Christianity*, July 31, 2019, <https://corechristianity.com/resources/articles/10-predictive-prophecies-fulfilled-in-jesus> (accessed November 18, 2023).

Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.”<sup>587</sup> The historical biography of Jesus Christ given in the four gospels attest to Christ performing the miracles prophesied by Isaiah among many other miracles. However, many skeptics believe the recorded miracles of Christ in the four gospel accounts are biased and embellished by the Christian authors.<sup>588</sup> Nonetheless, there are non-biblical and non-Christian sources that also attest to Jesus performing miracles. The Babylonian Talmud says:

It has been taught: on the eve of Passover they hanged Yeshu. And an announcer went out, in front of him for forty days (saying): ‘He is going to be stoned, because he practiced sorcery and enticed and led Israel astray. Anyone who knows anything in his favor, let him come and plead in his behalf.’ But, not having found anything in his favor, they hanged him on the eve of Passover.”<sup>589</sup>

The word Yeshu is the Greek word for Jesus and the term hanged is another way to refer to the crucifixion.<sup>590</sup> Although the Babylonian Talmud was compiled by the Jews centuries after Christ it still reflects the predominant view of the Jews towards Christ in the first century AD.<sup>591</sup> The Jews who opposed Christ never denied his miracles but attributed them to sorcery and evil works.<sup>592 593</sup> Also, the writings of the Jewish scholar Josephus in 93 AD allude to the miracles of Christ; Josephus says: “At this time there appeared Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of startling deeds, a teacher of people who

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<sup>587</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Isa 35:5-6.

<sup>588</sup> Ryan Leasure, “Evidence for Jesus’ Miracles Outside the Bible,” Ryan Leasure, December 31, 2020, <https://ryanleasure.com/evidence-for-jesus-miracles-outside-the-bible/#easy-footnote-2-190> (accessed November 18, 2023).

<sup>589</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 123-124.

<sup>590</sup> *Ibid.*, 124.

<sup>591</sup> Leasure, “Evidence for Jesus’ Miracles Outside the Bible.”

<sup>592</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>593</sup> *Ibid.*

receive the truth with pleasure. And he gained a following among many Jews and among many of Greek origin.”<sup>594</sup> Additionally, the Greek philosopher Celsus who vehemently opposed Christianity would refer to Jesus Christ as a miracle worker but would associate his miracles with sorcery or the devil himself.<sup>595</sup> Therefore, it is evident that even sources that opposed Jesus Christ and Christianity acknowledged Christ as being a worker of miracles. Dr. Ryan Leasure says: “But for those who reject the Gospels as biased accounts, they must grapple with the fact that enemies of Christianity admit that Jesus had the reputation of a miracle-worker. And when an enemy is willing to admit something positive about their opposition, that admission is a strong indicator that what they said is really true.”<sup>596</sup> Also, Luke Wayne, writer for Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, says:

When it comes to Jesus, however, the unanimous testimony of His followers, His critics, and of others is that He performed great miracles. These accounts are not late developments, but rather go right back to the eyewitnesses. This, of course, does not prove with 100% logical certainty that Jesus did perform those miracles. Jesus’ miracles could, I suppose, be the greatest con job in history, or perhaps the greatest collective human blunder in observation ever. But while this doesn’t constitute absolute proof, it is evidence. It is precisely the type of evidence one would expect if the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ miracles were true. It is certainly more than sufficient evidence at least to say that it is entirely rational to believe that Jesus really did do these extraordinary and miraculous things. Those who would discount this evidence are likely doing so because their worldview will not let them accept the possibility of miracles rather than because there is any actual evidence against them. So yes, there certainly is historical evidence that Jesus performed miracles.<sup>597</sup>

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<sup>594</sup> Leasure, “Evidence for Jesus’ Miracles Outside the Bible.”

<sup>595</sup> Ibid.

<sup>596</sup> Ibid.

<sup>597</sup> Luke Wayne, “Is there historical evidence of Jesus’ miracles?” Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, August 17, 2016, <https://carm.org/about-jesus/is-there-historical-evidence-of-jesus-miracles/> (accessed November 18, 2023).

The ancient sources within the New Testament and outside the Bible attest to there being an overwhelming number of eyewitnesses who saw Jesus Christ perform miracles in the early first century. For this reason, those who opposed Jesus Christ would also acknowledge these miracles, however these critics would claim that the miracles were not from God but associated with evil. Eyewitness testimonies have historically been the strongest type of evidence to authenticate the truth. The more eyewitness testimonies available the more reliable the historical account is deemed. The historical record within the New Testament and other corroborating sources strongly supports the assertion that Jesus Christ did in fact perform the miracles recorded in the four gospel accounts. Which leads to the main question: Is their legitimate historical evidence that Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central fact that the whole Bible relies upon, therefore if the Bible really is the Word of God this claim must be true. If the resurrection is in fact true, then there will be historical evidence that strongly supports this truth. According to Dr. Tim Stratton, in order to authenticate something from the ancient past as an accurate historical account multiple lines of evidence must be utilized.<sup>598</sup> For example, eyewitness data, closeness of facts, and criteria can help substantiate a historical account.<sup>599</sup> In addition, historians will use various lines of evidence such as written, pictorial, inferential, and archeological evidence among others

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<sup>598</sup> Tim Stratton, "HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION: A DEBATE WITH A SKEPTICAL FRIEND," Cross Examined, April 10, 2018, <https://crossexamined.org/historical-evidence-resurrection-debate-skeptical-friend/> (accessed November 20, 2023).

<sup>599</sup> Ibid.

to establish what is true in ancient history.<sup>600</sup> When studying popular ancient historical figures such as Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar there is reasonable evidence that affirms the history concerning them and their historicity is never doubted.<sup>601</sup> However, the sources that establish the historicity of these two ancient figures pale in comparison to the historical evidence for the life of Jesus Christ.<sup>602</sup> According to Dr. Stratton, the books of the New Testament are, “27 individual historical documents collected into one volume” that attest to the historicity of Jesus.<sup>603</sup> In addition, there are twelve non-biblical sources by non-Christians written within 100 years of the life of Christ along with archeological evidence and Christian sources not included in the Bible that provide an extensive amount of information concerning Jesus Christ.<sup>604</sup> <sup>605</sup> When establishing the truth for a historical event it is important to note that the most critical factor is the time gap between the event that occurred and the evidence for that event.<sup>606</sup> When applying this standard to the purported resurrection of Christ the gap between this event and the evidence available that supports this event is extremely short.<sup>607</sup> The letter that the

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<sup>600</sup> Stratton, “HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.

<sup>601</sup> Ibid.

<sup>602</sup> Ibid.

<sup>603</sup> Ibid.

<sup>604</sup> Ibid.

<sup>605</sup> Tim Stratton, “Historical References to Christ From Non-Biblical Authors,” Free Thinking Ministries, April 3, 2017, <https://freethinkingministries.com/historical-references-to-christ-from-non-biblical-authors/> (accessed November 20, 2023).

<sup>606</sup> Stratton, “HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.”

<sup>607</sup> Ibid.

Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in circa 56 AD proves to be very significant.<sup>608 609</sup> The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 1 through 8:

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.<sup>610</sup>

The Apostle Paul said in this letter that he had received the knowledge of four particular things beforehand: Jesus had died for sin, was buried, had resurrected after three days, and was seen by a multitude of eyewitnesses after being crucified. Even the majority of secular scholars hold the view that the Apostle Paul had received this creed concerning Christ from someone in Jerusalem between two to eight years after the crucifixion of Christ.<sup>611</sup> Since the Apostle Paul had received this knowledge beforehand one can logically infer that this creed was established not long after the crucifixion of Christ.<sup>612</sup> This would mean that shortly after the crucifixion of Christ there were already hundreds of eyewitnesses testifying that they had saw Jesus Christ after He was crucified.<sup>613</sup> In addition, there are multiple historical documents written in the first century AD from individuals who knew Jesus or knew a companion of Jesus that claim that Jesus Christ

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<sup>608</sup> Scofield, *The Scofield Study Bible*, 1574.

<sup>609</sup> Stratton, "HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION."

<sup>610</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," 1 Cor 15:1-8.

<sup>611</sup> Stratton, "HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION."

<sup>612</sup> Ibid.

<sup>613</sup> Ibid.

rose from the dead.<sup>614</sup> According to Dr. Stratton, the majority of historians considered to be the harshest critics of Christianity accept the five important facts about Jesus Christ: First, “Jesus died by crucifixion,” Second, “Jesus’ disciples (at least) really believed that Jesus rose from the dead, and appeared to them,” Third, “The church persecutor and Christian hunter, Saul, was radically transformed into the Jesus preaching Paul,” fourth, “The skeptic James (the brother of Jesus) was suddenly changed into someone who was willing to die for the Gospel,” and fifth, “The tomb of Jesus was found empty by his women followers.”<sup>615</sup> The second fact concerning the disciples is accepted by the majority of scholars because of the sufferings, imprisonments, and martyrdoms that the Apostles had endured because of their belief about Christ.<sup>616</sup> When considering the five important facts even atheistic historians believe about Jesus the only hypothesis that reconcile these historical facts is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.<sup>617</sup> According to Dr. Mike Lacona, “The MAIN objection to the resurrection, is not a lack of historical evidence (we have that); rather, it’s a matter of WORLDVIEW, because the resurrection of Jesus requires a Supernatural Being to exist.”<sup>618</sup> If one is to believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, the only additional belief that must be accepted is that God exists.<sup>619</sup> As noted earlier, there is an abundance of evidence that point to the fact that God created the universe. Therefore, if God had the power to create the universe, then it

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<sup>614</sup> Stratton, “HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.”

<sup>615</sup> Ibid.

<sup>616</sup> Ibid.

<sup>617</sup> Ibid.

<sup>618</sup> Ibid.

<sup>619</sup> Ibid.

is self-evident that God also had the power to raise Jesus Christ from the dead.<sup>620</sup> The historical facts concerning Jesus Christ do not logically make sense for those that hold a naturalist and materialistic presupposition.<sup>621</sup> On the contrary, when considering the historical facts accepted by the majority of scholars about Jesus the only logical conclusion that can be made is that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.<sup>622</sup> For those that assume that the resurrection of Christ is one big conspiracy contrived by early Christians in the first century AD consider the scenario by Amy Hall:

Suppose you decide you would like to start your own religion (because there's a lot of money in it), so you invent the story of an amazing man named Hobart. You head off for Los Angeles and start proclaiming that just a couple of years ago, Hobart had, in that very city, done countless miracles and caused such an uproar that, eventually, the city officials got involved and held a public execution (on Venice Beach), but then Hobart—amazing as he was—rose from the dead and made numerous appearances around L.A.<sup>623</sup>

If someone attempted to propagate this new religion in Los Angeles it would be rejected because people who live in Los Angeles would know that this man had never existed and therefore would not gain enough followers to survive because it is founded on a lie.<sup>624</sup> Those that deny Jesus existed or resurrected from the dead would essentially have to accept that this scenario had successfully occurred in the first century AD in the much smaller city of Jerusalem.<sup>625</sup> If one is to accept that the scenario above occurred, then the following facts must be accepted: A group of early Christians had contrived a lie that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and this lie had successfully been accepted by many in

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<sup>620</sup> Stratton, "HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION."

<sup>621</sup> Ibid.

<sup>622</sup> Ibid.

<sup>623</sup> Ibid.

<sup>624</sup> Ibid.

<sup>625</sup> Ibid.

Jerusalem where Christ was rejected and crucified. This lie would subsequently spread throughout the whole ancient world rapidly and gain a monumental following within the same generation that Jesus Christ had lived in. These same Christians that invented this lie would knowingly and willingly suffer extraordinarily and eventually die for this lie. Although dying for a lie unknowingly has occurred in history, it would be unreasonable to conclude that countless Christians in the first century AD knowingly and willingly died for a lie in order to deceive future generations.<sup>626</sup> This conclusion was also reached by Harvard law professor Simon Greenleaf who had a prominent role in the rise of Harvard law school.<sup>627</sup> Greenleaf is responsible for writing the famous work, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, which is often regarded as the most prominent written work on evidence.<sup>628</sup> Greenleaf, would also write, *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice*, where he concludes:

The great truths which the apostles declared, were, that Christ had risen from the dead, and that only through repentance from sin, and faith in Him, could men hope for salvation. This doctrine they asserted with one voice, everywhere, not only under the greatest discouragements, but in the face of the most appalling errors that can be presented to the mind of man. Their master had recently perished as a malefactor, by the sentence of a public tribunal. His religion sought to overthrow the religions of the whole world. The laws of every country were against the teachings of His disciples. The interests and passions of all the rulers and great men in the world were against them. The fashion of the world was against them. Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, revilings, bitter persecutions, stripes, imprisonments, torments, and cruel deaths. Yet this faith they zealously did propagate. . . . If then their testimony was not true, there was no possible motive for its fabrication.<sup>629</sup>

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<sup>626</sup> Stratton, "HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION."

<sup>627</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 217.

<sup>628</sup> Ibid.

<sup>629</sup> Ibid., 217, 218.

Simon Greenleaf would altogether conclude that Jesus Christ did resurrect from the dead and was in fact the son of God who died for sin by using the highest standards of legal procedure to reach this conclusion. It is important to note that the resurrection of Christ in no way can 100 percent be proven. Dr Stratton says, “100% certainty eludes us in almost all things in life; however, adequate and even reasonable certainty is quite attainable. So, for example, when we say that a certain hypothesis is “true,” we mean that it corresponds with a good degree of accuracy to accepted conditions or past events.”<sup>630</sup> Before video footage technology the presence of evidence could never 100 percent prove the truth of a past event, however the availability of evidence will always strongly support what is in fact true about the past. For example, a criminal that is charged with a crime will subsequently be convicted for that crime if there is evidence available that proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the crime did occur. The legal system in many instances is not capable of proving that a past event occurred with 100 percent certainty, however the preponderance of evidence will only substantiate what is true. When there is an overwhelming amount of evidence that strongly supports a particular conclusion, and there are no other plausible explanations supported by the evidence that can adequately challenge that view; the most logical conclusion would be the hypothesis that is strongly supported by evidence.<sup>631</sup> The two areas that the New Testament authors appealed to as evidence of the messiahship of Jesus Christ were: the fulfilled prophecy of Christ foretold in the Old Testament and the resurrection.<sup>632</sup> According to the book of Acts, the

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<sup>630</sup> Stratton, “HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION.”

<sup>631</sup> Ibid.

<sup>632</sup> McDowell, *THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, 164.

resurrected Jesus Christ had appeared to all of the Apostles and told them that they would be a witness for Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest parts of the earth.<sup>633</sup> History has proven that the Apostles along with many other eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ had successfully gained innumerable followers throughout the entire ancient world. The gospel of the resurrection of Christ would successfully gain followers starting in Jerusalem where Christ was rejected and end up gaining followers all over the ancient world within the same generation that Jesus Christ was crucified. These followers were then willing to die for their belief that Jesus Christ resurrected and is the Son of God. The fact of the matter is those that reject the resurrection of Christ is not because of a lack of evidence but because of the belief in a conflicting world view that rules out God or anything supernatural.<sup>634</sup> When someone says they have faith in something they are essentially saying that they are confident that something is true or will be true. For example, based on the thousands of years of empirical evidence that the sun rises every day to sustain life it is logical to have faith in the fact that the sun will rise tomorrow, however this cannot be proven with absolute certainty. For those that do believe in the resurrection of Christ they do so by faith. As it has been demonstrated this faith is not blind but it is rooted in legitimate evidence that most strongly supports the most logical conclusion that the resurrection of Christ is a historical fact.

### The Main Dilemma

Now it is time to address the main dilemma when it comes to seeking the truth. As noted earlier any truth that can be discovered and observed in this life will always be

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<sup>633</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Acts 1:8.

<sup>634</sup> Ibid.

absolute and unchanging. In other words, the truth will always be true. As it has been demonstrated in this paper there are many internal and external evidences that prove the testimony of the Bible is true. In order to understand the main dilemma, one must ponder the following question: if there is so much evidence that points to the Bible being the Word of God and therefore true, then why does the majority of the world reject that the Bible is divinely inspired?

### Is Evidence the Answer?

One may be surprised to find out that the presence of irrefutable evidence in the Bible does not determine whether a person will accept the Scriptures as being divinely inspired. There is a much deeper issue when it comes to acknowledging the truth of the Bible. One of the hindrances for seeking the truth is revealed in John chapter 3 verses 19 through 21:

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.<sup>635</sup>

According to the Scriptures one of the hindrances to a person accepting the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God is the love of evil. Humanity is opposed to the idea of being accountable to a higher power because that means they will be judged for everything they do in this life. Romans chapter 8 verse 7 says, “The carnal mind is enmity against God” which means the natural tendency of a human is to yield to their natural sinful ways.<sup>636</sup> Altogether, a person’s intellect, will, and desires are naturally

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<sup>635</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” John 3:19-21.

<sup>636</sup> “King James Version 1987,” Rom 8:7.

opposed to the ways of God. Although a person does not seek God on his own will Scripture reveals that God actively draws those who will accept the truth revealed in the Bible.<sup>637</sup>

The second impediment to accepting the truth of Scripture is pride. This pride is different from having pride in one's work with a humble attitude or having pride in a loved one's achievements.<sup>638</sup> Psalm chapter 10 verse 4 says, "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts." In addition, Matthew chapter 18 verse 3 and 4 says: "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Therefore, in order for a person to accept the truth of the Bible one must humble themselves to the reality of being accountable to a Creator. In addition, one must approach the Scriptures with humility and cast aside all preconceived notions about the Bible. This is why Jesus Christ said in the verse cited in the book of Matthew that one must become like a child to enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is easy to initially dismiss the Bible as being inauthentic because of the presence of supernatural miracles, however when searching out the deeper truths of the Bible the diligent seeker is rewarded with a wealth of treasure that encourages the soul.

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<sup>637</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," John 6:44.

<sup>638</sup> "What does the Bible say about pride?" Got Questions, <https://www.gotquestions.org/pride-Bible.html> (accessed November 29, 2023).

## The Truth Will Set You Free

So what is the problem and the solution according to the Bible? The biggest problem in this life is the sinful nature of humanity. It is because of a human's sinful nature that people lie, steal, cheat, think wicked thoughts, act wickedly, commit murder, are greedy, are self-centered, are prideful, and reject God among other sinful behaviors. According to the Scriptures sin has major consequences. Romans chapter 6 verse 23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."<sup>639</sup> The Bible declares that as a result of sin there is death in this world. However, this verse also provides the solution which is the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that in order for humans to have a relationship with God it must be established through Jesus Christ. 1 John chapter 2 verse 23 says, "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also."<sup>640</sup> Ultimately the only hope in this world is eternal life through Jesus Christ. John chapter 3 verses 16 through 18 says:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.<sup>641</sup>

The Bible clearly points out that sin is a major issue in the eyes of God. According to the book of John humanity is already condemned under the penalty of sin. Scripture teaches that God cannot be in the presence of sin because He demands infinite justice. Therefore,

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<sup>639</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Rom 6:23.

<sup>640</sup> Ibid., 1 John 2:23.

<sup>641</sup> Ibid., John 3:16-18.

the Scriptures warn humanity that those who die in their sins will be judged for their sins and separated from God for eternity. However, the Bible gives hope to all of humanity by offering the only solution to humanity's sinful condition which is faith in Jesus Christ. 1 Timothy 2 verses 5 and 6 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all"<sup>642</sup> Also, Hebrews chapter 4 verses 14 and 15 says: "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."<sup>643</sup> Lastly, Titus chapter 2 verses 11 through 14 says:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.<sup>644</sup>

The Scriptures declare that Jesus Christ was fully God yet lived as a man in this world without yielding to the temptation of sin in this life. God was the only person that could overcome sin through Jesus Christ in order to offer salvation to humanity. In order for God to satisfy His infinite justice He had to enter into His creation and live a sinless life. Because the penalty of sin is spiritual separation from God for eternity, Jesus Christ had to pay the price of sin Himself in order to satisfy God's infinite justice in order to offer the free gift of eternal life to His creation. According to the Scriptures Jesus Christ said:

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<sup>642</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," 1 Tim 2:5-6.

<sup>643</sup> Ibid., Heb 4:14-15.

<sup>644</sup> Ibid., Titus 2:11-14.

“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”<sup>645</sup> Not only did Jesus Christ pay the price for sin in full, but He now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven as a mediator between God and man as a completely righteous advocate for humanity.<sup>646</sup> According to the Scriptures, God offers this great salvation through Jesus Christ as a free gift. Romans chapter 3 verses 21 through 28 says:

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.<sup>647</sup>

Also, Ephesians chapter 2 verses 4 through 9 says:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>648</sup>

Lastly, Galatians chapter 2 verses 16 through 21 says:

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<sup>645</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” John 10:17-18.

<sup>646</sup> Ibid., 1 Pet 3:22.

<sup>647</sup> Ibid., Rom 3:21-28.

<sup>648</sup> Ibid., Eph 2:4-9.

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.<sup>649</sup>

The common theme expressed throughout the bible is that humanity cannot gain their salvation by good works. Jesus Christ alone gets the glory of overcoming the sin of the world. All manmade religions teach that one needs to earn their place in heaven through good works, however, the Word of God teaches that Jesus Christ overcame sin and therefore He alone gets the glory for overcoming sin. Humans could not possibly satisfy God's moral law but only God Himself through Jesus Christ had the ability to satisfy His demand for perfect obedience to His moral law. God will not compromise His character to permit sin because of His perfect justice, however God successfully satisfied His judgement of sin with the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures declare that those that accept this free gift of salvation are completely righteous before God. 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 16 through 21 says:

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ,

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<sup>649</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Gal 2:16-21.

be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.<sup>650</sup>

The Bible also declared that the majority of the world would reject the Gospel of Christ and view it as foolishness. Matthew chapter 7 verses 13 and 14 says, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”<sup>651</sup> Also, 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 18 through 30 says:

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.’ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, ‘Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’<sup>652</sup>

Although God has offered His salvation and eternal life to all of humanity He will not impede upon anyone’s free will to accept this free gift. God gave humans a free will so that they would choose to love Him.

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<sup>650</sup> Ibid., 2 Cor 5:16-21.

<sup>651</sup> “New American Standard Bible 1995,” Matt 7:13-14.

<sup>652</sup> Ibid., 1 Cor 1:18-30.

## CONCLUSION

The reader by now should have a new perspective on the Bible and perhaps may be wondering why no one seems to know or care about the marvelous attributes of the 66 books of the Bible. Nonetheless, the main purpose of this paper was to provide irrefutable evidence that substantiates the claim that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired. To substantiate this claim it was necessary to first give readers confidence that the 66 historical documents that comprise the Bible are accurately reflected in the Bibles of today. Readers can be confident in the integrity of the Bible because there are over 66,000 ancient manuscripts that reference the original historical writings. This extensive collection of manuscript evidence irrefutably confirms that the 66 historical documents that comprise the Bible are the most reliable, popular, and translated writings of the ancient world. The next goal of this paper was to provide evidence for the existence of God because in order for the Bible to be divinely inspired there must be a higher power that exists. When closely analyzing the attributes of creation the existence of God becomes self-evident. God's existence is irrefutably proven through the complex language of DNA which is the most complex information database that humanity has ever witnessed. In addition, God's existence is recognized through the cosmic precisions of creation, the immutability of the universal laws of nature that sustain life, and the universal conscience of humanity. Since there is irrefutable evidence that God exists found in creation the main goal for humanity now is to discover what God desires to communicate to each individual. Altogether there are many reasons to believe that the Holy Bible is God's divine revelation written to humanity. Many of the authors had claimed that they were communicating the Word of God. The Bible contains thousands of

predictive prophecies foretelling future events with perfect accuracy. The Bible claims that these prophecies were revealed by God and cites that prophecy is irrefutable evidence that the Holy Bible is God's Word. The 66 historical documents that comprise the Bible were viciously targeted by governments and global empires throughout history; in spite of this fact, the Bible is by far the most prominent and well attested writings in ancient history. The Bible is currently the most translated and widely available book in existence. The 66 books of the Bible are the only books that contain a consistent mathematical pattern intricately interwoven throughout the Scriptures. These are not simple mathematical patterns but supernaturally complex and distinct numerical patterns imbedded within the ancient biblical manuscripts original languages. These mathematical patterns found within the ancient manuscripts were not discovered until the nineteenth century AD. The Bible contains many scientific facts that were revealed by authors who did not have the technology available to confirm these facts about creation. The Bible contains future prophecies that have not been fulfilled but are progressively being fulfilled in the world today. The presence of prophecy, numerical patterns, and scientific facts within the Bible irrefutably prove that the Holy Bible is the Word of God. The most important historical fact contained within the Bible is that Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead. This fact cannot be irrefutably confirmed with evidence, however the preponderance of evidence available confirms that Jesus did in fact come back to life. One must place their complete trust in this historical fact by faith. Humanity has an overwhelming amount of evidence to trust in the integrity of the Bible. The most important truth being communicated in the Bible is that humanity needed a savior because of sin. That savior is Jesus Christ and He offers salvation and eternal life to each

person as a free gift. According to the Bible, one only needs to believe the following facts to be saved: Jesus Christ died for one's sins, and God offered this great salvation through Jesus Christ as a free gift. Therefore, one is declared righteous only by faith in the free gift of salvation through Christ alone. This paper was not only written to encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ, but to draw unbelievers to the knowledge of the truth. My prayer to everyone who reads this paper is that each person places their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Heed to the words of Jesus Christ, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."<sup>653</sup>

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<sup>653</sup> "New American Standard Bible 1995," Matt 11:28-30.

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