

## Evidence for the Bible- Part 3

1. **F** ulfilled Prophecy
2. **A** rchaeological Evidence
3. **C** onsistency of the Bible
4. **E** xtra biblical Writings
5. **S** cientific Accuracy and Foresight
  - a. M.A.P.S.
6. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Mormons and Muslims like to say that the Bible cannot be thoroughly trusted today because the text of the Bible has \_\_\_\_\_ been \_\_\_\_\_ transmitted down through the centuries.
  - b. A manuscript is any surviving \_\_\_\_\_ copy of an ancient document that predates the invention of the printing press in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Before the printing press, Bibles were meticulously copied by Jewish scribes and Christian monks.
  - d. Today there survives some \_\_\_\_\_ partial and complete ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the New Testament, not to mention hundreds of copies of the Old Testament, many of them predating the time of Christ.

- e. In 1947, a shepherd boy tending his father's sheep in Qumran, north and to the west of the Dead Sea in Israel, made an amazing discovery while looking for a lost goat.
- f. There in Qumran, in a hillside cave that has laid untouched for nearly two thousand years, he discovered an ancient collection of handwritten copies of the Old Testament.
- g. These scrolls had been hidden in clay jars inside eleven different caves by the Essenes, a Jewish sect living in Qumran, 2,000 years ago.
- h. These scrolls, now known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, date as far back as the 3rd century B.C. and represent copies of every book of the Old Testament with the exception of Esther.
- i. Scholars determined the age of the scrolls by examining the pottery that housed the manuscripts, the weave and pattern of the manuscript cloths, the form of the Hebrew characters, the spelling of the words, and the coins found alongside the manuscripts.
- j. Manuscripts like the Dead Sea Scrolls have allowed Biblical scholars and textual critics to go back and \_\_\_\_\_ that the

Bible we have today is the same Bible that the early church had 2,000 years ago.

- k. There is another way to verifying that we have accurate copies of the bible, and that is by examining the writings of the church fathers.
- l. By “church fathers” I am referring to those leaders in the church of the first 3 centuries A.D. following the original disciples.
- m. These men, and others,
  - i. In their \_\_\_\_\_ on the bible
  - ii. In their \_\_\_\_\_ with one another
  - iii. And in their \_\_\_\_\_ to different churches...
  - iv. Preserved the Bible for us. How?
    1. By quoting what the Bible said. In fact, they quoted the New Testament alone more than 86,000 times.
    2. Their writings survive to this day. You can go to Amazon.com and buy an encyclopedia size set of the writings of the church fathers (38 volumes) and see with your own eyes their numerous quotations of the Bible.

3. There are enough quotations from the early church fathers that even if we did not have a single manuscript copy of the Bible, scholars could still reconstruct 99.86% of the New Testament we have today from their writings.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Unlike the authors of other religious writings, the authors of the Bible did not seek to cast themselves in \_\_\_\_\_ or to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves at all.
- b. Noah's \_\_\_\_\_ shortly after getting off of the ark (Genesis 9:21).
- c. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ (on more than one occasion) about Sarah not being his wife (Genesis 12:13; 20:2).
- d. Moses' outburst of \_\_\_\_\_, how he misrepresented God, and wasn't even allowed to enter into the promised land (Numbers 20:10-11). Moses wrote the book of Numbers.
- e. Israel \_\_\_\_\_ God on numerous occasions to worship other gods (e.g., the Book of Judges).
- f. Jesus called Peter " \_\_\_\_\_ " (Mark 8:33).

- g. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ that he knew Jesus, after promising he would never do such a thing (Matthew 26:33).
  - h. Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ of being seen eating the Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-12).
  - i. The disciple's \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ over which one of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24).
  - j. The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus asked them to pray (Mark 14:32-41).
  - k. The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to save their own necks when Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:50).
  - l. Paul's confession that he was "a \_\_\_\_\_ man" (Romans 7:24) and the chief of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 1:15).
8. \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Historians, such as Flavius Josephus, Eusebius and others, record for us that Jesus' disciples went to their graves, one-by-one, suffering and dying painful deaths, for their on-going belief and preaching that Jesus was Lord and as risen from the dead.
  - b. Matthew was slain with an axe (similar to a halberd) in Ethiopia.

- c. Mark died in Alexandria, in Northern Egypt, after having been cruelly dragged through the streets of that city.
- d. Luke was hung upon an olive tree in Greece.
- e. James was beheaded in Jerusalem.
- f. Philip was hung up against a pillar in the city of Heiropolis and stoned to death.
- g. Bartholomeu was flayed alive.
- h. Jude was shot to death with arrows.
- i. Andrew was bound to a cross and left to die.
- j. Barnabas was stoned to death.
- k. Paul was beheaded in Rome.
- l. Thomas was run through the body with a lance (a spear) in southeast India.
- m. Peter was crucified in Rome, upside down.
- n. Were these men lying??
- o. Jesus' disciples sealed their testimonies with their own blood, claiming all the way to the end that the long-awaited Messiah and Savior of the world lived among them, became a sacrifice for our sins and that He rose from the dead.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Jesus taught that...
  - i. The scriptures are without error (John 17:17)
    - 1. “Thy Word is \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - ii. The scriptures are historically reliable (Matthew 12:40; 24:37-39)
    - 1. Jesus affirmed as historically true the most disputed passages of the Old Testament, including...
      - a. The story of \_\_\_\_\_ in the whale (Matt. 12:40)
      - b. The destruction of the world by a \_\_\_\_\_ in the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37-39)
      - c. And others
  - iii. The scriptures are divinely authoritative (Matthew 4:4-10)
    - 1. When He was there in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, He could have snapped His finger, rebuked Satan, and sent him squealing off into the hillside with his proverbial tail between his legs, just on His own authority.
  - iv. The scriptures are scientifically accurate (Matthew 19:4)

1. “Have you not read that He who \_\_\_\_\_ them from the \_\_\_\_\_ made them male and female...”
2. Adam and Eve didn’t come on the scene after billions of years of mutations and evolution.
  - a. God created them all the way back in the beginning just like Moses reported in the Book of Genesis.
- v. The scriptures are dependable (John 10:35)
  1. “The scripture cannot be broken.”
- vi. The scriptures are indestructible (Matthew 5:18)
  1. “For truly I say to you, until heaven and Earth pass away, not the smallest \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ from the Law, until all is accomplished.”
  - b. “Hold on here a second! You’re referring to the words of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the bible to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible. That’s circular reasoning. You can’t do that.”
    - i. Remember, the Bible is not a single book. It is a collection of 66 books written by 40+ authors. To quote Jesus’



words to substantiate what Moses or another author wrote is not circular reasoning at all. We are quoting altogether independent sources that happen to be bound together between two covers of the same book.

- c. Okay but Jesus only said those things about the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament. The New Testament has not yet been written.”
- i. That’s right. Jesus did say those things about the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament, but listen to what Jesus told His disciples on the eve of his crucifixion. He promised His disciples the aid of the Holy Spirit in writing the New.
  - ii. John 14:26: “but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and \_\_\_\_\_ that I said to you.”
  - iii. John 16:13: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will \_\_\_\_\_ you into \_\_\_\_\_; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will \_\_\_\_\_ to come.”

- d. Jesus validated the trustworthiness of the Old Testament and He promised the trustworthiness of the New. Based on Jesus' testimony, you can trust \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_
- a. The Bible claims to be living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 19:7-10). And that has indeed proven to be the case.
  - b. No other book in the world has transformed more lives and societies for good than that of the Bible.
  - c. Wherever the Bible has gone and been received--from prisons to remote villages deep inside third world countries--it has had a transforming effect on people's lives for good.
  - d. Millions of people who would testify that they were immoral, godless sinners, drowning in drug addictions, alcohol, pornography, gambling, and the like, have been transformed into godly men and women as they have studied and followed the teachings of the Bible.
  - e. The Bible has inspired people to build countless hospitals and orphanages, start many of the world's greatest universities (e.g. Harvard, Yale, Princeton), launch innumerable humanitarian efforts to the poor, work for the equality of men and women and

those of different skin colors, investigate the world and universe scientifically, further the development of great art and music, and abolish slavery.

- f. “Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, oration, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.” --Philip Schaff

g. M.A.P.S.

- i. **M**anuscript evidence
- ii. **A**uthor's forthrightness about sin
- iii. **P**ersecution disciples endured
- iv. **S**on of God's testimony
- v. Transforming Power

- h. That's why Jesus, God in the flesh, died on the cross. He died there in your place, to pay the penalty for \_\_\_\_\_ sins, so that you could be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with Him.
- i. He rose from the grave three days later and today He is offering mankind (you!) the free gift of salvation and everlasting life to all those who will place their faith in Him.