

unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine. Nelson Glueck, reformed Jewish scholar notes: "It is worth emphasizing that in all this work no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a single, properly understood biblical statement." Examples of archaeological evidence supporting Biblical accounts are detailed below.

Archaeological Evidence	Bible Record
Inscription regarding Quirinius as governor at this time found in Antioch. Papyrus found in Egypt (regarding taxpayer enrollment) Inscription found in Palestine ("Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea...") Found walls of Jericho fallen outward, even though they were 15 ft. high and 10 ft. thick. From pottery and ceramic evidence, the city was destroyed c. 1400 BC Water supply tunnel found; protective city walls found which the water tunnel went under.	Events surrounding Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-3): Quirinius was the governor of Syria A census of the entire Roman world was taken Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea during the time of Jesus Joshua followed the Lord's instructions and the walls of Jericho collapsed with a shout from the people, allowing Joshua to take the city c.1400 BC, (Joshua 6:5, 6:20) David refers to using the water shaft to reach the Jebusites (2 Samuel 5:8, 1 Chronicles 11:16) when conquering Jerusalem.
	Old Testament New Testament

Archaeological Evidence. "...no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a single, properly understood Biblical statement" -- Nelson Glueck

In contrast, the Bible is so accurate that the Science Research Bureau has for years publicly offered a reward to anyone who can prove the existence of a scientific blunder in the Bible. The offer was made in 27 countries and remains uncollected.

Long before the time of Jesus, the Bible reported that the earth was a sphere and was suspended on nothing. It accurately described the second law of thermodynamics (c. 1000 BC) in Psalms 102:26 "They [the earth and the heavens] will perish, but you [God] remain; they will all wear out like a garment." The table below shows examples of Scripture and the associated scientific discovery which supports its accuracy.

Bible Record	Scientific Interpretation
Job 26:7 "He stretcheth out north over the empty place and hangeth the earth upon nothing." c. 2000BC Isaiah 40:22 "It is He that sitteth upon the circle ("sphericity" or "roundness") of the earth"... c. 680 BC Ecclesiastes 1:6 "The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course." c.1000 BC Ecclesiastes 1:7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from there they return again." c.1000 BC Isaiah 40:31 "They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." c. 680 BC Jer 33:22 "As countless as the stars of the sky..." c. 600 BC	The earth is suspended in space. Until this century, space "ether" was believed to hold up the earth. The earth is round. In 680 BC earth was thought to be flat. Many believed earth was flat until Magellan's circumnavigation in 1522AD. Description of wind circulation, modeled in 1735AD by George Hadley. Accurate description of the water cycle, depicted in 1931AD by R. Horton. 1971AD - discovery that aerodynamics of eagle's wings make them able to fly without becoming weary. Scientists in the past regarded the number of stars as countable. Ptolemy said there were 1056, Kepler 1005, and Tycho Brahe 777. Modern science has shown there are "billions and billions" of stars - uncountably many. Life depends on the supply of oxygen, water and food to the cells of the body by the blood. Circulation discovered by W. Harvey in 1616AD. Second law of thermodynamics (law of entropy - c 1800AD). In any energy conversion, although the total amount of energy remains unchanged, the usefulness and availability of the energy is always decreased. Since all activities of nature involve such energy transfer, the energy supply for the universe as a whole must be decreasing. The sun and stars will burn out eventually, the universe is growing old, wearing out, running down.
Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of a creature is in the blood". c. 1440 BC Psalm 102:25,26 "In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment..." c. 1000 BC	

The Bible is scientifically in agreement with what we know today about life and the universe.

References for this pamphlet and good books for further study:

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Scientific Accuracy Unequaled in Ancient Writings

The Bible, although not detailed in its scientific explanations, is in agreement with what we know today about life and our universe. It is far more accurate than any other ancient books and even many recent ones. For example, Hindu sacred writings say the following about creation:

- the moon is 50,000 leagues higher than the sun and shines by its own light
- the earth is flat, triangular, composed of seven layers (including honey, sugar, butter, wine) and is held up by elephants, whose stumbling produces earthquakes.



Evidence

for the Reliability of the Bible

How can we believe what the Bible says? We can have confidence in the Bible's accuracy because there exists scientific and historic evidence which supports its reliability. The Bible was/is:

Transmitted accurately, as shown by:

- Manuscript evidence of Old and New Testament
- Methodology used by Talmudists (A.D. 100-500) and Massoretes (A.D. 500-900) for making copies of the Old Testament

Historically accurate, as shown by:

- Archaeological evidence
- Prophecies fulfilled

Scientifically accurate, as shown by:

- Recent discoveries and current understanding of creation science

Unique

- Written over 1500 year span
- Different writers (different occupations, orientations)
- Different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)
- Yet all writings containing a common theme (God's redemption of man), common pattern, and continuity throughout.
- Perspective - universe, man's existence, man's origin is unique to all other spiritual writings.

This pamphlet provides evidence to illustrate the above points. References are provided to allow the reader to examine the sources of this material and related work.

The Bible was transmitted accurately

How do we know whether the Bible we have today represents that which was assembled over 1900 years ago? And how do we know that the material assembled is reliable? First, we can look at **manuscript evidence**:

- The number of manuscript copies in existence, and their agreement
The greater the number of manuscripts the more reliable the text produced.
- The time span between these copies and the original
The less the time span between the original and the creation of manuscript copies, the greater the reliability.

New Testament Manuscript Evidence

The New Testament has more than 24,000 copies with a 25 year span between when the original was written and when the manuscript copies in existence today were written. This is far more manuscript evidence than any other ancient work. The Iliad ranks next - it has 643 copies with a 500 year time span. Further, only 40 lines (400 words) of the New Testament are in doubt between the manuscript copies, vs. 746 lines of the Iliad (1/2 of 1% (.005) textual corruption for the New Testament vs 5% for the Iliad). Also, no fundamental doctrines are affected by these errors.

Work	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Number of Copies
New Testament	AD40-100	AD 125	25 yrs.	>24,000
Old Testament	400 BC	AD 900	1300 yrs.	Superior Transcription
Dead Sea Scrolls (Isaiah)	400 BC	150 yrs.?	250 yrs.	Unique
Homer Iliad	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs.	643
Plato Teralogies	427-347 BC	AD 900	1200 yrs.	7
Sophocles	496-406 BC	AD 1000	1400 yrs.	193
Caesar	100-44 BC	AD 900	1000 yrs.	10

To quote Sir Frederic Kenyon, an authority in the field of New Testament textual criticism: "It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: Especially is this the case with the New Testament. The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other book in the world. Scholars are satisfied that they possess substantially the true text of the principal Greek and Roman writers whose works have come down to us, of Sophocles, of Thucydies, of Cicero, of Virgil; yet our knowledge of their writings depends on a mere handful of manuscripts, whereas the manuscripts of the New Testament are counted by hundreds, and even thousands."

Old Testament Evidence

There isn't as much manuscript evidence for the Tenach (Old Testament). However, the rigorous method of transcription used for the Old Testament more than compensates. Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest manuscript was dated around AD 900 (a time gap of approximately 1300 years from the completion of the Old Testament in 400 BC). The Dead Sea Scrolls, however are dated before the time of Christ. The book of Isaiah found in the Dead Sea Scrolls is

identical to the standard Hebrew Bible in greater than 95% of the text. The 5% variation is due to slips of the pen and variations in spelling. Such accuracy is due to the copying methods used. For example, the Talmudists (AD 100 - 500) had a very strict method for copying which include the following rules:

A synagogue roll must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codes. The length of each column must not extend over less than 48 or more than 60 lines; and the breadth must consist of 30 letters. The whole copy must be first lined; and if three words be written without a line, it is worthless. The ink should be black, neither red, green, nor any other color, and be prepared according to a definite recipe. An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least deviate. No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him... Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene; between every new parashah, or section, the breadth of nine consonants; between every book, three lines. The fifth book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line; but the rest need not do so. Besides this, the copyist must sit in full Jewish dress; wash his whole body, not begin to write the name of God with a pen newly dipped in ink, and should a king address him while writing that name, he must take no notice of him.

Because of the care taken to make copies, Talmudists were confident that they were exact copies. Older copies were destroyed, as Talmudists feared that they would become damaged as they aged.

The Massorettes (AD 500-900) had a complicated system of ensuring that copies were accurate. As Sir Frederic Kenyon noted:

"Besides recording varieties of reading, tradition, or conjecture, the Massorettes undertook a number of calculations which do not enter into the ordinary sphere of textual criticism. They numbered the verses, words and letters of every book. They calculated the middle word and the middle letter of each. They enumerated verses which contained all the letters of the alphabet, or a certain number of them; and so on. These trivialities, as we may rightly consider them, had yet the effect of securing minute attention to the precise transmission of the text; and they are but an excessive manifestation of a respect for the sacred Scriptures which in itself deserves nothing but praise. The Massorettes were indeed anxious that not one jot or tittle, not one smallest letter nor one tiny part of a letter of the Law should pass away or be lost."

The Bible is historically accurate

There is strong historic evidence to substantiate the reliabil-

ity of the Bible. Hundreds of prophecies contained in the Bible have already been fulfilled, a few of which are shown in the following table.

Verse	Prophecy	Year Made	Situation When Prophecy Made	Year Fulfilled	Situation When Prophecy Fulfilled
Isaiah 44:28; 54:1	Cyrus is the king who will give the command to	700 BC	Jerusalem was fully built and temple was standing. In 586 BC temple and city were destroyed by Babylon.		After Jerusalem was taken by Babylonians, it was conquered by the Persians in 539 BC. Shortly after, a Persian king Cyrus gave the decree to rebuild the temple.
Daniel 2:7	Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream to mean that four kingdoms were to be on the earth. Also, Daniel dreams of four beasts (four kingdoms) which will come upon the earth. (c. 1000 BC)	c. 605 BC-530 BC	The Babylonian kingdom (the first kingdom in the dreams) was in existence.	626 BC 539 BC 330 BC 63 BC	The four kingdoms appeared, as prophesied Babylon Medo-Persia Greece Rome
Zechariah 11:12-13	The Messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave (30 pieces of silver) and this money would be used to buy a burial ground for poor foreigners	c. 500 BC	Five centuries before the Messiah was born.	AD 33	Matthew 27:3-10 (and also secular historians). Thirty pieces of silver were paid to Judas Iscariot for betraying Jesus and the money went to purchase a "potter's field" for the burial of poor foreigners.
Psalm 22:34-20	Crucifixion method of death described, lots to be cast for His clothing.	c. 500 BC		AD 33	Matthew 27:32 Jesus was crucified in the manner described in Psalm 22, lots were cast for His clothing.

Archaeological Evidence

Archaeological evidence substantiates many Biblical accounts. To quote Millar Burrows of Yale, "...archaeological work has

Some of the 2000 fulfilled Bible prophecies. No other religious writings have such accuracy of fulfilled prophecy