



BIBLE EVIDENCES

By

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[Author's Note: I wrote this study initially in 1972, a year after God delivered me from atheism to a deep belief in Him.]

Facts Found in the Bible

Internal evidences are those facts found in the Bible itself and the Bible's own claim concerning its divine origin.

One major area is the accuracy of the historical accounts of people, places and things. The accuracy of the Bible was questioned and criticized for thousands of years. However, modern archaeological discoveries have fully supported the Bible accounts.

A second major area is fulfilled prophecy. The word means "to speak forth." The Hebrew word for prophet means "mouth." The prophet was the mouthpiece of God. The prophet spoke "the will" of God: what God wanted people to know, believe and obey. The prophet was also a "seer" of future events. Some of the events came true in seconds, minutes, hours or days. Other events came true hundreds of years later.

The first prophecy was when God told Adam that his disobedience would lead to death. It came true. The second prophecy was when God told the serpent that the seed of the woman would bruise its head. It has also come true.

An important point about prophets and prophecies is how to tell which are true and which are false.

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death. You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?' If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him." Deuteronomy 18:18-22

The fulfillment of prophecies can be judged by contemporaries only when it refers to the near future.

What if a prophet or seer is correct in the fulfillment of a prophecy? Does that automatically make them "prophets of God?"

"If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, 'Let us

follow other gods' (gods you have not known) 'and let us worship them,' you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he preached rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery; he has tried to turn you from the way the Lord your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you."
Deuteronomy 13:1-5

Moses went on to tell the people of Israel they were to put to death their brothers, sons, daughters, wives or closest friends if they enticed them to worship other gods. "Do not spare him or shield him. You must certainly put him to death. Your hand must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people. Stone him to death, because he tried to turn you away from the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 13:6-10) God was serious about this. The judgment was guilty and the sentence was death for anyone who tried to lead God's people away from Him. He is a Jealous God.

If a prophet presented fulfilled, predicted prophecy, yet claimed a theology out of keeping with that set down by Moses, the people of Israel knew they had a false prophet.

"And among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen something horrible: They commit adultery and live a lie. They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his wickedness. They are all like Sodom to me; the people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah. Therefore, this is what the Lord Almighty says concerning the prophets: 'I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land.' This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The Lord says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' But which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly. I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.'" Jeremiah 23:14-22

The true prophet presents a message of conviction and repentance and calls the people to righteousness and obedience.

"I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?' declares the Lord. 'Is not my word like fire,' declares the Lord, 'and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? Therefore,' declares the Lord, 'I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. Yes,' declares the Lord, 'I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The Lord declares.' Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,' declares the Lord. 'They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least,' declares the Lord." Jeremiah 23:25-32

False prophets steal the name of the Lord, use their own authority in His Name and claim their own exalted status.

The Bible is a prophetic Book. 27% of the Bible is prophecy. There is a total of 1,817 predictions in the Bible! Most of them have been fulfilled. Prophecy does not work out its own fulfillment but stands as a witness until after the event has taken place.

Here are some examples of fulfilled prophecy:

1. Genesis 15:14 fulfilled in Exodus 7 - 12
2. Genesis 15:18 fulfilled in 1 Kings 4:21
3. Genesis 37:7-10 fulfilled in Genesis 42:6; 43:26
4. Exodus 17:14 fulfilled in 1 Chronicles 4:43

These kinds of predictions abound in the Old Testament; prophecies about people, places and things.

Some of the most fascinating fulfilled prophecies have to do with places.

Ezekiel 26:3-21 ... Predictions made around 590 B.C.

1. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the mainland city of Tyre, vs. 8
2. Many nations against Tyre, vs. 3
3. Make her a bare rock; flat like the top of a rock, vs. 4
4. Fishermen will spread nets over the site, vs. 5

5. Throw the debris into the water, vs. 12
6. Never be rebuilt, vs. 14
7. Never be found again, vs. 21

Was this prophecy fulfilled?

1. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the old mainland city of Tyre in 573 B.C. The island city of Tyre remained a powerful city for hundreds of years.
2. Many nations were against Tyre.

In 538 B.C. Tyre became part of Persia. In 333 B.C. Alexander the Great defeated Darius III of Persia and demolished the old Tyre. He did not have a naval fleet and had to bypass the island fortress. The old Tyre was built back, but destroyed again in 314 B.C. Moslems capture Tyre about 1200 A.D. Crusaders took it back, but the Moslems eventually took it again and laid the city to waste in 1291 A.D.

3. Make her a bare rock; flat like the top of a rock.

Alexander scraped the old site of Tyre clean when he made a causeway out to the island and left a "bare rock."

4. Fishermen will spread nets over the site.

The port of Tyre is used as place for small fishing vessels to lay anchor. Fishermen spread their nets right over the original site of Tyre.

5. Throw the debris into the water.

Alexander threw the debris from the demolished mainland city into the water to build a causeway to the island city.

6. Never be rebuilt.

After the destruction of Tyre by the Moslems, the city was never rebuilt. It is nothing but a rock.

7. Never to be found again.

It has not been found in the sense of Tyre being raised above the waters.

Similar prophecies have come true of Sidon, Samaria, Gaza-Ashkelon, Moab-Ammon, Petra-Edom, Thebes-Memphis, Nineveh, Babylon, Chorazin-Bethsaida-Capernaum, Jerusalem's Enlargement, and Palestine. The probability of these 11 prophecies all coming true, if written in human wisdom, is believed to be one chance out of five times ten to the 59th power. If that number was silver dollars and placed in a pile, it would make ten to the 28th power solid silver balls the size of the Sun. If one of those silver dollars was specially marked and a blindfolded man was told to search the great silver balls at a speed of 100 billion balls each second, it would take him three trillion years to look over the whole mass. In other words, it's a human impossibility. However, everything is possible with God.

Jesus Proof

The greatest prophetic fulfillment of all time is Jesus Christ. For many years a "Christ'myth" has been propagated by critics of the Bible, but no serious scholar has ventured to postulate the non-historicity of Jesus.

Because of the reliability of Biblical manuscripts, historians look to the New Testament to learn about the historical Christ. Historians also look to the writings of Church Fathers --- Polycarp, Eusebius, Irenaeus, Ignatius, Justin, Origen, etc.

Historians also study the writings of non-biblical sources for the historicity of Jesus.

1. Cornelius Tacitus (52 - 120 A.D.)

A Roman historian, he wrote of Nero's persecution of Christians and the death of their leader, Christ, at the hands of Pontius Pilate.

2. Lucian, a second century satirist.

He made fun of Christianity. He called Christ, "the man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult into the world." Lucian went on to write, "Furthermore, their first lawgiver persuaded them that they were all brothers one of another after they have transgressed once for all by denying the Grek gods and by

worshipping that crucified sophist himself and living under his laws." ("The Passing Peregrinus")

3. Flavius Josephus (born 37 A.D.)

A Jewish historian. Became a Pharisee at age 19. At 29, Josephus was the commander of Jewish forces in Galilee. After being captured, he was attached to the Roman headquarters.

In his massive Jewish history, "Antiquities," Josephus wrote:

"Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. he was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day." Antiquities 18.33

Josephus also gave us some of the history of the early followers of Christ. He wrote about how the high priest Ananus had Christ's brother, James, and other Jewish believers delivered over to be stoned. (Antiquities 20.9:1)

4. Seutonius (120 A.D.)

A Roman historian. He was a court official under Hadrian.

"As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Christ, he expelled them from Rome."

Life of Claudius 25.4

5. Plinius Secundus (112 A.D.)

Governor of Bithynia. He was killing Christians by the score but couldn't stop them. They were completely committed to Christ.

6. Thallus (52 A.D.)

Samaritan historian. He wrote about the problem of explaining away the darkness which fell upon the land during Christ's crucifixion. Thallus wrote that a solar eclipse could not take place at the time of the full moon. Christ died during the time of the Paschal full moon.

7. Mara Bar-Serapion (75 A.D.)

The British Museum has the preserved text of a letter written sometime around 75 A.D. It was written by a Syrian named Mara Bar-Serapion to his son Serapion. Mara wrote about the pursuit of wisdom, and how people who persecuted wise men were overtaken by misfortune. Of the persecution of Christ, Mara wrote:

"What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that that their kingdom was abolished."

8. The Jewish Talmuds (A.D. 100-500)

The writers of the Talmuds do not speak kindly about Jesus, but they treat Him as a real historically true person. He lived and He was crucified. That is the historical record.

Now that we've seen the proof the historians claim for Christ, let's look at the prophecies fulfilled in Christ.

The Messianic prophecies are bound in the infinite purposes of God (Numbers 23:19; Isaiah 46:9-10; 48:3-5). Jesus Himself made it clear that He had come to fulfill God's prophecies (Matthew 5:17; 11:10; 13:14; 21:42; 26:56; Luke 4:20-21; 22:37; 24:27, 44; John 5:39-47; 15:25). New Testament writers appealed to prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Acts 3:18; 10:43; 13:29; 17:2-3; Romans 1:2-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Peter 2:5-6).

The Old Testament contains more than 300 references to the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Here are several:

Prophecy	Genesis 3:15	Isaiah 7:14	Genesis 22:18	Genesis 21:12	Jeremiah 23:5	Micah 5:2	Psalms 110:4	Isaiah 11:2	Isaiah 40:3	Isaiah 9:1	Zechariah 9:9	Isaiah 60:3	Psalms 16:10	Psalms 110:1
Fulfilled	Mattew 1:20; Galatians 4:4	Mattew 1:18; Luke 1:26	Mattew 1:1; Galatians 3:16	Luke 3:24	Luke 3:23, 31	Mattew 2:1	Hebrews 3:1; 5:5-6	Mattew 3:16	Mattew 3:1-2	Mattew 4:12	Luke 19:35-37	Acts 13:47	Acts 2:31	Hebrews 1:3

29 Prophecies from the Old Testament, which speak of the betrayal, trial, death, and burial of Jesus Christ were spoken by many different voices between the years of 1000-500 B.C. They were all literally fulfilled by Jesus Christ in one 24-hour period. Betrayed by a friend--sold for 30 pieces of silver--the money to be thrown in God's house--accused by false witnesses--quiet before his accusers--smitten and spit upon--hands and feet pierced--crucified with thieves--hated without a cause--garments parted and lots cast--suffered thirst--given gall and vinegar--the cry "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me"--bones not broken--darkness fell over the land--buried in a rich man's tomb.

Remember that Jesus fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies in His lifetime on Earth. So what? It's just a coincidence? The chance of one person fulfilling just eight prophecies is calculated at one in ten to the 17th power. That's the number one followed by 17 0's. The chance of one person fulfilling just 48 prophecies is one in ten to the 157th power. That's

the number one followed by 157 0's. The chance of one person fulfilling more than 300 prophecies is astronomical. Humans cannot conceive of such a number.

Jesus Christ is the prophesied Messiah! His life, death and resurrection prove it. Everything about Jesus are evidences of a reliable Bible. We can trust it and we should obey it.

Taking God's Grace to the World!

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