

Jewish People And Christians Know The Bible Is The Word Of God

'Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16). 'No prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. No prophecy ever came by the will of man but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit' (2 Peter 1:20 & 21). 'Man does not live by bread alone but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh does man live' (Deuteronomy 8:3). 'It is written, "Man will not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"' (Matthew 4:4).

The Bible is not just a Book, it truly is the Words of God, His instruction manual for mankind to follow. It is the God-inspired writings of over forty holy men called Prophets in the Old Testament and Apostles in the New Testament. It is the most important Book ever written. The prophets and apostles wrote down what God asked them to write so what is written actually came from the mouth of God Himself. In ancient times, God actually spoke to His prophets face to face and He called those men, friends. 'God spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend' (Exodus 33:11; Deuteronomy 34:10). 'The Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness." He was called the friend of God' (James 2:23). 'You Israel My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendents of Abraham My friend' (Isaiah 41:8).

The men who wrote down what God told them were called 'recorders' or 'scribes'. They recorded events as they occurred, which became the history of the Hebrew/Jewish people and a few Gentiles plus the founding of the nation of Israel over 4,000 years ago. Melchizedek was the king of Jerusalem during the days of Abraham. They shared a communion meal together (Genesis 14:18 to 20), so God's chosen people were in Jerusalem four millennia ago. The Bible was initially called, 'The Book of Records', or the Book of the Law', which was constantly being faithfully added to as the years passed. God said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book," ... "In every place where I record My name I will come to you and I will bless you" (Exodus 17:14; 20:24). God said, "Chisel two stone tablets and I will write on the tablets," ... "You write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel" (Exodus 34:1 & 27). God said, "It will be, when the king sits on the throne of his kingdom, he will write himself a copy of this Law in a Book" (Deuteronomy 17:18). "You will write on the walls all the words of this Law ... You will write on the stones all the words of this Law very plainly" (Deuteronomy 27:3 & 8). 'Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, Seraiah was the scribe' (2 Samuel 8:16 & 17). 'Shebnaah was the scribe and Joah the son of Asaph was the recorder' (2 Kings 18:18). 'Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of God"' (2 Kings 22:8). 'The records are ancient' (1 Chronicles 4:22). 'We sent and informed the king so a search may be made in the Book of the Records of your forefathers so you will find in the Book of the Records ... There was found ... a scroll and therein was written a record' (Ezra 4:14 & 15; 6:2). 'We make a sure covenant and write it down for and our princes, our Levites and our priests then seal it' (Nehemiah 9:38). 'Now go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book so it may be for the time to come forever and ever' (Isaiah 30:8). 'Here speaks Yahweh, the God of Israel saying, "Write in a Book all the words I have spoken to you"' (Jeremiah 30:2). So we can see again and again, God told the prophets what to write.

The writings of the prophets were rolled into scrolls. They were faithfully copied word for word over the centuries to keep the records accurate. The Bible we have now is the same accurate Word of God. Genesis 5:1 is the first time a genealogical record was mentioned. Before that, there were many details written down by Moses who kept the information flowing. There are time gaps but the writings are consistent. Moses is known to have written the first five books of the Bible and he had to have been inspired by God because he wrote about his own death and burial weeks before he died. God told Moses to climb Mount Nebo and he would die there (Deuteronomy 32:49 & 50). Moses blessed the Children of Israel before he died (Deuteronomy 33:1). Weeks later, Moses climbed Mount Nebo where he died then God buried Moses in a secret gravesite in a valley (Deuteronomy 34:1, 5 & 6).

The Bible is the written account of God's constant effort to reveal Himself to mankind. The Bible is God's own record of His dealings with humanity; the revealed Will of the Creator of all things including humans, given to mankind by the Creator Himself for instructions and guidance for our lives. The various books of the Bible, plus the Book of Enoch and Noah, which was removed from the Old Testament by church leaders about 360AD, were all composed by Godly authors, some of who are not known. It is not known exactly how God directed some of these authors to write down His Will. Scripturally, we can read about some of the authors who had such a close walk with God He vocally dictated to them what He wanted recorded. God said, "You yourselves have seen that I have talked with you from heaven" (Exodus 20:22). Others were distinctly led by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21) but with others, it is not known exactly how God communicated with them. In all cases, God would have made very sure the authors wrote precisely what He wanted them to write. In the case of the Ten Commandments, God wrote the words down on stone with His own mighty finger (Exodus

31:18). Each prophet was individually inspired by God and if some verses have been repeated, that is because God wanted to repeat what was written. When God wants to emphasise a point, sometimes He repeats a topic a few times so the readers of the Scriptures take more notice. For example, the Ten Commandments were written on stone (Deuteronomy 5:22) and repeated in two separate books (Exodus 20:3 to 17; Deuteronomy 5:7 to 21). There are no contradictions in the Bible, however in His sovereignty, God can and does occasionally change His mind.

The first Book, Genesis begins with the creation of the heavens and this earth, created solely by the spoken words of God and made out of water. The last book, Revelation closes with the creation of the new heavens and new earth, newly created by God for only the redeemed of this earth to live. That is why God wants all people to repent and be saved, but sadly many people will miss out on the newly created earth because of their own rejection of Jesus, Who was sent to rescue us. In the future, this old, worn out earth will be completely burned up and obliterated by fire and any ungodly people on the earth at that time will also be destroyed. 'They (mankind) wilfully forget, there were heavens from of old (before Noah's flood) and an earth formed out of water and amid water by the spoken Word of God, which means the world that was then, was overflowed with water (in Noah's flood) and perished. The heavens that are there now and the earth, by the same spoken Word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly people. The day of the Lord will come as suddenly as a thief in the night when the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the entire universe will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up. Since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and Godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved, the universe will melt with fervent heat? According to God's promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which only righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:5 to 13).

The very first book was written by Enoch who was born 622 years after Adam was created. Enoch's great-grandson Noah was born 1056 years after Adam. Together they wrote the Book of Enoch and Noah, which Noah took onto the Ark to keep for future generations. Moses was born about 1527BC and he wrote the first five books of the Bible we have now. God Himself, superintended, directed and dictated the writing of the Holy Scriptures so completely under His divine control, it is absolutely the writing of God. It is His Holy Word and no other book on earth can possibly be His Word. Some Bible utterances are ancient thought forms for ideas we would now express differently. We also need to remember, the Bible was written wholly in ancient Hebrew and their expressions, idioms and nuances are different from other languages. Hebrew is the only pure language on earth and God would never allow His Holy Word to be written in a corrupt language. Even though the writings of the Bible are ancient, God is clever enough to make sure His Words would be relevant for future generations right up until the end of this earth, so the Bible contains precisely the knowledge, wisdom and attitudes He wants us to know, in exactly the form in which He wants us to know them. Right up until the end, the Bible will remain the one and only answer to humanity's woes and our quest for God. The Bible was written by over forty different authors, over a period of many centuries, yet not one book can be isolated or stand alone. Each individual book intertwines with other books. For example, Jesus, and the Apostles who wrote the New Testament, quoted from the Book of Enoch and Noah many times because it was then part of the Old Testament. They also quoted constantly from the entire Old Testament, long before the New Testament was written. Jesus often revealed, the hundreds of prophecies regarding His birth, ministry and death were all fulfilled by Him.

The English translations give us thirty-nine books in the Old Testament but in Hebrew, there are twenty-four books or scrolls. Initially, 1st and 2nd Samuel were one book. The 1st and 2nd Kings were one book. The 1st and 2nd Chronicles were one book. Ezra and Nehemiah were one book. The twelve smaller books of prophecy, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi were all one long scroll. The Old Testament books in the Hebrew scrolls are different in order to the English translations, and the titles of the books are different. The Hebrew order of books was the same order Yeshua/Jesus and the apostles were all familiar with. It is unclear where the Book of Enoch and Noah was placed but we know it was once part of the Old Testament. In Hebrew, the first five books of the Bible are called the Torah. The entire Old Testament is called the Tanakh. The New Testament, referred to as the Writings of the Apostles is called the Brit Hadashah. This is the order of the Old Testament Jesus used. B'resheet (Genesis), Sh'mot (Exodus), Vayikra (Leviticus), B'midbar (Numbers), D'varim (Deuteronomy), Yehoshua (Joshua), Shoftim (Judges), Shmuel (Samuel), Mlakhim (Kings), Divrei-HaYamim (Chronicles), Yeshayahu (Isaiah), Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah), Yechezkel (Ezekiel), (the 12 books grouped together are) Hoshea (Hosea), Yoel (Joel), Amos (Amos), Ovadyah (Obadiah), Yonah (Jonah), Mikah (Micah), Nachum (Nahum), Havakuk (Habakkuk), Tzfanyah (Zephaniah), Hagai (Haggai), Zkharyah (Zachariah) and Malakhi (Malachi), then comes Tehillim (Psalms), Mishlei (Proverbs), Iyov (Job), Shir-HaSirim (Song of Songs/Song of Solomon/Shlomo), Rut (Ruth), Eikhah (Lamentations), Kohelet (Ecclesiastes), Ester (Esther), Daniel (Daniel), Ezra-Nechemyah (Ezra-Nehemiah) = twenty-four books.

The prophecies written in the Bible are all accurate predictions of God's future dealings with mankind. Some prophecies have been fulfilled in exact detail and some prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. This leads us to conclude the original Bible reveals itself to have been supernaturally inspired then written down by Godly prophets. History and archaeology confirm the evidence of it being supernaturally written. Many ancient prophecies record the birth, ministry, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, then the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in precise accuracy, right down to the day. This prophecy below was telling Daniel about Jesus' coming to finish disobedience, make an end of sin for those who accept Him, to reconcile mankind to God ushering in eternal righteousness for those who repent, to fulfil visions and prophecies about Jesus and to anoint Jesus as the most holy. This prophecy gives Daniel the exact date of Jesus' coming and the desolation that followed. 'Seventy weeks (years) are decreed on your (the Jewish) people and on your holy city (Jerusalem) to finish disobedience, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and discern, from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to the Anointed One, the Prince (Jesus), will be seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks (sixty-nine years). The (second) Temple will be built again (see Ezra & Nehemiah) with street and moat, even in troubled times. After the sixty-two weeks the Anointed One (Jesus) will be cut off (murdered) and He will have nothing (the Romans took everything Jesus had and He was left with nothing) and the people (Romans) of the prince (Caesar) who will come will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the second Temple) and its end will be with a flood (of violence) and even to the end will be war and desolations are determined (many Jewish people were slaughtered). He will make a firm covenant with many for one week and in the midst of the week he will cause the (animal) sacrifice and the offering to cease (Jesus was the ultimate Sacrifice so all animal sacrifices had to cease) and on the wing of abominations will come one (Nero) who makes desolate and even to the full end, and that determined will wrath be poured out on the desolate' (Daniel 9:24 to 27). Those prophecies are already fulfilled. The prophecies about the second coming of Jesus have not yet been fulfilled but it will happen one day.

The Bible is historically accurate. Archaeology has confirmed what is written in the Bible hundreds of times. There have been thousands of attempts to destroy the Bible and much of the original Hebrew Scriptures were burned under the orders of Constantine before he was converted to Christianity, but faithful Jewish people and early Christians were able to preserve, hide and copy the Bible giving us the accurate and true Word of God we can enjoy today. The Bible has proven itself to be indestructible. No other book has been copied as many times as the Bible. No other book has been translated into every known language in the world like the Bible has. No other book changes lives like the Bible does. The Bible is essentially the same as it was originally written, but various translations may change their version due to individual bias. No other book gives all humanity answers to our incessant questions, "Where did we come from?" God created us. "How did we get here on earth?" God created Adam and Eve from the dust on this earth.

The Bible is the only book written with the inspiration from our Creator God, YHWH or Yahweh known to Moses as "I AM." 'God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM, you will tell the Children of Israel this, 'I AM' has sent me to you"' (Exodus 3:14). That means He is everything. All other so-called 'holy' books are false. The Apocrypha is not from God. Jesus and the apostles never used it. The Gnostic writings are not from God. These two books were condemned by early Christians as being false writings. The Koran is not from God and has been condemned by Christians and Jewish people as being false writings right from its inception. It was inspired by the wicked 'false prophet' mentioned in Revelation 20:10. All 'holy' books from any other religions are false. Any religion that does not have the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus as its focus is false. The reason we were given the Bible is to learn about mankind's past and to give us hope for an eternity with God through the sacrifice of Jesus. Without Jesus, humanity has no hope. God's plan for the salvation of humanity is written in the Holy Scriptures. There is no other way of salvation and the false religions lead people away from God's plan of salvation. Everybody ought to love the Bible, be regular readers of it and strive to live by its teachings. The Bible ought to have central place in the life and working of every home, church and pulpit because the pulpit is the expository teaching of God's Holy Word.

The Old Testament was written during the lives of the prophets over at least 1,500 years. The New Testament is a continuation of the Old Testament, written when the apostles and disciples were alive but it was written over just a few decades, from the birth of Jesus in 5BC up to about 96AD. Peter knew the writings of the apostles were to be included in the Bible. In Peter's letter, he referred to the Hebrew Scriptures as 'the other Scriptures'. "Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you. As in all of his letters, he is speaking in them of these things (meaning salvation through Jesus). In those letters there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist as they do to the other Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15 & 16). The Bible was written by several people who were alive at the time of their writing, and who were eyewitnesses to the various events as they occurred over the course of history. They recorded the events they themselves were living through. None of the Bible was written as hearsay. Moses

wrote the first five books of the Bible, much of which happened before he was born but the Holy Spirit told Moses what to write down. God placed a lot of trust in His friend Moses to get the facts right and bless him, archaeology has proven Moses' writings to be completely accurate. That is why the Bible cannot be added to (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5 & 6; Revelation 22:18 & 19). People have to be alive to write down events that include the Jewish people and Israel. The Hebrew Bible ends with the construction of the second Temple, about four hundred years before Jesus was born. The twenty-seven books of the New Testament were written by the apostles who were alive at that time and were eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry and His death. After Jesus was resurrected and had His new immortal body, the population of Jerusalem saw Him, spoke to Him, ate with Him and fellowshiped with Him (1 John 1:1). They were eyewitnesses to His incredible ministry. They saw Him raise people from the dead. They watched Him calm a raging storm. That is not hearsay, that is the written records of people who were there with Jesus when He did those amazing miracles.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were not a book in themselves, they were a collections of copies of the original Bible hidden inside the clay pots, inside the caves for safe keeping about forty kilometres from Jerusalem during the Roman occupation. The scrolls were discovered by a young shepherd boy in 1947. The lad tossed a stone into a cave and when the stone struck a clay pot he went in to investigate and found many clay pots filled with Hebrew Scriptures. From eleven different caves, 972 hand written texts and manuscripts were found, all written from about 300BC to 70AD. Scriptures from every book in the Old Testament were there except the Book of Esther. Sadly, many scrolls were burned before people realised their importance and before they could be rescued, so it is possible the Book of Esther was destroyed. The scrolls revealed what the earliest and original Scriptures looked like and the language in which they were written. Although the Hebrew texts had changed slightly, they were still written in Paleo-Hebrew. The scrolls also revealed the accuracy of even the most ancient Scriptures. The Scriptures had been faithfully and accurately copied word for word for thousands of years. Included in the scrolls were ancient prophecies regarding the Messiah, which were all fulfilled by Jesus, so we have hand written evidence, the prophecies about Him were true and wholly accurate. 'These Words are faithful and true. The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent His angel to show to His servants the things that will happen soon' (Revelation 22:6).

Amen and God bless you.

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