**The Reliability of the Scriptures**

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

“Maar heilig die Here God in julle harte en wees altyd bereid om verantwoording te doen aan elkeen wat van julle rekenskap eis omtrent die hoop wat in julle is, met sagmoedigheid en vrees;”

**1Peter 3:15**

***Prophetical Evidence***

“And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.” - **Luk 24:44**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Genesis 3:15 | And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and ***her seed***; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. |
| 2. | Genesis 22:18 | And in *thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed*; because thou hast obeyed my voice. |
| 3. | Genesis 49:10 | The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, ***until Shiloh come*; and *unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*** *[Psalm 18:40; Psalm 60:7; Judges 1:2]* |
| 4. | Dt. 18:15-18 | The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee *a Prophet from the midst of thee*, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*[Acts 3:22,23]* |
| 5. | Psalm 2 | 1: Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?2: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against *his anointed*, saying,3: Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.4: He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.5: Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.6: Yet have I set *my king* upon *my holy hill of Zion*.7: I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, *Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*8: Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.9: *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*10: Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.11: Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.12: *Kiss the Son*, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. |
| 6. | Psalm 16:10 | For *thou wilt not leave my soul in hell*; *neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.* |
| 7. | Psalm 45:2 | Thou art *fairer than the children of men*: *grace is poured into thy lips*: therefore God hath *blessed thee for ever*. |
| 8. | Psalm 68:18 | Thou *hast ascended on high*, thou *hast led captivity captive*: thou *hast received gifts for men*; yea, for the rebellious also, *that the LORD God might dwell among them*. |
| 9. | Psalm 69:21 | *They gave me also gall for my meat*; and *in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.* |
| 10. | Psalm 110:1 | The LORD said unto my Lord, *Sit thou at my right hand*, until I *make thine enemies thy footstool*. |
| 11. | Psalm 118:22 | The *stone which the builders refused* is become the head stone of the corner. |
| 12. | Psalm 132:11 | The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of *the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne*. |
| 13. | Isaiah 2:4 | And *he shall judge among the nations*, and *shall rebuke many people*: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. |
| 14. | Isaiah 7:14 | Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; ***Behold, a virgin shall conceive*, *and bear a son*, and shall call *his name Immanuel.*** |
| 15. | Isaiah 9:6-7 | For ***unto us* *a child is born*, *unto us a son is given***: and the ***government shall be upon his shoulder:*** and his name shall be called ***Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*** |
| 16. | Isaiah 11:1 | And there shall come forth *a rod out of the stem of Jesse*, and *a Branch shall grow out of his roots*: |
| 17. | Isaiah 28:16 | Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in *Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:* he that believeth shall not make haste. |
| 18. | Isaiah 42:1-2 | Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put *my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles*.He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. |
| 19. | Isaiah 53:1-12 | 1: Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?2: For he shall ***grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*****3: *He is despised and rejected of men*; *a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief*: *and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*****4: *Surely he hath borne our griefs*, *and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted*.****5: But *he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:* *the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*****6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; *and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*****7: He *was oppressed*, and he *was afflicted*, *yet he opened not his mouth:* *he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter*, *and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb*, *so he openeth not his mouth.***8: **He *was taken from prison and from judgment*: and who shall declare his generation? *for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.*****9: *And he made his grave with the wicked*, *and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*****10: *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him*; *he hath put him to grief*: when thou *shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*** **11: He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall *my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*****12: Therefore *will I divide him a portion with the great*, and he *shall divide the spoil with the strong*; because he hath *poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors*; and he *bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*** |
| 20. | Isaiah 59:16 | And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore *his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.* |
| 21. | Isaiah 61:1 | ***The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*** |
| 22. | Isaiah 63:1 | Who is this *that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?*  this that is glorious in his apparel, *travelling in the greatness of his strength?*  I that *speak in righteousness*, *mighty to save*. |
| 23. | Jeremiah 23:5 | Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise ***unto David a righteous Branch*, *and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*** |
| 24. | Daniel 9:25 | Know therefore and understand, that ***from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:* *the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*** |
| 25. | Micah 5:2 | But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet *out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.* |
| 26. | Haggai 2:7 | *And I will shake all nations*, *and the desire of all nations shall come:* and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. |
| 27. | Zecheriah 2:8 | For thus saith the LORD of hosts; *After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you:* for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. |
| 28. | Zecheriah 3:8 | Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth *my servant the BRANCH*. |
| 29. | Zecheriah 6:12  | And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is *The BRANCH*; and he *shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:* |
| 30. | Zecheriah 9:9-10 | Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, *thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from river even to the ends of the earth. |
| 31. | Zecheriah 11:12 | And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed *for my price thirty pieces of silver*. |
| 32. | Zecheriah 12:10 | And *I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.* |
| 33. | Zecheriah 13:7 | Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. |
| 34. | Malachai 3:1 | Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, *shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.* |

Christ’s Prophecies concerning His Crucifixion:

**Mat 17:22 – His Betrayal**

(22) And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man **shall be betrayed into the hands of men**:

[**Fulfilled Mathew 26:15** And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and **I will deliver him unto you**? **And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver**.]

**Mar 10:32-34 – His Condemnation to death and handing over to Gentiles and Humiliation and Crucifixion:**

(32) And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

(33) *Saying*, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; **and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:**

(34) And they shall mock him, **and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again**.

[**Fulfilled Mat 26:65-66** (65) Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. (66) What think ye? They answered and said, **He is guilty of death**.

**Fulfilled:** **Mat 27:2** (2) And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and **delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor**.

**Fulfilled:** **Mat 27:30-32** (30) And **they spit upon him**, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. (31) And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*. (32) And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

**Fulfilled: Mat 27:35** (35) **And they crucified him**, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

**Fulfilled:** **Mat 27:31-32** (31) And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and **led him away to crucify** *him*. (32) And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.]

**Fulfilled: Mat 28:5** And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. **Mat 28:6** He is not here: **for he is risen, as he said**. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

The Reliability of the Scriptures:

***Jesus’ Warnings in RED Letter:***

* (Mat 7:15) **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
* (Mat 24:11) And many false prophets shall rise, and **shall deceive many**.
* (Mar 13:22) **For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if** *it were* **possible, even the elect.**
* (Luk 6:26) **Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!** for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

***Apostolic Warnings:***

* 1Co 2:14 But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know** *them*, **because they are spiritually discerned**.
* (2Pe 2:1) But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in **damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
* (1Jn 4:1) Beloved, **believe not every spirit**, but try the spirits whether they are of God: **because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

**Introduction: Consider the following hypothesis**

* ***If the Bible IS NOT Reliable, then It CANNOT Be the Word of God;***
* ***If the bible is not the Word of God, then its authority is not ABSOLUTE on the its revelations of who God is; about who Jesus is and about our salvation;***
* ***If the Bible is Not the Word of God then there would be no answers to the four most important questions in life:***

**Do You Know What They Are?**

* **Who Am I?**
* **Where did I come from?**
* **Why Am I Here?**
* **Where Am I Going When I Die?**

***What Do We Know About The Bible? [BIBLIOGRAPICAL EVIDENCE]***

* The Bible was written
* by 40 different men of God
* over a period of 1400 years;
* From all walks of life;
* on three different continents, without error or contradiction **(In The Original Manuscripts)**
* agreeing on many controversial topics
* Among other on God, Origin of Creation and Humanity, Sin, Justification, Redemption, Eternal Judgment, Death, Resurrection and Life after Death.

***We also know that:***

* None of the **Original Manuscripts** have survived but we have **reliable copies**.
* We believe that the **original writings were inerrant**, since they were inspired by God.
* Some of the Hebrew and Greek manuscript copies, that we have today, **contain minor errors** because human beings copied and recopied them over millennia.
* Some of the **Modern Translations** we have today **abound in errors** because of various ways of interepreting (paraphrastic / thought-for-thought translations) from the **Extant** Greek Manuscript Text and above all else by using corrupt Greek manuscripts.
* Some passages are difficult to interpret for various reasons (Ignorance of Historical or Biblical facts, Erroneous / Misinterpretation, Unbelief, Imperfect Translations, Short-sightedness, lack of diligent study)
* **We CAN reconstruct the original New Testament writings from the extant copies at hand**.
	+ We have
		- **5,300** Greek manuscripts and manuscript portions,
		- **10,000** Latin Vulgate, and
		- **9,300** other versions, plus
		- **36,000** early (100-300 A.D.) **patristic quotations of the New** **Testament**—such that all but a few verses of the entire New Testament could be reconstructed from these alone.

*( J. McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict, rev. 1979, pp. 39-52; and Norman Geisler, William Nix, A General Introduction to the Bible (Chicago: Moody Press, 1971), pp. 238, 357-367.)*

* + Amounting to a mass of biblical documentation of over **24,000 manuscript portions, manuscripts, and versions**, with the earliest fragments and complete copies **dating between 50 and 300** years after originally written.

***It is Important to Remember that:***

***We Do Believe:***

* We believe that the Word of God, **in the original Writings,** are **VERBALLY AND PLENARY INSPIRED**.
	+ VERBALLY = Word – for - Word given by God
	+ PLENARY = All parts (Genesis to Revelation) are Equally Inspired
	+ **2Ti 3:16** **All scripture** *is* **given by inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
* We believe that the Bible is **WITHOUT CONTRADICTION**.
* We believe that the Bible is **TRUSTWORTHY**.
* We believe that the Bible is **AUTHORITATIVE**. [it has the right to be obeyed]

***We Do Not Believe:***

* That the Bible contains the Word of God
* That the Bible becomes the Word of God

**Note how often God speaks about the**

**PURITY and INFALIBILITY of His word.**

Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall **not add unto the word** which I command you, neither shall ye **diminish ought from it**, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you"

Deuteronomy 12:32 "**What thing soever** I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."

Psalms 12:6 "The **WORDS** of the LORD are pure **WORDS**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

Psalms 19:7 "The law of the LORD is **perfect**, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

Psalms 89:34 "My covenant will I not break, **nor alter the thing** that is gone out of my lips."

Psalms 119:89 "Forever, O LORD, **thy word is settled in heaven**. "

Psalms 119:140 "Thy word is **very pure**: therefore thy servant loveth it."

Psalms. 119:152 "Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou **hast founded them for ever**."

Psalms 119:160 "Thy **word is** **true from the beginning**: and every one of thy righteous **judgments endureth forever**."

Proverbs 30:5,6 "**Every WORD** of God **is pure**: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his WORDS, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: **nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it**: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but **the word of our God shall stand for ever**."

Jeremiah 23:29,30 "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, **that steal my WORDS** every one from his neighbour."

Matthew 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but **by every WORD** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 5:18,19 " For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law**, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my **WORDS shall not pass away**."

Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: **but my WORDS shall not pass away**."

Luke 16:17 "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, **than one tittle of the law to fail**."

Luke 21:33 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my WORDS shall not pass away**."

II Timothy 3:16 "**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"

I Peter 1:23-25 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, **which liveth and abideth for ever**. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Revelation 22:18,19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall **add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the WORDS of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life**, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

**NO OTHER ANCIENT LITERATURE HAS EVER COME CLOSE TO SUPPLYING HISTORIANS AND TEXTUAL CRITICS WITH SUCH AN ABUNDANCE OF DATA:**

| **Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings** |
| --- |
| **Author** | **Written** | **Earliest Copy** | **Time Span** | **# Mss.** |
| Gauis Julius Caesar | 100-44 B.C. | 900 A.D. | 1,000 yrs | 10 |
| Plato | 427-347 B.C. | 900 A.D. | 1,200 yrs | 7 |
| Thucydides | 460-400 B.C. | 900 A.D. | 1,300 yrs | 8 |
| Tacitus | 100 A.D. | 1100 A.D. | 1,000 yrs | 20 |
| Suetonius | 75-160 A.D. | 950 A.D. | 800 yrs | 8 |
| Homer (Iliad) | 900 B.C. | 400 B.C. | 500 yrs | 643 |
| New Testament | 40-100 A.D. | 125 A.D. | 25-50 yrs | 24,000 |

 **Julius Caesar**

Roman general, statesman, and historian Gaius Julius Caesar was the most famous member of the Caesar family, which had been prominent in Rome since the 3rd century BC. Julius Caesar established himself as a brilliant military strategist when he conquered all of the ancient western European territories of Gaul by 51 BC.

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 **Plato**, one of the most famous philosophers of ancient Greece, was the first to use the term philosophy, which means “love of knowledge.” Born around 428 BC, Plato investigated a wide range of topics. Chief among his ideas was the theory of forms, which proposed that objects in the physical world merely resemble perfect forms in the ideal world, and that only these perfect forms can be the object of true knowledge. The goal of the philosopher, according to Plato, is to know the perfect forms and to instruct others in that knowledge.

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 **Thucydides (circa 460-c. 400 BC),** Greek historian known for his History of the Peloponnesian War, a conflict in which he himself had been an important participant. **His book, along with his concern for accuracy and objectivity, earned Thucydides a reputation as one of the foremost historians of antiquity.** His concern with objectivity exerted a strong influence on such later Greco-Roman historians as Polybius and Dio Cassius. **Microsoft® Encarta® Reference Library 2002. © 1993-2001 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.**

**Tacitus, Cornelius (55?-after 117)**

Roman historian, born probably in Rome. All that is known of his life comes either from references to himself in his works or from letters written to him by the Roman statesman and orator Pliny the Younger. Tacitus appears to have held the offices of quaestor in 79, praetor in 88, and consul in 97. He is believed to have been proconsul, or governor, of the Roman provinces in Asia, probably in 112-13. The last years of his life were devoted chiefly to the composition of his historical works, of which less than half are extant.

The earliest known work of Tacitus is the Dialogus de Oratoribus (Dialogue on Orators), written probably about 81, which is valuable for its description of Roman education. De Vita Iulii Agricolae (Life of Agricola, c. 98), an account of the life of his father-in-law, the Roman statesman and general Gnaeus Julius Agricola, is an excellent example of Roman biographical writing. The third of Tacitus's short works, all of which have been preserved, is Germania (Germany, c. 98), a monograph on the ethnography of Germany.

The Historiae (Histories), the first of Tacitus's two major works, apparently was published between 104 and 109. It is a history of the Roman Empire from ad 69 to the assassination of the emperor Domitian in 96. Of the original work, which was probably in 14 books, only the first 4 books and part of the 5th are extant. His most characteristic work, commonly called Annales (Annals, c. 115-17) but possibly originally titled Ab Excessu Diui Augusti (From the Death of the Divine Augustus), is a history of the Julian emperors from Tiberius to Nero, covering the years ad 14 to 68. Originally this work comprised 16 books, but only 9 complete books and some fragments have been preserved.

The great power of Tacitus as a historian lies in his psychological insight and the brilliance of his character portrayals, and his style is an effective combination of terseness and colorful expression. He praised the ideals of the Roman Republic and gave deeply critical portrayals of many of the Roman Emperors.

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**Suetonius, full name Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus (70?-130?),** Roman biographer and historian of culture, whose writings are a primary source of information about the lives of the first 12 caesars and of Roman men of letters. His work was so popular that his biographical approach set the pattern of historical writing for a long time.

The son of a military tribune, Suetonius was born in Rome. Pliny the Younger, himself a writer, was his friend and patron; he recommended Suetonius to Emperor Trajan, helped him to obtain a military tribunate (which he soon resigned), and apparently took him to Bithynia in about 110. A later patron, Septicius Clarus, helped Suetonius obtain appointment as keeper of the archives and, in about 121, as secretary to emperor Hadrian. Suetonius was dismissed in about 122.

Presumably the posts Suetonius held under Hadrian gave him access to documents and correspondence he used in the writing of The Lives of the Caesars (circa 121; trans. 1606). This, his best-known work, relates the lives of Rome's rulers from Julius Caesar to Domitian and contains information that is found nowhere else, much of it scandalous anecdotes. Unfortunately, it does not clearly distinguish between gossip and fact. Of his De Viris Illustribus (Concerning Illustrious Men, 106-13) only some portions survive, mainly on grammarians and rhetoricians; some information from its lost parts, however, has been preserved in the works of other well-known ancient authors.

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**Homer**, name traditionally assigned to the author of the Iliad and the Odyssey, the two major epics of Greek antiquity. Nothing is known of Homer as an individual, and in fact it is a matter of controversy whether a single person can be said to have written both the Iliad and the Odyssey. Linguistic and historical evidence, however, suggests that the poems were composed in the Greek settlements on the west coast of Asia Minor sometime in the 8th century BC.

**THE ILIAD** Both epics deal with legendary events that were believed to have occurred many centuries before their composition. The Iliad is set in the final year of the Trojan War, fought between the Greeks and the inhabitants of the city of Troy. The legendary conflict forms the background for the central plot of the story: the wrath of the Greek hero Achilles. Insulted by his commander in chief, Agamemnon, the young warrior Achilles withdraws from the war, leaving his fellow Greeks to suffer terrible defeats at the hands of the Trojans. Achilles rejects the Greeks' attempts at reconciliation but finally relents to some extent, allowing his companion Patroclus to lead his troops in his place. Patroclus is slain, and Achilles, filled with fury and remorse, turns his wrath against the Trojans, whose leader, Hector (son of King Priam), he kills in single combat. The poem closes as Achilles surrenders the corpse of Hector to Priam for burial, recognizing a certain kinship with the Trojan king as they both face the tragedies of mortality and bereavement.

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***What Claims Does the Bible make About Its Reliablity? [INTERNAL EVIDENCE]***

**Claim:** God said that He has given us **His Inspired Word** and that He had it written down, not by the will of man, but that he **carried them along** **by His Holy Spirit.**

* **Isa 55:11** So shall **my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth**: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.
	+ **Jer 1:9** (9) Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put **my words in thy mouth**.
	+ **2Ti 3:16-17 (16)** All scripture *is* given **by inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
	+ **2Pe 1:21** (21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God **spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost**.

**Claim:** The Bible claims that **godly men** that were **eyewitnesses wrote down its content**. Hence, there is no proof fraud or contradiction in the Bible Records, because **EYEWITNESSES recorded the events**:

* + **Luk 1:1-4 (1)** Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, (2) Even as they delivered them unto us, which **from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word**; (3) It seemed good to me also, **having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order**, most excellent Theophilus, (4) That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.
* **Joh 19:35** (35) **And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.**
* **Joh 21:24** (24) This is the disciple **which testifieth of these things**, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.
* **Act 1:1-3** (1) The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, (2) Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: (3) To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion **by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:
* **Act 2:22 (22)** Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, **a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:**
* **Act 26:24-26** (24) And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. (25) But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but **speak forth the words of truth and soberness.** (26) **For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.**
* **2Pe 1:16** (16) For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of his majesty**.

**Claim: Jesus Endorsed the Canon of The Old Testament:**

* **Mat 23:35 (35)** “That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” **[referring to the martyrdom of Abel Genesis 4:8 to that of Zacharias 2 Chronicles 24:20-21]**
* **Luk 24:44** (44) And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law** of Moses, and *in* the **prophets**, and *in* the **psalms**, concerning me. [He affirmed the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible]

***[INTERNAL, PROPHETIC EVIDENCE]***

**Prophecy** **is indisputable Proof** that the Bible is The Word of God.

**2Pe 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

**Isa 44:6** Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is* no God.

**Isa 44:7** And **who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me**, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.

**Isa 46:9** Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me,

**Isa 46:10** **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done**, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

**Isa 48:3-6** (3) I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did *them* suddenly, and they came to pass. (4) Because I knew that thou *art* obstinate, and thy neck *is* an iron sinew, and thy brow brass; (5) I have even from the beginning declared *it* to thee; before it came to pass I shewed *it* thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. (6) Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare *it*? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

**[Isa 48:3-6** Die vorige dinge het Ek lankal verkondig, en uit my mond het dit uitgegaan, en Ek het dit laat hoor; skielik het Ek dit volbring, en dit het gekom. **(4)** Omdat Ek geweet het dat jy halsstarrig is, en jou nek ‘n ystersening is, en jou voorhoof koper, **(5)** daarom het Ek jou dit lank tevore verkondig; voordat dit gekom het, het Ek jou dit laat hoor, dat jy nie sou sê: My afgod het dit gedoen, of my gesnede beeld of my gegote beeld het dit beveel nie. **(6)** Jy het dit gehoor—aanskou dit alles! Sal júlle dit dan nie verkondig nie? Van nou af laat Ek jou nuwe dinge hoor en geheime wat jy nie geweet het nie**.]**

**[See Page 2 – 5 for a list of prophecies. Some fulfilled and other awaiting fulfillment]**

**Detailed Prophecies fulfilled:**

* **Genesis 49:10 -** The continued rule of Judah until the coming of the Messiah
* **Daniel 9:25** - The Exact Birth of the Messiah
* **Ezekiel 26:1-21** - The Destruction of Tyre
* **Isaiah 11:12** - The Gathering of Israel to its promised territory
* **Deuteronomy 30:1-5** And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call *them* to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. If *any* of thine be driven out unto the outmost *parts* of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

***Jesus endorsed the historicity of Old Testament Incidents, mostly denied by modern critics:***

***Genesis Account of Creation of Man:***

* **Mat 19:4-6** (4) And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, (5) And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? (6) Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. **[Genesis 2:24]**

***The flood:***

* **Luk 17:26-27** (26) And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. (27) They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. **[Genesis 7]**
	+ 270 Flood Legends exists all over the world today
	+ In 95% the flood was world-wide
	+ In 88%, a certain family was favoured
	+ In 70% survival was by means of a boat
	+ In 67% animals was also saved
	+ In 66% the flood was due to the wickedness of man and the survivors have been fore-warned
	+ In 57% they ended up in the mountains
	+ In 35% birds were sent out from the boat and
	+ In 9% exactly 8 people were spared

***The Destruction of Sodom:***

* **Luk 17:28-32** (28) Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; (29) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. (30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (31) In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. (32) Remember Lot's wife. **[Genesis 19:16]**

***Authorship of Decalogue by Moses:***

* **Mat 8:4** (4) And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

***[ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE]***

Archaeology is the study of material remains of past human life and activities. An archaeologist is the person who conducts the research of those material remains.

Here's what some of the great archaeologists and students of archaeology had to say about how material remains of past human life and activities affected the Bible.

1. **Nelson Glueck** - "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."
2. **William F. Albright** - "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament traditions."
3. **F.F. Bruce** - "Where Luke has been suspected of inaccuracy, and accuracy has been vindicated by some inscriptional evidence, it may be legitimate to say archaeology has confirmed the New Testament record."
4. **Merrill Unger** - "Old Testament archaeology has rediscovered whole nations, resurrected important peoples, and in a most astonishing manner filled in historical gaps, adding immeasurably to the knowledge of biblical backgrounds."
5. **Miller Burrows** - "Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics. It has shown in a number of instances that these views rest on false assumptions and unreal, artificial schemes of historical development ... The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous predisposition against the supernatural."

**TEXTUAL CRITICISM:**

Dr. Donald Waite is a Baptist scholar who has written in the defense of the Received Text for many years. He is President of the Dean Burgon Society and Director of Bible for Today ministries. He has earned a B.A. in classical Greek and Latin; a Th.M. with high honors in New Testament Greek Literature and Exegesis; an M.A. and Ph.D. in Speech; a Th.D. with honors in Bible Exposition; and he holds both New Jersey and Pennsylvania teacher certificates in Greek and Language Arts. He taught Greek, Hebrew, Bible, Speech, and English for more than 35 years in nine schools. He has produced more than 700 studies on the Bible and other subjects. The following study is a summary of Waite's book ***Defending the King James Bible***, which is available from Bible for Today, 900 Park Avenue, Collingswood, New Jersey 08108. Waite presents a four-fold superiority of the King James Bible: (1) Superior Texts (Hebrew And Greek); (2) Superior Translators; (3) Superior Technique; And (4) Superior Theology.

**Quote taken from:** The Four-Fold Superiority of the King James Bible- by Dr. D.A. Waite

**Section: The King James Bible Has A Superior New Testament Greek Text**

“In 1881, **two theological heretics (posing as conservatives) from the Anglican Church,** **B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort, published their Greek text that REJECTED THE TR IN 5,604 PLACES BY MY ACTUAL COUNT.** This included **9,970 Greek words that were either added, subtracted, or changed from the TR**. This involves, on the average, **15.4 words per page of the Greek N.T., or a total of 45.9 pages in all. It is 7% of the total of 140,521 words in the TR Greek N.T.** It was a radically new Greek text. Westcott and Hort concocted a new Greek text and changed the TR that had been used in the Church from the beginning of the writing of the N.T.”

DR. FREDERICK SCRIVENER WHO WAS COMMISSIONED IN ABOUT 1885, BY THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, TO COME UP WITH THE EXACT GREEK TEXT THAT UNDERLIES THE KING JAMES BIBLE. SCRIVENER SET DOWN ALL OF THE GREEK WORDS USED BY THE KJV, BUT HE DID SOMETHING ELSE AS WELL. HE PUT IN BOLD FACE TYPE ALL OF THE ALTERATIONS MADE BY EDITORS WESTCOTT AND HORT IN THEIR 1881 ENGLISH REVISED VERSION. He inserted the exact alterations in the footnotes. These consisted of either additions of Greek words, subtractions of Greek words, or changes of Greek words in some other way. This Greek text edition has been reprinted by the Bible for Today. It is a very useful tool. Scrivener's Greek text is also available on the LOGOS Computer Program which enables the student to study more carefully. Dr. Jack Moorman counted 140,521 Greek words in the Textus Receptus. Scrivener's Greek edition has 647 pages which would average 217 Greek words per page. That's what the Textus Receptus has.

**Archaeology and the Old Testament**

1. Genesis derives the ancestry of Israel from Mesopotamia. Archaeology confirms it.
2. Genesis 11:1 reads that "The whole earth was of one language and one speech." God confounded the language in Genesis 11:9. Most philologists attest to the likelihood of such an origin for the world's languages.
3. In the genealogy of Esau, there is mention of the Horites (Gen. 36:20). Archaeology confirms the Horites were a prominent group of warriors living in the near East in Patriarchal times.
4. The Bible claims the walls of Jericho fell outwards. Critics scoffed because "walls of cities do not fall outwards, they fall inwards." Archaeology proved in the early 1930s that the walls of Jericho did fall outward, just as the Bible said.
5. One critic said the Biblical record of the laver made of brass mirrors was not an original entry into the Priestly Code. So, he dated the writing of the Law at 500 B.C. However, archaeology has since found evidence of such bronze mirrors in what is known as the Empire Period of Egypt's history (1500-1200 B.C.). That's contemporary with Moses.
6. A century ago such familiar Biblical cities as Jericho, Samaria, Bethel, Shiloh, Bethshan, Gezer, Nineven, Babylon, Ur and many others were shapeless mounds. Critics scoffed at the Biblical record. Within the last 100 years, all of these cities have been uncovered. The importance of the discoveries is that the excavation has produced material which confirms the Scriptures point after point.
7. Excavations are dated on the basis of levels at which things are found. At Tepe Gawra, a few miles north of Nineveh, a seal was found which depicted a man, a woman and a serpent. Another seal depicted a man and a serpent. Another seal depicted a man and a women picking fruit from a tree. Behind the woman was a serpent standing erect. The seals were found in the level antedating 3000 B.C. It suggests that the story of the temptation is very old. It was known about long before Abraham and Moses. **It was not some Hebrew fairy tale.**

These are but a few of hundreds of confirmations of the Old Testament from archaeology.

**Archaeology and the New Testament**

1. Sir William Ramsay is regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists ever to have lived. He believed that the Book of Acts was a product of the mid-second century A.D. (150 A.D.). He set out to prove it. However, after thorough research, he changed his mind. He became a firm defender for the mid-first century authorship of Acts.
2. For many critics the account of the birth of Jesus was held as ridiculous. They argued that there was no census, that Quirinius was not Governor of Syria at that time and that everyone did not have to return to his ancestral home for a census. Archaeology has proven the critics wrong (again) ---
	* The Romans had a regular enrollment of taxpayers and held censuses every 14 years. The procedure was begun under Augustus.
	* Quirinius was Governor of Syria about 7 B.C.
	* A papyrus found in Egypt gives directions for the conduct of a census. Families were to return to their own governments to complete family registration of the enrollment and that the tilled lands might retain those belonging to them.
3. Critics said Acts was unreliable because Luke wrote that Lystra and Derbe were in Lycaonia and Iconium was not (Acts 14:6). However, in 1910, Sir William Ramsay found a monument that showed Iconium was a Phrygran city. Later discoveries confirmed that.
4. In his letter to the Romans, Paul mentions the city treasurer, Erastus (Romans 16:23). The letter was written in Corinth. Excavations of Corinth in 1929 found this inscripion on a pavement: "Erastus, curator of public buildings, laid this pavement at his own expense." The pavement dates from the 1st century A.D.
5. Many critics have blasted the usage of certain words by Luke.
	* Luke called rulers in Philippi "praetors." Scholars argued that two "duumuirs" would have ruled the town. However, archaeology shows that the title of "praetor" was employed by the magistrates of a Roman colony. Luke was right.
	* Luke called civil authorities in Thessalonica "politarchs." Critics said there was no such person. However, 19 inscriptions have been unearthed which use the title. Luke was right.
	* Luke called Gallio "proconsul." The Delphi inscription was unearthed which reads: "As Lucius Junius Gallio, my friend and the proconsul of Achaia."

Sir William Ramsay wrote of Luke: "Luke is a historian of the first rank ... this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

The Bible is to be trusted as an authentic Book of antiquity. Archaeology supports and confirms facts as stated in the Bible.

**[Taken from an Article: Archaeology and The Bible]**

* Luke demonstrated a remarkably accurate knowledge of geographical and political ideas.
* He referred correctly to provinces that were established at that time, as indicated in **Acts 15:41; 16:2, 6-8.**
* He identified regions, such as that referred to in **Acts 13:49**, and various cities, as in **Acts 14:6.**
* He demonstrated a clear knowledge of local customs, such as those relating to the speech of the Lycaonians **(Acts 14:11)**, some aspects relating to the foreign woman who was converted at Athens **(Acts 17:34),** and he even knew that the city of Ephesus was known as "the temple-keeper of Artemis" **(Acts 19:35)....**
* He refers to different local officers by their exact titles—the proconsul (deputy) of Cyprus **(Acts 13:7),** the magistrates at Philippi **(Acts 16:20, 35),** the politarchs (another word for magistrates) at Thessalonica **(Acts 17:6),** the proconsul of Achaia **(Acts 18:12),** and the treasurer at Corinth (Aedile)—which was the title of the man known as Erastus at Corinth **(Acts 19:22; Romans 16:23)....**
* Luke had accurate knowledge about various local events such as the famine in the days of Claudius Caesar **(Acts 11:29);**
* He was aware that Zeus and Hermes were worshiped together at Lystra, though this was unknown to modern historians **(Acts 14:11,12).**
* He knew that Diana or Artemis was especially the goddess of the Ephesians **(Acts 19:2);** and he was able to describe the trade at Ephesus in religious images **(Acts 19:26, 27)....**
* At these points, archaeology has confirmed facts, where the biblical record had previously seemed to be in error.
* **One good example relates to those magistrates at Philippi. In Acts 16:20, 35 we read of the magistrates being referred to as "praetors.’ Strictly, their title should have been duumvir, but it was as though they called themselves, "senior magistrates" instead of magistrates." Ramsay showed by an inscription recovered in another Roman colony, Capua, that Cicero had spoken of the magistrates: "Although they are called duumvirs in the other colonies, these men wish to be called praetors."**
* This is a point at which critics had thought Luke was in error, but the fact is Luke was better informed than those who opposed him. His writings constantly bear this impress of authenticity. He was an eyewitness of so much that is recorded in the Acts, and the source documents have now been recognized as first-class historical writings. **\***

**\*** [23 Clifford Wilson, *Rocks, Relics and Biblical Reliability* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1977), pp. 112-114.] – taken from an article: **The Historical Reliability of Scripture** by Dr. John Ankerberg, Dr. John Weldon

**Summary / Application:**

* God warned that false prophets will come with damnable heresies **denying the Lordship of Jesus Christ who saved them**.
	+ **2Pe 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
	+ **Mat 24:24** (24) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
* God has promised that He will preserve it VERBATIM until His Word is fulfilled in its entirety.
	+ **Mat 5:18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
	+ **Mat 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
* The Words in the Bible **must of necessity be chosen of God**, because the **force and meaning of a whole passage often depends on the form of a single word** or on **the order of words**.
	+ **Gen 22:18** (18) And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. **[seed singular refers to Jesus, the promised seed of the woman – Genesis 3:15] Genesis 1:16**
	+ **Gal 3:16** (16) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. **[seed singular refers to Jesus Christ]**
	+ **Heb 7:2** (2) To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of **righteousness**, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of **peace**; [**Gen 14:18] Psalm 85:10** (10) Mercy and truth are met together; **righteousness and peace** have kissed *each other*.

***Note how often God speaks about the individual words of the Bible:***

* **Deuteronomy 4:2** "**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it**, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you"
* **Deuteronomy 12:32** "**What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**"
* **Psalms 12:6** "**The WORDS of the LORD are pure WORDS:** as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."
* **Psalms 19:7** "**The law of the LORD is perfect**, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."
* **Psalms 89:34** "My covenant will I not break, **nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips**."
* **Psalms 119:89** "**Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.**"
* **Psalms 119:140** "**Thy word is very pure**: therefore thy servant loveth it."
* **Psalms. 119:152** "Concerning thy testimonies, **I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.**"
* **Psalms 119:160** "**Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever**."

**Proverbs 30:5, 6** "**Every WORD of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his WORDS, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**"

* **Ecclesiastes 3:14** "**I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.**"
* **Isaiah 40:8** "**The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**"
* **Jeremiah 23:29, 30** "**Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my WORDS every one from his neighbour.**"
* **Matthew 4:4** "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**
* **Matthew 5:18,19** " **For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
* **Matthew 24:35** "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my WORDS shall not pass away.**"
* **Mark 13:31** "Heaven and earth shall pass away: **but my WORDS shall not pass away**."
* **Luke 16:17** "**And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail**."
* **Luke 21:33** "Heaven and earth shall pass away, **but my WORDS shall not pass away**."
* **II Timothy 3:16** "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**"
* **I Peter 1:23-25** "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: **But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.** And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."
* **Revelation 22:18, 19** "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the WORDS of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life,** and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

***Every believer need to ALWAYS MAKE SURE that, his/her Translation of the Bible is an accurate copy of the Inspired Word of God, as written down by Godly Men that were Holy-Spirit-moved in our Bibles?***

***The Republic*** ([Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek_language): [Πολιτεία](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%CE%A0%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B9%CF%84%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%B1), *Politeia*) is a [Socratic dialogue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socratic_dialogue) written by [Plato](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato) sometime around 380 BC concerning the definition of [justice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice) and the order and character of the just [city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City-state) and the just man.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Republic_%28Plato%29#cite_note-0) It is Plato’s best-known work and has proven to be one of the most intellectually and historically influential works of [philosophy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy) and [political theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_philosophy).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Republic_%28Plato%29#cite_note-1)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Republic_%28Plato%29#cite_note-2) In it, [Socrates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socrates) along with various Athenians and foreigners discuss the meaning of justice and examine whether or not the just man is happier than the unjust man by proposing a city ruled by [philosopher-kings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosopher-kings). The participants also discuss the [theory of forms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_forms), the [immortality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immortality) of the [soul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soul), and the roles of the philosopher and of [poetry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poetry) in society.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Republic_%28Plato%29#cite_note-3)