

## Is the Bible Truly God’s Word?

*by John Isaac Edwards*

1) **It Claims to Be.** The Bible claims to be inspired of God. The expression, “Thus saith the Lord” or its equivalent is found over 2,000 times in the Bible.

*Men of God, in the Old Testament, claimed to speak as God directed them.* David stated, “The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue” (2 Sam. 23:2). Amos answered, “... the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel. Now therefore, hear thou the word of the Lord...” (Amos 7:15-16).

*New Testament writers claimed to speak from God.* Paul declared, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly...” (1 Tim. 4:1). Paul explained to the Ephesians that he wrote “by revelation” from God (Eph. 3:3-5). Paul claimed that what he spoke in Thessalonica was “the word of God” (1 Th. 2:13).

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 makes the claim of inspiration. “Scripture” (writings or oracles) includes both the Old and New

Testaments (1 Tim. 5:18). “All” leaves out nothing. “Inspiration of God” means “God breathed.”

Peter, speaking of the divine origin of Scripture, said, “...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

### 2) **Evidence to Sustain Such a Claim.**

***Its unity.*** If the Bible is of God, then a unity of its contents is to be expected.

Though the Bible is a collection of sixty-six books written by about 40 different men, in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), over a space of nearly 1600 years, by men belonging to diverse walks of life and separated from each other by hundreds of years and hundreds of miles, it is entirely free from any real discrepancies.

Books written by men often have no unity of thought on even one subject. Some of them disagree with others. But there is perfect harmony between the books

of the Bible – which speak of hundreds of subjects in many fields. There is no contradiction among them.

***Its scientific accuracy.*** “Science” means “to know”, and there is nothing any man can prove he knows that contradicts the Bible.

Genesis 1:1-2 contains the five facts of science in scientific order: “In the beginning” (Time), “God created the heaven (Space), “and the earth” (Matter), “And the Spirit of God” (Force), “moved upon the face of the waters” (Motion).

Isaiah, who lived 700 years B.C., said the earth is spherical: “It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...” (Is. 40:22). Man held that the earth was flat until the introduction of the compass and improved sailing vessels made possible the voyages of Columbus, Magellan, and others.

It is recorded in the book of Job (about 2000 B.C.), “He...hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 26:7). Until the invention of

the telescope, the world's scientists thought the earth was rigidly supported.

There are many other such facts that were not discovered until centuries after the Bible was written. What we read in God's word agrees with what we see in God's world.

**Archaeological discoveries.** The events recorded in the Bible are set at a definite time and place in history (Lk. 3:1).

Archaeologists have found remains confirming the Biblical record of people, places, and events.

*King Sargon.* "In the year that Tartan came to Ashdod, when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him, and he fought against Ashdod and took it" (Is. 20:1). In 1842-1845, the royal palace of Sargon was uncovered and an account of the siege of Ashdod mentioned in Isaiah.

*Grapes in Egypt.* In the interpretation of the dream of

Pharaoh's butler, grapes are mentioned (Gen. 40:9-11). The ancient historian Herodotus declared that the Egyptians grew no vines and some critics cited this as a Biblical mistake. Paintings, however, discovered on ancient Egyptian tombs show the pruning of vines, the extracting of juice from grapes, and scenes of drunkenness.

Archaeological discoveries verify the historical reliability of the Old and New Testaments. The spade is a friend of the Bible.

***Its fulfilled prophecies.*** There is no stronger proof of the truthfulness and inspiration of the Bible than prophecy and fulfillment. The Scriptures contain hundreds of distinct prophecies.

*Prophecies concerning individuals and nations.* When Abraham did not even have a son, God revealed details about the future of his descendants (Gen. 15:13-16). Abraham did not

live to see these things come to pass, but you and I can look back and see that it happened just as God said (Acts 13:17; Ex. 1:11-13; 12:12, 36, 40).

*Prophecies concerning Christ.* Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, prophets spoke with explicit detail about the Messiah to come. These prophecies all find their fulfillment in Jesus. Jesus was born of a virgin (Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:18-23), in Bethlehem of Judah (Micah 5:2; Mt. 2:1), was of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:8-10; Mt. 1:1-3), came to Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zech. 9:9; Mt. 21:1-10), was despised and rejected (Is. 53:2-3; Lk. 17:25), was buried with the rich (Is. 53:9; Mt. 27:57-60), and was raised from the dead (Ps. 16:8-11; Lk. 24:6-8).

In light of the overwhelming evidence, we believe the Bible to be what it claims to be – the inspired, inerrant word of God.

**The Terre Haute** **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**

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Terre Haute, IN 47803  
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