

Many Infallible Proofs

By Al Felder

“¹The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ²Until 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: ³To 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.” (Acts 1:1-3)

The death of Jesus was a devastating blow to the disciples. They were lost and undone, hiding in fear of suffering the same fate as their master. Then, just three short days after His death, Jesus rose from the grave. He appeared unto His disciples and they went from hiding in fear to changing the world one person at a time. What caused this dramatic change in their behavior? The Bible tells us that it is because Jesus showed them many infallible proofs that, although He had been dead, He was made living once again to die no more.

Christianity does not depend upon subjective experience, blind faith, tradition, or opinion as do other world religions. Christianity stands or falls upon objective evidence that has been written down in the Bible. There is overwhelming evidence that the Bible is completely true. For just a little while I would like to discuss with you five proofs that the Bible is indeed the inspired, unerring word of God. We will entitle our remarks “Many Infallible Proofs.”

The first proof that I would like to discuss with you is the unity of the Bible. From beginning to end the Bible has a consistent theme. *“¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19)* This consistent theme is the redemption of fallen man, through the work of Christ, to the ultimate glory of God. The whole Bible is concerned, either directly or indirectly, with the mission of Jesus. Now at face value, this proof may not seem that impressive to someone, but when you begin to investigate how the Bible came to be it is very impressive.

God used the process of inspiration to reveal His word over the course of time. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)* The word inspiration means God breathed.¹ All scripture is given by the breath of God. In other words, every word that is contained in the Bible is the word of God, not man.

¹ Vine, W. E. 1996. *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Nashville, TN : Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1996. p. 328.

God inspired men to write down His word over a period of 1,600 years until it was complete. He began with Moses in the 15th century B.C. and he concluded with John in the 1st century A.D. In all, God inspired 40 different men. Altogether, these men were from three different continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe), they recorded the Bible in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), and they all lived at different times.

The men themselves were a diverse group. They lived in different cultures from Egyptian, Israeli, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman. They all had different occupations. Among these men you will find shepherds, kings, scholars, fishermen, military generals, priests, a royal cup bearer, a doctor, and a tax collector. The most common characteristic that they shared was the fact that thirty-nine of them were Jews; the sole Gentile writer was Luke. These men wrote from palaces, prisons, land, sea, cities, and wilderness.

The purpose of their writing was to record history, give spiritual or moral instruction, and to pronounce judgment. They wrote history, laws, poetry, prophecy, and proverbs. They laid bare their personal emotions, anger, frustration, joy, and love. Yet, despite all of these things the Bible stays consistent with its theme and never contradicts itself. No other book displays complete unity from such a diverse background. In all it is a collection of 66 books.

The second proof that I would like to discuss is prophecy. Biblical prophecy is unlike anything else. With incredible detail, clarity, and accuracy; the Bible has consistently told the future. The Bible is unique among all other religious books in this respect. Anyone can make a general prediction based on experience, judgment, or available information; but no man or angel can predict specific events or persons that will appear hundreds of years in the future. The Bible has done this not once, but hundreds of times.

Some of the most fascinating Biblical prophecies can be found in the book of Daniel. Bible critics cringe over the prophetic insight of Daniel because there is no way they can explain it short of accepting the Bible as God's word. With amazing accuracy Daniel, who lived in 6th Century B.C. Babylon, prophesied the course of the Middle East for the next five centuries after his death. Through a series of dreams and visions, Daniel describes the ebb and flow of four world empires from Babylon to Medo-Persian to Greece to Rome. He foresaw the rapid rise to power of Alexander the Great as well as the division of his empire among his four top generals.

In Daniel chapter eight, Daniel was given a vision of a ram and he goat. In this vision he saw a ram with two horns standing before a river. One of the horns was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. This ram pushed northward and southward and nothing could stand before him. Then, a he goat came from the west. The he goat moved with such speed that his feet did not touch the ground. He had one notable horn between his eyes. The he goat charged the ram, cast him to the ground, and destroyed him. Then, the he goat grew stronger until his great horn was broken. In place of the great horn arose four notable ones.

How would you like to have a dream like that? Can you imagine the blank stare you would get from people if you said, "Guess what I dreamed last night," and you told them that?

Then, you proceeded to tell them how this dream described the course of major world empires over the next 500 years. You would probably find yourself retelling this story in a nice padded room in some facility.

Daniel, however, told this dream, and it all came true. Daniel received this dream and God told him exactly what it meant. *“¹⁹And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. ²⁰The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. ²¹And the rough goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. ²²Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.”* (Daniel 8:19-22) The Babylonians were defeated by the Medes and the Persians. At first, the Medes were the dominate part of this alliance, but over the course of time the Persians dominated. Alexander the Great defeated the Persians, and conquered most of the known world. His death was sudden and untimely. His only heir was a son who actually was not born until after his death. While on his death-bed Alexander was asked to whom he would leave his empire. His response was, “To the strongest.” Four of his generals divided his kingdom amongst themselves.

It would be amazing if the Bible only contained a few prophecies as specific and exact as this one, but the Bible contains hundreds of such prophecies. Not a single Biblical prophecy has ever failed. That fact in and of itself presents a mathematical certainty that the Bible is indeed the word of God.

The third proof that I would like to examine is science. It is true that the Bible does not claim to be a science book, but it does claim to be true from beginning to end. *“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.”* (Psalm 119:160) Science books change with each new discovery that man makes while the Bible stays the same. Although it is not a science book, when the Bible make a statement related to science it is true and exact.

The Bible contains many scientific facts that were otherwise unknown to man in the day and time in which they were written. For example, the spherical nature of the earth and the fact that the earth hangs in space are both suggested in scripture. *“⁷He stretched out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. ¹⁰He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.”* (Job 26:7, 10) Job is believed to have lived around 2,000 B.C. long before man knew these truths as scientific fact.

Many people fail to realize that there are two types of science: observational science and historical science. Observational science gives us the technology we use and the medical advancements from which we benefit. It uses the scientific method in order to prove facts. There is no contradiction between the Bible and this type of science. Historical science, however, consists of assumptions which cannot be scientifically proven due to the fact that the

scientists cannot observe the past. The Bible is the only source of accurate information about the origin of man.

The fourth proof that I would like to look at is history. The Bible has no equal when it comes to historical accuracy. It was written centuries before the writings of the most celebrated ancient historians. It is more factual and covers a broader scope than any other history. No evidence exists that casts a doubt on the historical accuracy of the Bible.

The New Testament author Luke claimed to be an historian. In fact, the book of Acts is a history of the first century church. Sir William Ramsay, a Nobel Prize recipient and professor of humanities at Aberdeen University in Scotland, was considered the foremost expert on geography and history of ancient Asia Minor during the 20th century. He was highly critical of the Bible until he began to carefully research the writings of Luke. In his book entitled *Luke, The Beloved Physician* he wrote, "I take the view that Luke's history is unsurpassed in regards to its trustworthiness. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian, and they will stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment. Luke is a historian of the first rank. This author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."²

One example of what Sir William Ramsay was talking about is found in the Gospel of Luke. ¹*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*" (Luke 2:1, 2) For years Bible critics would use this verse in order to say that the Bible was inaccurate. Cyrenius was governor of Syria from A.D. 8-10. This placed his governorship after the birth of Christ, not during. Archeologists, however, discovered that Cyrenius was actually governor of Syria twice. His first governorship was during the birth of Christ.

Critics continue to doubt the historical accuracy of the Bible still today. Yet, there exists no archeological evidence that disproves anything mentioned in the Bible. Many of the claims of historical inaccuracy have been destroyed by a slew of astounding archeological discoveries.

The fifth and final proof that I would like to discuss with you is the life changing power of the Bible. As a Christian, you may not know in detail all of the proofs that we have talked about this morning, but you do know the experience of your own life. When Jesus walked this earth He healed a blind man. When the man was interrogated by the Pharisees he was unable to answer many of their questions, but he could tell what happened to him. *"He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."* (John 9:25) Like this man, we can tell of the changes that have occurred in our life.

It is one thing to tell people that you believe the Bible, but when they can see it in your life they listen. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17) You and I can provide no

² Ham, Ken. 2012. *How Do We Know the Bible is True?* Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2012. p. 51.

greater proof that the Bible is indeed the word of God than to show people the impact that it has had upon our life. Once we obey the gospel of Christ we can show people the transforming power of the word of God. As they see us change from the person we once were into someone who is becoming more Christ like, any person who is truly seeking God will believe.

As was the case with so many people whom He healed, Jesus expects us to take the good news and tell others. *“Return to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.”* (Luke 8:39) In this verse, Jesus tells the Gadarene Demoniac to go and tell others what God had done for him. How has God worked in your life? What marvelous things has he done for you? How many countless sins have been washed away by the blood of Christ? How much of a better husband, wife, father, mother, son, or daughter are you because of the teachings of God’s word. We honor God when we live according to His word and we become a bright and shining light to a world that is dark with sin.

In closing, no other book has lasted the test of time like the Bible. It is the Book of Ages. It has been laughed at, scorned, outlawed, and burned; and yet it stands. God has preserved His book. It is a book of perfect unity, fulfilled prophecy, exact facts, historical accuracy, and life changing ability. It is the word of God. *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.”* (Isaiah 40:8)