

ASTOUNDING REASONS TO TRUST THE BIBLE WHO KNEW?!

People may never have questioned what they have read about Julius Caesar or Abe Lincoln or Mohammed, but questioning the claims of Jesus Christ and the Bible is common. Despite censorship of the whole counsel of God's Word in our culture and even churches, we can know that God's Word, the Bible, is completely trustworthy. Of course, all interpretations should be scrutinized.

PROPHECY

Prophecy is the main way we know the Bible is true. No other book or faith has and requires 100% accuracy for prophecy. In the Old Testament the penalty for 99% accuracy was execution by stoning.

Here is a detailed prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ written 1,000 years before Christ and 400 years before crucifixion was used. Jesus spoke the first verse while on the cross.

Psa 22:1, 6-8, 13-17 - [A Psalm of David.] My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? [why art thou so] far from helping me, [and from] the words of my roaring?... 6 But I [am] a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. 7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, [saying], 8 He trusted on the LORD [that] he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him... 13 They gaped upon me [with] their mouths, [as] a ravening and a roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd [*piece of pottery*]; and my tongue cleaveth [*sticks*] to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. 16 For dogs [*male cult prostitutes*] have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I may tell all my bones: they look [and] stare upon me. 18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

- The New Testament confirms these things happened when Jesus was crucified.
- Jesus, the Creator of the cosmos became part of His creation as prophesied so He could die for our sins: God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them (2Cor 5:19).

Here is a prophecy saying the Savior would not have an earthly father.

Isa 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 [*which means God with us*].

Here is a prophecy showing the Savior would be both man (“child born”) and God (“Son given” and “the mighty God.”) (The “Son of God” is God; the “son of man” is a man: so Jesus is both at once.)

Isa 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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 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.

Here is a prophecy about the Savior's sacrifice:

Isa 53:3- - 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.

Here is a prophecy not yet fulfilled that shows that the Jews will come to realize that Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) has been their Savior who was the crucified Lamb of God, their Passover Lamb:

Zec 12:10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one mourns for an only son."

Here is the probability calculation of just 8 prophecies about the Messiah (the Christ)

In his book, *Science Speaks*, Peter Stoner calculated the probability of just 8 messianic prophecies being fulfilled in the life of Jesus. As you read through these prophecies, you will see that all estimates were calculated as conservatively as possible. Jesus could not have caused the underlined ones to happen.

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

The average population of Bethlehem from the time of Micah to the present (1958) divided by the average population of the earth during the same period = 7,150 in 2,000,000,000 or 2.8×10^5 , or 1 in 279,720

A messenger will prepare the way for the Messiah (Malachi 3:1 & Isa 40:3) (That was John the Baptizer.)

One man in how many has ever had a forerunner?

Estimate: 1 in 1,000 or 1×10^3 .

The Messiah will enter Jerusalem as a king riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).

One man in how many, who has entered Jerusalem as a ruler, has entered riding on a donkey?

Estimate: 1 in 100 or 1×10^2 .

The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend and suffer wounds in His hands (Zechariah 13:6).

One man in how many has ever been betrayed by a friend, resulting in wounds in his hands?
Estimate: 1 in 1,000 or 1×10^3 .

The Messiah will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12).

Of the people who have been betrayed, one in how many has been betrayed for exactly 30 pieces of silver?
Estimate: 1 in 1,000 or 1×10^3 .

The betrayal money will be used to purchase a potter's field (Zechariah 11:13).

One man in how many, after receiving a bribe for the betrayal of a friend, has returned the money, had it refused, and then experienced it being used to buy a potter's field?
Estimate: 1 in 100,000 or 1×10^5 .

The Messiah will remain silent while He is afflicted (Isaiah 53:7).

One man in how many, when he is oppressed and afflicted, though innocent, will make no defense of himself?
Estimate: 1 in 1,000 or 1×10^3 .

The Messiah will die by having His hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16).

One man in how many, since the time of David, has been crucified?
Estimate: 1 in 10,000 or 1×10^4 .

Multiplying all these probabilities together produces a number (rounded off) of 1×10^{28} . Dividing this number by an estimate of the number of people who have lived since the time of these prophecies (88 billion) produces a probability of all 8 prophecies being fulfilled accidentally in the life of one person. That probability is 1 in 10^{17} or 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. That's one in one hundred quadrillion!

Peter Stoner illustrated the meaning of this number. He asked the reader to imagine filling the State of Texas knee deep in silver dollars. Include in this huge number one silver dollar with a black check mark on it. Then, turn a blindfolded person loose in this huge area of silver dollars. The odds that the first coin he would pick up would be the one with the black check mark are the same as 8 prophecies being fulfilled accidentally in the life of Jesus.

The point, of course, is that when people say that the fulfillment of prophecy in the life of Jesus was accidental, they do not know what they are talking about. Keep in mind that Jesus did not just fulfill 8 prophecies, He fulfilled over 100. The chances of fulfilling 16 is 1 in 10^{45} . When you get to a total of 48, the odds increase to 1 in 10^{157} . Accidental fulfillment of these prophecies is simply beyond the realm of possibility.

When confronted with these statistics, skeptics will often fall back on the argument that Jesus purposefully fulfilled the prophecies. There is no doubt that Jesus was aware of the prophecies and His fulfillment of them. For example, when He got ready to enter Jerusalem the last time, He told His disciples to find Him a donkey to ride so that the prophecy of Zechariah could be fulfilled which said, "Behold, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:1-5).

But many of the prophecies concerning the Messiah could not be purposefully fulfilled such as the town of His birth (Micah 5:2) or the nature of His betrayal (Psalm 41:9), or the manner of His death (Zechariah 13:6 and Psalm 22:16).

One of the most remarkable Messianic prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures is the one that precisely states that the Messiah will die by crucifixion. It is found in Psalm 22 where David prophesied the Messiah would die by having His hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16). That prophecy was written 1,000 years before Jesus was born. When it was written, the Jewish method of execution was by stoning. The prophecy was also written many years before the Romans perfected crucifixion as a method of execution. Even when Jesus was killed, the Jews still relied on stoning as their method of execution, but they had lost the power to implement the death penalty due to Roman occupation. That is why they were forced to take Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor, and that's how Jesus ended up being crucified, in fulfillment of David's prophecy.

The bottom line is that the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in the life of Jesus proves conclusively that the Bible is supernatural in origin and that Jesus Christ truly was God in the flesh.

BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY

Archeological evidence for everything the Bible says has not been found, but nothing that has been found regarding history, geography and culture contradicts the Bible. Many people who have tried to use archeology to disprove the Bible have become born again Christians after discovering the Bible's detailed accuracy. More than 25,000 archeological discoveries had confirmed the truthfulness of the Bible before 1960. Questions doubting Pontius Pilate, King David, the Hittites, high priest Caiaphas and many others have been settled since then. See youtube video, "Archaeological Evidence for the Bible by Charlie Campbell."

THE POWER OF THE LIVING WORD TO CHANGE LIVES

The Lord can speak to you personally by the Holy Spirit making a Bible passage come alive to your heart. The Bible is able to convince both saved and unsaved people of the sovereign, holy God; the resurrection of Jesus Christ; their sin; and the personal love and call of God for them to repent and come near, and the life of God in the believer. The obviously-changed lives of people who spend personal time in the Word of God are the best evidence for the Bible being supernatural. These changes include release from addictions, foul mouths, lives of selfishness including crime and infidelity, and diseases.

Heb 4:12 - For the word of God [is] quick [*alive*], and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder [*separating*] of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor [*judge*] of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

Both the number of extant (existing from ancient times) manuscripts available to compare and the approximate time span between the original and the copies reveal trustworthiness of a text. According to <https://carm.org/manuscript-evidence> 5,686 manuscripts of the New Testament from within 100 years of the original exist today with an accuracy of 99.5%. The text with the next most copies is Homer's Iliad with 643 copies within 500 years with 95% accuracy. Third is Sophocles with 193 copies within 1,400 years. Extant manuscripts from other authors such as Pliny, Plato and Aristotle, have under 50 manuscripts copied within 750 to 1,400 years after the original. The New Testament is surely the text that is most reliable.

THE JEWISH HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS

Jewish historian Flavian Josephus, born in 37 AD, wrote about people and events when Pontius Pilate was the Roman procurator in his work called *Antiquities of the Jews* published in 93 AD. The following is his account of Jesus called the “Testimonium Flavianum”:

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

—Jewish Antiquities, 18.3.3 §63 (Based on the translation of Louis H. Feldman, The Loeb Classical Library.)

Some critics have questioned whether or not this passage was put in later by a translator. Arguments about the questions are available at www.josephus.org/testhist and answers to the arguments at www.josephus.org/question.

LITERARY CONSISTENCY AND UNITY

Over 1,500 years 40 authors wrote the 66 books of the Bible. Together these books describe the purpose of God for salvation through Jesus Christ and the history and prophecy of that purpose. Have you ever played the party game called telephone in which one person tells a message to another who passes it to another and so forth down a line of people to the last person? By the tenth or twelfth person the errors in the final message received compared with the original message give the players a good laugh. No one is laughing at the amazing literary consistency of God’s unified message by the 40 authors of the Bible.

ANALYSIS OF THE CANON (BIBLE BOOKS LIST)

Books that conformed to the Christian faith were accepted into the New Testament canon if they had been written by one of the twelve apostles or someone in their company and were widely used and accepted as true in early Christian congregations.

LONGEVITY OF THE BIBLE

Despite heavy punishments for people found with Bibles, believers continue to risk their welfare and lives for the Bible.

THE MATHEMATICAL CONSTANTS IN THE TWO CREATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the Hebrew and Greek original texts when the number value of the first verse of the Creation announcements are calculated in a particular way, the results are the constants π (pi) and e , (Euler’s constant [pronounced “oilers”]).

Pi (π), 3.1416..., is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Euler’s Number (e), 2.7182..., is the base of natural logarithms (having steps of 2.7182... times more, not 10x more). Natural logarithms are found many places, such as compound interest, wave mechanics, electrical theory, distribution of prime numbers, and nature (such as in the rose, unfurling fern tip, hurricane, egg, cauliflower, shell and flower).

Old Testament: Gen 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

$$\frac{\text{the number of letters} \times \text{the product of the letters}}{\text{the number of words} \times \text{the product of the words}} = \pi \text{ (3.1416)}$$

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

90.200.1.5.- 400.1.6.-40.10.40.300.5- 400.1- 40.10.5.30.1-1.200.2.-400.10.300.1.200.2
28 letters x product of the letters = 28 x 2.3887872x10³⁴ = **6.68860416x10³⁵**

Word values (letters in each word added):

296	407	395	401	86	203	913
-----	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	-----

7 words x product of the words = 7 x 3.041535257841758x10¹⁷
= **2.12907468048923x10¹⁸**

6.68860416x10³⁵ / 2.12907468048923x10¹⁸ =

p (pi) = 3.1415545078311002637698884371477
(99.999% accuracy)

New Testament: John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

$$\frac{\text{the number of letters} \times \text{the product of the letters}}{\text{the number of words} \times \text{the product of the words}} = e \text{ (2.7183)}$$

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν

5.50.-1.100.600.8.10.-8.50.- 70.- 30.70.3.70.200.-20.1.10.- 70.- 30.70.3.70.200.- 8.50.-
[10 for iota subscript (adscript after a capital letter): biblewheel.com//GR/GR_Iota.php]

πρὸς τὸν θεόν καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος

80.100.70.200.-300.70.50.-9.5.70.50.-20.1.10.-9.5.70.200.- 8.50.- 70.- 30.70.3.70.200.
52 letters x product of the letters = 52 x 8.43625145625911083008x10⁷⁵ =
4.3868507572547376316416x10⁷⁷

Word values (letters in each word added):

55,	719,	58,	70,	373,	31,	70,	373,	58;	450,	420,	134,	31,	284,	58,	70,	373
-----	------	-----	-----	------	-----	-----	------	-----	------	------	------	-----	------	-----	-----	-----

17 words x product of the words = 17 x 9.4930224139983918429785786976x10³⁵ =
1.613813810379726613306358378592x10³⁷

4.3868507572547376316416x10⁷⁷ / 1.613813810379726613306358378592x10³⁷ =
e = 2.7183128121964217876899750648377x10⁴⁰

(99.999% accuracy)

These two constants are *nondimensional* meaning they have no unit of measure with them. Think, ‘The nondimensional God, who is omnipresent by His Holy Spirit and knows the end from the beginning, created the space and time dimensions we live in.’

These two constants are *irrational* numbers—no ratio possible—meaning no one can ever get to the exact answer even though π and e have been figured to over 1 trillion digits of accuracy. Think, ‘The infinite God created the finite world,’ and ‘We—stuck in space and time—cannot comprehend all that He is.’

These two constants are also *transcendental* numbers meaning they cannot be expressed in any finite series of arithmetical or algebraic operations. Think, ‘The transcendent (beyond human perception, experience and knowledge) God is eternal and lives in eternity,’ and ‘The transcendent (eternal) God created all that humans can experience and know.’

Ecc 3:11b - ...no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

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

Rev 22:13 - I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Chuck Missler discusses this information in the youtube.com video, “Mathematical Proof the Bible is True,” saying, “I’ll say, ‘What a coincidence! My rabbinical friends will tell me, ‘*coincidence* is not a kosher word’... There is a marriage, if you will, between the real creation and a message from our Designer.”

NUMBER PATTERNS IN SCRIPTURE ASSOCIATED WITH SPIRITUAL MEANINGS

In *Number in Scripture* E.W. Bullinger (1837 - 1913) discusses the recognition from antiquity that particular numbers mentioned in the text of the Bible are associated with particular spiritual meanings, such as the number seven being called the number of spiritual perfection.

One example of multiple mentions of a number is the mention of sevens in the Book of Revelation: seven churches, spirits, golden candlesticks, stars, lamps of fire, seals, horns, eyes, angels, trumpets, thunders, thousands of men killed in the earthquake, heads, crowns, last plagues, golden vials, and beasts. Patterns like these suggest a purpose or meaning for numbers in Scripture.

But even further, sums of numbers are *also encoded* into the Scripture words, phrases, sentences, passages and lists which reflect their spiritual meaning. This system of using letters for numbers and then calculating the sum of the letters to arrive at a number with spiritual meaning is called Gematria (Hebrew) or Isopsephia (Greek).

Besides numbers outwardly revealed in the text, God directs the reader to count (Strong’s G5585, *pséphizo*, to calculate—originally using pebbles as for voting) using *isopsephia* to identify the Antichrist as 666.

Rev 13:18 - Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six.

Threescore means 3 x 20, or 60, so “Six hundred threescore [and] six” equals 666.

Revealed patterns of numbers God has woven into His Word testify of His authorship. One example of an interesting pattern that can be found is the contrast of the numbers 8 and 13 that confirms God inspired the Holy Bible.

The number 8 – First reference and word history:

- Gen 5:4 - And the days* of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters *The *fullness* of the days is intended.
- Strong’s H8083, *shemoneh* through the idea of plumpness, fullness, to make fat, or super-abound, eight/eighth

These number 8 ideas have to do with resurrection and regeneration (new birth), and so the LORD and results of His Lordship:

John 10:10 - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

Eight (8) is the number of Jesus’ name, IHSOUS, in the original Greek:

Other names of Jesus in Greek

I = 10	with 8 as a factor:	
H = 8	Emmanuel	25600 (8x8x8x50)
S = 200	Christ	1480 (8x185)
O = 70	Lord	800 (8x100)
U = 400	Saviour	1408 (8x8x22)
S = <u>200</u>	Messiah	656 (8x82)
888	Son	880 (8x110)

The number 13 – First reference and word history:

- Gen 14:4 - Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the *thirteenth* year they *rebelled*.
- Strong’s H7969, *shalowsh*, three (a primitive number) + *asar*, teen; thirteen, thirteenth
- “Hence every occurrence of the number thirteen, and likewise of every multiple of it, stamps that with which it stands in connection with rebellion, apostasy, defection, corruption, disintegration, revolution, or some kindred idea.” –E.W.B.

For the numbers of the names of the people in God’s will to be multiples of eight and the numbers of the names of those out of God’s will to be multiples of thirteen is “one of the greatest evidences of verbal inspiration which the world has yet seen... The effect of this law [*of encoded number meanings*] can hardly be estimated in establishing the presence of an ever-present working of the Holy Spirit in inditing [*composing*] the very words and even the letters of Scripture. No human foresight or arrangement could have secured such a result beforehand; no human powers could have carried it out in such perfection. No matter where we look, we find the working of this law without cessation, without a break, without a flaw from beginning to end. Only one conclusion is possible, and that is that the Bible has but one Author, an eternal, omniscient (all-knowing) Author, designing, superintending, working, and carrying out His own infinite plans.” –E.W.B.

The next page has a few examples from the section of E.W. Bullinger’s *Number in Scripture* addressing the numbers 8 and 13 together.

Del Washburn has written three books showing many numbers (factors) and their multiples relating to particular spiritual concepts. He calls this phenomenon **Theomatics** for God's (*theo-*) mathematics, and you can read about it and find his books about it at www.theomatics.com. For example, he shows there are over 50 instances of multiples of 111 regarding the birth of Jesus in the New Testament and no references to Jesus' birth without a multiple of 111. To help the reader understand that the original Greek often uses a different number of words and different word order than the English translation, he gives the phrases in "Greek" and English using Greek word order. Here are a few examples:

- Mat 1:18 - "tou Ihsouv Xristou genesiv outwvhn"
(111 x 49) (The birth of Jesus Christ thus was)
- Luk 1:35 - "to gennwmenon agioin klhjsetai"
(111 x 20) (The holy offspring will be called)
- Heb 1:6 - "ton prwtotokon eiv oikoumenhn"
(111 x 29) (the firstborn into the world)
- Act 4:30 - "onomatov tou agiou paidov Ihsou"
(111 x 28) (name of the holy child Jesus)
- Gal 4:4 (mt) - "eapesteilen ton uion autou gennwmenon
(111 x 43) ek gunaikov"
(sent forth His Son becoming of a woman)
- Rev 12:4 - "ina otan tekh teknon authv"
(111 x 20) (that whenever she bears the child of her)

Here is another example from the Old Testament (Hebrew):

- Isa 7:14 - "hrh hmlih hnh Tva Mk"
(888, 111 x 8) (to you a sign, the virgin shall be with child)

At www.theomatics.com/proof.html, Del Washburn says,

If theomatics is untrue, if God did not put this supernatural phenomenon into the Bible, then that would mean that the numbers theomatics is using are random based; therefore, any other random based allocations should by all reasonable logic have just as good a probability or chance of producing "features" as what theomatics has been able to produce...

This method of comparison is absolutely objective and absolutely irrefutable. There is not a mathematical scientist or probability expert on the face of the earth, that will disagree with it. Right now, there are "hundreds" of clearly definable studies in our files, where no one could even come close to matching the results with any random values....

Mathematics professors were consulted from one of the largest universities on the West coast of the United States. On numerous major theomatic patterns the **p** factor (probability) of the clustering is 1 chance in trillions, i.e. 0 probability.

Since it was the computer that found the results, derived from all mathematical possibilities, this removes any possibility of human bias or use of selective data.

The phenomenon only works

- **in the Bible and nowhere else**

- **with the standard numerical allocations for the alphabets.** When any of the other 403 septillion random permutations are examined, even from the Bible, nothing will be discovered beyond chance expectation. Only the standard numerical values of historical record produce any positive results.

- **when words and phrases with related or similar theological meaning are examined.** If one were to take words and phrases selected at random from the Bible text, even with the correct numerical allocations, there would still be no results beyond chance expectation. This proves that the language itself is not producing the phenomenon.

Beware that the *mystical (occult, or hidden)* form of gematria is forbidden by God because it relates to the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was in the Garden of Eden.

Divination is the use of occult (secret, mystery, hidden) or supernatural means to discover hidden knowledge, future events (fortune telling), influence on a person's life, or guidance for decisions. It is against the teaching of God's Word because it takes the place of the personal loving, faithful, trusting relationship He wants with us. Our guidance should come through the Holy Spirit of God and agreement with the *meaning* of His Word.

2Tim 3:16-17 - All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Also do not assume you can use numbers in Scripture to make determinations as one would use a horoscope. The end of pursuing evil, as defined by God in His Word, is eternity where there is nothing of God and so no relief from misery. See Deut 18:9-13.)

Ironically (opposite of what should be), many occultists recognize the perfection of God's word and use it only for divination to work against God, pridefully choosing the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with its false light and New Age/New World Order instead of the offer of the love and salvation of the Creator and coming Kingdom of Christ. Don't do that; turn away from all occult things and embrace your resurrected Savior in a personal relationship.

To know about the perfection of God's Word in these mathematical ways, however, should cause the believer to praise God and believe Him to a greater degree. With this greater faith the true believer relies more on God—certainly not seeking to be “wise” in any prideful way—through our childlike (not childish) relationship with Him:

Luk 18:17 - Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

EQUIDISTANT LETTER SPACING BIBLE CODES

Words that belong together as historical fact, such as *Napoleon* and *France*; or *Hitler*, *Nazi* and *slaughter*, are found in Equally-distant Letter Spacings (ELS) in the same passage of the Bible. The first five books of the Bible written by Moses are called the Torah. The Hebrew word *Torah* is found by the ELS of 50 letters in each Torah book. According to www.math.washington.edu/~greenber/BibleCode *Torah* is spelled out in various equal letter spacings more than 56,000 times in the 78,000 letters of Genesis in Hebrew.

The names of 66 of the greatest scholars of the Torah are ELS encoded in Genesis with their birth or death dates. The original research included only 34 names, but the journal of *Statistical Science*, published by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, after six years of peer review research could not accept the truth of this concept though that peer review could not find fault with the work, so these 32 remaining names were added, and again the Torah proved to be inspired by God. You can read about this 1 chance in 50,000,000,000,000,000 probability research on the first 34 Jewish sages from *Statistical Science*, 1994, Vol. 9, No. 3, 429-438 (abridged) at www.biblemysteries.com/library/codes2.htm.

Be sure not to miss the photocopy of the ELS encoding of a list of 25 trees in the Garden of Eden at the first in-text link, “(see attached),” at <http://www.biblemysteries.com/library/codes1.htm>.

Dr. David R. Reagan writes at christinprophecy.org/articles/the-bible-code,

In the most famous Messianic passage in the Bible, Isaiah 53, he found the following phrase encoded in verse 10 at a skip sequence of 20 letters: “Yeshua Shmi.” That phrase means “Yeshua is my name.” Think of it, the very name of the Messiah is encoded in the passage that speaks of His sacrifice for the sins of Mankind!

Here is this verse in English:

Isa 53:10 - 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.

This instance confirms that Yeshua (Jesus in Hebrew) *is* the Word of God speaking to us through His Word!

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

This entire article is a good introduction to Bible codes. Find more about ELS Bible Codes online including on youtube.com.

The probability of these being found at random or created purposely by Biblical writers is of course beyond impossibility. As Jesus said (in another context, Mat 19:26, Mar 10:27), “with God all things are possible.”

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The resurrection of Jesus Christ after His suffering and crucifixion for our sins, sickness, sorrow and suffering is the greatest evidence that the true faith is faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The shroud of Turin is the photographic negative image created by the resurrection of Jesus on His burial shroud which now resides in Turin, Italy. In 1532 the folded shroud was burned and repaired by nuns with twenty-two sewn patches. It has also been restored since the 1970s.

Gary R. Habermas, a shroud researcher, gives a brief overview of evidences that this shroud is indeed a record of the suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (www.garyhabermas.com/articles/J_Evangelical_Theological_Soc/Habermas_JETS_Shroud-of-Turin-and-significance). These evidences defeat all hopes of skeptics who use incomplete or incorrect data and biased reasoning to discredit the shroud. Here is a list of information, including quotations edited for brevity drawn from Gary Habermas' article that disproves the poor reports:

1. Shroud data before the 13th century include (1) a second century citation (Braulio of Seville), (2) a church official's sermon, (3) paintings of Jesus' face with exact matching of numerous bruises.
2. Pollen on the shroud reflects its known travels from Israel (at least six pollen species found only there), to present-day Turkey, to France and to Italy (Turin).
3. Belgian textile experts have dated the linen fabric and its weave between 100 years before and after Jesus' resurrection.
4. No foreign substance made the negative image which proves that the shroud is an authentic photographic image created by light.
5. Image enhancement of the images of the small coins placed over the eyes (a first-century Jewish custom) identifies them most probably as leptons of Pontius Pilate minted from 29-32A.D. [The Rand-McNally Bible Atlas defines the lepton as the smallest copper coin in use among the Jews, called in Hebrew *chalcous*, "copper money."]
6. Shroud evidence and the Gospel accounts have no contradictions.
7. Jesus was buried by Jewish custom which included washing the body before burial (Acts 9:37), yet the shroud body was not washed but bloody. The Gospels do not say Jesus' body was washed. People killed by the government were not washed because the blood on the body was considered payment for sins against the state.
8. The disciples found strips of cloth, but the shroud is one long piece under and over the body. The shroud does prove Jesus' body was wound in linen cloths as the Gospel states in John 19:40, so the shroud and the Gospels agree. Scientific testing indicates at least four strips of linen wrapping the body, ties binding wrists and ankles, and the napkin holding the jaw closed—all to keep the body position during rigor mortis—as well as the long shroud cloth. [Scripture doesn't say the shroud with its image was seen with the linen strips when the resurrection was discovered. *Perhaps* Jesus cared for this important evidence of His resurrection Himself-?]
9. The shroud reflects the unique physical suffering and death of Jesus Christ described in the Gospel accounts: (1) many cuts and bleeding on the scalp; (2) face injuries on cheeks, forehead, nose, upper lip and one eye; (3) Roman flagrum whipping wounds; (4) large shoulder blade wounds with smeared blood; (5) bruises on both knees; (6) large puncture wounds in wrists and feet; (7) right chest pierc-ing with flow of a large amount of blood and a watery fluid; (8) crown, whipping and four nail wounds recognized as pre-mortem [before death] and the chest wound recognized as post-mortem [after death]; (9) no broken legs as was customary to hasten death (John 19:31-32); (10) buried individually with dignity instead of being thrown into a mass grave for crucified criminals.

Two University of Turin scientists, Tino Zeuli, and Bruno Barbaris, after an in-depth study concluded that there was one chance in 225 billion that Jesus and the man of the shroud were different persons. [V. J. Donovan, "The Shroud and the Laws of Probability," *The Catholic Digest* (April 1980) 51] Official scientific spokesman Kenneth Stevenson and Gary Habermas attempted a very skeptical figuring of this probability and still arrived at a one chance in 83 million probability that the two men are not the same.

RULES FOR SCRIBES & THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Rules for Old Testament Scribes

The rules for Old Testament scribes making copies of God's Word have preserved the accuracy of the original manuscripts.

The Old Testament scribes followed very strict rules. Bill at www.provethetebible.net/T2-Integ/B-0601 describes some of these rules by quoting Samuel Davidson's *The Hebrew Text of the Old Testament*:

A synagogue roll must be written on the skins of clean animals, and prepared for the particular use of the synagogue by a Jew. These must be fastened together with strings taken from clean animals. Every skin must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codex. The length of each column must not extend less than 48 or more than 60 lines; and the breadth must consist of 30 letters. The whole copy must be first-lined; and if three words should be written without a line, it is worthless.

The ink should be black, neither red, green, nor any other color, and be prepared according to a definite recipe. An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least deviate. No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him... Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene; between every new parashah, or section, the breadth of nine consonants; between every book, three lines. The fifth book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line; but the rest need not do so. Besides this, the copyist must sit in full Jewish dress, wash his whole body before beginning, not begin to write the name of God with a pen newly dipped in ink, and should a king address him while writing that name he must take no notice of him.

—Davidson, Samuel: *The Hebrew Text of the Old Testament*, Bagster & Sons 1859 p.89

How Bill, the author of this web site, came to know and love Jesus Christ reflects the difference between people who "never heard any theology explained to *[them]* with regard to science, logic, or historical proofs; nor did *[they]* bother to ask" and people who decide to read the Bible and about the Bible. The first, who reject the message of the Bible outright, cannot possibly be intellectually honest, but the second have an opportunity to be. This site, www.provethetebible.net, is full of insights and concise answers to the questions people who reject the Bible often ask.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of more than 900 Old Testament, New Testament and non-Biblical writings such as hymns, letters and legal documents in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Most are fragments; some are scrolls. They date from the third century before Christ to the first century

before the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. They are over a thousand years older than other known Biblical manuscripts.

The first of these scrolls found were found by a shepherd boy in 1947 when he threw a rock into a cave and heard breaking pottery. These manuscripts and fragments had not been known about for 2,000 years. Because there was no possibility of tampering with them, they are perfect for comparing the accuracy of what we have today with very ancient manuscripts.

Here is a passage from an article at www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=357

A comparison of the MT [*Masoretic Text*] to this earlier text revealed the remarkable accuracy with which scribes copied the sacred texts. Accordingly, the integrity of the Hebrew Bible was confirmed, which generally has heightened its respect among scholars and drastically reduced textual alteration.

Most of the Biblical manuscripts found at Qumran belong to the MT tradition or family. This is especially true of the Pentateuch [*Greek for the unity consisting of the first five books of the Bible, also known as (1) the Book of Moses, (2) the Law and (3) the Torah*] and some of the Prophets. The well-preserved Isaiah scroll from Cave 1 illustrates the tender care with which these sacred texts were copied. Since about 1700 years separated Isaiah in the MT from its original source, textual critics assumed that centuries of copying and recopying this book must have introduced scribal errors into the document that obscured the original message of the author.

The Isaiah scrolls found at Qumran closed that gap to within 500 years of the original manuscript. Interestingly, when scholars compared the MT of Isaiah to the Isaiah scroll of Qumran, the correspondence was astounding. The texts from Qumran proved to be word-for-word identical to our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent of variation consisted primarily of obvious slips of the pen and spelling alterations (Archer, 1974, p. 25). Further, there were no major doctrinal differences between the accepted and Qumran texts. [*10 letters were spelling differences, 4 letters were stylistic changes, 3 letters were added word for "light" in Isa 53:11*] This forcibly demonstrated the accuracy with which scribes copied sacred texts, and bolstered our confidence in the Bible's textual integrity (see Yamauchi, 1972, p. 130). The Dead Sea Scrolls have increased our confidence that faithful scribal transcription substantially has preserved the original content of Isaiah...

The Qumran materials similarly have substantiated the textual integrity and authenticity of Daniel...

CONCLUSION

The Bible has been confirmed as the Word of God in many ways. The evidence presented here includes

- Perfectly accurate prophecy
- Archeology always proving, never disproving the Bible
- The power of the living Word to change lives
- Manuscript evidence
- Extra-Biblical historical writings by Josephus
- Literary consistency

- Analysis of the canon (included books) of Holy Scripture
- Longevity of the Bible
- Mathematics in Scripture including (1) constants encoded into the Old and New Testament creation account first verses and (2) re-vealed as well as hidden numerical patterns in the Bible
- Equidistant Letter Spacing (ELS) codes in the Bible
- The photographic negative of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the Shroud of Turin
- Rules for Old Testament scribes copying God's Word, and
- The Dead Sea Scrolls.

These all testify that the Bible truly is the Word of God; many of them alone have zero probability of being by chance. How much greater do all these together surely prove this truth! This means that the Bible is historically, scientifically, logically and so surely also morally right.

2Pet 1:19 - We have also a more sure word of prophecy [*foretelling*]; 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.

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

—Winston Churchill

(Most, not you. Okay?)