

Is The Bible True?

I. All scripture is God-breathed. – 2 Timothy 3:16

A. The Bible was written by more than 40 authors, in a 1500 year time span.

B. If we can prove the Bible is true; then we have a true roadmap (plan) showing the past work of God, where we are now and what the future holds in God's salvation plan.

C. We can prove the Bible is true by using the Bible itself and discovers made by man.

1. Prophecies in the Bible
2. Archaeologic discoveries
3. Science discoveries

II. Prophecies in the Bible

A. Approximately more than 2500 prophecies are given, 2000 have been completely fulfilled with 100% accuracy!

1. How can prophecies be so accurate? 2 Peter 1:20-21
2. Old Testament prophecies

a) **Tyre's mainland would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar**

Bible prophecy: Ezekiel 26:7-9

Prophecy written: Between 587-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: 573 BC

In Ezekiel 26:7-9, the prophet said in 590 BC that Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the mainland of Tyre. Four years later, the Babylonians began a 13-year siege of Tyre. It lasted from 586 BC to 573 BC. (Alexander the Great later destroyed the island portion of Tyre, in 332 BC).

b) Tyre's fortresses would fail

Bible prophecy: Amos 1:9-10

Prophecy written: About 750 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: 333-332 BC

In Amos 1:9-10, the prophet said that God would cause Tyre's protective fortresses to fail, as punishment for the way that Tyre treated Israel. That prophecy was fulfilled in 586-573 BC when Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar attacked the mainland of Tyre, and in 333-332 BC when Alexander the Great conquered the island of Tyre. Alexander's army built a land bridge from the mainland to the island so that they could use a battering ram to break through the island's fortress.

c) Tyre would be attacked by many nations

Bible prophecy: Ezekiel 26:3

Prophecy written: Between 587-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: 573 BC, 332 BC, etc.

In Ezekiel 26:3, the prophet said that Tyre, the Phoenician Empire's most powerful city, would be attacked by many nations, because of its treatment of Israel. At about the time that Ezekiel delivered this prophecy, Babylon had begun a 13-year attack on Tyre's mainland. Later, in about 332 BC, Alexander the Great conquered the island of Tyre and brought an end to the Phoenician Empire.

d) Tyre's stones, timber and soil would be cast into the sea

Bible prophecy: Ezekiel 26:12

Prophecy written: Between 587-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: 333-332 BC

In Ezekiel 26:12, the prophet said that Tyre's stones, timber and soil would be thrown into the sea. Ezekiel's prophecy accurately describes how Alexander the Great built a land bridge from the mainland to the island of Tyre, when he attacked in 333-332 BC. Alexander's forces took rubble from Tyre's mainland and tossed it - stones, timber and soil - into the sea, to build the land bridge (which is still there).

e) Tyre would be scraped and made bare

Bible prophecy: Ezekiel 26:4

Prophecy written: Between 587-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: 333 BC

In Ezekiel 26:4, the prophet said the buildings of Tyre would be ripped down and that the rubble would be scraped away. This might have happened in two stages. The Babylonians destroyed the mainland of Tyre during an attack that ended in 573 BC. Then, Alexander the Great attacked the island of Tyre in 333-332 BC. It is believed that Alexander's army scraped the rubble from the mainland and tossed it into the sea, building a land bridge to the island to conquer it. The prophecy may have been fulfilled in another way: During the centuries after Alexander's conquest of Tyre, the Greeks, Romans, Crusaders and Arabs came to the area of Tyre and put up their own buildings on or near the site of the original Phoenician Tyre. In doing this, the workers would have had to remove rubble from the original Phoenician Tyre.

f) Tyre would lose its power over the sea

Bible prophecy: Zechariah 9:3-4

Prophecy written: Between 520 and 518 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: Since 332 BC

In Zechariah 9:3-4, the prophet said that the Phoenician city of Tyre would lose its status as a powerful nation on the Mediterranean Sea. Today there is a city called Tyre that is either on, or near, the original Phoenician site. But this Tyre is a small city in modern-day Lebanon. It is certainly not the powerful nation that it was in the days of Zechariah.

g) Phoenician Tyre would never again be found

Bible prophecy: Ezekiel 26:21

Prophecy written: Between 587-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: After 332 BC

In Ezekiel 26:21, the prophet said that the Phoenician city of Tyre would be brought to an end and would never again be found. When Alexander the Great destroyed the city in 332 BC, he brought an end to the Phoenician Empire. The Empire was never revived or "found" again. As for the city itself, it has been torn down and built upon by a succession of foreign powers.

h) Phoenician Tyre would never be rebuilt

Bible prophecy: Ezekiel 26:14

Prophecy written: Between 587-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: Since 332 BC

In Ezekiel 26:14, the prophet says the Phoenician city of Tyre would be destroyed and never be rebuilt. This was fulfilled when Alexander the Great conquered Tyre in 332 BC. His conquest brought an end to the Phoenician Empire. The empire never recovered from the attack. And so, it could never rebuild Tyre. Other nations and empires have built and rebuilt cities on or near the original Phoenician site.

3. New Testament prophecies made by Jesus

a) Jesus prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed

Bible prophecy: Matthew 24:1-2

Prophecy written: During the first century

Prophecy fulfilled: 70 AD

In Matthew 24:1-2, Jesus prophesied that the Temple of Jerusalem would be destroyed and that its destruction would be so complete that not one stone would be left standing on top of another. His prophecy was fulfilled about 40 years later when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and tore down the Temple. The destruction was so complete that even the foundations of the Temple were dug up, according to Josephus, an historian who wrote about the destruction.

b) Jesus prophesied that the Jews would be exiled

Bible prophecy: Luke 21:24

Prophecy written: During the first century

Prophecy fulfilled: 70 AD

In Luke 21:24, Jesus said that Jerusalem would be trampled upon by foreigners and that the people of Israel would be forced into exile.

About 40 years after Jesus delivered that prophecy, it began to find fulfillment. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem in the year 70, and again in the year 135.

During the first destruction, Josephus, an historian who lived during the first century, claimed that 1.1 million Jews died and that hundreds of thousands were forced out of the country and into exile and slavery.

During the second destruction, Cassius Dio, an historian who lived during the second century, claimed that 580,000 Jews were killed, and that 50 fortified towns and 985 villages were destroyed.

The exiled Jews were taken to countries throughout the Roman Empire and eventually scattered and re-scattered throughout the world.

c) **Jesus explained why Jerusalem would be destroyed**

Bible prophecy: Luke 19:41-44

Prophecy written: During the first century

Prophecy fulfilled: 70 AD

In Luke 19:41-44, Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem would be destroyed because of the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah.

Although some people did accept Jesus as the Messiah, many people rejected him. In fact, the rejection was strong enough that Jesus was executed a short time after uttering the prophecy.

III. Archaeologic

I. Archaeologic discoveries

1. The Tel Dan Stele (900–850 BC)

a) A stele is an upright stone that is inscribed and used as a monument of an important event or achievement. Rulers and peoples from Egypt, Israel, and across Mesopotamia used these steles to commemorate great victories and accomplishments. This particular stele is extraordinary because carved on its stone face is the expression, “House of David.” This stele affirms that the United Monarchy under King David existed in history and flatly contradicts the long-held opinions of skeptics who denied that David ever existed.

2. The Meesha Stele (846 BC)

a) Popularly known as the Moabite Stone, it records the revolt of Meesha, King of Moab, against Israel. This incredible stele mentions Omri, King of Israel, and David of the United Monarchy. It even refers to Yahweh, the unique name of the God of Israel! Together with the testimony from the Tel Dan Stele, we have a powerful external witness that the Bible records the true history of the kings of Israel and their interactions with foreign kings.

3. The Nabonidus Cylinder (550 BC)

a) King Nabonidus of Babylonia left a magnificent cuneiform cylinder (wedge-shaped letters inscribed on a clay cylinder) mentioning his elder son, Belshazzar by name. Critics of the Bible

had claimed for many years that the account in the book of Daniel was wrong; they said Belshazzar was never a king in Babylon and that Nabonidus was not his father. The discovery of this cylinder clearly showed that these scholars were dead wrong. Indeed, we can now understand the meaning of [Daniel 5:16](#) more precisely where it says, “Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck, *and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom*” (italics added for emphasis).

b) This text now makes perfect sense because Nabonidus was in a coregency with his son Belshazzar, who was the crown prince of Babylon. So that would make Daniel the “third ruler in the kingdom.”

4. Caiaphas Ossuary

a) An ossuary was a box constructed to hold the bones of the dead after decomposition. In 1990 a startling discovery was made that shook biblical scholars and archaeologists alike. In the Peace Forest section of Jerusalem was discovered a burial cave containing twelve ossuaries, one of them being none other than that of Caiaphas, the high priest who presided at the trial of Jesus. This amazing discovery provides us with a powerful historical connection to the events described in the Gospels.

5. Pilate Dedication Stone

a) In June 1961 an inscription on a limestone block, found at a Roman amphitheater in Caesarea Maritima, rocked the scholarly world. The block, which was once used as a dedication stone of a nearby temple and now reused for seating at the local amphitheater, had an extraordinary inscription. It read: “Tiberieum, (Pon)tius Pilatus, (Praef)ectus Iuda(eae).” Those scholars who questioned Pilate’s existence (and the gospel accounts generally) were silenced with this amazing discovery!

IV.Science

A. Science discoveries.

<u>Biblical Statement</u>	<u>Science Then</u>	<u>Science Now</u>
Earth is a sphere (Is. 40:22).	Earth's a flat disk.	Earth is a sphere
Number of stars exceeds a billion (Jer. 33:22).	Number of stars totals 1,100	Number of stars exceeds a billion

Every star is different (1 Cor 15:41).	All stars are the same.	Every star is different.
Light is in motion (Job 38:19-20).	Light is fixed in place.	Light is in motion.
Air has weight (Job 28:25).	Air is weightless.	Air has weight.
Winds blow in cyclones (Eccl. 1:6).	Winds blow straight.	Winds blow in cyclones.
Blood is a source of life and healing (Lev. 17:11).	Sick people must bled.	Blood is a source of life and healing

1. What Holds the Earth Up?

a) Three thousand years ago the Hindu scriptures recorded the earth was resting on the backs of several huge elephants. The elephants were resting on the back of a very large turtle that was swimming in a sea. Greek mythology claims that the god Atlas was holding the earth on his shoulders. But our Bible says in Job 26:7 — "[God] hangeth the earth on nothing." What a remarkable statement of fact. The earth is suspended in space. Nothing is holding it up. Job wrote about the same time the Hindu Scripture was written. How did Job know this scientific fact? Only God could have revealed this to Job. The Old Testament prophets wrote as they were moved by the holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). The Judeo-Christian Bible is the inspired Word of God.

2. The Paths of the Sea

a) In the 1800s, Matthew Maury, an officer in the United States Navy believed his Bible. As a Christian he loved to read the Bible. One day Maury was reading about the dominion man was given over the animals in Psalm 8. He was amazed that verse 8 spoke of the fish and all creatures that swim in the "paths of the sea." "Paths of the sea"— how could this be? He never knew there was such a thing. He was determined to find them. Maury discovered that the oceans have many paths or currents, which were like rivers flowing through the sea.

3. Pleiades, Orion and Arcturus

a) Remember the story of Job? Job was extremely wealthy — enjoying a wonderful family. Then tragedy struck. He lost his wealth. His children were killed and his wife deserted him. Then Job lay in excruciating pain, covered with sores from head to toe.

All this was too much for Job. He accused the Lord of being unjust. God didn't answer Job's accusation directly. He merely raised questions concerning the wonders of His creation. Three of these questions found in Job 38:31, 32, illustrate the dynamic logic conveyed in God's questions.

Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

b) **ORION** At the present time this band consists of an almost perfect straight line, a row of second-magnitude stars about equally spaced and of the most striking beauty. In the course of time, however, the two right-hand stars, Mintaka and Alnilam, will approach each other and form a naked-eye double; but the third, Alnitak, will drift away eastward so that the band will no longer exist.

c) **THE PLEIADES** "Canst thou bind the sweet influence of the Pleiades . . . ?" Notice the amazing astronomical contrast with the Pleiades. The seven stars of the Pleiades are in reality a grouping of 250 suns. Photographs now reveal that 250 blazing suns in this group are all traveling together in one common direction. Concerning this cluster, Isabel Lewis of the United States Naval Observatory tells us: Astronomers have identified 250 stars as actual members of this group, all sharing in a common motion and drifting through space in the same direction. Elsewhere Lewis speaks of them as "*journeying onward together* through the immensity of space."

d) **ARCTURUS** "Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?" Garrett P. Serviss wrote:¹⁵ Arcturus, one of the greatest suns in the universe, is a runaway whose speed of flight is 257 miles per second. Arcturus, we have every reason to believe, possesses thousands of times the mass of our sun. Think of it! Our sun is traveling only 12 ½ miles a second, but Arcturus is traveling 257 miles a second. Think then of the prodigious momentum this motion implies. A further observation of Arcturus by Serviss reveals: It could be turned into a new course by a close approach to a great sun, but it could only be stopped by collision head on with a body of enormous mass. Barring such accidents, it must, as far as we can see, keep on until it has traversed our stellar system, whence it may escape and pass out into space beyond to join perhaps one of those other island universes of which we have spoken. This high velocity places Arcturus in that very small class of stars that apparently are a law unto themselves. He is an outsider, a visitor, a stranger within the gates; to speak plainly, Arcturus is a runaway. Newton gives the velocity of a star under control as not more than 25 miles a second, and Arcturus is going

257 miles a second. Therefore, combined attraction of all the stars we know cannot stop him or even turn him in his path.

V.Conclusion

A. We can prove the Bible is true; so we have a true roadmap (plan) showing the past work of God, where we are now and what the future holds in God's salvation plan.