

How did we get the Bible?

Why are these books so special?

The sixty-six books of the Bible are so special because they claim to hold the answers to life's most important questions.

To determine if these books are true, we look at both internal and external evidences. An internal evidence is found within the Bible itself while external evidence is found by looking at known facts outside the Bible that support what is found in the Bible.

Think just for a moment about what the Bible claims for itself.

1. Look up the following Scriptures and in a few words or a sentence list the claims the Bible makes about itself.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Isaiah 40:8



Since the Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God it must meet certain criteria: a) It must be historically accurate; b) It must be accurate in any prophecies; c) It must be scientifically accurate.

Consider the following evidences:

- a. The Unity of the Bible. The Bible was written by about forty men over a period of 1,700 years, on at least two continents, in three languages. The Bible's authors come from a wide variety of backgrounds including: kings, shepherds, tax collectors, prophets, fishermen, and physicians.

With all this diversity the Bible contains one unified theme and no author ever contradicts another. The Bible systematically describes the history of mankind beginning with the Creation. The important topics of sin and its consequences, the conquering of sin by the death, burial, and resurrection of a sinless Saviour, and the promised return of the Christ comprise the content of the Bible. Paramount for us is that the Bible clearly communicates to man how to prepare for eternity.

2. What kinds of errors would you expect to find in any book written in multiple languages by forty men over seventeen centuries?

- b. Fulfilled Prophecies. The Bible makes claims of future events that could never have been known by human wisdom. Often prophecies were made hundreds of years before they were accurately fulfilled at a later time in the Old or New Testaments.

Within the Bible are prophecies about individuals, nations, and the coming of the Messiah.

3. What do the following prophecies penned hundreds of years before the coming of the Christ tell us about the Messiah?

Isaiah 53:5

Psalm 41:9

Psalm 22:16

Micah 5:2

There are over three hundred prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament. What is the likelihood of one man randomly fulfilling all these prophecies?

- c. Scientific Knowledge. How could the authors of the Bible write about medicine, astronomy, or other scientific facts before they were known and understood?

For instance, God commanded Abraham to circumcise boys on their eighth day of life. We now know that blood clotting is dependent upon the platelets, vitamin K, and prothrombin. Vitamin K is responsible for the liver's production of prothrombin. Vitamin K is in sufficient quantity to allow for proper blood clotting between days five and seven. On the eighth day of life prothrombin is elevated to over 100% of normal and this level never occurs again. Day eight is the best day for surgery though this was not known medically until the 20th century. (<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/print/2467>.)

4. How does the Bible describe the shape of the earth in Isaiah 40:22?

5. What does the Bible say about the water cycle? (Job 36:27-28)

God asked Job, "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?" (Job 38:31). In the last century astrophysicists have discovered that the stars of the Pleiades move in unison with each other; and are thus gravitationally bound. Conversely the stars of Orion are free agents that are not gravitationally bound. How could this have been known in the days of Job? (<http://www.bibleevidences.com/scientif.htm>.)

6. What does the proportion of the ark (height/length/width) tell us about the ark and why is this significant?