

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Why is this book like no other book? Why can you trust the Bible? Here are seven reasons why I believe that the Bible is God's Word.

Reason #1—Jesus Christ. The first reason why I believe the Bible is utterly true can be distilled down to two words: Jesus Christ.

- Jesus Christ was utterly convinced that the book you hold in your hand is the Word of God. Now that does it for me. I don't need anybody else's opinion.
- Jesus believed this book, and over and over we find the Lord Jesus asking everyone who questioned Him, "Haven't you read? The scriptures say..." (Mark 12:26-27) That's how He answered those who came to Him.

Reason #2—Apostles and Prophets. The Bible was believed not only by Jesus Christ, but also by His apostles and prophets.

- All the apostles and all the prophets, thousands of times, over and over repeated that the words that they were saying were not their own. Do you know what they said? The apostle Paul said, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men but what it is in truth, the Word of God." (1 Thessalonians 2:13). That's an apostle speaking. The prophets said the same thing.
- In the Old Testament 8,000 times it is written, "The Lord said." Did you know that the apostles and prophets believed that this Book came from God?
- If Jesus Christ believed it, that settles it for me. Jesus and all those who were closest to Him, those who knew God face-to-face, who were His emissaries, believed in the Word of God. They said that the Bible is the breath of God. The apostles and the prophets said thousands of times that they were totally convinced that they were sharing the words that were not originating with them.
- Peter said that holy men of old spoke as they were 'pheromenoi'—the Greek word meaning 'borne along like a sail of a ship being blown in the wind'. They were borne along by the spirit of God.
- As the apostle Paul said, every word of God is 'theopneustos'—meaning 'the breath of God.' God was breathing His Word through them.

Reason #3—Survival. The Word of God has survived. There is no other reason that can explain why this book exists. There has never been any book on this planet ever more targeted for destruction than this book. This book has endured through the ages despite being the target of empires and emperors, despite armies being sent and dispatched to utterly destroy it and to rid the earth of it. Infidels have waged their war against this book; dictators and regimes have sought to stamp it out; but the Bible stands and will stand to the end of days!

Reason #4—Absolute Unity. Reason number four is the absolute unity of God's Word. You say "What do you mean by that?"

- If you look at the Bible, there is an incredible unity demonstrated in the fact that 40 different men, most of whom never saw each other, wrote the Bible. Most of the people who wrote the Bible didn't even know each other.
- They were living on three different continents. They were writing over 60 generations of time — 1,600 years.
- Most of them never saw what the other one wrote, and yet this book has an absolute unity. It fits together better than the most machined parts. It completely unites.
- When you look at this Book, you find that there's an unmistakable fabric that was woven from prison to palace, from desert to dungeons, from hillsides to holy places

and there's one common denominator. There's one shared theme, there's one united message, there's only one system of doctrine, one system of ethics—and there's only one plan of salvation. That theme, message, doctrine and Savior is Jesus Christ! There is a supernatural, unearthly unity to this book.

Reason #5—Prophetic Accuracy.

- There is absolute accuracy in the prophecies of the Word of God where God told exactly what was going to happen right down to the smallest degree; and every single thing God said happened. Starting two thousand years before Christ was born, the Bible foretold details of His birth, His death, and many events in between. Each and every one of them was fulfilled. What do you do with all that, if you don't believe the Bible? Well, you would have to believe that Jesus arranged it all; that while He was here on earth, He bought people out, conjured them, cajoled them, and got them to do what He asked them to do. But could a mere man have done all that? Could He have fulfilled all those prophecies unless He was the Son of God?
- If so, then Jesus arranged to have His death described 1,000 years — a whole millennium— before it took place with the precision of a medical research report. That's how detailed a written account we have of His death. It was written down about 1,000 years before Christ ever lived by a man named David. As the Holy Spirit moved his heart, he put that pen across parchment in Psalm 22. It records in verse seven, "All those who see me ridicule me." What is he talking about? He's talking about the mocking crowd. Has that prophecy been fulfilled? Yes! That's in Matthew 27:39 and Mark 15:29. It says that the people who saw Jesus hanging on the cross jeered Him and mocked Him. Now, who would know that but God?

Reason #6—Scientific Accuracy. Did you know that every time God speaks of a scientific issue in the Bible it is utterly accurate? We could consider astronomy (Jer. 33:22), astrophysics (Job 38:31), oceanography (Job 38:16), ornithology (Job 39:26-30), hydrology (Job 36:27-28), isostasy (Isaiah 40:12), or geodesy (Job 26:7).

Reason #7—Historical Accuracy. Finally, not only did Jesus Christ believe it, and the apostles and prophets believe it, it has survived, it is absolutely united, it is prophetically accurate, it is scientifically accurate, but it is also historically accurate. There has never been one proven historical error in this Book.

Dr. John Barnett. This entire study is available in both audio and text form free of charge online at www.dtbm.org. It is called The Book You Can Trust.