

# Evidences of the Inspiration of Scripture

compiled by Steve Gregg

## **I. The Bible's own claims about its own inspiration:**

### A. The claims:

The expressions, "Thus says the Lord...", "God said...", and "The word of the Lord came..." etc. occur about 4000 times in the Scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

## **II. Testing the claims:**

### A. There is no irreverence in putting professed oracles of God to the test.

If they are genuine, they can stand the test; if false, they should be exposed as such (I John 4:1/Deut. 13:1-4).

### B. Survey of available lines of evidence:

1. Subjective: The witness of the Holy Spirit to the human spirit (Rom.8:16/I John 5:10)
  - >Limitations of subjective evidence
    - a. Too transient. One does not always feel the same way about Scripture, since feelings change.
    - b. Too personal. Even if constant, it cannot be demonstrated to another party.
2. Objective:
  - a. Natural evidences: natural phenomena of the Scripture which, though inconclusive, render it natural to accept the claims as valid.
  - b. Supernatural evidences: phenomena of the Scripture which cannot be explained apart from invoking a supernatural explanation.

## **III. Natural evidences:**

### A. Science and the Bible

1. The general opinion of modern people is that there is some fundamental conflict between the Bible and science, and that belief in the Bible somehow inhibits scientific progress. This is absolutely false, for the following reasons:
  - a) The God who inspired the Scriptures also created the universe. Scientists, insofar as they discover realities of the universe, will be discovering what God has always known, and often, what He has long ago revealed in the Bible. (Examples follow under point #2).
  - b) Men of science of the highest rank, from the beginning of science until the present, have often been men of faith in the Bible as well. Their biblical beliefs apparently did not inhibit their spectacular advances in their field. A list of such men would include: Copernicus, Galileo, Pascal, Johannes Kepler, Sir Isaac Newton (thought by some to have been the greatest scientist in history), Michael Faraday (discoverer of the means of generating electricity), James Clerk-Maxwell, Ambrose Fleming (inventor of the radio), Lord Kelvin (founder of thermodynamics), Werner von Braun (space scientist responsible for putting man on the moon).

- c) Historically, those societies that have been most affected by belief in the Bible have led the way, not lagged behind, in scientific and technological advance.
- d) The Bible has never yet been proved wrong. But scientific pronouncements have often been proven wrong and had to be modified or replaced in view of new discoveries. *In 1861, the French Academy of Science published a book containing 51 "scientifically proven facts" which contradicted the Bible. Modern science no longer accepts any of these 51 "facts" as valid!*
2. Critics claim that the Bible teaches a pre-scientific world view, in which a flat earth is the center of the universe. Typical of these claims are those found in the following passages:

"The contemporary religious controversy, epitomized in the Scopes trial and the continuing clamor for creationism as a viable alternative to the theory of evolution, turns on whether the world view reflected in the Bible can be carried forward into this scientific age and retained as an article of faith...The Christ of creed and dogma, who had been firmly in place in the Middle Ages, can no longer command the assent of those who have seen the heavens through Galileo's telescope. The old deities and demons were swept from the skies by that remarkable glass. Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo have dismantled the mythical abodes of the gods and Satan, and bequeathed us secular heavens." [from *The Five Gospels*, p.2]

"The nature of the Biblical universe is clear and simple – the earth was made as a flat body, whose four corners were supported by pillars going down through the waters that were around it and under it; then a canopy, or firmament, overarched it, with waters pent above it for rain and floods...The firmament was only a little way up and might have been reached from the top of the Tower of Babel if Jehovah had not prevented the completion of that ambitious building." [Professor W.M. Forrest, in *Do Fundamentalists Play Fair?* pp.13-14]

*Response:*

It should be noted that the Bible affirms none of these things (flat earth, low heavens, etc.) to be true. The flatness of the earth is never mentioned, though the roundness of it may be (Isa.40:22). The expressions "four corners of the earth" and "pillars of the earth" are found in the Bible, in some of the more poetic passages. That the desire of those who built the tower was that "its top may be in the heavens" does not affirm that the starry heavens could actually have been reached in this way.

The Bible often uses poetic and phenomenal language, rather than scientific explanations, to describe occurrences. To speak of "the four corners of the earth," or "the rising of the sun" is to depart from the use of scientifically exact terminology, but we still allow such terminology in our modern speech today. In poetry, we allow a certain *license* to the author to use fanciful, rather than literal, expressions for effect. In Shelley's poem *The Cloud*, that modern poet represents a cloud as saying:

I bind the sun's throne with a burning zone  
And the moon's with a girdle of pearl;  
The volcanoes are dim, and the stars reel and swim,  
When whirlwinds my banner unfurl. [stanza 5]

Can we deny the right to ancient Hebrew writers to speak in figurative language while granting the same right to modern writers?

3. Critics claim that the Bible, in recording miracles, is reflecting a pre-scientific mythology that is no longer credible in light of modern scientific knowledge.

The objection of the critics rests upon their commitment to philosophical naturalism, which automatically rules-out all things supernatural without requiring investigation. There is nothing anti-scientific about belief in miracles, for the following reasons:

- a) Until science can prove that no God capable of doing miraculous things exists (which it cannot do), it remains a matter of bigotry, not science, to claim that miracles cannot happen.
- b) The province of science is limited to the observation and explanation of the *normal* operation of natural laws. By definition, a miracle represents a departure from those norms, a momentary setting aside or pre-empting of those laws by the intervention of a God who transcends all laws. The scientist's province is to explain how those laws work when no such intervention interrupts them. The likelihood of intervention is not calculable by scientific means. The question of whether such intervention has occurred in the past cannot be explored through scientific means, but would be a matter of history recorded by witnesses to the occurrence.
- c) The fact that biblical writers recognized certain occurrences as miracles proves that they were not ignorant of natural laws. If they did not know how things naturally progressed, how would they have been able to identify a departure from that natural progression as a miracle?

*"The pervasive presence of miracle offends the existential and the naturalistic mood of our day. Despite the offense, however, miracles fit neatly into the world-view of biblical theism, where they function as part of the total discourse of God. Empirical science cannot contest the validity of a miracle for the simple reason the event cannot be repeated for experiment today. The evidence for a miracle, as for any historical event, is the testimony of those who witnessed it. On that ground, the resurrection of Jesus is a very well-attested miracle."* [Clark Pinnock, *A Defense of Biblical Infallibility*, p.27]

4. The Scriptures have frequently *anticipated* the findings of scientists centuries in advance of those discoveries, and have proved to be more scientifically accurate than the scientists of a particular period:
  - a) The Bible's teaching that the universe had a beginning was denied by modern science until the 1960's, with the discovery of evidence for the "Big Bang;"
  - b) "The life is in the blood" was revealed to Moses (Lev.17:11) 3200 years before scientists reached the same conclusion.
  - c) The Mosaic laws of "cleanness" are now recognized to have been in accordance with modern medical knowledge. The forbidding of eating pork, for example, accords with our present knowledge of the connection of poorly-cooked pork with certain diseases. The law of the isolation of lepers is the earliest known "quarantine" law in any civilization. [see None of These Diseases, by S.I. McMillen, M.D.]
  - d) The Bible implies that the stars are innumerable (Compare Gen.15:5 with 22:17 with 32:12). This agrees with what science has known only since the invention of the telescope by Galileo.
  - e) Job said that God "hanged the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7). This is now known to be true, though the "science" of Job's day believed the earth to be resting on the backs of three elephants standing on a tortoise!

- f) Did biblical writers believe the earth was flat? See Luke 17:34ff. How could it be both "night" for some and "day" for others at the same moment, given the assumption of a flat earth?

## **B. Historical Accuracy:**

*"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition."* [William F. Albright, Archaeologist, Prof. Emeritus of Johns Hopkins University, considered the world's greatest orientologist, *Archaeology and the Religions of Israel*, p.176]

1. **Hittites:** In the eighteenth century, it was fashionable for scholars to deny that the Hittites had ever existed. Even though they appear often in the Old Testament, outside confirmation of their existence had not been found. Through modern archaeological excavations, it is now possible to document over 1500 years of Hittite civilization [see Gleason Archer, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, pp.96-98]

2. **Bricks of Pithom:** Exodus 1:11; 5:11-12 When Israel was enslaved in Egypt, they were forced to build the city of Pithom. Eventually, they were required to obtain their own straw, which had formerly been provided by the government. They were unable to keep up with the production quotas.

*"Neville (1883) and Kyle (1908) found, at Pithom, the lower courses of brick filled with good chopped straw; the middle courses, with less straw, and that was stubble plucked up by the root; and the upper courses of brick were of pure clay, having no straw whatever."* [Halley's Bible Handbook, p.120]

3. **Moses' literacy:** Critics less than a century ago were claiming that the five books of Moses could not have been written by Moses (despite the claims of the author and of Jesus and the apostles to the contrary!) on the grounds that written language was not yet in existence in Moses' day. This has been abundantly debunked today by archaeology! In 1901, J. de Morgan discovered at Susa a black stone containing the written legal code of Hammurabi, dated centuries prior to Moses' time. The discovery in 1929 of the Ras Shamra texts, which date from exactly the same period as Moses, proved that writing was known in Palestine in Moses' day.

4. **Jericho:** Joshua 6:20 "...the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city every man straight ahead, and they took the city."

*"As to the main fact, then, there remains no doubt: the walls fell outwards so completely that the attackers would be able to clamber up over the ruins into the city."* [John Garstang (who excavated Jericho between 1930 and 1936) *Joshua & Judges*, p.146 / Also *Halley's Bible Handbook*, pp.159-160]

5. **Belshazzar:** Daniel 5 names this man as the king in Babylon at the time of its fall in 538 B.C. *"Until 1853 no mention of Belshazzar was found in Babylonian records; and Nabonidas (555-538 B.C.) was known to have been the last king of Babylon. To the critics, this was one of the evidences that the book of Daniel was not historical. But in 1853 an inscription was found in a cornerstone of a temple built by Nabonidas in Ur to a god, which read: 'May I, Nabonidas, king of Babylon, not sin against thee. And may reverence for thee dwell in the heart of Belshazzar, my first-born, favorite son.' "* [Halley's Bible Handbook, p.344/ see also E.J.Young *The Prophecy of Daniel*, pp.115f]

6. **Tiglath-Pileser:** This king of Assyria is mentioned in 2 Kings 15:29 as one who conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, taking many captives. A generation ago critics argued that this king

never existed. When Tiglath-Pileser's capital city was excavated, however, his name was found pressed into clay tablets reading, "I, Tiglath-Pileser, king of the west lands, king of the earth, whose kingdom extends to the great sea..." [from James Montgomery Boice, *Does Inerrancy Matter?*, p.22]

**7. Sargon 2:** Isaiah 20:1 says, "Sargon, king of Assyria, sent Tartan and fought against Ashdod and took it." In all ancient literature, this is the only mention of Sargon 2, and was once held to be a historical mistake in the Bible:

*"...in 1842, Botta discovered the ruins of Sargon's palace, in Khorsabad, on the north edge of Nineveh, with treasures and inscriptions showing him to have been one of Assyria's greatest kings. Yet his name had disappeared from history, save this lone mention in Isaiah, till Botta's discovery."* [Halley's Bible Handbook, p.287]

*"Back in 1850, for example, many learned scholars were confidently denying the historicity of the Hittites and the Horites, of Sargon 2 of Assyria and Belshazzar of Chaldean Babylon, or even of Sodom and Gomorra. Yet all of these have more recently become accepted by the scholarly world because of their appearance in ancient documents discovered within the last fifteen decades of archaeological investigation."* [Gleason Archer, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, p.210]

**8. Jesus Christ:** There are a few - very few - bold enough to assert that Jesus of Nazareth never existed and is a fiction concocted by the real founders of Christianity (whoever they might have been!). To deny the historical existence of Jesus Christ is to expose one's rank ignorance of historical sources. The Gospels of the New Testament were in circulation well within the lifetime of many who would have been Christ's contemporaries in Palestine, yet it is noteworthy that no one - not even the most hostile of the enemies of Christianity - ever challenged the historical reality of Jesus. There are other contemporary historians, not Christian, but not particularly hostile either, who affirm the existence of Christ. These include Josephus, the Jewish historian, who wrote during the latter part of the first century [*Antiquities*, xx.9.1 and xv2i.3.3]; Cornelius Tacitus, the greatest Roman historian in the days of the empire, who wrote around 110 A.D. [*Annals*, xv.44]; and Suetonius, another famous Roman historian, who wrote around 120 A.D. [*Life of Claudius*, xxv.4] and others. For more detail, see: F.F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* pp.100-120.

**9. Luke's accuracy:** Luke was at one time accused of inaccuracy in Luke 3:1, where he made reference to Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene, ruling at the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry in 27 AD. Critics said the man never existed. The only Lysanias known to historians was a King Lysanias executed by Antony at Cleopatra's instigation in 36 BC - much too early to be the man mentioned by Luke. Then was found a Greek inscription from Abila (from which Abilene takes its name) containing a reference to "Lysanias, the tetrarch." The inscription is dated between 14 and 29 AD.

Luke's correct use of political titles, which varied from time to time and place to place throughout the Roman Empire has often impressed historians. Luke consistently refers to "asiarchs", tetrarchs", "proconsuls", etc. by their proper titles. Luke used the term *politarchs* to denote the civil authorities of Thessalonica (Acts 17:6). Since the term *politarch* was unknown in classical literature, this was considered by critics to be an error on Luke's part. Today, some 19 inscriptions have been found that use this title, five of which are in reference to Thessalonica.

In Acts 28:7, Luke speaks of Publius, the chief man of Malta, as "first man of the island." Inscriptions have now been found which give him the title "first man." [source of above examples: F.F.Bruce, "Archaeological Confirmation of the New Testament" in *Revelation and the Bible*, ed. C.F.Henry, p.325-327]

*"Readers with some knowledge of ancient history often have occasion to note Luke's careful writing. [Acts 13:7] is an example. In 22 BC Augustus made Cyprus a senatorial province...It was therefore governed by a proconsul or deputy . The name of a proconsul called Paulus has been discovered in a North Cypriot inscription...Luke is a consummate historian, to be ranged in his own right with the great writers of the Greeks."* [E.M.Blaiklock, Professor of Classics, Auckland University, *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp.103, 89]

*"Luke...should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."* [Sir William Ramsay, archaeologist, one-time skeptic of the reliability of Acts as history, *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*, p.222]

*"Luke was an able and deliberate historian, writing more than one-fourth of the volume of the New Testament - more than any other man. Modern research has vindicated the quality of his work."* [W.T. Dayton, *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible: "Luke"*]

*"Both Conzelmann and Hänchen discover in Acts 5:36f a definite error in historical order given to Theudas and Judas, since Josephus dates a Theudas in AD 45, a full decade after Gamaliel's speech in Acts. In other words, Luke made a double mistake: a gross anachronism and faulty order. Such a conclusion does not jibe with our knowledge of Luke's general trustworthiness elsewhere. Is it not more probable that Luke is referring to another man named Theudas, otherwise unknown to us, who lived before Judas? It seems uncommonly bold to jettison the accuracy of Luke and the inerrancy of the Bible on the mere supposition that Josephus is always right, and that no evidence could possibly turn up to clear Luke's reputation. While insisting on their right to treat the Bible 'like any other book'...some critics proceed to treat it like no other book, by bathing it in the acid solution of their skepticism and historical pessimism."* [ Clark Pinnock. *A Defense of Biblical Infallibility*, pp.22-23]

### **10. Paul's Accuracy:**

Paul mentions Erastus as being treasurer of Corinth (Rom.16:23 [written from Corinth] /2 Tim.4:20). During excavations in Corinth in 1929, a pavement was found with the inscription: *"Erastus, curator of public buildings, laid this pavement at his own expense."* [source: F.F.Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* p.95]

### **11. Summary:**

*"On the whole... archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine."* [Millar Burrows, a nonevangelical, Yale archaeologist, *What Mean These Stones?*, p.1]

*"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."* [Dr. Nelson Glueck (widely recognized as the "dean" of Palestinian archaeologists, president of the Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion) in *Rivers in the Desert*, p.31]

*"Archaeology has not yet said its last word, but the results already achieved confirm what faith would suggest - that the Bible can do nothing but gain from an increase in knowledge."* [Sir Frederick Kenyon, former director of the British Museum, *The Bible and Archaeology*, p.279]

## **C. Unique Character**

### **1. Its unity**

2. Its scope (2 Peter 1:3/2 Timothy 3:16)

3. Its universal appeal

4. Its beneficial impact on society (Deuteronomy 6:24/2 Corinthians 10:8)

*"Some years ago, 'Readers' Digest' carried an amazing story called, 'Shimabuku - The Village That Lives By The Bible.' When American troops liberated Okinawa towards the end of World War 2, they found it in an appalling social and moral condition. Then they reached the village of Shimabuku, where they were greeted by two old men, one of them carrying a Bible. Suspicious of a trap, they entered the village very cautiously - only to find it spotlessly clean, its fields tilled and fertile, and everything a model of neatness and cleanliness in stark contrast to all the other villages round about. The reason? Thirty years earlier, an American missionary on his way to Japan had called at Shimabuku. He only stayed long enough to make two converts (those two old men), teach them some hymns, leave them a Japanese translation of the Bible and urge them to live by it. With no other Christian contact, and guided only by the Bible, those two old men had transformed their community. There was no jail, no brothel, no drunkenness, no divorce; instead, the people lived healthy, happy, fulfilled lives - an oasis of love and purity in a desert of degradation all around them. Clarence Hall, the war correspondent who wrote the story, summed up his feelings in the words of his dumbfounded driver: '...maybe we're using the wrong kind of weapons to change the world!'... The evidence of history is that wherever the straightforward teaching of the Bible has been rightly applied and obeyed, society has undergone a moral and spiritual revolution." [John Blanchard, How To Enjoy Your Bible]*

*"No other book has so completely changed the course of human destiny...In light and power, the Bible stands by itself. It borrows from none, and gives to all. Where it shines, life and beauty spring to birth. It is the supreme book of power." [Thomas Tiplady, The Influence of the Bible]*

## **5. Its survival through time (Luke 16:17/Mark 13:31)**

a) Survival against corruption (change or loss of contents through time):

1) The integrity of the Old Testament text:

Until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the Old Testament was known to us by no manuscripts of earlier vintage than 1008 A.D. The Dead Sea Scrolls, written around the time of Christ, contained a much earlier text of the Old Testament and provided an opportunity for scholars to check the degree of change that the copying process permitted to occur over the period of 1000 years intervening between the Dead Sea Scrolls (1st Century) and the "standard text"(1008 A.D.). Their findings?

*"...The Dead Sea Scrolls...proved to be word-for-word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95% of the text. The 5% of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling." [Gleason Archer, A Survey of the Old Testament, p.19]*

2) Number of New Testament manuscripts and proximity to date of originals:

Bruce compares the manuscript evidence for the New Testament with that for other classical works from the same general period:

Caesar's *Gallic Wars* (written between 58 and 50 B.C.) exists in only 9 or 10 good manuscripts, the oldest dating from 900 years later than Caesar's day.

Of the 142 books of Livy's *Roman History* (written 59 B.C. to 17 A.D.), only 35 survive, known from no more than 20 manuscripts of any consequence, only one of which dates as early as 400 years after the date of the original.

Of the 14 books of the *Histories* of Tacitus (written about 100 A.D.) four and a half survive, and of his 16 books of *Annals*, 10 survive in full and two in part. Both of these great historic works survive in only two MS copies, the earliest being 700 years later than the original.

The histories of Thucydides and Herodotus (both written 400 B.C.), are known from only a handful of useful MSS, the earliest dating from 900 A.D.!

***"Yet no classical scholar would listen to an argument that the authenticity of Herodotus or Thucydides is in doubt because the earliest manuscripts of their works which are of any use to us are over 1300 years later than the originals."*** [F.F.Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, pp.15ff]

*The New Testament*, by way of contrast, exists in full or in part in over 13,000 manuscript copies (5000 Greek and 8000 early Latin versions), the earliest of which dates from 127 A.D.

***"Scholars are satisfied that they possess substantially the true text of the principal Greek and Roman writers whose works have come down to us, of Sophocles, of Thucydides, of Cicero, of Virgil; yet our knowledge of their writings depends on a mere handful of manuscripts, whereas the manuscripts of the New Testament are counted by...thousands."*** [Sir Frederick Kenyon (one-time director of the British Museum), *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*, p.23]

***"...to be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament."***[Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, *History and Christianity*, p.29]

***"The evidence for our New Testament writings is ever so much greater than the evidence for many writings of classical authors, the authenticity of which no one dreams of questioning. And if the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt."*** [F.F.Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, pp.15ff]

2I) Integrity of the New Testament text, judged by comparison of diverse manuscripts:

- A. The text of the New Testament is found to be 98.33 % pure (free from substantial variations in the manuscripts) [Geisler & Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible* , p.365]
- B. No doctrine of the New Testament rests upon the testimony of a disputed reading.
- C. Contrast this with Shakespeare's 37 plays (only about 400 years old): Each play contains, in surviving MSS, at least 100 disputed readings (passages not identical in the various MS copies), some of which materially affect the meaning of the passages in which they occur.

***"The interval, then, between the dates of the original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."*** [Sir Frederick Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, p.288]



b) Survival through persecution:

*"Not only has the Bible had to run the gamut of centuries of transmission, but it has been from time to time and place to place vigorously persecuted. It has been banned, burned, and outlawed from the days of the Roman Emperors to present-day Communist dominated countries...No other book has been so persecuted; no other book has been so victorious over its persecutions." [Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Christian Evidences*, p.232]*

Emperor Diocletian, in 303 A.D., issued an edict to destroy Christians and their sacred book. "The historic irony of the above edict to destroy the Bible is that Constantine, the emperor following Diocletian, 25 years later commissioned Eusebius to prepare 50 copies of the Scripture [by hand, mind you!] at the expense of the government." [Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, p.23]

c) Survival against scholarly critical attack:

*"From the days of Astruc [1753] till today has been one series of attacks on the Bible that, for vigor, intensity, and attention to detail, has been unparalleled in the known history of literature... The attacks have been made by men of great learning and exceptional mental vigor. The attacks have been publicized abroad in a never-ending stream of periodicals, journals, pamphlets, monographs, books and encyclopedias. The larger universities of the world and hundreds of theological seminaries have taken up the cause of radical criticism. A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut in the tombstone, and the committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put! No other book has been so chopped, knived, sifted, scrutinized and vilified. What book...of classical or modern times has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible? with such venom and skepticism? with such thoroughness and erudition? upon every chapter, line and tenet? Considering the thorough learning of the critics and the ferocity and precision of the attacks, we would expect the Bible to have been permanently entombed...But such is hardly the case." [Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Christian Evidences*, pp.232f]*

Voltaire (who died in 1778) said that within 100 years of his time, Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Voltaire has passed into history, but fifty years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his house and his printing press to produce Bibles!

*"Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" (I Corinthians 1:20 NIV)*

*"Infidels [unbelievers] for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels, with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the pyramids of Egypt. When the French monarch proposed the persecution of Christians in his dominion, an old statesman and warrior said to him, 'Sire, the church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.'...If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the book still lives." [H.L.Hastings, cited by John W. Lea, *The Greatest Book in the World*, pp.17-18]*

*"In conclusion, we claim that the assaults upon the integrity and trustworthiness of the Old Testament along the line of language have utterly failed. The critics have not succeeded in a single line of attack in showing that the diction and the style of any part of the Old Testament are not in harmony with the ideas and aims of the writers who lived at, or near, the time when the events*

*occurred that are recorded in the various documents...We boldly challenge these Goliaths of ex-cathedra theories to come down into the field of ordinary concordances, dictionaries, ad literature, and fight a fight to the finish on the level ground of the facts and the evidence."* [Robert Dick Wilson (long-time Professor of Semitic Philology at Princeton Seminary), in *A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament*, Moody Press, 1959, p.130] "Dr. Wilson was proficient in some 45 languages and dialects, and was probably more intimately familiar with the Hebrew Old Testament than any man of his generation. He died in 1930, after 50 years of continuous scholarly contributions to the study of the Old Testament. His devastating critiques of the higher criticism in all its details have never been answered." [Dr. Henry Morris, in *Many Infallible Proofs*, p.45]

*"After more than two centuries of facing the heaviest scientific guns that could be brought to bear, the Bible has survived - and is perhaps the better for the siege. Even on the critics' own terms - historical fact - the Scriptures seem more acceptable now than they did when the rationalists began the attack."* [*Time* magazine, in a cover story on the Bible (December 30, 1974)]

#### **IV. Tentative Conclusion**

The above natural evidences do not prove conclusively that the Bible is the Word of God, but they show that it passes every test that we might put upon a book claiming divine inspiration. The things are true of it that we would *expect* to be true of a book given to us from God. If any book were to claim to be inspired by God, as does the Bible, it must necessarily pass such tests as these, as the Bible does.

Even if the above evidences do not finally *prove* the Bible's claims, they give strong reasons for us not to lightly disregard those claims. Any unprejudiced, honest seeker after truth would see these facts as reason seriously to consider the Bible and its claims to divine origin.