

ence. The Divine Authorship of the Bible is not established by argument, but by experience. If we give it a fair trial, it will prove itself to us.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is _____; the old has gone, the new has come!

Through the power of the Bible, countless men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. Blasphemers have become reverent and pure. Drunkards have become sober. Criminals have become trustworthy and industrious. Cannibals have become kind and gentle. People who have been totally evil, have been transformed into the image of God. This change is the miracle of miracles.

Psalms 34:8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.



If we will receive the Bible for ourselves as a prescription from the Great Physician, we too, will become living witnesses to its life-changing power.

Dear friend, to believe in the Bible as the 'Word of God' in not following cunningly devised fables. The Bible is a proven book. The evidence is overwhelming. Search its pages and you will find God's message for you. You see, the Bible is God's book of instruction in order that we may know how to live this life. But it is more – it also shows you Jesus Christ, the Way to life everlasting.

Do you believe the Bible is inspired? _____

Text—NIV Version
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Life's VITAL ANSWERS

Is There a God?



Though God has not revealed Himself to our senses: for we cannot see Him, or hear Him, or touch Him, He has not left us to grope blindly in confusion and doubt, without any evidence of His existence. God never asks us to believe without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His Word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason and this testimony is abundant.

What are some of the evidences of God's existence and where do we find them?

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD IN THE EARTH

Matthew 6:28,29 And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even _____

All around us, in earth and sea and sky, there are countless evidences of order, beauty, accuracy, adaptation and intelligent planning. Consider these marvels of creative design: The beauty and perfume of the flowers; snowflake crystals; a butterfly's wing; a spider's web; a bird's feather; a cob of corn; the marvellous instincts and mechanisms of the honeybee; the annual miracle of bird migration; and the bat's ingenious 'radar' system.

Could these wonders of creation have made themselves?

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD IN THE HEAVENS

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare _____ ;
_____ the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.



In the heavens above us there are the same evidences of pattern, order, beauty, accuracy and apparent purpose that we see in our own world, only magnified to a breath-taking degree. Consider these wonders of the starry heavens: The enormous size, weight, speeds, numbers, distances and temperatures of the billions of planets and stars; the precise calculation and co-ordination of their weight, motions, speeds, temperatures and orbits; the fine balancing of attractions and repul-

way to the island. The old city was scraped free of rubble like the top of a rock and Alexander marched his army to the island and conquered the new Tyre. Today it is common to see fishermen spread their nets where the old city once stood. Three attempts to rebuild the city have all failed. Ezekiel 26:14 states, "I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishnets. You will never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD."

ISRAEL

Here is a prophecy concerning the people of Israel. In Leviticus and Deuteronomy Moses outlined the political and religious history of this race of people for over 3,400 years – from about 1,500 BC to this present moment.

Leviticus 26:33-44 I will scatter you among the nations and draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins....Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins;Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely.

These ancient people of God have mingled with all nations for over 2,500 years, yet they have always maintained their racial identity. During this same time many other nations have arisen, remained distinct for a while, and then disappeared in the mass of humankind. But the Jews are found in every nation, as the prophecy said they would be, but always and everywhere they are distinct.



Daniel and friends in Babylon

THE POWER OF THE BIBLE

Consider finally, the Bible's claim to have life-changing power.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes:

How shall we test the truth of these claims? Only by personal experi-

ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

The Bible contains at least 1,000 prophecies; some entirely fulfilled, some in process of fulfilment, some yet to be fulfilled. Approximately one third of the Bible is devoted to prediction. These prophecies stretch like a long avenue of shining lights all the way from Genesis to Revelation. We will look at two prophecies.

TYRE

For example let us take a look at Tyre, a flourishing maritime port of the ancient Phoenicians. This large, rich city was wicked in the sight of God. One of their religious practises was to offer babies to the fire god, Molech by placing a living infant on the red hot hands of the image. God made a prediction of doom upon this city.

In Ezekiel 26:7-14 God foretold six things that would happen to Tyre:

1. He would bring Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon against Tyre.
2. Many people in Tyre would be killed.
3. The ruins of the city would be thrown into the sea.
4. The city area would be scraped free of rubble, like the top of a bare rock.
5. Fishermen would use this site to spread fishing nets.
6. It would never be rebuilt.

This remarkable prediction was fulfilled in every detail. Soon after the prophecy was written, Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city, many were killed and the rest were locked inside the city walls. The Babylonian army laid siege on the city for 13 years, but they finally broke in, only to find all the people were gone. They had moved to an island half a mile off shore.

Two hundred and fifty years later, Alexander the Great set off to conquer the world. The people of Tyre felt safe on their island fortress, but Alexander was determined to overthrow them. He commanded his men to throw the ruins of the old city into the water and build a cause-



Rosetta Stone

sions; the split-second timing; the perfect synchronisation – the clock-like regularity; and all maintained in a state of harmony by constantly-operating laws and controls. Could these marvels of creation have made themselves?

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD IN OUR BODIES

Psalms 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your _____

In the human body there are some amazing evidences of ingenious design, coordination, adaptation and creative forethought that we see in the earth and in the heavens. Consider these wonders of the body temple: The living cell; the heart; the brain; the eye; the ear; the hand; the senses of touch, taste and smell; the nervous system; the digestive system; the prolonged and intricate miracle of reproduction and growth; the glands; and the body's marvellous defence and healing mechanisms.



What shall we do with these countless evidences of intelligent planning and forethought in the earth, in the heavens and in our bodies? We cannot ignore them. They demand a rational explanation. They have come into existence either by design, or by accident. They are the product of God or of chance. There is no neutral ground.

Did you ever hear the story of the watch that made itself? Such a thing is impossible, as we well know. But the universe, and our bodies are more complicated and intricate than the mechanism of a watch. Reason demands a 'Maker' for the presence of such incredible design in His created works.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone; but _____.

This is the only rational explanation for the marvels of creation.

ARCHEOLOGY ILLUMINATES THE BIBLE

A hundred years ago there were learned critics who claimed that the Bible was full of historical blunders. Today the situation has changed. The discoveries of archaeology in Bible lands have created a new confidence in the historical accuracy of Holy Scriptures. This new confidence is echoed in the words of Sir Frederic Kenyon, spoken during his Presidential address to the Victorian Institute: “The up to date scholars are now those who recognise the authenticity and authority of the Christian Literature; it is the critics, who formerly claimed to be ‘advanced’, who are now belated and behind the times.”



The ‘Middle East’ was the birth-place of the Bible, and the cradle of the human race. The great nations of antiquity – Egypt, Assyria, Phoenicia, Babylon and Persia were clustered there. The Bible narratives are knitted at a thousand points to the history of these nations.

The Middle East has thus become a gigantic museum, crammed with the relics of departed greatness. At the same time, this region is an enormous library. Beneath its restless sands, and on the stony faces of its storm-whipped monuments are preserved chronicles of the mighty empires of the past.

This library, the oldest and biggest in the world, with its clay tablets and cylinders, its rolls of papyrus, its scraps of broken pottery and its slabs of stone, is also a huge treasury, prepared by the hands of men long dead, filled with evidence of the historical accuracy of the sacred Scriptures, and reserved by God against the present hour of need.

PUTTING THE BIBLE TO THE TEST

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture _____ and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

This claim to Divine Authorship is made throughout the Bible. Express-

sions such as “This is what the Lord says”, and “Hear this word that the Lord has spoken” are found over 2,000 times in the pages of Scripture. But the Bible does not ask us to believe these claims without supporting evidence.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 *Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.*

THE PERMANENCE OF THE BIBLE

Consider first the Bible's claim to indestructible permanence.

Isaiah 40:8 *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but _____*

John 10:35 *If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken.*

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.*

Those words were spoken by Jesus Himself.

Diocletian, Roman Emperor of the 4th century, outlawed Christianity, confiscated all known copies of the Scriptures and burned them. Yet the Bible arose unharmed from the ashes.



Thomas Paine, the notorious English Freethinker of the 18th century, fought the Bible with sarcasm and ridicule. In spite of these and other attempts to destroy it the Bible has survived.

THE PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE

Consider next the Bible's claim to be able to foretell the future.

Isaiah 46:9,10 *Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known _____, from*