

How you can **KNOW** you can **TRUST** the **BIBLE**

Triston Jacobsohn



1. Introduction

The Bible is God's word, but can you know this for sure? Yes. This lesson's goal is to provide powerful evidence as to why you can trust the Bible.

To start, let's see what the Bible says about itself.

Inspired by God

"All Scripture is **inspired by God** and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness...
(2 Timothy 3:16).

+

From the Holy Spirit

"... for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men **moved by the Holy Spirit** spoke from God"
(2 Peter 1:21).

TRUE

FALSE

The Bible claims to be inspired by God and the Holy Spirit told the writers what to write.

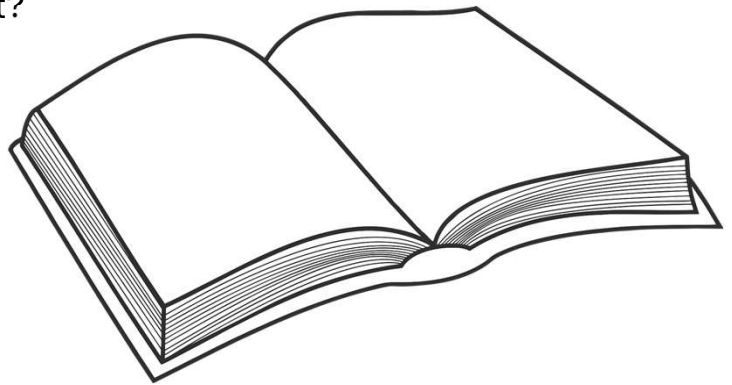
Let's look the evidence

2. The Library Book Surprise!

Imagine you go into a library and find **an old book with your name on the cover**. You are surprised, so you open it, and you are amazed! The book says where and when you were born, who your parents are, and what you do. There are **50 specific details about your life**. You are shocked, so turn to the front and find the book was **written over 100 years before you were born**.

Q) Do you think this is possible? Why/why not?

The Bible is miraculous in this way. There are hundreds of prophecies that were written down centuries before they were fulfilled. To be specific, **there are over 300 prophecies about Jesus that were written centuries before He was born**. There is no other book in the world like this.



In this lesson, we will look at evidence of these prophecies >>

3. Our Goals



The Bible claims to be authored by God, and it claims to have real prophecy. Prophecy is miraculously telling the future. **These are big claims, and they can be proven**. Yes, you can trust the Bible.

We will look at these four pieces of evidence:

- A** Prophecies of Christ written centuries before He was born.
- B** How Jesus fulfilled these prophecies.
- C** Evidence that the prophecies were written centuries before Jesus.
- D** Evidence that Jesus actually fulfilled the prophecies.

Let's start with a quick overview of the structure of the Bible >



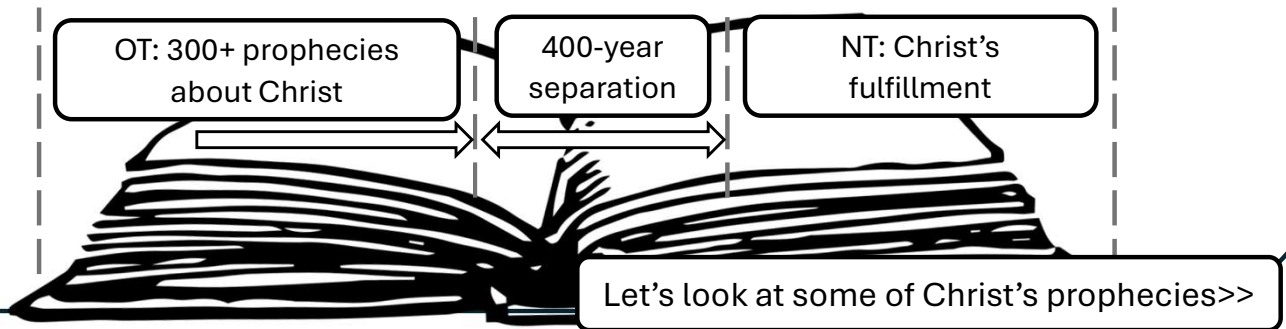
4. Quick Bible Overview

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written over a period of **1,500 years**. The oldest part is called the **Old Testament [OT]** and is mainly the story of ancient Israel. It has over 300 prophecies about Jesus. The newer part is called the **New Testament [NT]**, and this is the story of Jesus and the church. It contains the fulfillment of the prophecies.

There is a **400-year separation** between the Old and New Testaments. Every prophecy is therefore at least 400 years before the fulfillment.

Q) What do OT and NT stand for, and which is older?

Q) _____ years separate the OT and the NT?



Prophecy count

5. Prophecy: God will come as a child

Prophecy

Around 700BC, Isaiah wrote that God would come as a baby boy.

“For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)

700 years

Fulfillment

Around 700 years later, an angel told Joseph:

“... do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21She will give birth to a Son ...AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US” (Matthew 1:20-23).



Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. He was God, born as a baby boy.

Prophecy
count

6. Prophecy: God born of a Virgin

Prophecy

Around 700BC, Isaiah wrote the Jesus would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7: 14
Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel.



Fulfillment

700 years later, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.

Luke 1:34 But Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that reason also the holy Child will be called the Son of God."

Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. He was born of a virgin, and He was God's Son.

Prophecy
count

7. Prophecy: God born in Bethlehem

Prophecy

Around 700BC, Micah wrote that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2).

700 years

Fulfillment

700 years later, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He's called "King of the Jews," and the magi worshiped Him.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him"

(Matthew 2:1,2)



Jesus was God born in Bethlehem, just as was prophesied.

Prophecy
count

8. Prophecy: When Jesus Would Come

Prophecy

530 years

Fulfillment: Bible

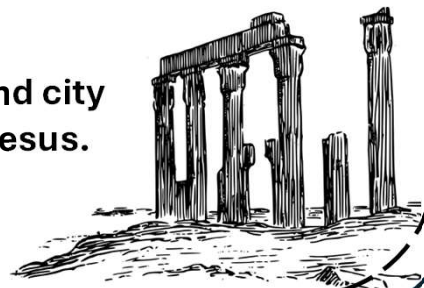
Around 530BC, Daniel wrote that Jesus would come before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple.

Daniel 9: 26 Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

When Jesus walked the earth, the temple was still standing.

Matthew 24: 1 Jesus left the temple area and was going on His way when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 But He responded and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

Titus, a Roman prince, destroyed the temple and city in AD70; 37 years after Jesus. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies.



Prophecy
count

9. Prophecy: Jesus' Miracles

Prophecy

700 years

Fulfillment: Bible

Around 700BC, Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' miracles.

Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened, And the ears of those who are deaf will be unstopped. 6 Then those who limp will leap like a deer, And the tongue of those who cannot speak will shout for joy.



700 years later, Jesus healed every kind of disease.

Matthew 15: 30 And large crowds came to Him bringing with them those who were limping, had impaired limbs, were blind, or were unable to speak, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them.

Jesus healed every kind of disease. He fulfilled this prophecy.

Prophecy
count

10. Prophecy: Jesus' Kingdom Established

1st. Babylon

Prophecy

530 years

Fulfillment: Bible

Around 530BC, Daniel wrote that God would set up His kingdom in the time of the Romans.

Daniel 2: "40Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron... 44And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed...."

1) Matthew 4: "17... Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

2) Matthew 16: "18... upon this rock I will build My church... 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."

3) Matthew 28: 18And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."

Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. His kingdom was established 2,000 years ago during the time of the Romans, and it has not been destroyed.

2nd. Medo-Persian

3rd. Greeks

4th. Romans

Prophecy
count

11. Prophecy: Jesus Betrayed.

Prophecy

520 years

Fulfillment: Bible

Look how specific this prophecy was:

Zechariah 11:12And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. 13Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

What fulfillments can you see?

Matthew 27: 3Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? You shall see to it yourself!" 5And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and left... 7And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field.

How many prophecies can you see fulfilled?



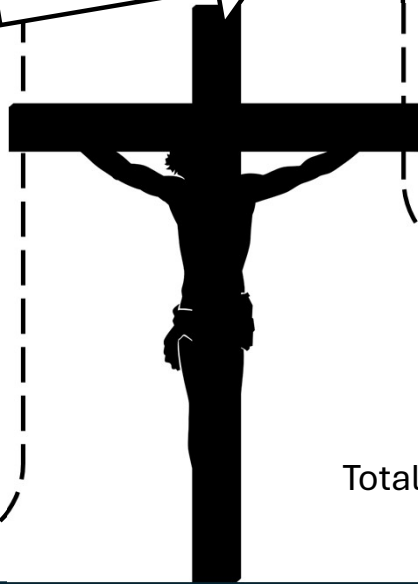
12. Prophecy: Jesus' Crucifixion

Prophecy

Around 1,050 years before, David wrote about Jesus' crucifixion

Psalm 22: "16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; 18 They divide my garments among them, And they cast lots for my clothing."

1,050 years



Fulfillment

What fulfillments can you see?

Matthew 27: 35 And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among themselves by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there.

How many prophecies can you see fulfilled?

Total prophecies fulfilled:

Prophecy count

13. Not a Movie – this is Real!

How many prophecies did you count?

Prophecy count

Isn't this amazing. It is like a movie plot – except this is real. How is this possible? It is easy for God, because God knows the future. He can see the beginning and end of all things. There is no other book in the world like the Bible!

MORE EVIDENCE: Here's a good question.

How do we know that the prophecies were written before the fulfillments? This is a very important question, because if the Old Testament prophecies were written after Jesus, then they would not be prophecies.

So, can we know that the Old Testament was written before Jesus came?



Yes, we can. Let's look at the Dead Sea Scrolls>>

14. Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls are important because **they prove that the Old Testament was written before Jesus walked the earth.**

Finding the Dead Sea Scrolls

Between 1947 and 1956, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in caves near Qumran. There are over 200 scrolls of the Old Testament, including a 7.3-metre-long scroll of Isaiah. **Most of the Biblical scrolls were written over 100 years before Jesus was born. This proves that the prophecies about Jesus were written before He was born.**



Why not go scan and online and see these scrolls via the Israel Museum. Compare the scrolls with your modern Bible. You will see it is virtually identical!

15. Final Good Question

What have we learned so far:

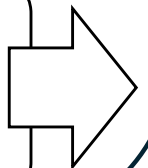
- A** We learn of the Old Testament prophecies written before Christ. ✓
- B** We learned how Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. ✓
- C** The Dead Sea Scrolls prove the prophecies were written before Christ. ✓

Another good question is:

- D** Is there evidence that Jesus actually fulfilled the prophecies?

In other words, **are there records outside of the Bible that verify Jesus fulfilled the prophecies?**

The answer is YES. Let us look at the writings of ancient non-Christian historians, authors, and philosophers.



16. Non-Bible Testimonies about Jesus

- In AD 70, **Mara Bar-Serapion**, a Syrian Stoic, called Jesus a wise Jewish King.
- (AD 56-120) **Tacitus**, a Roman historian, wrote that Jesus was executed by the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate during the reign of Caesar Tiberius.
- (AD 115-200) **Lucian of Samosata** wrote that Jesus was crucified and the Christians worshiped Him as God.
- (AD 70) Roman prince, **Titus**, destroyed the Jerusalem temple.
- (AD 61-113) **Pliny the Younger** wrote that Christians sang hymns to Christ “as to a god.”
- (AD 70-200) The earliest **Jewish Talmud** writings say that Jesus was hung [on a cross] just before Passover, and he was accused of practicing sorcery [miracles].

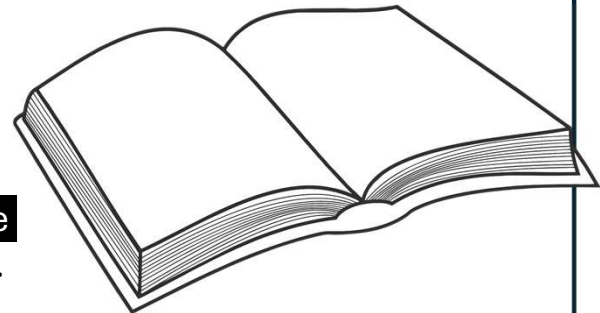
So, ancient records agree with the Bible: Jesus was a wise Jewish king, who did miracles and lived during the Roman times, was crucified by Pilate before the destruction of the temple and was worshiped as God.

17. Back to the Library

Remember the story about finding the book about you in the library?
Remember how amazing it would be to find 50 details about you written 100 years before you were born? Jesus has far more:

Jesus has 300+ prophecies about Him, dated 400-1,500 years before He was born!

The Bible is the only book in the world with real prophecy. **There is no book in the world like the Bible**
This is how you can know that the Bible is from God.



Let's end with a message from God who knows your future:

Matthew 11: 28“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest.** 29Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.** 30For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

EXTRA: More prophecies about Jesus >>

18. List of Prophecies about Christ

Prophecy	Description	Fulfillment
1. Gen 3:15	Seed of a woman (virgin birth)	Gal 4:4-5; Matt 1:18
2. Gen 3:15	He will bruise Satan's head	Heb 2:14; 1 John 3:8
5. Gen 12:3	Seed of Abraham will bless all nations	Gal 3:8; Acts 3:25-26
6. Gen 12:7	The Promise made to Abraham's Seed	Gal 3:16
7. Gen 14:18	A priest after the order of Melchizedek	Heb 6:20
8. Gen 14:18	King of Peace and Righteousness	Heb 7:2
10. Gen 17:19	Seed of Isaac (Gen 21:12)	Rom 9:7
11. Gen 22:8	The Lamb of God promised	John 1:29
12. Gen 22:18	As Isaac's seed, will bless all nations	Gal 3:16
13. Gen 26:2-5	The Seed of Isaac promised as the Redeemer	Heb 11:18
15. Gen 28:14	The Seed of Jacob	Luke 3:34
17. Gen 49:10	The Seed of Judah	Luke 3:33
21. Ex 3:13-15	The Great "I AM"	John 4:26; 8:58
22. Ex 12:5	A Lamb without blemish	Heb 9:14; 1 Pet 1:19
23. Ex 12:13	The blood of the Lamb saves from wrath	Rom 5:8
24. Ex 12:21-27	Christ is our Passover	1 Cor 5:7
25. Ex 12:46	Not a bone of the Lamb to be broken	John 19:31-36
27. Ex 15:11	His Character-Holiness	Luke 1:35; Acts 4:27
28. Ex 17:6	The Spiritual Rock of Israel	1 Cor 10:4
29. Ex 33:19	His Character-Merciful	Luke 1:72
30. Lev 1:2-9	His sacrifice a sweet smelling savor unto God	Eph 5:2
33. Lev 16:27	Suffering outside the Camp	Matt 27:33; Heb. 13:11-12
35. Lev 17:11	It is the blood that makes atonement	Rom. 3:23-24; 1 John 1:7
38. Num 21:9	The serpent on a pole-Christ lifted up	John 3:14-18; 12:32
39. Num 24:17	Time: "I shall see him, but not now."	John 1:14; Gal 4:4
40. Deut 18:15	"This is of a truth that prophet"	John 6:14
41. Deut 18:15-16	"Had you believed Moses, you would believe me."	John 5:45-47

There are many, many more...