

# ***25 REASONS WHY I KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD***

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In March of 1984 I received a challenge from an old friend of mine. We had done a lot of work together in Christian service. We had attended the same Bible School and both professed a genuine interest in Biblical truth. However, in the process of time my friend, who was very studiously inclined, became very skeptical about the Bible. In fact, as time progressed he withdrew from Christian fellowship and became a scholastic critic of the Bible. This was not the first time in my experience that I personally knew one close to me who had repudiated his faith in Christ and become skeptical of the Bible and of the very existence of God.

In this challenge he proposed that we mutually address the subject of whether or not the Bible was the Word of God. His proposal was the following—

“I would like to suggest that we begin with this subject: *Is the Bible the Word of God?* There are three reasons why I suggest this issue. First, the Bible is considered the foundation of Christian teaching. Second, the Bible is often assumed to be the Word of God. Third, if the Bible is not the Word of God; then, it is unnecessary to investigate the total Christian system.”

“To get started I will send you a list of reasons why I believe the Bible is not the Word of God. If you would be kind enough to send me a list of reasons why you believe the case is otherwise, we could concur or dispute the reasons of each other.”

I agreed to his general proposal and when his “Reasons Why The Bible Is Not The Word Of God” came, there was a list of twenty-five reasons. I simply answered his 25 Reasons as my reasons for believing the Bible was the Word of God. The last time I heard from my friend he simply said he was still working on his response to my observations—and that was many years ago. His “Reasons” were copyrighted as the basis for a future book he said he was writing. I have never seen or heard any more about the book, but I believe that you will appreciate the responses that I gave to his arguments.

As I look back on our lives and experiences I recognized that both of us were vitally interested in the truth contained in the Bible. His was apparently from a mere intellectual level whereas mine was from a thankfulness for God’s grace and mercy in Christ. Both of us appeared to be studious and inclined to dig into Biblical questions and apparent contradictions that we found. The difference was that my faith in Christ was genuine and as a consequence, thank God, I found the answers to Biblical problems that I encountered—my friend did not.

So, herein I share with you—“*25 Reasons Why I Know The Bible Is The Word Of God.*”

In each case, I will first give the argument against the Bible, written by my friend, and then I will give my response.

1. The Bible has never been universally available to mankind. This has always been a convincing argument for the nonchristian; for the Christian this has always been a troubling issue concerning which different answers have been suggested.

**The fundamental truths of the Bible have always been universally available to mankind. God has given a triune revelation of Himself to the world. First, it has been written deeply in the inner consciousness of man's moral nature—Rom. 2:15. Consequently, not one single person has ever come into the world without being exposed to the "light" of "The Word"—John 1:1 & 9. Secondly, these truths have been openly manifested to all races of mankind through the physical creation—Rom. 1:18-21. Thirdly, it is the undisputed fact that the hand-written and printed versions of the Word of God have enjoyed the widest publication of any such material known to the human family. These are very assuring facts to the Bible-believing Christian.**

2. The Bible does not contain one word which comes directly from God. While the Bible writers attribute ideas to God and allegedly quote Him, this is not the same as God writing a book firsthand. The testimony of Bible writers stating the Bible is the Word of God is not convincing.

**God authored the book of creation firsthand through the power of His Spirit—Psalm 104:30. By the same Spirit God wrote directly into the spirit of man the same convincing truths—Gen. 6:3. Likewise, the Bible originated from God through the agency of the Holy Spirit upon the human writers. The testimony of these writers is very convincing to those who have experienced the transformation of their lives by the Word of God—I Pet. 1:23.**

3. The Bible contains material which could have been reasoned out in every detail by the human writers. Most of the Bible is either history, stories, or preaching of which all are within man's ability to author.

**The Bible contains Divine revelation which is most often diametrically opposed to the pride and self-justification of worldly philosophies and religions. It scoffs at the stupidity of modern man's evolutionary dreams. It brazenly declares the headlines for the future. It consistently embarrasses the past declarations of infidels who laughed at its disclosures. Natural man not only couldn't write it, but in most cases he wouldn't have dared. It is, however, within natural man's ability to sometimes imitate, forge and copy.**

4. The Bible is vague and only too human in the way it was canonized (authorized). A study of this subject shows that there were initially different lists of books which were accepted, that there were disputed books which were accepted, and only a gradual recognition of which books were inspired by God. All of this was done by men with no statement from God as to which books should make up the Bible.

**As the individual books came from the pens of the inspired writers there was immediately sealed for them a permanent bond to the whole by the very spiritual nature of the book itself. Spirit-indwelt persons have had no problems recognizing the spirituality of those books. The counsels of man-made religion have only made pontifical assertions which most often confirmed the beliefs held by humble believers for centuries, and sometimes confused the wide assortment of forgeries with the real.**

5. The Bible has methods of revelation which are highly suspect and open to question. Dreams, visions, appearances of God, and prophecies are too subjective to give an objective person confidence.

**The methods of Divine revelation are entirely consistent with the uniqueness of the message. The revelations of the Bible have always invited tests of objectivity; in fact the chief characteristic of those who adhere to the Book is to challenge mankind to objectively test God's gracious Word. The Bible has never been embarrassed by such a test. It suffers most by those who claim allegiance to it, but refuse to walk in its precepts.**

6. The Bible contains nonharmonious doctrines. The topics of salvation and the kingdom of God are perhaps the best examples. The Synoptic Gospels have a plan of salvation that is different from the one explained by Paul; yet, Paul claims salvation has always been the same. The kingdom of God in the Synoptic Gospels is earthly while it is heavenly in the Gospel of John.

**The Bible stands UNIQUE among all the writings of mankind. This is principally demonstrated through its unity and harmony. While on the one hand the Bible was penned by some 40 different writers, from a wide variety of vocations, in several different nations and empires, on several continents, in several languages, throughout different ages and dispensations, over a period of nearly 2000 years, discussing the widest variety of human experiences on the most controversial issues—yet, on the other hand, the Bible tells one continuous story, with one central theme, with one central figure, with one purpose in view, and ultimately one end fulfilled. What book is comparable??? Of course it is understandable that uninspired men would often confuse its varying kingdoms, salvations and other facts in this amazing book.**

7. The Bible has unreliable authorships. Internal evidence in the Hebrew Scriptures indicates that ancient writers had their books edited (altered and supplemented). While there is a great deal of debate on the degree of editing present; nevertheless, virtually all scholars recognize some editing occurred.

**The Divine authorship of the Bible is easily demonstrated. Unbelieving scholars will debate forever their varying theories of how the phenomena of the Bible came to be. Given enough time these same schools of thought will have to revise and delete previous statements because of advancing discovery. The Bible always remains the same. Given time, it is vindicated. There have been, and are, scholars of the highest repute who totally rejected the "editing theory."**

8. The Bible has harsh punishments as part of God's plan which were carried out in the early Bible books, although the later prophets rejected these judgments. These harsh practices are concerned with punishment of several people or nations for the crime of someone else to whom they are related.

**The punishments recorded in the Bible, especially the earlier books, reflect God's holy wrath upon rebellious cities, nations and even all mankind. No apologies are needed, and later prophets speak of worse judgments to come. Disciplines that are administered in different dispensations under different circumstances are not contradictory punishments.**

**That there will always be innocent victims as a result of man's pernicious ways is a plain fact of life.**

9. The Bible did not predict the Christian Era. Most of the historical and prophetic books of the Hebrew Scriptures exclusively look forward to the post-captivity times of Ezra and Nehemiah. The book of Daniel proceeds a little farther, that is, up to the time of the Maccabean Period (Second century B.C.).

**Both the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures foretell in great detail the events of the last days and the final wind-up of all things. These prophecies center around the theme of the second coming of Jesus Christ to reign on earth. The book of Daniel looks forward to these events in astonishing detail. Many of the Hebrew prophets also looked forward to the post captivity times as well. This complimented the prophecies of the Messianic events. That the church age was not foreseen by the prophets is specifically stated by Paul—Eph. 3:5. This enhances the precise accuracy of prophecy and exposes the pseudo prophet to many a blunder.**

10. The Bible prophecies and stories in the Hebrew scriptures are wrongly applied to Jesus. Each of these texts had a literal, complete meaning long before the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christian message is based on the allegorical method which was popular in the First Century A.D., although it is both farfetched and not indicated beforehand in the Hebrew scriptures. Please see Philo Judaeus concerning the influence of allegory on Christianity.

**The Bible foretold in explicit detail and unmistakable language the birth, ministry, death, burial and resurrection, and second coming of Jesus Christ. Sometimes this is done by direct application intended in the prophecy. Sometimes this is done by a secondary application intended in the prophecy and/or by prophetic typology. Sometimes the prophets in their prophecies, Christ in His ministry, and Paul in his applications used the allegory to enhance the legibility and clarity of the Divine message. Sometimes the allegory, like a mysterious code, will befuddle and confuse the hardhearted unbeliever as if he were blind and ignorant.**

11. The Bible has repetitions which are redundant. This can be seen by comparing the Books of Kings with the Books of Chronicles, and comparing the Synoptic Gospels with themselves. While there are some additional details, most of the material is simply copied.

**Repetitions in the Bible, such as those in Chronicles and Kings, and in the Gospels, will seem redundant to some, whereas they are replete with shades of meaning and different perspectives to Spirit-taught students. The critical account of the Kings from the perspective of the inspired prophet is very different from the official court record of the Chronicles. Likewise, the subtle shades of profound difference seen in the four Gospel representations of Jesus Christ have been the subject of many a commentary. In addition, the old saying, "repetition is the best teacher," is still practiced by most successful educators. There are many exacting repetitions in our own human body and most sensible people are very glad to have them. Likewise, in the body of the revelation there are indeed repetitions. We may not know all of their importance but I am confident to accept them.**

12. The Bible prophecies are often written after the fact in both the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. A study of when the various Bible books were completed clearly indicates the so called prophecies had occurred before the time the books were finalized.

**The blatant accusation that Biblical prophecies were actually written after the fact has three notable fallacies to it. 1.) It is a clear admission that the accuser recognizes that the prophets were intending to convince the reader that they were indeed foretelling the future. This admission reduces to shreds the earlier argument that the prophets didn't intend to tell the future—see No. 10. 2.) It is a well known historical and scientific fact that the Hebrew Scriptures existed long before the time of Christ, and yet Christ was the central figure and theme of all the prophets. Thus the prophecies were written long before the fact—see the Dead Sea Scrolls. 3.) A vast portion of the prophecies, concerning the second coming of Christ, are yet to be fulfilled, and the accuser admits this—see No. 19. Certainly those prophecies are not after the fact!**

13. The Bible is contradictory since the Synoptic Gospels are dissimilar to the Gospel of John concerning who Jesus was, the plan of salvation, and when the Gentiles were acceptable to God.

**A book on mathematical calculus may be quite unintelligible to some readers. Therefore, for one who would proclaim that the calculus book was full of contradictions would only be making undesirable reflections upon himself. Similarly, when a person says the Bible is contradictory about Who Jesus was, and the plan of salvation, etc., I simply have to smile and say, “Sir, you are certainly confused, but please don't accuse the Book because of your own confusion. What is confusion to you is quite harmonious to others.”**

14. The Bible has a questionable resurrection for Jesus. Since the Gospel books do not give the impression they were written by the original disciples, the resurrection is supported by secondhand witnesses. The Gospel books are confused on where Jesus first appeared to his disciples: was it Galilee or Jerusalem? The Gospel books present a Jesus who appeared “in another form.” The Gospel books obviously want to present a resurrected Jesus, but their presentation is weak, inconsistent, and problematic.

**The apostles and disciples, with the exception of Luke, who were inspired to write the Greek Scriptures were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ. At the time Paul wrote his third epistle (I Corinthians) there were over 500 eyewitness, most of whom were still alive (I Cor. 15:6). The very fact that some of the testimony varies only enhances the authenticity of their witness. They did not copy each other. Their testimonies stand impeccable to any investigation. In addition, scientists in the field of textual criticism have reported finding fragments of the Gospels and Epistles written at the time of the witnesses. In addition, historical scientists are now generally admitting the early existence of Paul's epistles and even the Gospels to the very first century.**

15. The Bible introduces a strange Jesus whose person is unknown before his birth by any Jew or Gentile, whose identity is unclear, and whose character evolves as new books are written.

**Jesus Christ was loved and understood by those who put their trust in Him. All the nation of Israel was fully expecting the Messiah. The prophets had revealed many things about Him. He was “strange” and “unknown” in that He did not come by way of the religious establishment and hierarchy. In fact He was very critical of its hypocrisies and was therefore rejected. It is the most amazing story ever written! The only evolution of His person was the unfolding of the drama—both before and after His resurrection.**

16. The Bible presents a conversion that cannot be verified since there is neither external or internal evidence that anything supernatural has transpired. The power of suggestion from others and a feeling of well-being are the two most convincing factors.

**The Bible presents a conversion that must be verifiable—“By their fruits you shall know them” Christ said (Matt. 7:20). “Faith without works is dead” Christ’s half brother said (James 2:14-20). “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was given to us” Paul said (Rom. 5:5). So we have both external and internal evidences of our supernatural salvation. Many of these evidences are beyond any naturalistic explanation. The Bible itself, on the other hand, also warns that the Christian life can be temporarily imitated. Time itself most often detects the counterfeit.**

17. The Bible has a Christian system in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts which is borrowed in many significant ways from the Essenes. This indicates a development from the First Century environment rather than from the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures. Please see Josephus and Philo Judaeus concerning the Essenes.

**To charge that the early Christian community borrowed from the earlier Essenes sect, instead of from the Bible, is just as unrealistic as charging the Protestant reformers with borrowing their Christianity from Romanism instead of the Bible, simply because they came later and there were certain similarities. Judea was literally smothered by rumors and expectations around the time of Christ. There were many sects making Messianic claims. That there were similarities between the Essene sect and the first Christians is to be expected. Both groups were entirely Jewish in their composition and religion. Both relied heavily on the prophets. Both practiced preparatory purification, and many other things as well. However, the self-righteous character of the exclusive Essenes made them totally repulsive to the basic theme of Christ and His followers, and conversely, the Essenes would never identify with a Messiah who mingled with publicans and sinners. Whereas the Essenes never realized a dead, buried and resurrected Messiah, the Christians most certainly did.**

18. The Bible presents a conflict over the teachings of Paul and the teachings of the Jewish Christian apostles. A comparison of the Synoptics and Acts with Paul’s letters indicates Paul was teaching differently from the apostles of Jesus concerning salvation and law keeping. Paul tried to smooth over these differences when he was with these apostles.

**The apostle Paul and the Twelve were ministering to different people, in different cultures, under different dispensational guidelines, during a period of transition. Patience,**

**love and understanding had to be exercised by each group. Their Gospels manifested a different walk as to religious conduct. As to personal spiritual soul salvation they believed the same. All these facts actually enhance the realism and credibility of the Biblical account. There was a revealed transition out of Judaism into pure Christianity.**

19. The Bible is long overdue and outdated as described in the Synoptics and the Book of Revelation in regard to the return of Jesus. The time limit for His return is long since passed.

**The glorious reign of Christ was offered to that early generation on a conditional basis. The conditions were not met, the Messiah was rejected, and the reign of Christ was postponed to a later time and generation. There was both an immediate consequence to Israel's rejection and a far ranging consequence. In 70 A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed and certain prophecies about this were fulfilled. However, the far ranging prophecies of a great time of tribulation for Israel and the world are yet to be fulfilled. All this is in perfect accord with the prophecies in the Synoptics and the book of Revelation.**

20. The Bible allegorizes the Hebrew Scriptures in the Greek Scriptures. Once it is recognized that virtually every Hebrew text quoted in the Greek Scriptures is taken out of its natural context, the prophetic scheme of the Bible falls apart.

**That the New Testament writers made certain allegories from certain Hebrew Scriptures was both proper and desirable. The allegory is still a major asset in education. To make the charge that every quotation from the Old Testament was taken out of context demonstrates a wild desperation to explain away the prophetic scheme of the Bible. This is obviously a losing argument for the simple reason that most prophecies in the Hebrew scriptures are in a clear prophetic context of foretelling the events in Israel's national history as well as the coming Messianic history. Even the Jewish people themselves recognized this and are still in expectancy of their long anticipated Kingdom.**

21. The Bible has Jewish Christian apostles who drift away without explanation. Their views are reinterpreted, overshadowed, and supplanted by Paul without acknowledgement from these apostles.

**The fact of a dispensational change is realistically portrayed in the Bible. The 12 Jewish apostles drift into the background as 12 tribe Israel is being set aside because of their continued rejection of the Messiah. Synchronizing with this is the emergence of the apostle Paul who is primarily called to the Gentile peoples. Through Paul's ministry the Gospel of Christ is opened up fully to the nations of the Gentiles without the attachment of the Mosaic Law system. Through Paul the mystery of the Church Age is revealed.**

22. The Bible has teachings which may or may not be the views of God. It is not possible to check with God about the accuracy of these teachings.

**The teachings in the Bible for Christian living promise total happiness and fulfillment in life when put consistently into practice. It is simple to verify these teachings by simply practicing them and noting the results in your life. Present day worldly philosophies of living often oppose these Biblical principles. Anyone can see and compare**

**the difference of the two systems. Today statisticians are constantly deluging us with the consequences of the modern world's rejection of these Biblical principles.**

23. The Bible is no longer available in its original manuscripts. It is impossible to be certain that we have the exact text. The Bible copies we now possess may be very close—but how close?

**The Word of God is no more limited to the original manuscripts than any other book is limited to the author's original autograph. That a book as old as the Bible should have so many ancient copies in existence is itself a phenomena that should silence most critics. There is no other book in existence comparable with such an abundance of ancient manuscripts. Like seed planted in different fields, the Bible when sown in different ages and nations will bring forth the very same fruit as at the beginning. Consequently, every new creature in Christ can say he has the original Word of life for himself.**

24. The Bible in the final analysis must be accepted by faith. In this case faith means the step beyond knowledge or reason.

**Can you imagine a modern airline pilot coming in for a landing through a cloudy overcast, and he lifts his hands in horror as he realizes he can't see a thing out the window and there are no physical supports to gently set his craft on the runway, even though his control panel is right there to do the job if he simply has faith in it? No, and neither can I imagine a God-fearing Bible-believing Christian turning his eyes from the marvels of wisdom and instruction to guide him in life and instead look out the window of the world. To do so would, indeed, be blind hopelessness.**

25. The Bible proofs of inspiration are easily refuted. If this is the case, and the disproofs about the Bible are convincing; then, the case against the Bible stands.

**The Word of God has stood the tests of hatred, fire and destruction through the ages. It still stands today in the face of opposition. It will continue to stand every test mortal man or devils can bring against it. Throughout all tests the Word grows. The Divine inspiration of the Bible is demonstrated every day by the might of the sun, and by the smallest atom, by the greatest theologian, and by the sweetest mother, and yes, even by those who oppose it.**



# Ode To The Bible

*Whence but from heaven could men,  
Unskilled in arts,  
In several ages born,  
In several parts,  
Weave such agreeing truths?  
Or how or why should all conspire  
To cheat us with a lie,  
Unasked their pains,  
Ungrateful their advice,  
Starvation their gain,  
And martyrdom their price.*

*John Dryden*