



**Answers4Seekers: Session #16** [www.answers4seekers.org](http://www.answers4seekers.org)

## **TOPIC: Is The Bible Divinely Inspired & Accurate?**

- 1. Overview of Topic**
- 2. Definitions of Terms**
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- 5. Critique of the Bible's Textual Control & Accuracy**
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# 1. Overview of Topic

In this session we will explore a series of evidences to see if they provide solid support for the divine inspiration and textual accuracy of the Bible (Old and New Testaments). We will also review a summary of archeological & historical evidences and review some examples of Bible prophecy to see if any had historical fulfillments.

We will seek answers to four key Questions:

1. Were the words of the Bible inspired directly by God?
2. Were those “inspired words” reduced to writings, and then reviewed and approved by proven religious leaders as meeting the criteria of “divine inspiration” and then included in the ‘canon’ of Scripture?
3. How close in time are the existing ancient Biblical Manuscripts to the time of their actual original writing or event?
4. How textually consistent (accurate) are similar Biblical manuscripts between themselves?

Come and explore.



### 2. Definitions of Terms:

- a. **Canon (religious):** A Measuring Rod. A Canon is a body of religious texts and statements from God or about God, that were approved by that religion's top leaders and theologians, and which were ratified by them as being:
  - i. 1) Verbal statements coming directly from God to people or a person, **or**
  - ii. 2) Verbal statements which were directly inspired by God's Spirit to a time-proven religious human leader (like a prophet, priest, or apostle), and which was reviewed and deemed to be accurate about God and His will, **and**
  - iii. 3) Being ratified by a group of religious leaders confirming:
    - 1. The Texts/Statements met the criteria of divine inspiration,
    - 2. The Texts/Statements are accurate to the degree the human knowledge is certain (that is, contains no clearly false statements),
    - 3. The Texts/Statements do not conflict with, but build upon or fulfill, existing accepted inspired texts.
    - 4. The Texts/Statements have been proven to provide positive spiritual direction, spiritual strength, and/or prophetic fulfillment to its hearers.



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### b. Divine Inspiration:

- i. 1) Statements that come audibly from the mouth of God (or by His Spirit) directly and in the presence of people, or
  - ii. 2) Statements that are verbally communicated messages from God (audible or not) to a previously time-proven religious leader, and where this new message builds upon or fulfills previously accepted public communications from God.
- c. **God:** A Being that has existed since the eternal-past and will exist through the eternal-future; possesses all-power, all-knowledge, all-presence; is the source of everything created; is a personal Being (that is, has a mind, a will, and emotions), and is both **transcendent** (exists outside and above the physical world) but is also **immanent** (present and available within His created world).
- d. **Immanent:** The state of being within the realm of possible experience or knowledge; available. (also see Transcendent)
- e. **Prophecy:** Is a communication that is deemed to have come directly from God to (and through) a chosen messenger for the purpose of either foretelling of a coming future event, or forthtelling of a specific direction or information that God wants to communicate to a specific group or to a specific person.



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- i. Typically, after it has been communicated, it is recorded by reducing it into writing. Prophecies are typically evaluated by a process similar to canonization criteria: 1) proven messenger, 2) prophetic track record, 3) alignment with the canon of scripture, and 4) resulting fulfillment.
- f. **Scripture:** The divinely inspired Bible, Old Testament contains 39 books, and New Testament contains 27 books, therefor a total of 66 books.
- g. **Testament:** A written testimony, a will, a covenant, or a relational agreement. Biblically, a spiritual covenant between God and Man. The Bible consists of the Old and New Testaments.
- h. **Textual Accuracy:** The quality of ancient religious manuscripts (in their original language) that have been evaluated and shown that the copies of these texts agree with each other, either exactly, or essentially. The higher the textual accuracy percentage, the more confidence exists that the manuscripts have been faithfully transmitted throughout the ages.
  - i. For example, the ancient manuscripts of Homer's *Iliad* is considered 95% accurate among its 1,757 manuscripts, yet the New Testament has the highest textual transmission accuracy of any ancient classical document, having an accuracy of 99.5% among its 5,700 Greek manuscripts.
- i. **Transcendent:** Means going beyond the limits of ordinary experience or surpassing ordinary limits. In referring to God's nature, it means He is above and exists beyond the physical world. (also see "Immanent")



### 3. Divine-Inspiration Criteria & The Scriptures

#### 1) Divine Inspiration Criteria:

i. “Divine Inspiration” Must Meet All three of the Following criteria:

a. **Be statements directly from the mouth of God and audibly heard** in the presence of many people and then reduced to a written record. Or, **afterwards directly by God or by His Spirit with verbally communicated statements** (audible or not, but always with words) to and through a recognized and proven religious leader (examples: prophet, apostle, priest, leader, scribe, etc.) AND where these new statements always align with, build upon, and/or fulfill previously proven divinely spoken statements from God.

i. Old Testament Example of God audibly speaking to people:

**Exodus 19:9; 20:1-3, 18-19 (c. 1450 BC)**

*9 "The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a dense cloud, **so that the people will hear when I speak with you**, and they will always put their trust in you ....*

*20:1 And God spoke all these words:*

*2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery*

*3 You shall have no other gods before Me....*

*18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sounding of the ram's horn, and the mountain enveloped in smoke, they trembled and stood at a distance.*

*19 "Speak to us yourself and we will listen," they said to Moses. "But do not let God speak to us, or we will die."*



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### **Deuteronomy 4:11-13, 33, 36**

*11 "You [people of Israel] came near and stood at the base of the mountain, a mountain blazing with fire to the heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness.*

*12 **And the LORD spoke to you [people of Israel] out of the fire. You heard the sound of the words but saw no form; there was only a voice.***

*13 He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to follow—the Ten Commandments **that He [God] wrote on two tablets of stone....***

***33 Has a people ever heard the voice of God speaking out of the fire, as you have, and lived? ....***

*35 You were shown these things so that you would know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides Him.*

*36 **He let you hear His voice from heaven to discipline you, and on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the fire."***

### **ii. New Testament Examples:**

#### **Luke 3:21-22:**

*"When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove. **And [God's] voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."***

#### **John 12:28-30:**

*"[Jesus prayed], 'Father [God], glorify Your name.' Then a voice came out of heaven: 'I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.' **So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others said, 'An angel has spoken to Him.'** Jesus answered and said, **'This voice has not come for My sake, but for yours.'***





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### **Matthew 17:5-6**

*"While he [Jesus] was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice from the cloud said, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!' **When the disciples heard this**, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified."*

- b. **Additionally, after meeting the requirement above, these statements are further confirmed** as “divinely inspired,” evidenced by the positive effects in the lives of its hearers: 1) providing positive spiritual direction, 2) providing positive spiritual strength, reconciliation, and/or redemption, and/or 3) fulfilling a past stated prophecy.
- c. **Once verified, these statements of divine inspiration are reduced into a writing, become part of the scripture’s canon, and are destined for distribution or are set apart for community use.**

### **b. New Testament’s Further Explanation of “Divine Inspiration”:**

- i. **2 Timothy 3:15-17** *“**All Scripture is inspired by God** and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.”*





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ii. **2 Peter 1:20-21:** *“But know this first of all, that no **prophecy of Scripture** becomes a matter of someone’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**”*

c. **Conclusion:** The Bible meets all these required “Divine Inspiration” Criteria.

### 4. Canonization of the Bible – Criteria and Process

- 1) **Canon (religious):** **Canon** means a “Measuring Rod.” In religion, it means the criteria used to measure whether a statement or text meets the “divine inspiration” criteria and should be made available for distribution.
- 2) A Canon is a body of religious texts and statements from God or about God, that were approved by that religion’s top leaders and theologians, and which were ratified by them as being:

i. Was ratified by confirming:

1. The Texts/Statements meet the criteria of divine inspiration,



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2. The Texts/Statements are accurate to the degree the human knowledge is certain (that is, no clearly false statements),
  3. And the determination that these inspired scriptures should be made available for distribution or public access.
- 3) The canon of the Bible consists of the Old Testament ([39 Books](#)) and the New Testament ([27 books](#)).
- 4) Ratification And Canonization of Scripture (the Bible):
- i. The Old Testament: The 39 Books that make up the Old Testament were Written between c.1446 BC (time of the Exodus) and Malachi c.434 BC. (c. = circa = approx.)
  - ii. The New Testament: The 27 Books that make up the New Testament were Written between c.45 AD to c.100 AD.
- 5) The Old & New Testament Canon Development:
1. The Old Testament Canonization Process
    - a. c. 1450 BC, ([Moses](#) receives and writes the Torah - Law of God)



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- b. c. 200 BC, ([Greek Septuagint](#) – Written in Greek from Hebrew source texts, contains the whole Old Testament (OT), developed in Egypt during Greek rule).
- c. c. 90 BC, ([Jamnia Council](#), after Roman destruction of Temple, Hebrew Text, purpose to review the books of the Hebrew canon).
- d. c. 340 AD, ([Constantine Completes 50 Bibles](#), complete OT & NT for distribution, Greek Text).
- e. c. 800 AD, ([Masoretic Text](#) – Complete Hebrew Text).

### 2. New Testament Canon Development

- a. c. 45 AD to c.100AD, (all [New Testament](#) books were completed).
- b. c.145 AD, ([Marcionite](#) Canon – lists some of the NT Books).
- c. c.175 AD, ([Muratorian Fragment](#) – lists most of the NT Books).
- d. c.340 AD, ([Constantine Completes 50 Bibles](#), OT & NT, for distribution, contains all 66 books of the Bible).
- e. c.393 AD, ([Council of Hippo](#), ratified all 27 Books of the New Testament).



## **5. The Bible's Textual Transmission, Control, & Accuracy:**

**i. Overview: To determine how accurate a Biblical manuscript (copy) is to its ancient original, or at least between themselves, two questions must be answered:**

1. How close in time are the existing ancient Biblical Manuscripts to the estimated time of their actual original writing and to the actual event?
2. How textually consistent (accurate) are the same manuscripts copies between themselves?

**ii. [The OT Testament](#)**

1. **Masoretic Manuscripts** have up to a 99.5% textual accuracy between themselves.
2. **Masoretic Manuscript and the Dead Sea Scrolls** (DSS)'s Book of Isaiah, has around 96.5% textual accuracy between themselves, even though there is a 1000-year gap between these manuscripts.
3. **None on the key doctrines or textual meanings were affected by the small % of textual inaccuracies.**



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## 4. Table of [OT accuracies](#) and time between original and earliest existing manuscripts:

Canon & Manuscripts of Old Testament (Hebrew Bible)	Manuscript / Event	Textual Accuracy Percentage (%)	Latest Date of Original Events	Time Gap (Years)	Comment
c. 250 BC	Septuagint (Greek)	95-97%	400 BC	200	The Pentateuch was originally written c. 1400 BC, and the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi and Chronicles were written c. 400 BC
c. 150 BC	Dead Sea Scrolls	90-95% (1QIsaB, 98-99%)	400 BC	200	Almost all of Current OT were found, including the complete "Great Isaiah Scroll"
c. 90 AD	Jamnia Council (Hebrew)	N/A	400 BC	490	This Council did not add any books to the OT, but sought to re-validate existing books.
c. 170 AD	Melito's OT Book List	N/A	400 BC	570	His list appears to list all the books in the Hebrew OT Canon.
c. 900 AD	Masoretic OT Text	99.5%	400 BC	1100	This is the current accepted Hebrew canon.



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## 5. Summary of Existing Old (Hebrew) Testament Manuscripts and Scrolls

Existing Old Testament Scrolls	Document Name	Age	Comment	Source
Dead Sea Scrolls	235	300 BC to 100 BC	Includes nearly all Hebrew Bible books except Esther.	Grok, ETDav
Synagogues	10,000	1st century CE to present	Potentially thousands of Torah scrolls	Grok, ETDav
Museums	1,000	300 BC to Present		Grok, ETDav
Private Family Collections	5,000	Medieval to Present	modern Torah scrolls and fragments are held privately	Grok, ETDav
Codices	15	Medieval to Present	Aleppo Codex (c. 930 CE) and Leningrad Codex (c. 1008 CE)	Grok, ETDav
Jewish Seminaries	5,000	Medieval to Present		Grok, ETDav
Individuals	2,000	Medieval to Present	Individuals may own Torah scrolls or fragments, often inherited or purchased	Grok, ETDav
	23,250			



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- iii. [The New Testament](#)'s (NT) Textual Accuracy is the highest of any document when compared to other Manuscripts of the Classical Era (c. 500 BC to c. 500 AD):
1. NT Manuscripts have up to a 99.5% textual accuracy between themselves.
  2. NT Greek and NT Non-Greek Manuscripts have the highest number of existing manuscripts: 23,986 New Testament Manuscripts.
  3. None of the key doctrines or textual meanings are affected by the very small % (0.5%) of textual inaccuracies.
  4. The Table below compares the textual accuracy and the estimated time between original and earliest existing manuscripts of the Classical Era, especially the New Testament:





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Classical-Period Manuscript(s) (from 500 BC to 476 AD)	Earliest MSS	Textual Accurate Between Texts	Number of Existing MSS	Est. Date of Original Events	Est. Date of Earliest Original Writings	# of Years Between Original and the Earliest Existing MSS
Homer's Iliad	About 415 BC	95%	1,900	c. 1200 BC	c. 800 BC	385
Herodotus - History	150 BC- 50 BC	92%	106	c. 450 BC	c. 450 BC	350
Sophocles - Plays	3rd Century BC	90%	226	c. 450 BC	c. 450 BC	200
Plato's Tetralogies	3rd Century BC	93%	238	c. 450 BC	c. 450 BC	200
Thucydides' History	3rd Century BC	NA	188	c. 450 BC	c. 450 BC	200
Josephus (Greek & Latin)	c. 94 AD	90%	290	c. 450 AD	c. 450 AD	356
Demosthenes' Speeches	1st Century BC	91%	444	c. 350 BC	c. 350 BC	300
Tacitus's Annals	1st Half: 850AD	NA	36	c. 100 AD	c. 100 AD	750
	2nd Half: 1050 AD					950
Caesar's Gallic Wars	9th Century AD	90%	251	c. 050 BC	c. 050 BC	800
Pliny the Elder's Natural History	5th Century AD	89%	200	c. 050 AD	c. 050 AD	400
Livy's History of Rome	4th Century AD	87%	473	c. 010 AD	c. 010 AD	340
Apostle Paul's N.T. Epistles (Greek) <i>Note: The Apostle Paul wrote many Epistles just 15 years after meeting Jesus</i>	C. 200 AD	99.5%	800	c. 35 AD	c. 50 AD	15
New Testament (Grk & Non-Grk)	130 AD	99.5%	23,986	c. 030 AD	c. 070 AD	15
NT Greek Mss	5,856					
Non-Greek NT Mss	18,130					

Sources: [Evidence the Demands a Verdict](#), McDowell, 2017, pgs. 42-65; GROK:  
[https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtMg%3D%3D\\_f1bf1eed-ad2c-4bb6-88b6-de51c3cebeca](https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtMg%3D%3D_f1bf1eed-ad2c-4bb6-88b6-de51c3cebeca)



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- iv. **Scriptural [Copying Methodology and Controls](#):** Jewish Scribes employed extreme controls when making copies of scriptural scrolls and manuscript texts. This methodology is a robust approach for ensuring accurate reproductions of scriptural texts:

The Jewish scribes, particularly the Masoretes (active from around the 6th to 10th centuries CE), developed meticulous methods to ensure the accuracy of scripture texts, especially the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh), when making copies. Their goal was to preserve the sacred texts with absolute fidelity, as they believed the scriptures were divinely inspired. Below is an overview of their key practices:

**1. Strict Training and Expertise:**

- a. Scribes, including the Masoretes, underwent rigorous training to master Hebrew, the rules of calligraphy, and the traditions of copying. Only highly skilled individuals were entrusted with this sacred task.
- b. They adhered to a set of detailed scribal rules passed down through generations, ensuring consistency.

**2. Use of Exemplar Texts:**

- a. Copies were made from a carefully chosen master scroll (a model text) considered authoritative. These exemplars were stored in secure locations, such as the Temple in Jerusalem before its destruction.
- b. Scribes worked in controlled environments, often in a scriptorium, to avoid errors.



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### 3. Letter-by-Letter Copying:

- a. Scribes copied texts letter by letter, word by word, without relying on memory. This minimized the risk of unintentional changes.
- b. They vocalized each word aloud while copying to ensure focus and accuracy.

### 4. Counting Systems for Verification:

- a. The Masoretes developed numerical checks to verify accuracy:
- b. They counted the total number of letters, words, and verses in each book of the Hebrew Bible.
- c. They identified the middle letter, word, and verse of each book to serve as a checkpoint.
- d. For example, the Torah (Pentateuch) was known to have 304,805 letters, and any deviation in a copy would indicate an error.
- e. Scribes also tallied specific letters or words (e.g., the frequency of certain consonants) to confirm the text matched the exemplar.

### 5. Masoretic Annotations:

- a. The Masoretes created a system of marginal notes (Masorah) to document textual details, such as:
- b. **Masorah Parva:** Notes on unusual spellings, word forms, or corrections.
- c. **Masorah Magna:** More extensive notes on textual variants or statistics.
- d. **Masorah Finalis:** Summaries at the end of books with counts of verses, words, or other features.
- e. These notes helped scribes cross-check their work and maintain consistency across copies.



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### 6. Rules for Writing and Materials:

- a. Scribes followed strict protocols for preparing parchment, ink, and quills, ensuring uniformity.
- b. Texts were written in precise columns with a fixed number of lines (e.g., 42 lines per column in the Torah).
- c. No corrections were allowed once a mistake was made; if an error was found, the entire sheet of parchment was discarded or marked as defective.

### 7. Cross-Checking and Review:

- a. After completing a copy, scribes or other scholars reviewed the text against the exemplar.
- b. Multiple scribes often worked together, with one reading aloud from the master copy while another wrote, and a third checked the work.
- c. Some traditions required a second or third review by independent scholars to confirm accuracy.

### 8. Sacred Attitude Toward the Text:

- a. Scribes approached their work with reverence, often fasting, praying, or performing ritual purification before beginning.
- b. They avoided adding or omitting even a single letter, as this was considered a grave sin that could alter the meaning of the sacred text.



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### 9. Handling of Errors:

- a. If a mistake was detected during copying, the scribe would stop and either start over or mark the parchment as unusable.
- b. Defective scrolls were not used for public reading in synagogues and were often buried in a *genizah* (a storage area for sacred texts) to prevent misuse.

### 10. Standardization of the Text:

- a. The Masoretes worked to standardize the consonantal text (the Hebrew Bible was originally written without vowels) and added vowel points, accents, and cantillation marks to preserve pronunciation and chant traditions.
- b. Their standardized text, known as the Masoretic Text, became the authoritative version of the Hebrew Bible, widely used today.

### 11. Effectiveness of These Methods

- a. The success of these practices is evident in the remarkable consistency of the Masoretic Text across centuries. For example, when the Dead Sea Scrolls (dating from the 3rd century BCE to 1st century CE) were discovered, comparisons with later Masoretic manuscripts (e.g., the Aleppo Codex, c. 930 CE) showed minimal variations, mostly minor spelling differences or orthographic changes, with no significant impact on meaning. This demonstrates the extraordinary care and precision of the scribes



## 6. Historical & Archeological Evidence supporting the Bible

1) **Old Testament** – These attested sites provide strong historical confirmation of the existences of Abraham, the ancient tribe of Israel, the kings of Israel, providing strong historical and archeological evidence and support to the Biblical scriptures and its narratives:

i. **Est. Date c. 2050 BC, Abraham's Altar** (at the Great Trees of Mamre, Hebron, Israel)

1. Source Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzunDBINbS4&t=3s>
2. Abraham's altar remains at the "Oaks of Mamre," where God (Yahweh) visited Abraham (Genesis 18:1)







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ii. **Est. Date c. 1975 BC, Burial Cave of Abraham, at Machpelah, City of Hebron** (also includes burials sites of Sarah, Isaac, Rebecah, Jacob, and Leah).

1. Source Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYWYfgj\\_7c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYWYfgj_7c)
2. Site where Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, and Leah are buried (Genesis 23:17-19).
3. Pictures Below: (L to R), Current shine building, Steps down into cave, Cover over one of the cave's entrance.



Edifice build over original cave



Steps Down



Covering Plate of Traditional location over Abraham's Tomb





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iii. Dated c. 1850 BC, Jacob's Well, Nablus (Shechem), Israel

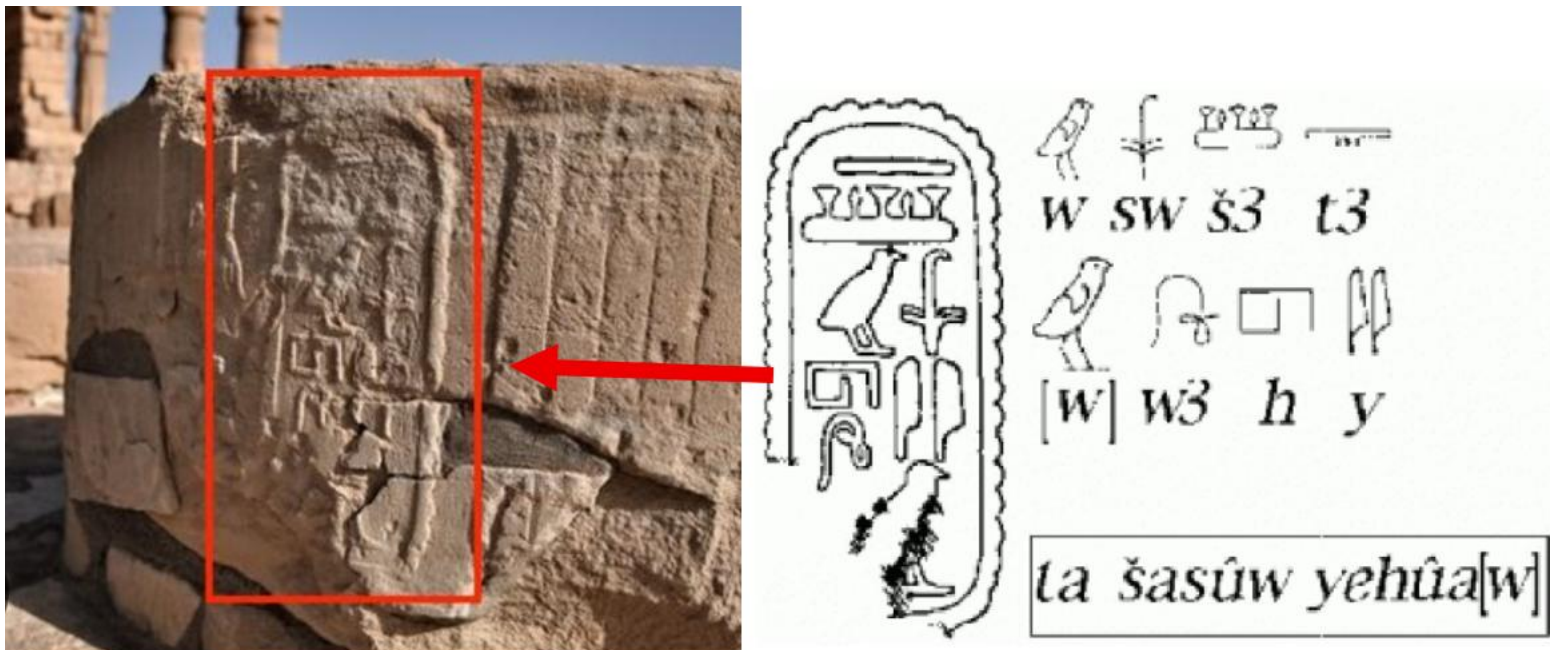
1. Source Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohN7QDUUpBI>
2. Jacob buys a plot of land from Shechem (Genesis 33: 18-19; John 4:6)
3. The current shrine built over the well's original ancient opening.





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- iv. **Dated c. 1450 BC, “Yahweh” God of the Israelites Inscription**, the unique name of the God of the Bible, Inscription on Stone Column at Soleb, Sudan (old Egypt)
1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGEOZ5YI22M>)
  2. Oldest historic written record of name of the God of Israel, “Yahweh.”



“Land of the nomads (“shasu”, i.e. Israel) of Yahweh”





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v. Dated c. 1208 BC, The “Israel” Inscription, Merneptah Stele, Thebe, Egypt.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z9V-44cLpQ>
2. Oldest known record of the use of the name “Israel.”



### The “Israel” Merneptah Stele (1208 BC)

“Israel is laid waste. His seed is no more”

-f his/its	pr.t seed/grain	bn [negative]	fk.t waste	ysrir Israel



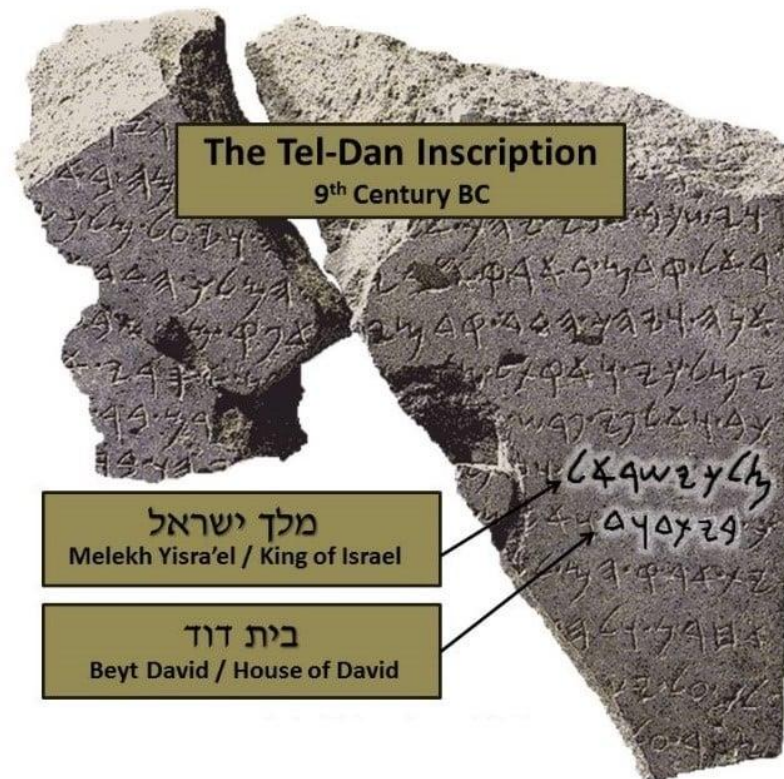
Exodus: 1446 BC [www.bible.ca/exodus](http://www.bible.ca/exodus)



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### vi. Dated c. 850 BC, The “House of David” “King of Israel” Inscription

1. <https://armstronginstitute.org/310-the-three-david-inscriptions>
2. King David reigned between c.1010 BC to c.970 BC.
3. The oldest known historic record to evidence King David (in ancient Hebrew).







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vii. Dated c. 600 BC, “Ketef Hinnom OT Bible Fragment” (silver scroll) of verse: Numbers 6:24–26.

1. Oldest known historic fragment of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Numbers 6:24–26.
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X74dr58e6T8>



-- הברו (כ)  
 -- אֱנִיחֻ  
 -- ר יהו (ו)  
 -- קָעָה  
 -- שִׁבְרַכ  
 יהוה ו  
 (י) שִׁמְרַכ  
 יֵאֵר יְה  
 (וה) פִּנּוּ  
 (אל) יֵב וִי  
 שִׁמְ לִבְ ש  
 לו (מ) --  
 ----  
 ----  
 -- כִּמ --  
 ----  
 -- וֵר - נ -  
 ----

The Lord  
 bless you  
 and keep you.  
 The Lord  
 make his  
 face to  
 shine upon  
 you, and be  
 gracious  
 you.  
 The Lord  
 lift up  
 countenance  
 upon you,  
 and give  
 you peace.



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## 2) New Testament

i. Dated c. 28 AD, Jacob's Well, Nablus (Shechem), Jesus visits Jacob's Well and the Samaritan Women:

1. Source Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohN7QDUpBPI>
2. Jacob buys a plot of land from Shechem.
3. Scriptures: Genesis 33: 18-19; John 4:6.

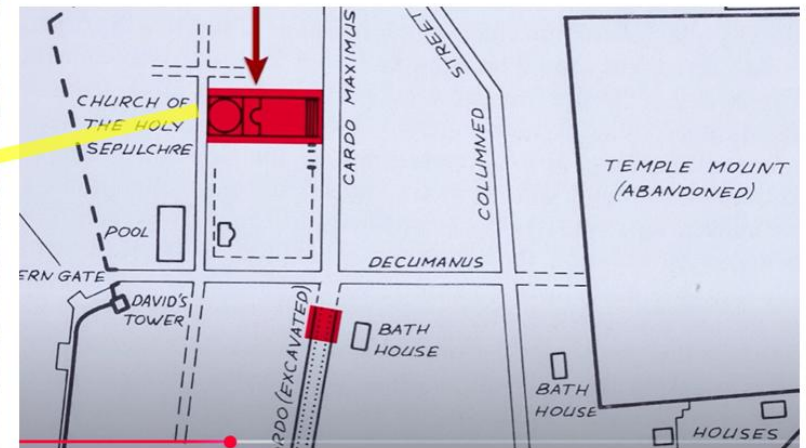






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- ii. **Dated c. 30 AD/330 AD, Site of Jesus' Crucifixion & Resurrection, Jerusalem, Israel.**
1. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem, (built over Jesus tomb, c. 330 AD)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufVXZBrbSsU&t=1382s>
  2. [Emperor Constantine I](#) ordered the construction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem around 326 CE. Construction began shortly after, with the church being completed and dedicated around 335 CE, according to historical accounts by Eusebius of Caesarea. The church was built over what was believed to be the site of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, as identified by Constantine's mother, Helena, during her pilgrimage.







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iii. Dated c. 50 AD, Found example of “Crucifixion Nail” for a Jew named Yehohanan, evidence of how crucifixions took place in Roman controlled Israel in 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWsQ9BuwoOQ> )
2. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-a-stone-box-a-rare-trace-of-crucifixion/>





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- iv. c. 95 AD, Josephus (Jewish-Roman Historian), [\*Antiquities of the Jews\*](#), Book 18.3.3, of Arabic-Coptic al-Makin Version:

### 1. Record of Jesus' Death and Resurrection Believed by His Followers:

*"At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day."*

(Schlomo Pines, [\*An Arabic Version of the Testimonium Flavianum and its Implications\*](#) [Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 1971.], by Arabic Coptic Christian al-Maken, 13<sup>th</sup> Century BC)

- v. c. 110-112 AD: **Pliny the Younger** (a Roman governor of Bithynia-Pontus, wrote a letter, Epistulae X.96) to Emperor Trajan:

### 1. Records the existence of Christians, and that they worshiped Jesus as a God (implying Christians believe Jesus was resurrected and conquered death):



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“It is my custom, my lord, to refer to you all matters about which I am in doubt. For who can better guide my hesitation or inform my ignorance? **I have never been present at any trials of Christians, and therefore I do not know what and how far it is customary to investigate or to punish** .... Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have followed this procedure: I interrogated them as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; **those who persisted I ordered to be executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, their stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserved to be punished** .... They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that **they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not to falsify their word, nor to deny a trust when called upon to deliver it up.**

### vi. C. 116 AD, Tacitus, Roman Historian:

1. Records the existence of Christians in the Roman Empire, and their brutal executions for their devotion to Christ (which implies they believe Jesus was alive again after His crucifixion):

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt [of the fire of Rome] and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, **called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus ...**"



## 7. Fulfilled Biblical Prophecies & Mathematical Probability

### 1) Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled (Not Related to Jesus Christ)

i. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand on the seashore:

1. **Promise Made:** Genesis 22:17 (c. 2050 BC),
2. **Promise Kept/Historical Evidence:** The descendants of Abraham (as of 2025) are currently 16 million Jews, 460 million Arabs, and an untold number of non-Jewish Israelites (diaspora).

ii. Nahum Prophesied 50 years ahead of time that Destruction of the city of Nineveh, Assyria (Currently Iraq)

1. **Prophet:** Nahum
2. **Date of Prophecy:** ~664–654 BC (Nahum is believed to have prophesied during the reign of King Manasseh of Judah, based on the book's historical context).
3. **Prophecy:** Nahum 1:8–10, 2:6, 3:7 predicts the total destruction of Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, stating it would be overwhelmed by a flood, plundered, and forgotten.
4. **Date Fulfilled:** 612 BC
5. **Historical Evidence:** Nineveh was destroyed in 612 BC by a coalition of Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians. The Babylonian Chronicle records the siege and fall of Nineveh,



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noting that the city was sacked and flooded when the Khosr River overflowed, breaching its defenses, as Nahum predicted. Archaeological excavations in the 19th century by Henry Layard confirmed Nineveh's ruins near modern Mosul, Iraq, showing evidence of fire and destruction consistent with a violent end.

### iii. Isaiah Prophesied 180 years ahead of time that King Cyrus would Allow Jewish Exiles to Return

1. **Prophet:** Isaiah
2. **Date of Prophecy:** ~740–700 BC (Isaiah's ministry spanned the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah).
3. **Prophecy:** Isaiah 44:28, 45:1, 45:13 foretells that a ruler named Cyrus would allow the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem without ransom and rebuild the city.
4. **Date Fulfilled:** ~538 BC
5. **Historical Evidence:** The [Cyrus Cylinder](#), discovered in 1879, records Cyrus the Great's decree allowing captive peoples, including the Jews, to return to their homelands and rebuild their temples after he conquered Babylon in 539 BC. The biblical account in Ezra 1:1–4 confirms Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return and rebuild the Jerusalem temple, aligning with Isaiah's prophecy.



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### iv. Jeremiah Prophesied 20 years ahead of time that Babylon would Destroy Jerusalem

1. **Prophet:** Jeremiah
2. **Date of Prophecy:** ~600 BC (Jeremiah's ministry began in the 13th year of Josiah's reign and continued through the fall of Jerusalem).
3. **Prophecy:** Jeremiah 25:9–11 predicts that Babylon would destroy Jerusalem and take the people into exile for 70 years.
4. **Date Fulfilled:** 587/586 BC (destruction); ~538 BC (end of exile).
5. **Historical Evidence:** The Babylonian Chronicle and archaeological evidence from Jerusalem, such as the destruction layers at the City of David, confirm Nebuchadnezzar's siege and destruction of Jerusalem in 587/586 BC. The 70-year exile aligns with the period from the fall of Jerusalem to the return under Cyrus (~538 BC), as recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah.

### v. Isaiah Prophesied 180 years ahead of the Fall of Babylon to King Cyrus

1. **Prophet:** Isaiah
2. **Date of Prophecy:** ~720 BC
3. **Prophecy:** Isaiah 13:19–20, 45:1–2 predicts Babylon's fall to a conqueror (Cyrus), with its gates opened and the city left desolate.
4. **Date Fulfilled:** 539 BC
5. **Historical Evidence:** The Nabonidus Chronicle and Herodotus' *Histories* describe Cyrus the Great's conquest of Babylon in 539 BC, including diverting the Euphrates River to enter the city through its water gates, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. Archaeological excavations at Babylon show a decline after the Persian conquest, supporting the prophecy of desolation.





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### vi. Ezekiel Prophesied 254 years before Tyre's Destruction and Partial Restoration

1. **Prophet:** Ezekiel
2. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 586 BC (Ezekiel's prophecies are dated to the Babylonian exile).
3. **Prophecy:** Ezekiel 26:3–14 predicts that Tyre would be destroyed by many nations, its walls broken, and it would become a bare rock, but later inhabited.
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. 573 BC (Nebuchadnezzar's siege); 332 BC (Alexander's conquest).
5. **Evidence:** Historical records, including those from Babylonian sources, confirm Nebuchadnezzar's 13-year siege of Tyre (586–573 BC), weakening the city. Alexander the Great's conquest in 332 BC, where he built a causeway to the island city and razed it, further fulfilled the prophecy. Archaeological evidence shows Tyre's mainland city was destroyed, and the modern city of Tyre exists on the site, indicating partial restoration as prophesied.

### vii. Ezekiel Prophesied 18 years before Egypt Was Subdued by Nebuchadnezzar

1. **Prophet:** Ezekiel
2. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 586 BC
3. **Prophecy:** Ezekiel 29:19–20 predicts Nebuchadnezzar would conquer Egypt and plunder its wealth as compensation for his campaign against Tyre.
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. 568 BC
5. **Historical Evidence:** The Babylonian *Fragmentary Amarna Tablet* and Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews* mention Nebuchadnezzar's campaign in Egypt around 568 BC. Archaeological evidence of Babylonian influence in Egypt, such as destruction layers in certain sites, supports this conquest, though records are sparse.





## 2) Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled (Related to Jesus Christ, the Messiah)

### i. **Isaiah Prophesied 750 years before that the Messiah to Be The Suffering Servant**

#### 1. **Prophecy:** Isaiah 52:13–53:12:

“52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

14 Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—

15 so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

53:1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.



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10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

2. **Prophet:** Isaiah
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 720 BC (during Isaiah's ministry in the 8th century BC)
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. 30 AD
5. **Fulfillment:** Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead on the third day, as recorded in Matthew 28:1–10, Mark 16:1–8, Luke 24:1–12, and John 20:1–18.
6. **Historical Evidence:** The crucifixion and resurrection is central to early Christian preaching (Acts 2:32, 1 Corinthians 15:3–8), with Paul citing over 500 witnesses, many alive at the time of his writing (~AD 55). The empty tomb and post-resurrection appearances are attested in all four Gospels. The empty tomb, the rapid spread of Christianity, and the willingness of early Jewish disciples to die for their testimony of having seen the risen Christ, provides very compelling support.
  - a. In 1922, the late David Baron, a British Jewish believer in Yeshua [Jesus] who was well-versed in rabbinics, wrote: *"It is beyond even the wildest credulity to believe that the resemblance in every feature and minutest detail between this prophetic portraiture drawn centuries before his [Jesus'] advent and the story of his life, and death, and glorious resurrection as narrated in the gospels, can be mere accident or fortuitous coincidence."*



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- ii. **Isaiah Prophesied 715 years before that the Messiah Would Be Born of a Virgin**
  - 1. **Prophecy:** Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
  - 2. **Prophet:** Isaiah
  - 3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 720 BC (during Isaiah’s ministry in the 8th century BC)
  - 4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. 5 BC
  - 5. **Fulfillment:** Matthew 1:22–23 cites this prophecy, stating that Mary, a virgin, conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit, and he was called Immanuel (“God with us”).
  - 6. **Historical Evidence:** The Gospel accounts (Matthew 1:18–25, Luke 1:26–35) consistently describe Mary’s virgin birth. Critics note that the Hebrew term in Isaiah (“almah,” only means “a young woman of marriageable age, but not yet married”; but in the Jewish culture it is assume that an unmarried young woman would always be a virgin), Also, in the Jewish-Greek Septuagint it translated the Hebrew word “Almah” to the Greek word “parthenos” (virgin), aligning with Matthew’s interpretation. Additionally For the child to be a “sign” (Isaiah 7:14) it must foreshadow that something very unusual or miraculous must occur.



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### iii. Micah Prophesied 700 years before, that the Messiah would be Born in Bethlehem

1. **Prophecy:** Micah 5:2 – “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”
2. **Prophet:** Micah
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 705 BC (Micah’s ministry, contemporary with Isaiah)
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. 5 BC
5. **Fulfillment:** Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as recorded in Luke 2:4–7 and Matthew 2:1.
6. **Historical Evidence:** The Gospel narratives align with a Roman census under Quirinius (Luke 2:1–3), which required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem. Roman census practices are documented in historical records. The specificity of Bethlehem, a small village, strengthens the prophecy’s significance.
  - a. Luke was the author of both the [Gospel of Luke](#) and the [book of Acts](#), and his goal was to write “an orderly account” ([Luke 1:3](#)). So the “first census” mentioned in [Luke 2:2](#) could have occurred during Quirinius’ first term as governor (or holding another administrative post), and another during his second term. The second census is mentioned in [Acts 5:37](#) and probably took place between AD 6 and 7 (Josephus links this census to an uprising led by Judas of Galilee).
  - b. Additionally, it is possible, that in the first census that Quirinius could previously have held another significant administrative post in the region, during which a separate earlier census occurred.
  - c. Also, since the Greek word for “first” in [Luke 2:2](#) is a form of the word *protos* and can be translated “before.” Thus [Luke 2:2](#) could actually be translated: “This was the census taken before Quirinius was governor of Syria.”



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### iv. Jeremiah Prophesied 585 years before, that Messiah would Come from the Line of David

1. **Prophecy:** Jeremiah 23:5 – “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.”
2. **Prophet:** Jeremiah
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 590 BC (during Jeremiah’s ministry in the late 7th to early 6th century BC)
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. 5 BC
5. **Fulfillment:** Jesus is described as a descendant of David in Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:23–38, tracing his genealogy through the Davidic line.
6. **Historical Evidence:** Both Matthew and Luke provide genealogies linking Jesus to David, though they differ in details [likely reflecting legal (Joseph) vs. biological (Mary) lines]. Early Jewish opponents of Christianity, such as those cited by Justin Martyr (~150 AD), did not dispute Jesus’ Davidic descent, suggesting it was widely accepted. The emphasis on Davidic lineage aligns with messianic expectations in Second Temple Judaism.



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### v. Zachariah Prophesied 530 years before, that Messiah would Be Betrayed for Thirty Pieces of Silver

1. **Prophecy:** Zechariah 11:12–13 – “I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.’ So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord.”
2. **Prophet:** Zechariah
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 500 BC (Zechariah’s ministry in the late 6th century BC)
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and the money was used to buy a potter’s field (Matthew 27:3–10).
6. **Historical Evidence:** Matthew explicitly cites this prophecy, noting Judas’ payment and the purchase of the potter’s field. The specificity of the amount (thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave in Exodus 21:32) and its use for a burial ground for foreigners align closely with the Gospel account. No external records confirm the transaction, but the detail’s precision and early Christian attestation support its historicity.





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### vi. King David Prophesied 1030 years before, That Messiah's Hands and Feet to Be Pierced

1. **Prophecy:** Psalm 22:16 – “Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.”
2. **Prophet:** David (traditionally attributed)
3. **Date of Prophecy:** ~1000 BC (during David's reign)
4. **Date Fulfilled:** ~AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** Jesus was crucified, with nails driven through his hands and feet (John 19:18, 20:25–27).
6. **Historical Evidence:** Crucifixion was a Roman execution method, archaeologically confirmed by finds like the heel bone of Yehohanan (1st century AD), pierced by a nail. The Gospel accounts describe Jesus' crucifixion in detail, and Psalm 22's imagery (mocking, divided garments, pierced hands and feet) matches the New Testament narrative. Critics argue Psalm 22 describes David's personal distress, not a prophecy, but early Jewish Christians applied it prophetically and messianically. Prophetic Scriptures many times have a double fulfillment.



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### vii. King David Prophesied 1030 years before, That Messiah's Bones Would Not Be Broken

1. **Prophecy:** Psalm 34:20 – “He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.”
2. **Prophet:** David (traditionally attributed)
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 1000 BC
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** John 19:33–36 notes that Jesus' legs were not broken during crucifixion, unlike the typical Roman practice, fulfilling this prophecy and linking it to the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:46).
6. **Historical Evidence:** Roman crucifixion often involved breaking the legs to hasten death ([crurifragium](#)), as confirmed by historical sources like Josephus. John's account specifies that Jesus was already dead, so his legs were not broken, aligning with the Passover lamb imagery and Psalm 34:20. This detail is unique to the Gospel narrative and consistent with early Christian claims.



## Answers4Seekers: Session #16 [www.answers4seekers.org](http://www.answers4seekers.org)

### viii. King David Prophesied 1030 years before, That Messiah Would Be Mocked and Insulted

1. **Prophecy:** Psalm 22:7–8 – “All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ‘He trusts in the Lord,’ they say, ‘let the Lord rescue him.’”
2. **Prophet:** David (traditionally attributed)
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 1000 BC
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** Matthew 27:39–43 describes Jesus being mocked on the cross, with passersby and religious leaders saying, “He trusts in God. Let God rescue him.”
6. **Historical Evidence:** The Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark 15:29, Luke 23:35) consistently report the mocking of Jesus during his crucifixion, mirroring the language of Psalm 22. The specificity of the taunts strengthens the connection. The consistency across Gospel accounts and their early circulation (within decades) supports their reliability.



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### ix. King David Prophesied 1030 years before, That Messiah Would Be Given Vinegar to Drink

1. **Prophecy:** Psalm 69:21 – “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.”
2. **Prophet:** David (traditionally attributed)
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 1000 BC
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** John 19:28–29 records that Jesus, while on the cross, was offered sour wine (vinegar) to drink.
6. **Historical Evidence:** Gospels (Matthew 27:48, John 19:29) describe soldiers offering Jesus sour wine on a sponge, a common practice in crucifixions as noted in Roman records. The precise fulfillment of this detail, combined with the early Christian testimony, supports the claim. Critics argue Psalm 69 is about David’s suffering, not a prophecy, but its application to Jesus is consistent with early Jewish Christian texts. Prophetic Scriptures many times have a double fulfillment.



## Answers4Seekers: Session #16 [www.answers4seekers.org](http://www.answers4seekers.org)

### x. Hosea Prophesied 760 years before, That Messiah Would be Resurrected on the Third Day

1. **Prophecy:** Hosea 6:2 – “After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.” Also see: Psalm 16:10 (Acts 13:35–37)
2. **Prophet:** Hosea
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 730 BC (Hosea’s ministry in the 8th century BC)
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, as recorded in Matthew 28:1–10, Mark 16:1–8, Luke 24:1–12, and John 20:1–18.
6. **Historical Evidence:** The resurrection is central to early Christian preaching (Acts 2:32, 1 Corinthians 15:3–8), with Paul citing over 500 witnesses, many alive at the time of his writing (~AD 55). The empty tomb and post-resurrection appearances are attested in all four Gospels. The empty tomb, the rapid spread of Christianity, and the willingness of early disciples to die for their testimony of having seen the risen Christ, provides very compelling support.
7. **For additional resurrection prophetic support, see:**
  - a. **Psalms 16:10:** “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.”
  - b. **Isaiah 53:11 (1QIsaA, DSS):** “From the toil of his soul he will see light [of life], he will be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”
  - c. **Ezekiel 37:4-5** “And He said to me, “Prophecy concerning these bones and tell them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life.’”
  - d. **Jonah 1:17:** “And the LORD designated a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights.”





## Answers4Seekers: Session #16 [www.answers4seekers.org](http://www.answers4seekers.org)

### xi. 10. King David Prophesied 1030 years before, that Messiah Would Be Betrayed by a Friend

1. **Prophecy:** Psalm 41:9 – “Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.”
2. **Prophet:** David (traditionally attributed)
3. **Date of Prophecy:** c. 1000 BC
4. **Date Fulfilled:** c. AD 30
5. **Fulfillment:** Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus’ disciples, betrayed him (John 13:18–30, Matthew 26:47–50).
6. **Historical Evidence:** All four Gospels record Judas’ betrayal, with John 13:18 explicitly citing Psalm 41:9. The historical figure of Judas is referenced in early Christian texts and indirectly supported by the rapid spread of Christianity despite the scandal of a disciple’s betrayal. The consistency of the Gospel accounts and their early composition lend strong credibility. Prophetic Scriptures many times have a double fulfillment.

### xii. Additional Resources from the “Jews for Jesus” organization:

1. [The Top 40 Messianic Prophecies](#) [Link]
2. [What Proof Do You Have That Jesus is the Messiah?](#) [Link]



### 3) The [Calculated mathematical probability](#) [Grok link]

- i. What is the [Calculated mathematical probability](#) that 10 of the above prophecies could randomly occur in the life of one unknown future person, and yet all came to be fulfilled in history in that one future person:
- ii. **The probability that these ten prophecies could be randomly fulfilled in one person's life is approximately 1 in  $10^{37}$ .**
- iii. 1 in  $10^{37}$  = 1 chance in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. The odds for ten prophecies (1 in  $10^{37}$ ) are equivalent to randomly picking atom with your name on it out of all the atoms in the observable universe.



## **8. Meta-Physics, the Bible, and Us**

- 1) If you exist as a person with a mind and freewill, you require the existence of a meta-physical realm.
- 2) Meta-Physics is the study of that which is “beyond” the physical realm (that is the realm of the mind, soul, and spirit).
- 3) The God of the Bible provides the only adequate answer as to how (and why) humans exist with a mind and freewill.
- 4) The universal principle of “causality,” states that every “effect requires an equal or greater cause.” The only adequate source for humans which have a “mind, freewill, and demands for fairness,” requires a Being who has a Mind, Will, and Morals as the source of our existence.
- 5) Apart from a Super-natural, personal Creator, humans are only chemical reactions, where personhood is an illusion only, since “pure naturalism” only allows for:
  - a. Purely determined forces,
  - b. Purely random forces,
  - c. Random forces with fixed probabilities,
  - d. Or a mixture of the above.
- 6) Since, by definition, the God of the Bible is eternal and personal (having a mind, will, morals, and emotions) this is the only known adequate basis to explain how humans do truly exist as “freewill” agents with a true mind, true will, and a true desire for fairness; being created in the image of their Creator.



## Answers4Seekers: Session #16 [www.answers4seekers.org](http://www.answers4seekers.org)

### 9. Summary

In this session we explored evidences that provided strong support for the “divine inspiration” and “textual accuracy” of the Bible (Old and New Testaments), along with a summary of key supporting archeological & historical evidences, including fulfillments of specific Bible prophecies.

**Returning to our four original key Questions:**

1. Q: Does the Bible meet the criteria for “Divine Inspiration”? **A: *It Does.***
2. Q: Were those “inspired words” review by proven religious leaders, reduced to writings, and then included in the ‘canon’ of Scripture? **A: *Yes.***
3. Q: How close in time are the existing ancient Biblical Manuscripts to the time of their actual original writing and event? **A: *NT portions are the closest in time of the original event of any document from the Classical Era (NT portions are as little as 15 years from the date of the original event to the actual writing).***
4. Q: How textually accurate are the Biblical manuscripts between themselves? **A: *The NT manuscripts have the highest textual accuracy (99.5%) of any document from the Classical Era; the next highest is Homer’s Iliad at 95% textual accuracy.***

Unlike the Bible, all other known religious texts fail to meet the above stated “criteria” to qualify as having “divine inspiration.”



## 10. Additional Books and Resources:

- 1) [Evidence That Demands A Verdict](#), 2018, McDowell
- 2) [The Origin of the Bible](#), FF Bruce, et al, 2012
- 3) [Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology](#), 2017
- 4) [Where God Came Down](#), Kramer, 2020
- 5) [The Canon of Scripture](#), 1988, FF Bruce
- 6) [The Evidence of Prophecy](#), 2001, Newman
- 7) Fulfillment probability of 10 Messianic Prophecies: (Grok)  
[https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtMg%3D%3D\\_28d4548b-7d00-466e-968d-d7398530d626](https://grok.com/share/c2hhcmQtMg%3D%3D_28d4548b-7d00-466e-968d-d7398530d626)
- 8) <https://grok.com/> (AI Generator – general, see embedded links in text)