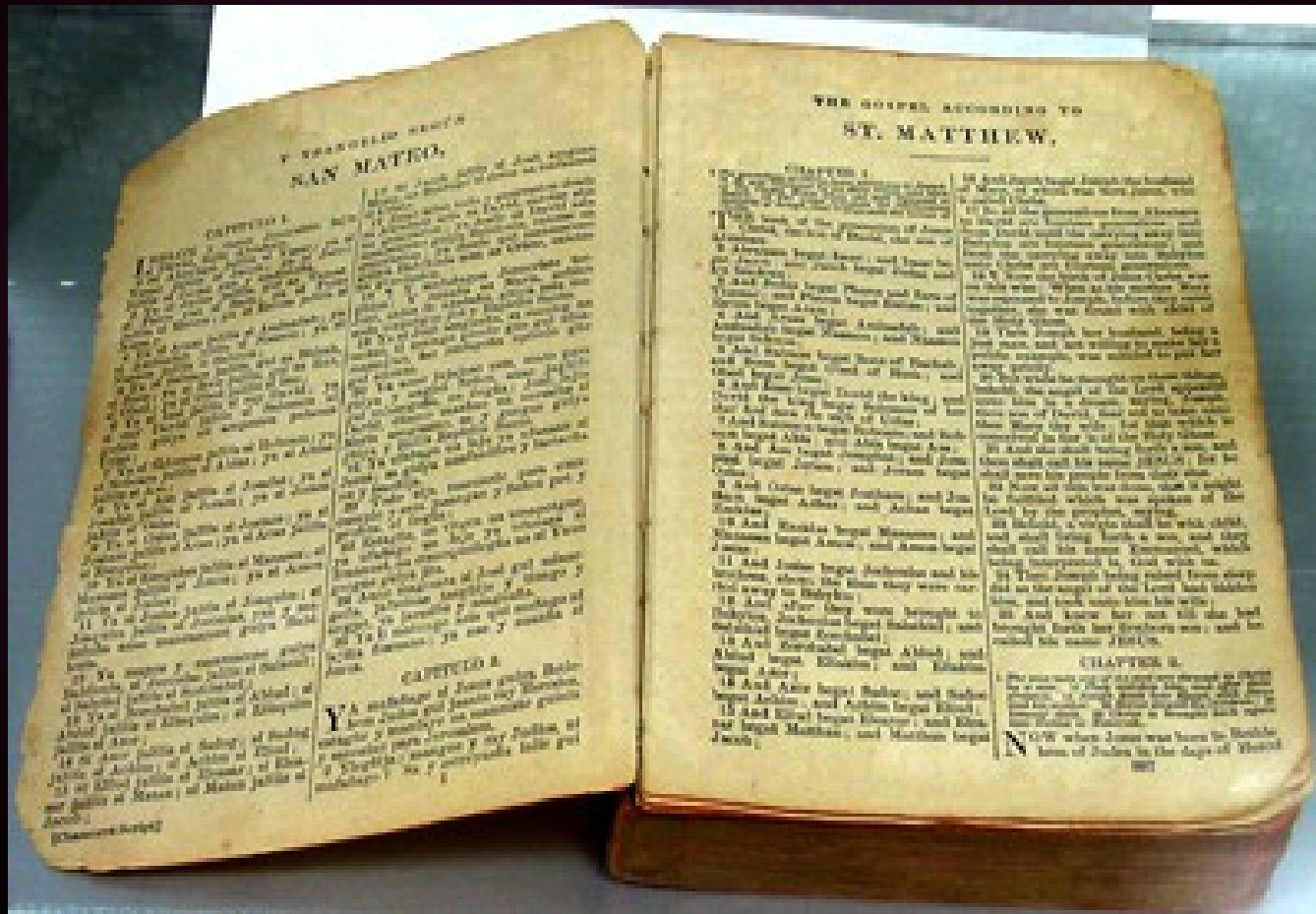


# Can the Bible be Trusted?



Copyright by Norman L. Geisler 2005



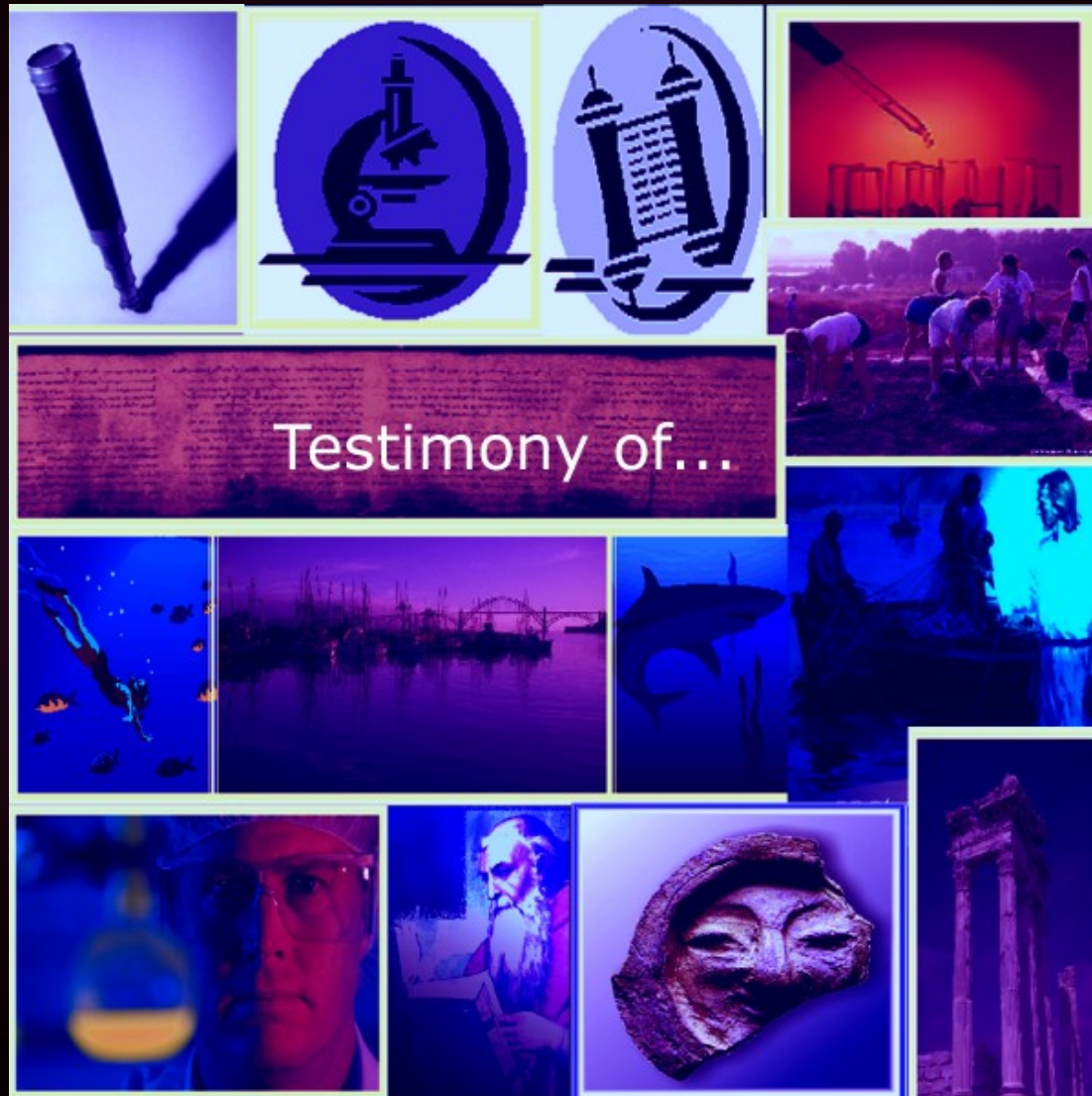
Can I Trust My Bible?

# Can the Bible be Trusted?

## You be the Jury



# Let's Call the Witnesses



# The Testimony of *Science*

- Universe had a beginning (Gen. 1:1)



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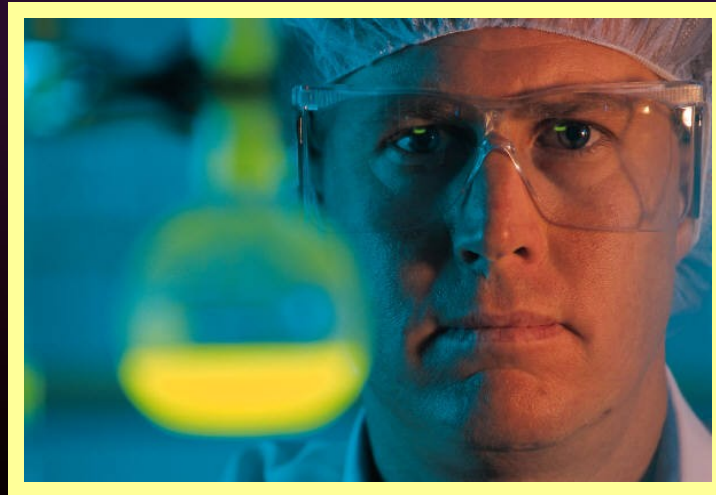




# Physics and Chemistry



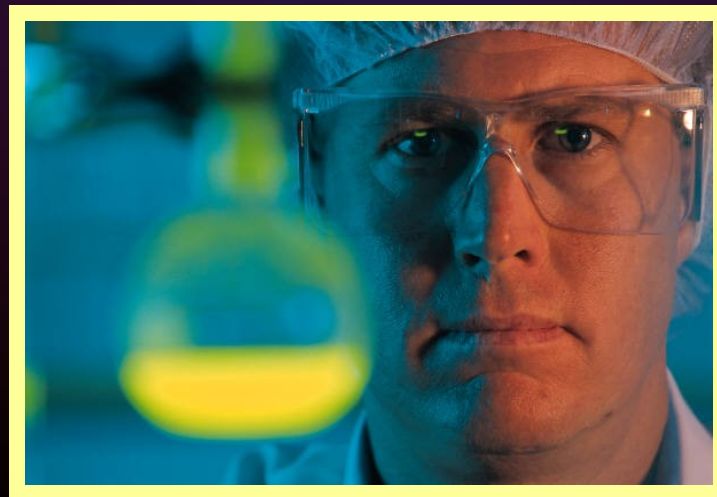
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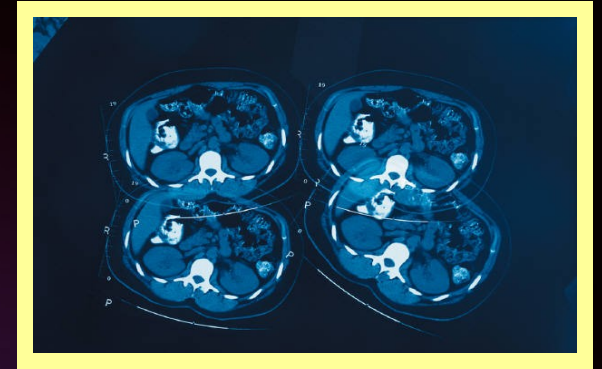


- Universe is running down (Psa. 102:26).
- Human body is composed of the earth's basic elements (Gen. 2:7).
- Water returns to its source (Ecc. 1:7).





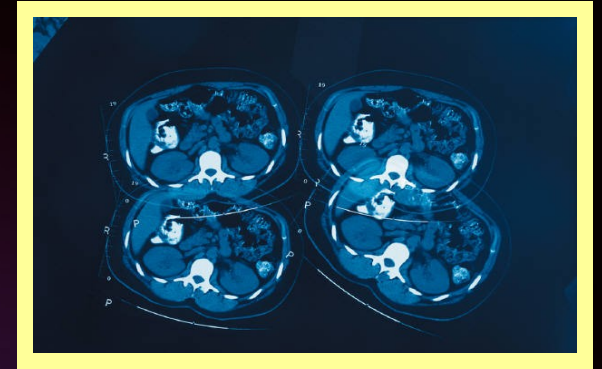
# Biology



- Life does not emerge from non-life (Gen. 1:21).



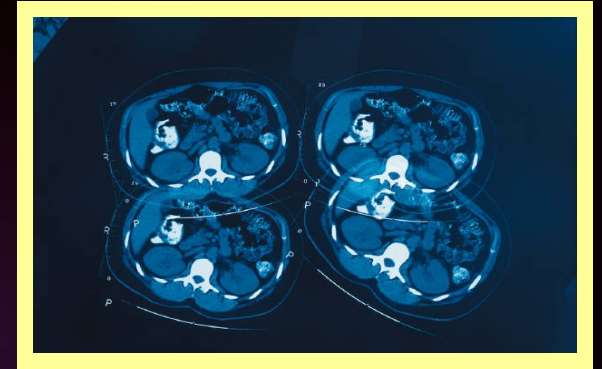
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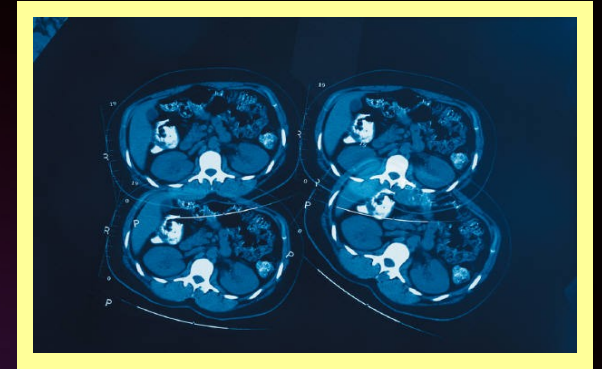
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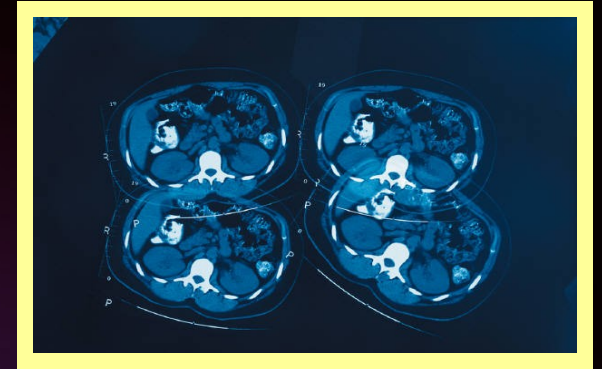
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# Geology



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- **Life forms remain basically the same (Gen. 1:12, 21).**

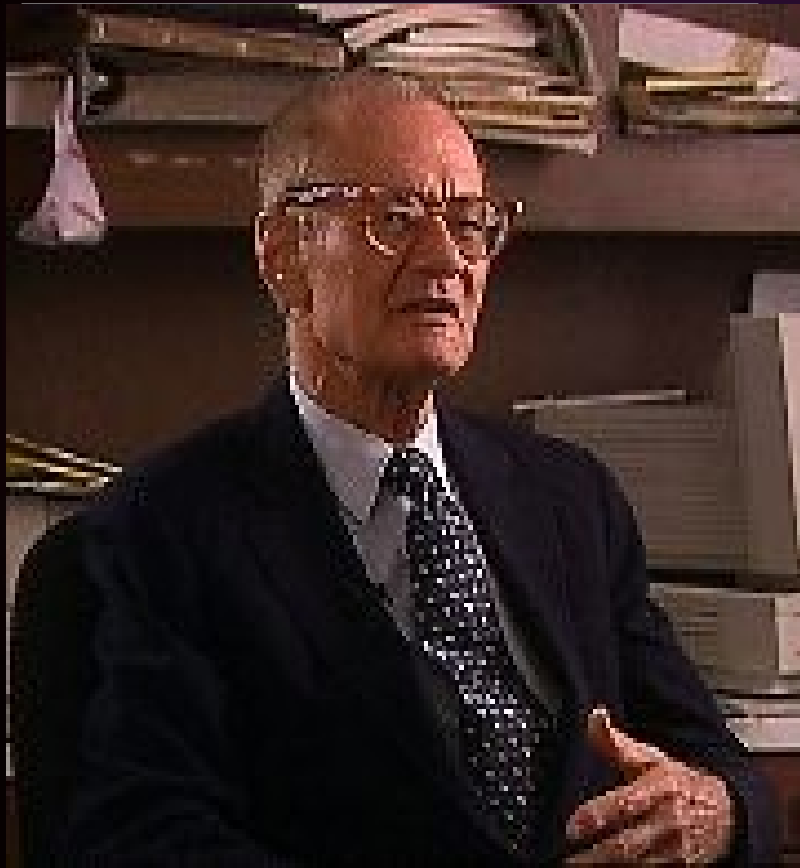


# Geology



- **Basic forms of animal life begin all at once (Gen. 1).**
- **Life forms remain basically the same (Gen. 1:12, 21).**
- **All types of life begin fully formed (Gen. 1:20-21).**

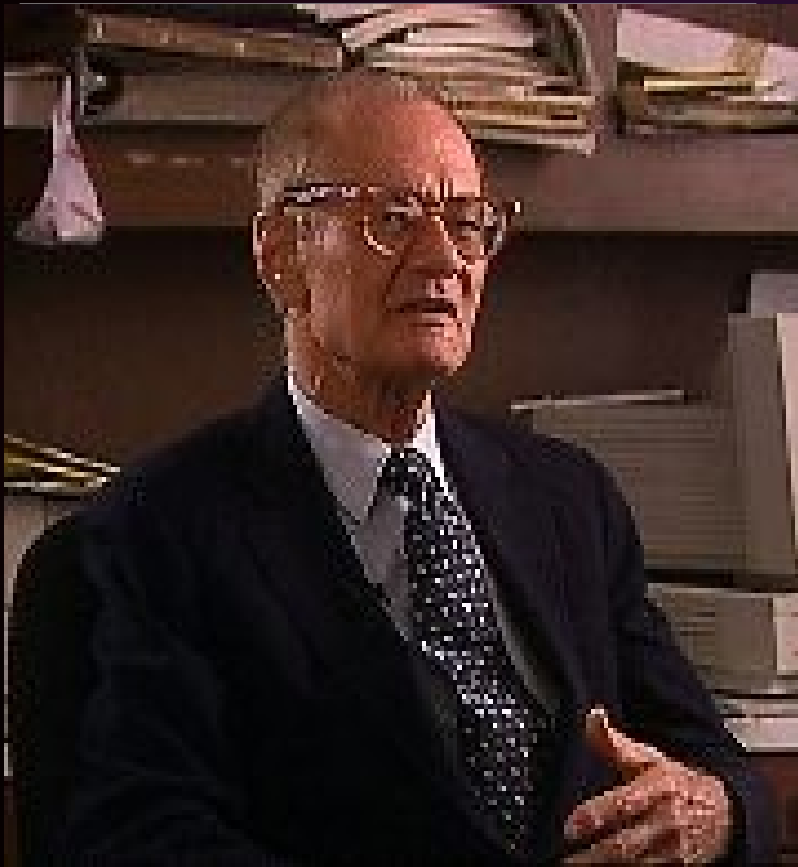
# An Agnostic Astronomer



“Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world.... The chain of events leading to man commence suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy” (Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 14).



# An Agnostic Astronomer



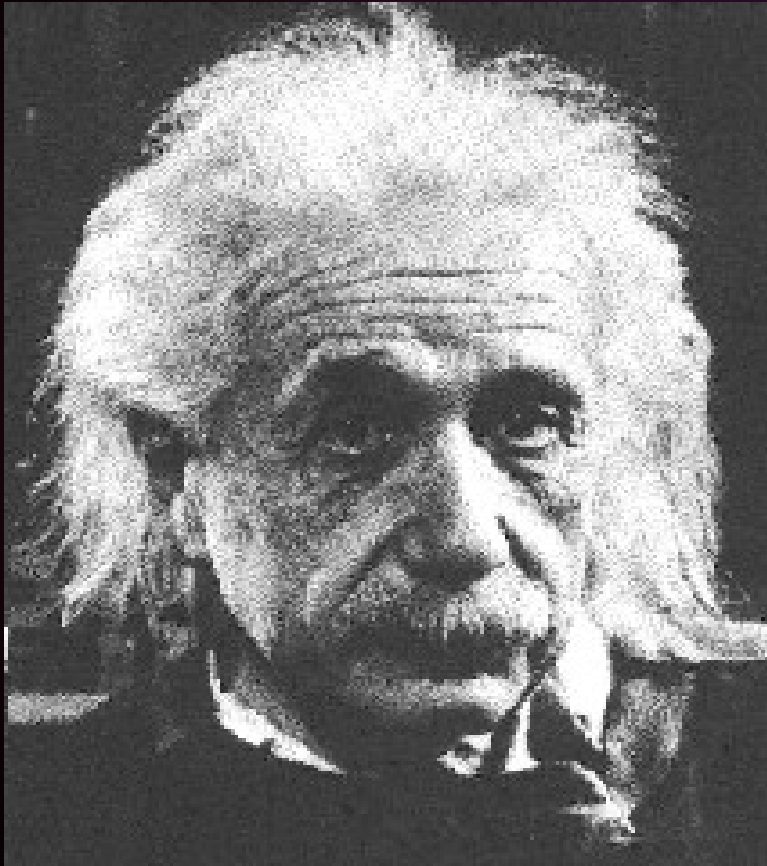
- "That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact" (Jastrow in *Christianity Today*, 18).

# Science Ends with a Beginning

"The scientists pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible: `In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth'" (Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 115).



# A Super-Intelligent Cause



- "The harmony of natural law. . . reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection" (in Heeren, *Shew Me God*, 66).

# The Testimony of the *Scribes*



- A. They claimed it came from God (2Tim. 3:16-17; 2Pet. 1:20-21).



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- D. There is historical confirmation for what they claimed.

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# The Testimony of the *Supernatural*

**A. There are supernatural predictions.**



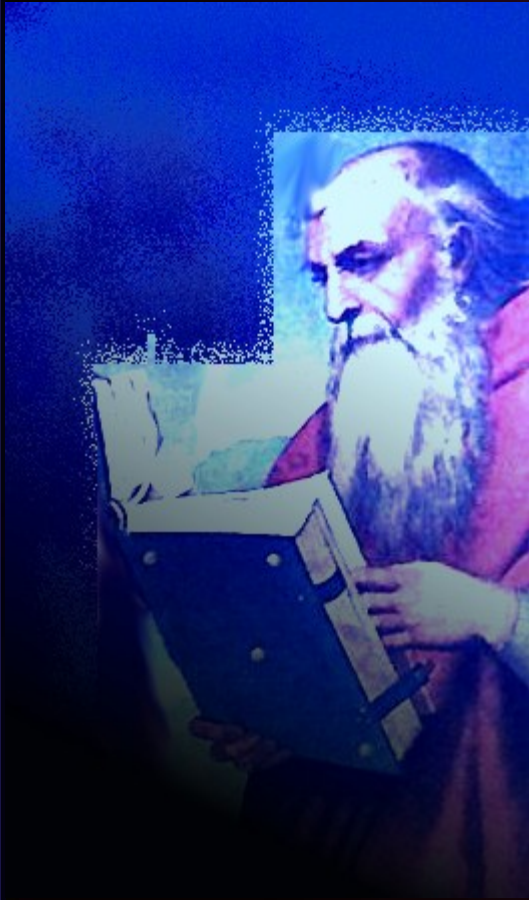


# The Testimony of the *Supernatural*

- A. There are supernatural predictions.**
- B. There are supernatural confirmations.**

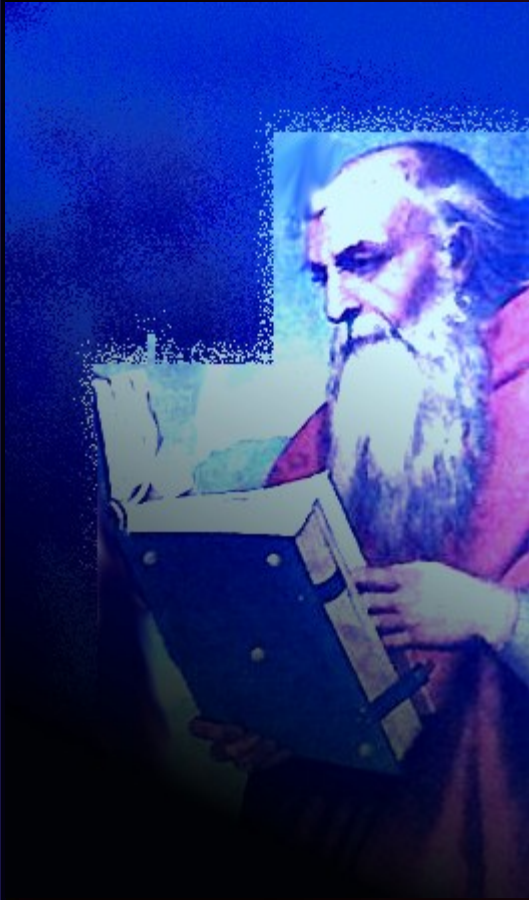


# The Testimony of Supernatural Predictions



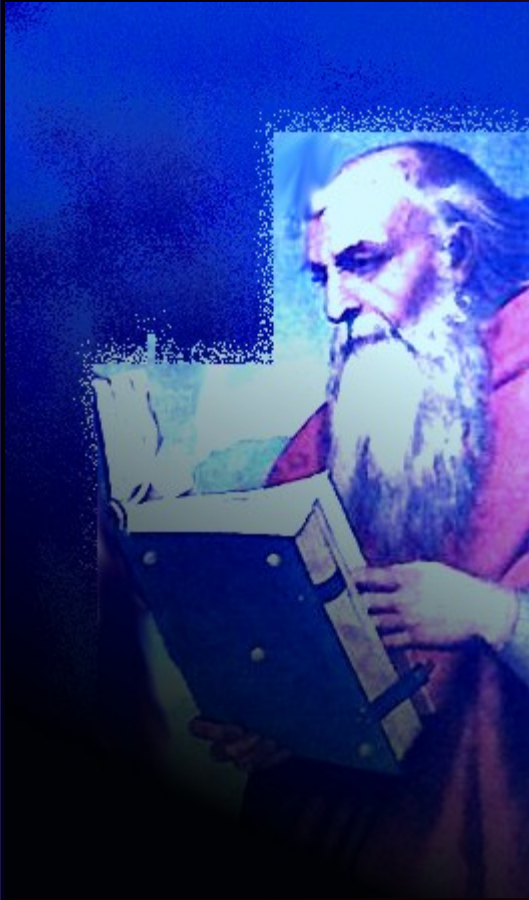
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1. They were made hundreds of years in advance (Dan. 9:24f.).
2. They were often clear and specific (cf. Mic. 5:2; Isa. 53).
3. They all came to pass as predicted.

# Supernatural predictions were on target.





Bible: 100% Right!

Psychics: 92% Wrong!



# The Testimony of Supernatural Confirmations

1. The Bible contains numerous miracles (Moses, Elijah-Elisha, Jesus-Apostles).



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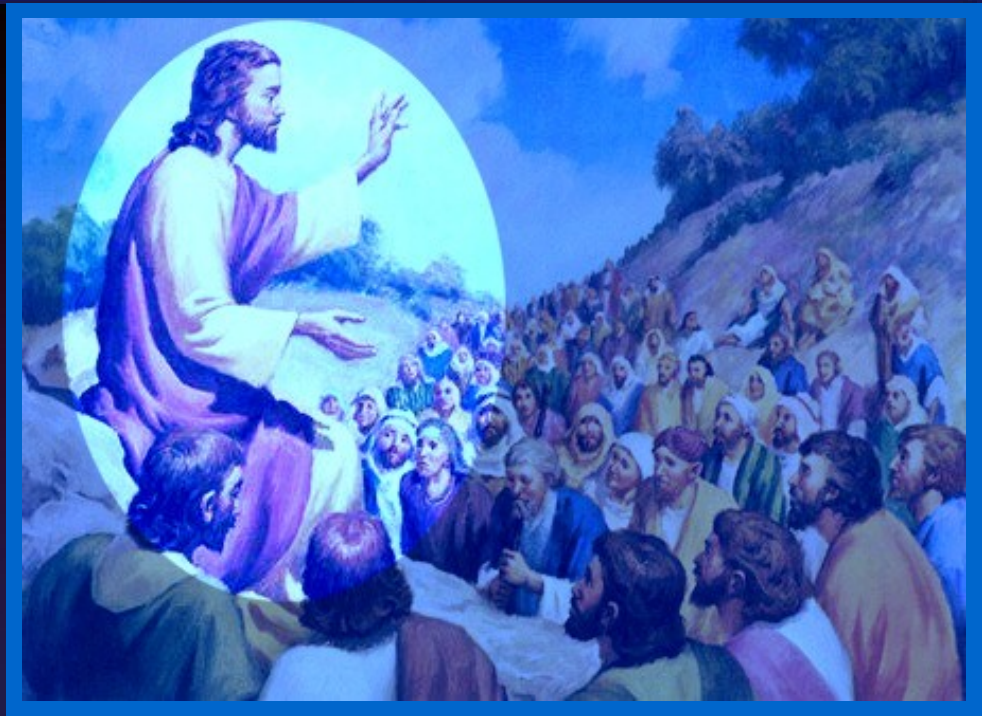
# The Testimony of Supernatural Confirmations

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2. A miracle is a divine confirmation (Ex. 4:1-8; 1Kgs 18:36-39; Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:3-4; 2Cor. 12:12).
3. No other book in the world has this (cf. Quran: Suras 3:183; 17:102).



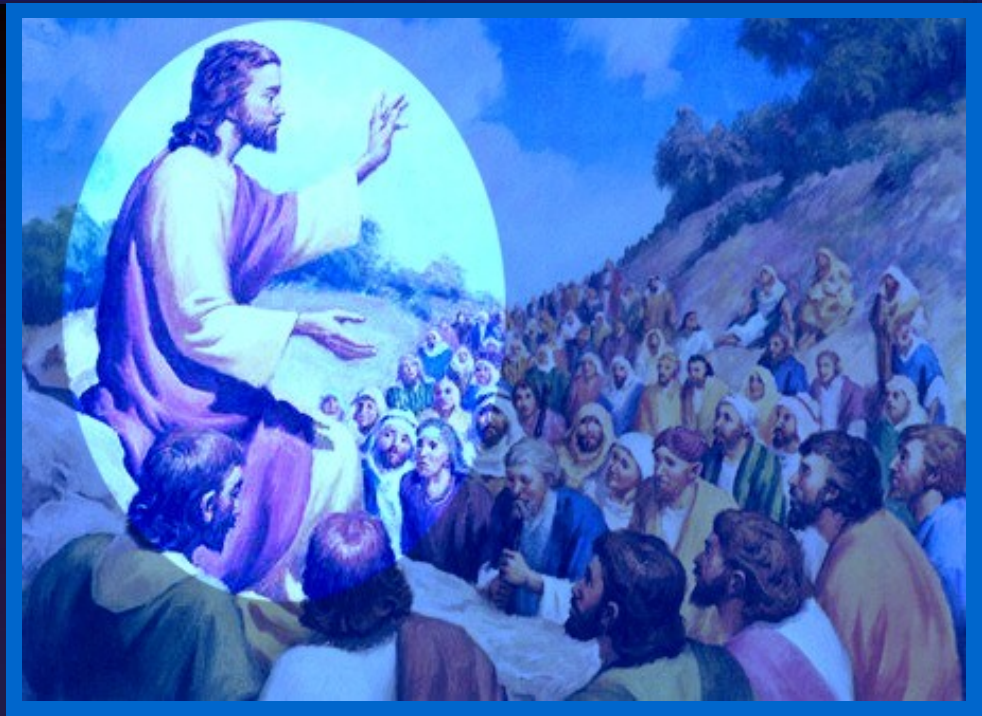


# The Testimony of the *Savior*



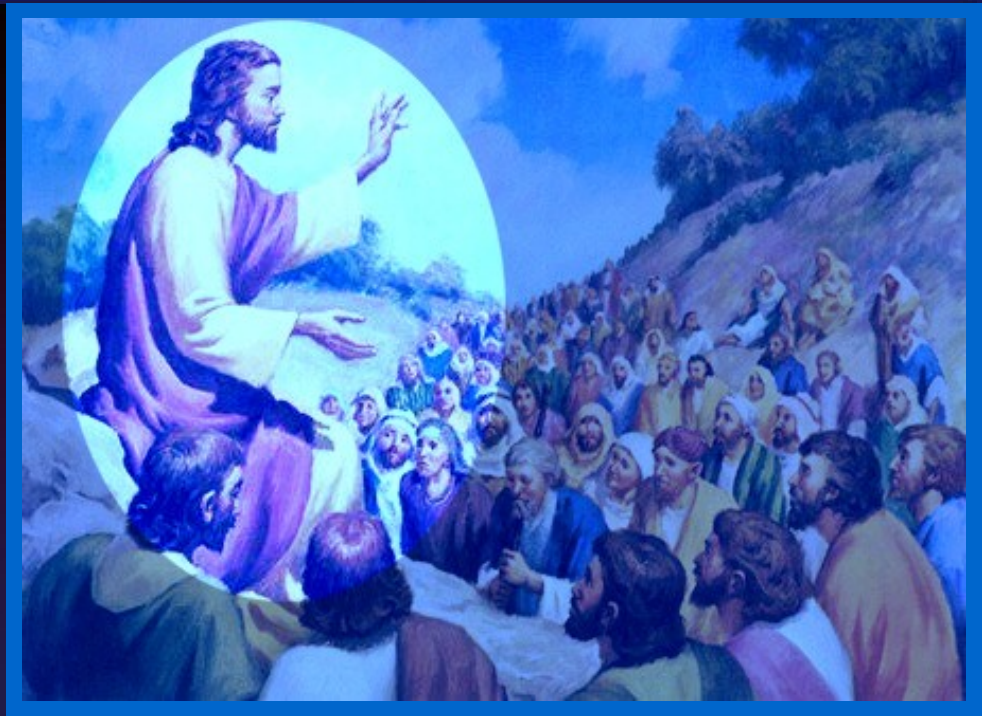
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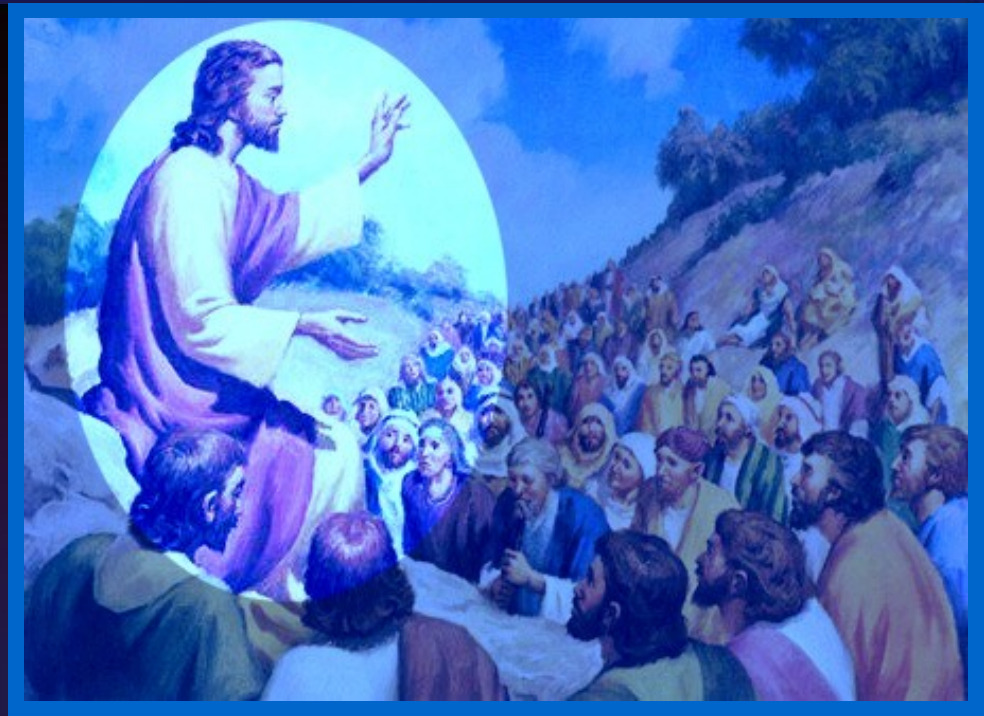
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# The Testimony of the *Savior*



- A. **Jesus** claimed to be the Son of God.
- B. **Jesus** was confirmed by acts of God.
- C. **Jesus** said Bible is Word of God.
- D. Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God.

# Jesus claimed to be God

## Jesus Claimed to be Yahweh (LORD).

### OT

Psa. 23:1  
Isa. 44:6  
Joel 3:12  
Isa. 62:5  
Psa. 27:1  
Isa. 43:11  
Isa. 42:8  
1Sam. 2:6

### Attribute

Shepherd  
First & Last  
Judge  
Bridegroom  
Light  
Savior  
God's Glory  
Giver of Life

### NT

Jn. 10:11  
Rev. 1:17  
Mt. 25:31f.  
Mt. 25:1  
Jn. 8:12  
Jn. 4:42  
Jn. 17:5  
Jn. 5:21

# Jesus claimed to be the "I AM"

- God's Name is "I AM" (Ex. 3:14).
- Jesus said: "Before Abraham was, I AM" (Jn. 8:58).



# Jesus Claimed to be Equal with God

- Jesus said, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mk. 2:5f.).
- The scribes replied: "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (2:7).



# Jesus claimed He should be honored as God.

He said that all men should, "honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him" (Jn. 5:23).





# Jesus Claimed to be Messiah- God

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- Jesus claimed to be the Messiah (Mk. 14:61-64; Jn. 4:25-26).
- Hence, Jesus claimed to be the Messiah-God.



# Jesus Claimed to be God by Accepting Worship

- Bible forbids worshiping anyone but God (Ex. 20:1-4; Deut. 5:6-9).



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- Humans refused worship (Acts 14:15).
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- But Jesus accepted worship on numerous occasions.
- Therefore, Jesus claimed to be God.





# Jesus accepted worship from:

1. The mother of James and John (Mt. 20:20);
2. The Gerasene demoniac (Mk. 5:6);
3. A blind man (Jn. 9:38);
4. Doubting Thomas (Jn. 20:28);
5. The women at the tomb (Mt. 28:9);
6. A Canaanite women (Mt. 15:25)
7. His disciples [Mt. 14:33];
8. A healed leper (Mt. 8:2);
9. A rich young ruler [Mt. 9:18).



# An Important Note:

1. Jesus never rebuked anyone who worshiped Him.



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1. Jesus never rebuked anyone who worshiped Him.
2. He even commended some for doing it (Jn. 20:29 cf. Mt. 16:17) .



# Jesus Claimed to Have Equal Authority with God by Putting His words on a par with God's:

- "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago.... But I tell you..." (Mt. 5:21, 22).
- "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Mt. 28:18-19).
- "A new commandment I give you: Love one another" (Jn. 13:34).
- "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Mt. 24:35).
- Jesus said, "that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day" (Jn. 12:48).



# Jesus Claimed to be God by Requesting Prayer in His Name.

- "Whatever You ask [the Father] in my name, that I will do" (Jn. 14:13).
- Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).



# Jesus was confirmed by acts of God

- "Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know" (Acts 2:22 cf. Mt. 11:2-5; 12:38, 40; Mk. 2:10-11).



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- Nicodemus said: "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him" (Jn. 3:2).





# Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God, Affirming It has:

1. Divine Authority (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10);
2. Indestructibility (Mt.. 5:17-18);
3. Infallibility (Jn. 10:35);
4. Inerrancy (Mt. 22:29; Jn. 17:17);
5. Historical Reliability (Mt. 12:40; 24:37);
6. Scientific Accuracy (Mt. 19:4-5; Jn. 3:12);
7. Ultimate Supremacy (Mt. 15:3).



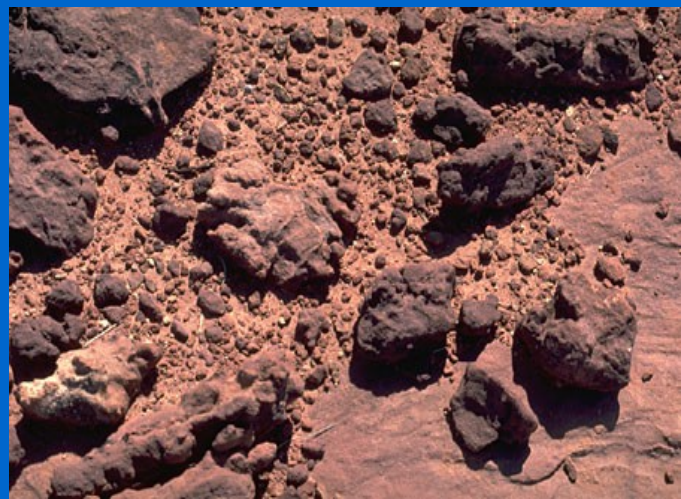
# Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God.

1. **Jesus** is the Son of God.
2. **Jesus** was confirmed by acts of God.
3. **Jesus** said the Bible is the Word of God.
4. Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God.



# The Testimony of the *Stones*

1. No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible.
2. Thousands of archaeological finds support the Bible.



# 1. No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible.

"As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible" (Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, 31).



## 2. Thousands of archaeological finds support the Bible.

"The geography of Bible lands and visible remains of antiquity were gradually recorded until today more than 25,000 sites within this region and dating to Old Testament times, in their broadest sense, have been located..." (Donald J. Wiseman, "Archaeological Confirmation of the Old Testament," in C.F.H. Henry, *Revelation and the Bible*, 301-302).



# Some examples of archaeological confirmation:

- **Ebla Tablets**--Creation from nothing (Gen. 1-2)
- **Flood Accounts**--Worldwide stories (Gen. 6-9)
- **The Tower of Babel**--Sumerian Ziggurats (Gen 11)
- **The Patriarchs**--Mari letters (Gen. 12-50)
- **Sodom and Gomorrah**--Mt. Sodom (Gen. 18-19)
- **The Exodus**--evidence in Arabia (Ex. 12 cf. Gal. 4:25)
- **King David**--inscription with David's name on it (2 Sam.)
- **Solomon**--ashes and artifacts on temple mound (1Kgs.)



# More examples of archaeological confirmation:

- **The Assyrian Invasion**--Assyrian record of invasion (Isa. 20)
- **King Jehu**--mentioned in Black Obelisk (2 Kgs. )
- **King Hezekiah**--Sennacherib invasion record (2 Kgs.)
- **Hezekiah's tunnel**--underground water found (2 Kgs.)
- **The Jewish Captivity**--King Jehoiachin's records-- (2 Kgs. 25)
- **The Census in Luke 2**--Quirinius census (Lk. 2:1-5)
- **Gallio, Proconsul of Achaia**--inscription of Delphi (Acts 18:12-17)
- **Erastus**--inscription near Corinth theater (Acts 19:22).
- **The Nazareth Decree**--slab of stone with decree from Emperor Claudius (A.D. 41-54) not to move bodies under pain of death.
- **Yohanan**--A Crucifixion Victim from c. A.D. 70 (found 1968)



# The Testimony of the *Structure* (Unity) of the Bible

A. The Bible has great diversity.





# The Testimony of the *Structure* (Unity) of the Bible

- A. The Bible has great diversity.
- B. Yet the Bible has amazing unity.



# The Testimony of the *Structure* (Unity) of the Bible

- A. The Bible has great diversity.
- B. Yet the Bible has amazing unity.
- C. This is best accounted for by Deity (one Mind behind it all).



# The Great Diversity of the Bible: It was--

1. written in two major languages;
2. by some forty human authors;
3. who held numerous occupations;
4. who lived on three different continents;
5. who penned 66 different books;
6. on hundreds of topics;
7. spanning over 1500 years.



# The Amazing Unity of the Bible

It has:

1. One theme--**salvation** (2Tim. 3:15),



# The Amazing Unity of the Bible

**It has:**

1. One theme--**salvation** (2Tim. 3:15),
2. One person--**Christ** (Lk. 24:27),



# The Amazing Unity of the Bible

**It has:**

1. One theme--**salvation** (2Tim. 3:15),
2. One person--**Christ** (Lk. 24:27),
3. With one goal--**to glorify God** (1Cor. 10:31).



# The Source of the Bible's Amazing Unity

A. The Bible has great diversity.



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**Compare a Medical Manual with the same diversity, and it would not have this unity!**

**For example, sickness is cured by:**

1. Exorcizing demons;
2. Draining blood from the veins;
3. Getting positive thoughts in the mind;
4. Taking drugs for bad bacteria and viruses;
5. Releasing the flow of the Force in the body by:
  - a) meditation
  - b) acupuncture
  - c) breathing exercises
  - d) yoga
  - e) eating no meat
  - f) etc.



# By contrast, the Bible states we have:

1. One problem – **sin**;



# By contrast, the Bible states we have:

1. One problem – **sin**;
2. One cure – **salvation**;



# By contrast, the Bible states we have:

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3. Through one person – **Christ**;
4. For one purpose – **to glorify God**.



# The Testimony of the *Spirit* (who speaks through it)

A. The Spirit bears witness that we are  
Sons of God (Rom. 8:16).



# The Testimony of the *Spirit* (who speaks through it)

- A. The Spirit bears witness that we are Sons of God (Rom. 8:16).
- B. The Spirit bears witness that the Bible is the Word of God (1Jn. 5:6-10).
  - 1. He gives inner witnesses through the outer Word.
  - 2. He gives a subjective witness through the objective Word.





# The Testimony of the *Saved* (who are transformed by it)

- A. The Bible has the power to deliver from sin (Rom. 1:16)
- B. The Bible has the power to purify for sin (Jn. 17:17).

**Evidence:** 1) Bible is world's best seller.  
2) Bible is world's best life-changer.



# This is Evidence that Demands a Verdict

We have heard:

1. The Testimony of *Science* (which demonstrates it).
2. The Testimony of the *Scribes* (who wrote it).
3. The Testimony of the *Scrolls* (which preserve it).
4. The Testimony of the *Supernatural* (which confirms it).



# More Evidence that demands a Verdict

1. The Testimony of the *Savior* (who verified it).
2. The Testimony of the *Stones* (which support it).
3. The Testimony of the *Structure* (which corroborates it).
4. The Testimony of the *Spirit* (who speaks through it).
5. The Testimony of the *Saved* (who are transformed by it).



# What is your verdict?



**If no**, then what can be trusted? (Jn. 6:68).

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life (Jn. 6:68).

---

**If yes**, then why not live by it?

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (Js. 1:22).



**If you are not a believer, do  
what it says and--**

**"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be  
saved..." (Acts 16:31).**

**If you are a believer, do  
what it says:**

**"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do  
not do what I say? (Lk. 6:46)**



# Can I Trust My Bible?

You Decide!

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