

How Do I know that God is Really the Author of the Bible?

Believers in the Holy Bible claim that it was authored by God Himself, and that it contains within itself absolute proof of that Authorship! This truth I was finally blessed to have discovered even though it was late in my twilight years, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will choose for me here the appropriate words which someday, somewhere will lead someone to recognize and make this great truth his or her own. This Book reveals not only history of the past, present and future, but does so with 100% proven accuracy. At the same time it has the capacity to give sustaining comfort, solace and peace to even the most troubled, confused and fearful souls, if they believe and have faith in Jesus and in His resurrection. Once you realize that God, the Creator of the universe and of all that is life, actually Authored the Bible, you realize that it cannot be anything but truth. Yet today, it seems to be fashionable to seek answers almost anywhere else except from this unique and most precious Book, or at best to pick and choose from it only that which is pleasant, comfortable or logical, and which fits our own personal preferences. The problem is that only a small remnant seem able to believe the whole Word as expressed in it. While this current widespread lack of belief is a source of sorrow to the true believer, it is not at all a surprise, because the Book itself makes clear that this would, in fact, be exactly so at this point in history. It predicts that hearts would grow cold and that many false prophets would rise distorting the Word, as well as that many false religions will become popular, religions which sound wonderful and promise much, but which in the end can not deliver anything but eternal separation from God.

Among the many verifiable proofs of its divine Authorship are the hundreds of prophecies all of which have been fulfilled with complete accuracy and precision, while others can be seen today in the very process of fulfillment. It is this, along with many other proofs of Authorship, which has caused many, such as myself, to believe, and through belief to find faith as well as solid answers to life's continuous concerns and questions. It is a sampling of these proofs, which I will here attempt to present.

This Book, the Bible, is not a compilation of myths, allegories and contrived history as many wish to view it. It is also far more than an accurate reporting of history, past present and future, as archaeology and unfolding events are slowly recognizing it to be. No archaeological find has ever disproven its historical accuracy. In fact, archeology continues to discover and verify places and events believed by most to be myth. The Bible is also the unique means through which inner peace and eternal life can be obtained for those who accept it for what it truly is, the Word of God. For those who believe, it is a window through which many aspects of the mind of the Lord are revealed and by means of which communications with Him can be established. This is the only Book, two volumes of it, which God ever wrote and had published for distribution for mankind. Its message, its guidance, its directives, and its promise are unlike those of any other religion, cult, belief, custom, superstition, agency, or government. It is the Word of God Himself! How can I say this with such confidence? Because I have studied it well, examined the evidence and found undeniable proof of its Authorship. I did not seek this proof or even wish it to be. I examined it as a matter of extraneous interest related to a totally separate topic with which I was dealing. As the evidence mounted and grew so compelling and undeniable, my former interest faded and God's Word became the primary focus of my life.

Most of us including myself, until I discovered the truth, obtain much of our "wisdom" and "knowledge" from 30-second sound bytes from talking heads reading on the TV or radio. We hear 10 or 15 minutes of selected, carefully sculptured "news" or "documentary" between equal or greater amounts of commercials, and we tend to think of ourselves as "informed." If we read at all, it's usually fiction or a skimming of a newspaper or a magazine, which we feel, tells us all we need to or want to know. To many, sport coverage is what is really important! When a special such as "The Search For The Real Jesus" comes along on TV or in Time magazine, we tend to believe that a truth is being told and that we now really have the last word, certainly at least on this particularly thorny and enigmatic issue. How many ever stop to consider that what we conclude from this or any other program is exactly what the producer and his controller intended us to conclude and that we were skillfully and scientifically led to that

conclusion? Who today researches and digs out facts the hard way in order to find the whole truth instead of the selected portions through which any totally contrary conclusions can be imposed on even the best minds? What is the truth? Does it even matter anymore, as long as the market is up, the economy looks good, my job is secure and I have the material things I want?

Where God and religion are concerned, many “good” people believe that through good work and a virtuous life, and one can earn one’s way into heaven, or some other elevated state. Unfortunately, this is purely human logic and the human sense of “fairness,” and is anything but Biblical Truth. The Lord Himself says in Isaiah 55:8, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts so neither are your ways my ways...” In the following paragraph I’ve tried to express a few thoughts and questions that have passed through my mind at various times in my life prior to finding the truth. I believe that some are surely familiar and generally consistent with the beliefs of many whom I pray might read and benefit from this paper.

“How can a fair and just God (assuming that there even is one) want to punish anyone who has led a decent life? I’m sure that I’ve earned my place in heaven (if there is such a place) because on balance I’ve done pretty well! I’ve resisted sin, I’ve even gone to church, I give to the poor, and I am generally attentive to the rules of decency. I try to be a good person. So, I’ve earned some decent treatment in the hereafter if there is such a place, so how can God deny me? He can’t condemn me if I’ve adhered to most of His laws as best I can, and on balance, have done more good than bad. Hey, if I want to get serious about this thing, there are many religions around. I can choose any one of them. They are all pretty much the same; they believe in the same God; they all get you to the same place; they just take different routes, that’s all. Why should one way be any better than another should? Look at the ecumenical thing, all religions accepting the validity of each other and all seeking ways to merge into one big happy family. Even the Pope has admitted that his isn’t the only way, so what’s the big deal?”

Well, the big deal is that there are many gods, but only one real true God, and He is the Author, the God of the Bible who cannot be allegorized, synthesized or compromised. The ancient Greeks had tens of thousands of gods, as do many eastern religions today. Most profess to some chief god and many (I guess the Pope included) even believe that He is the same one almighty god in whom all religions believe. Some even believe that Jesus was a god, one of several who have come to earth and passed through history. The Bible clearly states many times that there is but one God, and Jesus is and always was part of that triune Godhead. There are no other gods, only pretenders and objects imagined by man to have some mystical qualities. Some may, in fact, have limited supernatural powers, but they are derived not from God but from Satan through his agents. The God of the Bible is the one true and only God, the Creator. There are no other gods, nor can any so called god that is not the God of the Bible, and is not believed in the context of the Bible, be considered the one true God. Surely this is an affront to everyone who sincerely believes in another god, or who believes that their god is the same, or as good as the God in the Bible. It should, however, become evident to anyone who undertakes a serious study of the Bible, that here is something different, something special, something profound. It is the true and undeniable Word of God. I pray that this paper will be a good introduction and stimulus for that study.

What appears above in the italicized paragraph is not at all unlike something that I might have reasoned, up until I discovered the truth of God's Word. To anyone who relates to, or agrees with any part of these thoughts, I must inform you that it is wrong, dead wrong! Dead like eternity dead! It does not work; it does not, cannot lead to salvation! There is only one door to salvation and that door is through Jesus Christ. I hated to come to this conclusion! I fought to avoid it. However, I just couldn't rationalize my way out of it no matter how hard I tried. This door opens only to those who believe in Him as God, as our Savior, who physically died on the cross, was raised from the dead and ascended to Heaven so that we might have eternal life. His physical death was the death and forgiveness of all sin of those who believe and who put their trust and faith in Him.

That's what the Book says, clearly and simply, in God's own words. When you finally realize that He did write the Book, you can't believe anything else. I pray that what I've written below will convince you, or at least get you on the road to knowing the true Authorship of the Scripture. Once you recognize this truth, a saving faith may not be far away.

The Lord gave us the law, the 10 Commandments, to show us what He wanted of us, not what He expected of us. He knew we couldn't possibly go through life totally unblemished, that no human could score 100%, and nothing less than 100% adherence could qualify for admission to heaven. The idea that a good deed can cancel a bad deed is strictly a human contrivance as is the idea that enough good deeds will save the soul on the day of judgement, or that sincerity of belief, whatever it is, is good enough. That's not the way it works! God has deemed that only He has the power to remove sin. We are not endowed in any way with that privilege or authority, not even a priest or the Pope. He chose the cross, the shedding of innocent blood on the cross, as the means to that end. He chose this way even before the world began. He told us so quite clearly and eloquently in Isaiah 53, several hundred years before He did it. This may make no sense to you and may seem as a strange or even stupid way for God to solve a problem or get a point across. However, if you will check out 1Corinthians 1:18, 21, 25, 27 and 28 along with Isaiah 29:14, you will see that the Lord has already anticipated your response and told you why you find His procedure foolish.

For the ancients, He symbolized and previewed this event through the shedding of innocent blood of animals. The salvation of those who lived by faith was thus assured, but it had to be later ratified and validated on the cross, because this was the only way God chose to provide for salvation. Thus, even in ancient times it was their faith, not their work, or their adherence to the law, or even the sacrifice of animals, which saved. It has always been faith, which saved, as the lives of Noah, Abraham, David and others so clearly reveal. It is the same today. It is by faith and faith alone, faith in Jesus and the resurrection, which saves (Ephesians 2:8). The ancients had only the Old Testament that is the Torah, the Psalms and the Prophets. They didn't know of Jesus by name, yet He

appeared one way or another on every page. The distinction of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, the triune Godhead, is also there. Although quiet subtle in its expression, it is readily discerned when viewed from our now available hindsight. Today, if we choose to know, we are greatly blessed by the good news in the New Testament, by our knowledge concerning the actual life of Jesus, His crucifixion, death and resurrection. The ancients had only the many predictions by the prophets and in the Psalms, of His coming and His gift of salvation (Psalms 22, Isaiah. 53, etc.). It was the temporary symbolic substitution for the cross, represented by innocent blood of sacrificial animals, which anticipatorily removed sin, but which removal, by necessity, had to be later affirmed on the cross. We on the other hand, have direct evidence and benefit of this most glorious event, documented and proven more surely than any event in all history.

What seems to be so sorely missed is the understanding, recognition and full absorption of what really happened on the cross and why? That one act of love by the creator of the universe opened the gate of heaven for all time and for all faithful believers, past, present and future. He paid for all sins of all ages of history from Adam to the end of the world. His dying word was “Tetalistai,” which means in Greek, “paid in full, as well as what is normally found in English translations, “it is finished.” Full means exactly what it means, completely fulfilled, no room or need for anymore, all that is necessary or even possible, enough, just plain full, complete, entirely sufficient. Can it be any clearer? So how can anyone conceive of earning or paying for any part of his or her way into heaven, when He already said that He “paid in full” all that was required or even possible to pay? Jesus made this very clear in His own words, as did Paul and other apostles and even the Prophets (Isaiah 53, 1Corinthians15:3, etc.). There is no doubt or ambiguity or cloudiness of this fact in the Scripture. Jesus did it all on the cross. To try to add to it or to modify the message in any way is to presume that His act was insufficient, which, of course, is another way of saying that one doesn’t believe that Jesus was who He claimed to be, or that God is less than omnipotent and truthful. This glorious completed act of redemption by way of the cross is the fundamental precept of true Christianity. Any belief which includes any intercessory on our behalf, any belief which requires or allows any form of adding to or taking away from the sufficiency of what our Lord did on the

cross is not Christianity, because it fails to be Scriptural and, therefore, consistent with God's Word!

The fact that through His grace and His sacrifice alone are we saved, and the fact that we are also thus freed from the law, does not provide us a license to sin. But sin we will, we know we will, God knows we will. Because we are human and yet in the corrupted flesh, we are incapable of total abstinence from sin. But because we know and believe the Who, how and why of the cross, we believers will struggle mightily not to sin as our token of thanks for salvation. Therefore, it is love and gratitude, which causes the Christian to avoid temptation and sin, and not any hope for the reward of salvation. Through faith, salvation is already ours, the hope has been fulfilled; through good works and a virtuous life we give grateful thanks for that salvation, and demonstrate to others and ourselves the sincerity of our faith. Leading a "Christian" life does not by itself make one a Christian. Only faith and commitment to Jesus and unconditional love of God, makes a Christian. The "Christian" life necessarily follows.

If one reflects on what I hope I have meaningfully articulated above, it should become evident that Christianity, pure true unadulterated Christianity, is not a religion, in the more commonly applied sense. It is a faith and a belief centered around the literal Word of God as expressed in the Scriptures. It is an eternal fellowship with Jesus which, while in the flesh, we express in prayer, in communication with Him, and in love and obedience as we "eat our daily bread" through a study of the Scriptures and attempt to walk the Christian walk. True Christianity doesn't necessarily need a church edifice nor does it adhere to any rituals. In fact, the "church" is by definition the whole of the Christian body of faithful individual Christians, also called the Body of Christ. It requires no trappings, costumes, altars, vessels or cathedrals, only the Word of God written in the Scriptures and in the heart. Believers may gather anywhere at any time. The more formalized this gathering of the faithful becomes the more at risk it becomes of succumbing to form over function and thus compromising worship for ritual.

The Pharisees, at the time Jesus walked among them, were extremely religious people. They devoted their lives to their religion and lived it as dutifully as they could. They fasted faithfully, gave to the poor, memorized the Torah, prayed “religiously” and were extremely devoted. However, this “sincerity” was sadly misdirected as they were so entangled in the web of their 613 rituals that they failed to find time or inclination to “faithfully” worship their God. Jesus was critical of them for this reason. Because of the many distractions which their religious rituals demanded, they even failed to recognize Him as the fulfillment of over three hundred prophecies which foretold His coming to the very day, prophecies which in their roles as spiritual leaders they should have known and understood. It is this web of rituals, which has also entangled, confused, diluted and confounded many of the various religions that today call themselves Christian. Unless they are able to free themselves from these diverse entanglements and return to the simple basics of the Scriptures and to the Gospel, they continue to fail to avail themselves of our Lord’s glorious promise. Today it seems endemic throughout many denominations to dilute the faith through many rituals and “church” activities, while at the same time deluding themselves by believing that these “works” are appropriate and necessary adjuncts to true faith. Works are noble and welcomed, but not when they compromise attendance to the first (primary) love (Revelation 2:4)

What a shame. Here we have the greatest Book ever written, a Book which alone changed the world, a document given to us by the Creator, which provides with simple, yet profound clarity, an understanding of the origin, the purpose and the destiny of all creation. Yet, too many today, perhaps I should say to most, it has no more value or credibility, and far less interest than a book on Greek Mythology. Some even view it with disdain or even contempt, while many choose to avoid it, perhaps through fear, because of its message of accountability, its insistence that we are created for a purpose and are, therefore, accountable for our actions.

What a shame that this disinterest, or disdain, or fear or whatever it is, is depriving so many from sharing the greatest blessing ever offered to mankind. However, the Lord does not impose it on anyone. That would violate our sovereign right to choose, a right

which He will not violate. However, once you choose to understand, once you sincerely choose to understand and to study His works, once you set aside animosities, suspicions and fears of His word, He will, through the Holy Spirit, happily guide you to a marvelous understanding of Him and of your, as well as His, purpose. What is so beautiful about the process is that the Book was designed or tailored to fit the interest, capacity, limitation and need of every individual. A great observer once noted that the Bible and its message is simple enough or, let's say shallow enough, for a baby to wade in, and yet deep enough for an elephant to swim in. For some, belief, faith and trust in the Word come quickly, easily and profoundly. For others, like myself, the doubting Thomases who must feel, taste, smell, and kick the tires before being convinced, it is all there for them as well. For you see, the Book provides its own many proofs that it is what it says it is. But God won't press them into your face; you must seek and examine them for yourself. The more you study God's Word, the more astounding it is, and more irrefutable it becomes. One could write many volumes describing the many proofs of the divine origin of the Scriptures, but it would be nothing more than the summary or rewording of the hundreds of books already available by true scholars of the Word.

There are at least three distinct ways, which the Scriptures prove themselves to have divine origin from outside time and space. The first, which is the easiest to discern, although not necessarily so until considerable study has ensued, is the inerrant fulfillment of the thousands of prophecies, predicted events, which occurred exactly how and when God, through the words of the prophets, said they would. The second is the astounding integrated nature of the Scriptures. These are 66 books penned by 40 writers over a period of perhaps 1700 years, yet when examined as a whole, the variety of writing styles notwithstanding, it is evident that it is the work of a single Author. The third is in the codes, which pervade and interconnect and provide an amplified meaning to every book. These are macrocodes, microcodes, slightly hidden codes, and equidistant letter codes. Below is but a sampling of each of these categories of evidence of divine authorship.

A. Fulfillment of Prophecies

There are literally thousands of prophecies in both the Old as well as in the New Testament. These have such unerring accuracy that it should be all but impossible for even the most tightly closed mind, when truly confronted with the facts, not to at least wonder what is going on here. In desperation, those who feel they must refute the Biblical facts will call into question the timing of some of these prophecies. They tend to assert that some Biblical entries must have been inserted after the fact in order to “stack the deck” and present false evidence so as to “prove” what in human terms would be totally impossible. Yes, these prophecies are totally impossible from a humanistic perspective and, therefore, if viewed in the time sequence reported in the Bible, must be, in fact, divinely inspired by the one true God of the universe.

Of course, our Lord, who knows the beginning through to the end of all things, covered this base beautifully leaving no wiggle room, only squirming space for the doubters when, in around 270 to 300 B.C. He inspired 70 rabbis in Alexandria to translate the entire Book, which we call the Old Testament, from Hebrew into Greek. By that time, Hebrew had become a “dead” language much like Latin is now. At that time, because of the multiple authorities, which had controlled the Israeli people from the Assyrians to the Babylonians to the Greeks, the Hebrew language, especially under the Greeks, ceased to be spoken or written except by scholars and the religious hierarchy. Thus there was the need for a translation to Greek, which by then was the universal language of that part of the world. From this we have handed down to us after that date, which was over a hundred years after the writings of the last prophet Malachi, two independent and parallel historical records of the Old Testament, each preserved and copied with meticulous accuracy and precision, and each narrating the same Word with the same consistency and precision. As if that were not enough, we have today the Dead Sea scrolls which are known to be over 2000 years old, validating many parts of the Hebrew Old Testament. The most prominent and awesome of these is the whole Book of Isaiah. Careful comparison of this scroll with the current Old Testament indicates a 99.9+% constancy while the differences being only a few slight letterforms, but nothing, which has any bearing to its message. Thus, whatever else may be said, one must admit to the absolute antiquity of Old Testament Books and the prophecies included therein. This bit of logic

and evidence may not convince the skeptic regarding prophecies made and fulfilled prior to 300 B.C.; however, for those prophecies made before that date and fulfilled well after that date, it would seem quiet difficult to simply dismiss them as chance. This will be evident from the following few of the over 300 Old Testament predictions relating to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

In listing these, I must assume that the reader is reasonably familiar with the New Testament narration of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore the following will concentrate mostly on the Old Testament prophecies of these events. Included also here are the approximate dates when these events and/or prophecies occurred.

1. Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, before he died, called all his twelve sons together and prophesied the future of each of them. Through Judah, he foretold that the Messiah would be born, and that through his line the power of civil authority over the Hebrews would continue until the Messiah arrived (Genesis 49:10, 1689 B.C.). “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh, and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.” Shiloh is well recognized as an Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. The term “sceptre” refers to both the tribal identity and the right to enforce Mosaic laws especially to adjudicate capital offenses. Throughout their history this control had never been taken away, even during the Babylonian captivity. Then in 6 or 7 A.D., a Roman procurator named Caponius was appointed by Caesar Augustus to govern the area. With this, the legal power of the religious rulers, that is the Sanhedrin, became restricted and they lost the power of the adjudication, that is, the sceptre departed. This happens to be why later, they had to appeal to Pontius Pilate to crucify Jesus, because they had not this power. Recognizing that the sceptre had been removed, the Sanhedrin panicked, believing that God had broken this promise, this messianic prophecy that He made through Jacob (Babylonian Talmud chapter 4 folio 37). This is because they saw no Messiah, the King from the line of David who was to assume power

- and free them from the Romans. While they didn't know it, and even after being faced with the evidence refused to believe it, this prophecy had been fulfilled; God's promise was not broken, because in Nazareth there was a young boy growing up who was the fulfillment of that prophecy. If we are to believe that God keeps His promises, and how else can it be, then there had to be a Messiah somewhere! Only Jesus had all of the credentials for that role which He, in fact, claimed in no uncertain terms. Unless you believe that God breaks His promises, and that Jesus lied, then there is but one conclusion to be reached.
2. The Lord told David that a descendant of his would be the Messiah and rule forever on his, David's, throne. In 2 Samuel 7:12 - 13 (1000 B.C.) "...and when thy days be fulfilled and then shall sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." This is a unilateral covenant by God to David that from him would come the Messiah, the king who would reign forever. Technically, this prophecy is yet to be fully fulfilled, because there is yet to be a ruling king of the house of David that would rule forever. In order to rule forever, He must be the Messiah, not a mere human. Of course, in the New Testament, in Luke 1:32, the angel Gabriel told Mary that her virgin birth would bring forth the son of God who would sit on the throne of David forever. Also we know from Matthew 1 that the genealogy of Mary establishes her bloodline directly from David, and from Luke we see the genealogy of Joseph, the stepfather of Jesus, having also the legal lineage directly from David. An omnipotent God who makes promises surely keeps them; you can count on it! This prophecy regarding the throne will certainly be fulfilled in the end times, and it is Jesus who will sit on that throne. The problem here is that the Old Testament speaks of two comings of the Messiah. The Jews well knew this at the time of Jesus. They knew, or could have known, because the Scripture is clear on this, that one would be king the other a suffering servant. We'll deal more with this later. What they didn't know was that there were not two Messiahs, but one who would come twice! Somehow, probably through wishful thinking, they expected the "King" to come first to

- rescue them from the oppression of the Romans, and, therefore, never considered that there could only be one Messiah who would and did come first as the suffering one, and that much later He would return as King. This also, they should have known because the Lord says in Hosea 5:15, “I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offense and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.” In order to return to His place, He must have left it, He was here but they didn’t recognize Him. That was their “offense” (singular). When they acknowledge it, He will return (the second coming). If to the skeptic, this partial fulfillment seems somewhat convoluted and less than convincing, please read on.
3. The virgin birth of the Messiah was foretold several times in both the Old and the New Testament (Isaiah 7:14, 735 B.C.). “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.” Emmanuel translates to “The God With Us.” This is not God’s first reference to the virgin birth. In Genesis 3:15 God speaks to Satan in the Garden of Eden and says “...and I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed...” This, of course, makes no sense in terms of what we know biologically. Women have no seed, only men. Therefore, in order to make sense as a message from God which He expects us to understand, it is referring to some woman, somewhere, sometime, with her own seed. Because this is biologically impossible in earthly terms, this seed must be of supernatural origin. It is hers, but not given to her by man but through the intervention of God, just as Gabriel had revealed to Mary and to Joseph.
 4. The Messiah’s birth was foretold to take place in Bethlehem (Micha 5:2, 700 B.C.). “But thou Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Wow!! This is a tight little prophecy. Here God specifies just which Bethlehem He will come from and that HE will rule Israel, and that He has been around, as only God could

be, forever. Of course we all know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and claimed to be God the preexistent one when He said, as recorded in John 8:58 "...before Abraham was, I Am!" Here He was referring to Exodus 3:14 (1450 B.C.) "And God said to Moses, I Am that I Am." And He said; "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you." This occurred at the burning bush where Moses first encountered God. From that time on, this was one of God's names, the "I am." That is why Jesus said "...before Abraham was, I am." The Hebrew leadership knew that He was calling Himself God and claiming to be the God of the burning bush. This explains why they tried to stone him. Claiming to be God was a crime requiring stoning to death. In John 18:5 when they came after Him to put Him on trial and asked of Him, He replied, "I am." Hearing this, they all "fell to the ground." They were shocked at His claim to be God. It was this for which they claimed the legal right to have Him executed. (Note the English translation reads, "I am He." The He is not in the original Greek but was added for grammatical correctness, thus obscuring the profound impact and meaning of His response.)

5. The very manner in which the Messiah would present Himself to the world was predicted over 500 years before Jesus declared Himself. Even the exact date of His coming was also predicted! (Zechariah 9:9 487) "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold thy King cometh unto thee. He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." Of course, in Matthew 24:4-5 the event as it takes place is described exactly as predicted. What is most intriguing about this, however, is that the exact date of the event was also predicted in Daniel 9:25 (538 B.C.) where the angel Gabriel tells Daniel "know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, unto the Messiah, the prince, shall be seven weeks and threescore and two weeks..." To understand this, one must recognize two things, first the word weeks is translated from the Hebrew "shabuim" which also means sevens. Throughout both Scriptures seven seems to symbolize completion, just as in our musical scale,

there are seven notes with the eight being the same as the first or a new beginning of notes an octave higher or lower. Here Gabriel is speaking of 7 plus 62 sevens of years or sixty-nine sevens of years. The other thing is that the Biblical year is always 360 days as it was in every recorded culture on earth until 701 B.C. when something happened to the earth's orbit which changed the year to its present length. All known cultures confronted and dealt with that change after that date. Thus 69 sevens of years amounted to 69 times 7 times 360 or 173,880 days. We know that the date of the command to rebuild Jerusalem was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus on March 14, 445 B.C. If we move forward 173,880 days by our calendar we come to April 6, 32 A.D. or the 10th of Nisan on the Hebrew religious calendar, the very day that Jesus proclaimed Himself King! This is arrived at as follows:

445 B.C.–32 A.D.(476 X 365)* =	173740
March – April 6	= 24
Leap years	= 116
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Total	173880

*(note there is no Zero A.D.)

Thus, we have fulfillment of two prophecies regarding the same subject by two different prophets about 51 years apart, living in different countries. How nicely this expresses the integrated nature of these 66 books by 40 different writers! Daniel, taken captive as a boy by Nebuchadnezzar spent his entire life as a captive in Babylon, first by the Caldeans and then by Cyrus and the Persians. Zechariah, however, was in Jerusalem as part of the returned remnant from 70 years in captivity after Cyrus released them. Boy! This book is sure full of coincidences!

6. Details concerning the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot were foretold with eerie accuracy (Zechariah 11:12, 13, 487 B.C.). “And I said unto them. If ye think good give me my price, and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price, thirty

pieces of silver.” And the Lord said unto me, ‘Cast it unto the potter,’ a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.” Here we have a preview over 500 years in advance of what appears to be thoughts of Judas Iscariot as he bargained to betray Jesus and then later as the full impact of his awful deed finally dawned on him. The actual event is described in Matthew chapter 26:14 where he tells of Judas going to the chief priest and offering to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus had earlier predicted that Judas would betray Him to the priests, for they had long sought to catch him under the right condition in order to have Him killed. Then in Matthew 27:3-8 we read that Judas later realized that he had “betrayed innocent blood” and tried to return the money to the priests but they wouldn’t take it, so he threw it on the temple floor and left. Then the priests had a problem, because they couldn’t return the tainted money to the treasury. So they cleverly decided to prepay for an ongoing obligation. One of their expenses was to provide for burial plots for indigents, and so they bought a burial field with the money, a field belonging to the potter, thus unknowingly fulfilling Zechariah’s 500 year old prophecy, where Judas is predicted to sell his soul for 30 pieces of silver, but then it’s the potter who is to get the money in the end. This is a pretty tough one to have been contrived.

7. Jesus’ words, thoughts and pains as He hung nailed to the cross are expressed in awesome clarity and detail in a Psalm written over 1000 years earlier and many hundreds of years before crucifixion was invented (Psalms 22-1, 6-8, 14-18 980 B.C.). “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” “...But I am a worm, and no man, a reproach of man, despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn, they shoot out the lip, they shake the head saying, He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver him. Let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him...” “I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws and thou has brought me into the dust of death...” “For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked

have enclosed me. They pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones; they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”

Here we have excerpts of an incredibly graphic first person description of someone suffering and dying on the cross. Some of the details are identical to those described in Mark 16:34. Here Jesus utters the exact same words that begin Psalms 22 “My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken me?” This was the fourth of the last seven utterances of the physical Man, Jesus, after 6 hours of excruciating physical suffering as He appealed to the heavenly triune Godhead of which His spiritual self was and always had been an integrated part. It was the cry of the human manifestation of God, having taken into Himself all the sins of the world, thus being made sin, and thus necessarily, but temporarily abandoned by God until these sins had been “Tetelistai,” Paid In Full. It is the only time recorded in the Scriptures that He called upon God and not the Father. He was calling for God, the whole Godhead, in a way, calling on Himself as well, in His role as the flesh and blood suffering Messiah. The rest of the above quotes from the Psalm unmistakably describe what someone who was nailed to a cross, as was Jesus, might feel and say or think.

In pondering this strange utterance of our Lord, “My God, My God why hath thou forsaken me?” it is also interesting to note that being hung on a tree (here the wooden cross) was an accursed thing as noted in Deuteronomy 21:22,23. “...and if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him from a tree...for he that is hanged is accursed of God.” Thus, God as judge turned His face away from Jesus and had to forsake Him, the accursed on the tree, in order that an eternity of wrath against the sins of the world, now manifest in Him, could be stilled, forgiven, and justice satisfied. As He was nailed to the cross He became a violation of God’s law and became accursed. It was God, the father, who put God the son through a temporary spiritual death, and thereby made atonement for our sins, as only He could.

- It should be of considerable significance as a point of evidence regarding the supernatural nature of this prophecy, to realize that crucifixion was “invented” by the Persians between 300 and 400 B.C. at least 600 years after this Psalm was composed. Crucifixion was later “perfected” by the Romans and employed extensively after 100 B.C. This historically verifiable fact leaves the question as to whom, but God Himself, could have painted such a graphic and accurate picture of this hellish form of torture, 600 years before such a scene could ever have entered any human mind.
8. The most profound and explicit of all Old Testament prophecies attesting to the coming and purpose of the suffering Messiah is here recorded from the New King James version for easier understanding.

Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1-12, 690 B.C.)

“Behold my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men: so shall He sprinkle many nations. The kings shall shut their mouths at him; for what had not been told them; they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider.

“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

“He is despised and rejected by men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid, as it were, our faces from him: he was despised, and we did not esteem him

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripe we are healed.*

All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgement: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And they made his grave with the wicked, but with the rich at his death: because he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him: he has put him to grief: when you make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see of the labor of his soul and be satisfied. By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors: and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

A careful reading of this reveals a translational error. Stripe is singular not plural. This changes the perspective from which to interpret this verse. Man inflicted many stripes, but it was but one stripe through which “we are healed;” that is the stripe which the Father inflicted through that terrible spiritual separation from him which the Father imposed while Jesus was the embodiment of all past, present and future sin of all redeemed souls.

Here we have the Christian’s Old Testament “Holy of Holies,” the Lord’s suffering servant prophecy. It is a prophetic narrative of the events relating to

Jesus as they occurred some 723 years later, and are recorded a number of times in the New Testament. Most importantly, it tells us also about Him, His suffering and Why! “His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men” Note Isaiah 50:6, “I gave my back to the smiters and my checks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and splintering.” We have here further evidence of the unspeakable physical cruelty and torture our Lord endured. From these passages and facial etching that the extreme pain of God’s wrath must have imposed, it is evident why neither Mary nor the disciples on the road to Emmaus, nor the Apostles in the upper room could recognize Him at first. In the New Testament, we find only that He was beaten, spit on, a crown of thorns pressed painfully on His head, and that He was crucified. These Old Testament observations attest to a far more extensive sadistic torture, as well as a spiritual torture, which was infinitely greater than we are capable of understanding.

Even before the ordeal, “He had no form nor comeliness; and when we see Him there is no beauty that we should desire Him.” Here is another insight lacking in the New Testament. Physically, He was nothing special, a simple non-descript man, just what on reflection one would expect our God /man suffering servant to look like. Handsomeness or beauty could be seductive and influencing. He was here strictly for the merit of His message and His self-sacrifice, not to participate in a beauty contest or to seduce through looks and charm.

“He was despised and rejected of men and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our grieves and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem (judge) Him stricken smitten of God and afflicted.” “Stricken smitten of God and afflicted.” Here appears to be another expression of the Father’s wrath against this personification of sin, which Jesus became while on the cross. The New Testament repeatedly relates how the leadership detested Him, tried to stone Him, push Him off a cliff, and finally had Him tortured and killed. He certainly bore the grief of many as He expended His spiritual energy healing hundreds, perhaps

thousands, during His brief three years of ministry. He wept over the death of Lazarus as He also did over Jerusalem as they failed to recognize His coming. In spite of all His incredible works, they chose to judge Him who was sinless to be tortured without mercy and crucified. “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted yet He opened not His mouth: he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, he opened not his mouth.” This is consistent with the first-hand account at His trials – he made no defense but remained silent. “He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death.” Actually, He died on the cross between two criminals and was buried in the tomb of Joseph, a rich man. All these details came to be, just as God said they would, through His Authored prophecies!

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.... and with his stripe are we healed.... we are like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquities of us all.... for he was cut off from the land of the living (killed) for the transgressions of my people was he stricken...by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many for he shall bear their iniquities. ...and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bares the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” Here we have it, repeated and rephrased to be certain that it is understood. We have here the why, the purpose of His coming, as well as the prediction of His suffering, and of His death!

Socrates said to Plato something to the effect, “Perhaps a just God can forgive sin, but I don’t see how.” Here is how He could! It is a pity that the old boy couldn’t have been around a few hundred years later so he could see how our “just God” did it! Nothing speaks more eloquently of the power of the intellect of the great philosopher than this profound question. Socrates obviously could see clearly God’s dilemma. A just God cannot ignore sin and He can’t forgive it without compromising the true meaning of His justice. In order for justice to be served, sin must be paid for. Yet, even the most virtuous of humans commit sins

innumerable times in a lifetime, far more than any commensurate amount of punishment or payment could ever extinguish. Besides what kind of being or soul would be the result of any just form of punishment? Would it be of a type or quality even then, worthy of eternal life with God? Could 10 years or any amount of punishment in prison or anywhere else result in a fully repented man ready for life in a perfected society such as heaven? No! It required a loving God to pour out His divine blood, and to suffer away the sins of those who return His love, who believe and have faith in His resurrection.

God gave us laws, the Commandments, not because He hoped or thought we could keep them, but instead to show us how impossible it is for us to live up to His requirements without His grace and mercy. We all rationalize that we do a pretty good job of what we choose to believe and of trying to live by these requirements. However, from God's viewpoint we all hang over the burning fire of hell, suspended on a ten-link chain (the Ten Commandments). It only takes one broken link to send us to the pit, unless.... In thinking about this issue we must realize that we are dealing with God's definition of justice, not our limited often perverted form of human justice. All of this, or something like it, is what I believe Socrates perceived when he made that profound observation. Just as Socrates couldn't see the answer, neither could any other human; only God had the answer. Many choose to say there is no such thing as sin, there is only good karma or bad karma, or everything is relative, subjective, and situational, or there is no meaning to anything – nihilism, no God, no objective truth. They rationalize anything to avoid the real truth, to face the reality of God, of sin, of good and evil, of ultimate accountability. All of this sin and salvation stuff is abhorrent to many and is to be avoided at all cost. So they do. So did I. What a shame.

But here in Isaiah 53, we have revealed for us the answer to the dilemma, which Socrates thought was an insurmountable problem. How could a just God forgive sin? While from the human perspective, at least in a mind capable of seeing the whole significance and difficulty of the issue, this was a serious dilemma. Not to

God, however, because He knew from before the beginning of time exactly what He would do at the appropriate time and He revealed it to Isaiah, as well as to a number of other prophets, though in somewhat more subtle forms. He came to earth as Jesus, one aspect of the Triune Godhead, to pay, as only He, the Perfect One, could pay by collecting unto Himself all of the world's sins and forgiving them in the only possible just way, by Himself suffering them away on the cross. He was thereby our "Kinsman Redeemer, our unblemished sacrificial Lamb of God." The entire Old Testament speaks of Jesus in many ways. However, these two names symbolize Him most surely in His role on the cross.

To begin to understand this we must first look back to the early Israeli culture as God ordained in anticipation of this event. Being a relative, a kinsmen carried with it strong obligations. Widows, orphans and any other relatives falling on bad times could expect assistance from the nearest kin, if he was capable of such assistance. This was considered a moral obligation of the strong, to help the weak or less fortunate. This person who took on the obligation, this relative, was called the kinsmen redeemer. He was also the avenger of blood. That is, it was also his obligation to punish the wrong doer, if there was one, who caused his kin harm. For instance, if his kin was a widow as a result of murder, it was the kinsmen redeemer's obligation to chase down the murderer and slay him. Thus, the kinsmen redeemer is a foreshadowing of our blessed Kinsmen Redeemer.

Of course, we all know about the custom of the sacrificing of an unblemished lamb as a means of atonement for sins. This ritual had been practiced since at least Abel. Thus, in retrospect, it should not be a great surprise or difficult leap to see this also as a clue to God's answer to Socrates finally played out on the cross as the grand crescendo and finale of this 5000-year symbolic orchestration. As our Kinsmen Redeemer, He had to be born of a woman; He had to be a blood relative to us, which He was as man. He also had to be the perfect, unblemished, spotless "lamb" in order to be worthy of sacrifice to God for our sins. Thus also, he had to be God Himself, for only God is capable of being totally unblemished,

perfect, free from sin, and otherwise qualified for such an awesome assignment having eternal consequences! By His physical death on the cross, as well as His spiritual separation from the Godhead, this spotless lamb, this Kinsman Redeemer, our God, provided of Himself the only way that the just and almighty God could cleanse away the sins of His own sons and daughters. Like it or not, believe it or not, understand it or not, this was/is God's way, the only way for us to be cleansed, redeemed of sin, and thereby made suitable for life eternal with Him. We have His word for it!!!

As noted, there are hundreds of other prophecies related to the coming of the Messiah. However, these eight should suffice to get the point across, that only through God could such accuracy of events have been foretold. If the reader hasn't been at least stirred a little by these and concluded that there is something quite powerful here, then he or she hasn't read this carefully, or, I haven't articulated the facts adequately, or... I'm greatly saddened by the third possibility. This is because I'm certain that only through faith, which in turn is so intimately tied to a total belief in the Scriptures, can eternal life be obtained. Before I forge ahead to the next aspects of the Scriptures, which also prove their supernatural origin, it comes to mind that I should include here a few more prophetic evidences of supernatural authorship which are quite current and, therefore, even more difficult to dismiss. This is also because I suspect that to the doubters most set in their doubts, the prophecies of the Messiah may be, at least initially, somehow disconcerting and less than convincing of the supernatural Authorship of the Bible, because they represent things which are of the distant past and which also seem too astounding to be real. For many, as certainly in my own case, a broader base of proven Scriptural inerrancy is needed before this astounding yet vital element can be digested and wholly assimilated.

9. Rebirth of Israel

The prophets foretold the final return of the Jews to the Land, which God promised them through His unilateral covenant with Abraham. Being a unilateral and unconditional covenant by God alone, it did not depend on anything that Abraham or Jews did or did not do. They, therefore, could not, and God would not break it. While they broke other covenants and were thus punished and temporarily removed from the land, nevertheless, at some point, toward the end of time, they were ordained to return and never again be removed. God reaffirmed, reminded and / or rephrased and clarified this several times through several prophets. Some of these are as follows:

- a) Genesis 12:1-3, “Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: and I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (These are the seven famous “I wills” in the covenant to Abraham.)
- b) Genesis 12:7, “Unto thy seed will I give this land.” Genesis 13:14,15, “And the Lord said unto Abraham lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward and southward, and eastward and westward: for all the land which thou seest to thee will I give, and to thy seed forever.” In Genesis 15:9-19, the Lord takes special care to make note of the fact that this is His unilateral binding promise by demonstrating so through the enactment of a strange-to-us covenant ritual in common practices at that time.
- c) Deuteronomy 30:3,5, “...that then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee...and the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it.” The Jews were never scattered to “all the

nations” until 70 A.D. after the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem by the Romans. This prophecy was fulfilled on May 14, 1948, 1878 years later!

- d) Ezekiel 36:19, 24, 28 “ and I scattered them (Israel) among the heathen and they were dispersed through the countries... For I will take you from among the heathen and gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land...and ye shall dwell in the land that I gave your fathers..”
Boy! Can it get any more specific than that!!! Yes, it can!!
- e) Ezekiel 37:21,22,25, “ Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land, and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountain of Israel, and one king shall be king to them all, and they shall no more be two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all...and they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob, my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelled, and they shall dwell therein even they and their children and their children’s children forever, and my servant David shall be their prince forever.”
- f) Isaiah 11:10-12, “And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for the ensign of the people; to it shall the gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush and from Edam, and from Shinar and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” Need more be said on this point? The Jews are back in the Promised Land as a single

nation, though not yet under the eternal kingdom from the line of David. The only thing that could possibly nail down the undeniable accuracy of this would be if the Lord had given us in advance a firm date for the fulfillment of this back- to- land promise. As a matter of fact, He DID!

- g) Ezekiel 4:5, 6, “Behold I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity according to the number of days three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel, and when thou hast accomplished them lie again on the right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.” That’s 390 plus 40 or 430 years that Judah/Israel are to be punished. However, they were already in captivity for 70 years of punishment leaving 360 years yet remaining. But after their 70 years they still failed to obey the Lord and continued transgressing greatly. Thus, applying Leviticus 26: 18, 21, “...and if ye will not yet for all of this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.... “...and if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me, I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.” Well, they didn’t hearken and so the Lord implemented His seven times rule, which resulted in 360 times 7, or 2520 years of punishment just as He said He would!

From 2 Kings 25:1, Jeremiah 52:4 and Haggai 2:10 we learn of both the beginning date and the end date of the first 70 years of the “servitude of the Nations.” This is the same 70-year prophecy previously described. Thus this, the date of the beginning of this later period of punishment, can be determined to have begun on July 23, 537B.C. Adding 2520 years to this date allowing for leap years and calendar changes, we reach May 14, 1948, the very date that David Ben Gurion declared on international radio using Ezekiel as his authority, a re-established Israel as the Jewish homeland. This is obviously an over simplified summary of the basis and

calculation of this prophetic statement. It is not without controversy and challenge regarding the calendar calculations and starting date. However, using any reasonable set of assumptions the result is close, certainly within a year of the above date. My belief is that the Lord does not approximate or estimate His messages. He is clear, precise and accurate. Any divergent conclusions by man are nothing more than inadequacy of man's understanding. This prophecy was fulfilled exactly as stated.

10. Restoration of the Hebrew Language

Who ever heard of a “dead” language being resurrected? Never in the history of the world has this happened, until recently. Yet God thought it to be good that His ‘pure’ original language be restored to His people and so decreed it in prophecy over 2500 years ago. Zephaniah 3:9(635 BC), “For then I will turn to the people a pure language that they may all call upon the name of the Lord to serve Him with one consent.” With the restoration of Israel also came the restoration of Hebrew as the national language. One could rightly and logically say that that was only natural. Here was suddenly (in one day as predicted in Isaiah 66:8) a new nation composed of people “gathered from the four corners of the earth,” from 70 different countries, having diverse customs and languages. Surely a common language was needed, but why Hebrew, a dead language, one, which began dying after the Babylon captivity in 606 BC, and was clearly dead after Alexander declared that all conquered people were to speak only Greek. That is why the Septuagint, the Greek translation, was written around 300 BC, because no one except scholars and religious leaders knew Hebrew. It was as dead as Latin is today. Logic might have suggested the adaptation of a more universal language, common to the majority perhaps. Instead, what had never before happened, this dead language was restored, as was the 1878 years “dead” nation of Israel, all per God's plan as He revealed it thousands of years ago.

The prophecy speaks of a “pure” language. Many scholars believe that Hebrew was the original language God gave Adam. It consists of 22 letters, five of which have a slightly different form if they are the last letter of a word. Therefore, the language is self-parsing. It is also extremely efficient. While the written English is said to contain close to 75% redundancy, mainly because of grammatical rules, Hebrew, which contains no vowels is the least redundant, and, therefore, might be considered “pure” in the context of this prophecy.

11. Astounding Fertility of Israel

A very sparsely inhabited desert-like, arid wasteland before 1948, Israel is now a veritable agricultural “Eden,” as God said it would be when He would again gather His people into their Promised Land. Consider the following:

Isaiah 27:6, “He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall bloom and bud and fill the face of the world with fruit.”

Joel 2:23, “Be glad then ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately and he will cause to come down for you the former rain and the latter rain in the first month.”

Isaiah 35:7, “And the parched ground shall become a pond, and the thirsty land springs of water....”

Here we have the three prophecies suggesting a restoration of fertility and rain resulting in abundance of crops. After the total dispersions of the people in 70 AD, the land became progressively arid and desert-like, in which condition it continued until recent times. The returning Jews transformed this deserted desolate dry land into the most agriculturally efficient land on earth (really God did it through them but most don’t yet understand this). This is according to a U.N. survey. For example, Israel now is the third largest producer of fruits in the world, supplying over 90% of the citrus fruit consumed by all of Europe. It is a country smaller than Orange county California. A large part of this is a result of the fulfillment of the rain prophecy in Joel 2:23, because annual rainfall has “strangely” increased by 10% every decade for

the whole of the last century. What does that tell you about the kind of planner our God is? He started 100 years ago to prepare the ground for what He told us over 2500 years ago He would do, and it's done just as He said it would be done!

12. Re-building the Temple

The likelihood that the temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed in 70 AD, would ever be rebuilt is today as absurd as was a belief for 1800 years that the Jews would ever again be a single nation in their “promised land.” Nevertheless, there are many references in the Scriptures, which predict the rebuilding of the Temple in the end times. In order to not belabor this, I'll simply refer to some of them, which the curious may wish to confirm. This prediction occurs in Isaiah 2:2, Ezekiel 43:19, 1Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelation 11:1, 2. The fact is that plans are underway for this event. At this moment over 500 priests are in training to officiate in the Temple, and over 75 of the objects needed in the Temple, such as priestly garments, curtains and vessels, have been made in anticipation of this event. Great worldwide efforts were made to find the shellfish, no longer native in this area, from which were extracted the original purple dyes for coloring the vestures. However, one “insurmountable” problem developed when they tried to prepare the required anointing oil. The only tree from which this oil came was the afarsmon. The only grove of these trees in the world was outside of Jerusalem, and these were burned and totally destroyed by the Romans along with Jerusalem in 70 AD. Well, it seems as though that ends it! God surely cannot deliver on this one! Just as He “broke” His promises of a Messiah before the “Sceptre departed,” you'd think that here He missed another one! Hold on! A Dr. Joseph Patrick of Hebrew University found a 2000-year-old clay flask full of anointing oil buried near the Dead Sea! Scientists confirmed its age and composition. It has precisely the ingredients necessary as described in Exodus 30:25, 26!!! (This was made known by the Associated Press, February 16, 1989.) Can you imagine the long range planning of this guy, our God? He got some group of people over 2000 years ago before the trees were destroyed, to extract some extra oil, put it in a flask and bury it like a time capsule. Then He guards it for 2000 years, this

fragile, little clay bottle, and then at the right time, directs someone to it, just so He can be known as a promise keeper. He promised us salvation if only we believe in Him and have faith in Him through Jesus Christ, our Kinsmen Redeemer!

Well, the Temple hasn't been rebuilt yet, and there are a number of very serious issues, seemingly impossible issues, preventing it. But a God, who can with unerring precision and accuracy predict all the above and also bury, and at the right time retrieve, a 2000-year-old cache of extinct and essential oil out of the desert, obviously can do anything! Keep watching the 11 o'clock news. One of these days you may witness the ground breaking!

B. The Bible has but One Author

Although penned by 40 writers over thousands of years, these 66 books are a single integrated text wholly authored by God Himself. No simple reading or re-reading of it will necessarily reveal this. Yet, through careful study by a mind not fearful that it all might be true, and not doubting that there is a loving God who actually would provide such a wonderful expression of His plan and purpose, this soon becomes evident. Such a mind should readily recognize His intimate involvement in this intricate tapestry of expression to which the writers provided only their hand where He provided the whole of its design. The Lord Himself spoke of this integration of His word through Isaiah in 28:12, 13 when He said, "This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear. But the Word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little." That certainly does describe the Scriptures. There are no specific chapters or doctrine as one might expect in an instructional manual. There is no specific and complete section on, say marriage, or baptism, or sin or Satan or worship. These doctrines are truly scattered throughout the Bible, a little here, a little there, precept upon precept. Separate specific doctrinal sections if they existed could well have been claimed to be by individual "experts" on specific subjects. However, to have His whole message, conveying the entire

broad spectrum of information in such scattered yet intimately integrated and coherent form, presents a very strong case for a single Author.

My great mentor Chuck Missler, has a precious analogy for explaining this Biblical quality. He likens the Bible to a hologram in even more ways than this. A hologram is a photograph taken using a laser light of some specific frequency. When the picture is developed and viewed in normal light it is not coherent; it looks like a mistake; “it has no form or comeliness that should be desired.” It can be made coherent and understandable as a three dimensional representation of the photographed scene, only when viewed by a laser light of the exact same frequency. Actually, any light, other than that by means of which the picture was created, will produce either a false image or have no coherency at all. To the natural man viewing it in natural light, the Bible may seem to be foolishness, incoherent nonsense, or simply a nice fairytale. However, when viewed by the light provided by the Holy Spirit who wrote it, it becomes without doubt the true word of God in all its magnificent glory, accuracy and divine wisdom. The other quality of the hologram is that if you cut off a piece, the entire picture, or message remains intact, only having lost some of its resolution or clarity. Thus it is also with the Bible; remove a page and you have lost none of its message, because the message is “a little bit here, a little bit there” “percept upon percept.”

Already in the previous section we have witnessed a number of evidences of this textural integration as the messages from the variety of writers, especially the prophets, compliment and build on each other to more fully and richly express God’s Word. This is even more explicitly evident in the New Testament where its writers had the benefit of the whole of the Old Testament as hindsight from which to draw fuller meanings of God’s earlier words. Even more profound from their perspective was the detailed fulfillment of the ultimate prophecy, the coming of the Messiah! In retrospect, it seems that the Old Testament was in some ways like a textbook on some highly complex subject where the student finds it impossible by himself to fathom all of the deep theories and concepts. Only after

a great teacher joins the class and begins to explain and link together the more subtle aspects, does the light of full understanding brighten and the mysteries become revealed. In this case, the great Teacher was God Himself, who came not only as the Teacher of the Scriptures, but also as its Author, its Chief subject, and ultimately the living, dying, resurrected and ascended manifestation of its purpose!

Even so, there remain many tantalizing, seemingly random or even abstract and pointless verses and chapters. Yet, through love of the Word and divine inspiration, the meaning of many of these has been revealed over the centuries. Eventually all of them will be understood, for there is nothing in the Bible, this Word of God, not one word, which does not have important meaning and which will not eventually be understood. How do I know this? Because in Matthew 5:18 our Lord says, “Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” The Hebrew scholars interpret further that when the Messiah comes, He will even interpret the spaces between the letters.

One example of the seemingly pointless chapters in the Old Testament beyond its passing historical interest is chapters one and two of the Book of Numbers. Here, the population of each of the thirteen tribes (counting the “Half Tribes” of Ephraim and Manasses is listed along with detailed directions as to how they are to be arranged as they camped. With the Levites forming a square, the other tribes were to form rectangles, three tribes each emanating in a specific order from the four sides of the Levite camp. If one plots this prescribed pattern of encampment, one would find it formed the pattern of a cross, with the smaller group camped to the east, the largest group to the west forming the foot, and two equal groups forming the arms to the north and south! Thus, this seemingly pointless, and even boring section in the Old testament is, in fact, a very subtle yet profound message to the more discerning, and then to all of us, that the Creator of

the Universe planned the event on the cross even before the beginning of time, that event which took place nearly 2000 years ago on Mt. Moriah.

Another very provocative example of the Holy Spirit's Authorship of the Bible and of its integrated character can be found buried here with the surface of Genesis 5 in the descendants of Adam through Noah.

Below is a list of the direct line of descendants from Adam to Noah. To the right of each name is its original root meaning. Some, such as Seth and Noah are given in the Bible text. A Hebrew root dictionary is needed in order to ascertain most of the others.

Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enos	Mortal (frail, incurable)
Kenan	Sorrow
Mahalaleel	Blessed God
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching (teacher)
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	Despairing (from which we get Lamentations)
Noah	Comfort (to bring relief)

Now let's put that into a sentence.

“Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow;(but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) his death shall bring despairing comfort.”

WOW!!! That is a one-sentence summary of the whole history and purpose of mankind! Through the original sin, that opening of Pandora's Box in the Garden of Eden, man was appointed mortal (subject to death) sorrow, but God (Jesus) shall come down teaching,

that His death (crucifixion) shall bring the despairing comfort (salvation and eternal life). End of Story. (We have Dr. Chuck Missler to thank for having pointed out this, and the preceding pearl hidden in Scripture.)

Here is one more of the many strange and interesting examples of how the Bible is so beautifully integrated, and how Old Testament events, teachings and predictions are intimately related to, or predictive of, the New Testament events. In Numbers 21:5-9, we find that the people sinned by speaking against God. In return, He sent “fiery serpents among the people” and many died. Acknowledging that they had sinned and that this was their punishment, they begged Moses to pray to the Lord for forgiveness and relief. The Lord told Moses to make a brass image of a “fiery serpent” and put it on a pole after which anyone who beheld this brass serpent would not die from a serpent’s bite. Now we go to John 3:14, 15 and find Jesus saying “..and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” Of what was brass the symbol? It was a Levitical symbol of judgement, a metal associated with fire. The serpent is the symbol of sin throughout the Scriptures. Thus, we have the symbol of sin and judgement placed on a wooden pole and endowed by God with the power to negate the serpent’s deadly bite and certain death to those who viewed it and believed in its power. What a strange way to cure a snakebite! Yet later, our Lord chose to place Himself on a wooden pole and become the summation of all sin and judgement, and, thereby, its cure and its atonement, for all who would see and believe in Him. They also would be spared the ultimate death and receive eternal life. Why else would the brazen serpent have been used by God in this strange manner, and to record it for future generations, except to provide it as a preview of more important things to come for those blessed with understanding of God’s Word? (2 Corinthians 5:21) “For He made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteous of God in Him.” The story of Abraham and his intended sacrifice of his son on the very spot where the Lord did sacrifice His own, is again, nothing more than a deliberately recorded preview of this same event for the same reason. These Old Testament pearls, of which there are many, are there to prove that there was a single, supernatural Author of the entire Scriptures. As our understanding of

the Scriptures continues to increase, and strangely that is still happening, we will find many more of these gems. I believe that such discovery will not be complete until Jesus Christ is clearly evident on every page of even the Old Testament. Why am I so certain of this? Because as one searches, the more of His presence is found in every chapter. Furthermore, Jesus Himself is reported in Hebrews 10:7 to have observed, "...in the volume of the Book it is written of me." What Book? The Old Testament, which was the only Book, because the New Testament did not yet exist. Of course, the New Testament is all about Him most explicitly.

Looking back from the perspective of what we know now from the New Testament, many things become quite clear, which in the context of the earlier times were not as easily discernable. In these respects, the New Testament is as a "Rosetta Stone" by means of which much can be deciphered. This is even more accurately and eloquently stated in the clever observation that the "New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, while the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed." At first, this may seem to be nothing more than a cute, witty, little ditty; however, it is in fact most astute and accurate. Everywhere in the Old Testament are found (concealed) references to Jesus, His purpose, His identity and His message. The cross formed by the tribes in the wilderness and the prophecy of his coming in the Genealogy of Moses are but two examples. Yet, many of these are difficult to discern until viewed (revealed) in retrospect from the vantagepoint of the New Testament. In one sense, there is surprisingly little new information in the New Testament. A great deal of what it contains was long ago provided, if not somewhat hidden in the Old Testament. For instance, there are over 800 allusions to the Old Testament in the 404 verses of the Book of Revelation. In this case it can be said that the Book of Revelation cannot be well understood by itself without a good understanding of these 800 Old Testament verses in their original context. Likewise, many aspects of the Old Testament such as Isaiah 52 and 53, Psalm 22, etc. seem somewhat abstract and lacking in content, until viewed from the perspective only available from the New Testament, and the fulfilling events which they so vividly anticipate.

One could fill many volumes with examples of how various Books in each Testament relate to each other in a manner clearly characteristic of a single Authorship. Similarly, it could be demonstrated just how the Old Testament and the New Testament combine, interrelate, and actually explain and fully compliment each other, thus, further strengthening this contention. However, to a large degree, the previously described and fulfilled prophecies already venture effectively in this direction providing strong evidence to support the subject of this paper. Therefore, we'll travel on to the next and last segment of this effort, the Bible Codes.

C. Bible Codes

Throughout this paper I have sought to prove to the skeptical observer that the Bible was Authored by God Himself through the hands of various writers over a long period of time. Evidence of this is absolute if one only examines it carefully and with a mind not demanding that it not be so. For that mind which will not accept this, however, let's offer the following challenge. That is, to construct a genealogy with the following characteristics:

- The total number of words must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of letters must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of consonants must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of words beginning with a vowel must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of words beginning with a consonant must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of words, which occur in one form, must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of words, which occur in only one form, must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of nouns must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of names must be divisible evenly by 7.

- The total number of males must be divisible evenly by 7.
- The total number of generations must be divisible evenly by 7.

If you can do this, then you have duplicated what Matthew did in writing the genealogy of Christ in the original Greek in Matthew 1:1-17

That's not all. Matthew was equally clever to have written his whole gospel in such a manner that he used 42 (7x6) words unique to his work. These words contain 128 (7x18) letters. They are to Matthew unique in that no other writer used them, and thus they are not found in any of the other Gospels. How could he do this unless he wrote the Gospel last? It just happens, however, that the number of words and letters making up these works, which are unique to Mark, are also all divisible by 7. So he too must have written his gospel last in order to know what Matthew had written. Or else, they sat together working out this clever yet seemingly pointless game. Well, it's even a little more involved than that, because a unique collection of words always divisible by 7 is also found in the books of Luke, John, James, Peter, Jude and Paul! Thus, each Gospel has a certain number of words that are not used in any of the other Gospels and in each case that number is a multiple of seven. What a time they all must have had getting together to contrive this little bit of word play, each agreeing not to use certain words so that each could have a set of words unique to his particular individual work. They must have burned out a dozen computer and word processors each, trying to get this to work out with even sevens! Or, could this be the work of the Holy Spirit supernaturally guiding this bit of word play so that it might be discovered many hundreds of years later for the benefit of the "doubting Thomases" who need to see such things before they can believe?

This hepatic structure is found extensively and quiet openly throughout both the Old and New Testaments, many hundreds of times in every book. Seven is consistently used to signify completeness. The preceding, which are only two of many examples, come from the legacy of a man named Ivan Pavin (1855-1942).

He left Russia, then Germany, and settled here receiving his PHD from Harvard after which he received Jesus and spent the next 50 years studying the Scriptures and especially this hepatic coding. He left us 43000 pages of notes regarding this one aspect of God's Word.

Pavin, however, was not the first to notice the less obvious numerical coding to be found in the Bible. Reference to such codes goes back hundreds of years at least to the 12th century when Rabbi Nachmanidis referred to them and saw them as providing a powerful reason to guard the integrity and perfection of every letter in the Biblical text. That it has been so guarded is evident from the fact that the decoding of the current texts reveals relevant information, which would be impossible had these texts been modified. Of course, as we have seen, the Dead Sea Scrolls have confirmed that the integrity of the original Scriptures has survived the thousands of years of repeat copying.

With the advent of super computers, much has been done to unravel some of the coded evidence of divine Authorship. "The Mysterious Bible Codes" by Grant Jeffrey, (World Publishing) is but one of many which report on this fascinating subject. The following taken from pages 33 and 34 of that book is but one smaller bit of evidence, which I believe further proves the divine Authorship of the Scriptures:

Rabbi Bachya and the Codes

Six hundred years ago, Rabbi Bachya, a European rabbi, wrote a book in which he described his discovery of a pattern of letters that formed meaningful words encoded in the Torah at equally spaced intervals. When he examined the Hebrew letters, beginning in Genesis 1:1, he noticed that if he began with the last letter in the first word of the Bible, beginnings, and skipped every 49 letters, the word

Torah was spelled out. In other words, every 50th letter of text spelled the word Torah.

Rabbi Bachya also found that the opening verse of Exodus contained the word Torah, also spelled out at the same 50-letter interval, beginning with the first appearance of the letter yod. When he examined the opening verse of Leviticus, however, he could not find the encoded word Torah. Instead he discovered the Hebrew word HaShem, which means “the Name” (of God), spelled out every 8th letter, beginning with the first letter yod.

When the rabbi examined the initial verses of Numbers and Deuteronomy, the fourth and fifth books of the Bible, again he found that the word Torah was encoded. In the book of Numbers, Torah was spelled out in reverse at a 50-letter interval and in Deuteronomy, to his surprise Torah was spelled out in reverse order at a 49th letter interval, beginning with the fifth verse.

Dr. Daniel Michelson calculated that, based on a letter-frequency analysis, the odds are more than 3 million to 1 against the word Torah being encoded by chance, beginning with the first word of Genesis. Therefore, the odds that the word Torah would appear in ELS code at the very beginning of each of the four books of Moses simply by chance are astronomical.

The examples of a single Authorship described in “B” above, such as the message continued in the Genealogy of Noah, and the cross which Israeli’s camp formed in the wilderness, are but two of the dozens of similar hidden pearls, or examples of hidden messages, attesting to the Bible’s supernatural origin.

If you have waded through all of the above to reach this ending, I am grateful for your perseverance. If you were in any way edified or received a desire to pursue further the truth of the Bible, and in particular of the Gospel, I thank God for His blessing and guidance to have allowed me to choose whatever the words they were that caused that desire. If you have that desire, please get started before it fades away. There is nothing more vital or of higher priority than knowing the true God and what He is eager for you

to know. Just sit down with His book knowing that it is His Word; as you read, ask Him to explain it. He is ready, willing and eager to do so, but He won't unless you sincerely ask.

Don't delay. Do it now! Tomorrow may be too late!