

IF GOD WROTE A BOOK

- Some reject the Bible as fairytales and myth without so much a thought of the evidence...
- Logic would demand that we test something before judging it as true or false (1 John 4:1)

WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT IF GOD WROTE A BOOK?

- **What characteristics would a book from God bear?**
 - a. Perfect unity / no contradictions.
 - b. Not bounded by time or location.
 - c. A message of hope.
 - d. Easy to understand.
- **What questions would a book from God answer?**
 - a. Why am I here?
 - b. Where am I going?
 - c. How did the universe begin?
 - d. What must I do to be saved?

IS THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD?

- **The Bible's claims to be inspired.**
 - a. That doesn't prove inspiration, but it is expected (*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)
- **The Bible's indestructibility.**
 - a. Many have tried through the centuries, yet it is still with us today (*Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24-25*)
- **The Bible's unity.**
 - a. **40 writers over 1600 years wrote 66 books in 2 large sections on various subjects, and no contradiction is to be found!**
 - b. Consider the amazing manuscript evidence for the Bible.
 - i. Old Testament accuracy is **ensured by the process of copying.**
 - ii. New Testament accuracy is **ensured by the volume of manuscripts.**
 - **5300+** complete **Greek manuscripts;**
 - **10000+** complete copies of the **Latin Vulgate;**
 - at least **9300** other early manuscript copies (other languages);
 - **24000+** partial manuscripts.
- **The Bible presents a higher code of living**
 - a. Man's morality without the Bible would be monstrous & atrocious... (bin Laden)
 - b. The Bible compels us to live moral lives (*Matthew 7:12; Romans 12:17-21*)
- **The Bible's impartial nature.**
 - a. Books written by men when speaking either biographically, or autobiographically generally avoid mentioning much concerning the errors and wrongs of the individual in question.
 - b. The Bible lays the sins of those spoken of open for all to see.
 - c. **David, Peter, Paul, Balaam, Moses,** etc, etc.
- **The Bible's prophetic accuracy.**
 - a. The birthplace of Christ was foretold **800 years beforehand** (*Micah 5:2*)
 - b. **1000 years before Christ,** specific truths of the crucifixion were foretold (*Psalms 22:17*)
 - c. **Daniel & Nahum** respectively foretell the ruin of the **Babylonian empire & Nineveh**
 - d. Daniel foretold the coming of God's kingdom (*Daniel 2:36-44*)
 - i. **Babylonian** ⇒ **Medo-Persian** ⇒ **Greek** ⇒ **Roman** (*Luke 3:1*)
- The evidence overwhelmingly supports the inspiration of the Bible...
- If the Bible is a book from God, then consider our responsibility to it... (*John 12:47-48*)
- May we acknowledge the authenticity and inerrancy of the Bible, and submit to it...

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

THE BIBLE & OTHER ANCIENT DOCUMENTS

AUTHOR	WHEN WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN	NUMBER OF COPIES
<i>Caesar</i>	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000 years	10
<i>Plato</i>	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200 years	7
<i>Ticitus</i>	100 A.D.	A.D. 1,000	900 years	20
<i>Pliny</i>	61-113 A.D.	A.D. 850	750 years	7
<i>Thucydides</i>	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300 years	8
<i>Suetonius</i>	75-160 A.D.	A.D. 950	800 years	8
<i>Herodotus</i>	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300 years	8
<i>Sophocles</i>	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1,000	1,400 years	100
<i>Catullus</i>	54 B.C.	A.D. 1,550	1,600 years	3
<i>Euripedes</i>	460-406 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,500 years	9
<i>Demosthenes</i>	383-322 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,300 years	200
<i>Aristotle</i>	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1,100	1,400 years	5
<i>Aristophanes</i>	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200 years	10
<i>New Testament</i>	45-96 A.D.	A.D. 130*	40 years	24,600+

* The **John Ryland manuscripts** (in the Ryland Museum in London, England), contain portions of the **gospel of John** and date back to **A.D. 130**, approximately **40 to 45 years after the original manuscript was written around A.D. 85**.