

QUESTIONS WE WANT ANSWERED

3 How Do We Know the Bible Is the Word of God?

*Scripture: II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 5:17-18; Mark 7:1-13;
John 10:34-35*

Several years ago I came across a quotation which has come to mean a great deal to me by reason of the challenge and comfort it brings. The words come from the pen of Martin Luther and were originally written on the flyleaf of a book he was giving to a friend. They are strong words and will jolt the sensitive reader, but I have chosen to draw your attention to them by way of introducing our study together. The provocative Luther wrote, "If we only believed that God is speaking to us and that whatever we read or hear in the Bible is God's Word, we would find and feel that it is not read or heard futilely or in vain. But our confounded unbelief and miserable flesh keeps us from seeing and noting that God is speaking with us in Scripture or that Scripture is God's Word. Rather, we think it is the word of Isaiah, Paul, or some other mere man, who has not created heaven and earth. Therefore it is not God's Word to us and does not bear its fruit until we recognize it as God's Word within ourselves."

Of course, not everyone agrees with Martin Luther because not everyone believes that the Bible is God's Word. I have in my library a copy of the November 25, 1964 issue of Life Magazine. This was a special double issue, 148 pages, and devoted to the subject of the Bible. Life Magazine's view of the Bible was not a complimentary one. There was little to suggest that the Bible was not just another book. Anyone taking the article seriously would come away feeling the Bible was not trustworthy. The reason I mention the article is because I believe it gives a fair summation of the way many people look at the Bible. In the March, 1965, issue of Moody Monthly, Dr. William Culbertson, then president of the Moody Bible Institute and since gone to be with the Lord, listed ten ways in which Life Magazine presented the Bible to its readers. They are worth noting here. **(1)** Life presented the Bible as a unique book, but a human document and full of crudities. **(2)** The impression is created that the Bible includes old stories, and poems, and that its text is full of errors. **(3)** Life presents the Bible as a dialogue between man and God. **(4)** Life inferred that the interpretation of the Bible is being influenced by new discoveries relating to history, culture and

custom. **(5)** Life presented the importance of Biblical events as resting in what they signified rather than in what actually took place. That which is supernatural is glossed over, explained away or minimized. **(6)** Life made much of the fact that the Mosaic Law shows many similarities to Hammurabi's code of earlier origin. **(7)** Life looked upon the Gospels as an almost hopeless jumble of contradictions and inaccuracies virtually worthless for reconstructing an historically accurate picture of Jesus Christ, who He was or what He did. **(8)** Life presented Christ as an obscure figure who was later said to be deity. **(9)** Life viewed the death of Christ as a pattern rather than a substitutionary work in itself on our behalf. **(10)** Life declared the view that the Bible in its original text as being without error as untenable. Life presented the views of liberal and neo-orthodox theologians as final without a hint that these views are highly questionable.

Many people approach the Bible as the contributors to Life Magazine did. Others, of equal competence, agree wholeheartedly with Martin Luther. This does pose an interesting question. Which Bible do you believe in. Do you believe in Luther's Bible or in Life's Bible? There is a vast difference in belief at this point. I believe that anyone can be committed to the position that the Bible is the Word of God and that such a stand is intellectually defensible. It is the purpose of our study to marshal several reasons which, for our purposes I will call witnesses, who will testify in the Bible's behalf. The witnesses will agree that the Bible is the Word of God.

I. WITNESS OF REASON AND PROBABILITY:

The first reason why we can believe the Bible is the Word of God is based on an assumption and may be considered less than worthy. If there is a personal God, it is both reasonable and probable that He would reveal Himself. This He has done in nature and conscience, but this revelation is incomplete for rational creatures. He would scarcely think a general, impersonal revelation to be adequate for thinking beings. This would be enhanced if they fell into danger and great peril. He would come to their rescue as an earthly parent would. As regards the need for such a special revelation, the best that man can do in attempting to understand his place in the universe and world is uncertain, vague and speculative. There is inability to solve the problems of immortality and personal salvation. Few philosophers agree and are often mutually destructive. The status of religions outside of revelation certainly demonstrate the need for God to break through and straighten us out. The most reasonable way was for

God to make us a book. Books are the best method of preserving truth and passing it on from generation to generation. Memory and tradition are not trustworthy. God acted in extreme wisdom and in a normal way when He provided a universal way for people to come to the knowledge of truth. I believe that the witness of probability is a strong voice for believing the Bible is the Word of God. *“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou has the words of...life.”*

II, THE WITNESS OF THE BIBLE ITSELF:

Here we will allow the Bible to testify on its own behalf. No one must ever be allowed to think that the Bible makes no claim to be the Word of God. We do not claim for the Bible what it does not claim for itself. The claim of Divine authorship is classically set forth in II Timothy 3:16-17 and II Peter 1:16-21. We are not dealing here with inspiration, but the word means *“God-breathed”* and the truth is that God's thoughts were inscripturated or put to writing without error in the original autographic works. What God wanted said was said, no more and no less. Furthermore, the Bible lays claim to its Divine origin in hundreds of other places. In the Old Testament there are in excess of 2,600 instances where the words, *“The Lord said,” “God spake” “These are the words of the Lord,” “The Lord commanded,”* and like descriptions occur. In the prophetic books they occur 1300 times, In the historical books 400 times, In the Pentateuch 700 times. The New Testament quotes from the Old over 320 times, 60 times from the Book of Genesis. There are not many books in the world that claim to be the Word of God. There are a few, and any book that does make such a claim deserves to be examined very carefully. In 525 different places in the New Testament the Bible claims to be God's Word. For example, in I Thessalonians 4:15 we read, *“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.”* Again and again, in a clear and unmistakable way, the Bible claims to be the Word of God.

III. THE WITNESS OF CONTENT:

Long ago the Apostle Paul wrote to believers living in Rome and excited them with the words, *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out.”* (Romans 11:33) Few books are read a second time and the reason is that once (twice at the most) is enough. The Bible will stand a thousand readings with the freshness of a first reading as the passage beams with new meaning. Consider:

1. The Profound Doctrines of Scripture:

No other book or philosophy sets forth as rational or complete a description of God. We learn He is personal and this is a very satisfying concept. Thus He can hold communion with man. We learn He is all-wise and powerful. We discover He is unchangeable. We find He is holy, loving, and just. There is no comparing the representations of God in the Bible with the hazy speculations of philosophy and the crude imaginations of man made religions. The Bible's profound knowledge extends to the nature of man, the creation of the world, and the future of all things. There is no topic within the realm of thought which is not spoken to in the Bible. Nothing needful is left out. (Psalm 92:5)

2. The Unity and Consistency of Scripture:

Here is a book written over a period of 1500 years by some different (forty) authors from varied ways of life and the book they write teaches the same thing about God, man, sin, salvation, morality and immortality. This in itself is a literary miracle. A study of philosophy reveals that rarely do the heavy thinkers agree with one another at all points. They often nullify and destroy one another's basic systems. On the other hand, our Old Testament leads historically and logically to the New Testament, there is a continued teaching and thought process throughout. I like the comment of Pierson in his **Inspired Word**, pp. 338-359, "While there is no collision among the writers, neither is there evidence of collusion." In Matthew 5:17-18 our Lord honors the unity of Scripture.

3. The Balance of Scripture:

Human speculation tends to be one-sided. Worldly systems are all the time over-stressing some matters and under-stressing others. Secularism emphasizes the present at the expense of the future. Materialism claims the only real entity is matter. Idealism teaches the opposite. The Bible teaches the reality of both mind and matter. Plato, the Gnostics and the Manicheans despised the body as the base of evil. Buddhism would rid man of all desire, Hinduism teaches casts and final absorption of the soul into the unconscious "All." Confucianism disregards God and the future, teaching only an ethic to live by in this world. The Bible points out the true nature of God and the world without mixing the essence of the cosmos with the diving essence. The Bible recognizes the dual nature of man as both body and spirit. (I Timothy 4:8)

4. The Noble Ethic of Scripture:

The lofty ethical concepts of the Bible are an evidence of its divine origin. Everywhere moral distinctions are drawn. There is a moral economy to the very universe itself. (Genesis 1:31) Righteousness is everywhere commanded and commended. (Gen.4:7; 6:5; 7:1; Isaiah 5:20; Psalm 89:14; 48:10; 119:114:1:6; Proverbs10:7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:8; 5:20) The Bible further lacks prudishness. It is realistic. It recognizes frankly and openly men's weaknesses but never moves to the point of obscenity. The constant emphasis is on the true, good, and holy. (Philippians 4:8) In all the writings of men what author can compare his work to the happiness spoken of in the Beatitudes, what love story between people can come close to I Corinthians 13, where is the religious teaching that can stand by the side of the writer Paul with thought to man's soul sorrow, the place of forgiveness, or existence of hope? A few weeks ago a dear lady shared a verse with me taken from Psalm 119:68, "*Thou Lord art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.*" The Bible is the kind of book you would expect a God who is good to write. It is not called the "good book" by chance:

IV. THE WITNESS OF FULFILLED PROPHECY:

Isaiah, the prophet, once called heathen gods to show their power with the words, '*Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods.*' (Isa.41:23) This is precisely what the God of the Bible has done. The many fulfilled prophecies of Scripture provide an unimpeachable witness that the Bible is God's Word. Biblical prophecy spans the centuries and deals with, individuals, cities, nations, and world events. Multitude's of events are predicted in the Bible and are fulfilled as promised. It is hard for me to imagine a stronger proof for the inspiration of the Bible. A prophet is someone who speaks on the behalf of God to the people revealing God's will and the future as divine inspiration dictates. It serves no purpose to speak of individual prophecies unless the question of dating is first settled. The critic who attacks predictive prophecy has to make a case for post-dating, the placing of the prophecy after the event of fulfillment knowing that anyone can talk about any happening after it already has taken place. The burden of proof is on him as the prophets of the Bible make their tenses very clear. They are talking about the future and giving information that is other wise locked in the mind of God. All of the Old Testament prophets were translated into Greek in the Septuagint Version about 280 B.C., which means that we can assume they were all written before that time. A good source for dating the

various prophets of the Old Testament is Unger's Bible Dictionary by Merrill F. Unger and published at Moody Press, 1966. Bernard Ramm in **Protestant Christian Evidences** (Moody Press 1957) has an excellent chapter entitled **Verification Through Fulfilled Prophecy** in which he deals with the concrete data of fulfilled prophecy. The truth here is compelling. He writes, "Furthermore, in practically every case we have given the radical the benefit of the doubt in dating the prophecies, so that the examples of fulfilled prophecies lie outside the dates of the passages set by the radical critic." Any fair and honest inspection of the record will show that the prophets of the Bible spoke with an insight and wisdom that was not their own. The conclusion is that they were given this information by God. For your further study a simple look at predictions concerning Christ will illustrate this. **(1)** His birth in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2; **(2)** A forerunner or messenger - Malachi 3:1; **(3)** His entry into Jerusalem upon a colt - Zechariah 9:9; **(4)** Betrayal by a friend and the infliction of wounds - Zechariah 13:6; **(5)** The thirty pieces of silver - Zechariah 11:12; **(6)** The silver thrown to a potter - Zechariah 11:13; **(7)** The Savior would make no defense - Isaiah 53:7; **(8)** He would die by crucifixion - Psalm 22:16. A college class in Pasadena applied the laws of probability to the fulfillment of these eight prophecies and concluded that the chance of their being fulfilled in one person would be the equivalent of one chance in $280,000 \times 1,000 \times 10,000 \times 1,000 \times 10,000 \times 100,000 \times 10,000 \times 10,000$. (Pasadena City College) This specific anticipation of Christ, written hundreds of years before His birth, is proof enough of the Bible's inspiration not to mention the hundreds of other predictions meticulously fulfilled. Truly, "*the Scripture cannot be broken.*" (John 10:35) Prophecy is the signature of God inscribed upon the pages of Scripture. Their fulfillment is a matter of historic record verified by the most scrupulous techniques. Forgery is out of the question. Their fulfillment is too improbable to assign to man's foresight or sagacity. To disregard this witness to the Divine authorship of the Bible is irrational. That's what Jesus said to some people one day, "*0 fools, and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken.*" (Luke 24:25)

An American missionary in Constantinople was asked by a Turkish army colonel for proof that the Bible was true. Dr. Cyrus Hamlin answered with the question. "Have you ever been to Babylon?" The colonel answered, "Yes, and I will tell you a curious incident. The ruins of Babylon abound in game, and I once engaged a sheikh and his group to take me there for a week's shooting. At sundown the Arabs began to strike their tents getting ready to leave. I went to the sheikh and

protested, but nothing I could say had any effect. "It is not safe," he said. "No mortal flesh dare stay here after sunset. Ghosts and ghouls come out of the holes and caverns after dark, and whoever they capture becomes one of them. No Arab has ever seen the sun go down on Babylon." Immediately the missionary took his Bible and read from the last four verses of Isaiah, chapter thirteen: *"And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God over-threw Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. The wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and one dragons in their pleasant places..."* The colonel suggested, "That is history you are reading." Dr. Hamlin then shook his head with the words, "No, it is prophecy. These words were written when Babylon was in all her glory."

The predictions of Scripture do read like history to us now. This particular prophecy was written between 783-704 B.C. Two others accompany it regarding Babylon, Isaiah 14:23, *"I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog, and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,"* and Jeremiah 51:26, *"And they will not take from you even a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations, but you will be desolate forever."* According to Dr. S. Maxwell Coder of the Moody Bible Institute, at least five principles characterize a genuine Biblical prediction: **(1)** Proper timing, (far enough in advance); **(2)** Specific details (not vague generalities); **(3)** Freedom from ambiguities (no double meanings or misleading statements); **(4)** Exact fulfillment; **(5)** Genuine date and authorship. (**The Truth Triumphant**, S.Maxwell Coder & George F. Howe, 1965, Moody Press). This prophecy from Isaiah and Jeremiah will stand this five-fold test. Babylon will be like Sodom and Gomorrah (13:19), it will never be inhabited again (13:20), tents will not be placed there (13:20), sheepfolds will not be there (13:20), desert creatures will infest the ruins (13:21), stones will not be removed (Jer.51:26), the ancient city will not be visited frequently (Jer.51:43), it will be covered with swamps of water (Isa.14:23). This prophecy was fulfilled to the letter and holds true to this very day. I have chosen to use this particular one as an example, but the following predictions are equally as significant and detailed. **(1)** Tyre - Ezekiel 26:3-4, 7-8, 12, 14, 21 (Written 592-570 B.C.), **(2)** Sidon - Ezekiel 28:22-23 (Written 592-570 B.C.), **(3)** Nineveh - Nahum 1:8, 10; 2:6; 3:10, 13, 19, (Written 661-612 B.C.), **(4)** Petra & Edom - Isaiah 34:6-7, 10,

13-15, 17-18; Ezekiel 25:13-14; 35:5-6 ,(Written 783-704 B.C. & 592-570 B.C.), **(5)** Thebes & Memphis - Ezekiel 30:13-15, (Written 592 B.C.). Josh McDowell in his book, **Evidence That Demands A Verdict**, has done an excellent job in detailing these and other prophecies, their unmistakable fulfillment, circumstances involved, and the probability factors. There are other prophecies involving the nation Israel, and those of a world-wide dimension. Some prophecies have already been fulfilled, and some are in the process of being fulfilled, and some are impending. I trust I have said enough to wet the appetite of anyone who may want to listen in greater detail to the witness of prophecy as a voice in proving that the Bible is the Word of God.

V. THE WITNESS OF THE SOIL:

When the Jewish state of Israel was established in 1948 a Department of Antiquities was immediately set up knowing that Israel would distinguish itself in the study of archaeology. Strict laws were set governing the disturbance of the land to the point of having the ground officially inspected before even a ditch could be dug. The land continues to beckon those who hunt ancient relics. The spade of the archeologist deserves a place in substantiating the Bible as the Word of God as it proclaims the historical accuracy of the Bible. Regardless of what merit accrues through its literary glory or profound content, if it fails at the point of historical accuracy, it is in no position to be trusted- as a guide for life. Unger's Bible Dictionary defines Biblical archaeology as a specialized field that focuses on ancient records of the past that touch directly or indirectly upon the Bible and its message. The objective results of these records of the past contained in the soil have been to confirm the Bible's historical statements as true. Hundreds of archaeological finds are now at the students disposal. Perhaps one of the more famous finds of our time are the well-known Dead Sea Scrolls. These scrolls were discovered in the northwestern corner of the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956. They were written by Jews between 200 B.C. and A.D. 50. Their value lies in the fact that the oldest manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament prior to their discovery was dated at A.D. 826. Now we have manuscripts that are 1000 years closer to the original writings. The Dead Sea Scrolls include parts of every book in the Old Testament except Esther. There is one complete copy of the Book of Isaiah. How do these Dead Sea Scrolls compare with the text of A.D. 826? Dr. William LaSor, a Hebrew scholar observes, "...there is no significant difference that alters any essential item of our Christian faith." (**The Dead Sea Scrolls After Twenty Years**, William LaSor, Sunday School Times, August 1, 1967, p.9)

The Bible will stand upon its historical record. This record has been confirmed again and again by specific, documented, archaeological discoveries. Millar Burrows of Yale writes, "Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics. It has shown in a number of instances that these views rest on false assumptions and unreal, artificial schemes of historical development. This is a real contribution and should not to be minimized. Archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine." (Burrows, Millar, **What, Mean These Stones?**, New York: Meridian Books, 1956) Books for further study are: **Unger's Bible Handbook**, Moody Press, 1966 - pp.18-33 for archaeological discoveries related to specific Bible references; Free, Joseph, **Archaeology and Bible History**, Wheaton: Scripture Press, 1969; Bruce, F.F., **Archaeological Confirmation of the New Testament**, Grand Rapids, Baker House, 1969; Vos, Howard, **An Introduction to Bible Archaeology**, Moody Press, 1956.

VI. THE WITNESS OF SCIENCE:

Not only is the Bible accurate in history, it is accurate when it touches on points of science. The Bible is not a scientific textbook. When the Bible speaks of matters which touch on facts of science it employs popular language so that people of all ages can find it's message intelligible. Because the Bible is written in popular language it is able to be understood by people of Moses' day, people of the times of the Apostles, people of the Middle Ages, and people of the times in which we live. The purpose of the Bible is not to explain scientific truth, it is to state clearly the fact of that truth.

It is only reasonable that there should not be a conflict between the Bible and science. Truth discovered by science should coincide with truth that comes by Biblical revelation because God is the author or both. We must remember that science is a progressive study of the truth and renders its verdicts from current understanding of the data. When that understanding is true it will conform with Scripture. It is a mistake therefore, to "freeze" the areas of difficulty and conclude that the Bible is wrong. It is more reasonable to live with the alleged conflict and await additional evidence than to automatically discredit the Bible. The Scripture has a better track record than the scientist who is all the time changing his mind.

1. Medical Accuracy:

Leviticus 17:11 clearly states, *“for the life of the flesh is in the blood.”* It is the blood that carries on the various life processes of the body. The father of our country, George Washington, is one of an unknown number of people whose blood was drained from his body because doctors knew nothing of its life sustaining work until modern times. It was William Harvey in the year 1616 who first introduced the principle of the circulation of the blood and its importance, 3000 years after Moses told of this truth. Another example is that of the circumcision of a child eight days after birth. (Genesis 17:10-12) Scientists now know there are at least two reasons why the eighth day is the best day. First, vitamin K, which is essential to the clotting of the blood, increases between the 5th and 7th day of the child's life and rises to its normal percentage. Secondly, Prothrombin, another ingredient necessary to the clotting of the blood, also increases each passing day of the child's life. For instance, on the third day of the infant's life, 30% of the necessary Prothrombin is now developed. On the eighth day the percentage rises to 110% and then begins to decline to the 100% level. For these reasons a medical journal in 1947 disclosed the revolutionary view that the eighth day is the best day for a child to be circumcised. This is no Biblical coincidence. The reason is that a creator God made vitamin K and He made Prothrombin to begin with.

2. Astronomical Accuracy:

Pictures of planet earth taken through the window of a space capsule are commonplace but it was not always known that the world was round. When Columbus told people he could reach India by sailing west, they thought he was a dreamer. What is known about the earth's roundness today was described thousands of years ago by Isaiah the prophet in the words, *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.”* (Isa.40:22) Someone may ask about the *“four corners”* statement in Isaiah 11:12. *“He shall gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”* The reference here has to do with the degree to which the earth is inhabited, that is, the ingathering will be made up of those who have come from the farthest human dwelling. Another reference to the earth is found in Job 26:7 where we read, *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”* That

wasn't written by an astronaut. Furthermore, Christ said that His coming would be like lightning. (Matt.24:27) He also said, *"I tell you, in that night shall there be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left."* (Luke 17:34-36) What Jesus is saying is that it will be night on one part of the earth when He comes, and mid-day on another part of the earth when He comes. Jesus knew that the earth is round and that it rotates continually. His statement was made in line with understanding that we take for granted today. One other example is Hebrews 11:3 which speaks of *"worlds"* long before any person knew about the solar system.

God has revealed Himself in nature, but there is a more detailed revelation in Scripture. There is the book of nature and the book of Scripture. The first part of Psalm 19 describes the *"book of nature"* and the second part of the *"book of the law."* Both will deliver the same message when they are correctly understood. A true reading of scientific data will confirm the reliability of the Bible. True science will never make faith irrelevant. For further reading: **The Christian View of Science and Scripture**, Bernard Ramm, William B. Erdmans Publishing Co., 1955; **Faith and a Physical World: A comprehensive view**, David L. Dye, W.B.Erdmans Pub. 1966; **The Bible and Modern Science**, Henry M. Morris, Moody Press, 1951; **Science Is a Sacred Cow**, Anthony Standen, Dutton & Co., 1950.

VII. THE WITNESS OF SURVIVAL:

An important witness to the Bible's claim to be the Word of God is its quality of indestructibility. I will make mention of three areas of attack.

1. Antiquity:

The Bible shouldn't be here because it defies the laws of literature. It is estimated that only one half of one percent of all books published the last seven years, that eight hundred out of one thousand are forgotten in one year. The Bible has stood the test of time for 3000 years. Literature comes and goes. Science manuals are re-edited these days almost before the ink is dry. It is reasonable to suggest that truth will stand. Error will eventually be found out and bring quick destruction. The Bible is the oldest book in existence. This should not be thought unusual in the light of what the Bible

claims for itself. *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, away, but the Word of the Lord endureth forever."* (1 Peter 1:24-25)

2. Hostility:

The Bible is like the Irishman's wall. He built it four feet wide and three feet high and said, "I built it that way so that if a force knocks it over, it will be higher after than before." The forces that have zeroed in on the Bible form every conceivable peril. It has survived burning, banning, attempted annihilation and barbaric, relentless hatred. Mighty potentates have raged against it. But it is an anvil that has broken a million hammers. That's what God said it was. Jeremiah 23:29 reads, *"Is not my word like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? saith the Lord."*

3. Infidelity:

An infidel is an avowed unbeliever. There are various types such as agnostics, pantheists, deists, and atheists. Infidels attack the Bible from within its pages and seek to prove it an unworthy book. Using methods of destructive criticism they try to undermine the confidence people may have in the Bible by questioning its integrity, veracity and authenticity. They affirm that the Bible is built upon wishful thinking, myth and is not respectable intellectually. Modern infidelity dates from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the popularity of English Deism in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds. They believed God created the world and forsook it. Among the protagonists were Shaftesbury, Hobbes, Tindal and Sir Francis Newport. Paine's **Age Of Reason** belongs to this time. Then there was the French **Encyclopedism** of Voltaire and Rousseau. The men became atheists. German Rationalism came along to accept those parts of the Bible which agreed with human reason according to the teaching of DeWette, Eichhorn, Graf, Ewald and Wellhausen, Bauer and Strauss. These were the forerunners of popular infidelity or modernism. But these fellows are all gone now and the Bible is more popular than ever. "Mock on, Mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau; Mock on, Mock on; Tis all in vain! You throw the dust against the wind, and the wind blows it back again." Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away: but my words shall not pass away."* (Luke 21:33) There is the witness of survival which agrees with the other witnesses, it is the Word of God.

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