

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Note: Based on pages 11-15 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer, (1974, Dallas Theological Seminary), www.zondervan.com.

Doctrine #2B: “Evidences” That Scripture is The “Word of God”

Some Important Facts:

1. There are “internal” evidences WITHIN *The Bible* that prove that Scripture is the actual “Word of God”.
2. There are “external” evidences OUTSIDE *The Bible* that prove that Scripture is the actual “Word of God”.

Internal Evidences that “The Bible” is “The Word of God”:

1. In hundreds of passages, the Bible declares or assumes itself to be the Word of God:

- a. The Old Testament Claims

- 1) That God spoke to men: (Gen 2:16-17; 12:1-3; Ex 3:4-5; Jer 1:7,9)

Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD GOD commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’”

Exodus 3:4-5 “When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, GOD called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ GOD said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’”

Jeremiah 1:7,9 “The LORD said to me:...whatever I command you, you shall speak. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.’”

- 2) That the words they spoke came from God:

Joshua 3:9 “Joshua said to the Israelites, ‘Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.’”

2Samuel 23:2 “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue...”

Jeremiah 27:4 “This is what the LORD ALMIGHTY, the God of Israel, says...”

Hosea 1:1 “The word of the Lord that came to Hosea...”

(same thing repeated in Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachai)

Proverbs 30:5-6 “Every word of God is pure...Do not add to His Words, lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.”

3) God wanted His Words Written Down:

Exodus 24:3-4 “When Moses went and told the people all the Lord’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, ‘Everything the Lord has said we will do’. Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.”

Exodus 24:12 “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written that you may teach them.”

Exodus 31:18 “When He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.”

Exodus 34:27 “Write these words, for according to the *tenor* of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” (NOTE: “tenor” - blowing out of His mouth)

b. The New Testament Claims

1) Origin of Scripture is not from Man:

2Peter 1:20-21 “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2) Words of Scripture are from God

2Corinthians 4:2 “We renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God.”

Galatians 1:11-12 “I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached IS NOT SOMETHING THAT MAN MADE UP. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it NOT AS THE WORD OF MEN, but for what it really is, the Word of God.”

1Peter 1:24-25 “For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like a flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flowers fall, but THE WORD OF THE LORD endures forever. And this is the word that was preached as the gospel to you.”

3) The New Testament claims that the Old Testament is from God (Rom 2:1-2; Heb 1:1-2)

Romans 2:1-2 “What advantage is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision. Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in many ways...but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.”

c. Jesus' Claims

1) The Old Testament Words are from God

Luke 24:44-45 “These are My Words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...”

Mark 12:24-27 “And Jesus answering them said unto them, Do you not err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?...have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.”

Matt 5:17-19 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

2) His Own Words are from God

John 7:16-17 “My teaching is not My own. It comes from Him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether MY TEACHING IS FROM GOD or whether I speak on my own.”

John 8:26 “I have much to say in judgment of you. But He who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from Him I tell the world...I do nothing on my own but speaking just what the Father has taught Me...”

2. The “words” written down in the Bible are claimed to be “eternal”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall never pass away.”

External Evidences that “The Bible” is “The Word of God”:

1. No book in history has been written the way the Bible was:

- a. Written over a 1500 year span.
- b. Written over 40 generations
- c. Written by more than 40 authors, from every walk of life including: kings, peasants, philosophers, fisherman, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc., etc.

Moses - a political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt.

Peter, a fisherman.....Amos, a herdsman.....Joshua, military general

Nehemiah, a cupbearer, Daniel a prime minister, Luke, a doctor

David and Solomon were kings, Matthew was a tax collector, Paul was a rabbi

- d. Written in different places: Moses in the wilderness; Jeremiah in a dungeon; Daniel on a hillside; Paul inside prison walls; Luke while traveling; John on an island; Others during military campaigns.
- e. Written at different times: David at war...Solomon during peace
- f. Written during different moods: heights of joy...depths of despair
- g. Written on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe
- h. Written in three languages: Hebrew; Aramaic; and Greek
- i. Subject matter contains hundreds of controversial subjects...yet the Bible presents a “continuity” which can be observed from Genesis to Revelation. This continuity of the Bible can be seen in many ways such as:
 - 1) Its Historical Sequence: The Bible begins with creation of the present world in Genesis to the creation of the new heavens and the new earth in Revelation.
 - 2) Its Doctrinal Themes: The Old Testament unfolds doctrinal themes such as the nature of God Himself, the doctrine of sin, the doctrine of salvation, and the programs of God for the world as a whole, for Israel, and for the church. Doctrine is progressively presented from its first or elementary introduction in Genesis to its more complex development and conclusions in the New Testament.

F.F. Bruce: *“The writings themselves belong to a great variety of literary types. They include history, law (civil, criminal, ethical, ritual, sanitary), religious poetry, didactic treatises, lyric poetry, parable and allegory, biography, personal correspondence, personal memoirs, and diaries, in addition to the distinctively biblical types of prophecy and apocalyptic...For all that, the Bible is not simply an anthology; there is a unity which binds the whole together. An anthology is compiled by an anthologist, but no anthologist compiled the Bible.”*

3) Its Prophecies and Fulfillments: Throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament, there are multiple prophecies that are presented, reiterated, and even expanded from Genesis to Revelation. Many of these prophecies have been miraculously fulfilled while others still wait for their appointed times. The major prophecies of the Old Testament (made over thousands of years by multiple prophets) concerned the anticipation, presentation, realization, and exaltation of the most perfect person on earth or in heaven, which was fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a) Isaiah 53:5 - "That Christ would be our vicarious sacrifice." – Fulfilled: Romans 5:6,8
- b) Isaiah 53:12 - "He would be crucified with criminals." – Fulfilled: Mark 15:27,28
- c) Psalm 35:19, Isaiah 53:3 - "He will be hated without cause." – Fulfilled: John 15:24,25
- d) Psalm 22:7,8 - "The crowd will sneer and mock Him." - Fulfilled: Luke 23:35
- e) Isaiah 53:7 - "He was silent to accusations." - Fulfilled: Mark 15:4,5
- f) Zech 12:10 - "Pierced through hands and feet." - Fulfilled: John 20:27
- g) Psalm 41:9 - "Betrayed by a friend." - Fulfilled: Luke 22:47,48
- h) Isaiah 53:9 - "He was buried with the rich." – Fulfilled: Matthew 27:57-60

2. No book in history has been as produced and published as the Bible:

- a. Purchased by more people in more nations than any other book in history.
- b. Written in more languages than any combined top ten books in history.
- c. The number 1 best seller every since they ever started keeping the list.
- d. The Bible was the First book ever printed on a printing press (i.e. the "Guttenberg Press").
- e. Bibles are published: 1,000,000 a day; 40,000 an hour; 700 a minute; 12 every second!

3. No book in history has been as attacked as the Bible:

- a. The Bible has withstood vicious persecution of its enemies as no other book.
- b. Many have tried to burn it, ban it and "outlaw it" from the days of Roman emperors to present-day Communist-dominated countries.
- c. In AD 303, Diocletian issued an edict to stop Christians from worshipping and to destroy their Scriptures: *"...an imperial letter was everywhere promulgated, ordering the razing of the churches to the ground and the destruction by fire of the Scriptures, and proclaiming that those who held high positions would lose their civil rights, while those in households, if they persisted in their profession of Christianity, would be deprived of liberty."*

Just 25 years later, Eusebius records the edict later by the next emperor Constantine that 50 copies of the Scriptures should be prepared at the expense of the Roman government.

- d. Sidney Collett in "All About the Bible" says: "*Voltaire, the noted French infidel who died in 1778, said that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. But what has happened? Voltaire has passed into history, while the circulation of the Bible continues to increase in almost all parts of the world...one has truly said: 'We might as well put our shoulder to the burning wheel of the sun, and try to stop its flaming course, as attempt to stop the circulation of the Bible.'*"
- e. Concerning the boast of Voltaire on the extinction of Christianity and the Bible in 100 years, "*only 50 years after Voltaire's death, the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.*"
- f. It has also been persecuted by critics...and yet survived:

Bernard Ramm adds: "*No other book has been so chopped, knifed, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology or belles letters of classical or modern times has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible? with such venom and skepticism? with such thoroughness and erudition? upon every chapter, line and tenet? A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put. The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions*

4. No book in history has been as preserved in the way the words of the Bible were:

- a. Jews counted every letter, sentence, word, paragraph, stroke of pen...O.T.

Samuel Davidson (Scholar & historian) describes how professional Jewish scribes preserved the accuracy of their copying of Scriptures (before the invention of the Printing Press):

- 1) A synagogue scroll must be written on the skins of clean animals.
- 2) Prepared for a particular use of the synagogue by a Jew.
- 3) These must be fastened together with strings taken from clean animals.
- 4) Every skin must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire scroll.
- 5) The length of each column must not extend over less than 48 or more than 60 lines; and the breadth must consist of 30 letters.
- 6) The whole copy must be first lined; and if 3 words be written without a line, it is worthless.
- 7) The ink should be black, neither red, green, nor any other color, and be prepared according to a definite recipe.
- 8) An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least deviate.
- 9) No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the authentic scroll before him.
- 10) Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene
- 11) Between every new parashah, or section, the breadth of nine consonants.
- 12) Between every book there were to be 3 lines exactly.
- 13) The 5th book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line.
- 14) Besides this, the copyist must sit in full Jewish dress; wash his whole body, not begin to write the name of God with a pen without first getting fresh Ink.

15) Should a king address the scribe while writing that name, he must take no notice of him.

Davidson adds: “The scrolls in which these regulations are not observed are to be condemned, burned, and the ashes buried deep in the ground.”

Sir Fredric Kenyon *“Besides following exactly procedures on dress, style, and form of which to copy Scriptures...the Jewish scribes also undertook a number of calculations which do not enter into the ordinary sphere of textual criticism. They numbered the verses, words, and letters of every book. They calculated the middle word and the middle letter of each. They enumerated verses which contained all the letters of the alphabet so that they could calculate verses accurately by numbers.... These trivialities, as we may rightly consider them, had yet the effect of securing minute attention to the precise transmission of the text; and they are but an excessive manifestation of a respect for the sacred Scriptures which in itself deserves nothing but praise.”*

- b. The Dead Sea Scrolls, a collection of 972 texts from the [Hebrew Bible](#) and extra-biblical documents found between 1947 and 1956 on the northwest shore of the [Dead Sea](#), are the oldest known surviving copies of Biblical and extra-biblical documents. They date between 150 BC and 70 AD. They prove the accuracy of the recorded bible texts we read today.

Sir Fredric Kenyon:

“In comparing the exactness of the Dead Sea Scroll copy of the entire book of Isaiah (125 B.C.) To the Massoretic text of Isaiah (A.D. 916) 1000 yrs later: Of the 166 words in Isaiah 53, there are only 17 letters in question. Ten of these letters are simply a matter of spelling, which does not affect the sense of any verse. Four more letters are minor stylistic changes, such as conjunctions. The remaining 3 letters comprise the word “light” which this word is supported in our earlier manuscripts and appears to be accurate to be included. Therefore, in one chapter of 166 words, there is only one word (3 letters) in question after a thousand years of transmission— and this word does not have any significant effect or change on the meaning of the passage.”

5. No book in history has accurately covered such a broad span of subject matter:

- a. It covers the universe from the heights of heaven to the depths of hell and traces the works of God from the beginning to their end.
- b. Although written before the authors were aware of modern discoveries and scientific technology (such as the microscope, telescope, or spaceships), everything that is recorded by the biblical authors of a scientific nature has never been contradicted by modern science. On the contrary, many times biblical revelation has preceded scientific discovery. For example:
 - 1) The Bible revealed (around 1000 B.C.) that the earth was round long before it was scientifically proven that the earth was round.

Isaiah 40:22 “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth...”

NOTE: For many centuries, the scientific community believed that the earth was flat. The scientific community now agrees that the Bible was right all along.

2) Written in 1500 B.C., the Bible reveals through the book of Job that the earth “hangs in space”. (The earth is not sitting on anything...it is just held in place by unseen forces!)

Job 26:7 “He spreads out the northern stars over empty space; He suspends the earth over nothing.”

The scientific community did not prove this until around 1475 A.D.

3) The Bible wrote about the “Big Bang” that formed the universe before science even considered its factual basis:

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was NOT made out of what was visible.”

4) The Bible also revealed that light from “stars” can produce musical sounds.

Job 38:6-7 “On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

Only recently, in the field of astronomy, have scientist learned (with advanced equipment) that the light coming from each star produces a unique harmonic as its reflected light beams slow down. When all of the stars’ sounds are put together...they harmonize.

6. No book in ancient history has proven to be so historically accurate:

William F. Albright, one of the greatest archaeologists of all time, said about the Bible:

“The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the 18th and 19th centuries, certain phases of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.”

Sir William Ramsay is regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists ever to have lived. He was a student in the German historical school of the mid-19th century. As a result, he believed that the Book of Acts was a product of the mid-2nd century A.D. He was firmly convinced of this belief and set out to prove it. In his research to make a topographical study of Asia Minor, he was compelled to consider the writings of Luke. After intense documented research, he wrote this:

"I may fairly claim to have entered on this investigation without prejudice in favor of the conclusion which I shall now seek to justify to the reader. On the contrary, I began with a mind unfavorable to it, for the ingenuity and apparent completeness of the criticism I had been taught at universities had quite convinced me. It did not then lie in my line of life to investigate the subject minutely; but more recently I found myself brought into contact with the Book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor. It was gradually borne upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvelous truth. In fact, beginning with a fixed idea that the work was essentially a 2nd century composition, and never relying on its evidence as trustworthy for 1st century conditions, I gradually came to find it extremely accurate on even obscure and difficult details. I have come to the unquestionable conclusion, based on facts and 30 years of study, that Luke is a historian of the 1st rank; not merely are his statements of facts trustworthy... this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians!"

Conclusion: The answer to the question, "What is the Bible?" can only fairly be answered as "The Word of God" by anyone who seriously studies the internal and external evidences to this fact without prior bias or prejudice. Most people who claim the Bible is "only" a man-made document, has never read its contents, nor researched any of its proofs. Others may have read it and done some research, but "refuse" to believe because they know that if the Bible is the Word of God, they would have to submit to what it says they should be and do. But for those who honestly search for "truth" will find it as they study the Bible with an open mind and an open heart; the purpose of the Bible is to reveal to us who God really is through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (John 14:6)

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Study Guide for Doctrine #2B: “Evidences” That Scripture is The “Word of God”

1. Read Pages 1-9 from the Doctrine#1a Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “What Is The Bible?” as you read:
 - a. **Internal Evidences in Old Testament that “The Bible” is “The Word of God”:**
 - 1) What do you find in verses like Genesis 2:16-17, Exodus 3:4-5, and Jeremiah 1:7,9 which are internal proofs that the Bible is literally “The Word of God”? (page 1, middle)
 - 2) When Joshua was speaking to the Israelites, whose words did he want them to listen to?
(Joshua 3:9)
 - 3) In 2Samuel 23:2, whose “word” did David claim was on his tongue? (page 1, bottom)
 - 4) What is a phrase that begins the books of Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi? (page 1, bottom)
 - 5) According to Proverbs 30:5-6, what does the Bible say about “every” word of God?
(page 2, top)
 - 6) What did Moses do with the “words of the Lord” according to Exodus 24:3-4?
 - 7) According to Exodus 31:18, who gave Moses the two tablets of stone and who wrote the commandments that were found on them?

b. Internal Evidences in New Testament that “The Bible” is “The Word of God”:

- 1) According to 2Peter 1:20-21, how much of “Scripture” is simply a prophet writing down his “own” thoughts or interpretations of what he “thought” God may or may not have said?

- 2) According to 2Corinthians 4:2, Paul considered his teaching to be totally based on what? (page 2, middle)

- 3) From where did Paul say that he got the “gospel message” that he preached? (Galatians 1:11-12; page 2, middle-bottom)

- 4) The believers in Thessalonica accepted the messages that Paul preached to them as “the word of God” and NOT what? (1Thessalonians 2:13; page 2, bottom)

- 5) Peter claimed that “the word” was preached as the “gospel” to people in his day. According to 1Peter 1:24-25, how did Peter describe “the word” that was preached?

- 6) According to Romans 2:1-2, the Jews (who were responsible for maintaining pure copies of the Old Testament) were “entrusted” with what? (page 3, top)

c. What Jesus said in “The Bible” that Internally proves that it is “The Word of God”:

- 1) Who did Jesus say was speaking to Moses through the “burning bush”? (Mark 12:24-27; page 3, middle)

- 2) According to John 7:16-17, where did He claim all of His teaching came from?

d. The “words” written down in the Bible are claimed to be “eternal”:

- 1) How long will the “word of God” last according to Isaiah 40:8? (page 3, bottom)

- 2) How long did Jesus claim HIS WORDS would last? (page 3, bottom)

e. External Evidences that “The Bible” is “The Word of God”:

- 1) Of all the millions of books that have been written all over the world, how many were “written” in a similar way as the bible was? (page 4, top)

- 2) In what two “miraculous” ways can we see a “continuity” in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation even though many of the authors never knew others were writing about the same thing as they were in totally different places? (page 4, middle-bottom)

- 3) True or False. The Bible meets the criteria of being called an “Anthology”. (page 4, bottom)

- 4) List 3 of the many O.T. prophecies that were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born and yet He fulfilled them:

- 5) What was the very first book that was “mass produced” on a printing press? (page 5, middle)

- 6) What noted French “philosopher” claimed while he was alive that Christianity would soon be “swept from existence” and the Bible “extinct” within 100 years after his death? (pg. 6, top)

- 7) What was this French philosopher's house used for only 50 years after his death? (pg. 6, top)

- 8) When making copies of the Old Testament, what would Jewish Scribes be "paid" to count? (page 6, middle)

- 9) What is the collective name of the documents found between 1947 and 1956 in Israel which are the oldest known surviving copies of Biblical and extra-biblical documents? (page 7, middle-top)

- 10) According to Sir Fredric Kenyon, when you compare the Dead Sea Scroll's copy of the entire book of Isaiah (125 B.C.) to the Massoretic text of Isaiah (A.D. 916), how many "discrepancies" or "errors" were found that proved the Catholic Church had completely changed the doctrine in the Old Testament to make the New Testament "Jesus" appear to be the "Christ"? Note: As Muslims, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormans, Liberals, etc., have claimed!

- 11) True or False. There are some obvious scientific "flaws" expressed within the Bible. (pg. 7)

- 12) What was recorded by the authors of the Bible about the earth thousands of years before it was scientifically proven to be true? (Isaiah 40:22; page 7, bottom)

- 13) Finish this statement made by William F. Albright (one of the greatest archaeologists ever):
"Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has..."
(page 8, bottom)

- 14) What archaeologist was a student in the German historical school of the mid-19th century who set out to prove that the Book of Acts was not "authentic" but ended up verifying its author, Luke, as deserving a place amongst the very greatest of historians? (page 9, top)

- 15) Based on all of the "overwhelming" internal and external proofs that exist about the Bible, how would YOU answer the question: "What is the Bible?"