

Surprising Facts Series 1

01: Is there Anything Left you Can Trust?

In these perplexing days, when trusted, famed spiritual leaders have proven base; when safe places for investments are rare; when lying almost seems to be the norm in politics; when highest officials cannot solve the national debt problem; when pornography is protected by law; when our justice system is no longer just; when those you trust most, often hurt you the worst; is there anything left you can trust? Yes, indeed, you can fully trust God's written word, the Bible. The Bible is not a collection of men's ideas, Its writers were guided by the Holy Ghost. Let's look at the evidence.

1. What does the Bible claim about itself?

The Bible says, "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God.**" **2 Timothy 3:16.** "**Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**" **2 Peter 1:21.** "**The scripture cannot be broken.**" **John 10:35.**

Answer: It claims to be inspired. It was written by men who were guided by the Holy Ghost. It cannot be broken or proved untrue.

2. How did Jesus demonstrate His confidence and belief in Scripture?

Jesus said, "**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone.**" "**It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**" "**It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**" **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.** "**Thy word is truth.**" **John 17:17.**

Answer: Jesus quoted Scripture when meeting the temptations of Satan. He also stated that the Bible is truth ("**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**" **John 17:17**). Jesus often quoted Scripture as authority for the truth He was teaching. Jesus quoted the Bible and stated that it was true.

3. Do Bible prophecies confirm inspiration?

The Bible says, "**I am the Lord ... new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.**" **Isaiah 42:8, 9.** "**I am God ... Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.**" **Isaiah 46:9, 10.**

Answer: Bible predictions of things to happen in the future confirm the inspiration of Scripture as they come to pass. Notice the following examples of fulfilled Bible prophecies:

A. Four world empires to arise: Babylon, MedoPersia, Greece, and Rome (Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8).

B. Cyrus to be the warrior to capture Babylon. Before Cyrus was born, God's Bible prophet named him as the general who would overthrow Babylon. "**Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.**" **Isaiah 45:1-3.**

C. After Babylon's destruction, it would never be inhabited again. "**And Babylon, the glory of**

kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew 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." Isaiah 13:19, 20; "And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling-place for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant." Jeremiah 51:37.

D. Egypt would never again have a commanding position among the nations. "And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom. It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations." Ezekiel 29:14, 15; "And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it. Thus saith the Lord GOD; . . .and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt." Ezekiel 30:12, 13.

E. Earth-shaking calamities and fear toward the end of time. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:25, 26.

F. Moral degeneracy and decline of spirituality in the last days. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

4. Can we expect scientific statements made in the Bible to be accurate?

The Bible says, "Thy word is true from the beginning." Psalm 119:160. "The Spirit ... will guide you into all truth." John 16:13.

Answer: Yes, the Bible is true. The Holy Spirit, who guided the Bible writers, always speaks the truth. Here are a few Bible statements that have been confirmed by science:

A. "He ... hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7. This scientific fact is from Job, the Bible's oldest book.

B. "He ... sitteth upon the circle of the earth." Isaiah 40:22. The Bible said the earth is round centuries before man found out.

C. "To make the weight for the winds." Job 28:25. Long before scientists knew, God said air has weight.

D. "By him [Jesus] all things consist." Colossians 1:17. The word "consist" here literally means "hold together" or "cohere." Many Bible translations put it "hold together." This is the answer to the nuclear physicists' worrisome question about the atom. The real mystery of the atom does not involve its benumbing mega-power, but rather, "Why doesn't the atom fly apart?" Scientific knowledge says it should, but it doesn't. Some scientists are wondering what puzzling power, completely unknown to them, is holding it together. The Bible says that mysterious power is the Creator, God Himself.

5. Are biblical health principles tuned to the twenty-first century mind?

Answer: A. Cover body waste with dirt. **"Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee:" Deuteronomy 23:12, 13.** The Bible provision of Moses' day that body waste should be buried was 3,500 years ahead of its time and saved countless thousands of Jewish lives. Major problems still arise when sanitation is not properly handled.

B. **"Neither let us commit fornication." 1 Corinthians 10:8.** The word "fornication" denotes all kinds of immoral sexual conduct. There would have been no AIDS epidemic if this up-to-date Bible counsel were obeyed, nor would abortion be the international disgrace that it now is.

C. Leave alcoholic beverages alone. **"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Proverbs 23:29-32.** If this extremely effective Bible solution were implemented, just think what it would mean:

1. Millions of alcoholics becoming sober, respectable citizens.
2. Millions of families reunited.
3. Millions of broken homes mended.
4. Multiplied thousands of lives saved by sober driving. Refusing to abstain from alcohol has brought untold woe to many people.
5. Thousands of government, business, and professional leaders making clear-minded decisions.
6. Billions of dollars available for humanitarian use.

Note: God not only tells us how to succeed with joy amid today's harrowing problems, but He also gives us the miraculous power to do it! **"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57; "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13; "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16.** Bible health principles are relevant and desperately needed, but few are listening.

6. Are the historical statements of the Bible accurate?

The Bible says, **"I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right." Isaiah 45:19.**

Answer: Yes, Bible historical statements are accurate. What God says in His book is true. Sometimes, temporarily, evidence may not be found to substantiate certain historical facts from the Bible, but in time the evidence surfaces. Note the following:

A. For years skeptics said the Bible was unreliable because it mentions the Hittite nation, which they denied ever existed. But now modern archaeology has confirmed that all three of these nations did, indeed, exist. **"When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;" Deuteronomy 7:1.** and cities like Ninevah. **"Now the word of the LORD came**

unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." Jonah 1:1, 2. and Sodom "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;" Genesis 19:1,

B. Critics also said that Bible-mentioned kings Belshazzar. "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand." Daniel 5:1 and Sargon "In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;" Isaiah 20:1, never existed. Once again, it has now been confirmed they did exist.

C. Skeptics also said the Bible record of Moses was not reliable because it mentions writing, "And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel." Exodus 24:4, and wheeled vehicles. "And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians." Exodus 14:25, neither of which they said existed at the time. They, of course, know better today.

D. At one time the 39 kings of ancient Israel and Judah who reigned during the divided kingdom were authenticated only from the Bible record, so critics charged fabrication. But then archaeologists found cuneiform records that mentioned many of these kings and, once again, the Bible record was proved accurate. Critics have repeatedly been proved wrong as new discoveries confirm biblical people, places, and events. It will always be so. Ancient artifacts unearthed by archaeologists repeatedly confirm the accuracy and truth of the Bible.

7. One of the greatest miracles of the Bible is its unity. Please ponder the following surprising facts:

A. The 66 books of the Bible were written:

1. On three continents.
2. In three languages.
3. By about 40 different people (kings, farmers, shepherds, scientists, attorneys, an army general, fishermen, priests, and a physician.
4. Over a period of about 1,500 years.
5. On the most controversial subjects.
6. By people who, in most cases, had never met.
7. By authors whose education and background varied greatly.

B. Yet, though it seems totally inconceivable,

1. The 66 books maintain harmony with each other.
2. Often new concepts on a subject are expressed, but these concepts do not undermine what other Bible writers say on the same subject.

C. Talk about astounding! Ask people who have viewed an identical event to each give a report of what happened. They will differ widely and will virtually always contradict each other in some way. Yet the Bible, penned by 40 writers over a 1,500 year period, reads as if written by one great mind. And, indeed, it was: "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21. The Holy Ghost "moved" them all. He is the real Bible author. The four Gospels do sometimes differ in the way they report the same event, but they complement each other.

8. What evidence of Bible inspiration is found in the lives of people?

The Bible says, **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."** 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Answer: The changed lives of those who follow Jesus and obey Scripture constitute the most heartwarming proof of Bible inspiration. The drunkard becomes sober; the immoral, pure; the addicted, free; the profane, reverent; the fearful, courageous; and the rude, kind.

Accepting Christ and obeying Scripture changes a drunken, immoral, profane sinner into a loving, sober, pure Christian. Skeptics cannot explain this fact. An American skeptic was visiting an island whose natives were originally cannibals. When he spotted an old man reading the Bible, he ridiculed him for reading a book full of myths which had already been exposed. The native smiled and said, "My friend, be grateful we do believe this book. Otherwise, we would be serving you for dinner." The Bible really does change people, and this surprising fact confirms its inspiration.

9. What evidence for Bible inspiration emerges when we compare Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah with New Testament happenings in the life of Jesus?

The Bible says, **"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."** Luke 24:27. **"For he [Apollos] mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."** Acts 18:28.

Answer: The Old Testament predictions of the Messiah to come were so specific and so clearly fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth that both Jesus and Apollos used these prophecies to prove to the Jews that Jesus was, indeed, the Messiah. There are more than 300 of these prophecies. Let's review just 12 of them:

1. Born in Bethlehem: **"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."** Micah 5:2 / **"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, ."** Matthew 2:1

2. Born of a virgin: **"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."** Isaiah 7:14 / **"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."** Matthew 1:18-2,3.

3. Of David's lineage: **"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."** Jeremiah 23:5 / **"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."** Revelation 22:16.

4. Attempted murder by Herod: **"Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not."** Jeremiah 31:15 / **"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, . . . Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."** Matthew 2:16-18

5. Betrayed by a friend: **“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” Psalm 41:9 / “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.” “26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.” John 13:18, 19, 26.**

6. Sold for 30 silver coins: **“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.” Zechariah 11:12 / “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.” Matthew 26:14-16.**

7. Crucified: **“. . . and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10 / “Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.” “And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.” John 19:16-18, 37.**

8. Lots cast for His clothes: **“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” Psalm 22:18 / “And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.” Matthew 27:35.**

9. No bones broken: **“He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.” Psalm 34:20; “...; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.” Exodus 12:46 / “The Jews therefore, . . . besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:” John 19:31-36.**

10. Buried in a rich man's tomb: **“And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.” Isaiah 53:9 / “When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: . . . And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.” Matthew 27:57-60.**

11. Year, day, hour of His death: **“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: . . . And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, . . .” Daniel 9:26, 27; “And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. Exodus 12:6 / “Matthew 27:45 “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. . . . Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.” Matthew 27:45-50.**

12. Raised the third day: **“After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.” Hosea 6:2 / “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and**

with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. . . Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;" Acts 10:38-40.

Jesus fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Dr. Peter Stoner, former chairman of the departments of mathematics, astronomy, and engineering at Pasadena College (California), worked with 600 students for several years applying the "principle of probability" to the prophecies of the Messiah's coming. They chose just eight from the hundreds available and finally decided the chances of all eight being fulfilled in one man in a lifetime is one in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. What would the odds be on the more than 300 prophecies of the Messiah? It couldn't just happen!

10. What great advantage does a person have who accepts the Bible as God's inspired word?

The Bible says, **"I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts." Psalm 119:100. "Thou ... hast made me wiser than mine enemies." Psalm 119:98. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are ... my thoughts [higher] than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9.**

Answer: A person who accepts the Word of God will soon know the answers to many complex challenges that secular scholars will never figure out. For example, the Bible teaches:

A. God created the earth and all living organisms in six literal, 24-hour days. **"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:11; "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:6, 9.** The Bible teaches that the earth was created in six literal days.

B. The world was destroyed by a worldwide flood (Genesis chapters 6, 7, 8). The Bible account of the Flood provides the answers secular scholars are searching for.

C. The different nationalities of people began at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

God, who has always existed and knows everything, shares the above three truths with us, recognizing that we could never figure them out on our own. **"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part." 1 Corinthians 13:9.**

And God's knowledge is **"past finding out." Romans 11:33.** Evolutionists will never know the age of the earth because it was created with apparent age, as were Adam and Eve. The couple were only one day old on their second day of life, but they appeared to be mature. Man's measuring instruments cannot allow for apparent age. In such cases, they are not trustworthy and reliable. Believe the Bible and you will always be ahead of the speculations of secular scholars and the worldly-wise.

11. What crucial world happenings have brought the power and appeal of the Bible into sharp focus?

Answer: The failure and collapse of communism, and the weakening and inconsistency of the theory of evolution have spotlighted the Bible. When communism collapsed, its adherents turned to the Bible as the only hope for people. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics tried communism, atheism, and also evolution, which is Marxism's number one tenet. They all failed. The new democracies realize that only one thing will work, and they are almost with one voice crying out to Christendom: "Bring us the Bible and Christian preaching and teaching. We must now build on the unshakable foundation of prayer and

the Christian faith. Nothing else compares. Nor will anything else answer life's great questions and bring peace to the hearts of our people. Please don't keep us waiting! We desperately want and need the Bible, God, and Christianity now." Once again, God's Word triumphs.

Evolution is losing its grip and credibility among serious scientists. We must remember that it is nothing more than an unproved, shaky theory. We will mention three items only:

1. Robert Gentry's book 'Creation's Tiny Mystery' has unsettled many evolutionists with its apparent, clear evidence of instant creation.
2. Molecular biology's recent demonstration that the single cell is vastly complex makes the accidental origin of life in a single cell a mathematical absurdity.
3. The widely different ages now being assigned to the Grand Canyon layers by current scientific measurements, as opposed to those assigned previously, make evolutionists and their prior measurements seem reckless and irresponsible. The atheistic theory of evolution that humans and apes came from common ancestors scorns the concept that people were created in the image of God. It denies the existence of God, totally disavows Jesus as Saviour, negates the Bible, and ridicules the truth of an eternal home in heaven. Satan loves the evolution theory because it destroys the credibility of salvation. True science is always in harmony with the Bible because God is the author of both.

12. Why does the Bible have such universal appeal?

The Bible says, "**Thy word is a ... light unto my path.**" Psalm 119:105. "**These things have I spoken unto you ... that your joy might be full.**" John 15:11. "**In the image of God ... created he them.**" Genesis 1:27. "**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**" Matthew 5:16. "**I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.**" John 14:3.

Answer: Because it answers life's most puzzling questions: The Bible has universal appeal because it provides clear answers to life's most perplexing questions.

A. Where did I come from? God created us in His image. We did not accidentally emerge as nondescript globs from some primeval slime. We are sons and daughters of God, the Mighty King "**For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**" Galatians 3:26. We are so precious to God "**I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.**" Isaiah 13:12 that when Adam and Eve sinned, He gave His Son to die and pay the penalty for our sins so we could be free. He wants to restore us to His image and then, shortly, take us back to Eden, the home Adam and Eve lost.

B. Why am I here? Our aims for life today should be to discover the Bible's wonderful answers to life's puzzling problems and to accept Jesus' offer to restore us to His image. "**For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**" Romans 8:29.

C. What does the future hold for me? There is no guesswork about the future. Jesus will come very soon to take His people to the fabulous home He has prepared for them in heaven. There, with supreme joy and happiness, people will live forever. "**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and**

receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3; "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:3, 4.

13. Are you thankful to God for lovingly answering life's most puzzling questions?

Your Answer: _____

Your Thought Questions answered:

1: I'm offended that the Bible gives such repugnant, graphic descriptions of sin in recording the lives of some Bible characters. Is this really necessary?

ANSWER: Yes. It is one of the great facts that give credibility to the Bible. Most biographies skip or soften the bad and often overstate the good. Telling it like it is gives people confidence the Bible can be trusted; it doesn't cover up. Further, Satan's strategy is to convince people they are such great sinners God cannot or will not save them. What joy sweeps over such people when they are shown Bible cases of people like them (and worse) whom God delivered from sin and justified! **"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.**

2: Is all of the Bible inspired? Many believe only parts of it are.

ANSWER: The Bible has the answer: **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16.** The Bible does not simply contain the word of God. Rather, it is the Word of God. The Bible is the information and operations manual for a human life. Ignore any of it and you will have unnecessary difficulties and problems.

3: The Bible is an ancient book with old-fashioned wording and concepts. Don't you feel it is unsafe to rely on something so far removed from our enlightened day?

ANSWER: No. Its age is in its favor. That is, in fact, one of the proofs of its inspiration. The Bible says, **"The word of the Lord endureth for ever." 1 Peter 1:25.** The Bible stands as a rock. It is God's book, His Word. It cannot be destroyed. Men and even entire nations have burned, banned, and tried to discredit and destroy the Bible, but instead they discredited themselves. They are gone, and their attacks on the Bible are forgotten. Yet the Bible remains a bestseller, in constant demand. Millions would die for it, if necessary. Its message is God-given and 100 percent up-to-date. Before you study it, pray and ask God to open your heart and understanding as you read.

4: Some of the most brilliant people in the world, who have carefully studied the Bible, believe no one can understand it. If the Bible is truly God's book, shouldn't everyone be able to understand it?

ANSWER: Bright people who can understand and explain virtually anything are often quickly stopped in their tracks when they read the Bible. The reason is that spiritual things **"are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:13, 14.** The deep things of the Word will never be understood by a secular mind, no matter how brilliant. Unless one honestly seeks an experience with God, he cannot understand the things of God. The Holy Spirit, who explains the Bible is not understood by the carnal, secular mind.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” John 16:13; “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26.

On the other hand, the humble, even uneducated Christian, who studies the Bible receives surprising understanding from the Holy Spirit. **“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”Matthew 11:25; “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:9, 10.**

5: The Bible is full of errors. How can you believe it is inspired?

ANSWER: The overwhelming majority of so-called errors in the Bible have been demonstrated to be simply errors of judgment or lack of understanding on the part of those who make the complaint. They are not errors at all, but simply truth misunderstood. The inspired Bible:

1. Will always tell you the truth.
2. Will never mislead you.
3. Can be fully trusted.
4. Is reliable and authoritative, not only in spiritual matters but also in other matters it addresses, including history and science.

Satan is always digging up some supposed flaw in Scripture, which is not surprising. He found fault even with God and heaven. Copyists may have miscopied in some cases, but no such supposed happening or any other alleged error affects the truth of God's Word. Doctrine is built, not upon one Bible passage, but upon the total of God's comments on any subject. We are unaware of any alleged error of any kind that would affect the truthfulness of the content of Scripture. Some things in Scripture are yet difficult to reconcile. There will always be room for doubt to those who prefer to doubt. We believe that even alleged errors, not yet fully explained, will (as in the past) soon be exposed as false alarms. The harder people work to undermine the Bible, the brighter its light shines.

Summary: Place a check by all correct answers.

1. Which fulfilled prophecies confirm the Bible's inspiration?

Cyrus would capture Babylon.

Ronald Reagan would become president of the United States.

Egypt would never again be a strong, leading nation.

Morals would degenerate in the last days.

Germany would have 20 years of drought.

Babylon, once destroyed, would never be inhabited again.

2. Jesus showed His belief in Bible inspiration by:

Talking loudly on the subject.

Quoting from it as He taught.

Calling fire down on those who doubted.

Announcing it from the temple steps.

3. What scientific facts from the list below does the Bible mention?

The earth is round.

Air has weight.

God keeps the atom from flying apart.

The formula for water is "H₂O."

Seawater is salty.

4. Check the health rules that appear in the Bible:

Drink four gallons of water daily.

Leave alcoholic beverages alone.

Run every morning and night.

Abstain from immoral sexual conduct.

5. Check true statements about the Bible:

About 40 people helped write the Bible.

The Bible was written over a period of 10,000 years.

Only parts of the Bible are inspired.

The real Bible author is the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is a best-seller.

6. Which of the following did the Bible predict about the Messiah's life?

Would be born in Nazareth.

Would fly to heaven often.

Would be sold for 30 pieces of silver.

Herod would try to kill Him.

Would be crucified.

Would be raised to life after seven years

7. What Bible rule, if followed, would help prevent sexually transmitted diseases?

Do not be sexually immoral.

Do not worship graven images.

Eat meals regularly.

8. Which statements below are true about evolution?

It is an unproved theory.

It undermines Christianity.

It is a proved fact.

It proves that human beings and apes have common ancestors.

It is a strong tenet of communism.

9. Which statements below help prove Bible inspiration?

Its biographies include bad as well as good.

It changes the lives of its followers.

Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled by Jesus.

It predicted the rise of the four world kingdoms.

Its unity.

It tells the day and hour of the second coming of Jesus.

10. God created the earth in six literal, 24-hour days. True. False.

11. A universal flood destroyed the world in Noah's day. True. False.

12. The different nationalities of people originated at the Tower of Babel. True. False.

13. I am thankful to God for giving me positive answers to life's most puzzling questions.

Yes. No.