SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY: Here are a few examples of man's fallible "knowledge" compared to God's absolute and accurate knowledge:

THE BIBLE	PASSAGE	SCIENCE THEN	SCIENCE NOW
(2,000–3,000 years ago)	IASSAGE	SCIENCE THEN	SCIENCE NOW
The earth is a sphere	(Isaiah 40:22)	The earth was a flat disk.	The earth is a sphere.
Innumerable stars	(Jeremiah 33:22)	Only 1,100 stars.	Innumerable stars.
Free float of earth in space	(Job 26:7)	Earth sat on a large animal.	Free float of earth in space.
Creation made of invisible elements	(Hebrews11:3)	Science was ignorant on the subject.	Creation made of invisible elements (atoms).
Each star is different	(1 Corinthians 15:41)	All stars were the same.	Each star is different.
Light moves	(Job 38:19,20)	Light was fixed in place.	Light moves.
Air has weight	(Job 28:25)	Air was weightless.	Air has weight.
Winds blow in cyclones	(Ecclesiastes 1:6)	Winds blew straight.	Winds blow in cyclones.
Blood is the source of life and health	(Leviticus 17:11)	Sick people must be bled.	Blood is the source of life and health.
Ocean floor contains deep valleys and mountains	(2 Samuel 22:16; Jonah 2:6)	The ocean floor was flat.	Ocean floor contains deep valleys and mountains.
Ocean contains springs	(Job 38:16)	Ocean fed only by rivers and rain.	Ocean contains springs.
When dealing with disease, hands should be washed under running water	(Leviticus 15:13)	Hands washed in still water.	When dealing with disease, hands should be washed under running water.

The Evidence Bible, Ray Comfort, Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2003, p. 1631

RELIABILITY: Based upon the time gap between the original event and the first related writing, no other work comes close to the Bible's New Testament. And in comparing the number of New Testament copies available to us today with other ancient writings, the quantitative evidence is overwhelming, as shown in this table:

AUTHOR	воок	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	NO. OF COPIES
Homer	Iliad	800 B.C.	с. 400 в.с.	c. 400 yrs.	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 в.с.	c. a.d. 900	c. 1,350 yrs.	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 в.с.	с. а.д. 900	c. 1,300 yrs.	8
Plato		400 в.с.	с. а.д. 900	c. 1,300 yrs.	7
Demosthenes	3475	300 в.с.	c. a.d. 1100	c. 1,400 yrs.	200
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 в.с.	c. a.d. 900	c. 1,000 yrs.	10
Livy	History of Rome	59 B.CA.D. 17	4th cent. (partial) mostly 10th cent.	c. 400 yrs. c. 1,000 yrs.	1 partial 19 copies
Tacitus	Annals	A.D. 100	с. а.д. 1100	c. 1,000 yrs.	20
Pliny Secundus	Natural History	A.D. 61–113	c. a.d. 850	c. 750 yrs.	7
New Testament		A.D. 50–100	c. 114 (fragment) c. 200 (books) c. 250 (most of N.T.) c. 325 (complete N.T.)	+ 50 yrs. 100 yrs. 150 yrs. 225 yrs.	5366

The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict, Josh McDowell, Nelson Publishing, 1999, p. 38

HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS ACCURACY: 100% The 19th-century critics used to deny the historicity of the Hittites, the Horites, the Edomites, and various other peoples, nations, and cities mentioned in the Bible. Those critics have long been silenced by the archaeologist's spade, and few critics dare to question the geographical and ethnological reliability of the Bible. The Bible has proven to be more historically accurate than any other ancient book. Even secular history supports the Bible - here are three examples:

■ In The Antiquities of the Jews (book 18, chapter 3, paragraph 3), famous historian Flavius Josephus writes:

"Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day."

■ In 112 AD, Pliny the Younger, a Roman author and administrator, describes the early Christian worship practices [Note 1, p 58]:

"They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food – but food of an ordinary and innocent kind."

■ In 115 AD, P. Cornelius Tacitus, Roman historian wrote the following passage that refers to Jesus (called "Christus," which means "The Messiah") in book 15, chapter 44 of The Annals:

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired."

Further external verification can be found in the works of these historical figures [Note 1, pp 55-59]:

- Suetonius, Chief Secretary to Emperor Hadrian (A.D. 117-138)
- Thallus (writings from about A.D. 52)
- Lucian of Samosata, a second-century Greek writer
- Mara Bar-Serapion, early third-century Syrian (in a letter to his son with an apparent reference to Jesus)
- Josephus, Pharisee & Jewish Historian (A.D. 37-100); many works beyond the example above

It should also be noted that there were hundreds of eye-witnesses to the events we read about in the Bible. Here is a quote from one of them (2 Peter 1:16-18, ESV):

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

ARCHEOLOGICAL AGREEMENT. Archaeology has confirmed the historical accuracy of the Bible. It has verified many ancient sites, civilizations, and biblical characters (53 people have been confirmed archaeologically whose existence was questioned by the academic world and often dismissed as myths. Biblical archaeology has silenced many critics as new discoveries supported the facts of the Bible. Here is a tiny sampling provided by Keith N. Schoville, Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, University of Wisconsin:

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1	THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS	The initial discovery was by chance in 1947, and not by archaeologists! Among the more than eight hundred documents represented by whole scrolls, incomplete scrolls, and a myriad of fragments which have been recovered are complete copies or portions of all the books in the Hebrew Bible (our OT), except for the Book of Esther.	
2	THE HOUSE OF DAVID INSCRIPTION	On July 21, 1993, under direction of Dr. Avraham Biranby, a broken fragment of basalt stone was uncovered in secondary use in a wall. Surveyor Gila Cook glanced at the stone in the rays of the afternoon sun and saw what looked like alphabetic letters. It turned out that the stele [monument; grave marker] fragment mentions King David's dynasty, "the House of David." Two additional fragments of the stele were ultimately recovered in two separate, disparate locations in June of 1994.	
3	OSSUARY OF CAIAPHAS	A dump truck accidentally smashed through the roof of a tomb in November, 1990, exposing rock-cut burial chambers used by Jews. Two of a dozen ossuaries in the tomb contained a form of the name Qafa', or Caiaphas. Several of the ossuaries were decorated with traditional carved rosettes, zig-zag patterns, and other designs. The most intricately carved ossuary was decorated with two circles each containing five rosettes, and twice carved into an undecorated side appears the name, "Yehosef bar Qafa'" (Joseph son of Caiaphas). The ossuary contained the remains of six people: two infants, a child aged two to five, a boy aged 13 to 18, an adult female and a man about 60 years old. The latter are believed to be the bones of Caiaphas, before whom Jesus was brought for questioning (Matt 26:3, 57; Luke 3:2; John 11:49, 18:13, 14, 24, 28; Acts 4:6)	
4	PONTIUS PILATE INSCRIPTION	Pontius Pilate was the fifth governor of Roman Judea, under whose governance Jesus of Nazareth was crucified (Matt 27:2, plus 60 additional occurrences in the gospels, Acts, and 1 Timothy). Pilate is also mentioned in Josephus. He was appointed by the emperor Tiberius in AD 26. Inscriptional evidence for Pilate was discovered in Italian excavations at Caesarea Maritima in 1961. Antonio Frova, director of the excavations, found a dedicatory stone that bore a three-line inscription: Tiberieum/[Pon]tius Pilatus/[Praef]ectus luda[eae], "Tiberius [the Roman emperor of the period]/Pontius Pilate/Prefect of Judea." The inscription not only confirms the historicity of Pilate, it clarifies the title that he bore as governor. It is now on display in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.	

Courtesy Biblical Studies Info Page, http://biblicalstudies.info/top10/schoville.htm

<u>PROPHETIC ACCURACY REGARDING JESUS:</u> The Old Testament books in the Bible (all of them written between 1450 BC and 430 BC) contain nearly 300 references² to an "anointed one" ("Messiah" in Hebrew) who would arrive in their future. The Messiah would "deliver" or "save" all the Jewish people. Many of these prophecies also stated that the Messiah would save all the other people in the world "through the Jews."

Even a casual reader of the Bible will notice something "different" about Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12. They give accounts that perfectly parallel events in the life of Christ that took place much later. Psalm 22 is especially amazing since it predicted 11 separate things about Jesus' crucifixion about a thousand years before they happened. We know that David (the author of Psalm 22) lived about 1010-970 B.C. and Isaiah's ministry began in 740 B.C. Both passages, written far ahead of the time of Christ, are strong proof that help you believe that the Bible was literally inspired by God.

The table below lists some, but not nearly all, of the Messianic prophecies. Even if God had made only one or two and they came true with complete accuracy, it would prove God is Who He says He is. But with so many, that fact is indisputable.

BIBLICAL PREDICTIONS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT REGARDING JESUS (THE COMING MESSIAH)			
The Messianic Prophecy (paraphrased)	Where the prophecy appears in the Old Testament (written between 1450 BC and 430BC)	Jesus' fulfillment of the prophecy in the New Testament (written between 45 and 95 AD)	
The Messiah will be the offspring (descendant) of the woman (Eve)	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4	
The Messiah will be a descendant of Abraham, through whom everyone on earth will be blessed	Genesis 12:3; 18:18	Acts 3:25,26	
The Messiah will be a descendant of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:2 and Luke 3:33	
The Messiah will be a prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Acts 3:22,23	
The Messiah will be the Son of God	Psalm 2:7	Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22	
The Messiah will be raised from the dead (resurrected)	Psalm 16:10,11	Matthew 28:5-9; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:4-7; John 20:11-16; Acts 1:3 and 2:32	
The Messiah crucifixion experience	Psalm 22 (contains 11 prophecies—not all listed here)	Matthew 27:34-50 and John 19:17-30	
The Messiah will be sneered at and mocked	Psalm 22:7	Luke 23:11,35-39	
The Messiah will be pierced through		Luke 23:33 and 24:36-39;	
hands and feet	Psalm 22:16	John 19:18 and 20:19-20,24-27	
The Messiah's bones will not be broken (a person's legs were usually broken after being crucified to speed up their death)	Psalm 22:17 and 34:20	John 19:31-33,36	
Men Will Gamble for the Messiah's clothing	Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23,24	
The Messiah will accused by false witnesses	Psalm 35:11	Matthew 26:59,60 and Mark 14:56,57	
The Messiah will be hated without a cause	Psalm 35:19 and 69:4	John 15:23-25	
The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend	Psalm 41:9	John 13:18,21	
The Messiah will ascend to heaven (at the right hand of God)	Psalm 68:18	Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; 2:33-35; 3:20-21; 5:31,32; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20,21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet 3:22 sorry, we got carried away!	
The Messiah will be given vinegar and gall to drink	Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:29,30	
Great kings will pay homage and tribute to the Messiah	Psalm 72:10,11	Matthew 2:1-11	
The Messiah is a "stone the builders rejected" who will become the "head cornerstone"	Psalm 118:22,23 and Isaiah 28:16	Matthew 21:42,43; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8	
The Messiah will be a descendant of David	Psalm 132:11 and Jeremiah 23:5,6; 33:15,16	Luke 1:32,33	
The Messiah will be a born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35	
The Messiah's first spiritual work will be in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1-7	Matthew 4:12-16	
The Messiah will make the blind see, the deaf hear, etc.	Isaiah 35:5-6	Many places. Also see Matthew 11:3-6 and John 11:47	
The Messiah will be beaten, mocked, and spat upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67 and 27:26-31	
The exalted "suffering servant"	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	
People will hear and not believe the "arm of the LORD" (Messiah)	Isaiah 53:1	John 12:37,38	

The Messiah will be rejected	Isaiah 53:3	Matthew 27:20-25; Mark 15:8-14; Luke 23:18- 23; John 19:14,15
The Messiah will be killed	Isaiah 53:5-9	Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:46; John 19:30
The Messiah will be silent in front of his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 26:62,63 and 27:12-14
The Messiah will be buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:59,60; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:52,53; John 19:38-42
The Messiah will be crucified with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32,33
The Messiah is part of the new and everlasting covenant	Isaiah 55:3-4 and Jeremiah 31:31-34	Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-13
The Messiah will be our intercessor (intervene for us and plead on our behalf)	Isaiah 59:16	Hebrews 9:15
The Messiah has two missions	Isaiah 61:1-3 (first mission ends at " year of the LORD's favor")	First mission: Luke 4:16-21; Second mission: to be fulfilled at the end of the world
The Messiah will come at a specific time	Daniel 9:25-26	Galatians 4:4 and Ephesians 1:10
The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:4-7
The Messiah will enter Jerusalem riding a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-11
The Messiah will be sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12,13	Matthew 26:15 with Matthew 27:3-10
The Messiah will forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31,56
The Messiah will enter the Temple with authority	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 21:12 and Luke 19:45

Compiled by Clarifying Christianity, http://www.clarifyingchristianity.com

Dr. Peter Stoner, author of *Science Speaks*, applied the principle of probablity, which states that if the chance of one thing happening is "1 in M", and the chance of another independent thing happening is "1 in N", then the chance that they shall both happen is "1 in M x N", as it pertains to fulfillment of Biblical prophecies.

NO ACCIDENT

The Bible is full of prophecies, either events that have happened or events that will happen in the future. In "Science Speaks", Dr. Stoner looks at the probability that one man, Jesus Christ, could have fulfilled even 8 of the 300 prophecies that pertain to Him in the Bible. Let's look at these eight prophecies from the Old Testament pertaining to Christ, their fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the probability of one man fulfilling each prophecy, and the sum of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies. Keep in mind, the time span between the prophecies of the Old Testament and the New Testament fulfillment is hundreds, even thousands, of years.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment	Probability
Christ to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	Jesus born in Bethlehem (Matt 2:1-5)	2.8 x 10 ⁵ or 1 in 280,000
Christ preceded by a messenger (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1)	John the Baptist (Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:2-8)	1 x 10 ³ or 1 in 1,000
Christ to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9)	Christ enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Matt 21:7; Luke 19:35)	1 x 10 ² or 1 in 100
Christ to be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)	Judas betrayed Jesus (Matt 10:4; Luke 22:21)	1 x 10 ³ or 1 in 1,000

Christ to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11:12)	Judas sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matt 26:15)	1 x 10 ³ or 1 in 1,000
30 pieces of silver thrown to the potter (Zech 11:13)	30 pieces of silver used to buy a potter's field (Matt 27:3-10)	1 x 10 ⁵ or 1 in 100,000
Christ silent before accusers (Isaiah 53:7)	Jesus kept silent when questioned (Matt 27;12; Mark 14:60-61)	1 x 10 ³ or 1 in 1,000
Christ's hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16; Zech. 12;10)	Jesus was crucified (John 19:17, 18)	1 x 10 ⁴ or 1 in 10,000

To answer the question what is the probability of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies, the principle of probability is applied. Therefore, multiplying all eight probabilities together (1 times $2.8 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^3 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^4$) gives us 2.8×10^{28} , or 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. It would be impossible for this to have happened by accident or chance.

This is the answer to the question: One man in how many men has fulfilled these eight prophecies? But we are really concerned with the answer to the question: What is the chance that any one man might have lived from the day of these prophecies down to the present time and have fulfilled all of the eight prophecies? We can answer this question by dividing our 10^{28} by the total number of people who have lived since the time of these prophecies, which, according to the best information available, indicates this number would be about 88 billion or 8.8 x 10^{10} (to simplify the computation let us call the number 10^{11}). By dividing 10^{28} by 10^{11} we get 10^{17} , meaning that the chance that any one person might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} .

Furthermore, using the above mathematical technique, we find that the chance of any one man fulfilling 48 prophesies to be 1 in 10^{157} . Finally, consider the actual number of prophecies fulfilled as predicted being closer to 300 – all precisely fulfilled by the same man.

http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/Christ_of_Prophecy.html#c9

PROPHETIC ACCURACY REGARDING NATIONS

You are about to read one of the most fascinating and remarkable prophecies in the Bible. It was discovered in our generation by Grant R. Jeffrey. What makes it even more remarkable is what it implies. For when we realize how precisely this prophecy has been fulfilled after 2,500 years, we must realize <u>all</u> the Bible prophecies concerning Israel and the world including the coming 'Apocalypse,' the Battle of Armageddon, Messiah's Return, <u>and</u> the many promises and warnings concerning both Heaven and Hell will be fulfilled just as accurately and literally as the amazing prophecy presented here.

The Prophecy - Ezekiel 4:4-6

"Then God said to Ezekiel, 'Now lie on your left side for 390 days to show Israel will be punished for 390 years by captivity and doom. *Each day you lie there represents a year of punishment ahead for Israel.***Afterwards, turn over and lay on your right side for 40 days, to signify the years of Judah's punishment.

**Each day will represent one year . . ."

Here, we find God telling Ezekiel that *each day* he (Ezekiel) lies on his side will represent *one year* of punishment for the nation Israel (Israel + Judah) because of their iniquities (sins) against God . . .

This Is A Mathematical Biblical Prophecy . . .

So, here is what we have based upon what God communicated to Ezekiel:

- 390 days Judgment against the 10 northern tribes 'Israel'
- + 40 days Judgment against the 2 southern tribes 'Judah'
- = 430 years Judgment against the *nation* of Israel

The Fulfillment of the Prophetic Judgment Begins . . .

In 606 B.C. Israel (Judah) was taken into captivity by Babylon for exactly 70 years ...

- 430 years of judgment determined against nation Israel
- 70 years fulfilled during the Babylonian captivity
- = 360 years remaining in judgment against the nation of Israel

The Mystery of 360 Years . . .

There should have been a total of 360 years left in judgment against Israel *after* their release from Babylonian captivity by the Persian general Cyrus, *exactly* 70 years after the Babylonian captivity began (just as the prophet Jeremiah had prophesied *before* the captivity) ... but *where* was the remaining 360 year judgment in Israel's history??!!

God's Judgment Multiplied. . .

Bible scholars could not find any specific captivity or dispersion that fulfilled these 360 years left in the judgment *until* a close look in the book of Leviticus revealed a *startling* prophetic warning ...

"And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I (God) will punish you seven times more for your sins." (Leviticus 26:18)

"Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I (God) will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins." (Leviticus 26:21)

"And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I (God) also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I will chastise you seven times for your sins.: (Leviticus 26:27-28)

"I (God) will scatter you among the nations and draw a sword after you; your Land shall be desolate and your cities waste." (Leviticus 26:33)

The 7X factor of God's judgment against nation Israel:

God warned Israel if they continued in their disobedience *He would multiply their judgment by seven times*. Remember, as noted throughout these prophetic studies, God deals with great precision and leaves nothing out.

Prophecy Fulfilled . . .

Now, let's apply the 7X factor to the remaining 360 years of judgment against nation Israel in this remarkable mathematical prophecy . . .

- 360 Remaining years of judgment
- x 7 The prophetic '7X' factor
- = 2,520 Years of judgment remained against nation Israel

God gave the Jews the most sophisticated calendar on Earth. It is both a Lunar *and* a Solar calendar. The Jewish calendar uses a 360 day lunar (and prophetic) year and then adds a 'Leap Month' on specific years to accurately coincide with the Solar cycle we use on our 'Julian' calendar ...

The Bible uses 360 day years for prophecies and expects us to add the appropriate 'leap months' on schedule. So, the easiest way to unravel this prophecy is to *first* convert this prophecy into *days* ...

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2,520 years

<u>x 360</u> days
= 907,200 days of judgment remained against nation Israel after the Babylonian captivity
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Now, to convert the 907,200 days found in this prophecy into our 365.25 day solar (Julian) years (the .25 adjusts for leap years) . . .

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907,200 days ÷ 365.25 days = 2,483.78 years of God's judgment remained
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With this information, let's look at this remarkable prophecy again . . .

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606 B.C Israel taken into Babylonian captivity

- 70 Years for 70 years

= 536 B.C. End of first 70 years of judgment

+ 2483 Years Now add the 2,483 years remaining in this judgment

+ 1 Year Add 1 year because there is no "0" B.C. or A.D.

End of judgment against nation Israel
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Israel Back in Her Land as a Nation . . . in 1948!

After 2,500 years, and for the first time since the Babylonian captivity in 606 B.C., the world watched as Israel once again appeared on the world map as a sovereign nation, on May 14, 1948 ... exactly when the Bible said it would!

The above sequence of events actually fulfills 10 prophecies as depicted in these passages³: Amos 9:14-15, Ezekiel 37:10-14, Ezekiel 37:21-22, Isaiah 66:7-8, Jeremiah 16:14-15, Ezekiel 4:3-6, Ezekiel 34:13, Jeremiah 31:10, Leviticus 26:3, 7-8, Deuteronomy 30:3-5

Here are some additional fulfilled prophecies regarding nations: "54 prophecies fulfilled in 60 years" by Dr. Ken Johnson⁴

- Israel will be reestablished as a nation. <u>Isaiah 11:11</u>
- British ships will be the first to bring the Jewish people home. Isaiah 60:9
- Israel will come back as one nation, not two. Hosea 1:11; Ezekiel 37:18-22
- The Star of David will be on the Israeli flag. Isaiah 11:10 [NIV]
- The nation will be reestablished in the ancient land of Canaan. Jeremiah 30:2,3
- Israel will no longer speak of being freed from Egypt. <u>Jeremiah 16:14,15</u>
- Israel will not be restored as a monarchy. Micah 5:5
- The Hebrew language will be revived in Israel. Jeremiah 31:23
- Jerusalem will be divided. Zechariah 14:1-3
- Israel will be initially restored without Jerusalem. Zechariah 12:1-7
- Israel will have a fierce military (fire-pot). Zechariah 12:1-7
- Dead Sea Scrolls will be found. Isaiah 29:1-4
- First Shepherd will arise. <u>Micah 5:5-8</u>

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Josh McDowell, author of *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, puts all of this into perspective for us:

"The [Bible's] authors speaking under inspiration of the Holy Spirit,...wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects with absolute harmony from beginning to end. There is one unfolding story from Genesis to Revelation: the redemption of mankind through the Messiah – the Old Testament through the coming Messiah, the New Testament from the Messiah that has come. In Genesis, you have paradise lost, in Revelation, you have paradise gained. You can't understand Revelation without understanding Genesis. It's all interwoven on hundreds of controversial subjects.

"Now here's the picture: 1,600 years, 60 generations, 40-plus authors, different walks of life, different places, different times, different moods, different continents, three languages, writing on hundreds of controversial subjects and yet when they are brought together, there is absolute harmony from beginning to end...There is no other book in history to even compare to the uniqueness of this continuity."

What does Jesus say about God's Word?

Although there are other lines of reasoning to support the claim that the Bible is true, one of the most powerful is found in Jesus. If it can be shown that the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – present an accurate record of the life and ministry of Jesus, then Jesus Himself becomes an argument in support of the truth of the Bible. If the Bible has been shown to be reliable, this line of reasoning is no longer circular, but rational. In other words, what the Bible records about Jesus, including what He says about God, human nature, salvation and the Old Testament record, can then be trusted.

What does Jesus say about God's Word? He says, "the Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35, NIV), thus testifying to the authority of the Bible. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus said, "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," meaning that Jesus believed and trusted in the Old Testament "Law" and "Prophets." Jesus also said, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Space does not allow a thorough investigation of the views of Jesus on the Bible, but it is sufficient here to note that He believed God spoke through the Bible, He overtly upheld belief in Old Testament accounts, and revered the Bible as holy and authoritative.

The cornerstone of Christian belief is the resurrection of Christ. Even Paul the Apostle admitted that if the resurrection did not happen, Christian faith "is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). In this sense, making a case for the truth of the resurrection also makes a case for the truth claims of Jesus and, in turn, the reliability and truth of the Bible.

NOTES

- $1. \ \underline{http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/50-people-in-the-bible-confirmed-archaeologically/$
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