

You Can Trust the Bible

Part 2

Written by: Dr. Eddie Bhawanie

The Nature of the Bible:

1. It would have to be capable of being understood.
2. It would have to be self-consistent, not self- contradictory.
3. It would have to be (in its teaching) consistent with known facts from various disciplines such as History, Archaeology, Science, Philosophy, Prophecy, and the rest.
4. It would have to be consistent with its claim to be a divine revelation by giving irrefutable proof of its divine origin.
5. It would have to be adapted to man's spiritual and moral needs.
6. It would have to survive all attacks from its enemies.
7. It would have to promote a higher code of ethics.
8. It would have to obtain a supreme position among literary productions among all the nations of the earth.
9. It would have to have universal authority, power, jurisdiction, command, control, dominion, sway, supremacy, and ascendancy.
10. It would have to be the largest selling book in the history of the world.

And how does The Bible look when it is examined in the light of these criteria? Let's put on some objective lenses and examine the historical evidence before us!

(1) It would have to be capable of being understood:

The Bible meets this reasonable requirement. But the Bible affirms that everything in it is not easily understood; the Apostle Peter wrote:

“And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest (*or twist*) as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:15-16). *Yet, there is nothing in the Bible incapable of being understood. Its revelator, God, revealed Himself through the language therein, and man is aware of the revealed facts!*

Consider for a moment, the strict code followed by the Talmudists¹ (A. D. 100-500) for translating Synagogue scrolls.

“[1] A synagogue scroll must be written on the skins of clean animals, [2] prepared for the particular use in 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 codex. [5] The length of each column must not extend over less than 48 or more than 60 lines; and the breadth must consist of thirty letters. [6] The whole copy must be first-lined; and if the words were written without a line, it is worthless. [7] The ink should be black, neither should it be red, green, nor any other color, and it must 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 codex before him . . . [10] Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene; [11] between every new parashah, or section, must be the breath of nine consonants; [12] between every book, must be three lines. [13] The fifth book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line; but the rest need not do so. [14] Besides this, the copyist must sit in full Jewish dress, [15] wash his whole body, [16] now begin to write the name of God with a pen newly dipped in ink, [17] and should a king address him while writing that name he must take no notice of him.”²

(2) It would have to be self-consistent, and not self- contradictory:

There are many in the past who have come forward, as there are many today, with written literature saying the Bible contains contradictions, but they can't prove *any* of their claims. There are no reasonable sets of circumstances they can come up with for the stands they have taken. Jim McGuiggan wrote the following:

“There are those who do not believe that the Bible must be self-consistent in its teaching. They believe the Bible may be proved self-contradictory, and it yet holds its place as a revelation from God. But this is a strange position indeed, for it's hard to permit man to sit as judge over the mistakes of the Bible and then have the Bible to sit as judge over the mistakes of man.”³

¹The Talmud is that body of Hebrew laws, traditional and explanations; or the book that contains them. The Talmud contains the laws, and a compilation of expositions of duties imposed on the people, either in Scripture, by tradition, or by authority of their doctors, or by custom. It contains two parts, the *Mishna*, and the *Gemara*; the former being the *written* law, the latter a collection of traditions and comments of Jewish doctors.

Noah Webster, *American Dictionary Of The English Language*, Published by the Foundation for American Christian Education, (Chesapeake; Virginia), 1828.

²Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Published by, Campus Crusade for Christ, 1973, United States of America, p. 56-57.

³Jim McGuiggan, *If God Came, An Approach To Christian Evidences*, Published by, Montex Publishing Company, (Lubbock; Texas), 1980, p. 170.

(3) It would have to be consistent with known facts from various disciplines such as the physical Creation, Prophecies, Science, Archeology, History, and the rest. (There is nothing in the Bible to contradict itself in these areas):

The geography of the Bible has never seriously been called into question; for many reasons Biblical maps can be used in many areas of Palestine and Israel and elsewhere today. When the archeologists excavate and unearth artifacts with hands, spades, and shovels, to what source do they go to check their findings? Surely not to the Qur'an, the Bhagavat-Geetar, or any other religious books, but the Bible. Why the Bible? Though some of them do not believe the Bible, they use the Bible as an authoritative source. Is there something to the Bible they are not acknowledging?

Scientist, Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), first announced that there were only five created categories in existence. They are: "Time, Force, Action, Space, and Matter; and all else is based on these fundamentals." Long before Spencer came up with this idea Moses wrote by inspiration in Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." "In the beginning" . . . Time. "God" equals Force and (is personal), who "Created" equals Action. "The heavens" equals Space. "Earth" equals Matter. The Bible is not a scientific book, but it sure does have scientific implications.

The importance of Archeology concerning Biblical times as well as in subsequent eras cannot be minimized. Archeology renders a reliable understanding of the history of the Biblical text. One of the reasons why Archeology is reliable, is because archeologists have always used the Bible to date their artifacts.

Archeology confirms the Genesis *Flood* mentioned in Genesis chapter 6. Archeology has discovered over (25, 000) sites that pertain to the Bible. And over tens of thousands of artifacts have been found.

But, why use the Bible to measure the dates of Archeological findings? Archeologists go to the Bible, because the Bible is the *only* reliable and dependable source of true history, (with finality). Nothing in the Bible contradicts their findings.

In the area of the flow of history, the Bible tells us Jesus was born under Augustus Caesar; this Emperor reigned from 27 B.C. - A.D. 14. Jesus died during the reign of Tiberius Caesar; this Emperor reigned from A.D. 14- to 37.

The Jews through whom Jesus came were expelled from the City of Rome under Claudius Caesar; this Emperor reigned from A.D. 41- to 54. Secular History verifies that among those expelled from Rome were Christians, followers of Jesus (see, Acts 18:2).

(4) It would have to be consistent with its claim to be a divine revelation by giving irrefutable evidence of its divine origin.

In the Bible's own words, "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instructions in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect (or mature) and thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17, KJV). This is one of the clearest and best known statements in the Bible about the origin of the Scriptures.

The English word *inspiration*, with its prefix "in," gives the impression that after the various books of the Bible were written, God breathed into them, so that they were inspired. But that is incorrect. The Greek word for *inspiration* is, God "breathed out," and the result was the Scriptures. Metaphorically speaking, the Bible is *the breath of God*.

The claims of the Old and New Testaments: In the Old Testament the "mouth of God" was regarded as the source from which the divine message came. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host" (Psalm 33:6). "That expression, "breath of His mouth," is the Hebrew equivalent of "God's breath."⁴ Notice how the Old Testament's writers declared their writings, and from whom they got it: "Then God spoke all these words saying, 'I am the Lord your God You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. . . ." (Exodus 20:1-4). "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'See, I make you as god to Pharaoh. . . ." (Exodus 7:1). ". . . but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 8:3). "Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; for the Lord speaks . . ." (Isaiah 1:2). "The words of Jeremiah . . . to whom the word of the Lord came . . ." (Jeremiah 1:1-2). There are hundreds of other instances in the Old Testament where God is described as speaking.

He communicated with Adam and Eve, both before and after the Historic Fall (Genesis 1:28-30; 3:9-19). Then He spoke with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-21). Then God spoke with Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4:23).

We also have God speaking to king David through the prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 7:10, 12). Other prophets claimed to speak God's words in the first person (see, 1 Kings 20:13; 2 Kings 17:13; and 2 Chronicles 12:5).

⁴Erwin W. Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust The Bible*, (Moody Press; Chicago), 1998, p. 38.

New let's look at The New Testament claims:

In the Gospel narratives, the living God spoke directly out of heaven three times during Christ's public ministry: at His Baptism (Matthew 3), at His Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-5), and as He approached the Crucifixion (John 12:28). John recorded in his narrative about the living God as He spoke to Christ: "Then came therefore a voice out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again".

Paul claimed to receive his revelation from God: "If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandments" (1 Corinthians 14:37-38).

"And 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, which also performed its work in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep" (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

Peter links his teaching and words with the Old Testament word:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 'For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth forever.' And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:23-25; Isaiah 40:6-8).

John, the apostle, adds a solemn warning, and he links his warning to Moses and King Solomon in the Old Testament: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the prophecy of this book: God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2; Proverbs 30:6).

Lutzer wrote: "The sixty-six books in the Bible speak with a consistent voice that these are the words of God. In effect, God signed every page of the Bible. We have every reason to believe that His signature was not forged. God has spoken, and He has spoken very clearly."⁵

⁵Lutzer, p. 44.

If the Bible claims divine origin, then how is it different from other religious books in the area of prophecy?

Professor Baxter advanced this fact about Biblical prophecy:

“The word prophecy involves two meanings: forth-telling and fore-telling. The primary meaning at the time the Old Testament Scriptures were written was probably in the realm of forth-telling, meaning the proclaiming or preaching of God’s message, though the element of fore-telling was also present and became more meaningful with the passing of time.”⁶

In Biblical prophecy, we have a history of the life of Christ was written more than fifteen hundred (1,500) years before He was born. This detailed account of the life of Christ man, guided those who wrote.

Historian James Orr, speaking of the Muslim, Zoroastrian, and Buddhist scriptures, said: “It is the simple fact that there is nothing that can be properly called history in these other sacred books of the world. They are, as every student of them knows, for the most part, jumbles of heterogeneous materials loosely put together, without order, continuity, or unity of any kind. There is no order, progress, or real connection of parts . . . The Bible, on the other hand, is a history with a beginning, a middle and an end; a history of revelation; a history of the developing purpose of God, working up to a goal in the full-orbed discovery of the will of God for man’s salvation in His Son Jesus Christ. There is nothing like this, nothing even approaching it, in any other collection of sacred books in the world.”⁷ Unguided men, left to themselves, could not have such a great degree of unity over thousands of years as is found in the Bible.

C. P. M’Ilvaine adds the following:

“The history of pagan nations, indeed, abounds with stories of auguries, and oracles, and detached predictions. . . . But what an immeasurable distance separates all the pretended oracles of paganism from the dignity of the prophecies in The Bible. The avowed end of the former was to satisfy some trivial curiosity, or aid the designs of some military or political leader. . . Who could think of comparing such pitiful mockeries of divine omniscience with the dignified, and sublime, and holy prophecies which are spread out so openly and widely in The Scriptures.”⁸

⁶Batsell Barrett Baxter, *I Believe Because*, Baker Book House, (Grand Rapids; Michigan), 1971, p. 186.

⁷James Orr, as quoted by Baxter, p. 186.

⁸C. P. M’Ilvaine, as quoted by Baxter, p. 188.

The Old Testament prophets described Christ as “The Seed of . . .” to emphasize His ancestry. Observe the following passages:

1. The Seed of woman (Genesis 3:15).
2. The Seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18).
3. The Seed of Isaac (Genesis 21:12).
4. The Seed of Jacob (Genesis 28:14).
5. The Seed of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
6. The Seed of David (2 Samuel 7:12-14; Psalm 89:3-4; 132:11).

The following is a list of prophecies listed in The Old Testament and their fulfillment in The New Testament:

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
Gen. 12:3	Family of Abraham	Luke 3:23
Gen. 49:10	The Tribe of Judah	Matt. 1:1
Jer. 23:5	Family of David	Matt. 1:1
Isa. 7:14	Born of a virgin	Matt. 1:22-23
Mic. 5:2	Place of birth	Matt. 2:1-6
Zach. 9:9	Entered Jerusalem on a donkey	John 12:15
Deut. 18:15	A prophet	Acts 3:20
Isa. 53:3	Rejected by his Own people	John 1:11
Psa. 2:7	Declared to be the Son of God	Matt. 3:7
Psa. 41:9	Betrayed by a friend	Matt. 26:14-15
Zac.11:12	Betrayal price	Matt. 26:15
Zac.11:13	Betrayal money be returned	Matt. 26:31-56
Zac.13:7	Forsaken by His disciples	Matt.13:55-61
Isa. 53:5	Betrayed	Mk. 27:28-29
Isa. 53:12	Nailed with criminals	Mk. 15:24-27
Psa. 22:18	His garment divided	John 19:23-24
Psa. 69:21	Gall and vinegar	John 19:28-29 Matt. 27:34
Psa. 34:20	Not a bone broken	John 19:31-36
Zech.12:10	He was pierced	John 19:33-37
Amos 8:9	Darkness in day time to signal crucifixion	Matt. 27:45
Isa. 53:9	Buried with the rich	Mk. 27:57-60
Psa. 16:10	Arose from the Dead	Matt; 28:6; Mk. 16 Lk. 24; John 20 Acts 2:22-47 Rom. 1:4 Rom 13:32-37
Psl. 68:18	Ascended into Heaven	Lk. 24:51 Mk. 16:19 Acts 1:9 Eph. 4:8-10

The prophecies and their fulfillments listed are clear and hundreds of years intervened between the prophecies and their fulfillments. In every case the agreement is perfect. If there is to be any denunciation of the prophecies as they are seen as a clear case of developing historical events; then, one has to conclude that the prophecies were not about Christ, and will have to conclude, that the prophecies were written about another person. But who could that person be if not, Christ Himself?

The Old Testament Prophets described Christ as “The Seed” emphasizing His ancestry and His Descendants:

- a. Seed of woman (Gen. 3:15).
- b. Descendant of Shem (Gen. 9:27; Luke 3:36).
- c. Seed of Abraham (Gen.12:1-3; 22:18).
- d. Seed of Isaac (Gen. 21:12).
- e. Seed of Jacob (Gen. 28:14).
- f. Seed of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Matt. 1:2; 2:6; Rev. 5:5).
- g. Of the House of David (Isa. 9:7; Jer. 23:5).
- h. Seed of David (II Sam. 7:12-14; Psl. 89:3-4; 132:11).

The New Testament writer Luke tells us that the Old Testament foretold the coming of Christ (Luke 24:44).

Abraham prophesied of Christ (John 8:56-58; Acts 3:25; Galatians 3:8).

Moses prophesied of Christ (John 5:46; Deut.18:5; Acts 3:22; 26:22-23; Luke 24:27).

Samuel prophesied of Christ (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36; Psalm 16:8-10; Acts 2:25-28).

Isaiah prophesied of Christ (John 12:41; Acts 8:32-34; Isaiah 53).

Zechariah prophesied of Christ (Zech.12:10; 13:7; Matt. 26:31; John 19:37).

All the prophets desired to see the days of Christ (Matt. 13:16-17; I Pet. 1:12-13).

More Messianic Prophecies fulfilled in Christ:

Jesus pointed this out (Luke 18:31-33; 22:37; 24:27, 44, 46).

John the Baptist pointed this out (John 1:23).

Philip pointed this out (John 1:45).

Peter pointed this out (Acts 2:25-28; 3:18, 24; 10:43; I Pet. 1:10-11).

Paul pointed this out (Acts 13:27-29; 17:2-3; 26:22-23; 28:23).

How could the remarkable unity of the Scriptures have been achieved if there were no one central Mind that guided all the writers? How could the various prophecies of the Old Testament have been made hundreds of years before their fulfillment if there were no divine fore-knowledge of future events? Is there anything like this in Islam, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, or any and all other religions? No!

(5) It would have to adapt to Mankind's Spiritual and Moral needs:

Mankind is incapable of providing for his own spiritual needs, and when he tries to provide for his own spiritual needs, this is what happens: "Now when Paul waited for them (*his traveling companions*) at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry" (Acts 17:16).

Paul came to Athens, Greece. Athens was the center of human learning, at that time, a city given to idolatry, and a people very religious. Here were highly intelligent, educated people, intelligent in human learning, trying to provide for their spiritual needs by turning to handmade 'gods' they made (themselves to try to meet their needs). Man, when left to himself to meet his own spiritual needs apart from his Creator, simply cannot!

The doctrines of The Bible are reasonable. Biblical doctrine speaks of suffering, a purpose in life, guilt, shame, death, life, accountability, judgment, why we are here on earth, and life after death. The Bible, and no other book or books have ever told the world what it needs. Therefore, Man, through his conversion, adapts to the Bible demands.

The Bible guards mankind against atheism (the belief that there is no God), against Polytheism (the belief that there are many Gods), against Pantheism (the belief that God is in everything), against Deism (the belief that God created all things and left them on their own, and He is not involved with His creation), against Agnosticism (if there is a God, I cannot know Him). However, the Bible teaches strict Monotheism, the fact that there is only one God. This Monotheism protects us from all the others listed above.

The Bible addresses itself to man's incurably religious nature. Man is religious. This religious nature in man is a part of man's appetite, and this appetite to worship, was put in man by his Maker. Man is incurably, worshipful. Discoveries in ancient artifacts verify his religious nature.

(6) It would have to survive the most energetic attacks by its enemies.

Modern infidels have tried to bury The Bible, but The Bible will not stay buried. Voltaire, the French skeptic, (1694-1778) said, "In less than one hundred years the Bible will be swept from the earth." Voltaire died, and the British Foreign Bible Society bought his house and have been printing Bibles in it ever since!

The Bible – There It Stands

Century follows century-there it stands.
Empires rise and fall and are forgotten-there it stands.
Dynasty succeeds dynasty-there it stands.
Emperors decree its extermination-there it stands.
Kings are crowned and uncrowned-there it stands.
Atheists rail against it-there it stands.
Agnostics smile cynically-there it stands.
Profane, prayer-less punsters caricature it-there it stands.
Unbelief abandons it-there it stands.
Higher critics deny its inspiration-there it stands.
The flames are kindled about it-there is stands.
The tooth of time gnaws at it-there it stands.
Infidels predict it's abandonment-there it stands.
Modernism tries to explain it away, but there it stands.⁹

The United States of America has the original Declaration of Independence in Washington D. C. Most of us have never seen it. If it were to be destroyed today, would the loss affect our knowledge of what was written on it? No! So it is with the Bible! Man has numerous and accurate copies of that original. Do we have any original writings of Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Milton, Dante, or John Bunyan? No, we have none?

Here is an **objection by critics of the Bible**: They say that we do not have the original manuscripts that were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, etc. Keep this in mind; that no ancient, original writing of Plato, Virgil, Aristotle, Caesar – none of their original writings exist either, and the Bible is no different. ***What we have are copies of the Bible.***

How many copies do we have? How close are they to the original autograph? How many of them are there?

We have more than 5,750 known Greek manuscripts of portions of the New Testament. We have over 10,000 manuscripts of the New Testament of the Latin Vulgate. We have over 9,300 other early versions and manuscript portions of the New Testament, and over 25,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament. There are quotations from the New Testament that are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers for the first 300 hundred years.

In fact, early historians tell us, that the entire New Testament could be reconstructed from the writings of the early Church Fathers if every one of the 5,750 manuscripts and all the 25,000 other early translations were destroyed.

The Bible has been translated into more languages and dialects than any other book on earth!

⁹A. Z. Conrad, as quoted by Jim McGuiggin, p. 197.

It was F. F. Bruce who said: “Everybody questions the authority of The Bible and no one questions the authority of other ancient writers.” If you were to throw out The Bible as being historically, and textually uncertain; then, one would have to do away with all ancient history also. Then, we would have to conclude that we know nothing about what happened in this world before 1,000 A.D.

We don’t have to apologize about the text of the New Testament. It is 1,000 times more reliable than any other ancient secular writings because it is rooted in the flow of history. In most ancient writings we have very few copies of the original. There are not even more than 50 reliable manuscripts from any writer of antiquity. Consider the following table:

Author	Suggested		Time Intervals	
	Dates	Copies	In Between	No. of Available Copies
Aeschylus	525-456 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 years	a few
Aristophanes	450-385	900 A.D.	1300 years	not more than 50
Catallus	85-54 B.C.	1300 A.D.	1400 years	3 Copies
Demonsthenes	383-322	900 A.D.	1200 years	not more than 50
Herodotus	480-425	900 A.D.	1350 years	8 copies
Lysias	450-380 B.C.	1000A.D.	1400 years	a few
Lucretius	99-55 B.C.	950 A.D.	1000 years	not more than 50
Plato	427-347 B.C.	800 A.D.	1100 years	15 copies
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 years	7 copies
Tacitus	55-117 A.D.	1060 A.D.	950 years	2 copies
Thucydides	460-400	900 A.D.	1300 years	8 copies
Virgil	79-19 B.C.	300 A.D.	350 years	1 copy

Nobody questions the history or the authority of these writers. Notice the time-span from the earliest existence of these manuscripts. Why is every critic of The Bible so quick to acknowledge and quote from them and yet deny the accuracy of The Bible? Can The Bible be trusted? Is The Bible reliable? Yes, we have a very reliable text in The Bible.

(7) It would have to promote a Higher Code of Ethics.

The teachings of The Bible strike at the heart, the mind, the cognitive reasoning ability, and the motives of all mankind. The Bible holds to a morality, and teaches this morality.

The Bible teaches that man is a personal being who can know, understand, and reason concerning what is *objective* right and what is *objective* wrong. The Bible also teaches that man, in his fallen state, is depraved, and in his wickedness, there is a propensity, a proclivity in the heart of man, to bury the truth he knows concerning right and wrong; because mankind wants to be free from any accountability for his/her actions. The apostle Paul declared in Romans 1:18-20:

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Francis Schaffer said, “Man has a feeling of moral motions, because man has always felt that things are right and things are wrong. All men have this sense of moral motions. You do not find man without them anywhere back in antiquity.”¹⁰ The Bible is the only book which correctly points to a standard of right and wrong, and man’s moral motions.

C. S. Lewis, commenting on human nature, said: “First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in.”¹¹

The Bible deals with man’s internal motions and his external motions also. Take for example, the tenth of the Ten Commandments: “Thou shalt not covet” (Exodus 20:17). This Commandment touches the internal behavior of man and his external behavior as well. In the New Testament, ‘to covet’ or to practice covetousness is called ‘idolatry’ (Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5).

Notice again that Jesus said, “Whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her in his heart commits adultery . . .” (Matt. 5:28). In this verse, the Bible describes the intentions of man apart from God, in his inner thinking, and man’s reaction because of wrong thinking is his outer behavior.

The Bible says that mankind’s problem is guilt and that mankind has **no solution** for his/her guilt outside of God’s provisions in Christ. Yet, no religious Book condemns evil more than the Bible. The Bible says that evil is real, and that evil lives in the human heart. Yet, no book promotes a higher standard of ethical and moral living than the Bible. Christianity is not a philosophy; it is a **history**. It is a way of life. Christianity is a relationship with the living God –through His Son, Jesus Christ. The great philosophers from Socrates, to Plato, to Aristotle to modern day (such as philosophers; Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill, and others); have given their conception of an ideal human life. But none of them had the abiding answer, or no final word for the moral, and spiritual life of mankind.

The apostle Peter wrote (in 2 Peter 1:16), “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*” It is quite clear from this passage, that Christianity was founded by **observers**. Peter affirmed, “we are eyewitnesses.” They were not writing blindly. They **observed** God’s revelation revealed in Christ (see, Matt. 17:1-5; John 1:1-14; and I John 1:1-5).

Christianity brings a complete, objective change in the moral and spiritual condition in the heart of man. This change is not static, or abstract. This objective change produces an obedient Christian. This change has the *character* of the living God in it. This tells us that *someone*, a personal *Someone* is present in the universe, and that *Someone* is the living God, and He is behind the revelation of sacred Scriptures.

¹⁰Francis Schaeffer, *He Is There And He Is Not Silent*, Tyndale House Publishers, (Wheaton; Illinois), 1972, p. 19.

¹¹C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., (New York; New York), 1952, p. 13.

(8) It would claim Universal Authority

The question of the authority of the Bible, in the highest sense (universally), rests upon the testimony of Jesus Himself.

First, Jesus said, the Scriptures point to Him. “Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). **Second**, what did Jesus claim for Himself? Christ claimed nothing less than deity – He is God (John 1:1-3; 8:58; 10:30; and 14:9). **Third**, He claimed to be a prophet from God. Was He a true prophet, or was He a false prophet? If He is **The** true prophet from God, then His teachings must be taken seriously, including His teaching concerning sacred Scripture. Jesus taught concerning Scripture, “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” (Matt. 5:18) [NIV]. **Fourth**, the Old Testament prophets, in their prophesies gave a description of His ‘flawless character.’ (See, Old Testaments prophecies listed).

What did He say about His own character? He challenged His nit-picking, fault-finding enemies to find fault with His character. He said, “Which one of you convicts Me of sin?” (John 8:46).

After Christ was fully examined by the Roman Governor Pilate, he then, exclaimed **three** times concerning the character of Christ, “I find in Him no fault at all.” (John 18:38; 19:4; and 6).

Summary:

The authority of Scripture involves more than an academic question. At the heart is the question: who is God, man or his Creator? And who shall issue the final word for the whole of man's behavior, thought, and action; will it be the living God, or mortal man? John Rushdoony said: "Clearly, then, if the infallibility of Scripture (*the authority of Scripture*) is denied, it is denied only in order to ascribe infallibility (*authority*) to nature, to man, or to some aspect or institution of man."¹²

God speaks an infallible, and authoritative Word when He reveals Himself in sacred Scripture to Moses, and to others mentioned in the Bible, and to people who have lived on this earth over the last 21 centuries. He declared Himself to be God: that was His name, He Who Is, the self-existent One: the great I AM!

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and is my memorial unto all generations (Exod. 3:14-15).

Several things about the living God: (i) Man cannot name or define the living God: God names Himself, I AM THAT I AM. (ii) God defines Himself by His self-revelation. (iii) Scripture is the necessary Word of God. He makes Himself know and all creation know by means of His sovereign, infallible, and authoritative Word. (Man can, therefore, *know* God). (iv) God's Word is the unchanging Word. He is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). God declared, "For I am the LORD; I change not" (Mal. 3:6). And (v) the living God made it very clear to Moses, the children of Israel, and to Pharaoh, "they all answer to ME" (see, Exodus 3:16-20).

The Scripture is not a problem to be solved by man, nor a mere subject for research and speculation. It is God's holy, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word. Man either *obeys* (the authority) of God's Word, or is *condemned* by it.

¹²John Rushdoony, *Systematic Theology*, 2 vols. (California; Vallecito, Ross House Books), 1994, vol. 1, p. 5. [Emphasis added].