

**Proving The God Of The Bible  
Is The True God**

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**Evidence For The God Of The Bible**

How do we know the biblical claims are true?

- Miracles
- Predictive Prophecy
- Perfection of God's Word
- Historical and Archaeological evidence
- Predicated on: The reliability of the biblical manuscripts

Verbal Plenary Inspiration = "We affirm that the whole of Scripture and all its parts, down to the very words of the original, were given by divine inspiration..." (Article VI of the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy)

Biblical Statements of Inspiration:

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28:19 "All this, said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern."

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**Biblical Statements of Inspiration**

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

q̅eop̅n̅veusto̅V = God breathed

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:20-21 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Which Writings Were Inspired?

Autographs: The actual penned or dictated writings of the original biblical writers. These were inspired by God.

Apographs: All later copies of the original autographs.

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**Which Writings Were Inspired?**

Autographs: Old Testament TANAK Torah/Neviim/Ketuvim

Exodus 24:4 Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

Joshua 24:26 Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God.

1st Samuel 10:25 Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship; and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD.

Jeremiah 36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him. (amanuensis)

Daniel 9:2 "...I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years."

Acts 2:29-30 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet...

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**Which Writings Were Inspired?**

Apocryphal Books: Fifteen books written during the intertestamental period not included in the O.T. canon by the Jews, but included in the canon by Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox churches.

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|---|------------------------|
| 1. 1st Esdra                              | 11. Bel and The Dragon |
| 2. 2nd Esdra                              | 12. Prayer of Manasseh |
| 3. Tobit                                  | 13. 1st Maccabees      |
| 4. Judith                                 | 14. 2nd Maccabees      |
| 5. The Rest of Esther                     |                        |
| 6. The Wisdom of Solomon                  |                        |
| 7. Ecclesiasticus                         |                        |
| 8. Baruch (including Epistle of Jeremiah) |                        |
| 9. The Song of the Three Holy Children    |                        |
| 10. Susanna                               |                        |

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**Reasons To Reject The Apocryphal Books**

- Jesus and the people of God (Jews) knew the extent of their canon, and it did not include the Apocrypha.
- Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
- Luke 24:44 These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.
- The Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35)
- Romans 3:1-2 Then what advantage has the Jew?...Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.
- Josephus "From Artaxerxes to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets" (Against Apion 1.41).

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### Which Writings Were Inspired?

Autographs: New Testament

Apostles: Uniquely "sent ones" who carry the very weight of Jesus whom they represent.

- **John 14:26** "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."
- **Acts 5:1-3** Lying to the Apostles = lying to the Holy Spirit
- **1st Corinthians 14:37** "If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment."
- **2nd Peter 3:2** "...you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles."
- **2nd Peter 3:15-16** "...Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and the unstable distort as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction."

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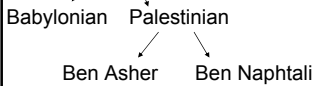
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### Are The Biblical Manuscripts Reliable?

**Old Testament:** No original autographs remain, but we have good apographs that enable us to determine the original.

#### Hebrew Manuscripts

- Silver amulet (650 B.C.)
- Nash Papyrus (160 B.C.)
- Dead Sea Scrolls (152-63 B.C.)
- Habakkuk commentary
- 3,000 Masoretic Text manuscripts



#### Secondary Sources

- Samaritan Pentateuch
- Septuagint (250 B.C.)
- Origen's Hexapla
- Aramaic Targums
- Latin Vulgate
- Coptic versions
- Ethiopian versions
- Arabic versions

Two different textual traditions yet only 8 small differences!

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### Are The Biblical Manuscripts Reliable?

➤ Masoretic Text: (Masar "to hand down")

- Ben Asher family: Codex Leningradensis 1008 AD
- Dead Sea Scroll Text 1QIsa: dated to: 125 B.C. This text of Isaiah is 1,100 years earlier than the Masoretic yet there is 98% percent agreement between the two texts. The remaining 2% of deviation is easily explained through spelling errors, scribal omissions and insertions.

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### The Murabbaat Manuscripts

- (1951) Bedouins discovered more manuscripts in caves in the Wadi of Murabbaat located 11 miles south of Qumran.
- Fragments of Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah were found in cave 2.
- The oldest papyrus document (Mur.88) ever found in Israel consisting of 10 of the 12 Minor Prophets that is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.
- These manuscripts are identical to the Masoretic Text (only 3 deviations in all the Minor Prophets!) and confirm that the Masoretic Text was stabilized by the second century!

Transmission: 500 BC – 100 AD: Sopherim (“counters”, scribes)  
20 AD – 200 AD: Tannaim (“to teach”)  
200 AD – 500 AD: Amoraim (“expositors”)  
500 AD – 1000 AD: Masoretes (“hand down”)

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### Are The Biblical Manuscripts Reliable?

- Has the Old Testament been handed down accurately?
- Rules of the Scribe (From the Mishnah)
1. Every scroll must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codex.
  2. The length of each column must not extend less than 48 or more than 60 lines. The breadth must consist of 30 letters.
  3. The entire copy must first be lined; and if three words are written without a line, it is worthless.
  4. An authentic copy must be the master copy, from which the transcriber ought not deviate in the least.
  5. No word or letter, not even a yod must be written from memory without looking at the codex before him.
  6. The space of a hair must exist between consonants, nine consonants must separate two sections.
  7. Deuteronomy must terminate exactly with a line.

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### Are The Biblical Manuscripts Reliable?

- “The textual accuracy of the Masoretes -as well as of the Qumran scribes - can be seen by a comparison of the Dead Sea Isaiah Scroll with the Masoretic Text. It shows that the two texts are almost identical – only three words are spelled differently” (E.Y. Kutscher, *The Language and Linguistic Background of the Isaiah Scroll*).
- “We can now be sure that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament...indeed, it would be rash skepticism that would now deny that we have our Old Testament in a form very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the word of the Lord to those who had returned from the Babylonian Captivity” (R.L. Harris, *Can I Trust My Bible*, 124).

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## Conclusion:

- We do have the words of the prophets and apostles!
  
- John 17:17; 20 “ Sanctify them in the truth, Your word is truth...I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word...”

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## Since God Exists, Has He Revealed Himself?

- Because God exists, He either has or has not revealed Himself to His creation.
- People have claimed that God has revealed Himself.
- Let us examine the claims:
  - Deism: God created the world, but does not supernaturally intervene. God is completely transcendent.
  - Pantheism: God is the world. There is no distinction. God is all and all is God. God is completely immanent.
  - Panentheism: God is **in** the world. The world is the body of God, and God is its mind. God in His actuality is the changing world of our experience. Only God's potential transcends the world.
  - Theism: God is both Creator and Sustainer of the world. He is both immanent and transcendent.

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## Deism Cannot Be True

- Deism maintains that God does not supernaturally intervene in the world.
- 1. If God works supernaturally, then Deism is wrong.
- 2. God does work supernaturally.
- 3. Therefore, Deism is wrong.
- The creation was a supernatural act in the world.
- We should therefore say that God works supernaturally.
- The Bible records God's supernatural acts in the world.
- Deism is therefore not true.

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### Pantheism Cannot Be True

Pantheism: God is the world.

General Revelation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics says the world is not eternal.

1. If God is the world, then nothing is eternal.
2. God is the world.
3. Therefore, nothing is eternal.

1. If nothing is eternal, then nothing can exist.
2. Nothing is eternal.
3. Therefore, nothing can exist

Pantheism is irrational because to affirm it is to deny existence!

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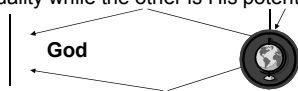
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### Panentheism Cannot Be True

- > Panentheism is bipolar where God has two poles that exist simultaneously.
- > One Pole is His actuality while the other is His potentiality.

1. If the world is finite, then God is finite!



2. How can God actualize His own potentialities? Potentialities cannot actualize themselves anymore than empty cups can fill themselves! These capacities must be fulfilled from the outside.
3. Panentheism says that God must be changing. This contradicts the Bible. "For I the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed." Malachi 3:6

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### The Theistic God Is The Only Option

The Theistic model for God must be true for the following reasons:

- > Necessity of an "uncaused causer"
  1. Every effect must have a cause.
  2. The world is an effect.
  3. The world must have a cause.
- > The "uncaused causer" must be eternal and actual not potential. Potentiality would mean it was possible not to exist!
- > The "uncaused causer" must be unchanging since the potential to change implies potentiality. (see above)
- > There can only be one "uncaused causer" since anything that differs must have the potentiality for differentiation.
- > The "uncaused causer" must possess infinite attributes since anything less than an all knowing, all powerful, all good etc. being would be a being with potentiality.

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