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### What About The Bible?

Dr. Peter W. Stoner in his little book, *Science Speaks*, published in 1963, opens up in the preface by saying the following, “A generation ago, before 1963, there were dire discrepancies between Genesis 1 and the findings of science, and especially was this true of astronomy. The attack of the critics came primarily through the sciences, and the faith of many young people was wrecked because they thought the Bible was in serious error and therefore could no longer be trusted.

Since that time, tremendous advances in the sciences have taken place. One by one the items of conflict between science and the Genesis account have become harmonized. Today the last serious point of conflict between the Scriptures and science has not only been harmonized, but the findings of science stand ready to supply tremendous evidence that the Bible could not have been written representing the education and culture of that day.”

Today, if our young people are properly taught in the churches, there is no possible excuse for losing their faith in college, for everything that they study in the physical sciences will speak of the unerring truth of the bible. If they will stop to consider, it will prove to them that God alone could have been the Author of the Bible. (Stoner:5)

\* Dr. Stoner defines science as the following, “the result of the attempt of man to determine what God did in the creation and what laws He laid down.” (Stoner:6)

Keep in mind the bulk of scientific information and evidence we possess in 2017 was not known to science till the last 100 years and much of what was considered true has been proven to be in error and up.

With the growing opposition, antagonism and rejection of God and the Bible, as being the only revelation of God, I want to show you how time proves the Bible to be the very Word of God and not just a mere book written by man.

#### **I. The claims of the Bible.**

##### **A. The Bible is the revelation of God.**

\* Revelation is the acts of God whereby He makes Himself and truth known at special times and to specific people.

##### **1. The Bible has general revelation.**

**a. Creation.**

**b. Conscience.**

**c. History.**

\* Rom. 1:19-21; 2:14-15

##### **2. The Bible has special revelation.**

**a. In the Old Testament by theophanies, miracles and prophecy. Ex. 3:2-5**

**b. In the New Testament by His Son Jesus Christ. Heb. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:16-17**

- c. The fool has said in his heart no God. Ps. 14:1

**B. The Bible is the Inspired word of God.**

1. Inspiration is the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon divinely chosen men in consequence of which their writings became trustworthy and authoritative. (Bakers Dict. of Theol.)
2. Inspiration deals with the recording of God's truth making it infallible and inerrant, not only in things pertaining to life and practice but history, archaeology and science, unlike the theories of man.
3. Inspiration claims divine source and authority.
  - a. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2Tim. 3:16
    - 1) The word "theo" means is God.
    - 2) The word "pneusto" means breathed.
      - \* Literally expired out of God!
  - b. The Scriptures are ex-pired, out of God as holy men were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet. 1:19-21
    - 1) They did not speak of their own impulse not sourced in human origin.
    - 2) They were carried along and enables by the Holy Spirit.
    - 3) Called "plenary verbal inspiration".

**C. The Bible is the Word of God.**

1. The Scriptures declares it.
  - \* Over 3800 time in the O. T., we read:
    - a. "Thus said the Lord".
    - b. "The word of the Lord came to me".
    - c. "The Lord said write".
    - d. "The Spirit of the Lord came upon me".
    - e. "I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say". Ex. 4:12
2. The Lord Jesus believed the Bible was and is the word of God.
  - a. He never doubted or implied manuscript error.
  - b. He Spoke of Noah and the judgment by the flood as real.
  - c. He spoke of creation, Adam and Eve.
  - d. He mentioned Cain and Abel.
  - e. He referred to Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - f. He quoted Moses, Isaiah, Daniel.
  - g. He referred to the Scriptures as prophecy.
  - h. Jesus excepted the Old Testament as historical and literal, including the prophecies and declared, "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law, till all is fulfilled", the smallest letter or the smallest stroke above the letter. Matt. 5:18

**Illustration**

\* “Take the thirteen claims about creation in Genesis chapter one. The chance factor that Moses guessed the proper order is one chance in 311 million, 351 thousand and forty, (311,351,040)” (Stoner:47)

### **Application**

1. Every person that ever reads or hears the claims of the Bible must make a decisive evaluation of the Bible.

- a. Either it is God’s Words or the words of men!
- b. If I choose to receive the Bible as God’s Word, then I will receive the truth about myself, that I am a sinner in need of repentance!

2. Every person has to make a decision on the content of the Bible are they mere stories embellished by man or accurate events God declared to warn and teach man?

- a. If I take them as silly stories then I will mock and dismissed them as being irrelevant to me!
- b. If I embrace them as truth, then they will cause me to identify with man’s sinfulness and in need of a Savior.

### ***These are some of the claims of the Bible!***

#### **II. The transmission of the Bible.**

\* Writing is known to have existed as early as 4000-5000 B. C. in Egypt.

A. The materials used for the Bible varied.

1. Stone was used, as Moses was commanded to inscribe the law on stones at Mount. Ebal and Gerazim. Deut. 27:2-3
  2. Clay was also used, Ezekiel may refer to it. Ezk. 4:1  
\* Huge libraries have been discovered of writing like those of the King of Assyria 650 B. C.
  3. Wood was used in Greece for many centuries, as they would white wash it in order that they received the ink better.  
\* Habakkuk could refer to wood. Hab. 2:2
  4. Leather is well known to have been used for thousands of years on animal skins.  
\* The Jews used them for their Scriptures as well as others.
  5. Papyrus was used as a universal writing material, as far back as 3500 B. C. deriving from Egypt that grew on the Nile River.  
\* We have many papyrus manuscripts.
  6. Vellum or Parchment were also used, vellum refers to skins of calves and Parchment to skins of sheep and goats used from the 4th Century through the Middle Ages, even for God’s word.
- B.** The meticulous care of the Bible is astounding.
1. They counted the words and letters of each book.
  2. They calculated the Middle verse, word and letter of a book.

3. The middle verse of Pentateuch is Lev. 8:7.
4. The middle verse of the Bible is in Jeremiah. Jer. 6:7 (The Hebrew Bible)
5. They marked verses with all letters of alphabet.
6. The Synagogue rolls had to be written on skins of clean animals and fastened together with strings taken from clean animals.
7. Each skin had to contain certain number of columns, equal throughout.
8. The length could not extend less than 48 or more than 60 lines each column.
9. The breadth had to consist of 30 letters.
10. The entire copy had to first be lined.
11. If three words were written without lines, it would be worthless.
12. The ink was to be black not red, green or any other color and according to recipe.
13. The authentic copy was exemplar.
14. Not a letter or yod, or tittle was to be from memory and eyes were never to leave scroll regardless of who entered.
15. Between consonants there was to be a space of a hair or thread, between new sections space of 9 consonants, between every book 3 lines.
16. The 5th book of Moses must end exactly with a line but the rest need not.
17. The copier had to wear full Jewish dress and bathe his entire body.

18. The name of God had to be written with a new pen and he had to wash.
  19. The rejects were burned, buried or banished to school.
- C. The manuscript evidence of the Bible.
1. The Bible has an overwhelming number of copies.
    - a. It has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature.
    - b. A.T. Robertson N.T. Greek Scholar declared that we have:
    - c. 8,000 Manuscripts of Latin vulgate.
    - d. 1,000 earlier versions.
    - e. 4,000 Greek manuscripts.
    - f. 13,000 portions.
    - g. Most, if not all of the New Testament can be reproduced from early church writers.
    - h. Warfield and Philip Scholl, both declare that the word has been transmitted to us with no, or next to no variations.
      - \* Each misspelled word is counted in every manuscript, so if there were 3,000 manuscripts that would account for 3,000 variations, while in reality be one misspelling.
  2. The Bible compared to other authors of the past wins hands down.
    - a. The Bible was written in the latter part of 1st Century.

- b. The 7 plays of Sophocles are excepted as authentic texts, yet the manuscripts are 1400 years after his death.
- c. The History of Thucydides (460-400 B. C.) known to us by 8 manuscripts, the earliest 900 A. D.
- d. The History of Herodotus (488-428 B. C.) no one doubts, yet the earliest manuscripts we have are 1300 years later.
- e. Most Mistakes or variations are in spelling or style (98.33% is pure).

### **Illustration**

Dr. Stoner says, “Taking the same chance of probability of the thirteen items in Genesis one, of 311,351, 040, where did Moses get the thirteen things to arrange them in that order? Did Moses know about dark nebulas so he could write a perfect description of one in verse two? That is absurd, for the greatest of the scientist, having many photographs of dark nebulas, never guessed one existed until about 40 years ago (then 1963 would have been 1923). It is estimated that about 100 billion people lived from the day of Moses before anyone knew what his description meant. We should say, then, that he did not have more than one chance in 100 billion of being able to describe a dark nebula.” (Stoner:48)

### **Application**

1. How often people believe and say that the Bible has errors and contradictions?
  - a. Next time you are told that, ask the person to show you the particular passage or text!
  - b. They will not be able to!
2. How often have you heard, “well there are so many translations and interpretations of the Bible”?
  - a. Tell them the Bible interprets the Bible, by the Scriptures!
  - b. Tell them the Bible is to be interpreted by the context, historical background and the original languages, be it Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek.
3. Ask them if they have ever read the Bible?
  - a. They most likely haven’t but are merely repeating what they have been told and heard by other people.
  - b. They need to be confronted with their dishonesty and hypocrisy about judging something they never have examined!

***The evidence involving the transmission of the Bible is of the highest integrity!***

### **III. The uniqueness of the Bible.**

- A. The unity and harmony of the Bible.
  1. The Bible contains 66 books, 39 in Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
  2. The Bible is written over a 1600 year span.
  3. The Bible was written by 40 authors.

4. The Bible has a “Red thread” running from Genesis to Revelation, the Christ. Gen. 3:15; Is. 53; Jn. 1:29
5. The instruments used to write the Bible vary, from kings to fishermen, statesmen, tax collectors, herdsman, military generals, doctors and Rabbis (Paul).
6. The Bible was written from diverse places.
  - a. Moses in wilderness.
  - b. Jeremiah from dungeon.
  - c. Ezekiel from Babylon in captivity.
  - d. Daniel from Shushan the Palace.
  - e. David in Jerusalem.
  - f. Paul from prison and Mission field.
  - g. Luke from interviews and travel.
  - h. Written in times of war, peace, prosperity and poverty.
  - i. In joyous times, others in despair and sorrow.
  - j. Written from three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe.
  - h. Written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
7. The Bible contains eye-witness accounts in the Old and the New Testament gospels.
8. The Bible contains law, history poetry and prophecy in the Old Testament.
9. The New Testament also has history and prophecy, Acts and Revelation.

10. The Bible deals with law, civil, criminal, ethical, ritual, moral and sanitary, in Pentateuch O.T., Epistles N.T.
  11. The Bible gives to us accounts of wars, treaties, biographies and records of kings.
  12. The Bible records accurate Kings in their chronological order with reference to kings of the same and other countries.
- B.** The persecution and indestructibility of the Bible.
1. In 303 A.D. Diocletian gave a command to destroy Christians and Bibles.
  2. He made a medal thinking he had succeeded, “The Christian religion is destroyed the worship of the gods restored.”
  3. Twenty-five years later Constantine had Eusebius prepare 50 copies of the Scriptures at the government’s expense.
  4. Tyndale was strangled and burned to ashes at the stake, with his last breath he prayed, “Lord, open the king of England’s eyes.”
  5. Inquisition, took the Bible from the people.
  6. Survived the critics, emperors, popes, kings, etc.
  7. Many said the Pent. had to have been written after Moses because there was no known writing, until they found the detailed law of Hammurabi pre-dating Moses and Abraham.

8. So called higher critics, said there was no Hittites, but through archaeology discovered a 1200 year span of Hittite civilization.
9. Daniel was disputed, until the Elephantine papyrus were discovered.
10. The Bible was the first book taken to outer space on microfilm.
11. The longest telegram was the New Testament from New York to Chicago.
12. It is one of the most expensive books, the Russians sold the Codex Sinaiticus to England for \$510,000.
13. F.F. Bruce said, "There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament".
14. It was written much closer to its origin than any other writings.
15. The combined quotes of 7 church fathers of the New Testament.
  - a. 19,368, of the Gospel.
  - b. 1,352, from Acts.
  - c. 14,035, from Paul's epistles.
  - d. 870, from the general epistles.
  - e. 664, from the book of Revelation.
  - f. A total of 36,289 quotes.
16. The Dead Sea Scrolls.
  - a. Found March 1947 in Qumran cave.
  - b. 8 miles south of Jericho.

- c. Dating back to 125 B. C. giving us a 1,000 year older Manuscript than the One we possessed.
  - d. Others dated to 200 B. C.
  - e. When compared to the Massoretic text (Hebrew) they were the same (500-1,000 A. D. meaning tradition, inserting vowel points)
  - f. Made up of some 40,000 inscribed fragments, from these 500 books have been reconstructed.
  - g. One scroll had Isaiah 53, only 17 letters were in question.
  - h. Ten of these were spelling, not affecting the sense.
  - i. Four more regard style, such as conjunctions.
  - j. Last three comprise the word light, added in vs. 11 and does not affect the meaning.
- C. The demand for the Bible.
1. It is the most read book still, number one of the top ten book read, second is Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings, The Alchemist, The Da Vinci Code, The Twilight Saga, Gone With The Wind, Think And Grow Rich and The Diary Of Anne Frank. 11/30/17
  2. The Bible is published in more languages than any others, in portions or entire copies.

3. About 40-50 years ago the British Foreign Bible Society to meet their demands had to publish: (from 1980)
  - a. 1 every 3 seconds day and night.
  - b. 22 copies every minute day and night.
  - c. 1,369 copies every hour, day and night.
  - d. 32,876 copies every day in the year.

### **Illustration**

Dr Stoner say, “What are the chances of Moses getting the thirteen item of Genesis 1 all accurate and in satisfactory order? Using the estimates that we have just suggested, we must multiply them all together, and as a result we find that Moses had one chance in 31,135,104,000,000,000,000,000, of getting both the items and the order accurate. To visualize this by a number of tickets. You would have to engage more than 8,000,000 presses, each capable of printing 2,000 tickets per minute. And then they would have to run day and night for 5,000,000 years to print this number of tickets. Now let one ticket be marked and the whole mass thoroughly stirred. Then we will blindfold you and let you draw one ticket. Will you get the right one? Your chances is better than Moses’ chance would have been of writing this one chapter from the information known in his day.” (Stoner:50)

### **Application**

1. Which human book written can you rely on as the final authority that never has to be updated?
  - a. Not one, but the Bible has never been updated.

- b. The Bible communicated valuable needful truth to every generation about God, man and sin!
2. What group of men in past human history have agreed to die for a lie, as well as succeeding generations, for the same lie?
  - a. None.
  - b. Christianity has not only survived, but flourished despite the persecution!
3. How do people explain all the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation that are in harmony and unity to one God, who is revealing Himself to redeem mankind?

***This overwhelming evidence marks the uniqueness of the Bible!***

### **IV. The purpose of the Bible.**

- A. The Bible was not written as a science book.
  1. The bible does not attempt to describe the things of creation in a technical way, but simply that God created all things. Gen. 1:1
  2. The Bible does not bother to explain the details of the flood, but clearly records the fact that the entire world died in the flood.
  3. The Bible does not bother to declare who Cain married, of course it was his sister, it just records the fact, rather than explaining it.

- B.** The Bible was not written to appeal to man's intellect primarily for it rejects the things of God. 1Cor. 2:14
1. God is transcendent, beyond man's ability to understand the things of God.
  2. God will use man's intellect, but He does not depend on it.
  3. God is the only One who can shed light on man's intellect about the things of God.
- C.** The Bible was written to reveal man's need of God and to bring Him to repentance before God.
1. Because He loves man. Jn. 3:16
  2. Because His Son died for man. Rom. 5:6
  3. Because He is coming back to judge the world. 2Thess. 1:7-8
  4. Because He is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9
  5. Because God has allowed the record that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have life in His name. Jn. 20:31

### **Illustration**

Professor M. Montiero Williams said, "Pile them, if you will, on the left of your study; but place your own Holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone - and with a wide gap between them. For. . . there is a gulf between it and the so-called books of the East

which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly and forever. . ."

### **Application**

1. Do you see yourself as a sinner in need of salvation? Rom. 3:23
2. Do you want to be saved, then call on the name of the Lord! Rom. 10:9
3. Know that all your sins have been forgiven and eternal life has been imparted to you as a new creature! Ps. 103:12; 2Cor. 5:17

*The purpose of the Bible is to save man from his sin!*

### **Conclusion**

Voltaire, the noted 18th century French philosopher, said that it took centuries to build up Christianity, but "I'll show how just one Frenchman can destroy it within 50 years." Taking his pen, he dipped it into the ink of unbelief and wrote against God. #338

Twenty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society purchased his house for printing the Bible. And it later became the Paris headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Bible is still a best seller: an entire 6-volume set of Voltaire's works was once sold for 90¢ .

\* Just before his death, the noted atheist swore: "I wish I had never been BORN!"