

Apologetics Outreach: Challenging the Secular

6. Is the Bible From God?



The Isaiah Scroll found at the Qumran caves of the Dead Sea, dated to the 2nd century BC.

Why should anybody believe the Bible is from God? If Bible was only historical, citing historical facts and recording historical events, then the Bible would be just a history book. If historical content were the sole contents, then the claim of inspiration would be suspect. The original manuscripts would merely be ancient records of historical events corresponding to history.

The Bible, however, claims to be more than just an accurate historical book. The Bible's words claim to be "*Super-natural*" in origination. The words claim to be inspired, from God, the *First-Cause* of reality, who revealed the words through prophets. The question is, can we in anyway prove the claims of the words in the Bible?

By simply comparing the words that claim *super-natural* inspiration to the *facts*, we can test whether the words are super-natural or just vague guesses. We can also examine the probability of the events taking place. In the same way, we examine the improbability of matter and life entering the universe without a cause. We can examine to see if super-natural evidence corresponds with facts.

In examining the evidence, we need to ask several questions.

1. Is the evidence "Super-natural" in nature?
2. Is the evidence manipulated?
3. Could the source document been changed to fit the circumstances?

Super-natural objective evidence

The definition of *Super-natural* is evidence outside of the natural order. Miracles and prophecies would fall under this categories since both claim a source outside of the nature. A prophecy describing future specific event is not a natural phenomenon. The source must be outside of nature in order to be "True". Super-natural knowledge is required, since knowledge of the future is outside of our natural order.

<p>6⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. <u>And the things that are coming and shall come.</u> <u>Let them show these to them.</u> 8Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'" Isaiah 44:7-8</p>	<p>9Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; <u>I am God, and there is none like Me.</u> <u>10Declaring the end from the beginning.</u> And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' Isaiah 46:9-10</p>	<p>³<u>I have declared the former things from the beginning:</u> They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did <i>them</i>, and they came to pass. ⁴Because I knew that you <i>were</i> obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze, ⁵<u>Even from the beginning I have declared it to you:</u> <u>Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you.</u> Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.' Isaiah 48:3-5</p>
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The Bible's use of prophecy, the ability to tell the future in the past, can be itemized as follows.

- Only God can reveal events in detail thousands of years before they occur. (Isaiah 44:6)
- Israel as a people and nation are witnesses to the events. (Isaiah 44:8)
- God declares the end from the beginning. (Isaiah 46:9)

- The purpose of foretelling the event many years before its occurrence was to prove to the obstinate who would give credit to man. (Isaiah 48: 3-5)










What is a prophet?

When you write your name on paper, who is doing the writing, you or the pen? Most answer you, since you are the power behind the pen. You are the inspiration of the words the pen writes. In the same way a pen is used as the conduit between you and the paper, the prophet is the conduit between God and man. The prophet is writing down God's message for the reader.

If the words are from God then they would be "True" and correspond with reality.

Some examples of Super-Natural Evidence

Description of Evidence	Significance	Super-natural nature
 <p>Greatness of Abraham Genesis 12:2-3 Abraham Was promised to: * Be source for a great nation * Have a great name * All peoples on the earth to Be blessed through Him.</p>	<p>Genesis was written about 1450 BC Abraham, was just one of Many people who lived on the Earth. over 1/2 the Earth's 6 billion People claim a connection to Abraham including Muslims, Jews and Christians. Both Jews and Arab's Claim Abraham as the source their national identity.</p>	<p>Both Muslims, Christians and Jews Claim descent and connection to Abraham. This prophecy was written Well before the growth of Christianity And Islam. Abraham name became great after Christianity spread 100 AD and Islam after 632 AD. If 15 billion people lived since the beginning of the Human race, the odds Of one man have a name of world wide Distinction is 1 out of 15 billion. If the Promise was recorded 3400 years Before the event it is super-natural.</p>
<p>Israel Scattered Deuteronomy 28:64 3450 years ago in the Bible Israel as a nation is told they will be dispersed throughout the world and suffer as a people for being Disobedient.</p> 	<p>Two times in Israel's history they Were scattered as a nation, first During the Babylonian captivity (605, 598 and 587 BC) Jer 51. Second, during the time of Roman Occupation. 54 BC-638 AD</p>	<p>For a people to be scattered is a A common event throughout history As one people group takes land and Settles in territory belonging to another. Israel as a nation is scattered and Gathered and then scattered again. The condition of the people in their Scattered condition is described in Detail, yet they remain a distinct people In the land of their captivity</p>
 <p>Israel Gathered Deuteronomy 30:3 3450 years ago Israel is promised to be gathered back into the land promised to Abraham after being scattered. The gathering of Israel as a Nation from the nations is repeated throughout the scriptures Isaiah 11, Isaiah 14:1-2, Isaiah 56:8, Jeremiah 30-31, Ezekiel 36-37, Zechariah 10:6-12 ...</p>	<p>Two times Israel has been gathered, Once following the Babylonian Captivity after the Persian defeat Of Babylon in 539 BC by Cyrus The second in our day with the Creation of the state of Israel as Jews from Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America founded the state of Israel</p>	<p>The creation of the state of Israel was Result of two world wars. First the Muslim powers were defeated and Only after 1/2 the world's Jewish Population was killed in the Holocaust Would the nations agree to allowing A Jewish state to exist, in May 1948 Israel came into existence the first time A Jewish state existed in 2000 years. For a people to maintain national Identity after 1900 years and to be Gathered back into their land is Amazing enough... But for the event To be written about even before they Were a nation is super-natural.</p>
 <p>Jerusalem Focus Of World attention Zechariah 12:3 foretells Jerusalem as the</p>	<p>We are told that Jerusalem will Be a burden for the world and the Object of conflict. The nations of the World will be at war with the</p>	<p>Over 1/2 the Earth population view Jerusalem as spiritually significant. 2500 years ago when Jerusalem was just a small regional city Zechariah told</p>

Center of worldwide Attention	Descendents of Israel.	about the coming day when all then nations will burden themselves with the possession of the city.
 <p>Temple destroyed The destruction of the Jewish temple following The death of Jesus was Foretold in Daniel 9:26 And Matthew 24:2</p>	<p>In 70 AD the Roman empire destroys The Jewish Temple. Every stone Was throne down as Roman soldiers Looked for melted gold. The destruction of the Temple along each stone being Taken down was recorded 600 years Before this event, Messiah was to Be cut off.</p>	<p>600 years before the event we are told about the destruction following the cutting off of the Messiah. Jesus claimed to be Messiah and as a result 2 billion people, 1/3 of the earth's population are connected to the city of Jerusalem. How Daniel could know the details of the Temple's destruction as well as it being Connected with the Messiah being "Cut Off" is super-natural.</p>
 <p>Jews from Ethiopia Gathered. In the Second gathering Jews living in Ethiopia are Foretold to be gathered to Israel ,2700 years ago in Isaiah 11:11 this gathering was written about.</p>	<p>Operation Solomon in 1980 and Exodus in 1991 rescued Jews living in Ethiopia from extermination and persecution. The Jews there have been traced back over 2000 years ago.</p>	<p>Isaiah 11:11 specifically mentions Jews From Cush (Ethiopia) as part of the Gathering from the nations. 2700 years Before the event</p>
 <p>Exact month & year Messiah is killed. 70 Weeks of Daniel is a very specific prophecy foretelling the rejection and cutting off of Messiah 570 years before the event. Daniel 9:24-27</p>	<p>The 70 weeks of Daniel foretells the Exact time Messiah would be cut-off. Following a 483 year period (69 Weeks) after a command to rebuild The walls and streets of Jerusalem Was given to Nehemiah.</p>	<p>The Christian faith is the largest faith in The World and centers on the Messiah Being killed for the sins of the world. 570 before the death of Jesus, Daniel foretold the exact time of Messiah being cut-off with the Temple's destruction following his death.</p>

Objections to Super-natural objective evidence

"People worked to fulfill the prophecy"

This objection does not take into account the aspect of adverse history. For example, Jerusalem becoming the focus of world attention was a result of the spread of Christianity and Islam. Christianity grew in opposition to Jewish wishes; they did not accept Jesus as Messiah. The Roman Empire became Christian in spite of persecution of the Christians. In addition, any series of events could have changed the scope of the world prior to the spread of Christianity. Pagan Huns in the 5th Century AD could have destroyed Christian Byzantium, conflict with Islam in the 6th century; the Mongolian hordes of Genghis Khan in the 12th century are only some examples of historical events that could have prevented this prophecy fulfillment.

To imagine that a group of people could manipulate world events in secret also fails to account for persecution by the leading powers of the world. Kings and princes in the land they settled persecuted the Jews as a group. The Spanish inquisition, forced Jews to renounce their Jewish culture, this same pattern of persecution occurred in Germany, England, Russia and Asia. How a persecuted people could control their persecutors, to fulfill prophecy written about the people even before they were a nation would be super-natural in its own right.

"The prophecy was changed to seem like it was fulfilled"

The words recorded in prophecy are virtually the same in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament translated 250 BC. The Dead Sea scrolls dated to 100-200 BC also record the words of the prophets including Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Any changes to fulfill scripture would have to have been made by 250 BC well before the events themselves even occurred.

"The prophecy is just a matter of interpretation"

Most prophecies have very specific qualifiers, giving us minute details, not vague generalities.

Israel, Jerusalem are distinct locations, not vague terms such as a “great city in the distant east”. They are terms which can be compared to facts. The Bible also records historical figures such as Nebucadnezzer along with events associated with their lives. This allows us to compare the words with the facts.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

The Seventy weeks of Daniel is a prophecy, which can be used as an example of associating facts with claims.

- God has a 490-year plan involving the Jewish People and Jerusalem.
- We are told Jerusalem would be rebuilt with walls, and streets
- The Messiah would be killed 483 years after the command to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls and streets is given.
- The rebuilt temple would be destroyed by the descends of a future world leader
- A future world leader who is descendent of the armies who destroyed Jerusalem would make an agreement to build a Third Temple.
- The Temple would be rebuilt and sacrifices stopped after 3.5 years.

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel

24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Background	<p>The Prophecy takes place in 539 B.C., in the First year of Darius the Mede. Daniel an old man, between 83 to 90 years old. As a boy He was taken captive by the Babylonians in 605 B.C. In 586 B.C. The Babylonians destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. Jeremiah foretold a 70-year period of desolation on the city for their sin. Daniel was praying for the city to be restored since 67 years had now passed.</p> <p>Gabriel the angel was sent to Daniel to answer his prayer and tell him God's time plan for his city, Jerusalem and his people.</p>
<p>24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.</p>	<p>Seventy weeks¹ are determined² (7 x70=490) A 490 year period of time is established on "Your city" <i>Jerusalem</i> and "Your People" <i>the Jewish People</i>. Seven events happen within these 490 years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish Transgression 2. Make an end of sins 3. Make reconciliation for iniquity 4. Bring in everlasting righteousness 5. Seal up vision and prophecy 6. Anoint the Most Holy. <p>Super-Natural Objective Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus of Jerusalem and the Jewish People

¹ The Hebrew word for seven is שבע *Shabuwa* means seven, or period of seven and could be 7 days or years. Year of Jubilee takes place on the 50th year after 7 periods of 7. Leviticus 25:8.

² The Hebrew word for determined is חרץ *Charatz* and means to cut, sharpen,decide, a 490 year period has been ‘Cut’ on Jerusalem and the Jewish People.

25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Reconciliation of	
Jewish Calendar	
360 days/year	
7 Weeks +62 Weeks=69 Weeks	
69 X 7 (years/week) =483 years	
483 years X 360 days/year =173,880 Days	
Gregorian Calendar	
365.242 days/year	
173,880/365.242 =476.06792	
.06792 x 365 days=24 days	
444 BC - 476 years =33 AD	
33 AD (Year 0 being 1)	
+ 24 days (March 5th–30th	

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

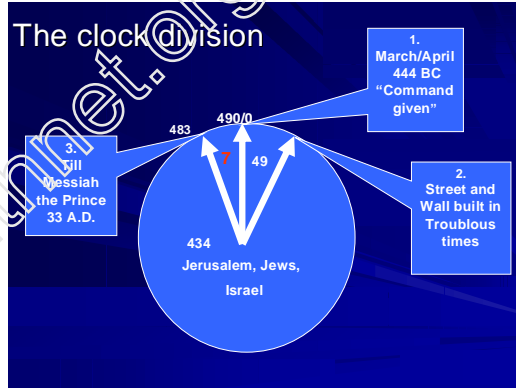


The 490-year period begins with the command to "Restore" and "Build Jerusalem" including the walls and streets in the times of trouble. The command to rebuild the walls and streets takes place in March/April 444 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:8) Nehemiah is given orders to build the walls of Jerusalem, and access to the King of Persia's resources. Gabriel tells Daniel from the command given (March/April 444 B.C.) until Messiah the Prince will be 7-weeks (49 years) and 62-weeks (434-years) totaling 483-years³. (7 Weeks + 62 Weeks=69 Weeks) (69 x 7=483) From the Command given in March/April 444 B.C. to until Messiah the Prince is 483 Jewish years⁴. Our equivalent to Daniel's calendar is 476 years and 24 days.

The Command was given in March/April 444 B.C. 476 years and 24 days later is March 29th 33 A.D. the Jesus Christ was "Cut off" by the Jewish Priesthood. (John 19:6)

Super-Natural Objective Evidence

- The Exact month and Year of Messiah Death 500 years before his birth



Gabriel tells Daniel after the 62 Week (434 year) Messiah the Prince is cut off. Not for Himself, Messiah dies for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53).

Following his death Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed again, after they were rebuilt, following Daniel's prayer. The people of a prince who is to come, destroy Jerusalem and Temple 37 years after the death of Jesus Christ. Daniel foretold of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem over 600-years before the event.

Gabriel Tells Daniel the desolations on Jerusalem and the Jewish people will continue to the end.

The Dome of The Rock, the third most site in Islam occupies the Temple-site. The

³ A Jewish Biblical year was 12 months of 30 days per month and based on a lunar calendar. Genesis 7-8, Noah's arc was in the water 150 days, 5months (See Genesis 7:11,24,8:3,4)

⁴ 483 Jewish years =476 years and 24 days with our Solar calendar. 1. 360x483=173,880 2. 173,880/365.242= 476.06792 years 3. 444 B.C. -476 years=33 A.D. 4. March 15th was Nisan 1st that year, Add 24 days for .06792x 365=24 days. 5. Messiah cut off March 29th 33 A.D.

Temple-Mount is the center of world focus pitting the world of Islam and Judaism against each other. There is a growing movement to rebuild the Temple. The problem is 1.3 billion Muslims hold the Dome of the Rock as their sacred site.

The 490-year clock stopped at the death of Messiah at the end of the 69th Week, as desolations were determined till the 70th week.

Super-Natural Objective Evidence

- The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple following the death of Christ
- The continual desolations that befell the Jewish People after the Temple

Roman destruction & dispersion of the Jews



■ 70 AD 1,000,000 Jews of Jerusalem killed by the armies of Titus

Recorded by Jewish historian JosephusJews dispersed throughout the Roman empire



■ 135 AD 580,000 Jews killed by Roman armies under Hadrian. After Bar Kochba rebellion

Remaining Jews dispersed

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

Gabriel tells Daniel, a future 7-year agreement will allow the Temple to be rebuilt allowing sacrifice and offering to take place. He is the **prince to come**, descended from the **people** who destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem, the Romans. Rebuilding the Temple is a growing movement in Israel, for a several reasons.

- Growing religious movement, looking for the return of Messiah
- Removal of Muslim claims to Jerusalem
- Establishment of spiritual and cultural identity

Gabriel tells Daniel, In the midst of this agreement 7-year agreement, 3.5 years, the **Prince to come** breaks the agreement and stops sacrifice and offering, until the consummation, or destruction which falls on those destined for Judgment.

Super-Natural Objective Evidence

- The future problem of the Temple-Mount site
- The rebuilding of the Temple
- The need of a peace-agreement to allow the Temple to be rebuilt

Rebuilding The Temple







Problems with Rebuilding

- Dome of the Rock occupies Temple Mount site
- 1.3 Billion Muslims vs. 20 million Jews
- Immense world wide political pressure

Pressure to Rebuild

- Menorah is ready
- Growing movement to open the Temple Mount site within Israel
- Priesthood is in training
- Invalidate Muslim claim to Jerusalem

The Seventy Weeks¹ of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27)

1. Artaxerxes, King of Persia, gives commandment to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem. **Nehemiah 2:8** In 20th year of reign his reign March/April² 444 BC.
70 weeks begin. "Going forth of the commandment"³ **Daniel 9:25**
This is contrast to Cyrus allowing the Temple to be rebuilt and Jews to return (Ezra 1:1-3). This commandment allows city streets and walls to be rebuilt as specified in **Daniel 9:25** **March 444 BC**

3. Messiah the Prince is cut off. **Dan 9:26** This fulfills the picture of the suffering/servant Messiah who dies for the sins of the world. **Isalah 52:13-53, Ps 22**
Messiah who was pierced **Zachariah 12:10, 33 AD**
Jesus declares will not return till He is acknowledged as Messiah by Israel **Matthew 23:39**

4. 70th week begins with a peace agreement between Israel, prince who is to come, and many (World). Israel is allowed to rebuild temple and offer sacrifices. The leader, a descendent of Roman armies, makes 7 year agreement with Israel. **Daniel 9:27**
Probably following war against Islam & Russia **Ezekiel 38-39**

6. End of 70th Week. Messiah returns "They shall look upon me who they pierced", **Zech 12:10**
Saves his people, brings peace to the Earth, Age Messiah begins. **Isalah 11:1-10**, Jerusalem becomes capital of Earth

483 Jewish² Years³ = 476,06792⁵ current years

7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks

2. 7 weeks or 49 years Jerusalem's street and walls are rebuilt in troublesome times under Nehemiah's leadership. **Dan 9:25**

The prophetic clock stops at the death of 33 AD. Thirty seven years later in 70 AD. People of the prince who is to come destroys Temple and over 1,000,000 Jews in Jerusalem are killed by Roman armies according to Josephus. In 135 AD, Bar Kochba leads rebellion against Rome, 580,000 Jews killed by Hadrian legions. Jews are expelled and Jerusalem name is changed to Aelia Capitolina, Judea was renamed Palestina. War and desolations continue till the end. **Daniel 9:26**
A similar type of gap is seen between the two pictures of Messiah. See **Isalah 9:6-7, Zechariah 9:9-10**. In **Zechariah**, Messiah is seen riding on a donkey in verse 9 and in verse 10 as rulling the earth.

Time Gap

1260 Days

7 Jewish Years = 1 Week

Mid-point

1260 Days⁶

5. Roman Leader breaks agreement with Israel and stops Temple sacrifices at mid-point of the 7 year agreement. He enters the Jewish Temple and proclaims himself God and demands world-wide worship. Image, Abomination of Desolation, is set up in Temple for worship. **Daniel 12:11, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, Daniel 7:25, 2 Thess 2:4**
3.5 years of great tribulation begins 1260 day period of unparalleled terror on earth. **Mat 24:16-22, Zech 14:2, Revelation 11:2-3, Revelation 12:6,14**
Great tribulation period end with return of "One pierced".

1. Hebrew word (שָׁבִיעָה), *shebza*, 7 is translated week in King James Bible.
2. Jewish Biblical year is Lunar calendar based, with 360 days/year. Our Calendar is Solar based with 365,242 days per year.
3. 69 x 7 = 483 x 360 days per year = 173,960 days. March 444 BC to March 28th 33 AD is 173,960 days.
4. Nissan is the first month of Jewish calendar and falls on March/April of our calendar.
5. .06792 = 24 days placing the cutting off of Messiah at the beginning of Passover week 33 AD.
6. 7 year period is broken into two 3 1/2 year periods. 3 1/2 x 360 = 1260 days.