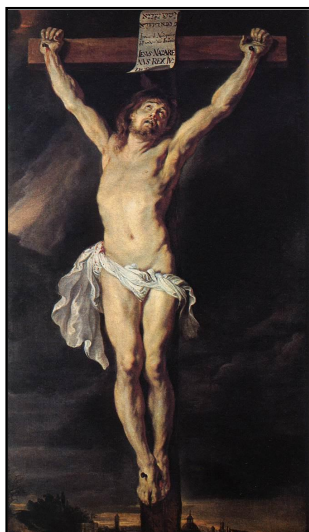


# Apologetics 101 Defending your faith



Can anybody possibly have the truth? Can't all religions be right? Aren't there are many ways to heaven, Isn't Christianity just one of them? Like most people, you have probably confronted these questions. Either by asking them yourself, or having others ask you. If you take a moment, how would you answer these questions today?

Jesus Christ made some very serious claims two thousand years ago about Himself;

➤ He claimed to be the Son of God

16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**John 3:16-18**

➤ He claimed faith in Him is exclusive

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**John 14:6**

➤ He claimed without Him, you cannot inherit eternal life.

39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

**John 5:39-40**

If Jesus is who He claims to be, then knowing Jesus is the most important thing anybody could ever do. We have three options when we consider the person of Jesus Christ.

- He is Lord
- He is a Liar (Someone who intentionally knows they are lying)
- He is a Lunatic (Someone who believes what they say, because they are deluded)

## What is Apologetics?

Apologetics is making a defense for what you believe. The assembling logical argument to defend the belief that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, dates back to the early church. Matthew is an apologetic gospel; writing to a Jewish audience, proving from the Old Testament Jesus is Messiah. In the second and third centuries, writers such as Justin Martyr (110-165 A.D.) and Irenaeus (120-202 A.D.) defended the faith from the attacks of pagans and Gnostic cults.

The skeptical world of today is not much different then skeptics

### A. Is God logical?

One of areas skeptics turn to in their attack on faith, Christianity in particular is the existence of God. If the skeptic can prove to their own satisfaction God does not exist, then by default Christianity is false. Jesus, who claims to be the Son of God, God Himself who came to the earth clothed in flesh would be either a liar or lunatic.

There are four major arguments for the existence of God:

#### 1. Moral Argument:

What makes a belief right or wrong? What makes gay marriage, abortion, murder and robbery wrong? If society determines morality, then when society changes does morality change? If Nazi Germany would have won WWII then would the Holocaust been good?

Without the existence of objective good, right and wrong would be meaningless. If there is no God (the source of objective good), who or what would determine the standard for morality? If the earth and all creation is just the result of a series of accidents then why is murder wrong? Is a lion wrong for killing a lamb? Is a hawk wrong for killing a squirrel? Would a strong people be wrong for killing a

weaker people? Without God, we would have no objective moral norm to base what is right and wrong. Those who are in control would establish right and wrong. Therefore, without God there is no right and no wrong.

## 2. Truth Argument



Truth corresponds to reality. A common phrase heard today is; "Truth is relative". Truth cannot be relative, relative truth would mean reality is subject to what we believe. If this were the case, someone who believed they could fly would fly. A simple test of this relative reality would be a leap from the Eiffel Tower, even if you believed you could fly, the reality of gravity would demonstrate truth is not subject to belief. Reality is what is actual.

Reality is not subject to our beliefs, but our beliefs are subject to reality. How did the universe come into existence? Where did life come from? The reality is the universe is here and we exist. The universe as we know it, the sun, stars and galaxies had a point of origin. The origin whether or not we know it, is singular and exclusive. Though there are many explanations for the cause of the universe, they cannot all be true. All of the known theories may be wrong, but they cannot all be right, since they contradict each other. There is an actual cause for life, whether that cause is evolution or creation, there is only one truth. Truth is objective, not subjective.

God either exists or does not exist. God created the universe or did not create the universe. God created life or did not create life. The nature of truth, (What is real) does not permit a plurality of realities. There is only one truth, regardless of the number of theories.

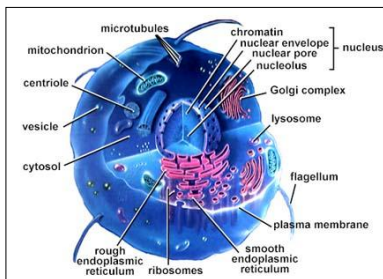
Therefore either God exist or does not exist.

## 3. Teleological Argument

This is known as the argument from design. William Paley (1743-1805) archdeacon of Carlisle

argued the existence of God using the watchmaker as an example (*Paley's Watchmaker*). Paley argued the complexity of a watch required an external designer. The world is much more complex than a watch, therefore it is logical to conclude the existence an intelligent designer.

Expanding on the complexity of creation, and the probability of life emerging from non-life David Foster illustrates the problem from a deck of 52 playing cards.



Specificity is the measure of the improbability of a pattern which actually occurs against a background of alternatives... Let us imagine that there is a pack of 52 cards well shuffled

and lying face-downwards on a table. What are the chances of picking all the cards up in a correct suit, sequence starting with the Ace of Spades and working downwards and then through the other suits and finishing with the Two of Clubs?

Well, the chance of picking up the first card correctly is 1 in 52, the second 1 in 51, the third card 1 in 50, the fourth card 1 in 49 and so forth. So the chance of picking up the whole pack correctly is Factorial 52.

As one chance in... (About)  $10^{68}$  this number is approaching that of all the atoms in the universe.

- Number of seconds back from now to the estimated date of the Big Bang is  $4 \times 10^{17}$  ( $10^{18}$ )
- Number of atoms in the universe:  $10^{80}$
- Number of photons in the universe:  $10^{88}$
- Number of stars in the universe:  $10^{22}$
- Number of wavelengths of light to traverse the universe  $2 \times 10^{33.161}$

The astronomers Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe placed the probability that life would originate from non-life

As one  $10^{-40,000}$  and the probability of added complexity arising by mutations and natural selection very near this figure.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, based on the complexity of life, and the logical need for a first cause, the existence of God, the intelligent designer is logical option.

<sup>1</sup> David Foster, *The Philosophical Scientists* (New York: Dorset, 1985)

<sup>2</sup> Lane P. Lester and Raymond G. Bohlin, *The Natural Limits of Biological Change* (Grand Rapids, Mich, Zondervan, 1984) 86

#### 4. Cosmological Argument

The universe's existence is an undeniable reality. The question that follows is where did the universe come from? Did it always exist? Was there a *First Cause* (God) for the universe? The argument for God's existence based on the cosmos is the *Cosmological argument*.



The nature of the universe demonstrates it is finite. The burning Sun dissipates energy, its energy is finite, and meaning there was a point in time when the Sun was lit and point when it will burn out. Since the Sun is merely one star in the universe, and the universe has many burning stars, their energy is also being dissipated, demonstrating there was a point in time when they came into existence. Since the universe is finite, there is the necessity for a cause, a *First Cause*.

The question, who or what is the First Cause? Those who argue against the existence of God must conclude, all matter came out of nothing and exploded into existence, via the *Big Bang*, which requires faith in the impossible, everything coming out of nothing.

In opposition to believing everything came from nothing, is the logical conclusion, *cause* is greater than the effect. God is the *First Cause*, who brought the finite universe into being.

	God (First Cause)	Without God
<b>Morality</b>	Objective Moral Norms	No Moral Norms
<b>Objective truth</b>	There is only one truth	There is only one truth.
<b>Subjective truth</b>	Illogical	Illogical
<b>Reason for the finite universe</b>	God was the First-Cause	Everything from nothing or An eternal universe
<b>Life</b>	God was the intelligent designer	Accidents and random mutation of genes account for life's complexity and diversity

#### B. Who is God?

Since its logical to understand the existence of God from logical necessity, the next question is; *who is God?* From a logical perspective, we can conclude there is God. Without God, we are required to believe in the mathematically impossible.



Therefore, either God is knowable and wants to be known or is not knowable. If God is not knowable and does not want to be known then we could not know God. However, using logic we are able to know some aspects of God from the universe and creation of life.

- God is greater than the universe (Cause greater than effect)
- God is super-intelligent (Intelligent designer)

Apart from what is logically observable, to know God's identity would require God's revelation of his existence. Has God revealed His existence? Religion is man's attempt to know God. Since all religions cannot be true, (Objective Truth) what evidence could be used to determine if God has revealed Himself?

Since God is outside of nature (Since God created nature) and greater than the universe (Since the cause is greater than the effect). Evidence of God's identity would be in keeping with God's character, his super-natural nature. The evidence should be super-natural, since natural evidence is not unique and in keeping with the natural order.



#### *Super-natural evidence*

Super-natural evidence is outside of nature. If person foretold the lottery number a week before the drawing we have three possible options.

1. The person was lucky
2. The person conspired with someone

3. The person had super-natural knowledge  
 If the person proclaims the number a second, third and fourth time their super-natural credibility increases, since the ability to tell the future is outside of the natural order.

*C. Why the Bible?*

The Bible is a book that claims to have super-natural origins, words revealed by God to His creation. The Bible is written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek and translated into vernacular (English, French, German etc.,) languages. Actually, the Bible is a library of books revealed over a 1500-year period. From the time of Moses 1450 B.C. to 90 A.D. over 40 different authors penned the words of the Bible.

The Bible demonstrates its truth in several ways;

- Historical evidence
- Documentary evidence
- Archeological evidence
- Prophetic evidence

The evidence for prophetic accuracy in the Bible is super-natural in nature.


9Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,  
 10Declaring the end from the beginning, 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**

The Bible demonstrates the inspiration of God by having the character of supernatural objective evidence, proclaiming events before they occur. These events include very specific information about the Jewish people, cities and events thousands of years before their occurrence. The Old Testaments also saw the rejection and killing of Israel's Messiah. The *Seventy weeks of Daniel* reveal the exact month and year the Messiah would be killed 539 years before He would be born (Daniel 9:24-27).







*Super-natural Evidence*



By proclaiming events before they occur, God demonstrates his authorship (inspiration) of his word through prophets who are pens in God's hand. Much in the same way an individual will use a pen to write his name God uses individuals, inspired with His word to proclaim his message to the reader.



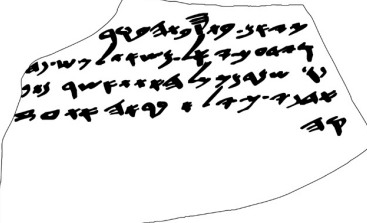

Description of Evidence	Significance	Super-natural nature
 <p><b>Greatness of Abraham</b>  <b>Genesis 12:2-3</b> Abraham Was promised to:            * Be source for a great nation            * Have a great name            * All peoples on the earth to Be blessed through Him.</p>	<p>Genesis was written 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><b>Israel Scattered</b> <b>Deuteronomy 28:64</b> 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><b>Israel Gathered</b> <b>Deuteronomy 30:3</b> 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 ½ 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><b>Jerusalem Focus Of World attention</b> Zechariah 12:3 foretells Jerusalem as the Center of worldwide Attention</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 Descendents of Israel.</p>	<p>Over ½ the Earth population view Jerusalem as spiritually significant. 2500 years ago when Jerusalem was just a small regional city Zechariah told about the coming day when all then nations will burden themselves with the possession of the city.</p>
 <p><b>Temple destroyed</b> 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><b>Jews from Ethiopia Gathered.</b> 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><b>Exact month &amp; year Messiah is killed.</b> <b>70 Weeks of Daniel</b> 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>

### *Archeological Evidence*

Along with the super-natural evidence of prophecy, the truth of the Bible is demonstrated through archeological evidence confirming events recorded in the Bible. Archeology serves as an external witness, to the biblical records.



Graphic	Description	Importance
	<p><b>The Lachish Reliefs</b> Among the ruins of the Nineveh palace of Assyrian King Sennacherib were found 62 foot long reliefs that picture the fall of the Judean fortress of Lachish in 701 BC, over 100 years before the attack on and fall of Judah.</p>	<p>These Nineveh palace carvings of the Lachish defeat amplify the biblical record concerning the siege of the kingdom of Judah in the days of King Hezekiah. In 2 Kings 18:13 it says "Now in the 14th year of King Hezekiah did Sennacherib, king of Assyria, come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them." However, before the Assyrians could capture Jerusalem they were destroyed by "God's angel" and Sennacherib withdrew (2 Kings 20:35, 2 Chronicles 32)</p>
	<p><b>Sennacherib Prism</b> A 15-inch tall, six-sided baked clay prism from ancient Assyria contains the story of the invasion of the kingdom of Judah by Sennacherib in 701 BC. The prism was found at Nineveh. King Sennacherib of Assyria is mentioned in 2 Kings 18-19. Isaiah prophesied that God would protect Jerusalem against attack by Sennacherib (Is 36-37, 2 Chron. 32). While the prism does say the Assyrians trapped Hezekiah in Jerusalem "like a bird in a cage", like the biblical record, it says nothing of them conquering the city.</p>	<p>The Bible says that God spared Jerusalem. The prism, together with the Lachish reliefs and excavations, adds detail to the biblical account. King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord. Isaiah brought him God's message. That night the LORD smote 185,000 Assyrians, and Sennacherib went back to Nineveh and later was killed by his sons (Isaiah 37:35-38)</p>
	<p><b>Lachish Letters</b> In 1935 an archaeologist unearthed several letters, written about 588 BC, on 21 pottery pieces (ostraca) from among the burned ruins of the ancient city Lachish of Judah. The Lachish messages were desperate pleas by the Judean defenders of the city for military assistance. Apparently the city was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar before the letters could be sent.</p>	<p>The letters show Judah was trying to obtain help from Egypt, relying on man rather than God. One Ostrakon mentions that no fire signals from another defense city, Azekah could be seen. Jeremiah 34:2-7, prophesied the conquest of Judah, destruction of Jerusalem, and exile to Babylon. 2 Kings 24-25</p>
	<p><b>City of Babylon</b> The Ruins of ancient Babylon, capital of Babylonian Kingdom, cover 2000-3000 acres in Iraq, 56 miles south of Baghdad.</p>	<p>Babylon's ruins include one of many ziggurats (Stepped towers) from the area. Later finds include ruins of the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:29) The palace of Nebuchadnezzar, who destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC and sent the Jews into exile, was the site of Belshazzar's feast in Daniel 5. Jeremiah wrote that the Lord would make Babylon desolate forever (Jer 25:12, 51)</p>

*Non-Christian Witnesses*

The New Testament documents are the recorded history of the early church along with the writings of apostles. The documentary evidence of the early church is not limited to the New Testament, there is also a body of ancient writings from Jewish and Roman historians who confirm early Christian beliefs and practises.

Their writing confirm the early beliefs of the Church from a critical non-christian view. They show Christianity did not develop from late period manuscript editing and church manipulations claimed by cults today.

	<p><b>Thallus</b> Wrote about 52 AD. None of his writings exist but fragmented</p>	<p>"On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness, and the places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness This</p>
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	<p>citations are preserved. Julius Africanus, who wrote in AD 221 quotes Thallus in a discussion about the darkness that followed the crucifixion of Christ:</p>	<p>darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse fo the sun."</p>
	<p><b>Suetonius 117-138 AD</b> Was chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD) He confirms the report in Acts 18:2 that Claudius commanded all Jews (among them Priscilla and Aquila) to leave Rome in 49 AD.</p>	<p>He writes, "As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome." (Suetonius, Life of Claudius, 25.4) On the great fire of Rome he writes, "Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a body of people addicted to a novel and mischievous superstition." (Suetonius, Life of Nero, 16)</p>
	<p><b>Tacitus 109 AD</b> The 1st century Roman historian is considered one of the most accurate of the ancient world. He give an account of the great fire of Rome for which some blamed the Emperor Nero:</p>	<p>He writes 'To dispel the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits, and treated with the most extreme punishments, some people, popularly known as Christians, whose disgraceful activities were notorious. The originator of that name, Christus, had been executed when Tiberius was emperor, by order of the procurator Pontius Pilatus. But the deadly cult, though checked for a time, was now breaking out again not only in Judea, the birthplace of this evil, but even throughout Rome, where all the nasty and disgusting ideas from all over the world pour in and find a ready following.' (Tacitus, A, 15.44)</p>

### Has the Bible been changed?

One of the many charges against the Bible is lack of the *autographs* (Original manuscripts). Prior to the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls many critics had assumed the Bible had lost much of its original content due to manuscript transmission and creative editing.

The discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls demonstrated the integrity Old Testament manuscripts transmission. Prior to the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls, the oldest existing copy of an Old Testament Hebrew manuscript was dated to the year 1000 A.D. The Dead Sea scrolls contained manuscripts dated from before Christ. (From 168 B.C.)

The evidence of Old Testament manuscript integrity can be demonstrated not only by the *Dead Sea manuscripts* but by the witnesses of Greek translation of the Old Testament, the *Septuagint* (250 B.C.) and the *Samaritan Pentateuch* dated as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.

New Testament manuscripts are available from within 50-years of their autograph date and are available in much greater quantity than Old Testament manuscripts. The number of New Testament manuscripts are over five thousand. By comparing the various manuscripts and quotations of early church fathers, we can assemble very accurate Greek texts as a basis for the translation into the languages of various translations.

Comparison of Ancient Manuscripts

Author	Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	No. of Copies
Homer	Iliad	800 BC	C. 400 BC	400 years	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 BC	C. 900 AD	1350 years	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300 years	8
Plato		400 BC	900 AD	1300 years	8
Demosthenes		300 BC	900 AD	1300 years	7
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000 years	10
Livy	History of Rome	59-17 AD	4 <sup>th</sup> Century (Partial), Mostly 10 <sup>th</sup> Century	400 years	1 partial
				1000 years	19 copies
Tacitus	Annals	100 AD	1100 AD	1000 years	20
Pliny Secundus	Natural History	61-113 AD	850 AD	750 years	7
New Testament		50-100 AD	114 Fragments 200 (Books) 250 (Most NT) 325 (Complete NT)	50 years 100 years 150 years 225 years	5366

Old Testament Manuscripts	
	<p><b>Dead Sea Scrolls</b></p> <p>In March 1947 a young Arab boy discovered in the caves of Qumran near the Dead Sea jars containing several leather manuscripts dating to the time of Christ. The belonged to the Essenes. The Essenes were a Jewish sect that settled in the Judean desert near Qumran. Other manuscripts were found over the next 10 years. 2 copies of the book of Isaiah were found along with books and fragments from the whole Old Testament except for the book of Ester.</p> <p>Prior to the discovery the oldest existing book of the Hebrew Old Testament dated to about 1000 AD. Carbon dating has placed them between 168 BC and 233 AD. Archaeology puts the dates at between 150 BC to 100 AD.</p> <p>Geason Archer observed that the two copies of Isaiah proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95% of the text. The 5% of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling. The scrolls gave an overwhelming confirmation of the Masoretic text. Some of the variants show parallels to the Greek text of the Septuagint (LXX).</p> <p>The Dead Sea Scrolls are owned by the Nation of Israel</p>
	<p><b>The Septuagint or the LXX</b></p> <p>The LXX version is the first translation of the OT ever made. The translation was inaugurated by Ptolemy of Philadelphus (285-247 BC) Ptolemy was fond of books and wanted to add the Hebrew Pentateuch to his collection in Alexandria. The LXX was the bible of the early church. The order of OT books is derived from the LXX through the Vulgate by St. Jerome.</p> <p>On the basis of the LXX Catholics advocate the "Larger" canon of the Jews in Alexandria. Protestants deny the existence of an independent canon in Alexandria in view of the "smaller" canon of the Jews in Palestine. The difference is 7 complete books and portions of 2 others. The books are Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, 1 &amp; 2 Macabees and additions to Daniel and Esther.</p> <p>These portions are rejected by protestants.</p> <p>The oldest existing LXX manuscript is dated 350 A.D which is.</p>





### Samaritan Pentateuch

With the split of the Samaritans from the Jews from the 8th century BC there arose a second Hebrew revision of the Pentateuch known as the Samaritan Pentateuch. It contains the five books of Moses and is written in Paleo-Hebrew script similar to the that found on the Moabite Stone, Siloam inscription.

Author Frank Cross believes the Samaritan Pentateuch branched off in the Pre-Masoretic text in the the 2nd century BC.

There are differences from the Masoretic text are trivial and orthographic. Some of the differences were introduced by Samaritans with the interest in preserving their status. Such as the location of the Arc. The oldest existing manuscript is dated to the 11th century AD.

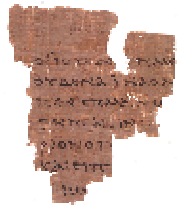


### Aleppo Codex

The Aleppo Codex dates from the Masoretic period (500-1000 AD) of Old Testament copying. During this period there was a deep reverence of the Scriptures, complete review of established rules and a systematic renovation of transmission techniques

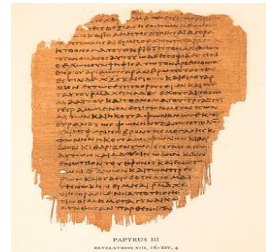
Aleppo was written by Shelomo ben Baya'a but according to a colophon it was pointed (vowel marks were added) by Moses ben Asher (930 A.D.) It is a model codex based on the Masoretic text. It was not permitted to be copied for a long time and was reported to be destroyed. Aleppo Codex was smuggled from Syria to Israel. It has now been photographed and will be the basis of the New Hebrew Bible to be published by Hebrew University. It is a sound authority for the Ben Asher text.

## New Testament Manuscripts



### The John Rylands Fragment John 18:31-33 (117-138 AD)

The earliest known copy of any portion of the New Testament is from a papyrus codex (2.5 by 3.5 inches). It dates from the first half of the second century A.D. 117-138. (P.52)The papyrus is written on both sides and contains portions of five verses from the gospel of John (18:31-33,37-38). Because this fragment was found in Egypt a distance from the place of composition (Asia Minor) it demonstrates the chain of transmission. The fragment belongs to the John Rylands Library at Manchester, England



### Chester Beatty Papyri (250 AD)

This important papyri consists of three codices and contains most of the New Testament. (P.45, P.46, P.47). The first codex(P.45) has 30 leaves (pages) of papyrus codex. 2 from Matthew, 2 from John, 6 from Mark, 7 from Luke and 13 from Acts. Originally there were 220 pages measuring 8x10 inches each. (P.46)The second codex has 86 leaves 11x6.5 inches. 104 pages of Paul's epistles. P.47 is made of 10 leaves from Revelation measuring 9.5 by 5.5 inches.



### Bodmer Papyri (200 AD)

Dating from 200 A.D. or earlier the Bodmer collection of Papyri (P.66,P.72,P.75) contains 104 leaves. P.66 Contains the Gospel of John 1:1-6:11, 6:35-14:26, 14-21. P.72 has the earliest know copy of Jude, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter also contains other Canonical and apocryphal books. P.72 measures 6 x 5.75 inches. P.75 is 102 pages measuring 10.25 by 5.33 inches. Contains most of Luke and John dated between 175 and 225 AD. Earliest know copy of Luke. Very similar to the Codex Vaticanus.



#### CODEX SINAITICUS (340 AD)

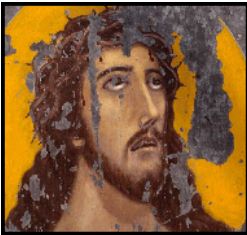
Considered to be the most important witness to the Greek text of the New Testament dated in the 4th century. Sinaiticus was found at St. Catherine's monastery at Mt. Sinai by Von Tischendorf (1815-1874). It was acquired for the Czar of Russia. Sinaiticus contains over 1/2 of the Old Testament (LXX) and all of the new except for Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11.. Also contains the Old Testament Apocrypha. Sinaiticus is written on 364.5 pages measuring 13.5 by 14 inches. The material is good vellum made from antelope skins. Purchased by the British government for \$500,000 in 1933.



#### Codex Vaticanus (325-350 AD)

Vaticanus was written in the middle of the 4th century and was not known to textual scholars till 1475 when it was catalogued in the Vatican Library. For the next 400 years scholars were prohibited from studying it. It includes most of the LXX version of the Old Testament and most of the New. It contains 759 leaves measuring 10 by 10.5 inches. Codex Vaticanus is owned by the Roman Catholic Church and is housed in the Vatican Library, Vatican City.

### C. Who Is Jesus?



The Bible demonstrates its veracity through its prophetic witnesses. The super-natural evidence gives credible evidence to the First Cause, God being the inspiration of its words. If the Bible is accurate about the intricate details of events taking place thousands of years in the future, then it would be logical to trust the book for events deciding eternity. Is there a heaven? Is there a hell? Is there a way of salvation?

The essential message of the Bible is the fallen nature of humanity and the need for redemption. The Old Testament prophets looked forward to the day of a Messiah (Christ in Greek). The Messiah would redeem humanity and restore righteousness to the earth.

In the first century the Jewish nation looked for Messiah, they did not see Jesus as the Messiah. Why did Israel reject Jesus if he was Messiah?

#### *The two pictures of Messiah*

The prophets of the Old Testament actually presented two pictures of Messiah. One picture was the *conquering King* who would rule over the earth, the *son of God*. The other picture was a *suffering servant* who would die for the sins of the world as the *son of man*, rejected by the nation of Israel.

When Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem and was proclaimed Messiah, the nation looked for the *conquering King* to subdue Rome and raise Israel to permanence in the Earth. The nation did not see a dual role for Messiah, who would come to die for their sins, and reign over the earth for all eternity.

The pictures in Isaiah 53 and Psalm 2 seem to be in sharp contrast to each other. Isaiah 53 portrays an individual who dies for the sins of his people. Rejected and despised for the sins of His people, He is buried with the wicked. While Psalm 2, presents the picture of King Messiah, the Son of God, who rules over the nations from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, with a rod of Iron.

Israel looked for the Messiah of Psalm 2, *Messiah the King* not the *servant Messiah* of Isaiah 53. Israel's rejection of the Messiah would not be forever, at the end of the age Israel

would finally understand the Suffering Messiah, Jesus Christ is both Messiah the King and Suffering servant. This is best summed up in Zechariah chapter 12, which demonstrates the dual nature of Messiah who would not only suffer for the sins of the world but conquer the nations which surround Jerusalem.

In Zechariah God speaks first person, he says, "I will make Jerusalem", "I will seek to destroy", "I will pour". Clearly God is speaking first person in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Zechariah, to Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Then in the 10<sup>th</sup> verse He identifies Himself as "Me whom they pierced". God qualifies Himself as being pierced by those looking on Him.

Zechariah was written 520 years before Jesus was even born, but it looks forward to the day when the nations of the world surround Jerusalem and the "Me whom they pierced" comes to the rescue of Jerusalem. Here the *Suffering Servant*, the one pierced (Psalm 22;16, Isaiah 53;5) comes as *Conquering King* to an Israel.

<sup>1</sup>The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: <sup>2</sup>"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>"And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. <sup>4</sup>"It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

**Zechariah 12:1-3, 9-10**

Scripture Reference	Suffering Servant	Conquering King
<sup>13</sup> Behold, <u>My Servant</u> shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. <sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, So His <u>visage was marred</u> more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; <sup>15</sup> So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider. <b>Isaiah 52:13-15</b>	My Servant  His visage was marred  What had not been told them  What they had not heard	He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. So shall He sprinkle many nations.  Kings shall shut their mouths at Him.  They shall see  They shall consider
<sup>1</sup> Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, <i>There is no beauty that we should desire Him.</i> <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, <i>our</i> faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <b>Isaiah 53;1-4</b>	He has no form or comeliness  He is despised and rejected  A man of sorrows  We did not esteem Him  Smitten by God and afflicted.	
<sup>9</sup> "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, <u>Lowly and riding on a donkey</u> , A colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion <i>shall be</i> 'from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.' <b>Zechariah 9;9-10</b>	Lowly riding on a donkey	Your King is coming to you  His dominion shall be from sea to sea...from the River to the ends of the earth.
<sup>13</sup> "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, <i>One</i> like the <u>Son of Man</u> , Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom <i>the one</i> Which shall not be destroyed. <b>Daniel 7:13-14</b>	Son of Man	Coming with the clouds Was given dominion and glory and a kingdom. All people, nations, and languages should serve Him His kingdom...shall not be destroyed

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

PROPHECY	OT REFERENCES	NT FULFILLMENT
Seed of the woman	Gen 3:15	Gal 4:4; Heb 2:14
Through Noah's sons	Gen 9:27	Luke 6:36
Seed of Abraham	Gen 12:3	Matt 1:1; Gal 3:8, 16
Seed of Isaac	Gen 17:19	Rom 9:7; Heb 11:18
Blessing to nations	Gen 18: 18	Gal 3:8
Seed of Isaac	Gen 21:12	Rom 9:7; Heb 11:18
Blessing to Gentiles	Gen 22:18, 26:4	Gal 3:8, 16; Heb 6:14
Blessing through Abraham	Gen 28:14	Gal 3:8, 16; Heb 6:14
Of the tribe of Judah	Gen 49:10	Rev 5:5
No bone broken	Exod 12:46, Num 9:12	John 19:36
Blessing to firstborn son	Exod 13:2	Luke 2:23
Serpent in the wilderness	Num 21:8-9	John 3:14-15
A star out of Jacob	Num 24:17-19	Matt 2:2; Luke 1:33, 78; Rev 22:16
As a prophet	Deut 18:15, 18-19	John 6:14; 7:40; Acts 3:22-23
Cursed on the tree	Deut 21:23	Gal 3:13
The throne of David established forever	2 Sam 7:12-13, 16, 25-26; 1 Chr 17:11-14, 23-27; 2 Chr 21:7	Matt 19:28; 21:4; 25:31; Mark 12:37; Luke 1:32; John 7:4; Acts 2:30; 13:23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8; Heb 1:5, 8; 8:1; 12:2; Rev 22:1
A promised Redeemer	Job 19:25-27	John 5:28-29; Gal 4:4; Eph 1:7, 11, 14
Declared to be the Son of God	Ps 2:1-12	Matt 3:17; Mark 1:11; Acts 4:25-26; 13:33; Heb 1:5; 5:5; Rev 2:26-27; 19:15-16
His resurrection	Ps 16:8-10	Acts 2:27; 13:35; 26:23
Hands and feet pierced	Ps 22:1-31	Matt 27:31, 35-36
Mocked and insulted	Ps 22:7-8	Matt 27:39-43, 45-59
Soldiers cast lots for coat	Ps 22:18	Mark 15:20, 24-25, 34; Luke 19:24; 23:35; John 19:15-18, 23-24, 34; Acts 2:23-24
Accused by false witnesses	Ps 27:12	Matt 26:60-61
He commits His spirit	Ps 31:5	Luke 23:46
No broken bone	Ps 34:20	John 19:36
Accused by false witnesses	Ps 35:11	Matt 26:59-61; Mark 14:57-58
Hated without reason	Ps 35:19	John 15:24-25
Friends stand afar off	Ps 38:11	Matt 27:55; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49
"I come to do Thy will"	Ps 40:6-8	Heb 10:5-9



Betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9	Matt 26:14-16, 47, 50; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:19-23; John 13:18-19
Known for righteousness	Ps 45:2, 6-7	Heb 1:8-9
His resurrection	Ps 49:15	Mark 16:6
Betrayed by a friend	Ps 55:12-14	John 13:18
His ascension	Ps 68:18	Eph 4:8
Hated without reason	Ps 69:4	John 15:25
Stung by reproaches	Ps 69:9	John 2:17; Rom 15:3
Given gall and vinegar	Ps 69:21	Matt 27:34, 48; Mark 15:23; Luke 23:36; John 19:29
Exalted by God	Ps 72:1-19	Matt 2:2; Phil 2:9-11; Heb 1:8
He speaks in parables	Ps 78:2	Matt 13:34-35
Seed of David exalted	Ps 89:3-4, 19, 27-29, 35-37	Luke 1:32; Acts 2:30; 13:23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8
Son of Man comes in glory	Ps 102:16	Luke 21:24,27; Rev 12:5-10
"Thou remainest!"	Ps 102:24-27	Heb 1:10-12
Prays for His enemies	Ps 109:4	Luke 23:34
Another to succeed Judas	Ps 109:7-8	Acts 1:16-20
A priest like Melchizedek	Ps 110:1-7	Matt 22:41-45; 26:64; Mark 12:35-37; 16:19; Acts 7:56; Eph 1:20; Col 1:20; Heb 1:13; 2:8; 5:6; 6:20; 7:21; 8:1; 10:11-13; 12:2
The chief cornerstone	Ps 118:22-23	Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; John 1:11; Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:4
The King comes in the name of the Lord	Ps 118:26	Matt 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13
David's seed to reign	Ps 132:11 2 Sam 7:12-13, 16, 25-26, 29	Matt 1:1
Declared to be the Son of God	Prov 30:4	Matt 3:17; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 1:35; John 3:13; 9:35-38; 11:21; Rom 1:2-4; 10:6-9; 2 Pet 1:17
Repentance for the nations	Isa 2:2-4	Luke 24:47
Hearts are hardened	Isa 6:9-10	Matt 13:14-15; John 12:39-40; Acts 28:25-27
Born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Matt 1:22-23
A rock of offense	Isa 8:14-15	Rom 9:33; 1 Pet 2:8
Light out of darkness	Isa 9:1-2	Matt 4:14-16; Luke 2:32
God with us	Isa 9:6-7	Matt 1:21,23; Luke 1:32-33; John 8:58; 10:30; 14:19; 2 Cor 5:19; Col 2:9
Full of wisdom and power	Isa 11:1-10	Matt 3:16; John 3:34; Rom 15:12; Heb 1:9
Reigning in mercy	Isa 16:4-5	Luke 1:31-33
Peg in a sure place	Isa 22:21-25	Rev 3:7

Death swallowed up in victory	Isa 25:6-12	1 Cor 15:54
A stone in Zion	Isa 28:16	Rom 9:33; 1 Pet 2:6
The deaf hear, the blind see	Isa 29:18-19	Matt 5:3; 11:5; John 9:39
King of Kings, Lord of Lords	Isa 32:1-4	Rev 19:16; 20:6
Son of the Highest	Isa 33:22	Luke 1:32; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15
Healing for the needy	Isa 35:4-10	Matt 9:30; 11:5; 12:22; 20:34; 21:14; Mark 7:30; John 5:9
Make ready the way of the Lord	Isa 40:3-5	Matt 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4-5; John 1:23
The Shepherd dies for His sheep	Isa 40:10-11	John 10:11; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 2:24-25
The meek servant	Isa 42:1-16	Matt 12:17-21; Luke 2:32
A light to the Gentiles	Isa 49:6-12	Acts 13:47; 2 Cor 6:2
Scourged and spat upon	Isa 50:6	Matt 26:67; 27:26, 30; Mark 14:65; 15:15, 19; Luke 22:63-65; John 19:1
Rejected by His people	Isa 52:13-53:12	Matt 8:7; 27:1-2, 12-14, 38
Suffered vicariously	Isa 53:4-5	Mark 15:3-4, 27-28; Luke 23:1-25, 32-34
Silent when accused	Isa 53:7	John 1:29; 11:49-52
Crucified with transgressors	Isa 53:12	John 12:37-38; Acts 8:28-35
Buried with the rich	Isa 53:9	Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; 1 Cor 15:3; Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 2:21-25; 1 John 1:7, 9
Calling of those not a people	Isa 55:4-5	John 18:37; Rom 9:25-26; Rev 1:5
Deliver out of Zion	Isa 59:16-20	Rom 11:26-27
Nations walk in the light	Isa 60:1-3	Luke 2:32
Anointed to preach liberty	Isa 61:1-3	Luke 4:17-19; Acts 10:38
Called by a new name	Isa 62:1-2	Luke 2:32; Rev 3:12
The King cometh	Isa 62:11	Matt 21:5
A vesture dipped in blood	Isa 63:1-3	Rev 19:13
Afflicted with the afflicted	Isa 63:8-9	Matt 25:34-40
The elect shall inherit	Isa 65:9	Rom 11:5, 7; Heb 7:14; Rev 5:5
New heavens and a new earth	Isa 65:17-25	2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1
The Lord our righteousness	Jer 23:5-6	John 2:19-21; Rom 1:3-4; Eph 2:20-21; 1 Pet 2:5
Born a King	Jer 30:9	John 18:37; Rev 1:5
Massacre of infants	Jer 31:15	Matt 2:17-18
Conceived by the Holy Spirit	Jer 31:22	Matt 1:20; Luke 1:35
A New Covenant	Jer 31:31-34	Matt 26:27-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 8:8-12; 10:15-17; 12:24; 13:20
A spiritual house	Jer 33:15-17	John 2:19-21; Eph 2:20-21; 1 Pet 2:5
A tree planted by God	Ezek 17:22-24	Matt 13:31-32

The humble exalted	Ezek 21:26-27	Luke 1:52
The good Shepherd	Ezek 34:23-24	John 10:11
Stone cut without hands	Dan 2:34-35	Acts 4:10-12
His kingdom triumphant	Dan 2:44-45	Luke 1:33; 1 Cor 15:24; Rev 11:15
An everlasting dominion	Dan 7:13-14	Matt 24:30; 25:31; 26:64; Mark 14:61-62; Acts 1:9-11; Rev 1:7
Kingdom for the saints	Dan 7:27	Luke 1:33; 1 Cor 15:24; Rev 11:15
Time of His birth	Dan 9:24-27	Matt 24:15-21; Luke 3:1
Israel restored	Hos 3:5	John 18:37; Rom 11:25-27
Flight into Egypt	Hos 11:1	Matt 2:15
Promise of the Spirit	Joel 2:28-32	Acts 2:17-21; Rom 10:13
The sun darkened	Amos 8:9	Matt 24:29; Acts 2:20; Rev 6:12
Restoration of tabernacle	Amos 9:11-12	Acts 15:16-18
Israel regathered	Mic 2:12-13	John 10:14, 26
The kingdom established	Mic 4:1-8	Luke 1:33
Born in Bethlehem	Mic 5:1-5	Matt 2:1; Luke 2:4, 10-11
Earth filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord	Hab 2:14	Rom 11:26; Rev 21:23-26
The Lamb on the throne	Zech 2:10-13	Rev 5:13; 6:9; 21:24; 22:1-5
A holy priesthood	Zech 3:8	John 2:19-21; Eph 2:20-21; 1 Pet 2:5
A heavenly High Priest	Zech 6:12-13	Heb 4:4; 8:1-2
Triumphal entry	Zech 9:9-10	Matt 21:4-5; Mark 11:9-10; Luke 20:38; John 12:13-15
Sold for thirty pieces of silver	Zech 11:12-13	Matt 26:14-15
Money buys potter's field	Zech 11:12-13	Matt 27:9
Piercing of His body	Zech 12:10	John 19:34, 37
Shepherd smitten—sheep scattered	Zech 13:1, 6-7	Matt 26:31; John 16:32
Preceded by Forerunner	Mal 3:1	Matt 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27
Our sins purged	Mal 3:3	Heb 1:3
The light of the world	Mal 4:2-3	Luke 1:78; John 1:9; 12:46; 2 Pet 1:19; Rev 2:28; 19:11-16; 22:16
The coming of Elijah	Mal 4:5-6	Matt 11:14; 17:10-12