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*Pouring out what God pours in*

**What Christians Believe About...**

# **The Bible - part 1**

**By Catherine Slight and Lin Pearson  
(Presentation Notes)**

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#### LEADERS' NOTES

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## Introduction:

There is a physical world which we see and there is also a spiritual world which we cannot see with our physical eyes.

The only way we can understand anything about the spiritual world is for God to explain it to us. Christians believe that he does this in the Bible. Different people have different opinions about the Bible.

- ▶ Some say: "The Bible is not relevant today" .
- ▶ But we believe—"It's up to date and relating to our culture today"
- ▶ Some say: "It's full of myths and legends"
- ▶ But we believe— "the Bible is true, accurate and reliable"
- ▶ Some say: "It is beautiful literature—but so is Shakespeare. What's the difference?"
- ▶ But we believe— "It is far more than wonderful literature, it contains life-changing principles"
- ▶ Some say: "The Bible contains philosophy worth considering—among others"
- ▶ But we believe — "It is not the thoughts of men, but a message from God inspired by him."

▶ **[Open Bible]** The Bible tells us that God created the human race and he intended that we have a loving, close relationship with him. It tells us about why that relationship broke down in the first place, and about how that problem can be solved.

But, if we are to know and understand about spiritual things, we need to be sure that the Bible really is true, and that it is the Word of God and not just the ponderings of human beings. That is why we begin with what Christians believe about the Bible. It is not merely a book of philosophy, history and beautiful literature. It is God's personal message to us.

## ABOUT THE BIBLE

### ▶ **[Writer and scroll : The Bible is inspired by God]**

The Bible is God's thoughts, written down by men who lived close to God. This is Divine INSPIRATION. "Inspiration" means "Breathing in". The words of the Bible were "breathed in" to the spirits and minds of the writers. Why are Christians sure of this?

### **Divine Inspiration - Reason 1: UNITY OF AUTHORS**

#### ▶ **[Unity of authors heading flies in]**

#### ▶ **[Unity of authors new slide]**

- ▶ There were **40 writers** involved,
- ▶ It was written over **1600 years**.
- ▶ They had different **educational backgrounds**.
- ▶ Their **careers** were different. Some were farmers or fishermen. Some were soldiers, others were court officials. They didn't come from the same country, either.
- ▶ And each one had his own way of expressing himself, **his own personality**.

Because of all these differences, and especially the time difference, they couldn't possibly get together to discuss what they were writing down. Yet ...

- ▶ **THEY ALL AGREE** in everything they wrote.

#### ▶ **[Unity of authors new slide]**

The 40 different Bible writers are in complete agreement. They agree on:

- ▶ their record of history
- ▶ their idea of what God is like
- ▶ their rules for living
- ▶ their view of man's sinfulness
- ▶ their prophecies of the future.
- ▶ **THEY ALL AGREED!**

How can so many writers from so many backgrounds agree in so many details?  
It is because there are many writers, but ONE AUTHOR - GOD HIMSELF!

▶ [Bible verse]

2 Peter 1:20-21 says: “ *no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God*” (New International Version).

As they wrote, the Holy Spirit was with them, and helped them to write exactly the words he wanted. So Christians believe that the MESSAGES, PROMISES and WARNINGS in the Bible are from God himself.

The Bible is no ordinary book. By following the instructions God gives us in it we can experience God himself, working in our lives - changing us, helping us, guiding us.

.....  
PERSONAL STORY BREAK: You may like to insert here a personal story of salvation  
.....

▶ [Writer and scroll : The Bible is inspired by God summary chart]

▶ [ Point 2. Accuracy flies in]

### Divine Inspiration - Reason 2: ACCURACY

The Bible has never yet been proved to be incorrect. It is accurate. No matter how closely the Bible is examined, there are no errors!

Sometimes, people have thought the Bible has had mistakes. But later, scientists or historians have been able to prove, through some new discovery, that what the Bible said was true. It was our knowledge or understanding that was lacking!

Some people dismiss the Bible. They say it is a collection of myths and tales, which are no different from the stories of other ancient cultures. They say that it may have a grain of truth, but that it isn’t really any different from the stories of other ancient cultures.

**SO, WHAT PROOF IS THERE THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE?**

We will look at three main areas of proof that the Bible is accurate - history, science and translation.

▶ [title , no text]

## Accurate History

▶ a) **ARCHAEOLOGY** has proven the Bible record to be true.

▪ ▶ **The Hittites**

The Bible mentions a nation called the Hittites. It suggested that they lived 4,000 years ago. (Genesis 23:10).

Archaeologists and historians, for hundreds of years said: ‘The Bible is wrong. It cannot be God’s book because there is a mistake. There is no evidence of there ever being a people called the Hittites. No buried cities, no documents mentioning them, nothing at all.’

Because there was no evidence about the Hittite people, they didn’t believe that the Bible could be right. Even the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* had nothing in about Hittites.

▶ [Picture of Hittite idol] Then, archaeologists discovered objects like idols.

They also found ancient stone slabs in Turkey with writing and carving.

▶ [drawing Hittite chariot] They mentioned a war-like nation of people called Hittites! The Bible was right!

▪ ▶ **Egyptian Bricks**

The Jewish nation were slaves in Egypt.

▶ [slavemaster] The Pharaoh forced them to make bricks with clay and straw. Then he made it

harder by letting them use only stubble, small left over pieces of straw, with the clay.  
▶ [frieze showing brick making] Finally, they were allowed only clay and nothing else.  
With less straw or no straw to hold the clay together, the bricks would of course crumble

For a long time, some people claimed that this part of the Bible never happened at all, that the slavery in Egypt and the story of Moses was just a legend. But one archaeologist proved that even tiny details, like the story of the bricks, were true.

▶ [remains of wall at Pithom] He discovered an ancient building in Egypt, in the city of Pithom. (Exodus 1:11 mentions this city.) The bottom of the walls used proper bricks, made of clay and straw. Further up the wall, middle layers were of bricks with clay and stubble. The archaeologists discovered that some of the stubble had been torn up by the roots!

That is just what might have happened if a slave was rushing to make the quota of bricks that day. The top layers of bricks had no straw at all. They were just clay - exactly as the Bible recorded it!

### ▶ [Jericho and picture of marching]

#### ▪ Jericho

The Bible tells how God, by a miracle, made the walls of Jericho fall down.

▶ [remains of the wall] Archaeologists have discovered that the ruins of Jericho prove that the walls fell down - but not inwards, as if the army had battered them in.

The bricks and rubble show that the walls fell outward! That was a miracle! No people would want to push their own city walls down from inside the city!

▶ [Archaeologist pointing to wall fallen out] The archaeologists also found, inside the ruined city, pots full of grain. That proved that the city was not besieged and the people were not starved into defeat. The only explanation is that the Bible is right! The collapse of the walls and the defeat of Jericho were sudden and miraculous.

### ▶ [Accurate history - title, no text]

#### ▶ b) SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY has proven the Bible record to be true.

There are many details in the Book of Acts about places, famous people of the time, journeys, and so on. For a long time, some believed that the book of Acts was full of mistakes; that is was historically inaccurate. One of these people was Sir William Ramsay. He was a very well respected archaeologist and Bible scholar. He had been taught by men who doubted the accuracy of the Bible, but he wanted to find the truth for himself.

▶ [Roman soldier] In New Testament times, the Bible lands were occupied by Roman forces. Sir William Ramsay researched three areas where people criticised the Book of Acts, saying it was inaccurate.

▶ The structure of Roman government during the Bible years

▶ The Titles and names of individual Roman officials

▶ Location of certain cities

He travelled in the lands mentioned in the Bible, visiting cities. He studied other old books and documents. He looked for the truth.

At the end of all his study and travels Dr. Ramsay saw that all the evidence proved the Book of Acts to be an absolutely correct record. There were no mistakes. Extra notes on page 12 will give you fuller details.

Sir William Ramsay said that he had found the Book of Acts to be true, and that Luke was a fine historian, whose work would stand up to the keenest scrutiny.

### ▶ [Accurate history - Eye witnesses]

#### c) EYE-WITNESSES

Much of the Bible was written by people who were **actually there at the events** they described. They were eye witnesses.

▶ Peter mentioned this in his second letter:

*'We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our*

Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty' (2 Peter 1:16)

If the writers were not themselves witnesses of the events, they did **fully check out the facts** before recording them.

▶ This is what **Luke** tells us: *'Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eye-witnesses . . . Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you. . . so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught'* (Luke 1:1-3).

▶ **[Bible Absolute truth]** We can be sure the Bible is 100% truth

We have seen how accurate the Bible is in its record of history. Now we'll see how the science in the Bible is also accurate.

▶ **[Accurate science - no text]**

## Accurate Science

Because the Bible was written so long ago, it may be imagined that modern science would be far ahead of any concepts in the Bible. After all, nowadays we know so much more than the people who lived in Bible days.

The next section will show that to be far from the truth! There are many examples of Bible writers receiving from God scientific information— long before people of other eras. We are going to look at just two aspects of science - **astronomy and medicine**.

### ▶ a) ASTRONOMY

#### • ▶ The Earth

Job, the Bible writer, didn't have telescopes, computers, or any scientific education. Yet he accurately commented on several scientific facts.

*"He suspends the earth over nothing"* (Job 26:7).

The Greeks thought that a giant held the earth on its shoulders.

The Hindu religion taught that an elephant carried the earth on its back.

But Job got it right! He could have known only because God told him what to write.

#### • ▶ The stars

Job wrote in Job 38:7, 'the morning stars sang together'!

For many years this was thought to be poetic and nothing else. Then, in the 20th Century, scientists and astronomers studied the stars and discovered that they actually gave out radio signals. They were the sort that could not be heard by the human ear, but when they adapted their instruments, they were able to hear the sound the stars made. It was like singing!

Job also wrote in 38:31, "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion?"

This refers to a star constellation which has stayed in formation for millennia (Pleiades) and another in which the stars are moving apart in different directions (Orion's belt).

How did Job know about that without instruments, or the benefit of centuries of observation? It was because God had told him. This is Divine Inspiration.

▶ **[Accurate Science - no text]**

### ▶ b) MEDICINE

At the beginning of the Bible are the Books of the Law that God gave Moses. In these laws were many rules which the people of Israel were to follow if they were to stay healthy. Here are some examples.

#### • ▶ Quarantine

God spoke to Moses about separating sick people from others, to prevent the disease from spreading (eg. Numbers 5:4)

The discovery of the contagious nature of infectious diseases and the use of quarantine to limit the spread was not introduced until over 2 and a half thousand years later by a Persian scholar.

[David W. Tschanz, MSPH, PhD (August 2003). "Arab Roots of European Medicine", Heart Views '4 (2).]

- ► **Washing**

In the book of Numbers, chapter 19, there is a list of occasions when people must wash themselves and clothes. This is usually when they had touched dead animals or people. Today, doctors know how important it is to wash their hands and wear clean gowns when they operate on people.

We take that for granted, because we understand that washing will remove harmful germs. But, when Moses wrote these rules, it was not understood by the people. They just obeyed it! And stayed healthy.

But for thousands of years after Moses wrote this, in other nations and even in Europe and Britain, Doctors didn't bother to wash or change their clothes after dealing with someone who was suffering from, or had even died from a disease. They would go on to treat another person. This way thousand of people died from infections and diseases.

It wasn't until the late 19th century that death rates dropped as medical staff began hand washing.

How did Moses know what scientists and doctors in our country didn't discover for thousands of years afterwards? There is only one explanation: God had revealed it to him!

- ► **Sanitation**

The British Medical Journal asked a small group of experts and the many thousands of their readers, mostly doctors, what was the greatest medical advance from 1840 (the founding of their journal) onwards. In the light of truly staggering medical breakthroughs and scientific advances of those years, their winner might seem incredible , for it was sanitation!

The average human life expectancy increased nearly 35 years over the span of the 20th century. Roughly 30 of those 35 years are attributable to improvements to sanitation and living conditions. This dramatically reduced the toll of infectious diseases.

Edwin Chadwick came up with the idea of sewage disposal and piping water into homes as late as the 1840s. And God had given Moses instruction on good sanitation and hygiene centuries before.

He said (Deuteronomy 23:12 ) that when people needed the toilet, they were to go outside the camp and dig a hole to bury the waste matter. This would keep the living areas free from disease. God's instructions were 3,500 years ahead of man's scientific understanding.

- ► **Food**

The Jewish people were travelling and living in a hot climate and in the wilderness. They didn't have anything like our fridges or deep freezes to keep their food fresh. Food could easily rot in the heat. There were no vets or medicines to keep their domestic animals free from pests and diseases. To obtain meat, the people had often to catch what they could in the wild.

God gave the Jews clear instructions: they should eat meat only from specific animals. It has been proven that the animals that God mentioned were those which would not pick up harmful bacteria from the water nor easily become infected with parasites. God also knew the healthiest way to cook the food. So he gave Moses various food laws for the people. Although Moses and the people had no knowledge of medical science to help them with their food hygiene, the instructions that God gave them are considered by many to be still valid today.

- ► [ Accurate Translation - no text]

## Accurate Translation

When God first spoke to the Bible writers, they wrote down God's thoughts in their own languages - mainly Hebrew and Greek. These original documents have since been translated into different languages.

There are many different English translations: some are scholarly and very detailed, showing every shade of meaning (e.g. *The Amplified Bible*); some use modern language to translate the original version in a more simple way (eg. *The New Living Translation*). The language style may be different, but the truth is the same.

The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. So what we have today are translations of what was originally written.

▶ [ Man - Critics have said...etc]

**Critics have said:** “Even if you have proved that God inspired the original writers, how can you be so sure that the modern Bible is an accurate translation of the actual words of the original documents?” Well, here’s a reason we can be sure.

▶ a) CAREFUL COPIES

• ▶ The Old Testament [OT and picture of scribe]

The copies were hand-written, by men called Scribes (hand-writers). That is why the Bible came to be called ‘The Scriptures’ (hand-written).

To make absolutely sure that a copyist had made no mistake, he would count every letter of his copy and check if it was the same as the number of letters in the original. Then he would check the middle word and the middle letter of that word, to see if it was the same as the original document. Only then was the copy passed as accurate.

That way, when copies were made from that copy, and checked in the same way, there was no chance of mistakes being added in and copied, down the centuries.

• ▶ The New Testament [ NT and groups of scribes]

This was also copied by hand. But, because many people wanted copies, many scribes got together to work at the same time. The Chief Scribe would read out from the original and a group of scribes would write it out.

Today we have about 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, mostly copies made within 100 years of the original and some fragments only 50 years from the original.

This is far more than are available to check the accuracy of other writings of that time.

The history books of Tacitus, for instance, were written in 100AD. But the earliest copy available is from 1000 yrs later. We have over 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, there are only 20 copies of Tacitus today.

The best translations were made directly from the original Hebrew and Greek, rather than simply improving someone else’s translation. But some people still said: “The old documents you are using are copies of copies. They must have many mistakes.”

Bible scholars wanted to find a **really old copy, one of the earliest to be made**, so they could check it against the later ones from which our translations came, and prove them completely accurate. This did indeed happen. Here’s how...

▶ [ Accurate Translation - no text]

▶ b) GOATS AND SCROLLS

**A group of Essenes (a Jewish sect) were living near the community of Qumran**, in the region of the Dead Sea. It was at a time when the Roman army was searching for, and destroying, Jewish settlements and writings.

▶ [Cave - pic.1]

Afraid that their library of precious scripture scrolls would be destroyed, the Essenes stored them in pots and hid them in caves. **It was hundreds of years later that a goat-herd passed by.**

His goats had wandered off. He looked up at a ledge in the rock face, but could not tell if the goats were there or not. So he threw a stone to startle the goat into appearing.

To his surprise the stone disappeared and he heard the sound of breaking pottery. The stone had gone right into a cave. Clambering up, the goat-herd found rows of clay pots, containing the scrolls.

▶ [Cave - pic.2] Archaeologists agree these were the oldest copies of the book of Isaiah that they had ever seen. **Now they could check if later copies were any different from these.** They would learn if the new versions had all the mistakes they expected!

**In all the 66 chapters of Isaiah there were only 13 differences, mostly simple spelling mistakes.**

So translations of the Old Testament made from even later copies have still been very accurate.

Much earlier, in another settlement, situated on Mount Sinai, , New Testament scrolls were found. They were so old that it is thought that they were the first copies made from the originals. Once again, they matched the later copies exactly!

These and other ancient manuscripts have proved that more recent versions of the Bible are accurate translations of the Bible originals.

▶ [Scroll and man with points 1,2]

▶ [Adds rectangle with summary of accuracy]

All the evidence points to the historical and scientific accuracy of the whole Bible, and of its later translations.

There may still be parts which, to some people, appear to be mistakes. They may also see what they think are contradictions, when one part of the Bible says one thing and another part seems to say something different. But as our understanding of past history, and science, and ancient languages improves, we become able to explain these seeming difficulties.

This is why Christians trust the Bible to be accurate and truthful.

▶ [Point 3. Fulfilled prophecy flies in]

▶ [Fulfilled prophecy with picture of old prophet]

### *Divine Inspiration - Reason 3: Fulfilled prophecies*

It is one thing to give an accurate record of things which happened in the past, or of things which you are witnessing as you write, but it is another thing entirely to predict the future. Many Bible writers were incredibly accurate as they predicted (or prophesied) **what would happen in the future.**

The tiny details were so accurate that only God could have revealed them to the prophets. This is another strong reason for knowing that the Bible was inspired by God. There are three main areas of Bible prophecy we want to look at now -

- ▶ those concerning **Jesus Christ**,
- ▶ concerning the **Jewish nation**
- ▶ concerning the **world today**.

• ▶ [new slide with cherry blossom]

#### a) PROPHECIES CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST

In the Old Testament, many predictions were made about the coming Messiah - the special Person who would be sent by God. It was only when Jesus came that these prophecies “burst into blossom” and were fulfilled.

| <i>PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST</i>  |
|---|
| ▶ His birth: <i>Messiah would be born in Bethlehem</i>  |
| ▶ His ministry: <i>preaching, caring, bringing freedom</i>  |
| ▶ More ministry: <i>healing</i>   |
| ▶ His entry to Jerusalem: <i>on a young donkey - not a horse!</i>   |
| ▶ Gambling for His clothes  |
| ▶ Mocked: <i>“Let him save himself!”</i>  |
| ▶ Holes in hands and feet: <i>[Roman crucifixion involved nailing the man to a wooden stake by his hands and feet.]</i> |
| ▶ Buried in rich man’s grave  |
| ▶ Come alive again after death  |

*These are only a few of over 300 prophecies which came true about Jesus.*

[A full chart containing all these scriptures is included in the extra notes on pages 13 and 14.]



▶ **The Hebrew language would be revived**

(e.g. *Zephaniah 3:9*)

For centuries, Hebrew was spoken among the Jews only in synagogue services and in prayer. Now it is the national language of Israel and is spoken daily everywhere in the country.

▶ [Back to Fulfilled prophecy with picture of old prophet and point 1 and 2]

▶ [point 3 flies in: Concerning the world today]

▶ [New slide: Concerning the world today]

### c) PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE WORLD TODAY

We have thought about some Bible prophecies which have already come true in the **past**. But it is amazing to think that in the **present**, in our daily news, we are hearing of the fulfilment of other Bible prophecies! It is recorded in the Bible that Jesus himself said that certain things would happen, and when they did, it would be a sign that soon he would visibly return to earth.

One prophecy, for example, says that when Jesus Christ returns to earth “every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7).

Critics have said:

“That cannot be true. How can people in Australia, America or Europe see what is happening in Israel (where the Bible says Christ will return). Even if Jesus does come back to Israel, only some people, those who are on the spot, will be able to see it.”

But now, with satellite link-ups, any part of our world can almost instantly see what is going on elsewhere.

▶ **Earthquakes** (e.g. Luke 21:11)

In China on the 12 May 2008 a massive earthquake took place.

▶ **Tsunami** (Luke 21:25)

“And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides.”

▶ **Wars and rumours of war** (e.g. Matthew 21:6)

▶ [*A list of current war zones will scroll up. It may take a while. But that makes a forceful point*]

▶ **[Abnormal weather conditions**

(e.g. Genesis 8:22) “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, will never cease.” [Implying that as the end of the world approaches, these clearly marked seasons will break down.]

- Loss of land – According to the UN, an area of fertile soil the size of Ukraine is lost every year because of drought, deforestation and climate instability.

▶ **Famines** (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8)

- Last year Australia experienced its worst drought for over a century, and saw its wheat crop shrink by 60%
- China’s grain harvest has also fallen by 10% over the past seven years.

▶ **Disease Epidemics** (*Pictures of malaria mosquito and MRSA bacteria*)

In the first two months of 2009 the World Health Organization issued Epidemic and Pandemic alerts for among other diseases - Bird flu, Polio, Yellow fever, Ebola fever and cholera. As we write in January 2010 Pandemic (H1N1) is added to the list of concerns.

In our own country there has been an alarming increase in hospital acquired infections

[Up to date information is available at <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>]

▶ **Signs in the sky**

Not all are as beautiful as this fire rainbow.

A Headline 03 March 2009 –“Space rock gives Earth a close shave”.

▶ [**Asteroid flies in**] An asteroid came very close to Earth. Only 1/5 of the distance from Earth to the moon. Only twice the height of orbiting satellites.

▶ **Economic collapse (Rev 18:9-16)**

Here is a *description of the response to the collapse of Babylon (representing the material and financial world)*.

▶ “O great ... city of power! In one hour your doom has come!”

▶ **[Depressed business man]** “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no-one buys their cargoes any more... All your riches and splendour have vanished, never to be recovered.” (Rev. 18:10-15 NIV).

The cargoes that no one would buy began with luxury goods, but soon went on to everyday food, animals and vehicles.

In the UK we have seen several institutions go down and be bailed out by the government or bought out by another stronger bank:

- Northern Rock
- HBOS
- Bradford and Bingley

recently it was announced that Lloyds banking group showed an 80% drop in profits and the Royal Bank of Scotland has shown a record loss.

Of course, many of the signs have already been occurring for centuries. But now it is happening with a frequency and intensity which makes us take notice, and which was predicted.

How could the Bible writers have known in such detail what was going to happen centuries later? Only if GOD inspired them!

▶ **[Bible]**

The Bible is 100% true and 100% reliable!

## EXTRA NOTES : Sir William Ramsay's Research

# Archaeology and the New Testament

1. Many critics said that Luke's account of the birth of Jesus was incorrect. They argued that there was no census, that Quirinius was not Governor of Syria at that time and that everyone did **not have to return to his ancestral home** for a census. Archaeology has proven the critics wrong :
  - The Romans did have a regular enrolment of taxpayers and they held censuses every 14 years. The procedure was begun under Caesar Augustus. The Roman historian, Seutonius, mentions this in his work *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*
  - Quirinius was indeed Governor of Syria about 7 B.C.
  - A papyrus found in Egypt gives directions for the conduct of a census. Families were to return to their own local governments to complete family registration of the enrolment. This was so that they might keep the land rites for their family.
2. Some people have criticized Luke for writing that while the towns of Lystra and Derbe were in Lycaonia, Iconium was not (Acts 14:6). However, in 1910, Sir William Ramsay found a monument that showed Iconium was a Phrygian city. Later discoveries by others confirmed this.
3. When he was in the city of Corinth, Paul wrote to his friends in Rome. He mentions the city treasurer, Erastus (Romans 16:23). Excavations of Corinth in 1929 found this inscription on a pavement: "Erastus, curator of public buildings, laid this pavement at his own expense." The pavement dates from the 1st century A.D. So Luke had not made a mistake!
4. Concerning the Roman government officials, it has been said that Luke got titles and names of individuals wrong.
  - Luke called rulers in Philippi "praetors." Scholars argued that two "duumvirs" would have ruled the town. However, archaeology shows that the title of "praetor" was correct for the magistrates of a Roman colony.
  - Luke called civil authorities in Thessalonica "politarchs." Critics said there was no such person. However, 19 inscriptions have been unearthed which use the title.
  - Luke called a person called Gallio "proconsul." An inscription in Delphi was unearthed - it refers to : " Lucius Junius Gallio, my friend and the proconsul of Achaia."

The Bible is to be trusted as an authentic Book of antiquity. Archaeology supports and confirms facts as stated in the Bible.

## Extra notes: PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

|                                 | Predicted   | Fulfilled  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>His birth:</b>               | <p><b>Micah 5:2</b><br/>                     “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origin are from of old, from ancient times. ”</p>   | <p><b>Matt. 2:1</b><br/>                     “Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea”</p>  |
| <b>His ministry</b>             | <p><b>Isaiah 61:1-3</b><br/>                     “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn”</p> | <p><b>Luke 4:18</b><br/>                     “Jesus said: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed”</p>  |
| <b>More ministry</b>            | <p><b>Isaiah 35:5,6</b><br/>                     “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”</p>   | <p><b>Matt.9:35</b><br/>                     “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.”</p>   |
| <b>His entry to Jerusalem</b>   | <p><b>Zech.9:9</b><br/>                     “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey..”</p>  | <p><b>John 12:12-15</b><br/>                     “The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, ‘Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.’”</p>  |
| <b>Gambling for his clothes</b> | <p><b>Psalm 22:18</b><br/>                     “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”</p>  | <p><b>John 19:23,24</b><br/>                     “When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’ This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, ‘They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.’ So this is what the soldiers did.”</p> |
| <b>Mocked</b>                   | <p><b>Psalm 22:7,8</b><br/>                     “All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ‘He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’”</p>  | <p><b>Mark 15:31</b><br/>                     “In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself!”</p>   |
| <b>Holes in hands and feet</b>  | <p><b>Psalm 22:16</b><br/>                     “a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet”</p>  | <p><b>Luke 23:33</b><br/>                     “When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him” <i>[Roman crucifixion involved nailing the man to a wooden stake by his hands and feet.]</i></p>  |

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| <b>Buried in rich man's grave</b>  | Isaiah 53:9<br>"He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death "        | Matt.27:57-60<br>"As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock."  |
| <b>Come alive again</b>  | Psalm 16:10<br>"you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay." | John 20:11-16<br>"Mary stood outside the tomb crying ... saw two angels in white, ...They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher)." |
| <b><i>These are only a few of over 300 prophecies which came true about Jesus.</i></b> |  |   |

## EXTRA NOTES: Prophecy And Probability

PETER STONER in his book *Science Speaks* shows that the science of probability rules out coincidence as far as Jesus of Nazareth fulfilling the Messianic prophecies.

### Eight prophecies

Stoner began by dealing with only eight prophecies:

1. Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; fulfilled in Matt. 2:1-7; John 7:42; Luke 2:47).
2. Messiah is to be preceded by a Messenger (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-3; 11:10; John 1:23; Luke 1:17).
3. Messiah is to enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; fulfilled in Luke 35-37; Matthew 21:6-11).
4. Messiah is to be betrayed by a friend (Psalms 41:9; 55:12-14; fulfilled in Matthew 10:4; 26:49-50; John 13:21).
5. Messiah is to be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; fulfilled in Matthew 26:15; 27:3).
6. The money for which Messiah is sold is to be thrown "to the potter" in God's house (Zechariah 11:13; fulfilled in Matthew 27:5-7).
7. Messiah is to be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; fulfilled in Matthew 27:12).
8. Messiah is to be executed by crucifixion as a thief (Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 53:5,12; fulfilled in Luke 23:33; John 20:25; Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27,28).

Stoner says that by applying the science of probability to just these eight prophecies,

"... We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the power 17."

That would be one in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order for us to be able to comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner gives an illustration:

"... we take 10 to the power 17 silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. *[If it were the UK, this number would cover int to a depth of six feet! A 50p coin is almost the size of a dollar coin.]*

Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their

