

The Bible is a remarkable book

Christians declare the Bible to be a unique, remarkable book. They can pledge allegiance to it. We might say, “this is God’s Word...we believe, that settles it!”

But there might be questions or concerns for others. Is it just a book of nice stories or pure fiction?

What are some things that might drive us to conclude this is an amazing book?

1. Such consistency in the writing

66 books, 40 authors, very diverse backgrounds/cultures, written over 1500 years, thousands of miles of geographical separation and in three languages.

And yet: One story, one hero – Jesus Christ.

2. Archaeological evidence abounds! Some examples:

a. Regarding David

Until 1993 couldn’t find any evidence of David...they found a 3000-year-old inscription in Israel that mentioned David.

b. Regarding Pontius Pilate

In 1961, Italian archaeologists were digging in Caesarea and found a limestone block that had an inscription in Latin that mentioned Pontius Pilate as the Prefect in Judea.

3. Fulfilled prophecy

There are over 2000 prophecies in the Bible and approximately 350 of them focus on the life of Christ.

a. 1012 BC Psalm 22:16 Jesus’s feet and hands would be pierced – John 20:27

b. 710 BC Michal 5:2 Born in Bethlehem of Judea – Matt. 2:1

c. 750 BC Isaiah 7:14 Jesus would be born of virgin – Matt. 1:18

d. 520 BC Zechariah 11:12-13 Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver – Matt. 26:15

The probability of even eight prophecies being fulfilled would be 1 in 10 to the 17th power: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (*Science Speaks* by Stoner and Newman)

4. Outside writings (extra biblical)

Records from Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans confirm the identity of over 50 people in the Old Testament and 30 in the New Testament. We even have statues or engravings that can reveal what 18 Biblical figures looked like.

5. Scientific accuracy

The Bible is not a scientific textbook, but it is accurate when it speaks of scientific topics...often before mankind discovered them.

The earth is round: Isaiah 40:2 (750 BC) "It is He (God) who sits above the circle of the earth." Discovered by Columbus in 1492 AD. Seen in a picture made in 1946 from the nose cone of a German V-2 missile.

The life of the flesh is in the blood: Leviticus 17:11 (1440 BC) "The life of the creature is in the blood..." William Harvey (British doctor) confirmed this truth with his discoveries in late 1578 AD.

The sun rotates in a circuit through space: Psalm 19:6 (1015 BC) "Its rising is from one end of heaven and its circuit to the other end." Confirmed by Copernicus in the 16th century.

6. Manuscript Evidence

We have 25,000 partial or complete copies of the New Testament.

We have thousands of copies of the Old Testament.

In 1947: Dead Sea Scrolls: We found all of the books of the Old Testament except Esther. There were 25 copies of Deuteronomy, 30 copies of Psalms and 19 copies of Isaiah.

When we compare the text in our bible to those Dead Sea Scrolls, they are 99% the same!

And we could reconstruct most of the New Testament if we look at the writings from other authors as they quote the Bible.

7. The forthrightness about the authors and all the character failures.

If we were writing a spiritual book, we would make ourselves look much better...

I can't prove to you that this book is God's love letter to you and I, but it sure is remarkable and worthy of your investigation.

Remember: God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.