Proving the Bible (Parts I and II)

Summary

Is the Bible actually inspired, or just an old bestseller? This two-part study makes the case from both its internal consistency and its own history as a collection of books.

- Part I: the Bible's self-consistency across many authors and centuries, fulfilled prophecy, and a deliberately layered ("precept upon precept") structure.
- Part II: the history of the Biblical canon, arguing (via Josephus) for an original 22 books rather than today's 39.
- That number, and related acrostic patterns in the Psalms, tied to the 22-letter Hebrew alphabet.
- The canon's later expansion to 39 (Protestant) and 77 (Catholic, at the Council of Trent) books.
- Ezra's editorial work noted, including the added genealogical list of Edomite kings at Genesis 36:31-39.

The full article begins on the next page.

Proving the Bible

The Bible is the world's best seller. It is the most widely distributed book on the planet. It is also the most misunderstood and maligned book ever written.

Millions of people believe the Bible is the inspired Word of Yahweh; to them, the Scriptures are inerrant - even though most have not read it in detail! But to others, the Bible is merely a collection of ancient, uninspired writings that may have some historical, poetic and inspirational value. Others still, think it is a Book of no positive value whatsoever.

One U.S. President, John Adams referred to it as "the Volume of Inspiration", really the unquestionable, authoritative Word of the living God. Bruce Baron wrote a book about the Bible, entitled "The Book Nobody Knows". Truly, many of those who claim to believe in the Bible don't really believe it - because they don't know what it says - they simply take the easy way out - they rely totally on some pastor, minister or false church to tell them what the Bible says, and how to apply it!

Many of the world's great men have been readers of the Bible and confessed that some of their beliefs and wisdom came from that Book. Abraham Lincoln, for instance, often read and quoted from the Bible. Winston Churchill understood the valuable teachings of the Bible, and said: "We reject with scorn all these learned and laboured myths that Moses was but a legendary figure. We believe that the most scientific view, the most up-to-date rationalistic conception *[theory]*, will find its fullest satisfaction in taking the Bible story literally...We may be sure that all these things [mentioned in the Bible] happened just as they were set out according to Holy Writ; we may believe that they happened to people not so very different from ourselves, and that the impressions these people received were faithfully recorded, and have been transmitted across the centuries with far more accuracy than many telegraphed accounts we read of the goings-on of today".

Churchill went on to make a challenge: "Let the men of science expand their knowledge and probe with their researches every detail of the records which have been preserved to us from these dim ages. All they will do is fortify the grand simplicity and essential accuracy of the recorded truths which have lighted so far the pilgrimage of man" *(Thoughts and Adventures).*

David said; "The words of Yahweh are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" (Ps. 12:6). Yah'shua gave ample testimony as to the authenticity of the Scriptures. He referred to them as being the very Word of God [Yahweh]: "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [the Messiah] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" *(Luke 24:27*).

Paul said; "All scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" *(2 Tim. 3:16,17)*.

Humans visit museums and other repositories to view historic documents such as Britain's *Magna Carta* or America's *Declaration of Independence* and stand in awe at the sight of them. How much more should we be in awe of the very Words of our living God?

Through the prophet Isaiah, Yahweh revealed that He inspired the Bible in such a way as it would be misunderstood by those who disobey it. "Whom shall he teach knowledge? And to whom shall he make to understand doctrine?For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" *(28:9-11)*.

The Word of Yahweh is written so that its various pieces must be put together like a puzzle. All Scripture on any subject must be examined together, to get any understanding of it. This was done by Yahweh for two reasons. First, is a two part reason - to counter our inherent human laziness. If we could simply skim over the story flow and get a "quick-fix", most people would do just that. However, to acquire thorough understanding, the serious student must literally read the entirety of the Bible many times over. This complex "scattering" of information also serves to protect the Bible from deliberate tampering, as will be explained later.

Secondly, to provide Yahweh with one of the means by which He separates and judges His elect, as Isaiah declares: "That they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken" *(v. 13)*. Yah'shua clarified this when He explained why He used parables: "To you *[His disciples - including those Elect of us]* it has been given to know the mystery of the Kingdom of Yahweh: but to those that are outside, all things come in parables, so that seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them" *(Mark 4:11,12)*.

Few in the world realize that this is not the only day of salvation. It is merely "a day of salvation" *(Isa. 49:8)*. Yahweh is not trying to save the masses today. He is only calling out His Elect - His congregation *(the Greek word for congregation is Ekklesia, meaning "called out ones")*. Speaking to the few true Israelites, Yahweh says, "For the time has come for judgment to begin AT THE HOUSE OF Yahweh [His Congregation]; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those that do not obey the gospel of Yahweh?" *(1 Pet. 4:17)*. Yahweh is now judging us - His Congregation - the Elect of the called out ones

ONLY *(those that have heeded the "call")*!

What about the rest of the nearly 6 billion inhabitants? They are not being judged now. Their time will come later - "after the thousand years were finished".

Satan still holds full sway over their minds and hearts *(Rom. 11:8)*. Yahweh has given the majority over to Satan to let him blind them at this time: "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are

perishing, whose minds the god of this age *[Satan]* has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of Yahweh, should shine on them" *(2 Cor. 4:3,4*).

How does Satan deceive the whole world *(Rev. 12:9).* He does it with false traditional Christianity: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of the Messiah. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" *(2 Cor. 11:13-15).*

Just as Satan often quotes Scripture *(e.g., Matt. 4:6)*, so do his ministers - the traditional Christians, but they always either quote it in isolation and out of context, or they put a clever but perverted twist on it: "For we are not as many" wrote Paul, "Which CORRUPT THE WORD OF Yahweh: but as of sincerity" *(2 Cor. 2:17).*

Yes Yahweh did inspire the Bible in such a way that the "worldly" wise and the DISOBEDIENT would misunderstand and stumble over it. The apostle Peter admitted that some of Paul's writings were not easy to understand: "Our beloved brother Paul, according to the WISDOM GIVEN to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught *[by His Holy Spirit]* and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do ALSO the rest of the Scriptures". Pet. 3:15.

Peter tells us how the Word of Yahweh was inspired: "We also have the prophetic word made more sure...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of Yahweh spoke as they were moved by His Holy Spirit" *(2 Pet. 1:20,21).* In fact, most of the prophets did not even understand their own prophetic messages, as Daniel says: "Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, `My Lord, what shall be the end of these things?' And He said, `Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end'" *(Dan. 12:8,9).* Here, Daniel wrote his prophecies that not only he could not understand, Yahweh told him that none of his contemporaries would understand either!

Through the centuries, many have tried - unsuccessfully - to discredit or destroy the Bible, but "the Word of Yahweh endures forever" *(1 Pet. 1:25)*. The Messiah said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away" *(Matt. 24:35)*.

The Bible is not a science text book. Nonetheless, whatever the Scriptures mention in a scientific context, is always proven scientifically accurate. Neither is it a history book, but again, whatever is mentioned as history in the Bible has been proven accurate by secular history records and archaeology.

The British weekly newsmagazine The Economist, offers the common scientific view of creation: "According to modern physics, the universe began with a big bang, in which space and matter made a sudden explosive appearance - from literally nothing. There was a moment [shortly after] when all the material eventually used to create every star and galaxy could have been in the palm of an infinitely small hand" *(The Economist, April 12, 1980)*.

Now look at the Bible explanation of the same event: "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of Yahweh, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" *(Heb. 11:3).* In plain language this verse says that Yahweh created the physical, material, tangible world that we see out of invisible, intangible, non-physical essence - what we might call, “spirit essence”.

Of course, we do not know if Yahweh caused a "big bang" to occur at the creation of the universe or not. But the more scientists research the basic matter of our universe, the more they concur with the Bible teachings. When placed under extreme magnification, the smallest particles known *(common to ALL physical matter),* have PROVEN to be "highly organized energy patterns, giving the appearance of substance" to the material that is being studied. In other words, all things "visible", are in reality, made of things "invisible" - just as the Bible says!

Just how important is Yahweh's Word? "You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" *(Ex. 20:7).* But we see that Yahweh magnifies His Word, even above His name: "For You have magnified Your Word above all Your name" *(Ps. 138:2).*

David clarifies the real value in Yahweh's Word: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" *(Ps. 119:105).* Without the light from Yahweh's Word this world would be in total spiritual darkness. It is only through His Word that we would ever come to know who He is, how to interact with Him, what His ultimate destiny for us is, and how to attain that incredible potential.

As to the accuracy of Bible translations and transcriptions over the years, we have a great many concerns about Bible translations. This is indeed an interesting and problematic topic. There are a great many die-hard traditional Christians that erroneously believe that any Bible is a good representation of Yahweh's word, simply because the Messiah said that "His words will never pass away". And there are others that will figuratively fight to the death over specific versions.

Our humble research has determined that virtually every Bible that has been copyrighted is bound to be a poor version for two primary reasons. First, Yahweh, inspired His own words and He appointed His own writers. A legal copyright claims that the owner and author of the work in question is the copyright holder - which by legal definition, means not Yahweh. Second, a copyright also requires by law, that the copyrighted material either be a "completely new literary content", or that it be "significantly at variance from the original writing" to qualify for a copyright. Both of these requirements fairly well destroy any possibility of a copyrighted Bible being of any value at all - except to the commercial copyright owner.

Having said that, there are also non-copyrighted Bibles such as the King James Version, which is also seriously corrupted. The KJV and its copy-righted successor, the New King James Version, are easy English translations to read and can be useful but only if taken into context of the original language writings, which makes them very difficult for anyone that does not read Hebrew or Greek.

Basically, the only Bibles that are totally accurate, or at least as accurate as when they were last copied, are the original language texts that are still around in various museums and collections. Copies of these are available in the original languages but again unless you can read in those languages they are not of much practical use.

Of existing English Bibles, we find the following to be the least corrupted:

William Tyndale's 1525 version;

The Matthew's Bible of 1537;

The Great Bible of 1539;

The Geneva Bible of 1560; and

The Bishop's Bible of 1568.

We have however, found certain mistakes and problems with each of these versions. Each original translator obviously did their best effort to try and translate, but in every case, they included translations at some places within their work where they may not have fully understood the original language, that reflected either their own personal opinions, or those of the established Christian *church* at the time. This makes the use of these Bibles difficult in some areas. The problems are much less than with the KJV, but they are still problems.

In our own humble efforts, that we call the Natural Faithful Remnant Version (NFRV) *(non-copyrighted and free to the public),* we find our confidence in stating that we believe it to be the most accurate English translation currently available. We were able to take great advantage of the voluminous material more recently available on the internet to compare all of the above versions *(and several others)* with the oldest known, existing copies of the original Greek and Hebrew writings, and to "transliterate" the many discrepancies and known errors. The results were the impetus for even our own members changing many time-held beliefs - in other words, we made the necessary changes to reflect the original inspired words even when those were in direct opposition to much of our own previously held and published beliefs.

Serious Bible students, often ask how to be certain that the particular version or translation of the Bible they are reading, is in fact, a complete account of Yahweh's Inspired Word. Over the course of centuries, the books of the Old Covenant have been the subject of much controversy.

The Jewish scholars, the Catholic "authorities" and the Protestants, have had, and still maintain differing points of view as to what books are to be included. *(Amazingly, most traditional Christians somehow agree as to the content of the New Covenant.)* There are three basic ways to absolutely PROVE that the various Old Covenant books in your Bible speak with Divine authority.

First, history records can be examined to prove two aspects of the Biblical accounts. Historical records and archaeological discoveries, evidence many topical events occurring as set forth in the Bible, as well as prove the fulfillment of 100% of the great many Bible Prophecies to date.

Second, many books of the Old Covenant are proved by either Yah'shua or one of His disciples, in the various New Covenant writings. Obviously, Yah'shua would not refer to any unauthentic Old Covenant books, nor would His disciples - those that He *(Yah'shua)* personally chose to begin His New Covenant Congregation.

Third, a simple comparison of the content and context of the various writings on similar topics, written independently by many different authors and often in isolation, sometimes decades or even centuries apart, will prove whether or not the books are Divinely Inspired - human beings on their own, have certain obvious limitations!

These three methods of proving the Bible, confirm and justify the two reasons why Yahweh chose to have the Bible written, in what at first may seem to be a somewhat haphazard manner. In fact, Yahweh inspired the prophet Isaiah to confirm this very fact: "Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message?...For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little" *(28:9-11)*.

So the first of these two reasons, is to provide the reader with a series of logical steps; a fail-safe method to, "prove all things" *(1 Thess. 5:21)*, that are contained in the Bible. The second reason, is to literally "force" the sincere student of the Bible to, "search the Scriptures", as Yah'shua commanded in John 5:39, in order to obtain a complete understanding of a given topic, which of course, "proves all things" pertaining to that topic, including authenticity, (while it precludes tampering)!

This miraculously ingenious and deliberately perplex construction of the Inspired method of presenting the various revelations of Bible Truths, precludes any possibility of successful human tampering. No amount of human effort could ever conceive of a plan to deliberately alter the Bible, and then successfully orchestrate that plan without detection by Yahweh's elect.

How do we know this? Beyond the obvious - the very fact that if such a plan were to be considered on any given Bible topic, incredibly significant portions of many books *(in both Old and New Covenants)* would require changes in order to avoid obvious inconsistencies. Such changes could not possibly remain undetected. We know this absolutely, based on two reasons.

First, the entire Old Covenant was intact at the time of Yah'shua, and was confirmed by Yah'shua directly on many occasions, as well as by His disciples. We know by many New Covenant references, what many important Old Covenant Scriptures contained, in terms of content and context. We also know that current versions of the Old Covenant remain essentially accurate, at least to the point where any given topic of serious import, can still be examined adequately to "prove all things" pertaining to its authenticity.

Also, many recent archaeological discoveries have proven that the existing Old Covenant, is nearly word for word intact in most reputable translations, when compared to the Masoretic Text, the oldest verifiable records of the Hebrew Bible used in Yah'shua' time.

Second, although in many modern versions, the translations were in fact conducted by, on behalf of, or under some type of influence of organized religions with false motives. Yah'shua Himself, said quite emphatically, that, "the SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN" (John 10:35). Yah'shua tells us in His Olivet Prophecy of events FOR OUR TIME however, that this very type of ATTEMPTED DECEPTION would occur! "For false Messiah's and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to DECEIVE, IF POSSIBLE, even the elect" *(Matthew 24:24)*. Yahweh's elect CANNOT BE DECEIVED! And He continued in verse 25, to say: "See, I have told you beforehand".

In other words, we are to EXPECT such malicious Bible tampering behaviour by traditional "Christian" organizations! The MESSIAH SAID SO! The Messiah's chosen disciples went to great lengths to write more warnings in the New Covenant concerning such attempts at deception, by false apostles using false doctrines, than any other subject!

Paul, for example, gave a very strong warning in 2 Thess. 2:1-12, that we should, "not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit OR BY WORD OR BY LETTER, AS IF FROM US *[the true apostles]*...LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU BY ANY MEANS...for the mystery of lawlessness IS ALREADY AT WORK...and for this reason Yahweh will send THEM STRONG DELUSION, that THEY *[the worldly wise and disobedient]* SHOULD BELIEVE THE LIE".

When testing the Bible, we must be cautious about EVERY WORD Of Yahweh - including Yahweh's warnings to study the Bible OURSELVES and to be doubly aware of the trappings of the false traditional Christian religions: "Even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them...and MANY will follow their destructive ways...By covetousness [greed] they will exploit you with DECEPTIVE WORDS;...But these like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand...They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin...They have a heart trained in covetous practices...They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness...the latter end for them is worse than the beginning" *(2 Peter 2:1-22)*.

The way of Balaam, referred to here, is speaking directly of sorcery *(Numbers 24:1),* and it refers to the many other ancient pagan myths and ritualistic traditions, practiced in honour of the sun god Baal, all of which were originally adopted into modern Christianity by the Roman Catholic church, as Christmas, Easter, Halloween, New Year's Day, Lenten Season and "Sun"day worship.

These are the false traditions that are an "abomination to Yahweh" which He "hates". The PROOF will be evident when you begin reading the Bible with a NEW MIND!

We are instructed to consider ourselves, "as servants of the Messiah and stewards of the mysteries of Yahweh" *(1 Cor. 4:1)*. How are we to do this? "You *[Yahweh's elect]* are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; you are manifestly an epistle of the Messiah, ministered by us [the Messiah's disciples], written not with ink but by His Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. And WE HAVE SUCH TRUST *[faith]* through the Messiah toward Yahweh...who also made us sufficient as ministers of the New Covenant, not of the letter but of His Spirit; for the letter kills, but His Spirit gives life" *(2 Cor. 3:2-6)*.

Why can't Yahweh's stewards, His elect be deceived? "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found FAITHFUL" *(1 Cor. 4: 2)*. Yahweh's elect are faithful! Faithful in all things pertaining to the mysteries of Yahweh, including OBEDIENCE to all Biblical instruction!

If we are obedient to follow ALL of Yahweh's instructions pertaining to how we are to, "prove all things", we will, as Yahweh has promised, be blessed with His Spirit, our Helper, to DISCERN and thereby understand the Spiritual intent of ALL OF HIS REVEALED TRUTHS, even if *(and when)* false apostles have altered them, in an attempt to deceive us!

This is Yahweh's PROMISE, that the Messiah CONFIRMED, and the apostles RECONFIRMED! We can have ABSOLUTE FAITH, that when we OBEY Yahweh and "prove all things" according to His instructions, we WILL NOT BE DECEIVED in our efforts to prove the authenticity of, and to understand HIS REVEALED TRUTHS!

"But Yahweh has revealed them [His truths] to us THROUGH HIS SPIRIT. For His Spirit searches ALL THINGS, yes, the deep things of Yahweh...Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from Yahweh, that we might know the things that have been FREELY GIVEN TO US BY Yahweh. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which His Holy Spirit TEACHES, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of Yahweh, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED" *(1 Cor. 2:11-14)*.

There is one additional proof that can be demonstrated daily - the most convincing of all proofs, that the Bible is precisely what it claims to be. Simply put, it is this: It works! Its laws, its promises, its prophecies, its explanations of what life is all about - they all work - consistently. This final proof of the Bible is in the DOING.

The only way to prove anything is to try it out - put it to the test! When you buy a new car, you take it for a test drive. So it is with the Bible - "put it through its paces" - see for yourself that it will DO everything it says it will. After all, you cannot expect it to somehow magically and instantly do everything for you - it is not a "quick fix" - it is a Way to a permanent, everlasting improvement. Yah'shua said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father *[and His truths]* except through Me [obedience to His Word]" *(John 14:6)*.

When Yahweh commands us to "prove all things" *(1 Thess. 5:21)*, He means literally to prove all things - including the authenticity of the Bible, and the many benefits promised in it. Notice how the same word is used in Luke 14:19, where a person is quoted as saying, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them". This was ACTIVE proof - beyond the intellectual and obvious proof that he had actually purchased the oxen. We must go beyond the intellectual understanding of the Bible and PUT IT INTO PRACTICE to ACTIVELY PROVE it to be of benefit in our lives!

Consider the Sabbath - it particularly goes against the grain of human nature. A person who does not keep it can think of endless reasons why he would never want to keep it: It would interfere with work, make him "look strange" to others, ruin his weekend, interfere with hobbies, washing the car, cutting the grass or shopping.

Only a person who keeps the Sabbath can understand what a blessing it is. The same holds true for the annual Holy Days and festivals ordained in the Bible. And the same holds true for any of Yahweh's laws, His precepts, His statutes and His instructions.

A person who does not keep them is like someone who strolls past an elaborate banquet table without trying the food - he cannot possibly know how good it is. "O taste and see that Yahweh is good", exclaimed David in Psalm 34:8. Try Yahweh - try Him out! See how it works - you will like it!

The more we put the Bible to work in our lives, the more we absorb its teachings, the MORE CONFIDENCE we have in it, and the more our FAITH will be INCREASED!

Millions of people do not believe the Bible will be of any practical use to them - but they have never tried it! Instead, they try all kinds of other stop-gap methods of filling their needs - they absorb all of the WAYS OF THIS WORLD, and generally end up with LESS and LESS CONFIDENCE in themselves and the world around them.

"If anyone wants to do [yes DO - action comes first] His *[Yahweh's]* Will," Yah'shua said, then "he shall KNOW concerning the doctrine, whether it is from Yahweh" *(John 7:17)*. If anyone will put the Bible to the test; practice it, live by it, he shall absolutely KNOW that it is the inspired Word of the Living God. That is the one great PROOF offered only in the Bible.

Our HOPE then, is to be Yahweh's ELECT, those that cannot be deceived! Members of "the general assembly and congregation of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven" *(Hebrews 12:23)*, to whom ALL TRUTH is revealed!

Our DUTY, as faithful stewards, is that we have been ENTRUSTED to preserve Yahweh's Word, and COMMANDED by Yahweh to "consider one another..." and to, "exhort one another", that we might FREELY SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER, ALL OF OUR REVEALED UNDERSTANDING - our FAITH, which, "is the substance of things HOPED for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen" *(Hebrews 10:24,25; 11:1)*.

One final bit of cautionary advice. The Bible instructs us that "THE WORD OF Yahweh IS LIVING AND POWERFUL" *(Hebrews 4:12).* And that "EVERY WORD OF Yahweh IS PURE *[not confusing]" (Prov. 30:5)*. "And it is His Spirit that bears witness, BECAUSE His Spirit IS TRUTH" *(1 John 5:6)*. In other words, we will KNOW when we understand the TRUTH of Yahweh's Word, because His Spirit will bear witness - will MAKE IT KNOWN to us! This is one of Yahweh's promises! And we certainly trust that Yahweh's Spirit will NOT bear false witness, or lead us to misunderstand His Word!

Yahweh's Living Word is pure, powerful and simple. Within the Bible, Yahweh's messages are always presented so as to be EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE WHO TAKES THE TIME TO READ THEM - not shrouded in some clouds of obscurity. Yahweh did Inspire the Bible as a sort of "operator's manual" for EVERYONE - not just an elite few!

There are great volumes of encyclopedia, books and other writings on the market, written by self-proclaimed "experts" and various religious "theologians", all purporting to "unveil", or "reveal", or "finally discover the truth", about some part of Yahweh's so-called "mysterious" Word. Or sometimes, in their arrogance, they claim simply to be, "explaining what the common man does not understand", or "finds confusing"!

These "experts", almost universally DISPROVE themselves, as soon as they say, or imply, that Yahweh's Word is confusing, or that THEY in their own wisdom, have finally discovered, unveiled, or revealed, some aspect of His "hidden truths"! This is pure arrogance and absolutely, NOT Biblical! Yahweh says that ALL of His revealed truths are PURE AND SIMPLE, SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED, AND FREELY AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE WHO WILL READ HIS WORD!

Another simple test for most of these "expert" writings, is that a true study guide of any Bible topic, should be SHORT, EASY to understand, and FREE! NOT SOLD at a price, not based on vague innuendos, nor difficult to understand, nor many times longer than the Bible itself, as most of these volumes are! Think of a "book report". It is a SHORT guide, or a BRIEF introduction to what the book, or in the case of the Bible, a topic is all about.

Yahweh COMMANDS us to SHARE our understandings of His revealed truths FREE! "FREELY you have received, FREELY GIVE...That we might know the things that have been FREELY GIVEN TO US BY Yahweh"! *(Matthew 10:8; Romans 2:12)*. Yahweh further COMMANDS us to avoid being deceived by these obviously spurious, and often cleverly deceptive writings. And He tells us why!

We are COMMANDED, to search the Scriptures diligently OURSELVES, with all readiness of mind, in order for us to "PROVE ALL THINGS" *(1 Thess. 5:21)*. Yah'shua further COMMANDS us in Matthew 23:8, "But you, do not be called Rabbi *[father, priest, minister or pastor];* for ONE IS YOUR TEACHER, THE MESSIAH, and YOU ARE ALL BRETHREN".

Why? "Now the purpose of the COMMANDMENT is love from a pure heart, from a good *[clear]* conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned to IDLE TALK, DESIRING TO BE TEACHERS OF THE LAW, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm" *(1 Tim. 1:5).*

In other words, there are a great many people out there, often motivated in part, by money, who DESIRE to be "teachers of the law" - who desire to be regarded as someone important, or as one of only a "special few", that are able to understand, and thereby earn a living from Yahweh's Word! This is absolutely SINFUL!

The truth is, the Messiah is our ONLY TEACHER! And HE TEACHES FREE! We must always seek the truth in the Messiah - in the Word of Yahweh, not in men's words! These are the Commandments of the Messiah! And Yah'shua said in John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments"!

"If we love one another, Yahweh abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us...For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" *(1 John 4:12; 5:3).*

This book is written with these Biblical Commands in mind. It is merely, a brief introduction to many Bible topics, of typically common interest. Each topic is presented primarily from direct Biblical quotes, with a minimum of explanatory information.

I HOPE this material will inspire the reader's own prayerful study of Yahweh's Word, and lead many to a new-found FAITH; for this is the LOVE of Yahweh, a truly enjoyable COMMANDMENT!

Proving The Bible Part II

When Yahweh uses numbers in Scripture, it is done with design and spiritual significance beyond simply the numerical value. For example the number seven denotes spiritual perfection; standing for completeness, fullness and totality. This number is quite conspicuous throughout the Bible; it begins with seven days of creation and ends with Revelation - a book of sevens: seven letters to seven congregations, seven candlesticks, seven trumpets, seven seals, seven vials, etc.

The weekly Sabbath is the seventh day, the land Sabbath is the seventh year, the Jubilee is seven times seven years, or forty-nine years, the seventh month of Yahweh's calendar is especially Holy - it has four feasts containing four Holy Days. The Leviticus system was built on cycles of sevens: Jericho fell after seven priests, with seven trumpets, marched for seven days, and blew their trumpets seven times on the seventh day.

The number twelve is connected with government, government perfection and organized beginnings throughout the Bible: the 12 tribes of Israel, the 12 Apostles, 12 gates, 12 times 12,000 for the 144,000 in

Revelation, and so on. There is important and interesting design for other numbers as well.

The Bible today has a total of 66 books: 39 in the Old Covenant, and 27 in the New. Does it not seem odd that Yahweh would inspire 66 books in the Bible - especially when 600 and 60 and 6 represents the mark of the Beast? Would Yahweh use the number of a man on His Word?

Simply because everything Yahweh gives man is soon corrupted, distorted, or even destroyed by man! Man seems preoccupied with striving to improve on what Yahweh has designed and created. This holds true to the number and order of the books originally given to us by Yahweh for His Bible. What author would place the last chapters of his book in the middle, or the middle ones at the end? Yet this is what happened to the Bible - mainly due to the Greeks and Egyptians.

Yahweh designed the books to be read in a purposeful sequence. He also designed the number of books, to allow another timeless proof of their Divine origin. The design we use today was not found in the original Hebrew, nor is it found in modern Jewish Bibles. The Hebrews have been mainly faithful in their keeping of the oracles of Yahweh.

The Old Covenant books currently found in the King James version number 39. There is overwhelming evidence to support that when the canon was first completed, there was only 22. The historian Josephus said the Old Covenant contained only 22 books: "We have not a countless number of books, but only 22 containing the history of every age, which are justly accredited as Divine".

Now don't think for a moment that Josephus is speaking about less material than we now have. We have the exact contents of the original canon known to Josephus, but not the original numbering. For example, we always count the minor prophets *(the books of Hosea to Malachi)* as 12 books; but the ancient Hebrews always counted them as one book. The books of Chronicles and the other historical books were not divided into two as they are now. It is by this RE-dividing various books that we have arrived at the present number of 39 Old Covenant books.

There is nothing wrong with making divisions within some books, as long as they are left in their proper order and in the major numerical division assigned to them by Yahweh. Uninspired men, ignorant of Yahweh's purpose, have displaced many books from their proper contextual order.

Yahweh gave us this special number of 22 books to prove His Word was inspired! Another way to prove that the Bible is inspired is prophecy. Most prophecy is dual; with historic and end-time fulfillment. The fact that Yahweh has always done what He said He would do, is proof that the Bible is the Word of Yahweh.

The New Covenant shows that the authority to preserve the Bible was Divinely given to the Hebrews: "unto them *[the Hebrews]* were committed the ORACLES OF Yahweh" *(Rom. 3:2)*. Oracles, was a common expression for the canonical Scriptures. Webster's dictionary defines it as, "a Divine announcement, the Scriptures".

Statements from the Messiah and the Apostles always presuppose that the Hebrews had the Divine Scriptures. There was never any doubt about it at the time of the Messiah. The Messiah said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" *(John 5:39)*. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [the Messiah] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" *(Luke 24:27)*.

The "book of the law" was originally put inside the ark, and years later, kept in the temple. The preservation of the Divine canon became a priestly responsibility *(Deut. 31:24-26).* None of the books of the current Catholic Apocrypha were ever accepted as part of the Divine canon.

The old Covenant was divided into three sections, known as the TRIPARTITE. The first division is the "Law", or the first five books - Genesis through Deuteronomy. The second division is the "Prophets", major and minor. The Prophets consist of: Joshua and Judges, counted as 1 book; Judges being considered a continuation, as both describe a period when Israel had no kings; Samuel and Kings, called the "book of the kingdoms", also counted as one book; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the 12 minor prophets *(Hosea to Malachi)*.

The third division is the "Writings", sometimes called the "Psalms". There are 12 books in the Writings: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah *(counted as 1)* and Chronicles *(also counted as one).* This totals 22 books, canonized and completed in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Yah'shua set His seal on this Tripartite division: "And he *[the Messiah]* said unto them, These are the words which I speak unto you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures" *(Luke 24:44-45)*.

Before Judah went into captivity in 604-585 B.C., Hilkiah the high priest came across neglected scrolls of Yahweh's Law. Recognizing the importance of his find, he had his copy taken to the king. King Josiah expressed grief after hearing it read, showing that neither of them had ever seen it before. Notice what Clarke's Commentary has to say about it: "And if the king and the high priest, who were both men of eminent piety, were without this part of the Scripture, it can scarcely be thought that anyone else then had it. But so religious a prince as King Josiah could not leave this long un-remedied.

By his order copies were written out from the original; and search being made for all other parts of the Holy Scripture...and thenceforth copies of the whole became multiplied among the people; all those who were desirous of knowing the laws of Yahweh, either writing them out themselves, or procuring others to do so...the sacred writings were got into private hands, who carried them with them into captivity. That Daniel had a copy with him in Babylon is certain, for he quotes the law, and also makes mention of the prophecies of Jeremiah, which he could not do had he never seen them".

These standard copies remained intact until the temple buildings were destroyed by Titus in A.D. 70. All the synagogues in the first century maintained the same canon of Scripture. With the exception of a few others who added to the genealogical tables in Chronicles, Ezra is looked upon as the most important man responsible for the final formation of the Old Covenant.

After the Babylonian captivity, a few of the Hebrews, led by Zerubbabel, returned to Jerusalem, eager to return to Yahweh's festivals and worship, and to rebuild the temple *(Ezra 1-7).* Ezra was "a ready scribe in the law of Moses" *(Ezra 7:6)*, and "a scribe of the words of the commandments of Yahweh, and of his statutes to Israel" *(v. 11)*. He was a descendant of the priestly line of Aaron. Yahweh used Ezra to restore the law. "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of Yahweh, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" *(7:10)*.

After the captivity, Ezra set about to collect and set forth a correct copy of the Scriptures. He "got together as many copies of the sacred writings as he could, and out of them all to set forth a correct edition...he took care of the following particulars: First he corrected *[by comparisons]* all the errors that had crept into these copies... Secondly, he...disposed them *[the books]* in their proper order; and settled the canon of Scripture for his time" *(Clarke's Commentary).*

Ezra did some editing, adding such things as the names of the Edomite/Khazar kings down to the time of Saul *(Gen. 36:31-39),* which information was obviously not known at the time of its original writing. As well as at the end of Deuteronomy we find this written: "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face" *(34:10).* A statement like that had to be added many years after Joshua.

We know Moses wrote most of Deuteronomy, but Joshua probably added much of the last chapter after his death. "And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of Yahweh, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of Yahweh" *(Josh. 24:26)*.

When Nehemiah came to Jerusalem as governor over Judea, he greatly strengthened Ezra's position, being concerned with getting the people back to Yahweh's ways. He instituted a number of reforms, such as strict observance of the Sabbaths, tithing for the Festivals and for the poor, and he was able to put a strong united nation into the hands of the ruling body set up by Ezra, called the "great synagogue", or "great assembly". This great assembly consisted of 120 men; priests and elders of whom Ezra was chief. Clarke's Commentary says that Daniel and his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were among its members.

Inspired by Yahweh, Ezra, Nehemiah and the great assembly arranged the books in their Tripartite divisions, positioning the 22 books in their proper order. Prior to this inspired rearranging, many others had added to the original writings of the Law by Moses, such as Joshua, Samuel, Solomon, Hezekiah *(Prov. 25:1),* Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Samuel also added to the Writings. "Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before Yahweh" *(1 Sam. 10:25)*. Solomon added much to the Writings, but not all the proverbs originated with Solomon *(Prov. 30:1; 31:1).*

He *(Solomon)* searched the books of the wise men of old and wrote many proverbs. "Yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs" *(Eccl. 12:9)*. He said he wrote certain sections of proverbs so the people might "understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise" *(Prov. 1:6).*

Even though others had a hand in some of the canonization, Ezra, and the great assembly, under Divine inspiration, completed the most important restoration and finalizing, bringing the books up to date and adding the final touches. Malachi was added later, since he lived near the end of Nehemiah's life. His inspired book, written after the temple was built, was added last, and placed last, among the minor prophets. There were also things in Chronicles added years later, because the genealogy of the sons of Zerubbabel is carried down for many generations.

The completed Old Covenant was determined by the priests to have 22 books. It is no coincidence that the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters. As we have seen, the Messiah and the Apostles put their stamp of approval on these 22 books. Since the Catholic Apocrypha was written in Greek, it was disqualified from the original writings. "In fact, Josephus states that nothing had been added to Scripture `from Artaxerxes until our time.' While the Apocrypha was known to Yah'shua and His disciples, they never quoted from it as authoritative Scripture" *(KJV Study Bible).*

The Hebrews regarded the 22 books as a type of alphabetic acrostic, when each letter of the alphabet is used in sequential order to begin a sentence or verse. In Hebrew acrostics, each letter is used at the beginning of a sentence or group of sentences. In complete Hebrew acrostics, there are always 22 sentences, or multiples of 22, each beginning with the 22 successive letters of the alphabet.

In acrostic Psalms, each verse begins with a consecutive letter, as in Psalms 111 and 112, for example. Each has 22 lines and each line begins with a successive letter of the alphabet. These two Psalms show us that Yahweh will redeem and protect His people who are diligently obeying and holding fast to His commandments.

Psalm 119 is in a class all by itself, divided into 22 sections of 8 verses each. The 8 verses in each group begin with the first letter *(Aleph),* continuing through the first 8 letters, through the entire Psalm of 176 verses, or 8 times 22.

Most Bibles give you the letters of the Hebrew alphabet at the top of each section. It is not possible to translate this into English since the two alphabets do not correspond.

Proverbs 31:10-31 is a complete acrostic, giving a complete and perfect description of a virtuous woman. Lamentations uses complete acrostics in chapter 3. This book emphasizes Yahweh's complete destruction

and punishment upon His disobedient people during the Great Tribulation.

The entire Hebrew canon utilized acrostics of one form or another. There are even examples of deliberately broken acrostics when one or more letters of the alphabet are skipped. Psalms 9 and 10 are examples of this. Seven letters are intentionally omitted to show the chaotic conditions on earth during the Great Tribulation. Yahweh is here demonstrating the symbolic chaos resulting from disobedience, by using an incomplete acrostic.

When perfection or completion of a topic is being emphasized, Yahweh inspired the use of a complete and perfect acrostic. When chaos or destruction resulting from disobedience is being emphasized, then a broken or incomplete acrostic is used. Once we recognize that an acrostic is a SIGN of completion and perfection when all letters are used in perfect order, it should not be difficult to realize why it is absolutely necessary to retain the 22 Old Covenant books in their perfect order.

This number of 22 books was accepted by the Hebrews until about the second century, when it was changed to 24 books. Why? If a change had taken place in the Messiah's day, then Josephus would not have recorded that there were only 22 books. The Jews admit that this UN-inspired change was for mere convenience!

The 22 original books, together with the 27 books of the New Covenant, total 49. The number 49 is a very significant number, denoting perfect completion - 7 times 7, or completion times completion! The Greek alphabet of the New Covenant translations *(from Aramaic – a Hebrew dialect)* uses a 24 letter system, with 3 of the 24 letters *(gamma, rho and upsilon),* each having two distinct usages. This totals 27, which is remarkable when considering the significance of the 7 times 7 total of 49 books in the complete Bible!

This total number of books of 49 carries Yahweh's Divine meaning for completion. The seventh day completes the week; the seventh week after Passover completes the counting to Pentecost; the seventh month completes Yahweh's Festival year; the seventh year completes the cycle for the land rest, the release from debts, and the tithing cycle; and the seventh Sabbatical year completes the 49 year period to the Jubilee. This 49 year period contains all of Yahweh's symbolic sevens; days, weeks, months, years, and Festivals.

Even though the Hebrews shuffled the number of Old Covenant books from 22 to 24, bringing the Bible total to 51 - a number of no significance, they have faithfully retained the Tripartite divisions and the original content. Except for the first division of the Old Covenant *(the first five books),* the Egyptian Septuagint of the Bible, on the other hand, arranges the books so as to lose the Tripartite divisions.

In the fourth century the Catholics accepted this version of the Bible and decreed that Yahweh intended it that way! In all later translations, the Western world accepted this and ignored what the Hebrews had maintained for centuries. The current Protestant Bibles have 66 books in total. The number of *(incomplete)* man is 6, or 666 *(Rev. 13:18).* The Catholic church recognized this, so at the Council of Trent

(1546), they accepted the 11 books of the Apocrypha as canonical. They were never declared as Scripture until then!

With these additions they had a canon of 77 books, a much "nicer" sounding number! The Protestants stayed with the 66 books because there was no evidence of the validity of the Apocrypha. Although the Protestants have lost the Divinely inspired method of PROVING *(using acrostics and numbers of alphabets of the two Biblical languages)* the authenticity of the Bible books, they have retained an accurate, albeit disorganized version of the Bible.

Since all of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet were used by the time of the Apostles, it is no coincidence that Yahweh's further revelation was translated into another tongue. Thus Greek, with the requisite 27 letters *(24; 3 of which may be used two different ways)*, became the inspired transitional language of the New Covenant.

There is certainly much more evidence in the New Covenant proving the Divine selection of the Greek as the inspired transitional language - perhaps you might take opportunity to read it with an "investigative" curiosity not unlike that of the fictional Sherlock Holmes. You might surprise yourself on finding some of the many clues!

Here are some hints for your investigative reading, that I believe will help you prove the Divine authenticity of the New Covenant!

It was deliberately divided into 4 sections, by the Apostles, as evidenced by all early manuscripts: the Gospels *(incl. Acts)*; the General Epistles; Paul's Epistles, and the Revelation. It should be noted, however that the true order of the 4 divisions has been changed from the foregoing by reversing the General Epistles with Paul's. Remember the Old Covenant is divided into 3 divisions, totaling, you guessed it - seven!

-Isaiah 8:16 is Yahweh speaking of end-time events.

-again, Isaiah prophecies of end-time events in 42:21, as well as 33:22.

-Acts 3:22-23, confirms Exodus 7:1 and Deuteronomy 18:15.

-the Messiah makes claim to being the "Lawgiver" in Matthew 5:17-18.

-James confirms the Lawgiver in 4:12.

-with respect to "canonization", the Messiah's statement in Revelation 22:13 is absolute.

-the book of Revelation is an example of the Messiah's promises in John 16:13.

-Daniel 12:4 speaks of prophecy that would not be understood until the "time of the end". It IS NOW UNDERSTOOD because of the book of Revelation.

-Peter confirms the Messiah's affirmation that the Apostles had equal authority alongside the Old Covenant prophets in 2 Peter 3:2.

- Paul was divinely instructed; see 1 Cor. 9:1, with understanding of the "mystery" not previously revealed: Ephesians 3:3-5.

-see Paul's statements in Col. 1:25 and 1 Cor. 14:37.

-see 1 cor. 2:12-13.

-Paul was preparing his letters for canonization, see 2 Tim. 4:6-11; because of what he knew would happen as set out in 2 Tim. 4:3-4, and Acts 20:29-30. At this time Paul destroyed any of his writings that were not inspired - care to guess why?

-The first official canonization was done by Peter in A.D. 67-68, when

Mark went with Timothy to Paul in Rome and then on to Peter in Babylon, where Peter confirms Paul's writings as part of Scripture: 1 Peter 5:13; 2 Peter 3:16.

-Peter canonized 22 books - sounds familiar: and is it a coincidence that they were instructed to go "to the Hebrews first", and then to the Gentiles?; John's 5 books were written about 30 years after Peter's death, for a total of 27. John was told to "Tarry till I *[the Word]* come" *(John 21:22-23).*

-there are 7 General Epistles, 2 times 7 *(14)* Epistles of Paul and the number seven is used frequently in the Revelation; plus there are a total of 4 divisions in the early manuscripts of the New Covenant, for a total of 7 divisions in the entire Bible. Coincidence? Absolutely not!

There are many other "infallible proofs", in both Old and New Covenants. I hope you enjoy your search for them!

Yah'shua kept His promise as stated in Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33. We have a complete, Divinely inspired Bible *(which as we have seen, anyone can easily prove)*; let's not take it lightly!

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