

5. REASONS FOR BIBLE, HEAVEN, RESURRECTION, DEITY, CREATION and BAPTISM.

What Key Questions Need We Be Able To Answer?

Question 1: How do we know the Bible is God's Word?

1. **Fulfilled prophecy** regarding nations, Christ, individuals and second coming.
2. **Archaeology** - No archaeology discoveries contradict the Bible.
3. **Science** - The Bible contains scientific facts that were not known when the Bible was written.
4. **Unity** of the Bible written by 40 men over 1600 years agree without any contradiction.
5. **It contains all truth** and no error.
6. Bible principles for living all work when applied.
7. The Bible when printed, **delivered** man from the dark ages and brought blessing to the world. It freed men from superstitions.

Question 2: How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead?

1. Jesus after He rose, said that he had **flesh and bones**. Luke 24:39.
2. The **empty tomb** and the **ordered grave clothes** when the disciples examined the tomb. Mark 16:6
3. Christ **ate food** with His disciples after He rose. Luke 24:41-45.
4. People **recognised Him** after His resurrection, even the nail prints. John 20:25.
5. Christ **predicted that He would rise** bodily. John 2:19,22.
6. The mass psychological **change** of the disciples from being cowards at Christ's death, to become bold preachers after the resurrection. How else can this mass psychological change be explained?
7. Over **500 people saw Christ** after He had risen from the dead over a 40 day period. So convinced were they that they were willing to die as martyrs than to deny Christ's resurrection. Would you die for an event that you were not sure about? These witnesses have a high credibility having given the world it's highest moral code.
8. The **change from Saturday to Sunday** as the main day of worship. The Sabbath being so important to the Jews would not have been dropped by the Jews except for an immensely important event, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
9. The **church's** existence can only be explained by the miracle of Christ's resurrection.
10. **Angels** in the tomb declared that He had risen from the dead as He said. Luke 24:6-8.
11. Women who met Christ on this morning held Christ's feet. Matthew 28:9.

Question 3: Why do you believe that Jesus is God

1. **Jesus claimed to be God**. "if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24.

"**I AM**" is a name for "God", because;

- a) To God, no event is beyond Him in the future, and no event is out of His control in past. Only God is the eternal "**I AM**" in Exodus 3:14.
- b) "**I AM**" is **God's name forever** in Exodus 3:14,15.
- c) The Jews **rightly concluded** that Jesus was claiming to be God in John 8:58,59.
- d) The Septuagint translates Exodus 3:14 as "**I AM**" not as in the **NWT(JW)** version.

2. The Old Testament says that **JESUS IS GOD**. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called...The mighty God, The everlasting Father." Isaiah 9:6.
3. Jesus Christ has the **CREDENTIALS OF GOD**.
 - a) He **ROSE** from the dead.
 - b) He **DID MANY MIRACLES** showing His power over nature.
 - stilling storms, casting out demons, healing the blind, the lame and raising Lazarus.
 - c) He **PROPHESIED THE FUTURE** correctly. Eg: Rome destroying Jerusalem (70 AD).
 - d) He entered Jerusalem to proclaim himself King 173,880 days after March 5, 444 BC. This was the exact day that Daniel prophesied in Daniel 9:24-26.
 - e) He **solves the sin problem** by dying as our substitute, thus satisfying the law's demands.
4. **The Bible Declares that Jesus Christ is God** in these places: He is called "God" seven times in the New Testament:
 - i) "The Word was God". John 1:1.
 - ii) Thomas called Him "My Lord and my God". John 20:28.
 - iii) "The glorious appearing of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ". Titus 2:13.
 - iv) "God was manifest in the flesh". 1 Timothy 3:16.
 - v) "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". Colossians 2:9.
 - vi) "But unto the Son, he saith, 'Thy Throne, O God, is forever and ever'." Heb. 1:8.
 - vii) "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 1 John 5:7.
5. The **Old Testament predicted so many details about Jesus Christ's life** hundreds of years before He was born. Examples of such prophecies include:

PROPHECY	OT REFERENCE	NT REFERENCE
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18,24,25
Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:23,33
House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23
Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:1,2	Matthew 2:1
Preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist)	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1,2
Ministry to begin in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:12,13,17
Perform Miracles	Isaiah 35:5,6	Matthew 9:35
Teacher of Parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34
To enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:6-11
Gentile Nations to believe on Him	Isaiah 60:3	Acts 13:47,48
To rise from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31
To ascend to Heaven	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
Money to be thrown in the Temple	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
Money to buy a potter's field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7

PROPHECY	OT REFERENCE	NT REFERENCE
Forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 14:20
False witnesses accuse Him	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59,60
Silent before His accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
Beaten, wounded, spat on	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Garments parted and lots cast	Psalms 22:18	John 19: 23,24
Gall and vinegar offered Him	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
His forsaken cry	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
No bones broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:23
His side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Darkness over land from midday	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
Buried in rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
Messiah to offer Himself as Prince to Israel 173,880 days after March 5, 444 BC.	Daniel 9:26,27	Luke 19:41-44
Messiah comes, Messiah cut off (dies), Jerusalem and Temple destroyed	Daniel 9:26	by Titus in 70 AD
Jews to lose power to pass death sentence 23 years before the trial of Christ	Genesis 49:10	11 AD (Josephus, Antiquities, 17:13:1-5)

6. **Josephus the Jewish /Roman Historian** who lived from 37 to 100 AD, tells us that people of that time regarded Jesus Christ as God ("if it be lawful to call him a man.") This account is found in Josephus' "Antiquities of the Jews", page 379.

Now, there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, - a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was (the) Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

This confirms the Bible's account of Jesus Christ's :

- Historical existence.
- Deity.
- Miracles.
- Teacher.
- Pharisees suggesting that Pilate kill Jesus.
- Resurrection after three days.
- Fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.
- Followers known as the Christian Church.

Question 4: Why Creation Is Right and Evolution Is Wrong.

- God said "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. So **GOD CREATED MAN** in his own image..." Genesis 1:27.
- JESUS** said that God created man: "From the beginning of creation God made them male and female." Mark 10:6. "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be." Mark 13:19.
- SUDDEN APPEARANCE** of complex life in early Cambrian fossil layers.
- MAN'S RECORDED HISTORY** only goes back to about 3,000 BC, the first dynasty of Egypt and China, agreeing with the Bible's flood date of 2418 BC.
- SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS** says that systems go from order to disorder, yet evolution contradicts this by claiming systems go from "disorder to order".
- DATING METHODS** are greatly in error, giving an apparent age greater than the true age. This is due to unproven assumptions in the dating methods.
- 220 EVIDENCES** for a young earth of about 6,000 years old.
- ABSENCE OF TRANSITIONAL** fossil forms between species as predicted by evolution.
- Misplaced fossils.** For example:
 - Human shoe print on trilobite fossil.
 - Cave painting of brontosaurus in Zimbabwe.
 - Polystyrene tree trunks over many strata layers.
 - Human and Dinosaur footprints in Turkmenia.
- No beneficial mutations** have given a new species. There is no way to change the number of chromosomes in all the cells of an organism to change it to another species. For example, man has 46 chromosomes in every cell.
- Complexity** of sexual reproduction and eyes, can't be explained by evolution's random processes.
- Bad social effects of evolution**
 - "Survival of the fittest" of evolution justifies cunning, deceit, cruelty, animal behaviour and massacres, instead of **God's law of love and service**.
 - Militarism** of Germany starting World War I and World War II came from them applying evolution to encourage survival of the "fittest" nation Germany. This allowed the massacre of 6 million Jews and the destruction of other countries. This was just an evolutionary conflict.
 - Spread of **atheism**.
 - Spread of **Communism** and the arms race.
 - Spread of **immorality and divorce**. People acting like animals is just evolutionary behaviour.
 - No idea of right or wrong** because there is no authority of God to be accountable to.
 - Abortion.** Evolutionists say, "Don't worry, the foetus is only in the fish stage."

Question 5: Why we should believe in Baptism by immersion.

1. **Baptizo** in the Greek always means "immersion", never sprinkle. Sprinkle is "rantizo" in Greek.
2. **Everyone baptised** in the New Testament was a saved adult who could say "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:37.
3. **Only immersion pictures** the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, burial of our old sinful ways, and us rising to a new life with Jesus Christ.
4. **Only baptism by immersion** is the answer of a **good conscience towards God**. 1 Peter 3:21.
5. **Jesus** was baptised by immersion, and so should we. Mark 1:9-11.
6. Immersion was the **method of baptism up to 300 AD** as recorded by the Church Fathers.
The Roman Catholic Church changed it.

Question 6: Why do we believe that we are going to heaven?

1. Jesus told us of heaven and how to get there through Him.
2. The Old Testament tells us of heaven as the land that is very far off.
3. We have the Holy Spirit indwelling us, telling us of heaven.
4. We have the promises of God's Word.
5. Testimony of Godly people dying and going to heaven, such as Stephen (Acts 7:55,56).

WHY SHOULD WE GIVE A REASON

1. **Not to be ashamed** before men. 2 Timothy 2:15.
2. To be **approved by God**.
3. **To deliver people for error**, sin and false doctrine.
4. To **teach** answers to Christians.
5. To **strengthen** our faith.

HOW SHOULD WE ANSWER?

With meekness and fear, means to answer with modesty and gentleness.

Questions may sometimes be asked in an insulting manner.

Don't retort in anger or in a revengeful manner, but in a calm and gentle spirit, stating the reason for our hope. Let us give clear, intelligent and factual answers to establish the truth of God's Word satisfactorily in people's minds.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15.

CONCLUSION:

The probability of only eight prophecies about Jesus Christ coming true by guesswork is 1 chance in 10^{17} . What about the rest? Since the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) is right in predicting the future, we conclude that:

- a) Jesus Christ is the only way to God.
- b) The Bible is 100% accurate on issues that we have no normal knowledge on (such as the future). It therefore qualifies for our trust in it as God's only Word to man.
- c) It is therefore a suitable base for our thinking and our life. We conclude that,
THE BIBLE = TRUTH = REALITY = OUR LIFE'S FOUNDATION.