

1

Internal Evidence – What does the Bible claim for itself?

The Old Testament

- The Old Testament claims to be God speaking over 3800 times.
- Prophets were told to write down what God said.
- **Jesus** referred to the Old Testament as authoritative.
- Jesus and the apostles quoted from the Old Testament as their authority.

Probe Look Above, See Beyond

2

Internal Evidence – What does the Bible claim for itself?

The New Testament

- Hebrews 1:1-2 makes clear that Jesus' authority is on a par with the Old Testament:
"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe."
- Paul declared that his **message** was specifically from God.
- Peter said the prophets were given their messages from the Spirit of Christ.

Probe Look Above, See Beyond

3

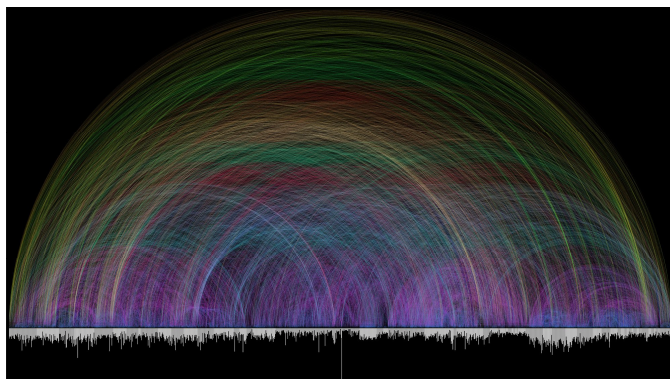
Internal Evidence – What does the Bible claim for itself?

The Bible is surprising in its unity and the consistency of its message:

- 40 authors
- Written under many different circumstances on three different continents
- Over a 1500-year period
- Consistency of theme: one problem—sin, one solution — Jesus
- Consistency of theology
- Consistency on controversial issues

Probe Look Above, See Beyond


4



5

Bibliographical Evidence

How do we know that the Bible of today is even close to the original?




Probe Look Above, See Beyond

6

The Old Testament

- The Scribes were professionals.
- They believed they were transcribing the Word of God and were therefore very careful.




Probe Look Above, See Beyond

7

The Masoretic Text

The Masoretic Text is the earliest complete copy of the Old Testament, written in Hebrew, from around 900 A.D.

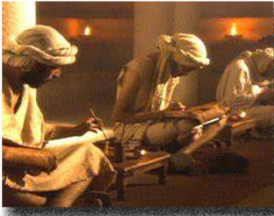


Probe Look Above, See Beyond

8

The Masoretic Text

When the Masoretes copied a book, they would add up the letters and find the middle letter. If it didn't match the original, they tore it up and made a new one.



Probe Look Above, See Beyond

9


The Dead Sea Scrolls



The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1949.


Probe Look Above, See Beyond

10



Probe Look Above, See Beyond


11



Probe Look Above, See Beyond

12

The Dead Sea Scrolls are dated to be between 200 B.C. and A.D. 100.

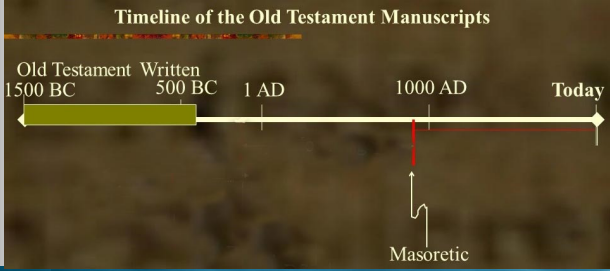


Probe Look Above, See Beyond

13

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Timeline of the Old Testament Manuscripts

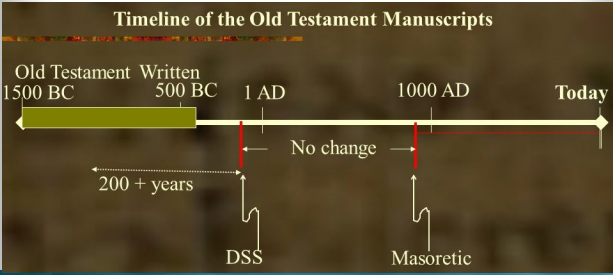


Probe Look Above, See Beyond

14

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Timeline of the Old Testament Manuscripts



Probe Look Above, See Beyond

15

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- The scrolls include one complete copy of Isaiah and [thousands](#) of fragments, representing every OT book but Esther.
- When compared to the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Masoretic text was [95%](#) identical.
- The other 5% had to do with spelling and grammar.

Probe Look Above, See Beyond

16

The Old Testament

- The Septuagint or LXX (thought to be translated by 70 Jewish scholars in Alexandria)
- The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Old Testament from around [200 B.C.](#) and is what Jesus and the New Testament writers quoted from. It strongly agrees with the Masoretic text.

Probe Look Above, See Beyond

17

Conclusion

“We can now be sure that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament, even back to 225 B.C. . . . indeed, it would be rash [skepticism](#) that would now deny that we have our Old Testament in a form very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the word of the Lord to those who had returned from the Babylonian captivity.”

R. Laird Harris
Can I Trust My Bible?

Probe Look Above, See Beyond

18

The New Testament

There are more than [5,000](#) different ancient Greek manuscripts containing all or portions of the New Testament that have survived to our time. These are written on different materials.



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

19

Papyrus: plant paper



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

20

Parchment: animal skins



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

21

Oldest Manuscripts

- Rylands Papyrus: [AD 125](#) – John 18:31-33,37
- Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus
 - AD 325-450
 - Complete parchment copies of the NT

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

22

Other Manuscripts

- There are over 1,000 copies and fragments of the New Testament in Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, and Ethiopic and [8,000](#) copies of the Latin Vulgate, some dating as far back as Jerome's original in AD 384-400.
- The entire New Testament can be reconstructed from quotations in the writings of the Church Fathers (AD 95 – 400) except for 15-20 verses.

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

23

Quantity of Ancient Historical Manuscripts

Caesar's <i>Gallic Wars</i>	10
Tacitus' <i>Annals</i>	2
Thucydides' <i>History</i>	8
Herodotus' <i>History</i>	8
Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	643

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

24

Quantity of NT Manuscripts

Greek manuscripts	c. 5,686
Latin Vulgate	10,000
Ethiopic, Slavic and Armenian	8,000
TOTAL -----	c. 24,000

Plus ~32,000 citations from pre-Nicene church fathers

Probe
Look Above, See Beyond

25

Bibliographic Test

Time Gap—Originals v. Copies

Caesar's <i>Gallic Wars</i>	1,000 yrs.
Tacitus' <i>Annals</i>	1,000 yrs.
Thucydides' <i>History</i>	1,300 yrs.
Herodotus' <i>History</i>	1,350 yrs.
Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	1,000 yrs.

Probe
Look Above, See Beyond

26

Bibliographic Test

Time Gap—Originals v. Copies

New Testament: Authored between A.D. 50-100

Earliest Fragment	A.D. 114
Earliest Book	A.D. 200
Most of NT	A.D. 250
Complete NT (<i>Codex Sinaiticus</i>)	A.D. 325

Probe
Look Above, See Beyond

27

Conclusion

“In no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament.”

Sir Frederic Kenyon

Probe
Look Above, See Beyond

28

“The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact, negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”


Sir Frederick Kenyon
The Bible and Archaeology

Probe
Look Above, See Beyond

29

External Evidence – Archaeology

Archeology is an inexact science dealing with fragmentary evidence from unrepeatable events. Therefore interpretations depend heavily on prior assumptions.



Probe
Look Above, See Beyond

30

Genesis

- The Ebla Tablets were found in Syria in 1974 and are composed of over 16,000 clay tablets dating to [2580-2450 B.C.](#), the oldest written material known. They confirm names like Ur, Sodom, Gomorrah, Baal, Adam, Eve, and Noah.
- The creation account speaks of one God who created the heavens, moon, stars, and earth as well as the concept of creation out of nothing.

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

31

Genesis

- The Tower of Babel is confirmed from tablets from Iraq that confirm a king of Ur built a ziggurat (2000 B.C.) to worship a moon god that was destroyed, the men scattered, and their language made strange.
- Archeology has also shown that the names, places, and customs of the [patriarchs](#) are as Genesis relates them.
- Sodom and Gomorrah have been identified and evidence of intense heat and earthquake activity destroying the cities has been found.

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

32

Saul, David, and Solomon



- Saul's fortress at Gibeah has been excavated.
- A coin was recently excavated in Jerusalem that contained the inscription, "The House of [David](#)."
- A small ornament found in a shop in Jerusalem in 1979 was inscribed "Belonging to the Temple of Yahweh."

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

33

The Captivities



- 26,000 Assyrian tablets affirm every Old Testament reference to an Assyrian King including Sennacherib and his [failure](#) to capture Jerusalem, including that thousands of his men died and the rest were scattered.
- Records found in ancient Babylon affirm the treatment of the Hebrew royal family, Belshazzar, and Cyrus' decree allowing the Jews to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1:1-4).

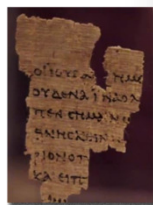
Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

34

The New Testament

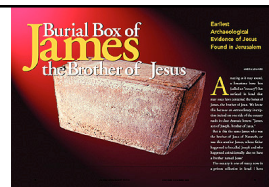
- The fragment of John 18 from A.D 125
- Luke's meticulous history has been verified even in places that it was originally thought he got it wrong.
- Unique places in [Jerusalem](#) from John's Gospel have been located such as the Pool of Bethesda, Pool of Siloam, and Jacob's Well.
- The census of Luke 2 is not known specifically but such censuses were taken at that time and the right rulers are mentioned for that time.



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

35



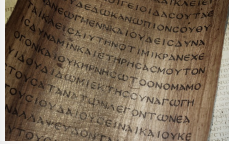
- The Ossuary of James reads "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus" - "Brother of" is very uncommon.
- Only 20 people could have fit this combination.
- Ossuaries date from 20 BC to 70 AD. Style of writing dates from 60-70 AD. James martyred in 62 AD.

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

36

Conclusion



While there is much in the Bible that has not been specifically confirmed by archaeology, nothing has been found that unequivocally [refutes](#) any statement in the Bible.

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

37

Fulfilled Prophecy

- Prophecy is history written in advance.
- Only an omniscient, omnipotent God could know the future so accurately He could have it written down.
- Fulfilled prophecy is another evidence that the Bible is God's Word.



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

38

16 Messianic Prophecies



- Born of a woman (Gen. 3:15, Gal.4: 4)
- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Matt. 1: 21ff)
- He would be cutoff 483 years (62 plus 7 sevens) after declaration to reconstruct temple in 444 B.C. (Dan. 9:24ff)

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

39

16 Messianic Prophecies

- Of the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12: 1-3; 22:18; Matt: 1: 1; Gal. 3:16)
- Of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Heb. 7: 14)
- Of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12ff; Matt. 1: 1)
- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

40

16 Messianic Prophecies



- Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matt. 3:16-17)
- Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3; Mal. 3:1; Matthew 3:1-2)
- Would perform miracles (Isaiah 35: 5-6; Matt. 9:35)

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

41

16 Messianic Prophecies

- Would cleanse the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matt. 21:12)
- Rejected by the Jews (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7)



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

42

16 Messianic Prophecies



Die a humiliating death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) involving:

- rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11)
- silence before accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-19)
- being mocked (Psalm 22:7-8; Matthew 27:31)

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

43

16 Messianic Prophecies

- piercing his hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33)
- being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:38)
- praying for his persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:43)



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

44

16 Messianic Prophecies



- buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)
- casting lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24)

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

45

16 Messianic Prophecies

- Would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)
- Would sit down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

46

The probability that 16 predictions could be fulfilled in one man has been calculated at 1 in 10^{45} . This is a number far greater than the number of people that have ever existed.

Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

47

Certainly the Bible is the most accurate and attested document of the ancient world. To reject it as God's Word is more likely due to personal bias than the evidence.



Probe

Look Above, See Beyond

48