

The Bible - The Testimony of God

Gen 1:1 - 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. NIV

The bible declares that "all things were created by God." That He is the ultimate reality behind everything that exists, and indeed He is. God created everything out of nothing. Can there be anything too hard for Him?

In the bible, we have the eternal truths of the Living God, the creator of all that is. For God Himself has made known to us by revelation the answers to life's deepest mysteries. We can look at the creation and we can know many things. Things about life, things about death, things about our existence. We call this "Natural Revelation." The things which are revealed by nature, the natural physical creation that God has made.

Rom 1:19-20 - 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, **being understood from what has been made**, so that men are without excuse. NIV

But "Natural Revelation" falls short of the deep and profound questions, which stir our hungry hearts. Who are we? - Why are we here? - What is the purpose of this life? How can the longing in my heart be fulfilled? Look to the bible friend and you will find a sure and lasting answer.

So then, God has decided in His infinite wisdom to "Reveal" to us the purposes for which we were made. Contained in the bible is the Truth about our Origin, our Existence, our Destiny, and best of all it describe God Himself, the ever Living, Almighty King of the Ages, the Father of Creation. And this we call "Special Revelation." God has chosen to give us His testimony, His decrees, His eternal knowledge, "Yeah, even the deep things of God," says Paul.

In Genesis we also learn of the Fall of man. We fell away from God when we sinned against Him, bringing about death, the wages of our sin. We separated ourselves from God by our own willful choice. The bible is the account of a loving God that would redeem and reconcile us back to Himself.

The entire bible is written about and points to Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Savior of the world. The message of the bible is one of grace and peace, finding its fulfillment in the eternal kingdom of God in the New Heavens and Earth, which He will create.

Every Old Testament sacrifice points to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, which perfectly appeased the wrath of God toward sin.

Heb 10:9-10 - 9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, **we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** NIV

The Old Testament continually points to the redemption of God to come in the person of the Messiah. It is said that types and shadows of the Messiah can be seen on every page of the Old Testament. Peter tells us that the Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world, showing us that the creation, the fall, and the redemption of man by Christ were all eternally and divinely planned events brought about by God for His own purpose and Glory.

The New Testament simply recounts the events of Christ's coming, urging people of every race or creed to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved." To be reconciled to God through Him, before it is too late.

It is an urgent message calling men to repent of their sins and turn to Christ for salvation. Even Jesus himself preached this exact message saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

Why are we repenting, and what are we being saved from? Because God will not suffer with the sins of man forever.

Turn with me to the book of Zephaniah:

Zephaniah 1:2-3 - "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 3 "I will sweep away both men and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

Zeph 1:14-2:3 - 14 "The great day of the LORD is near- near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, 16 a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. 17 I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like filth. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth."

Zephaniah 2 - 2:1 Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, 2 before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. 3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

Friends, God is not kidding around. As much as the world would like to think so, this creation is not some divine joke by which we get eternally warm fuzzies. He is serious. Serious enough to sacrifice His Son for our sins. And this is the great good news.

This is the good news and the message of the bible. God will forgive our sins, and bring us into His eternal kingdom of Joy and Peace, if we will repent and believe in His Son and what he has done for us. His promise is sure and He will turn no one away.

Rev 22:7 - "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book." NIV

Rev 22:12-15 – 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. NAS

Rev 22:21 - 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. NAS

God is offering His grace and His love and His mercy, through Jesus Christ. He is the only way to be saved. **He is BOTH SAVIOR and LORD** of Heaven and Earth. The bible is written about Him.

The bible is a supernatural book, filled with supernatural revelation.

It is the Word of God. It is sayings from His own lips. On it is stamped His divine authority. It is His "Special Revelation" of His plan for the creation, and the fall, and the redemption of man. Written by over 40 authors, in a time span over some 1800 years, its message is perfectly consistent, bearing in it the way to be reconciled to God, from whom we have fallen away in our sins. These Words originate in the mouth of God, and give to us the eternal plan of the ages. As Solomon tells us,

Prov 2:6 - 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; The bible has power to transform a life, a family, a marriage, or even a nation. Friends, the prosperity of western civilization finds its blessing flowing from obedience to God's

Testimony, the bible. Yes, the Word of God not only created the world, but even now also sustains the world, as Hebrews tells us,

Heb 1:1-3 - 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 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. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word.** NIV

The bible gives us specific direction for our lives. It defines for us the principles of Wisdom. It speaks to us in every area of our lives. In it is recorded everything that we need for life and for godliness, the scripture tells us. We have in the bible everything that we need to be like God, the One whom it describes. The One FOR whom all things were made. The One who was before all things and in whom all things hold together. It describes the God and Father of Love, who has planned a saga of life and death, sin and redemption, beauty and power which has been played out for some 6000 years now. It speaks of a God who holds the whole world in the palm of His hand, sovereignly ordaining the events of history, according to His own purpose and will.

The bible is the ultimate standard of Truth, revealing the God of Truth.

It is the revealing of what is true, what is factual, what is verifiable and according to reality. In it you will find no error, no contradiction, and a perfect record of history. It is a tremendously reliable source of history. Archeology has verified again and again that historical accuracy of the bible. The bible is said to be inerrant and infallible. Who has proven one single matter in the bible to be untrue? No one, and no one ever will. God speaks only truth, and the bible therefore always reveals the truth about every matter. If someone thinks the bible to be false, let that person live in ignorance and disobedience to what it says, and then find the curses that are written therein to come crashing down on their heads in the day of reckoning. The bible declares the truth, commands us to live according to it, and leaves us with the free choice to either obey it or ignore it.

Deut 30:15-20 - 15 See, **I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.** 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, NIV

The bible is a timeless book.

It speaks great mysteries of the future, hundreds, even thousands of years before they take place, and that with pinpoint accuracy. Three times in Isaiah God declares that His Divine Stamp of Authority is predictive prophecy. Listen to His words:

Isa 46:9-10 - I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 **I make known the end from the beginning,** from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. NIV

Isa 44:7-8 - 7 Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come--yes, let him foretell what will come. 8 Do not tremble, do not be afraid. **Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?** You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one." NIV

Isa 45:21-23 - 21 Declare what is to be, present it-- let them take counsel together. **Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD?** And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. 22 "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. 23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. NIV
In Exodus 3:12, **God tells Moses** that he will lead the Israelites out of Egypt and they will worship God at Sinai, the place of the burning bush. In Exodus 24, several years later, he returns and worships God with 1.6 million Israelites.
Nine times in Exodus, Moses prophesys of events we call the plagues. In each case they come to pass in exact fulfillment of Moses' commands. The plagues of blood(ch7:17), frogs, insects, cattle death, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn all came to pass with perfect accuracy.

In 1 Kings 13:2 **the prophet Shemaiah** spoke of a king who would come named Josiah who would burn the altars of the false Gods and their priests along with them. The fulfillment of that prophecy is recorded in 2 Kings 23:15-16 and happened some 300 years later.

The prophet Isaiah in Is 13:17 and following spoke of the fall of Babylon by the Medes, which we know happened some 140 years later. In Chapter 44:28, Isaiah also spoke of the Persian ruler, calling him by name, Cyrus, saying that he will rebuild Jerusalem and fulfill the plans of the Lord. This was spoken 150 years before it took place. Also, chapter 53, similarly speaks of the suffering of the Messiah, with pinpoint accuracy and graphic detail, some 700 years before it came to pass.

Jeremiah spoke of the captivity of Israel in Babylon and the capture of King Zedekiah and the blinding of his eyes, as well as his death in the kingdom of Babylon. He also prophesied the death of Hananiah, and seven months later, he died. Chapter 28:16-17
Daniel was one who was said to have in him , "the spirit of the Holy Gods" for his ability to interpret dreams and to prophesy. The greatest prophecy in the Old Testament (the seventy weeks of Daniel chapter 9:24-27), is attributed to Daniel concerning the exact date of the triumphal entry of Christ some 500 years before it happened.

Ezekiel – Fall of Sidon ch28, Fall of Tyre ch 26, Fall of Egypt's Idols ch 30(Thebes and Memphis) – Restoration of Ammon –ch25:3-Modern Amman,

Nahum – Fall of Nineveh

Micah – Fall of Samaria

The Bible and its History – Werner Keller

In his book, Messiah-Prophecies Fulfilled, Dr. D James Kennedy documents and explains from history the fulfillment of 29 Old Testament prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

We could go on and on speaking of the prophets and the supernatural Word of God which came from their lips as the Holy Spirit carried them along. These men had the ability to do this because God is Omniscient and has a divine knowledge of history from beginning to end. The Word of God is timeless because God is Eternal and exists outside of time.

The bible is vital in our lives.

Friends, let us not take God's Word for granted but let spend our days reveling in its promises of love and grace. Let us turn to God to be a Lamp unto our feet and a Light

unto our path. Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

It is the Word of God, which created us.

It is the Word of God that saved us.

It is the Word of God that sustains us.

Jesus Said, Matt 24:35 - 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

1 John 2:17 - 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. NIV