

1 Corinthians 15:41— In what way do stars differ? _____.
Scientists did not discover that stars have **different magnitudes** and thus different brilliancies (glories) until 1550 years later.

Jeremiah 33:22— Here it states that the stars cannot be _____.
This was not proven by scientists until 3000 years later.

Ecclesiastes 1:7— Though all rivers run into the _____ it is not full.
No water goes into the sea that does not come from the sea! How does this happen? The water evaporates from the sea, producing clouds and rain over the earth which eventually flows into the rivers and sea (Job 36:27). The **hydrologic cycle** was discovered by science 2500 years later after it was recorded in the Bible.

Psalms 102:25-27— The world is growing _____ like a garment. In modern terms this is called the law of **increasing entropy** which was discovered by science 2500 years later after it was recorded in the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 1:6— The wind “turns _____ continually” in the atmosphere. Science discovered **atmospheric circulation** of winds 2700 years later.

Psalms 8:8— Here David speaks of the fish of the seas and the _____ of the seas. Scientists didn’t discover **ocean currents** until 2800 years later.

PRACTICAL EVIDENCE

No other book answers the basic questions of humanity like the Bible.

Isaiah 42:5— OUR ORIGIN: How did we come to exist? _____

Genesis 1:27— OUR IDENTITY: Who are we? _____

Isaiah 43:7— OUR PURPOSE: Why are we here? _____

Hebrews 9:27— OUR DESTINY: What happens when we die? _____

Summary— Four proofs that the Bible is divinely inspired are these: (1) the fulfillment of specific prophecies, (2) Scientific facts found in the Bible (3) The Preservation of the Bible through the centuries (4) It is the only book that adequately answers the most important questions of life. In our next lesson we will learn how to interpret this amazing book from God, the Bible.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

Lesson 1



(A fifteen lesson course)

Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

The Bible is an extraordinary book, penned by more than 36 writers over a period of 1500 years, yet it never contradicts itself and its perfect unity suggests it had a single author, God himself. It is comprised of two major divisions: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written mainly in the Hebrew language and the New Testament in Greek.

_____ How many books are there in the Bible? (Use the table of contents in the front of your Bible to answer this question and the two following questions.)

_____ How many books are in the Old Testament?

_____ How many books are in the New Testament?

_____ The Old Testament was first written in what language?

_____ The New Testament was first written primarily in what language?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 — How much of the Holy Scripture does this

verse say is inspired (“God breathed”)? _____

What are four things the Scriptures are profitable (beneficial) in performing?

_____ **2 Peter 1:20,21** — The Scripture claims that it did not originate in the mind of man but that holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy

_____. In this study, we want to consider four evidences proving that the Bible is what it claims to be: the inspired word of God.

PROPHETIC EVIDENCE

Micah 5:2 — Micah (who lived about 700 years before the birth of Jesus) prophesied that Christ would be born in what town?

Zechariah 11:12-13—Zechariah (who lived about 500 years before the birth of the Messiah) prophesied that Jesus would be sold for exactly how much money?

Where did Zechariah say that the money would be thrown into?
(The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Matthew 27:3-10.)

Isaiah 50:6 — This Scripture prophesies that Jesus would offer what part of His body to the smiters? What part of His body would He not hide from spitting?

Psalms 22:7,8, 16-18—What are the four specific prophecies we find in these verses that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

Could men have made specific predictions like these **on their own** (without any revelation from God) and all of them come true hundreds of years in the future in the person of Jesus? _____

EVIDENCE OF SCRIPTURE PRESERVATION

1 Peter 1:23-25 — Unlike human beings who are frail and wither away, God's written word would be preserved for how long?

God's word has been preserved throughout the ages. There are over 14,000 Old Testament manuscripts and 5,300 New Testament ancient Greek manuscripts, many dating all the way back to fourth century. These were meticulously copied in their original languages by scribes over the ages up until the invention of the printing press in the 16th century. (For a more in-depth study, we recommend the book entitled, *How We Got the Bible* by Neil R. Lightfoot.)

One of the greatest evidences for the preservation of God's word was the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls between 1946 to 1956. In the caves of Qumran near the Dead Sea was discovered a scroll of Isaiah that dates back to

about 100 years B.C. Before this discovery, the oldest known copy of the book of Isaiah was a manuscript from the eleventh century A.D.! What is amazing is that the text of the ancient Isaiah scroll from 100 B.C. was **IDENTICAL** in all important aspects to the manuscripts of Isaiah that were over a thousand years more recent! In other words there was no significant difference between the two Isaiah manuscripts even though one was over a thousand years older than the other! This is proof positive that God providentially oversaw the copying the Scriptures to ensure that it remained unchanged and uncorrupted throughout the centuries. Without a doubt, the word of God we have today is exactly the same as that which God originally revealed to the apostles and prophets.

Matthew 4:4— Did God inspire only the thoughts in the Bible or every word in the Bible?

Word of Caution — Every word in the original languages of the Bible (Greek and Hebrew) is inspired of God (Prov.30:5). Yet, in translating God's word from Greek into English, many translations such as the *New International Version* do not make an effort to give a word for word translation from Greek into English. Instead they take the Greek text and restate it in their own words (paraphrasing it), mixing their own words with God's words. They usually keep the thought basically the same, but use different words and phrases than those originally used by God. Hence, our recommendation is to use a literal (more of a word for word) version like the King James Version, New King James Version, or American Standard Version. Why do you think it is important to be cautious when choosing a translation of the Scriptures?

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

The following scientific discoveries were revealed in the Bible long before they were discovered by scientists.

Isaiah 40:22— Here the prophet speaks of the **spherical shape** of the earth by saying that God sits "above the _____ of the earth". This was revealed 1600 years before it was discovered by men of science.

Job 38:7 — What does this verse say that the stars did together? _____ It was not discovered by scientists that **stars produce sound** until 4000 years after it was written in the Bible.