

Is the Bible Reliable?

How Can I Know the Bible is True?

INTRODUCTION: Every major religion has its own “holy book.”

1. Judaism - _____ and Talmud
2. Hinduism - Vedas and Bhagavad-Gita
3. Buddhism - Pali Canon and Sutras
4. Islam - _____
5. Christianity - Bible

How can we know that ours, the Bible, is the Word of God?

WHAT IS THE PROPER TEST FOR VALIDITY?

- The test is not _____.
- But anyone can be sincerely _____.
- The test is not _____.
- The test is not the _____ of one person or a group of people.
- The test is not _____.
- The test is not _____.
- Of all the holy books of all the religions of the world, only the Bible offers a _____ whereby its reliability can be verified.

THAT TEST IS THE FULFILLMENT OF _____.

Isaiah 48:3–5 3 “I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did *them*, and they came to pass. 4 Because I knew that you *were* obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze, 5 Even from the beginning I have declared *it* to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed *it* to you, Lest you should say, ‘My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.’

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously;

- Only the Tanach of Judaism (which is our _____ Testament) and the Bible (which is the Old and the New Testament) dares to offer prophecies of future events.
- In fact, the Bible offers hundreds of prophecies of the _____ at the time they were written by the biblical author.
- While some of these prophecies are still in the future, many of the prophecies have been fulfilled in exact detail, and their fulfillment is a matter of _____ record.
- One such prophecy is the declaration of Ezekiel concerning the ancient city of _____.

Ezekiel 26:1–18

3 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I *am* against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. 4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. 5 It shall be *a place for spreading nets* in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,’ says the Lord GOD; ‘it shall become plunder for the nations. 6 Also her daughter *villages* which *are* in the fields shall be slain by the sword. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.’

7 “For thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, with chariots, and with horsemen, and an army with many people. 8 He will slay with the sword your daughter *villages* in the fields; he will heap up a siege mound against you, build a wall against you, and raise a defense against you. 9 He will direct his battering rams against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers. 10 Because of the abundance of his horses, their dust will cover you; your walls will shake at the noise of the horsemen, the wagons, and the chariots, when he enters your gates, as men enter a city that has been breached. 11 With the hooves of his horses he will trample all your streets; he will slay your people by the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground. 12 They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water. 13 I will put an end to the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps shall be heard no more. 14 I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be *a place for spreading nets*, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken,’ says the Lord GOD.

18 Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall; Yes, the coastlands by the sea are troubled at your departure.” ’

This prophecy makes seven specific predictions:

<p>Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the mainland city of Tyre. (26:7)</p>	<p>In 585 B.C. _____ began a 13 year siege of the city. Most of the people had moved by ship to an island about a half mile off the coast and fortified that city. In effect it became the _____ Tyre. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the old city, but New Tyre on the island continued for several hundred years.</p>
<p>Many nations would come against Tyre like waves. (26:3)</p>	<p>More than two centuries later, _____ the Great attacked the new and now only city of Tyre as he marched in conquest toward Egypt. Because he had no fleet, Alexander had his troops scoop up the debris from the destruction of the original city and dump it in the water, thus building a 200 ft. wide mole or causeway from the shore to the walls of the city.</p> <p>Then in a matter of months, his forces broke through the walls and killed _____ inhabitants and sold another 30,000 into slavery.</p> <p>Waves of armies continued their assaults for _____ years.</p>
<p>Other cities would be so filled with fear at the destruction of Tyre that they would not resist their conqueror. (26:14-18)</p>	<p>After Alexander completed his butchery and humiliation of Tyre’s citizens, other cities along the coastlands opened their gates to him and _____, seeking to avoid a similar fate.</p>
<p>Tyre would be made flat and bare like a rock. (26:4)</p>	<p>The _____ historian Philip Myers wrote of Tyre, “The larger part of the site of the once great city is now bare as the top of a rock.”</p>
<p>Fishermen will spread their nets on the site. (26:5)</p>	<p>Nina Jidejian writes, “...The port has become a haven today for fishing boats and a place for spreading _____.”</p>
<p>The debris of the city will be thrown into the water. (26:12)</p>	<p>Fulfilled by Alexander. See the prophecy from 26:3.</p>
<p>The city will never be rebuilt. (26.14)</p>	<p>The original city of Tyre on the mainland has _____ been rebuilt.</p>

THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECIES SUCH AS THE DESTRUCTION OF TYRE DO NOT HAPPEN MERELY BY _____.

- A college professor of mathematics named Phillip Stoner used his classes in _____ to calculate the probability of certain prophecies fulfilled in the Scriptures. His work was certified as accurate by the American Scientific Affiliation and his findings published in a book named *Science Speaks*.

A Summary of Classroom Calculations Of The Probability

Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the mainland city of Tyre. (26:8)	
Many nations would come against Tyre like waves. (26:3)	
Other cities would be so filled with fear at the destruction of Tyre that they would not resist her conqueror. (26:14-18)	
Tyre would be made flat and bare like a rock. (26:4)	
Fishermen will spread their nets on the site. (26:5)	
The debris of the city will be thrown into the water. (26:12)	
The city will never be rebuilt. (26.14)	

- Skeptics will say, “None of the fulfillments of any of these seven _____ of the prophecy is impossible.”

To determine the probability of _____ of the parts coming true, we must _____ the probabilities of each part with the other parts.

$$1/3 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/500 \times 1/10 \times 1/10 \times 1/20 = 1/75,000,000$$

One chance out of 75 _____!

- Professor Stoner and his class took _____ of the Bible’s prophecies that have been fulfilled and calculated the probability that all 16 could have just happened by chance without any need for divine involvement. Their calculation was $1/10^{45}$.

That means one chance out of a 1 with 45 zeros behind it!

The fact that they all came true, they and many hundreds of other specific prophecies, is overwhelming evidence that God, who knows the end from the beginning caused the Bible to be written as it is, making it and it _____, the very Word of God.

- _____ other so called “holy book” or any book can substantiate such a claim! The Bible passes the test!