

# How Do I Know... **The Bible Is From God?**

## Considering the Writers' Claims

Inspired: "God-Breathed"  
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Moved by Holy Spirit / Spoke from God  
(2 Peter 1:20-21)

Words Taught by the Spirit  
(1 Corinthians 2:11-13)

*All evidence for the Bible's reliability gives credibility to these claims as well*

*Yet we don't just have to take their word for it...*

## Evidence of Divine Authorship

**Unity** of approximately 40 different authors from different backgrounds, speaking different languages, writing over a period of 1500 years.

**LIMITATION:** This is only evident to the diligent Bible student.

**Scientific Accuracy** that exceeds the knowledge of the ancient world in which it was written.

- *Dimensions of Noah's ark* - **Genesis 6:15**
- *Circumcision on the 8th day* - **Leviticus 12:3**

**LIMITATION:** The Bible was not written as a science text book and often employs poetic language.

## Fulfilled Prophecy

*Evidence of Divine Foreknowledge*

### **The Principle**

Only a Being outside the realms of time and space could foretell the future  
(Isaiah 46:8-10; 41:21-23)

### **The Process**

Prophecy was written in veiled language to hide the fullness of God's plan until the time was right  
(Ephesians 3:4-5, 8-10; 2 Peter 1:9)

### **The Point**

The majority of prophecy in the Bible is "Messianic Prophecy" focusing on the coming *Messiah* or *Christ* (literally: "anointed one")

<b>2 Sam 7:12-13; Is 9:6-7</b>	Descendant of David	<b>Matt 1:1</b>
<b>Mic 5:2</b>	Born in Bethlehem	<b>Luke 2:4-7</b>
<b>Mal 3:1; Is 40:3</b>	Preceded by a Messenger	<b>Matt 3:1-3</b>
<b>Zech 9:9</b>	Rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey's Colt	<b>Matt 21:1-9</b>
<b>Zech 11:12-13</b>	Betrayal for 30 Shekels of Silver. Thrown to the Potter in the House of the Lord	<b>Matt 26:14-16; 27:3-10</b>
<b>Is 53:4-6</b>	Pierced and Scourged for Our Sins	<b>Matt 27:26; 1 Pet 2:24-25</b>
<b>Is 53:7</b>	Did Not Open His Mouth	<b>Matt 27:12-14</b>
<b>Is 53:9, 12</b>	Associated with the Wicked and Rich at His Death	<b>Matt 27:38, 57-60</b>
<b>Ps 22:6-8, 12</b>	Mocked and Taunted, Surrounded by Enemies	<b>Matt 27:27-31; Luke 23:35-37</b>
<b>Ps 22:14-16</b>	Bones Out of Joint, Thirst, Hands and Feet Pierced	<b>John 19:17-18, 28-30</b>
<b>Ps 22:18</b>	Garments Divided by Casting Lots	<b>John 19:23-24</b>

## Objections

**Postdiction:** “the declaration or indication of that which has already come to pass” (*Merriam-Webster*).

“No responsible critic today would maintain that the OT Canon was not available for transmission by the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus [285-247 B. C.]—when the Septuagint was translated in Alexandria (*The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*).

### **Self-fulfillment**

Jesus could not have determined the lineage or place of His birth. He could not have orchestrated the conditions of His betrayal, details of His persecution, method of His death, or place of His burial.

Even if Jesus had attempted to set Himself up as the Messiah, the Jewish view of the Messiah would have led Him in a much different direction (**Matthew 20:21**).

### **Coincidence**

Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver and a death penalty that was not even known among the Jews are not very safe predictions.

Compound probabilities makes the fulfillment of all these prophecies by one man statistically impossible—*if each of our 11 prophecies had a 1 in 10 chance of occurring in any given person, the probability of all 11 coming true in one person would still be 1 in 100 billion.*

Even the time frame for these events to coincide was limited to the days of the Roman Empire (**Daniel 2:44**)

## Conclusion

There is no valid explanation for the fulfillment of all these prophecies aside from the foreknowledge of God.