

Why We Know The Bible Is The Word Of God

Willmington's Guide To The Bible

How can we know that the Bible is of supernatural origin?

I. First supernatural proof (It's accuracy)

- A. The Bible is accurate in spite of the long period of time involved in its writing.
 - 1. More than fifteen centuries elapsed between the writing of Genesis and Revelation.
 - 2. Nearly 400 years elapsed between the writing of Malachi and Matthew.

- B. The Bible is accurate in spite of the many authors (some forty) and their various occupations (approximately nineteen).
 - 1. Moses was an Egyptian prince.
 - 2. Joshua was a soldier.
 - 3. Samuel was a priest.
 - 4. David was a king.
 - 5. Esther was a queen.
 - 6. Ruth was a housewife.
 - 7. Job was a rich farmer.
 - 8. Amos was a poor farmer.
 - 9. Ezra was a scribe.
 - 10. Isaiah was a prophet.
 - 11. Daniel was a prime minister.
 - 12. Nehemiah was a cupbearer.
 - 13. Matthew was a tax collector.
 - 14. Mark was an evangelist.
 - 15. Luke was a physician.
 - 16. John was a wealthy fisherman.
 - 17. Peter was a poor fisherman.
 - 18. Jude and James probably were carpenters.
 - 19. Paul was a tentmaker.

- C. The Bible is accurate in spite of the different geographical places where the Bible was written.
 - 1. In the desert (Ex. 17).
 - 2. On Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20).

3. In Palestine (most).
4. In Egypt (Jeremiah?).
5. On the Isle of Patmos (Revelation).
6. In Babylon (Daniel).
7. In Persia (Esther).
8. In Corinth (1 and 2 Thessalonians).
9. In Ephesus (Galatians?).
10. In Caesarea (Luke?).
11. From Rome (2 Timothy).

D. The Bible is accurate in spite of the many different styles of its writing.

1. As history.
2. As prophecy.
3. As biography.
4. As autobiography.
5. As poetry.
6. As law.
7. In letter form.
8. In symbolic form.
9. In proverb form.
10. In doctrinal form.

II. Second Supernatural Proof (Its Indestructibility)

The story is told of a visitor who toured a blacksmith shop. Viewing heaps of discarded hammers but only one huge anvil, he asked: "How often do you replace your anvil?" With a smile the owner replied, "Never! It is the anvil that wears out the hammers, you know!"

So it is with the Word of God. The hammers of persecution, ridicule, higher criticism, liberalism, and atheism have for centuries pounded out their vicious blows upon the divine anvil, but all to no avail. There they lie, in rusting piles, while the mighty anvil of the Scriptures stands unbroken, unshaken, and unchipped.

A. Its indestructibility in spite of political persecutions (from the Roman Emperors).

In A.D. 303, Emperor Diocletian thought he had destroyed every hated Bible. After many tireless years of ruthless slaughter and destruction, he erected a column of victory over the embers of a burned Bible. The title on the column read: "Extinct is the Name of Christian." Twenty years later, the new Emperor Constantine offered a reward for any remaining Bibles. Within twenty-four hours no less than fifty copies were brought out of hiding and presented to the king.

B. Its indestructibility in spite of religious persecutions.

1. As seen through the persecutions by Roman Catholic popes.

Almost without exception, the early popes opposed the reading and translating of the Bible. In 1199, Pope Innocent III ordered the burning of all Bibles.

2. As seen through the persecutions leveled against John Wycliffe and William Tyndale.

Of all the heroes in church history, no two other names are so closely associated with the Word of God as the names of Wycliffe and Tyndale. The very mention of these two men was no doubt sufficient to turn the devil livid with rage. It is therefore no surprise to read of the vicious attacks leveled against them.

- a. John Wycliffe. Wycliffe lived at a time (the early part of the fourteenth century) when the burning question was: Who shall rule England, the king or the pope? Wycliffe believed the best way to break the grievous yoke of Romanism would be to place the Bible into the hands of the common people. This he did by translating (for the first time in history) the complete Bible into English. He then organized and sent forth a group of preachers (called the Lollards) to teach the Word of God all across England.

On December 28, 1384, while conducting a service in the Lutterworth Church, he was suddenly stricken with paralysis and died three days later. After his death, those who hated his Bible translation activities said the following things about Wycliffe:

“John Wycliffe, the organ of the devil, the enemy of the Church, the confusion of the common people, the idol of heretics, the looking glass of hypocrites, the encourager of schism, the sower of hatred, the storehouse of lies, the sink of flattery, was suddenly struck by the judgment of God... that mouth which was to speak huge things against God and against His Saints or holy church, was miserably drawn aside... showing plainly that the curse which God had thundered forth against Cain was also inflicted upon him.’ [From the mouth of a Monk]

‘That pestilent wretch John Wycliffe, the son of the old serpent, the forerunner of Antichrist, who had completed his iniquity by inverting a new translation of the Scriptures.’” (H. S. Miller, Biblical Introduction, p. 329)

- b. William Tyndale (1484-1536). Tyndale was one of the greatest translators of God’s Word who ever lived. He was born in England, and so skilled in seven languages (Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, English, and Dutch), that whichever he might be speaking one would believe that language was his native tongue. Our own King James Version is practically a fifth revision of Tyndale’s, and it retains many of the words and much of the character, form, and style of his version. In 1525, he printed the first copy ever produced of the

New Testament in English. His overall goal in life was perhaps best expressed through a statement he made in 1521:

“I defy the Pope and all his laws; if God spares my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know...the Scripture.”

“On Friday, October 6, 1536, Tyndale was executed. By the Emperor’s laws, only Anabaptists were burned alive, so he escaped that fate. He was led out and permitted to engage in a few moments of prayer. With fervent zeal and a loud voice he cried, ‘Lord, open the King of England’s eyes!’ Then his feet were bound to the stake, the iron chain was fastened around his neck, with a hemp rope loosely tied in a noose, and fagots and straw were heaped around him. At a given signal the rope was tightened, and Tyndale was strangled to death. Then the torch was applied, and the body was quickly consumed.” (pp. 338, 339)

D. Its indestructibility in spite of philosophical persecution.

Here several cases come to mind:

1. Voltaire. He once said, “Another century and there will be not a Bible on the earth.” The century is gone, and the circulation of the Bible is one of the marvels of the age. After he died, his old printing press and the very house where he lived was purchased by the Geneva Bible Society and made a depot for Bibles.

On December 24, 1933, the British Government bought the valuable Codex Sinaiticus from the Russians for half a million dollars. On that same day, a first edition of Voltaire’s work sold for eleven cents in Paris bookshops.

2. Thomas Paine. He once said, “I have gone through the Bible as a man would go through a forest with an axe to fell trees. I have cut down tree after tree; here they lie. They will never grow again.” Tom Paine thought he had demolished the Bible, but since he crawled into a drunkard’s grave in 1809, the Bible has leaped forward as never before.
3. Joseph Stalin. This bloody butcher took over all of Russia at the death of Lenin in the late twenties. From this point on until his death in the fifties, Stalin instituted a “ban the Bible” purge from the U.S.S.R. such as had never been witnessed before. This miserable man literally attempted to wipe the Word of God and the God of the Word from the Russian minds. Did he succeed? A recent poll taken in Russia shows that today more people than ever believe in God and his Word.

III. Third Supernatural Proof (Authenticated by archaeology)

Halley’s Bible Handbook lists some 112 examples.

Unger’s Bible Handbook lists 96. A summary of both these lists would include the following, all given to prove the historical accuracy of the Bible.

1. The Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8-14). Archaeology has long established that the lower Tigris-Euphrates Valley in Mesopotamia (where Eden was located) was the cradle of civilization.
2. The Fall of man (Gen. 3:1-24). Many non-Hebrew cultures record this event. It is found in the Babylonian tablet called the Temptation Seal, in the Assyrian Archives, referred to as the Adam and Eve Seal, and in the Egyptian Library of Amenhotep III.
3. The universal flood (Gen. 6:1–9:29). There is so much evidence concerning the flood in Noah's day that one scarcely knows where to start. It can be demonstrated that, without exception, every major human culture has a flood tradition. Especially is this true in the ancient Babylonian civilization, as seen by their Epic of Gilgamesh. If the author may be allowed a personal illustration here, I am acquainted with a New Tribes missionary named Rod Wallin. Some years ago Rod began his work among a primitive people in the highlands of New Guinea. He was the first white man ever to set foot in that area. Many years were spent learning their difficult language. He then discovered to his astonishment that these natives had a detailed flood tradition.
4. The fall of Jericho (Josh. 6:1-27). The archaeologist Garstang found evidence that Jericho was destroyed about 1400 B.C. (about the date given to Joshua) and that the walls had fallen flat, outward, and down the hillside. This was extremely unusual, for had the city been captured the usual way, its walls would have been pushed inward by the ramming weapons of that day. He also found the layer of ashes left by Joshua's fire. (See Josh. 6:24.)
5. Solomon's gold (1 Ki. 14:25, 26).
6. Solomon's stables (1 Ki. 9:19; 10:26-29). The Oriental Institute has found the ruins of his stables with their stone hitching-poles and mangers.
7. Solomon's copper furnaces (1 Ki. 7).
8. Ahab's house of ivory (1 Ki. 22:39).
9. The Assyrian captivity of northern Israel (2 Ki. 15:29).
10. The tunnel of Hezekiah (2 Ki. 20:20; 2 Chron. 32:3, 4).
11. The repentance of Nineveh in Jonah's day (Jonah 4). History has shown that during the reign of Shalmaneser II (the King of Nineveh in Jonah's time), there

was a sudden religious movement which resulted in a change from the worship of many gods to that of one God whom they called Nebo. Nebo was probably the Assyrian name for the Hebrew Elohim (Gen. 1:1). It would seem that in earlier days he had been worshiped as the supreme and only God. To the worship of this God the nation now returned.

IV. Fourth Supernatural Proof (Its Scientific Accuracy)

It has previously been discussed in this study that although the Bible is primarily a spiritual message from God and not specifically a scientific textbook, all scientific statements found in the Scriptures must nevertheless be taken literally and at face value. Actually the Bible contains far more specific scientific statements than one might realize. Some of these precepts would include:

- A. The fact that the earth is spherical. Some seven centuries B.C. the Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote: "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..." (Isa. 40:22).

While it is true that a few Greek philosophers did postulate this as early as 540 B.C., the common man held the earth to be flat until the introduction of the compass and the fifteenth-century voyages of Columbus and Magellan.

- B. The fact that the earth is suspended in space. The book of Job is thought to be one of the oldest in the Bible, written perhaps earlier than 1500 B.C. At this time one of the most advanced "scientific" theories concerning the earth was that our planet was flat and rested securely upon the back of a gigantic turtle who was slowly plodding through a cosmic sea of some sort. But note the refreshing (and accurate) words of Job:

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7).

All this was not known by the scientists of the world until the writings of Sir Isaac Newton in A.D. 1687.

- C. The fact that the stars are innumerable. Nearly twenty centuries B.C., God spoke to Abraham one night and said:

"Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be" (Gen. 15:5).

Thus does the Bible describe the heavens. (See also Jer. 33:22; Heb. 11:12.) But what about the scientific opinion of that day? As late as A.D. 150 the famous astronomer Ptolemy dogmatically declared the number of the stars to be exactly 1056.

- D. The fact that there are mountains and canyons in the sea. As recently as a century or so ago, the ocean's volume and size was viewed as a watery bowl, which sloped

from the coastline gently downward toward the middle, where it was deepest. It then was thought to proceed upward to the other side. Of course we now know this to be totally untrue. Some of the highest mountains and deepest canyons are located on the floor of the Pacific Ocean. In fact, the deepest hole yet found is the Marianas Trench, just off the Philippines; it is over seven miles deep.

But long before ocean science discovered this, the Bible graphically described it. During one of his songs of deliverance, David spoke of the canyons of the sea (2 Sam. 22:16), and a backslidden prophet described the submerged mountains during the world's first submarine trip. (See Jonah 2:6.)

- E. The fact that there are springs and fountains in the sea. Shortly after World War II, research ships discovered many underwater volcanoes. The number is estimated today to be at least 10,000. Further research by Dr. William W. Rubey of the U.S. Geological Survey has shown the present rate of water increase from underwater volcanic outlets to be 430 million tons each year. The earth's heat drives the entrapped water from underground molten rock and forces it out through one of these natural openings.

This interesting fact is vividly described in at least three Old Testament passages. (See Gen. 7:11; 8:2; Prov. 8:28.)

- F. The fact that there are watery paths (ocean currents) in the sea. In his booklet *Has God Spoken?* author A. O. Schnabel writes the following:

“David said in Psalms 8:8 that God had subjected all things to men, including: ‘Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea.’ The Hebrew word ‘paths’ carries the literal meaning of ‘customary roads.’

- G. The fact of the hydrologic cycle. This would include precipitation, evaporation, cloud construction, movements of moisture by wind circuits, etc. (See Job 26:8; 36:27, 28; 37:16; 38:25-27; Ps. 135:7; Eccles. 1:6, 7.)
- H. The facts involved in health and sanitation. The great law was given in the Bible by Moses, of course, who established hundreds of rules to govern health and sanitation. Moses grew up in the court of Pharaoh, spending the first forty years of his life there. About this time a famous ancient medical book called *The Papyrus Ebers* was being written in Egypt. Because of Egypt's role in the world at that time, this work soon achieved fame as the official standard for its day. Actually it was filled with quack cures, old wives' tales, and practically every false superstition of its day. In his book *None of These Diseases*, author S. McMillen writes:

“Several hundred remedies for diseases are advised in the Papyrus Ebers. The drugs include ‘lizard’s blood, swine’s teeth, putrid meat, stinking fat, moisture from pig’s ears, milk goose grease, asses’ hoofs, animal fats from various sources, excreta from animals, including human beings, donkeys, antelopes, dogs, cats, and even flies.’” (p. 11)

The point of all the above is simply this—Moses was well acquainted with all the medical knowledge of his day. Yet in all his writings and proven remedies concerning health and sanitation, he never once even indirectly refers to the false “cures” found in the Papyrus Ebers. Let us now examine what he did prescribe for the health of marching Israel:

1. Concerning sickness. Moses gave comprehensive laws concerning sickness. These included laws for those having leprosy or cases with open sores. He thus laid down rules for the recognition of infected individuals, for quarantine or isolation, and concerning the uncleanness of anything touched by these people. In other words, Moses recorded laws comparable to modern health and sanitation practice in most civilized countries today. Again, to quote from *None of These Diseases*:

“For many hundreds of years the dreaded disease leprosy had killed countless millions of people in Europe. The extent of the horrible malady among Europeans is given by Dr. George Rosen, Columbia University professor of Public Health: ‘Leprosy cast the greatest blight that threw its shadow over the daily life of medieval humanity. Not even the Black Death in the fourteenth century...produced a similar state of fright...’

What did the physicians offer to stop the ever-increasing ravages of leprosy? Some taught that it was brought on by eating hot food, pepper, garlic and the meat of diseased hogs. Other physicians said it was caused by malign conjunctions of the planets. Naturally, their suggestions for prevention were utterly worthless....What [finally] brought the major plagues of the Dark Ages under control? George Rosen gives us the answer: ‘Leadership was taken by the church, as the physicians had nothing to offer. The church took as its guiding principle the concept of contagion as embodied in the Old Testament....This idea and its practical consequences are defined with great clarity in the book of Leviticus... once the condition of leprosy had been established, the patient was to be segregated and excluded from the community. Following the precepts laid down in Leviticus the church undertook the task of combating leprosy....It accomplished the first great feat...in methodical eradication of disease.’” (p. 13)

2. Concerning sanitation. Two quotes from Dr. McMillen are helpful here:

“Up to the close of the eighteenth century, hygienic provisions, even in the great capitals, were quite primitive. It was the rule for excrement to be dumped into the streets which were unpaved and filthy. Powerful stenches gripped villages and

cities. It was a heyday for flies as they bred in the filth and spread intestinal disease that killed millions.

Such waste of human lives that could have been saved if people had only taken seriously God's provision for freeing man of diseases! With one sentence the Book of books pointed the way to deliverance from the deadly epidemics of typhoid, cholera, and dysentery: 'You shall set off a place outside the camp and, when you go out to use it, you must carry a spade among your gear and dig a hole, have easement, and turn to cover the excrement' (Deut. 23:12, 13, Berkeley)." (p. 15)

Dr. McMillen goes on to say that until the beginning of this century there was a frightful mortality rate in the hospitals of the world due to infection caused by doctors not washing their hands. In the maternity ward alone of the world-famous Vienna Medical Center Hospital, one out of every six women died due to infection. McMillen then writes:

"Such mortality would not have occurred if surgeons had only followed the method God gave to Moses regarding the meticulous method of hand washing and changing of clothes after contact with infectious diseases....The Scriptural method specified not merely washing in a basin, but repeated washings in running water, with time intervals allowed for drying and exposure to sun to kill bacteria not washed off." (pp. 17, 18)

V. Fifth Supernatural Proof (Prophecies fulfilled by our Lord during his earthly ministry) In the Old Testament there are some thirty-seven basic prophecies concerning the earthly ministry of the anticipated Savior. While upon this earth, Jesus Christ fulfilled every single prediction.

Consider the following texts:

1. He would be born of a virgin (cf. Isa. 7:14 with Mt. 1:22, 23).
2. He would be given the throne of David (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12, 13 with Lk. 1:31).
3. He would be called Emmanuel (cf. Isa. 7:14 with Mt. 1:23).
4. He would be rejected by his own (cf. Isa. 53:3 with Jn. 1:11; 7:5).
5. He would have a forerunner (cf. Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1 with Mt. 3:1-3; Lk. 1:76-78; 3:3-6).
6. He would be born in Bethlehem (cf. Micah 5:2, 3 with Mt. 2:5, 6).
7. He would be visited by the magi and presented with gifts (cf. Isa. 60:3, 6, 9 with Mt. 2:11).
8. He would be in Egypt for a season (cf. Hosea 11:1 with Mt. 2:15).
9. His birthplace would suffer a massacre of infants (cf. Jer. 31:5 with Mt. 2:17, 18).
10. He would be called a Nazarene (cf. Isa. 11:1 with Mt. 2:23).
11. He would be zealous for his father (cf. Ps. 69:9 with Jn. 2:13-17).
12. He would be filled with God's Spirit (cf. Isa. 61:1-3; 11:2 with Lk. 4:18, 19).

13. He would be a light to the Gentiles (cf. Isa. 42:1-3, 6, 7 with Mt. 4:13-16; 12:18-21).
14. He would heal many (cf. Isa. 53:4 with Mt. 8:16, 17).
15. He would deal gently with the Gentiles (cf. Isa. 9:1, 2; 42:1-3 with Mt. 12:17-21).
16. He would speak in parables (cf. Isa. 6:9, 10 with Mt. 13:10-15).
17. He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (cf. Zech. 9:9 with Mt. 21:4, 5).
18. He would be praised by little children (cf. Ps. 8:2 with Mt. 21:16).
19. He would be the rejected cornerstone (cf. Ps. 118:22, 23 with Mt. 21:42).
20. His miracles would not be believed (cf. Isa. 53:1 with Jn. 12:37, 38).
21. His friend would betray him for thirty pieces of silver (cf. Ps. 41:9; 55:12-14; Zech. 11:12, 13 with Mt. 26:14-16, 21-25).
22. He would be a man of sorrows (cf. Isa. 53:3 with Mt. 26:37, 38).
23. He would be forsaken by his disciples (cf. Zech. 13:7 with Mt. 26:31, 56).
24. He would be scourged and spat upon (cf. Isa. 50:6 with Mt. 26:67; 27:26).
25. His price money would be used to buy a potter's field (cf. Jer. 18:1-4; 19:1-3; Zech. 11:12, 13 with Mt. 27:9, 10).
26. He would be crucified between two thieves (cf. Isa. 53:12 with Mt. 27:38; Mk. 15:27, 28; Lk. 22:37).
27. He would be given vinegar to drink (cf. Ps. 69:21 with Mt. 27:34, 48).
28. He would suffer the piercing of his hands and feet (cf. Ps. 22:16; Zech. 12:10 with Mk. 15:25; Jn. 19:34, 37; 20:25-27).
29. His garments would be parted and gambled for (cf. Ps. 22:18 with Lk. 23:34; Jn. 19:23, 24).
30. He would be surrounded and ridiculed by his enemies (cf. Ps. 22:7, 8 with Mt. 27:39-44; Mk. 15:29-32).
31. He would thirst (cf. Ps. 22:15 with Jn. 19:28).
32. He would commend his spirit to the Father (cf. Ps. 31:5 with Lk. 23:46).
33. His bones would not be broken (cf. Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Ps. 34:20 with Jn. 19:33-36).
34. He would be stared at in death (cf. Zech. 12:10 with Mt. 27:36; Jn. 19:37).
35. He would be buried with the rich (cf. Isa. 59:9 with Mt. 27:57-60).
36. He would be raised from the dead (cf. Ps. 16:10 with Mt. 28:2-7).
37. He would ascend (cf. Ps. 24:7-10 with Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:50).

VI. Sixth Supernatural Proof (Bible is the basis for the law of the Western world)

The English common law, the Bill of Rights, the Magna Carta, and our own Constitution are all rooted in God's gift to Moses on Mt. Sinai, the Ten Commandments.

Concerning education, the New England primer of 200 years ago was one of the basic books used in the educational system of America. The teaching the alphabet, a phrase that rhymed with the letter was used in memory work. Each phrase was a bible verse. In that primer, the question is asked, "Who was the first man? Who was the first woman? Who was the meekest man? Who built the ark? What is the 5th commandment? What is forbidden by the 5th commandment?"

There are over 15,000 surviving writings of the founding fathers. There are 3100 quotes in those writings. 34% of those quotes come directly from the bible. The bible is quoted 16 times more often than any of the political science writings that were common to that era. Men such as Blackstone, John Loft and Monisku.

Charles Blackstone wrote "Blackstone's Commentary on Law." He wrote it in 1758 and for 125 years, this book was the law book in America. Much of Blackstone's views are based on the Bible. 94% of our founding father's quotes concerning government either came from the Bible or from men like Blackstone who used the Bible as the basis of his views on government.

For instance: 3-Tiered Government—Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Is. 33:22.

Separation of Power-giving too much power to one man. Jer. 17:5-10.

Tax exemption for churches Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them. Ezra 7:24

VII. Seventh Supernatural Proof (Its Amazing Circulation) When David Hume said, "I see the twilight of Christianity and the Bible," he was much confused, for he could not tell the sunrise from the sunset!

A. Only one-half of one percent of all books published survive seven years. Eighty percent of all books are forgotten in one year. For example, let us imagine that during this year, 200 new books are published in America. Statistics show that by next year only forty of these 200 will remain. At the end of the seventh year, of the original 200, only one lonely book will survive.

What other ancient religious book can even remotely be compared to the Bible? Where could one go today to purchase a copy of Zen Vedas, or the Egyptian Book of the Dead? In fact, dozens of religions which once flourished have simply disappeared from the face of the earth without leaving the slightest trace. But the smallest child can walk into almost any bookstore in America and pick up a copy of the Word of God.

As of 1804, 409,000,000 bibles had been printed.

As of 1932, 1,330,213,815 bibles had been printed.

By 1966, the bible had been translated into 240 languages and dialects.

One or more books of bible into additional 739 languages. Total 1,280 languages.

1992 Associated Press surveyed 4,000 self-help books. People used bible more than any other book.

VIII. Eighth Supernatural Proof (Its Absolute Honesty)

Perhaps no other single statement so completely summarizes the Bible as does the following: "The Bible is not a book that man could write if he would, or would write if he could." Let us analyze this one section at a time.

"Man could not write the Bible if he would." Even if a man had all the necessary spirituality he could not know the facts involved in the historical, scientific, and prophetic statements we have previously seen in the Bible. Thus, without God's direction the Bible is not a book that man could write if he would.

1st & 2nd law of thermodynamics discovered in 1850. Bible had talked about them for centuries.

"Man would not write the Bible if he could." Suppose God would give sinful man all the necessary facts and abilities to write the Bible. What then? Man still would not write it correctly if he could.

Note the following reasons:

The bible is the only brutally honest book on the market.

- A. Because of the bad things God writes about some of his friends. Here five men immediately come to mind. Most of these individuals are mentioned in the Faith Hall of Fame (Hebrews 11).
1. Noah—indeed a man of God. He walked with God, he was a just man (Gen. 6:9), and he obeyed God (Heb. 11:7). Yet after the flood this great hero of the faith gets dead drunk and exposes his nakedness and shame to his entire family (Gen. 9:20-24). Surely a mere human author would not have written all this.
 2. Moses—the meekest man in all the earth during his time (Num. 12:3), and a leader who single-handedly led an entire nation of enslaved Hebrews out of captivity in Egypt. But en route to Palestine we read of his anger and direct disobedience to the clearly revealed Word of God. (See Num. 20:7-12.) Surely man would have eliminated this part of Moses' record.
 3. David—without exception the grandest human king who ever sat upon a throne. God himself would testify that here was a man after his own heart. (See 1 Sam. 13:14; 16:7, 12, 13.) David's fearlessness (1 Sam. 17:34-36, 49), love for God (Ps. 18, 103, etc.), and kindness (1 Sam. 24:6, 7) were universally known. But in 2 Samuel 11 this same king is accurately accused of lust, adultery, lying, and cold-blooded murder. Who but God would write in such a manner?
 4. Elijah—few other Old Testament prophets are as colorful and exciting as Elijah the Tishbite. In 1 Kings 18, he champions the cause of God

against 450 priests of Satan, but in the very next chapter he is pictured as running for his very life from a mere woman.

5. Peter—self-appointed spokesman for Christ who so confidently assured the Savior that, “Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended” (Mt. 26:33). But in the hour of Jesus’ great need we read of Peter: “Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man” (Mt. 26:74).

- B. Because of the good things God writes about some of his enemies. As we have already seen, on many occasions God records bad things about his friends, and he often mentions good things about his enemies. This can be seen in the accounts of Esau (Gen. 33); Artaxerxes (Neh. 2); Darius (Dan. 6); Gamaliel (Acts 5:34-39); Julius (Acts 27:1-3); etc.

The point of all the above is simply this—the Bible is not an edited book. God literally “tells it like it is.”

Human authors, however sincere, simply do not consistently write this way.

- C. Because of certain doctrines repugnant to the natural mind. Many examples could be listed here, but the following three will demonstrate this:
 1. The doctrine of eternal hell. (See Rev. 14:10, 11.)
 2. The doctrine of man’s total helplessness. (See Rom. 7:18; Eph. 2:8, 9.)
 3. The doctrine of final judgment upon saved and unsaved. (See 1 Cor. 3:9-15; Rev. 20:11-15.)