

TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS
THE WORD OF GOD

by

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A personal message

* Is the Bible the Word of God ...?

* It claims to be. From its very opening statement to its last Amen, the Scriptures postulate their divine authorship. Over and over again the affirmation is made that while the pen used is the pen of man, the words given are the words of God. Time after time the absolutely unique source of the message is asserted. Almost without number are the occasions when human origin is entirely disclaimed.

* What then? Can WE know this to be true?

* The answer is yes, for God has surrounded His Book with a wall of absolutely irresistible evidence. There is abundant, yes, overwhelming proof of the veracity of its claims. At every point of examination we find more than ample confirmation. It is not possible to honestly weigh the evidence and not

be mightily assured that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God."

* Nor does the Bible fear investigation. Rather, it invites and challenges the most minute examination. For the more carefully it is studied, the more joyfully it will be received for what it truly is, ... the Word of the living God.

* And if this be true, then this Book infinitely transcends in importance every other book of all the world's billions. What else is so consequential as to know God's message for men and for you? You simply cannot lightly pass by such a Book. To ignore it is to bring the gravest peril to your soul. How can you be honest with your own heart and fail to make claims of this Book your primary quest in life?

* May we invite your attention to some of the evidence...

1. IT'S REASONABLE

* Surely it is reasonable to believe that God would give us a Book. We are His creatures and He has a plan for us. What better way could be found for God to communicate His will to us than in a book?

* Let us start with God. We say He exists but how do we know? Simply because we see His handiwork all around us, under us, above us. We are living in God's great and unmeasured universe, which is so vast and yet so infinitesimal, that even with our most powerful telescopes and microscopes we cannot fathom its heights and depths.

* You know that things don't come by chance. Every effect demands a cause. Consider, for example, the watch on your wrist. It's a very useful article. Your life would certainly be awry without the constant admonition of its open face. But watches don't grow on trees. Where did yours come from? Why, everyone knows there is a chain of causes which resulted in that watch. First the designer, then miners, skilled workmen, salesmen, shippers and finally the

jeweler from whom you bought it.

* Our world is literally packed with effects. But take our world itself as a rather large example. Here is planet Earth revolving around yon warm Sun, absorbing meanwhile light, heat and beneficent rays. Over there is sister Moon performing her necessary duties. Earth, we find, is bountifully stocked with oils and minerals. On its surface grows a quarter million various kinds of plant life. In its seas swarm multitudes of fishes. In Earth's atmosphere fly musical feathered creatures. Everything is governed by laws which operate silently, but faultlessly. Now be honest with me. Does not this great planet cry out for the recognition of a cause, a God who is wise enough and powerful enough to bring all this into being?

* Or, consider the matter of design. It happens that I'm pecking this off on a typewriter. Before me are rows of keys. As I strike a key a long thing-a-majig pops up from the middle of the machine and prints a letter on the paper. Well, it isn't difficult to see the design of the typewriter. Someone did a lot of thinking and planning, and went to a lot of trouble to bring this machine into being. There isn't one chance in ten skillion that this typewriter just nonchalantly chanced to fall together. It was designed.

* Now lift up your eyes and look about you. Pick up anything you wish in God's universe and you'll find it wonderfully and meticulously designed. Here's a feather that's fallen from a bird's with. Look at it for a moment. It's beautifully symmetrical, isn't it? And did you know that a feather is the strongest structure in the world in relation to its weight? The composition is of tiny sheaves, intricately woven together, air tight and artistically colored. It's kept oiled regularly to remain supple and strong. And of course, friend Bird discards only one wing feather at a time, not discarding a second until a new grows in. Consequently, it is never without flying ability.

* I'm saying that a God there is! A great, tremendously wise, all powerful God, who by Himself is alone responsible for our incalculably vast and intricate universe. And there are, without exaggeration, millions and millions of individual proofs of His Being, His ability and His power.

* Come now to man. We, too, are creatures of God's will. He alone is responsible for mankind. First He fashioned our environment and then He fashioned us. He made our atmosphere, and observers tell us that it's 100 miles thick. Atmosphere is composed mostly of nitrogen and oxygen and do you know, that's just what our lungs need.

* Then there's water, water everywhere, and we couldn't live long without it. On the surface of the earth there's soil, and from this soil comes abundance of food of every kind, and that's another requisite for life. Do you see what I mean? The environment was just made for us. Our bodies too, are marvels of mystery and design. We have eyes to see and ears to hear. We have hands ... think of it, hands! Why every time we look at our hands we ought to take off our hats, bow our heads and worship the Creator of our hands. Without hands, man would be a clumsy dummy.

* But need I go on? There is a great God who has carefully fashioned the universe. Man is God's creature, and is the highest of God's creation. But, and this is what I'm leading to, GOD HAS MADE MAN FOR A PURPOSE! We are not blind creatures of chance. We fit into God's plan. He has a purpose for us. The big question then is, how shall I know God's will for my life?

* I cannot know it of myself. I can only know it as God pleases to reveal it to me. Yet I am sure of God's love for me, and interest in me, for this has been overwhelmingly demonstrated in the gift of His Son. So, and I say it reverently, if I am to know God's will and purpose for my life, it is God's responsibility to reveal it to me.

* How shall God do that? Shall He write His will for me on the great vault of blue sky overhead so that I may constantly read it? Shall He have the stars spell out His purposes for us each night? Shall He fill the ether waves with a continual broadcast from heaven's radio station so that I may tune in and hear God's voice speaking to me? He could have made known His will through any of these things, but He didn't.

* Rather, God has chosen the best way. He has caused a BOOK to be written. This Book contains the wisdom of Heaven and the revelation of God. It is complete, lacking nothing.

* It is inspiration to the soul and instruction to the mind. It is understood by the simple, it is delightful to the sage. It is the Book of all Books. It is the Book of God. And we may have it, hold it in our hands, clasp it to our heart. We may read it anytime and for as long as we wish. We may study it, love it, cry over it. It's our Book ... God has given it to us ... forever.

2. ITS AMAZING COMPOSITION ...

* The way in which the Bible came into being is nothing short of a miracle!

* Everyone knows that the Bible is made up of sixty-six individual books. But did you know that about forty different human authors wrote these books? And that they wrote independently, knowing almost nothing of the others' part? Furthermore, their period of composition extended over fifteen long centuries, in three languages and on three continents? Yet, as we examine the Book today, it's one Book, not sixty-six. It has a single subject, there is coherence in its content, and progression in its truth.

* To see the weight of this argument, suppose you were to endeavor to assemble a comparable book from various bits of literature since the first century of the Christian era. Take your material

from the ancient papyri, pieces of ostraca, writings of the philosophers, ancient wisdom books of the East or anything you choose. Get some writings from each century. Select representative material from men in various walks of life: merchants, laborers, priests, farmers. Gather it all together and bind it into one book. Now, what have you? Why it'll be the most ridiculous, contradictory hodge-podge of nonsense you have ever seen.

* The Bible, on the other hand, while like that in compilation, is wholly different in result. Everything about its composition argues against its unity. There's no reason in the world why it should be ONE Book. Yet it is, and no honest inquirer will doubt this, if he will take the time to read it carefully.

* The human writers of the Scriptures had almost nothing in common. Look at their diverse literary qualifications. While Moses may have been somewhat of a man of learning, having been schooled in the best universities of Egypt, Peter certainly was no writer. He was a fisherman, and there is no record that he had any education. Yet the writings of both are saturated with the wisdom of God.

* Writer Amos was a Herdsman, Joshua a General, Nehemiah a Cup-bearer. There were some like Prime Minister Daniel, Dr. Luke and King Solomon who possibly possessed native ability to write. But many of the others certainly did not. Yet each of these men perfectly fulfilled his part in the composition of this unique Book. The natural question is "how?"

* There's only one satisfactory answer. Using the ability of these men, or overcoming their disability, GOD SPOKE THROUGH THEM, and caused that they should write the Scriptures to His divine plan.

* I want you to notice too, that there was no uniformity of conditions under which the Bible was composed. Moses

wrote the Pentateuch in the solitary stretches of the wilderness. Jeremiah wrote from the dankness of a dungeon. David's lovely psalms were undoubtedly written on the hillside as he watched the sheep. Others wrote during the rigors of military campaigns. Paul wrote many of his letters inside prison walls. Physician Luke seemed to keep a sort of a travel diary. Beloved John wrote from the rocky isle of Patmos.

* And yet ... these various points of origination seem not to make the slightest difference in the message which was written down. Each part fits perfectly into its place. Each part presents its contribution to the symmetry of the whole.

* Times were vastly different too. Some books saw the light of day in times of danger, some in times of peace. When David wrote there were many wars. Solomon wrote during his reign of peace. Many of the prophets wrote from the heights of joy. Others from the depths of sorrow and despair. But none of these things subtract from the unity of the Book. There is one system of doctrine, one way of salvation, one rule of faith. God has taken the threads of diverse times and conditions and has skilfully woven them into one great tapestry of truth for our edification.

* Have you ever attended a symphony concert? Before you sits the entire company of musicians ready to play. The leader raises his baton and the orchestra begins. The violins sweetly play their part, the cellos complementing them. In their proper place we hear the clarinet section, the flutes, the roll of drums. For the grand climax the brasses blare forth, and so the symphony unfolds with each instrument contributing its part to the musical masterpiece.

* Now we don't ask how the musicians play in beautiful harmony instead of ugly discord. We know full well that behind the rendition of the symphony there's the influence of the composer who has carefully and skillfully arranged every part. It's just so with

the Bible. God is the great Composer of the Sacred Book. In the hall of time He has caused the great symphony of truth to be arranged. Each writer has his part, and as each pens his Book, the literary masterpiece of the ages is produced.

* I want you to consider too that the Jews were not a writing people. Their educational processes were almost exclusively oral. Even today most stress is laid upon rote memory work. But overcoming all this, God brought into being the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament through Jewish writers. And then when New Testament times came, no one ever thought of adding to the Scriptures. Doubtless the Disciples would have recoiled in horror at the thought. But the Spirit of God moved again on chosen men, and unaccustomed as they were to writing, they became the human authors of the New Testament. Truly God's ways are not our ways.

* Here it is then ... One Book. Its composition is utterly unexplainable on the human plane. It's the miracle of literature in its formation. But when you remember that it is in deed and in truth the Word of God, then all mysteries dissolve and all objections fade away. The writer to the Hebrews put it ... "GOD who at sundry times and divers manners spoke ..." (Hebrews 1:1).

3. ITS UNIQUE COMPLETENESS ...

* Tell me now, is there another book among all the world's billions, which deals with such a vast array of SUBJECTS as the Bible?

* There is no vital topic in all the realm of human thinking which is not treated authoritatively in this Book. Everything that is necessary to be known is freely discussed. No subject is slighted, nor is anything needful omitted. The treatment is straightforward and dignified. Ambiguity is absent. Opinionated matter is out. Really now, is not the Bible superior to all other books at this point?

* Take the important subject of how

man began. It is true, that scientific men have progressed wonderfully in their apperception of faces. But any honest scientist will readily admit that there are still vast gaps in his knowledge. He has theories, but they are only theories. Textbooks on scientific subjects are liberally sprinkled with such phrases as "we may well suppose" or "it seems reasonable to believe" or even "we don't know."

* But the Bible does not speak in this manner. Without apology, and in language easy to be understood, the Scripture states the simple truth on many subjects. Have you ever observed the simplicity, yet the majesty of the Bible's account of creation? Were we writing of this amazing event we should have taken reams of paper and multitudes of words to describe it. But contrast the Genesis account. In remarkably few words, the story of the beginning of all things is told. Days of creation are clearly numbered. Nothing is overlooked. Why for centuries, the wisest men of time have marvelled at the Bible's ability to say so much in so little.

* Now answer me this question if you can. Where could such minute and detailed information on the subjects of the creation of the world, or the creation of man have come from? There were no human observers to tell of that day when God called into being the starry universes. There were no newspaper reporters to write concerning the division between dry land and rolling ocean, or of the beginnings of botany or zoology. No man was watching when God took of the red clay of the earth, and with infinite wisdom formed the body of man. How did the writers of the Bible know these things? There is only one answer ... this is God's book. He wrote it.

* Then, the Scripture goes on to state the reason for man's behavior, and the related problem of evil. Carefully the writer of Genesis deals with the sad story of the Fall of man. Nothing is hidden, nothing glossed over. There are the facts in all their bare ugliness.

But no other explanation has ever been advanced that so satisfactorily explains man's deflections.

* The Bible goes on to deal with many otherwise unknowable subjects. On its pages the mysteries of the person of God are taught. We read of His attributes, His decrees, His eternal will and purpose for the universe. No other book dares to presume to speak here.

* God's other creatures, the angelic creation, are freely discussed. We are told that there are legions of them, they guard the throne of God, and they have certain duties to God's children. I say, have you ever seen another authentic textbook on the subject of Angels?

* Another sinister figure is openly discussed, and the mystery of Satan is answered by the Scriptures. We learn that he was once "Lucifer, Son of the Morning," the guardian of the throne of God. But he became Satan by heinous sin against the Most High. We also read that Satan controls a host of demons who serve his diabolical will. The account goes on to state the fearful destiny of this enemy of God.

* But the Bible is also the greatest book on morality and ethics in the world. Over and over and over again man is urged to live righteously and godly. There are many other so-called sacred books. Each religion has one or more. But compared to the Scriptures, however, they seem juvenile and puerile. On the great subject of ethics the Bible stands majestically alone.

* Even just considered as literature the Bible is complete. No other book encompasses such a variety of literary effort. There are books of history, interesting and illustrative. Books of sermons, instructive and inspiring. Books of poetry, satisfying and comforting. Other sections include biography, drama, proverbs, prophecy, law and ethics. Yet there seems not to be an overbalance of one to the detriment of the other. Truly as literature, the Book is supreme.

* The Bible also speaks prophetically. Without hesitation, without apology this Book tells with certainty of coming events. "Time" is seen to come to an end. Peoples of all ages are to be judged. The earth will have its curse removed, and the day will come when righteousness and peace will cover the earth, and when all men will know the Lord from the least to the greatest.

* The Gentile nations will come to their appointed end. God's Chosen People will someday know their appointed glory. The Church, which is the Body of Christ, will rule and reign with Christ. Satan will be bound. God's perfect will shall know complete fulfillment. You do see the difference, don't you? Earthly books see the present. God's Book easily sees all, past, present, future.

* Other great subjects run clearly through the Scriptures. For instance the holiness of God and the sinfulness of sin. But perhaps the greatest subject to be found on its pages is the story of the gospel, the good news of salvation as it is found in Christ. Again the Bible is without a peer. No other book sets forth salvation by grace.

* This is a subject which is found only in God's Word. You see salvation is not on the basis of human merit or personal worthiness. Rather, it is entirely unmerited. We are saved and saved completely on the work of Another. He takes our sins. We take His righteousness. And the human basis of salvation is faith and faith alone. Never could this be the invention of man's mind. This is indeed the revelation of God Himself.

4. ITS UNPARALLELED TEACHINGS...

* You would expect the teachings in a Book come from God to be DIFFERENT. You would look for them to be as high as heaven, and uplifting to the sons of men. They should be unequaled among all the books in all the libraries of the world. They ought to show the watermark of GOD'S wisdom on every page. Well,

don't fear, all these things are true, and infinitely more, about the teachings of the Bible.

* The proof of the Bible's claim to unique teachings is best demonstrated by simply reading them. Often as you read, the words will seem to stand up from the page. Again as you meditate, the Book will seem to speak to you. Or, if you come with a heavy heart, it will comfort you. Always God's children have found the answer to life's problems, small and great, from the pages of the Scriptures.

* Can you read the 23rd Psalm and not be deeply moved? Oh, so many millions of tired hearts have been pillowed on this gem of God's comfort. Yes, and the whole Book of Psalms, one hundred and fifty, articulate with the soul of humanity. There is no emotion, no experience, no aspiration of human life but what is enunciated here. Who but God could so understand man's innermost being?

* Or consider the lofty teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. Dear Friend, these thoughts are not merely men's reasonings. These precepts come from a God of pristine purity, and absolute righteousness. If you have the mind of a logician, study the solemn indictments in the Book of Romans. Or sympathize with the Apostle Paul as he journeys through the trials and victories of the Book of Acts. Look over his shoulder in the Roman prison as he writes the ageless letters to the Christian Churches. Look with John the Beloved as he peers down the corridor of time to the dawn of Eternity. Yes, it's true, these teachings are unmatched by any others.

* As you read you will be struck too, by the rigid integrity of the human writers. Ordinarily, books are written from the racial or intellectual bias of the writer. Men of one nation write from the provincial view of that nation. Few books tell the whole truth. All are colored by the intent of the writer. Authors favor their own inclinations. Not so the Bible.

* While the Scriptures are authored entirely by Jewish men, and while they deal almost wholly with Jewish history, still they do not spare the nation Israel. Disregarding the exceedingly strong racial and national prejudice, they straightly proceed to tell the exact truth.

* Israel is shown to be a proud, selfish and sinful people. Her national heroes are portrayed in their failures as well as their victories. The shortcomings of the Jews are as clearly told as their accomplishments. Nothing is hidden, no truth is colored, yet on the human plane, we have every right to expect that it should be. Even in the sad story of the greatest crime of history, the crucifixion of the spotless Son of God, the Jewish authors do not minimize for a moment their nation's guilt. What is the answer to this literary phenomenon?

* The Bible's teachings about the character of God could only have come by revelation. In this Book the veil of the infinite is drawn back, and we are permitted to look at the ineffable person of God. He is shown to be immeasurably great. His wisdom is unsearchable and His ways past finding out. His power is beyond our comprehension. And in all this vast and incalculable universe around us, it is God who is sovereign. From the tiniest blade of grass, to the mighty sidereal galaxies, everything obeys His will.

* Yet for all of His greatness, God is minutely interested in the affairs of men. He notes the sparrow's fall. He numbers the hairs of our heads. He decrees that all things shall work together for good to His children. What an amazing paradox. God is greater than His stupendous universe, yet concerned about His smallest creatures!

* Please be honest with me. Could man's mind invent such teachings as this? Compare, if you will, the reasonings of the heathen in regard to their gods. You cannot but see that their gods are the products of their own minds. Or, search the libraries of

ancient peoples, Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans. Their Gods were merely elevated human beings. You may search to the end of time, but you'll never find anything to compare with the sublime delineation of the character of God as it is found in the Holy Scriptures. And why? The only intelligent answer is, that God has revealed Himself through this peerless Book.

* The Bible's teachings about men are radically different too. When men write about men, they proudly praise their achievements, and eulogize their character. Man's picture of humanity shows civilization slowly advancing from barbarism to culture, from dullness of mentality to brilliant intellectuality. Credit for civilization's advance is placed on the brow of education.

* But not so the Bible's teaching. The Scriptures sadly state that man who once enjoyed the high and holy privilege of fellowship with the God of the universe, fell by his own sin from this exalted position. And since this Fall, all men have been born with their faces away from God. Rather than advancing, civilization is retreating, steadily growing worse, and is destined for certain awful judgment. The hope of humanity is not man's ability, but God's intervention. All this, you will readily see, is far different from man's ideas, and exceedingly humiliating to the natural man. Therefore we know it could not have stemmed from the pen of men.

* Straight through the Book, the teachings are different. Sin is shown from God's viewpoint. Salvation is shown to be not on the basis of man's merit, but on the amazing ground of God's free grace. Thus, the uniqueness of the teachings of the Bible unquestionably demonstrates the uniqueness of its source.

5. ITS PERENNIAL APPEAL...

* Here is a Book, hoary with antiquity, which absolutely refuses to grow old. Year after year, century after century it steadfastly continues to renew its youth. On each succeeding

generation it leaves an indelible impression. Regularly it adequately meets the need of the heart of humanity. Now be fair with me. surely there must be a reason for such unusual vitality.

* The story of the Bible shows that men and women of every age have found within its pages the answer to life's problems. Both Kings and commoners, martyrs and missionaries, saints and sinners have found the Bible packed with power. And strange as it may seem, its ability to inspire and encourage is in no wise diminished today. Its appeal is greater than ever before. Here's the Book of many yesterdays that's as new as tomorrow.

* All age groups are delighted with this Book. For instance, the stories of the Bible have endeared themselves to children of every age, yet it is not a children's Book. Young people through the centuries have found in the Scriptures those principles which make sturdy lives, yet the Bible is not primarily a volume for young people. Adults go to the Bible for vexing problems of all kinds and are never disappointed. And when the sunset of life comes, old age finds God's Word a satisfying and comforting pillow for tired heads and hearts.

* All races, too, accept the Bible quite naturally into their lives. The Oriental clasps the Scriptures to his heart as his very own. He reads the words of the Bible and pictures in his mind a Christ with a yellow skin and Oriental features. The African reads the Book in his own tongue and finds it perfectly consonant with his needs. As he thinks of Christ, it is a Christ with dark skin and dark hands outstretched. The Bible has gone into many more than a thousand languages and dialects, but it fits perfectly in every one. It's the universal Book. It's the Book for the whole world.

* The Bible also possesses another quality which we might call its inexhaustibility. By that we mean that it never runs dry no matter how much you use it. There is no doubt that this

Book has been more studied, more analyzed, more pondered over than any other. Yet, there never seems to be a "sameness" about it. You can read it, and reread it and still it seems new. Those who know it best, love it best. This is absolutely not true about other literature.

* The Bible seems to laugh at the laws of literature. For instance, the first law is that death must come to all books. Books are born, they endure for a time, and then they inevitably fade into disuse and are forgotten. Such has never been true about the Scriptures. With each succeeding year the Bible is more alive, more vigorous and more a power in the lives of men.

* Another universal law is that ancient books are not acceptable to modern times, except of course, as museum pieces. This is readily understood and agreed upon. The ideas of the ancients, while interesting, do not fit into the tempo of today's world. Their science is amusing, their philosophy dry, their learning out of date. But this generalization does not hold true to the Bible. It is the most ancient of books, yet it definitely intrigues and challenges the keenest of modern minds.

* Consider, too, another law of literature. Jewish books do not interest Gentile readers. While the Jews are not primarily a writing people and little of their literature is extant, we do have some examples in the Talmud and Midrash. Yet these are barely known to Gentiles. Not so the Scriptures. Written entirely by Jewish men, their greatest appeal has been to the Gentile world. We do not even think of the Bible as a Jewish Book. It seems like our very own.

* Another law of literature which the Scriptures cheerfully violate is the law of the Best Seller. Books classified as Best Sellers sell brilliantly for a year or so. Some might even extend over ten years. But invariably they fade, die and are forgotten. But the Bible has been the Best Seller for centuries, yet

instead of dying the demand grows more and more. In ancient times scribes by the thousands feverishly hastened to copy and distribute the sacred records. Today, gigantic printing establishments merrily turn out Bibles by the millions. The Bible is the Best Seller of all times. No other book has even begun to approach its perennial popularity.

* Remember too, that the Bible has been a never failing source of inspiration for art, music and literature. Poets, authors, composers and artists of all ages have drawn heavily upon its pages for subject material. Yet for all of this, the source has not dried up. More books are written about the Bible today than ever before. New hymns are composed. Editorials are written, sermons are delivered and the press of our land constantly refers to it. Such a Book that furnishes inspiration to men of all centuries must be a different Book.

* What is the answer to the mystery of the continual appeal of this Book? There is only one satisfactory answer. The Bible is not in the same category as other Books. Its author is God, and not man. The words of the Bible are living and powerful. It is not subject to the laws of decline and decay. It has behind it the promise of God that it shall never, never pass away.

* No man, or no company of men, could ever have brought into being a book that would fit the need of all ages. A book can rise no higher than its source. This is clearly demonstrated by the multitudes of ordinary books that have fallen by the wayside of time. But God knows the future as we know the present. Therefore this old, old Book which meets the need of this present day and hour must come from Him.

6. ITS SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY...

* It has been said that the Bible is not a textbook on science. That is true. The Bible is the story of redemption. Nevertheless, with God as its Author, when the Bible touches on points of science or events of history it MUST be

precisely and unconditionally correct. Here again the Scriptures clearly demonstrate the fact of their divine authorship!

* Geology tells us that the earth is of very great antiquity. With this fact the opening statement of the Bible is in perfect agreement. The creation of the world was "in the beginning." The Genesis record, however, adds to geology's findings, saying that it was our great God that brought all things into being.

* Scientists, too, have confirmed the logic of the order of events as set forth by the six days of Genesis One. Nothing but confirmatory evidence has been found, thus supporting the Biblical account of the emergence of light, the division of the atmospheric firmament, the separation of the seas, etc. Of course we admit that this account in Genesis came from the human pen of Moses. But how was he able to get these unseen, yet stupendous events in their proper order? The only answer that will ever satisfy is that God directed Moses' pen.

* Although evolution and revelation have battled at this point for many years, it is now definitely conceded by many, that the Genesis statement on the fixity of species is correct. Moses had written that all creation was to reproduce "after its kind." Today we definitely know that plants and animals will not reproduce except in their own group. Nor is there any such thing as the "transmission of acquired characteristics." In the light of the latest scientific findings, the record of the Scriptures relating to creation is meticulously correct. Not one statement, and there are some tremendous statements there, has had to be revised, even under the searching spotlight of the most modern scientific inquiry. How did Moses know these things?

* It is interesting to note that the exact sixteen elements which go into the composition of man's physical body are found in the actual dust of the earth. You will remember that Moses states that

God took of the dust of the earth and formed the body of man.

* Also, although the Bible was written in non-scientific ages, when men held theories which we know to be incorrect, never once do we find the Scriptures falling into scientific error. At the time of the prophet Isaiah men believed the earth to be flat. Yet this prophet writing under the inspiration, contradicts general belief and declares the earth's sphericity (Isaiah 40:22).

* The Patriarch Job, perhaps one of the oldest writers in Scripture, makes some amazing statements considered in the light of present day knowledge. He talks of the "springs of the sea," (Job 38:16) a fact lately discovered. He points to the vocal quality of light (Job 38:7), a mystery only recently known. Other scientific facts such as the value of the snowfall (Job 38:22), and the part that lightning plays in the rainfall (Job 38:25,26) are taught. Yet only with the most modern instruments have we confirmed the truth of these facts. How then could Job have known them except as God revealed them unto him?

* It has not been too long that medical scientists have known the value of the circulation of the blood. But you'll remember that Moses wrote that "the life of the flesh is in the blood." (Leviticus 17:11) Coupled with this is the statement by the Apostle Paul that the same blood is found in all the races of the earth (Acts 17:26), and that the color of the skin does not affect the chemical makeup of the blood. This, too, is only recently established. Surprising, too, is Moses' knowledge of principles of sanitation (Leviticus 13), and dietetics (Leviticus 11).

* The Scriptures repeatedly touch on points of history. Written, as they were, over a period of 1600 years, they constantly refer to people, places and events around them. Here again, their exact accuracy becomes a proof of divine authorship, and divine preservation.

* A great deal of archaeological

material is available to the present day student. A sifting of this evidence shows unmistakably that the earliest civilizations possessed an amazingly high degree of intelligence and culture. The Bible, of course, is in perfect agreement here, teaching that God created Adam full of wisdom and ability (Genesis 1:27,31). This is in direct opposition to the theory that man slowly emerged from the brute creation and gradually acquired skill and mentality.

* Of further interest is the increasing amount of information available regarding the flood in the time of Noah. Scores of uncoverings by archaeologists in various parts of the ancient world point clearly to a cataclysmic marine disturbance which destroyed life, piled bones of man and animals in terrible confusion, leaving behind a thick layer of silt. What else could this be but the Flood taught in Genesis?

* Another recent expedition was sent to Genesis' ancient Ur of the Chaldees. This, too, has added authentication to the Bible's story. Clearly the city was one given over to idolatry, yet possessing a high degree of culture. Much to our delight on one of the inscriptions was found the name of Abraham. (Not identified as our Abraham.)

* In Egypt we find evidential material about the Hebrew sojourn. At least at one ruin there are discernible bricks with straw, bricks with stubble and then bricks without straw. Jericho, too, has been uncovered revealing that the walls of that famed city did fall (Joshua 6:20), and fell outward. Furthermore, the city was burned (Joshua 6:24), and samples of the burned material were exhibited. Interesting too, was the fact that one section of the wall did not fall (Joshua 2:15, 6:22).

* Time would fail to mention all. The evidence piles up. Not only in regard to historical events and peoples in the Old Testament, but a vast amount of confirmation about New Testament times. And on the other side, not once has the

Bible been found to be in direct error. Misunderstanding and ignorance have played their part, but always the outcome has been a signal victory for the Scripture.

7. ITS FULFILLED PROPHECY...

* No one will deny that foretelling belongs wholly to God. It is impossible for any man to push aside the curtain of time and gaze on the happenings of tomorrow. There have been those who have tried, but only with the most absurd results. Man stands before an impregnable wall of ignorance. He cannot foretell even the events of the next hour. And only the most foolhardy of men would dare to publish a book dealing with the future. Man simply does not know what will happen next.

* On the other hand, the Bible boldly and confidently gives thousands of predictions. Not in vague generalities, but in detailed exactness. The fact is that more than 25% of all the material in the Scriptures was prophetic at the time it was written. Some of the prophecies were made 1500 years before their fulfillment, some 1000, some 700. Yet in literally hundreds of cases, these prophecies have received the most minute fulfillment. Does this not prove beyond all reasonable doubt, that not man, but God is the Author of this Book?

* A great deal of the Bible deals with the changing fortunes of the nation Israel. Consequently, there is a large amount of prophetic material concerning them. To Abraham, father of the nation, were given predictions dealing with the sojourn of the people in the land of Egypt (Acts 7:6). The length of their stay was told and the method of their departure (Acts 7:6, Genesis 15:13,14). Their harsh treatment at the hands of the Egyptians is prophesied, and the recompense which they should receive as they left the land. All this now is history, but sufficient to say that every Bible prophecy was literally fulfilled.

* Other prophecies concerning Israel were strikingly definite. Their

wilderness wanderings are foretold and their entrance into the promised land (Genesis 50:24). Their blessings for obedience, and their punishments for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28). Their prophets tell of their captivity and their eventual dispersion among all nations of the world (Deuteronomy 28:49-68). These prophecies now fulfilled cannot be explained on any other ground than that God gave them.

* Bible prophecy takes up dire predictions against large and powerful cities at the height of their power. When Babylon was the greatest city in the world it was prophesied that she should be utterly desolate (Isaiah 47). So it was with Nineveh, another vast city, and center of an "invincible" empire. Nineveh was to become waste, her people scattered, and the place where she once stood was to be forgotten (Nahum). Students of history are well aware of the precise fulfillment of these prophecies.

* Other predictions included Tyre and Sidon (Ezekiel 26-28, esp. 28:20-24). Both were to be judged. Tyre would be utterly destroyed. Modern Sidon is still doing business on the same location, but Tyre is but a collection of a few houses and scattered summer vacation spots. It is in no wise the continuing city that Sidon is. More interesting still are the prophecies about nations. Egypt was to suffer humiliation in the forthcoming centuries (Ezekiel 29-32). Edom was to become desolate (Ezekiel 25:12-14). Today there's barely a trace of Edom's once prosperous cities.

* Still other Bible predictions speak of world-encircling empires still to come. As the prophet Daniel stood in the King's palace in Babylon, to him it was given to see the decline of that fabulous monarchy (Daniel 5:24-28). Other world dominions were to rise and fall through the centuries. Their special characteristics were described. Most of these have already passed by in the review of time. But the force of these prophecies and their fulfillments should be sufficient to convince even the most skeptical.

* Other portions of the Bible deal with the characteristics of the age in which we live. The Church age is shown to be one in which, while the gospel is preached, not all will receive it (Matthew 13:18-23). Israel is a hidden treasure, and the true Church grows as a pearl of great price (Matthew 13:44,45,46). Definite ages, religiously speaking, are foretold, culminating in a period when churches will be rich, increased with goods, with Christ on the outside. The characteristics detailed by these prophecies are clearly seen round about us today (Revelation 3:14-19).

* The greatest demonstration of prophecy and fulfillment in the Scriptures is, of course, found in the many detailed predictions centering in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. On almost the first page of the Bible these prophetic utterances begin (Genesis 3:15). Christ's two advents are foretold, first His coming in humiliation, then His coming in power.

* The prophetic lamp shines clearly again as the Messiah is promised to come of the line of Abraham, and of the kingly tribe of Judah (Galatians 3:16, Genesis 22:18, Genesis 49:10). Further still, the place of His birth is given, Bethlehem in Judea (Micah 5:2). Note please that the very time of Messiah's first coming is told hundreds of years before He came (Isaiah 40:3, Daniel 9:24-26). To those who doubt the force of these supernatural utterances, let someone today endeavor to duplicate this by predicting the nationality, time, place and characteristics of someone to be born five hundred years hence, or five years hence.

* By no means is that all which is prophesied concerning the coming of Christ. The reception which He was to receive is detailed. Although He was the Son of God, Israel was to see no beauty in Him. He was to be despised and rejected. He was to be a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. Furthermore, this rejection was to culminate in a cruel death (Psalm 22). After He was

betrayed by a friend for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:13), He was to be brought as a sheep to the slaughter for His trial, then shamed, humiliated and crucified. In this death His body was to be pierced (Zechariah 12:10), yet no bones broken (Psalm 34:20), given gall and vinegar to drink, taunted by His enemies, and He was to make intercession for the transgressors.

* Someone has taken time to estimate mathematically the possibilities of many detailed prophecies coming true just by chance. The ratio was one to enough zeros to fill this book. But you do see, don't you, the absolutely indisputable evidence that fulfilled prophecy brings! Only the divine mind could have so foretold the future. Hence this sign becomes definite proof that the Scriptures are the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God.

8. ITS MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION...

* The very fact that we have a Bible today is in itself a mighty miracle. When we consider its history of opposition and persecution down through the centuries, we marvel that it has been preserved at all. Not only have evil men sought its excoriation, but it has been bitterly hated by Satan and the powers of wickedness. Yet consider the Book now. It is easily the greatest Book in today's world.

* History relates that for centuries man's hatred of this Book has been determined, relentless and murderous. Every possible effort has been made to consign it to oblivion. It has been the one Book of all the books in the world that man has singled out for complete destruction and annihilation. Every engine of destruction which human hatred could devise has been brought to bear against the Scriptures. Yet in the face of such unparalleled persecution, the Bible stands today as never before.

* We must remember that no army has ever defended the Bible, nor has any nation fought against its enemies. At times it would seem that nearly all the wise men, the great men, the mighty of

the earth have been pitted against it. Many cities of the ancients were lighted by bonfires of burning Scriptures. And over the space of several centuries, it was a criminal offence to be caught even reading it. One Roman Emperor, Diocletian, gave part of his life to the extermination of the Book. And so many copies did he destroy, and so many Christians did he put to death, that he caused a medal to be struck off proclaiming that Christianity was no more.

* Behind all this human opposition has been Satanic detestation. In his diabolical counsels he has plotted the overthrow of the Book. His devilish schemes have been aimed at the utter extinction of the Scriptures. But against such a foe there has been the promise of the Almighty God that "My Word shall not pass away." This is the answer to the preservation of the Bible.

* Consider the hurdles which the Bible has had to overcome in order to survive. There had to be the exclusion of unworthy books from the sacred canon. Many, many books have sought to be included. Some of these were historically true. Some were morally elevating. But because they did not have upon them the imprimatur of inspiration, God's overruling hand rejected them and preserved the purity of His divine Word.

* Ancient times saw the judgments of God upon the people of the Jews in the form of defeat and capture. As a consequence of their sin they were taken into captivity, and the precious Bible manuscripts were in danger of being lost. Another crisis came when, after the death of Christ, the city of Jerusalem was razed to the ground and its treasures burned. But God's shielding hand kept guard over the Scriptures.

* Following the destruction of Jerusalem came Roman persecution. The Dark Ages followed when there were Bibles, but the Bibles were imprisoned in the musty darkness of medieval churches and monasteries. Civilization receded and no doubt the cause is to be

found in the incarceration of the Scriptures. But Reformation heroes arose, and their first liberation was that of the Word of God. The newly invented printing press began its joyful task of furnishing the Book of Books for all the peoples of the world.

* But the attack continued, and this time it was from within. New enemies arose who declared the Bible an unworthy Book. Using new techniques of destructive criticism, they sought to undermine the confidence of men and women in the inspiration and authenticity of the Scriptures. They falsely affirmed that it was built on myths, inaccurate in history, unworthy in truth.

* Modern heroes, however, sprang to the defense of the Book. By dint of lives spent in untold, painstaking study they have proved conclusively its veracity and credibility. Archaeologists, digging in ancient remains, added confirmation after confirmation to the statements. Again and again the Book is vindicated!

* One writer has put it this way: Suppose there was a man who had lived on this earth for nearly nineteen hundred years. Suppose this man had oftentimes been thrown into the sea and yet could not be drowned. Suppose that he had frequently been cast before wild beasts who were utterly unable to devour him. Picture him many times being made to drink deadly poisons which never did him any harm.

* Add to that, that he had often been bound in iron chains and locked in prison dungeons yet he had always been able to throw off his chains, and escape from his captivity. Suppose that he had repeatedly been hanged till his enemies thought him to be dead, yet when his body was cut down from the scaffold, he would spring to his feet and walk away as if nothing had happened. Hundreds of times he had been burned at the stake till there seemed to be nothing left of him, yet as soon as the fires were out, he would leap up from the ashes as well and as vigorous as ever before.

* Such a man would be a super-human, a miracle of miracles, the wonder of the ages. Yet this is exactly how we should regard the Bible. This is exactly the way the Bible has been treated. It has been burned, torn to pieces, chained, cast into the sea, hated ... yet never destroyed. Surely such a history of miracles has only one explanation. This Book is the Word of the Living God.

* The story of the preservation of the Book goes on today. It is today's Best Seller. It is printed in well over a thousand languages, and hundreds of translators are at this very moment busily engaged in translating more. Great Bible Societies are busily printing millions of copies vainly endeavoring to keep up with the immense demand. And still there is not enough. What is the answer to this popularity in the face of incomparable hatred and persecution? It is that God has determined that all the people of the world shall most surely hear the story of His dear Son.

9. ITS TRANSFORMING POWER...

* Will it work? That's the question. Does the Bible change lives? It's called the "Good Book", but does it have power to make bad men and women good? Will it lift them out of sin's degradation and transform them into upright, respectable citizens? If it will, then it's a different Book from all other books.

* Believe me, it is no exaggeration to say that multiplied millions of miracles have taken place in the lives of men and women simply by the earnest heart-reading of the Bible. It possesses the power to reach into the lowest depths of human society and change those who were murderers, extortioners, profligates, and harlots into clean, honest, commendable men and women. Cowards lose their cowardice to become heroes. The weak have received strength. Lovers of evil have become lovers of good. All through the power of this Book. Nor is this power manifest only among the down and out. The truth is, that in our world,

everyone needs salvation. So the Word of God reaches into the hearts of the rich, the respectable, the honored, the educated, the moral person. And what is its purpose here? To these so-called "good people" the preaching of the Scripture works a similar transformation. It adds forgiveness of sin, unselfishness, nobility of purpose, godliness, love toward others, Christlikeness and acceptance with God, and life everlasting. These "good people" become God's children.

* Other books are not like that. Did you ever hear anyone say that he was an outcast, an inebriate, a disgrace to his family and a nuisance to the world until he began to study a book on mathematics? Did you ever hear a testimony which related that now the testifier was happy all the day, and his soul was full of peace and joy since he received a certain book on geology? Yet men by the thousand, and women too, will gladly ascribe their new found happiness to the reading of this wonderful Book.

* The Book's power is universal too. It crosses the seas and enters into every land where people dwell. Barriers of race or language make no difference. Red or yellow, black or white, the story of transformation through the power of the Scriptures is the same. When oriental audiences hear the story of the Book, and receive Christ into their hearts, they do the same things that other Christians do. Forsaking their sins, they begin to live lives of righteousness. And when you preach to naked savages in darkest Africa the reaction is the same. They stop their evil practices, wash their bodies, start wearing clothes and go about doing good. The Bible is equally powerful in any land.

* Light and advancement follow the Book wherever it goes. The Bible has done more for the emancipation of the heathen than all the forces of civilization put together. Draw a line around the nations where you have the Bible, and you will have divided between barbarism and enlightenment, between thrift and poverty, between selfishness

and unselfishness, between oppression and freedom, between life and the shadow of death. Continue to be honest with me. Could a mere human book accomplish this?

* Where the Bible has gone, schools and colleges have appeared. When a nation has come to know the truth of Scripture, that nation has built hospitals for the sick, and asylums for the afflicted. Homes have been better, children have been happier, communities have been healthier because of the influence of the Bible.

* Let me speak too of missionaries. What force has called these people from their homes, endowed them with unselfishness, nobility and courage, and sent them forth to the ends of the earth with the story of Christ? Why, it has been the power of this Book. Through the inspiration of the voice of God speaking from the pages of Scripture, tens of thousands of earth's finest young men and young women leave home and country, to tell the world's lost and dying of the unmeasurable love of God.

* Oh the thrilling stories that could be told about the transforming power of the Word of God in the lives of individuals. The pages of history are filled to the brim with the instances of the Bible's power to impart courage, inspiration and challenge. Think, if you will of the heroic thousands in ancient Rome who gladly suffered martyrdom rather than deny their Lord. The walls of their catacomb homes are covered with quotations from the Scriptures revealing the source of their courage.

* Another group of Worthies who loved the Bible more than life are included in the early Church Fathers. There were Polycarp and Papias; Irenaeus and Clement; Justin Martyr and Tertullian; Ignatius and Origen; Athanasius and Chrysostom. All of twenty-four Karat value, all with an intense and undying love for the Word of God. Your heart will thrill as you read about them. (Ask about them at your library.)

* As you sweep through the centuries the story is the same. Great men, good men, noble and wise are arrayed on the side of the Scripture. What has drawn them there? What makes them love its words more than life itself? There is only one answer. Their hearts have verified that this Book is in deed and in truth the Word of the Living God!

* Here are more and each one has his rightful place in God's Hall of Fame. There are Augustine and Jerome. John Hus and Savonarola who both paid with their lives. Or, come further down in time's corridor and observe Martin Luther, John Calvin, the Wesleys, John Knox of Scotland, Tyndale and Wycliffe, God bless them! All lovers of Christ, all transformed by the Book. (Your encyclopedia will tell about them.)

* And in our own time: Spurgeon, Scofield, Torrey, Sunday, Moody, Judson, Taylor. And among the "down and outers" Jerry McCauley, Sam Hadley, Harry Munroe, Mel Trotter, each one with an amazing story of God's transforming grace. What transformations! What a Book which makes such transformations!

10. ITS CHRISTFULNESS

* We come now to the most important and convincing evidence that God is indeed the Author of this Book. Most everyone knows that the Bible is deeply concerned with a portrayal of the person and work of an incomparably unique Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not possible that He should have been the product of man's mind for He is head and shoulders above all humanity. His life is unparalleled on the pages of time. Never did mere man speak as He spoke. Nor did any man ever perform such mighty works. He stands entirely alone. He is the Son of Man. ... He is the Christ of God.

* And the Bible is "His Book." From the opening pages of Genesis to the closing words of Revelation the Bible gladly tells of His life, His character, His work, His destiny. Every page speaks of Him. He is the One who seems to hold the Book together. Someone has

rightly said that if you miss observing the portrait of Christ on every page of Scripture, you have missed that for which the Book was penned. Christ and the Book are inseparably linked. For He is most surely the Christ of the Bible, and the Bible is forever the Book of Christ. He is the Living Word, and the Bible is the written Word.

* Men's books tell of the life and deeds of other men. Still others bring before us characters of fiction. But all of these characters rise only to the level of man's thinking. Literature cannot rise higher than its source. But the person of Christ is higher. No one in history or literature is in His class. Someone has said, "If the person of Jesus Christ were merely the result of some man's imagination, then by all means we should certainly fall down and worship that man, for he himself would be earth's greatest miracle for it would take a Jesus to forge a Jesus."

* So this Book whose great Character is infinitely above all that man could produce cannot be accounted for on the basis of natural law. Therefore He is more than man, and the Bible is His Book. He proves the Bible, and the Bible proves Him.

* Christ is also the great central theme of Bible prophecy. As the writing seers of old were allowed to draw back time's curtain and peer forward into as yet un-lived history, they saw that the events of the future were mainly concerned with Him. And so they wrote. Moses looked and saw both His death and His eventual coronation (Deuteronomy 18:15-19). David wrote of the bitter sorrows of the cross, yet saw too that some day all men would turn to Him (Psalm 22).

* Isaiah, writing about 700 B.C., with tear dimmed eyes saw the anguish of Calvary's tragedy at close range (Isaiah 53). Zechariah tells mostly of the blessings which come to Israel and through them to the world in the millennial age (Zechariah 14). Other Old Testament worthies wrote of Him, adding here a little, there a little

until the prophetic picture was complete.

* Then comes a period of four hundred silent years before the New Testament is begun. But make no mistake, the two Testaments make one Book, for the Christ of the One is the Christ of the New. That of which Moses, David, Isaiah and Zechariah wrote is minutely fulfilled in the events surrounding the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. You see the Old Testament is the preparation, while the New shows the manifestation. The truth contained in both Testaments is coherent, unified and progressive, because Christ is the one grand Subject.

* Other holy books of ancient people contain morality and wisdom, some of it valuable and commendable. These holy books tell of men who lived lives of benevolence and charity. Some of them even died a martyr's death. But no book other than the Bible tells of One who died and rose again. In the matter of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Bible is wholly alone. Without apology, without hesitation the Scriptures plainly set forth that three days after His death, Christ rose triumphantly from the grave. This unmatched miracle is both prophesied and fulfilled on the pages of the Bible. Furthermore, as the Bible sets forth the resurrection, it becomes the best authenticated fact of history.

* The Bible delights to speak about the person and work of Christ in types. A type is an example, a figure, a pattern. Over and over again the person of Christ, His qualities, His accomplishments are shown in typology. Many men in Scripture are types of Christ. For instance, Adam is a type of Christ in that both are federal Heads of the race (Romans:12-21). Adam is head of the old race, Christ of the New.

* Isaac is a type of Christ showing Him as the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world (Genesis 22). David is a type as emphasizing the peace that will attend the coming reign of Christ (2 Samuel 7:12-17).

* Bible objects are types too. The Ark of Noah is a most complete foreshadowing of the salvation and safety that is to be found in Christ. The tabernacle of the Israelites in the wilderness is almost purely typology. Also the manna, the smiting of the rock, the brazen serpent, and many, many more. No clearer type is to be found than that of the Passover Lamb. All these add up to a most wonderful foreview of Christ Jesus.

* Another delightful study is that of the Bible's names for Christ. Upwards of four hundred different names and titles are ascribed to Christ by the various writers. He is the Son of God, and the Son of Man. He is the Bread of Life and the Water of Life. Not only is He the Bright and Morning Star, but He is the Sun of Righteousness. Then He is both the Lamb of God, and the Good Shepherd. Solomon writes of Him as the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon. His strength is shown as He is called the Rock of Ages, and the Chief Corner Stone.

* You do see, don't you, that the Bible is the peerless Book because Christ is its peerless Person. He is its fullness, its center. It's all about Him. He is the Life of the Book. The Book is His Story.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE

* If you are not a Christian ... please read this page carefully.

* It is not enough that you should be persuaded that the Bible is the Word of God. You must not stop there. Remember, it is God's Word to you, ... individually, personally. It has a message to your heart that is inexpressibly important.

* You see, all men by nature are sinners (Romans 3:10-12). they're lost, and under the condemnation of a just God. That means you too. Furthermore, the wages of sin is death, and this death is eternal death (Romans 6:23).

* But then, there's such good news for sinners: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). When He hung on Calvary's cross, He paid the full penalty of our redemption. No sinner need die if he will accept the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior (Romans 5:8).

* How can you know the joy of salvation? That's the best news of all. There's nothing to pay, nothing to do. You can receive this matchless, priceless redemption as a free gift from God ... right now (Ephesians 2:8-9).

* Do this: drop to your knees, look up into God's face and tell Him that you're an unworthy, meritless sinner on your way to perdition. Then tell Him that you are here and now receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Tell Him that you believe that Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the World, and your Savior.

* If you will do this, and mean it, on the authority of the unchanging Word of God you will be saved (John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24). Then go on in the things of God. Be baptized (Acts 2:41), join a church that honors Christ (Acts 2:47), live daily for Him (Romans 12:1), and seek to bring others to His feet (Mark 16:15). Just so will your life be joy inexpressible and full of Glory!

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TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS
THE WORD OF GOD, by Wm. W. Orr, n.d.

