



**Reasons for God**  
*Resolving doubts. Renewing purpose.*

The problem of evil



# Mission Statement

*To know Jesus and to make Him  
known while living, loving and  
serving like Him*



***“While Christianity IS about faith, it is not a blind faith!”***



7 "**Ask**, and it will be given to you;  
**seek**, and you will find; **knock**,  
and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7-8



8 For everyone who asks receives, and  
**he who seeks finds**, and to  
him who knocks it will be opened

Matthew 7:7-8



**19 They know the truth  
about God because he has  
made it obvious to them.**

**Romans 1 (NLT)**



20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature.

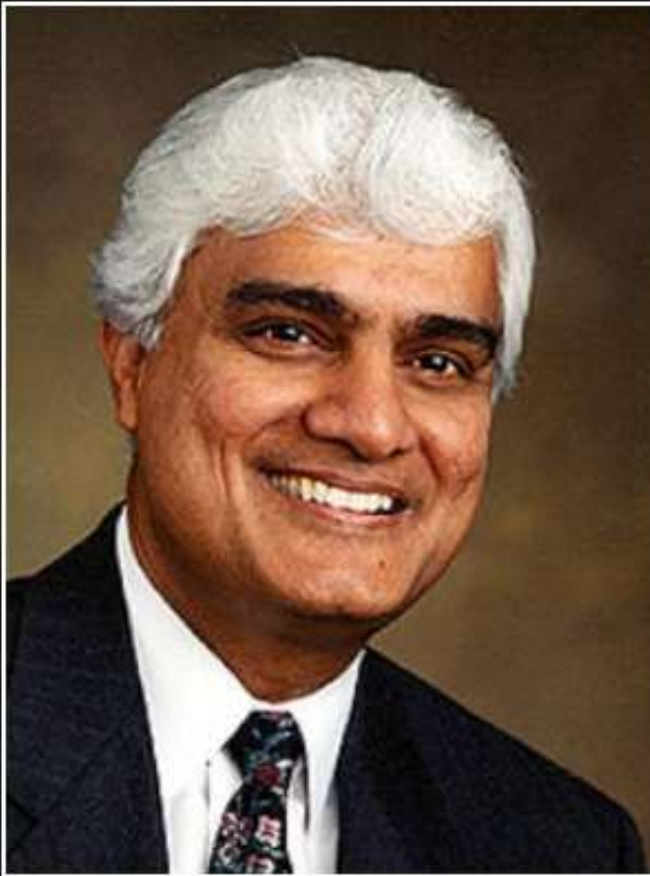
Romans 1 (NLT)



**so they have no excuse  
for not knowing God.**

**Romans 1 (NLT)**





A man rejects God neither because of intellectual demands nor because of the scarcity of evidence. A man rejects God because of a moral resistance that refuses to admit his need for God.

— *Ravi Zacharias* —

**AZ** QUOTES



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The reliability of the bible



# *Resurrection*



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If Jesus rose from the dead, then He must be God!

# Dr. Simon Greenleaf

Harvard University Law



**Greenleaf concludes that the resurrection of Christ is one of the best-supported events in history according to the laws of legal evidence administered in courts of justice.**



# *Why is there something instead of nothing?*



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What was the first cause?



## *Kalam Cosmological Argument*

- *Whatever begins to exist has a cause*
- *The universe began to exist*
- *Therefore, the universe has a cause*



*If the universe had a beginning, then one moment there was nothing and the next there was something. To deny the existence of God, one would have to believe that nothing created something.*





***Our world  
looks like it  
was  
designed***

A design implies a designer





Look at  
what time  
and  
random  
chance  
produced?

A design implies a  
designer



Looking at the doctrine of Darwinism, which undergirded my atheism for so many years, it didn't take me long to conclude that it was simply too far-fetched to be credible.

Lee Strobel (2009). "The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God", p.355, Harper Collins



I realized that if I were to embrace Darwinism and its underlying premise of naturalism, I would have to believe that:

Lee Strobel (2009). "The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God", p.355, Harper Collins



1. Nothing produces everything
2. Non-life produces life
3. Randomness produces fine-tuning

Lee Strobel (2009). "The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God", p.355, Harper Collins



4. Chaos produces information

5. Unconsciousness produces consciousness

6. Non-reason produces reason....

Lee Strobel (2009). "The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God", p.355, Harper Collins



Lee Strobel has explained that  
he just did not have enough faith  
to continue in his atheism

Lee Strobel (2009). "The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Toward God", p.355, Harper Collins



# *Who is Jesus?*



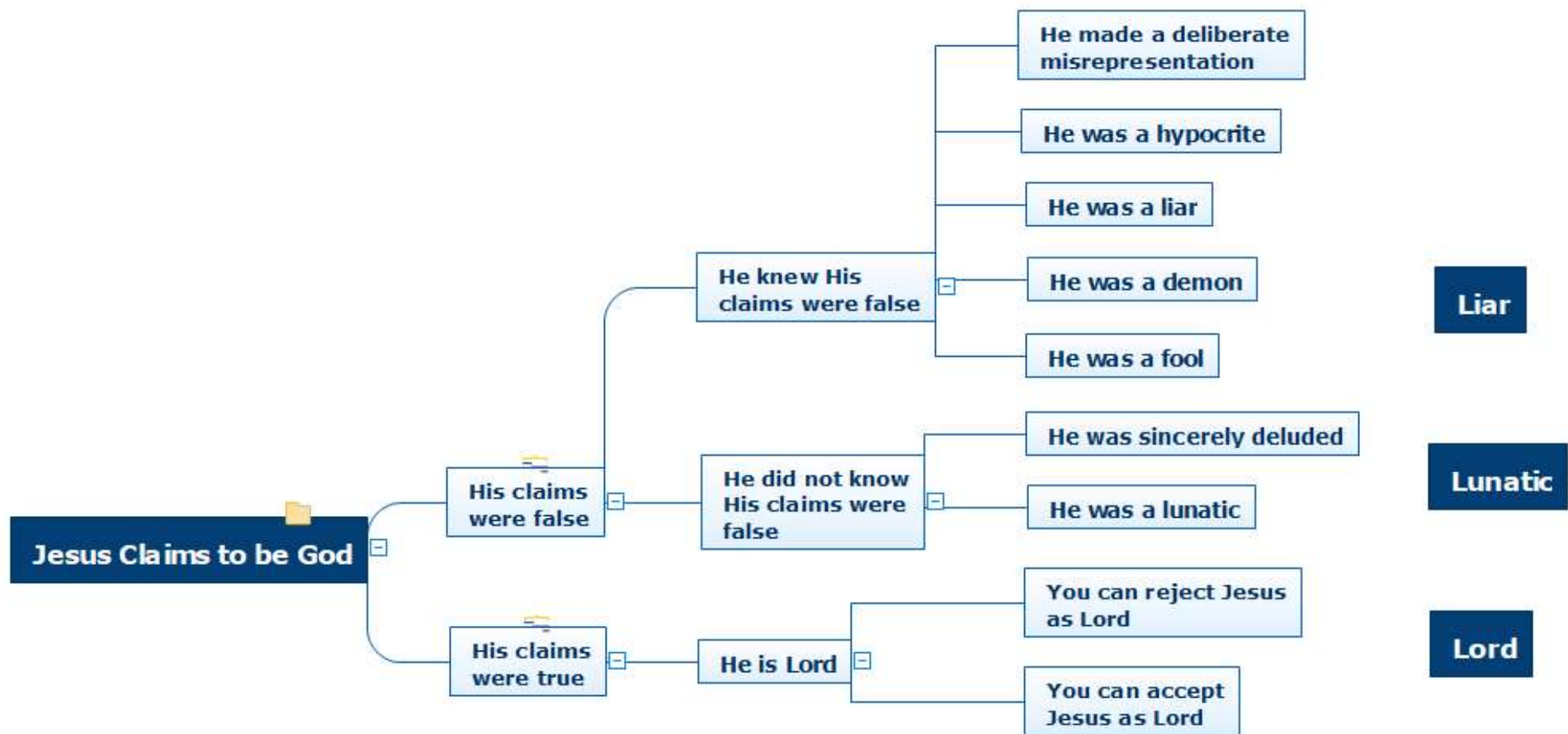
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Lord, Liar of Lunatic





**WAS HE CRAZY,  
A PATHOLOGICAL LIAR,  
OR THE SON OF GOD?**





C.S Lewis

*"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say."*



C.S Lewis

*...You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God,*



C.S Lewis

*but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."*



# *The problem of evil*



Reasons for God  
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Why is anything good or bad?

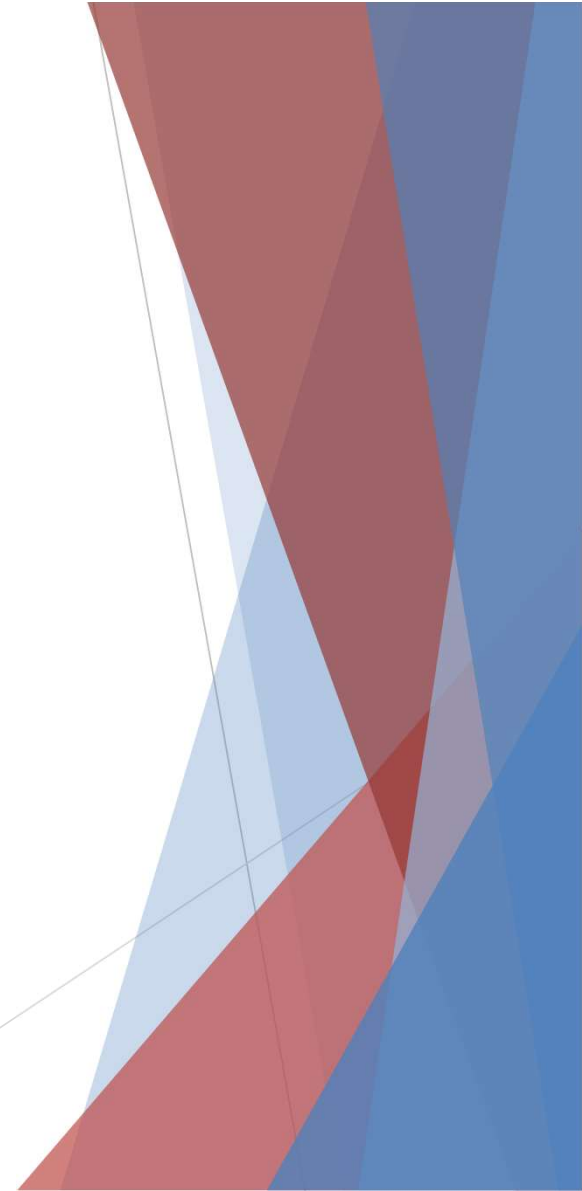


- *If God is good, then He must not be powerful*
- *If God is powerful, then He must not be good*
- *Therefore, either God is not good, or not powerful*



*God made evil  
possible.*

*Man made evil  
actual.*







William  
Lane  
Craig

1. *If there is no God, objective moral values and duties do not exist*
2. *But objective moral values and duties do exist*
3. *Therefore, there is a God*



*If there is no God,  
what basis remains  
for **objective** good or  
bad?*



My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?

(C. S. Lewis)

[izquotes.com](http://izquotes.com)

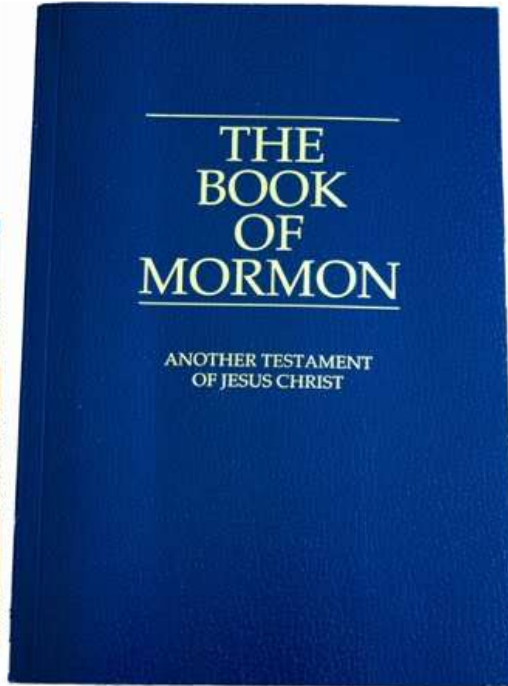
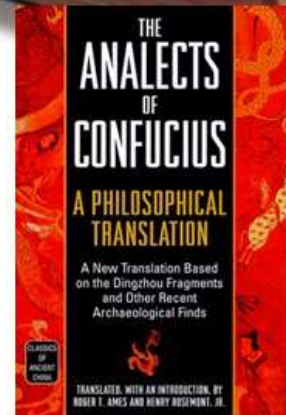
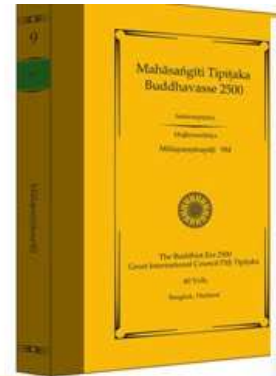
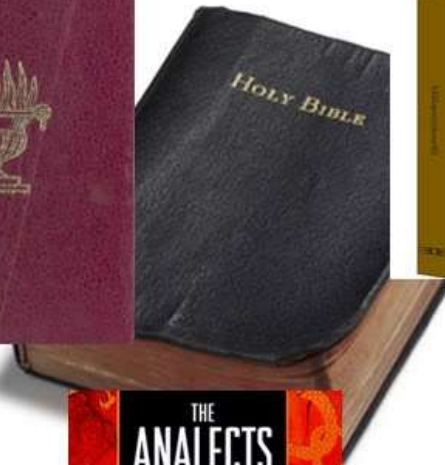
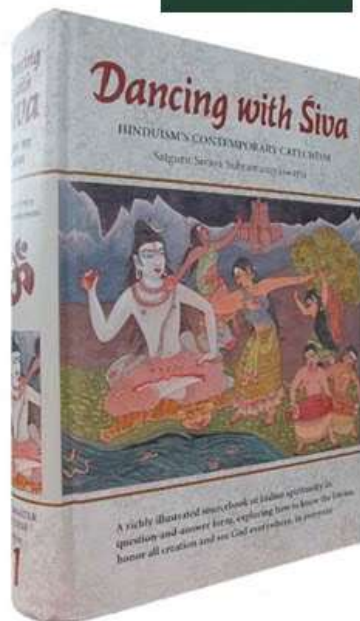
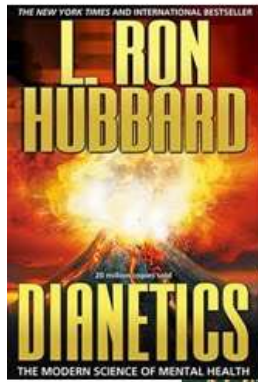


# *The reliability of the bible*



Reasons for God  
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The reliability of the bible





And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and **with all your mind**”

Matthew 22:37



but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord  
as holy, **always being prepared to  
make a defense to anyone who asks  
you for a reason for the hope that is  
in you**; yet do it with gentleness and  
respect,

1 Peter 3:15



21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

2 Peter 1:21





**16 All Scripture is given by  
inspiration of God,** and is  
profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for  
correction, for instruction in  
righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16-17



**17 that the man of God may be  
complete, thoroughly equipped for  
every good work.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**



# *The reliability of the bible*




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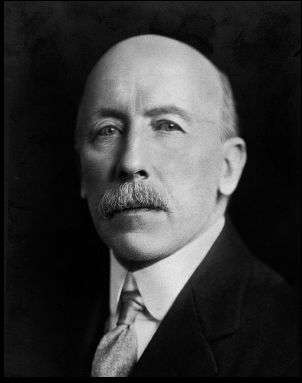
# *Early Testimony*

- *How close in time to when it was originally written*
  - *How many copies*
- 

## Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

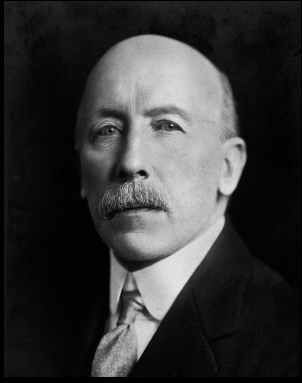
Author	Written	Earliest Fragment/copy	Time Span in Years	Number of Manuscripts
Caesar	100 to 44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Plato	427 to 347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460 to 400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	A.D. 75 to 160	A.D. 950	800	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
New Testament	A.D. 40 to 100	A.D. 125	25 to 50	24,000

Information in this chart can be found in various sources. This chart was adapted from: *Christian Apologetics*, by Norman Geisler, 1976, p. 307; and *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pp. 42, 43.



Sir Frederick  
Kenyon  
President of  
the British  
Academy

“The interval then between the date of original composition and the earliest extant evidence become so small to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scripture have come down to us substantially as they were



Sir Frederick  
Kenyon

President of  
the British  
Academy

written has now been removed.  
Both the authenticity and the  
general integrity of the books of  
the New Testament may be  
regarded as finally established.”

- Sir Frederic Kenyon, quoted by F.F. Bruce in The New Testament





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Early Testimony

# ***Eyewitness Testimony***



22 "Men of Israel, hear these words:  
Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by  
God to you by miracles, wonders, and  
signs which God did through Him in your  
midst, **as you yourselves also know—**

Acts 2:22



24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

Acts 26:24-26



25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.

Acts 26:24-26



26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, **since this thing was not done in a corner.**

Acts 26:24-26



3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15



4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15





6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, **of whom the greater part remain to the present**, but some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15



*The gospels were  
written early enough to  
be cross checked by  
those who were still  
alive*



Early Testimony  
Eyewitness Testimony

# *Embarrassing Testimony*



Early Testimony  
Eyewitness Testimony  
Embarrassing Testimony

# *Excruciating Testimony*

# How did the apostles die?

National Geographic By: Patrick J. Kigore February 19, 2015

+RADICAL

## Peter

...As the story goes, Peter asked to be **crucified upside down**, so that his death would not be the equal of Jesus and the Romans supposedly obliged.

+RADICAL

## Andrew

...**scourged**, and then tied rather than nailed to a cross, so that he would **suffer for a longer time before dying.**

Andrew lived for two days, during which he preached to passersby.

+RADICAL

*James*

...**killed with a sword**. ...his unnamed accuser...not only repented and converted on the spot, but asked to be executed alongside James. ...both men were **beheaded** simultaneously.

+RADICAL



*John*

...the only one of the original disciples not to die a violent death. Instead, he passed away peacefully in Patmos in his old age, sometime around 100 AD.

+RADICAL

*Philip*

...scourged, thrown into **prison**, and  
**crucified** in 54 AD.

+RADICAL

## *Bartholomew*

...In one account, “impatient idolaters” **beat** Bartholomew and then **crucified** him, while in another, he was **skinned alive** and then **beheaded**.

+RADICAL

## Thomas

...preached the gospel in Greece and India,  
where he angered local religious authorities,  
who martyred him by **running him  
through with a spear.**

+RADICAL

# Matthew

...stabbed in the back by a swordsman sent by King Hertacus, after he criticized the king's morals.

+RADICAL

## *James the Less*

...At the age of 94, he was **beaten** and **stoned** by persecutors, and then **killed** him by **hitting him in the head** with a club.

+RADICAL

# Thaddaeus

...**crucified** at Edessa (the name of cities in both Turkey and Greece) in 72 AD.

+RADICAL

## *Simon the Canaanite*

...preached in Mauritania on the west coast of Africa, and then went to England, where he was **crucified** in 74 AD.

+RADICAL





Early Testimony  
Eyewitness Testimony  
Embarrassing Testimony  
Excruciating Testimony

# *Expected Testimony*

## Fullfilled Prophecies on Jesus

### The Lineage and Birth of Jesus Foretold

Prophecy	Old Testament Reference	New Testament Fulfillment
Seed of a woman	Genesis 3:14-15	Galatians 4:4
From the Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33
Descendant of Abraham, Issac and Jacob	Genesis 12:3, 17:17-19; Numbers 24:17	Matthew 1:1-2,16; Luke 3:34, 38
Heir to the Throne of David	Isaiah 9:6-7	Luke 1:32
Anointed and Eternal	Psalms 45:6-7	Hebrews 1:8-10
Jesus to be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4-7
The time of Jesus' birth	Daniel 9:24-25	Luke 2:1-5
Christ to be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:13-14	Luke 1:26-28, 30-31
Lamentation for the killing of infants	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
To be called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:13-15

### Preparation for and Ministry of Jesus

Prophecy	Old Testament Reference	New Testament Fulfillment
The way of the Lord prepared	Isaiah 40:3-4	Luke 3:2-5
A messenger to come before the Lord	Malachi 3:1	Luke 7:24-27
A prophet would be raised up	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:19-20, 22
Declared to be a Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:13-17
Ministry centered in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:12-16
Jesus Christ would speak in parables	Psalms 78:1-2	Matthew 13:34-35
Jesus to bind up and heal the brokenhearted	Isaiah 61:1-3	Luke 4:17-21
A Priest after the order of Melchizedek	Psalms 110:1,4	Hebrews 5:5-6
Despised, rejected and not believed, especially by the Jews	Isaiah 53:1-4	John 1:11, 12:37-40; Luke 23:16-18
Hated without reason	Psalms 35:19	John 15:24
Triumphal entry in Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Mark 11:7-11
Praised by the mouth of babes	Psalms 8:1-2	Matthew 21:15-16
The Messiah would be cut off, but not for himself	Daniel 9:25-27	John 11:49-52

## Fullfilled Prophecies on Jesus

### The Last Twenty-Four (24) Hours in Jesus' Life (From Betrayal to his Trial)

Prophecy	Old Testament Reference	New Testament Fulfillment
Betrayal of Jesus Christ by a close friend (Judas)	Psalms 41:9	Mark 14:10, Luke 22:47-48
Price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:14-15
What would be done with the betrayal money	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:3, 5-7
Forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:50; Matthew 26:31
False witnesses against Christ	Psalms 27:12, 35:11	Matthew 26:59-61; Mark 14:55-57
Jesus would not open his mouth (defend himself) against false accusations	Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:4-5, Matthew 27:13-14

### The Last Twenty-Four (24) Hours in Jesus' Life (From after his Trial to his Death)

Prophecy	Old Testament Reference	New Testament Fulfillment
Satan shall bruise Jesus' "heel"	Genesis 3:15	John 19:18; John 12:31-33
His scourging predicted	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15
His body would be brutalized	Psalms 22:16-17; Isaiah 52:14	Matthew 27:26, 29-30; John 19:1-3
Jesus would be bruised and crucified for the sins of the world	Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11	Romans 5:6-8
Shame, reproach and dishonor; adversaries before Him.	Psalms 69:17-19	Matthew 27:27-30
Feet and hands would be pierced	Psalms 22:15-16; Zechariah 12:9-10	John 19:33-35, 20:25-27
He was numbered among the transgressors	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:33
Some observers would shake their heads at him	Psalms 22:7-8, 109:25	Matthew 27:39-40
Reviled and mocked by the crowd	Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:39-43; Luke 23:34-35
Intercession for sinners and those killing him	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:33-34

## Fulfilled Prophecies on Jesus

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Parting of His garments and the casting of lots for them	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24
Stared at Jesus on the cross	Psalms 22:16-17	Matthew 27:36, 55
Family and friends would observe	Psalms 38:10-11	Luke 23:48-49; Matthew 27:55-56
Forsaken by God	Psalms 22:1-2	Matthew 27:45-46
His side would be pierced	Psalms 22:16; Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Gave Him vinegar to drink	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:28-30
Christ would commit His spirit to the Father	Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46; John 19:30
Not one of His bones would be broken	Exodus 12:43, 46; Psalms 34:19-20	John 19:33-36
Jesus Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us	Exodus 12:3, 5-6; Isaiah 53:7	John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19
Jesus would be buried in the tomb of a rich man	Isaiah 53:8-9	Matthew 27:57-60
Jesus would be resurrected	Psalms 16:10-11; Psalms 49:15	Mark 16:5-6
His ascension to God's right hand	Psalms 68:18	1 Corinthians 15:3-6; Mark 16:19-20; Ephesians 4:8-10



Early Testimony  
Eyewitness Testimony  
Embarrassing Testimony  
Excruciating Testimony  
Expected Testimony

# ***Extra-Biblical Testimony***

## Extra-Biblical Secular Sources

Writer	Date	Subject
 Comellius Tacitus	112	Death of Jesus at the hands of Pilate
 Lucian	2 <sup>nd</sup> cent.	The new cult of Christianity
 Flavius Josephus	66	Life/Death of Jesus
 Suetonius	120	Christ-The reason for Jews expulsion from Rome
 Pliny	112	Christians bound not to sin - Jesus
 Thallus	52	Histories-Darkness at Christ's death (eclipse)
 Philegon	1 <sup>st</sup> cent.	Darkness=Eclipse
 Mara Bar-Serapion	73	Calamities brought by deaths. Socrates, Pythagorus, and Jesus



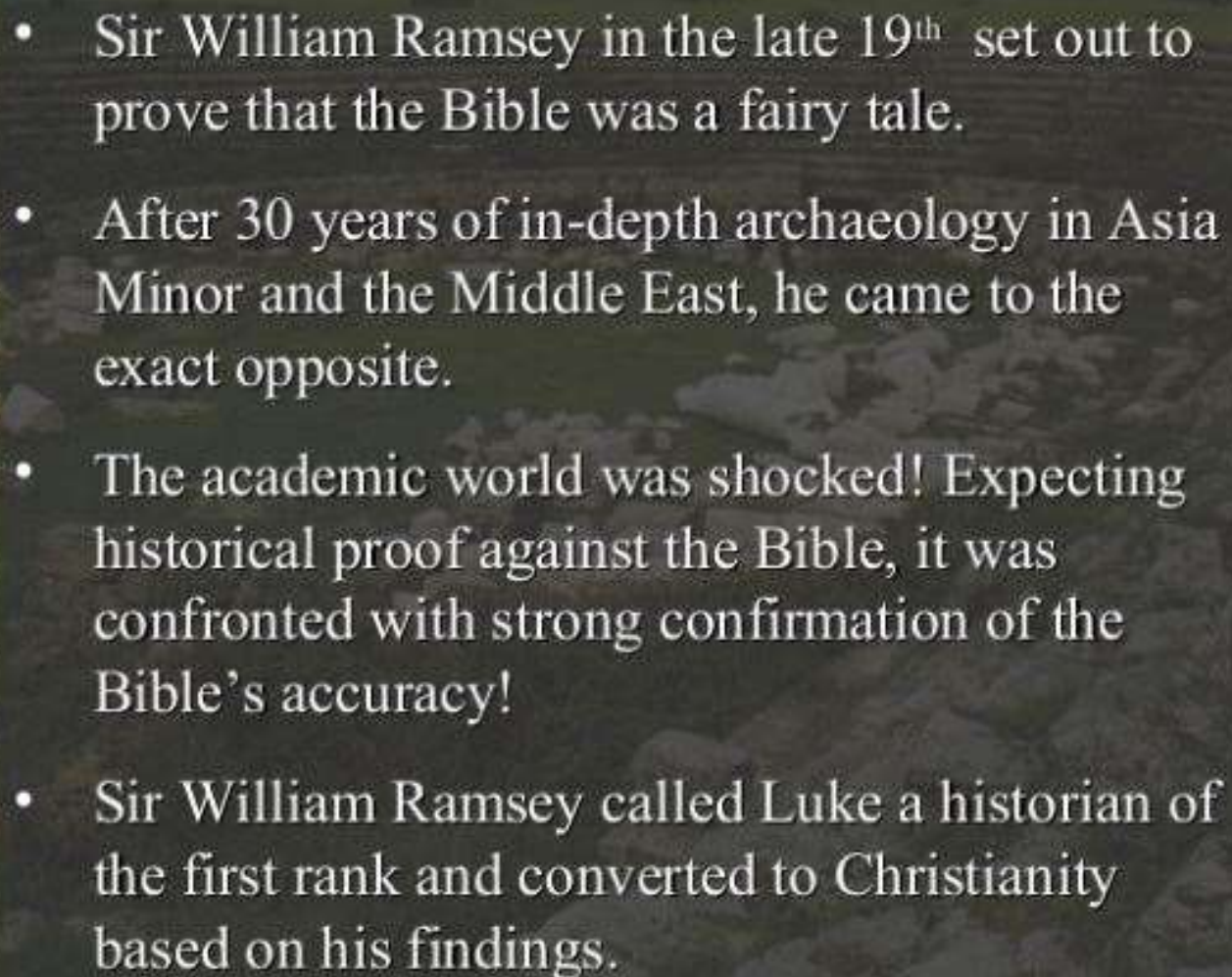
# A Reporters Conclusion

Archaeology (N.T.)



“In extraordinary ways, modern archeology has affirmed the historical core of the Old and New Testaments--corroborating key portions of the stories of Israel's patriarchs, the Exodus, the Davidic monarchy, the life and times of Jesus.”

Jeffrey Shelter, *As the Bible True?*, US News and World Report, Oct. 25, 1999, p. 52

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- The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient stone ruins, possibly a wall or foundation, in a grassy field. The ruins are made of large, irregular stones and are partially covered by green grass and small plants. In the distance, there are more ruins and a line of trees under a clear sky.
- Sir William Ramsey in the late 19<sup>th</sup> set out to prove that the Bible was a fairy tale.
  - After 30 years of in-depth archaeology in Asia Minor and the Middle East, he came to the exact opposite.
  - The academic world was shocked! Expecting historical proof against the Bible, it was confronted with strong confirmation of the Bible's accuracy!
  - Sir William Ramsey called Luke a historian of the first rank and converted to Christianity based on his findings.



Dr. Norman  
L. Geisler

When you add this up - the historical reliability of the Bible as authenticated by archaeology, the miraculous fulfillment of clear predictive prophecies, and the performance of documented miracles-





Dr. Norman  
L. Geisler

you get a supernaturally  
confirmed book unlike any other  
in history"



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