

Introduction:

1. Through the years, people have tried to attack the Bible.
 - a. Some famous atheists even made the claim that after they wrote against it, the Bible would cease to exist within 50 years.
 - b. Some set about to destroy every copy of the Bible.
 - c. Yet, the Bible still endures to this day.
2. Perhaps the bigger problem today is not the violent and vicious attacks against the Bible, but the view that the Bible is a good book, but uninspired.
 - a. Some say that the Bible is simply a collection of moral teachings to get people to be nicer.
 - b. The claim is that the Bible is a book of merely human invention, though it is a very helpful book in living peacefully.
3. The problem is this:
 - a. The Bible claims to be inspired by God (II Timothy 3:16).
 - b. The Bible claims to be the authority in all matters (that verse involves doctrine and correction).
 - c. The Bible claims to have the only way of eternal life.
 - d. If the Bible is merely a human book, it is full of lies about itself and cannot be trusted in anything!
4. Is the Bible inspired?
 - I. The Bible expresses truths long before they were “discovered” by science.
 - A. Isaiah 40:22 – “the circle of the earth.”
 1. Up until the time of Columbus, the majority of people thought the world was flat (he sailed in 1492 AD).
 2. The word translated “circle” literally means “sphere.”
 3. Isaiah wrote that the earth was a sphere over 2100 years before Columbus ever sailed.
 4. How did this knowledge come if not from God?
 - B. Psalm 8:8 – “the paths of the seas.”
 1. Matthew Fontaine Maury was read to from the Bible while he was sick in the mid-1880’s.
 - a. His son read this Psalm to him, and Mr. Maury wondered about the “paths of the seas.”
 - b. His belief in the inspiration of the Bible led him to search for these paths.
 - c. He is the man credited with discovering and mapping many of the ocean currents which are used by ships today for quicker travel.
 - d. A statue of him exists in Richmond, VA which calls him the “pathfinder of the seas.”
 - e. The statue features a Bible next to him.
 - f. The inscription reads: “Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the genius who first snatched from the oceans and atmosphere the secret of their laws. His inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8; Ecclesiastes 1:6.”
 2. Yet almost 3000 years before he discovered them, they were written about in the Bible.
 - C. Proverbs 8:28, Job 38:16 – the springs of the sea, the fountains of the deep

1. Many ships have been lost at sea and the crew died because there was no drinkable water.
 2. About the time of Christ, one geographer noted there were a couple underwater springs just off the coast of Italy.
 3. It is now known that many such springs are located off almost all coasts (even in the US).
 4. However, the Bible expressed this truth at least 900 years before anyone “discovered” them in the scientific community.
- D. Some medical laws were given to the Hebrews before they were ever considered normal (Leviticus 13-15, approximately 1400 BC).
1. Recognition of diseases were given.
 2. The sick were to be quarantined (put outside of the camp for a certain number of days).
 3. Any items which could not be cleansed were to be burned to stop the spread of disease.
 4. Some experts on medical history have called the Hebrews “the founders of preventative medicine,” “scientifically sound,” and “remarkable.”
 5. The Egyptians’ medicine and medical practices were considered the best in the ancient world (and Moses would have been trained in their practices), but their practices left much to be desired.
 6. If you were an Egyptian with a splinter, the remedy prescribed was worm’s blood and donkey dung rubbed on the affected area.
 7. There was so much dung and urine in Egyptian potions (medicines) that historians called their medical practice “sewage pharmacology.”
- E. How is it possible that the Bible contains all these things thousands of years before man “discovered” them? The Bible is inspired by God!
- II. The Bible includes fulfilled prophecies.
- A. Jehovah Himself staked His claim of being God on being able to foretell future events and past events accurately.
1. Isaiah 41:21-24 – God speaks to the people and their idols, calling upon them to prove that they are gods by accurately recording past events as well as telling the things which were to come.
 2. If God can foretell the future events, it is proof that He is truly God.
 3. Since the Bible foretells future events which came to pass, it shows the Bible is from God!
- B. Some prophecies and fulfillment are Bible-specific, meaning things prophesied which were fulfilled later in the Scriptures.
1. Exodus 3:11-12 - God prophesied to Moses that he would lead the Israelites out of Egypt and again worship on the mountain where He spoke to Moses via the burning bush.
 - a. This was fulfilled beginning in Exodus 19 (see also 33:6 – Mt. Horeb).
 - b. This was prophesied 40 years before it was fulfilled!
 2. Daniel 2:39-44 – The kingdom of God would be established in the days of the Roman Empire.
 - a. The kingdom was spoken of as a future event when John the Baptizer and Jesus were preaching (Matthew 3:1-2, 4:17).
 - b. The kingdom was spoken of as being a present reality during the days of the apostles

3. Micah 5:2 - God prophesied through Micah that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judah.
 - a. This was fulfilled when Jesus was born there (Matthew 2:1-6).
 - b. This was over 700 years previous to the fulfillment!
 4. Many others could be given.
 5. How is it possible for the Bible to accurately predict events both near and far in the future unless it is inspired by God?
- C. Some prophecies find their fulfillment in history
1. Nahum 2:3-8 – The destruction of Nineveh (prophesied approx 660 BC, fulfilled 612 BC).
 - a. The soldiers who defeat Nineveh are described (verses 3-4) and it is a perfect description of the Babylonian armies which took Nineveh.
 - b. The rivers would be opened up and allowed the Babylonians to destroy the city (verse 6).
 - 1) A torrential rain caused one of the walls of the city to break apart for about 30 feet.
 - 2) This wall was built near the Tigris River which overflowed its banks because of the rain.
 - c. When the wall broke, the waters (and soldiers) came rushing in the city, fulfilling Nahum 1:8 – with an overwhelming flood He will make and utter end of the place...
 - d. Most of the buildings were made with mud bricks, and when the waters came in with such force and magnitude, many of the buildings literally dissolved (see Nahum 2:6b).
 - e. These very detailed events were described about 50 years before they happened!
 2. Isaiah 44:28-45:1 – The king who would restore Israel to their land.
 - a. The Jews had not been taken captive by Babylon yet, but already Isaiah prophesied of the king who would defeat Babylon and return the Jews to their land.
 - b. This king was even named – CYRUS – by Isaiah over 150 years before this king was even born!
 3. Ezekiel 26:3-14 – The destruction of Tyre (prophesied approx 586 BC, fulfilled from that time through 332 BC).
 - a. Many nations would come against her (26:3); historically, Babylon, Persia, and Greece all fought against Tyre.
 - b. The walls of the city would be broken down (26:4).
 - 1) Nebuchadnezzar broke down the walls of the mainland city of Tyre.
 - 2) The island city of Tyre was sieged for 13 years, but Nebuchadnezzar never took it.
 - c. The dust (soil) would be scraped from her and she would be made bare like the top of a rock (26:4).
 - 1) There is nothing remaining of the mainland city of Tyre.
 - 2) It was destroyed down to the foundations of the city, the bedrock.
 - d. The stones, timber, and soil of the city would be cast into the waters (26:12).

- 1) When Alexander the Great went against the island city of Tyre, he built a causeway (land bridge) across the 1 mile of water.
 - 2) What did he use to build it? The ruins of the mainland city of Tyre, including the stones, timber, and soil.
 - 3) He scraped it down to the very rock foundations.
 - 4) With this land bridge, he led his armies to destroy Tyre.
 - e. They would be a place good for only spreading fishing nets (26:14).
 - 1) When the city was completely destroyed, there was no longer any seaport.
 - 2) With all of the debris in the area, no shipping vessels would come.
 - 3) The only ships in the area after this event, and even to this day, are fishing boats.
 - 4) The old island (now a peninsula) is used as a place for the fishermen to dry out their fishing nets in the sun.
 - f. The city would never be rebuilt (26:15).
 - 1) The great city of Tyre is no longer.
 - 2) There is now only a small fishing village where part of it once stood (and much of that city is built on the causeway that Alexander built).
 - g. This prophecy was ultimately fulfilled over 250 years after the prophecy was given!
4. Matthew 24:1-Jesus prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem (prophesied AD 30, fulfilled AD 70).
- a. He said it would happen in the lifetime of some then living (24:34), and it happened within 40 years (AD 70).
 - b. He said that people would have to flee for their lives (24:16-21) which many did.
 - c. The temple would be destroyed (24:1-2).
 - 1) This happened when Rome destroyed the Jewish temple in AD 70.
 - 2) It has never been rebuilt, and in fact a mosque sits in its place now.
 - 3) Part of the reason for the temple being destroyed is because it made it impossible to ever again worship God according to the OT Law.
- D. The only explanation for these amazingly detailed descriptions of future events which came to pass is that the Scriptures were inspired by God!

Conclusion:

1. The examples given today prove that the Bible contains information beyond the capability of humans.
2. No humans could have predicted these things in that detail constantly and have them always come true unless God was inspiring them to do so.
3. Since man could not have written the Scriptures, who could have?
4. II Peter 1:21 – holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.