

Building Bridges Series III

Tentative Schedule

1. 10/17 God
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4. 11/7 Video: Bible vs. the Book of Mormon
- 5. 11/14 Reliability of Scripture**
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The Heart of the Series

2 Timothy 3:16–17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Galatians 1:6–10 - I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a **different** (Gk/*heteros*) gospel, **7** which is not **another** (Gk/*allos*); but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert (Gk/*metastrepho* = *to turn around*) the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you **than** (Gk/*para*) what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. **10** For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

**Reliability of Scriptures
Which is True?
The Bible or The Book of Mormon**

LDS Doctrine

Book of Mormon is the Most Correct Book on Earth

* “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (**History of the Church, 4:461**, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 194.)

* Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it. In the short space of twenty years, he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God, and has been the means of publishing it on two continents; has sent the fullness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained, to the four quarters of the earth; (**D&C 135:3**)

* ... Is there not something deep in our hearts that longs to draw nearer to God, to be more like Him in our daily walk, to feel His presence with us constantly? If so, then the Book of Mormon will help us do so more than any other book. (**Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson, Chapter 9**, <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-ezra-taft-benson/chapter-9-the-book-of-mormon-keystone-of-our-religion?lang=eng>)

* “I wish also to mention here, that the title page of the Book of Mormon is a literal translation, taken from the very last leaf, on the left side of the collection or book of plates, which contained the record which has been translated; the language of the whole running the same as all Hebrew writing in general; and that, said title page is not by any means a modern composition either of mine or of any other man’s who has lived or does live in this generation” (**Joseph Smith, Times and Seasons 3:943**).

* “Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none.” (Joseph Smith, **History of the Church 2:52**).

* ... Just as the arch crumbles if the keystone is removed, so does all the Church stand or fall with the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. The enemies of the Church understand this clearly. This is why they go to such great lengths to try to disprove the Book of Mormon, for if it can be discredited, the Prophet Joseph Smith goes with it. So does our claim to priesthood keys, and revelation, and the restored Church. But in like manner, if the Book of Mormon be true—and millions have now testified that they have the witness of the Spirit that it is indeed true—then one must accept the claims of the Restoration and all that accompanies it. (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson, Chapter 9, <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-ezra-taft-benson/chapter-9-the-book-of-mormon-keystone-of-our-religion?lang=eng#note11->)

* “This book must be either true or false. If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God to man, affecting both the temporal and eternal interests of every people under heaven to the same extent and in the same degree that the message of Noah affected the inhabitants of the old world. If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid

impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions who will sincerely receive it as the word of God, and will suppose themselves securely built upon the rock of truth until they are plunged with their families into hopeless despair. The nature of the message in the Book of Mormon is such, that if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it” (Orson Pratt, Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, 1:1, Liverpool, October 15, 1850).

Bible

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. (Articles of Faith 8)

The Book of Mormon ... verifies and clarifies the Bible. It removes stumbling blocks, it restores many plain and precious things. We testify that when used together, the Bible and the Book of Mormon confound false doctrines, lay down contentions, and establish peace. (See 2 Ne. 3:12.) . (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson, Chapter 9, <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-ezra-taft-benson/chapter-9-the-book-of-mormon-keystone-of-our-religion?lang=eng#note11->)

* “The word of the Lord came ... unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.” (Ezek. 37:15–17.) ... “The stick or record of Judah—the Old Testament and the New Testament—and the stick or record of Ephraim—the Book of Mormon, which is another testament of Jesus Christ—are now woven together in such a way that as you pore over one you are drawn to the other; as you learn from one you are enlightened by the other. They are indeed one in our hands. Ezekiel’s prophecy now stands fulfilled” (Boyd Packer, “Scriptures,” Ensign (Conference Edition), November 1982, p. 53).

The Test of Truth

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. (Moroni 10:4)

The Name & Origin of the Book of Mormon – “Another Testament of Jesus Christ”

The Prophet Joseph Smith’s own words about the coming forth of the Book of Mormon are: “On the evening of the ... twenty-first of September [1823] ... I betook myself to prayer and supplication to Almighty God. ...

“While I was thus in the act of calling upon God, I discovered a light appearing in my room, which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside, standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor.

“He had on a loose robe of most exquisite whiteness... Not only was his robe exceedingly white, but his whole person was glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like lightning. The room was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person. When I first looked upon him, I was afraid; but the fear soon left me.

“He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people.

“He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants;

Admittance of Errors in the Book of Mormon

* “And now if there be fault, it be the mistake of men; wherefore condemn not the things of GOD, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.” (Book of Mormon, 1830, Title Page)

* “- And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men: wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that you may be found spotless at the judgment-seat of Christ.” (Book of Mormon, 1920, 1964, Title Page)

* “About this edition: Some minor errors in the text have been perpetuated in past editions of the Book of Mormon. This edition contains corrections that seem appropriate to bring the material into conformity with prepublication manuscripts and early editions edited by the Prophet Joseph Smith.” (The Book of Mormon, A Brief Explanation About The Book of Mormon 1981 edition)

* “Produced by Doubleday, the 573-page volume is true to the text that, until now, has always been printed and distributed solely by the LDS Church. (Dessert News, “Doubleday Book of Mormon is on the way,” November 11, 2004 12:00 am, Updated: Nov. 11, 2004 8:58 a.m.)

* “- And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men: wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that you may be found spotless at the judgment-seat of Christ.” (Book of Mormon, 2004, 2006, Doubleday Title Page)

Proven Errors with Historicity of the Book of Mormon

* The errors in the BOM include: Historical, Geographical, Peoples & Empires (Civilizations), Cities, Flour & Fauna, Metallurgy & Writings, Manuscripts, Coins, Warfare, Temples, Historical Figures (Prophets), Manifestation of Jesus Christ.

* Please see the Notes from “**The Bible vs. the Book of Mormon**”

Joseph Smith Taught Doctrine Contrary to the Book of Mormon

* Joseph Smith taught the plurality of gods contrary to the Book of Mormon

* He taught that God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are three separate gods

* Please see the notes from the first teaching in this series on “God.”

* Please read the attached document to the notes from the teaching on God:

“**The Oneness of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the Book of Mormon**”

Doctrinal Changes in the Book of Mormon

(I want to thank my good friend Gerriss Gailey for his knowledge, research and resources that showed and taught me the following information.)

Changes between the 1830 and 1920 editions (7 of at least 19)

1 Nephi 13:40

-1830 edition p32 - “the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father...”

-1920 edition - “the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father”

1 Nephi 11:18

-1830 edition p25 - “is the mother of God”

-1920 edition - “is the mother of the Son of God”

1 Nephi 11:20-21

- 1830 edition p25 – “And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me, behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Eternal Father!” (Spelling original)

- 1920 edition – “And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me; Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!

1 Nephi 11:32-33

- 1830 edition p26 – “And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Everlasting God, was judged of the world...”

- 1920 edition – “And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Son of the everlasting God, was judged of the world...”

Mosiah 21:28

1830 edition p200 - “king Benjamin had a gift from God”

1920 edition - “king Mosiah had a gift from God”

Ether 4:1

1830 edition p546 - “for this cause did king Benjamin keep them”

1920 edition - “for this cause did king Mosiah keep them”

Note: This name change was necessary since it would be apparent that King Benjamin would have been dead at this time. Fifteen Chapters earlier, Mosiah 6:5 reads, “And King Benjamin lived three years and died.” (Mormon Research Ministry Symposium on Mormonism)

(I also want to thank my good friend Bill McKeever for his VERY useful resource book, “In Their Own Words, A Collection of Mormon Quotations”)

Alma 29:4

1830 edition p303 – “yea I know that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable, according to their wills, whether it be unto salvation or unto destruction;”

1920 edition - “yea I know that he allotteth unto men according to their wills, whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction.”

Changes between the 1964 and 1981 editions (3 of 7)

Alma 57:25

1964 edition – “and to our great astonishment, and also the foes of our whole army, there was not one soul of them who did perish”

1981 edition – “and to our great astonishment, and also the joy of our whole army, there was not one soul of them who did perish.”

Alma 32:30

1964 edition – “for behold it swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow.”

1981 edition – “for behold it swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow. And now, behold, will not this strengthen your faith? Yea, it will strengthen your faith; for ye will say I know that this is a good seed; for belold it sprouteth and beginneth to grow.” (35 words added)

2 Nephi 30:6

1964 edition - “and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a **white** and a delightsome people.”

1981 edition - “and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a **pure** and a delightsome people.”

Note: Some have tried to explain this change as meaning only white/pure in heart. However 2 Nephi 5:21 and Alma 3:6 disprove such a claim.

2 Nephi - Chapter 5

The Nephites separate themselves from the Lamanites, keep the law of Moses, and build a temple—Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites are cut off from the presence of the Lord, are cursed, and become a scourge unto the Nephites. About 588–559 B.C.

21 And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them.

22 And thus saith the Lord God: I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save they shall repent of their iniquities.

23 And cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed; for they shall be cursed even with the same cursing. And the Lord spake it, and it was done.

Alma - Chapter 3

The Amlicites had marked themselves according to the prophetic word—The Lamanites had been cursed for their rebellion—Men bring their own curses upon themselves—The Nephites defeat another Lamanite army. About 87–86 B.C.

6 And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion against their brethren, who consisted of Nephi, Jacob, and Joseph, and Sam, who were just and holy men.

Change Between the 1981 and 2004 Doubleday Editions - Introduction Page

1981 edition, Introduction Page - “The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God’s dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains, as does the Bible, the fulness of the everlasting gospel...”

2004 Doubleday edition, Introduction page - “The Book of Mormon is a volume of Holy Scriptures comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God’s dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel...”

Change Between 2004 Doubleday and 2006 Doubleday Editions

* 1981, 2004 Doubleday edition, Introduction Page - “After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are the principle ancestors of the American Indians.”

* 2006 Doubleday edition – “After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are among the ancestors of the American Indians.”

* Yet Doctrine & Covenants 32 & 54 still show the American Indians are literally Lamanites

Doctrine & Covenants - Section 32

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Parley P. Pratt and Ziba Peterson, in Manchester, New York, early October 1830. Great interest and desires were felt by the elders respecting the Lamanites, of whose predicted blessings the Church had learned from the Book of Mormon. In consequence, supplication was made that the Lord would indicate His will as to whether elders should be sent at that time to the Indian tribes in the West. The revelation followed.

1–3, Parley P. Pratt and Ziba Peterson are called to preach to the Lamanites and to accompany Oliver Cowdery and Peter Whitmer Jr.; 4–5, They are to pray for an understanding of the scriptures.

1 And now concerning my servant Parley P. Pratt, behold, I say unto him that as I live I will that he shall declare my gospel and learn of me, and be meek and lowly of heart.

2 And that which I have appointed unto him is that he shall go with my servants, Oliver Cowdery and Peter Whitmer, Jun., into the wilderness among the Lamanites.

Doctrine & Covenants - Section 54

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Newel Knight, at Kirtland, Ohio, June 10, 1831...

7 Wherefore, go to now and flee the land, lest your enemies come upon you; and take your journey, and appoint whom you will to be your leader, and to pay moneys for you.

8 And thus you shall take your journey into the regions westward, unto the land of Missouri, unto the borders of the Lamanites.

* “In reply, I ask, What is there about the Book of Mormon that is inconsistent? What does it profess to be? It professes to contain the history of part of the tribe of Joseph, who came out of the land of Jerusalem 600 years before Christ, and colonized the American continent. These Indian tribes are their descendants. When they first came here, they were a righteous people, and had with them the Scriptures, containing the law of Moses. (Orson Pratt, January 2, 1859, Journal of Discourses 7:33).

* “This article was adapted from an address delivered at the Lamanite Youth Conference in Salt Lake City on April 24, 1971. Peter MacDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council, was also one of the speakers at the conference. The beginning reference is to him. It pleased me to hear Mr. MacDonald say that he was a “Lamanite.” We knew it all the time, but we didn’t know that he did. And largely perhaps for his benefit we would say that many, many of us are Lamanites, which includes the Indians and the mixtures of Indians with other races. Even I have been adopted into some of the Indian tribes and have been given Indian names. With pride I tell those who come to my office that a Lamanite is a descendant of one Lehi who left Jerusalem six hundred years before Christ and with his family crossed the mighty deep and landed in America. And Lehi and his family became the ancestors of all of the Indian and Mestizo tribes in North and South and Central America and in the islands of the sea, for in the middle of their history there were those who left America in ships of their making and went to the islands of the sea.” (Ensign Magazine, July 1971, “Special Lamanite Section”, Of Royal Blood,” By President Spencer W. Kimball, Acting President of the Council of the Twelve)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Currently Manifests Different Doctrines than Taught in the Book of Mormon

* Today, 11/13/18 - “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints affirms that the Book of Mormon is a volume of sacred scripture comparable to the Bible. It contains a record of God’s dealings with three groups of people who migrated from the Near East or West Asia to the Americas hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans. . . . The Book of Mormon itself, however, does not claim that the peoples it describes were either the predominant or the exclusive inhabitants of the lands they occupied. In fact, cultural and demographic clues in its text hint at the presence of other groups. (<https://www.lds.org/topics/book-of-mormon-and-dna-studies?lang=eng>)

* Please watch these videos:

The Immolation of Abinadi — Hill Cumorah Pageant -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDY1LmLApdw>

Chapter 14: Abinadi and King Noah - <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2010-12-14-chapter-14-abinadi-and-king-noah?lang=eng>

* Compare them with Mosiah 15, 16, 17. In the videos Abinadi is burned at the stake by the wicked King Noah for confronting him with his sinful lifestyle. In the BOM Abinadi is burned at the stake for preaching that the Father and Son are ONE God!

Biblical Doctrine

Introduction of the Bible

* We DO NOT find words as are found in the Introduction to the Book of Mormon, “About this edition: Some minor errors in the text have been perpetuated in past editions of the Book of Mormon. . .

* We believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. Not that there has never been any spelling, translation, grammar or other administrative errors. Inerrancy of the Bible means that there has never been a historical, doctrinal, archeological, geographical error in the Bible, Old or New Testament that needed to be changed.

Temptation to Disbelieve the Truth of God's Word

Genesis 3:1–4 - Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” **2** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4** Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

Jeremiah 8:8-9 ⁸“How can you say, ‘We are wise, And the law of the Lord is with us’? Look, the false pen of the scribe certainly works falsehood. ⁹The wise men are ashamed, They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord; So what wisdom do they have?

Inerrancy of the Bible

Psalms 12:6 - The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.

Psalms 111:7 ... All His precepts are sure.

Psalms 119:140 - Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.

Psalms 119:151 - You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.

Psalms 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth, (And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.)

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Proverbs 30:5-6 ⁵Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

⁶Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

(See Joseph Smith's Translation – Gen 50 Intro and V33)

Genesis 50 Introduction - Joseph in Egypt prophesies of Moses freeing Israel from Egyptian bondage; of a branch of Joseph's descendants being led to a faraway land, where they will be remembered in the covenants of the Lord; of God calling a latter-day prophet named Joseph to join the records of Judah and of Joseph; and of Aaron serving as a spokesman for Moses.

Gen 50:33 And that seer will I bless, and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise I give unto you; for I will remember you from generation to generation; and his name shall be called Joseph, and it shall be after the name of his father; and he shall be like unto you; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand shall bring my people unto salvation. (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/jst/jst-gen/50.html?lang=eng>)

God's Ability to Preserve His Word

* We believe the same One who is able to keep the gates (power) of Hell from prevailing against His church is also able to keep Satan from corrupting/destroying His word.

Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Psalms 12:7 - You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.

Psalms 111:7-8 - All His precepts are sure. **8** They stand fast forever and ever, And are done in truth and uprightness.

Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

The Test of Truth

Mark 12:24-27 ²⁴Jesus answered and said to them, “Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.”

Matthew 12:3 ³But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:

Matthew 19:4 ⁴And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’

1 John 4:1 ¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

What the Bible says about “Another Testament of Jesus Christ”

Galatians 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Jeremiah 23:25–32 - “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ **26** How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, **27** who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. **28** “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. **29** “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? **30** “Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who steal My words every one from his neighbor. **31** Behold, I am against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who use their tongues and say, ‘He says.’ **32** Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,” says the LORD, “and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,” says the LORD.

Two Sticks – Stick of Judah & Stick of Ephraim

Ezekiel 37:18–22 - “And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you mean by these?’—**19** say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.” ’ **20** And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. **21** “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.” ’

Reasons Why You can Believe the Bible is True

(Much of this information is from: Evidence That Demands a Verdict” & “More Than a Carpenter” by Josh McDowell)

1. Prophetic Accuracy

- * Bible has a 100% prophecy accuracy rate!!!
- * Prophecies 100's years in advance by Name – 1 Kings predicted King Josiah by name 300 years prior, Isaiah prophesied Persian King Cyrus by name 120 years prior, Micah prophesied Bethlehem as the birth place of the Messiah 700 years in advance.
- * Messianic Prophecies – especially those he couldn't control as in his birth place, hometown, being betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver, be scourged, crucified, pierced with a sword, buried in new tomb...
- * Mathematical Probabilities – Jesus alone, fulfilling 8 prophecies has been confirmed at a conservative chance of 1 in 10¹⁷.

2. Manuscript Evidence

- * Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 – Minimum 200 B.C. – Many & Contain the entirety of the OT minus Esther. (Digital Dead Sea Scrolls - <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/>)
- * By using the 5,000+ manuscripts you can ensure you have an accurate translation (textual integrity).
- * No other document of the ancient period is as accurately preserved as the New Testament, based on timeframe & quantity of manuscripts.

3. Archeological Evidence

- * Every archeological discovery proves the truth of the Bible. (Many in the British Museum)
- * By 1958 over 25,000 sites from the Bible had been confirmed
- * “Time after time the most positive assertions of a skeptical criticism have been disproved by archeological discovery, events and personages that were confidently pronounced to be mythical have been shown to be historical...the Hittites, Daniel, Pontius Pilate...

4. Extra-Biblical Evidence

- * Evidence from outside the Bible. There are 36,000 known quotes of the New Testament from 100-300 A.D.
- * No modern day history book contradicts Biblical historicity

5. Scientific Accuracy or “Prevision” – Telling of unknown scientific facts prior to man's knowledge of them

- * Everything is made according to its own kind – **Gen 1:11-13, 21, 24-25**
- * Earth Suspended in Space - **Job 26:7** He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.
- * Earth is Round - **Job 22:14** - Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, And He walks above the circle of heaven.'
- Isaiah 40:22** - It is He who sits above the circle of the earth....
- Proverbs 8:27** - When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the

face of the deep,

* Sun Rotates in Space - Psalm 19:4-6 - Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

* Wind & Ocean Currents – Psalm 8:8 - The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

Isaiah 43:16 - Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the Mighty waters,

* Things Seen Made by Things Not Seen - Hebrews 11:3 - By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

6. Harmony of the Scriptures - 66 Individual Books, written by 40+ Authors, Over 1,500 years – without any contradictions!

7. Lack of a Single Proven Error & Indestructibility - despite innumerable critical examinations of biblical data by both skeptics and believers for 2,000 plus years and attempts do destroy it, it is still here!