



Evidence for Biblical Reliability

By Brooks A. Harris, O.D.



Evidence for Biblical Reliability

Part 1:

S.H.A.P.E.S.

For Biblical Reliability

Part 2:

Why To Believe -

More Evidence for God & Christianity

Why Go To Church?





Why Go To Church?

- To Praise God



Why Go To Church?

- To Praise God
- To Learn about God's Word



Why Go To Church?

- To Praise God
- To Learn about God's Word
- To Encourage Each Other



Purpose of this Presentation

- To Praise God
- To Teach about God's Word
- To Encourage Each Other



Info Available to You for Free:

- Article CD's and Blogsite
 - 150 Articles
- Audio CD's
 - 2 ½ Hour – 16 Tracks
 - Summary of 40 Articles
- This lecture
 - Summary of Audio CD

Why Study Biblical Reliability?





Why Study Biblical Reliability?

It's all about the authority of God and His Word.

- Is the Bible trustworthy?
- Can we trust what it says?
- Is it truly God-inspired?



Why Study Biblical Reliability?

- The founding fathers of our country believed in the moral laws and teachings of the Bible.
- Our society was founded and built on a strong Christian foundation - its laws, morals, and doctrines.
- The Bible was looked upon as “The” authority for moral law.



Why Study Biblical Reliability?

- Trust in the Bible is being questioned.
- The authority of God is being replaced by the authority of man.



Why Study Biblical Reliability?

- 70-75% of children will lose their faith by the first year of college
- Only 9% of adults and less than 1% of teens have a Biblical World-View
- Many are never shown how truly reliable the Bible is.



Why Study Biblical Reliability?

- 70-75% of children will lose their faith by the first year of college
- Only 9% of adults and less than 1% of teens have a Biblical World-View
- Many are never shown how truly reliable the Bible is.
- They never develop a strong foundation for the truth of the Bible.



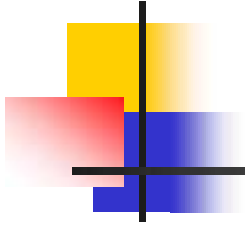
PART 1

S.H.A.P.E.S.
for Biblical Reliability



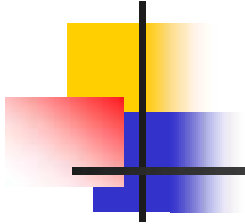
To Shape your Acceptance of the Bible,
Study the SHAPES for Biblical Reliability:

- Scientific Evidence
- Historical Evidence
- Archaeological Evidence
- Prophetic Evidence
- Epistle/Manuscript Preservation Evidence
- Structural & Statistical Evidence



To make things interesting,
we are going to look at these
S.H.A.P.E.S.
evidences in reverse order.

The Structural & Statistical Evidence for Biblical Reliability





Evidence From STRUCTURE & STATISTICS

- The Bible is a History book about His Story.
- 66 different books but compliment each other as one cohesive book.



Evidence From STRUCTURE & STATISTICS

- Written over a period of more than 1500 years by more than 40 authors from over
 - 19 different lifestyles from
 - 3 different continents
(Africa, Asia & Europe)
 - 3 different languages
(Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek)
- They wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects with agreement
- Teachings are consistent – there are NO contradictions between books

The Epistle/Manuscript Preservation Evidences for Biblical Reliability





Evidence From EPISTLE/MANUSCRIPT PRESERVATION

- The Bible text is far more accurately preserved than any other text of ancient history.
- Manuscript copies of the Bible are:
 - Far more numerous
 - Far more accurate
 - Written far closer to the original than any other comparable writings from the ancient world.



Evidence From EPISTLE/MANUSCRIPT PRESERVATION

- The Jews preserved Scripture as NO other manuscript has ever been preserved.
- To keep track they meticulously counted
 - Every Letter
 - Every Syllable
 - Every Word
 - Every Sentence
 - Every Paragraph

They compared each of these on every page of the original. If they did not match, the copy was thrown out.

The 1947 Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls





The 1947 Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrated:

- That the Jews were very faithful in their transcription of Biblical manuscripts.
- That the Scripture has been accurately maintained, reproduced, and passed down through the ages.



Evidence From EPISTLE/MANUSCRIPT PRESERVATION

- Through the centuries though, Variations between manuscripts have occurred, but most are
 - Spelling changes
 - Word order changes
 - Relationships between nouns or
 - Relationships between definite articles.But NO essential Christian belief is affected by any variation in the Bible Manuscripts.
- The Holy Spirit has preserved its integrity.

Prophetic Evidences for Biblical Reliability





Evidence From Fulfilled Prophecy

- Approximately 27% of the entire Bible contains prophetic material.
- Hundreds of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, specifically and meticulously, often long after the prophetic writer had passed away.
- The Bible records very specific, detailed predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance, good guessing or common sense.



Evidence From Fulfilled Prophecy

- For example: Psalm 22, written about 1000 B.C., is an amazing prophecy that describes the crucifixion of Christ.
- It describes in graphic detail the sufferings of Christ, long before death by crucifixion was even known or practiced by Romans or Jews.





Evidence From Fulfilled Prophecy

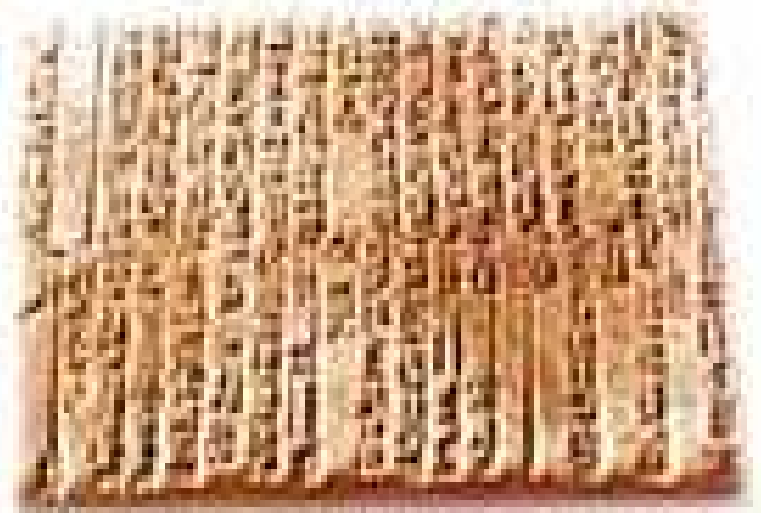
- The predictive nature of many Bible passages was once a popular argument (by liberals) against the reliability of the Bible. Critics argued that the prophecies actually were written after the events and that the editors had merely dressed up the Bible text to look like they contained predictions made before the events.
- However, the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery proved that hundreds of predictions as Christ's birth, life and death, were written over 100 years before they occurred and they all came true.



Evidence From Fulfilled Prophecy

- The Bible is like no other book in prophecy fulfillment.
- Totally accurate prediction of the future is the domain of the Bible exclusively.
- Through fulfilled prophecy, God has given sufficient evidence of His existence and of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures.

Archaeological Evidences for Biblical Reliability





Evidence From Archaeology

After over a century of detailed, scientific archaeological excavations, NO discovery has ever disproved a Biblical reference.



Evidence From Archaeology

- In general, Biblical history, from the time of Abraham onward, has been adequately supported by archaeological study.
- Places and cultures recorded in the Bible are being confirmed at a staggering rate.



Evidence From Archaeology

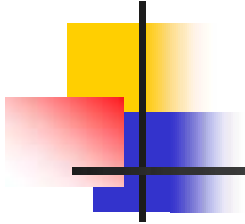
- For Example: A biblical skeptic and trained archaeologist, Sir William Ramsay, set out to disprove the historical reliability of Luke's gospel and the Book of Acts in the late 1800's.
- However, through his painstaking Mediterranean archaeological trips, he became converted, since the historical statements of Luke were proved accurate. Every single reference which could be verified was totally accurate.



Evidence From Archaeology

- It has been said that every alleged error or contradiction in Scripture has been proven a truthful statement once sufficient archaeological or other information has been discovered.
- Over and over again, comprehensive field work (archaeology) and careful biblical interpretation affirms the reliability of the Bible.

Historical Evidences for Biblical Reliability





Evidence From History

- Evidence for “The Worldwide Flood”:
 - The ancient Chinese character for “boat” or “ship” is a combination of the 3 symbols:
 - “a vessel or container”
 - “the number eight”
 - “mouths or people.”
 - Therefore the character for “ship” in ancient Chinese was “eight people on a vessel,” just as there were 8 people on Noah’s Ark.

People Scatter from the Tower of Babel





Evidence From History

- Ancient Civilizations:
 - Our oldest written records date back only about 5,000 years.
 - Every ancient civilization seems to have appeared suddenly (most beginning in an advanced state), approximately 5,000 years ago, about the same time the Bible states that the Worldwide Flood ended and people were spread around the world after the Tower of Babel.



Evidence From History

- Ancient Civilizations:
 - Present growth rate is nearly 2% per year and the present population is about 6 billion people.
 - At 2% per year, 6 billion people could have been generated in only 1,100 years!
 - At only ½% per year, the present human population could have been reached in only 4,000 to 5,000 years, which coincides nicely with our population starting after Noah's flood.



Evidence From History

- Ancient Civilizations: Imagine:
 - If man really had first appeared over one million years ago
 - If the human population grew at a rate of only $\frac{1}{2}\%$ per year.
 - It has been estimated that at even a much lower rate there would be more people on earth than there are atoms in the entire universe.



Evidence From History

- Ancient Civilizations:
 - As for historic accuracy, through research of ancient, non-Christian, genealogies and chronicles of the people of the Middle East and Europe, names of individuals, families, peoples, and tribes listed in the Table of Nations in Chapters 10 & 11 of Genesis, have been found to be accurate.
 - Several secular, non-biblical, genealogical records from Europe can trace their lineage back to Noah and his sons.



Evidence From History

- Ancient Civilizations:
 - Many of the events, people, places, and customs in the New Testament are confirmed by secular historians who were almost contemporaries with New Testament writers.
 - Even skeptical historians agree that the New Testament is a remarkable historical document.

Scientific Evidences for Biblical Reliability





Evidence From Science

- The Bible is filled with scientific and medical facts, written thousands of years before man discovered them.
- The fact is that as science advances, it discovers what was said thousands of years ago in the Bible.
- The Bible is the only ancient book with documented medical prevision and scientific foreknowledge.

Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians





Evidence From Science

- Leviticus 11:35 warns against touching or bringing any cooking utensil in contact with dead animals.¹



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- Leviticus chapter 13 details the first procedures for medical quarantine in order to prevent the spread of contagious disease.
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So how could a man trained in Egyptian medical nonsense have written about such modern procedures unless he was inspired by God?





Evidence From Science

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 - blood clotting in a newborn reaching its peak on the eighth day



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 - cycle of air currents
 - the water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle, (involving evaporation, clouds, and rain)



Evidence From Science

- The Bible contains much insight on science as:
 - blood clotting in a newborn reaching its peak on the eighth day
 - cycle of air currents
 - the water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle, (involving evaporation, clouds, and rain)
 - the perfect dimensions for sea dwelling ships was given by God to Noah for his ark



Now let's review the SHAPES evidences for Biblical Reliability in correct order:

- Scientific Evidence
- Historical Evidence
- Archaeological Evidence
- Prophetic Evidence
- Epistle/Manuscript Preservation Evidence
- Structural & Statistical Evidence



PART 2

Why To Believe -
More Evidence for God
& Christianity



More Evidences & Reasons To Believe

This next series of evidences is designed to:

- Show more evidence for the Reliability of the Bible
- &
- Show Answers to Questions people have about things which make them doubt

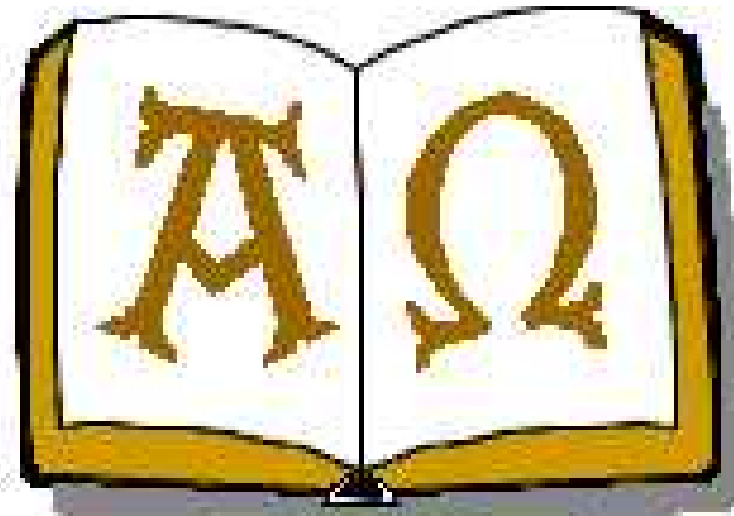
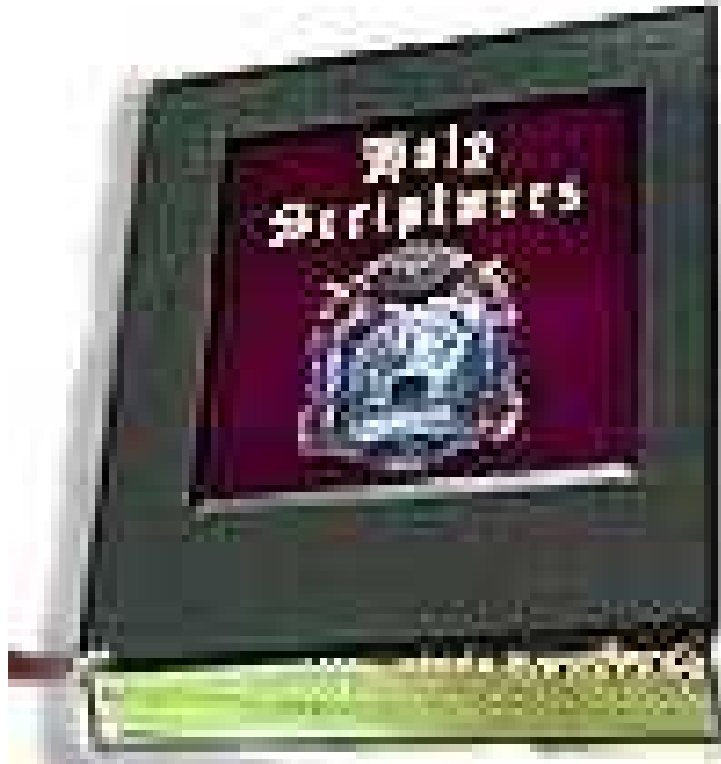


More Evidences & Reasons To Believe

These topics will be briefly covered:

- The Bible's Claims for Itself & Claims by Jesus
- The Bible's Power to Change Lives
- Why Does God Allow Suffering?
- What About Contradictions in the Bible?
- Evidence for God
- Evidence for Jesus Christ
- Why Christianity?

The Bible's Claims for Itself & Claims by Jesus



**"I am Alpha and
Omega, the beginning
and the ending."**



The Bible's Claims for Itself & Claims by Jesus

- The Bible's authors claim to be inspired by God.
 - The Bible claims that even though it was written by men, the ultimate author was God Almighty.
- The Bible views itself as God's Word:
 - Over 2,000 times in the Old Testament alone, the Bible claims to be a record of the words and deeds of God.



The Bible's Claims for Itself & Claims by Jesus

- 2 Timothy 3:16 states "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,"

The Bible's Power to Change Lives





The Bible's Power to Change Lives

- Jesus' Disciples after Jesus' death:
 - Confused and Afraid
 - Cowards Hiding for their lives

- Jesus' Disciples after Jesus' resurrection:
 - Men who traveled the world, preaching that Jesus was God
 - Suffered severe persecution and died horrible deaths of torture



The Bible's Power to Change Lives

- Personal Experiences
 - Answers to Prayers



The Bible's Power to Change Lives

- Personal Experiences
 - Answers to Prayers
 - Change of One's Nature
 - Freed from Addictions



The Bible's Power to Change Lives

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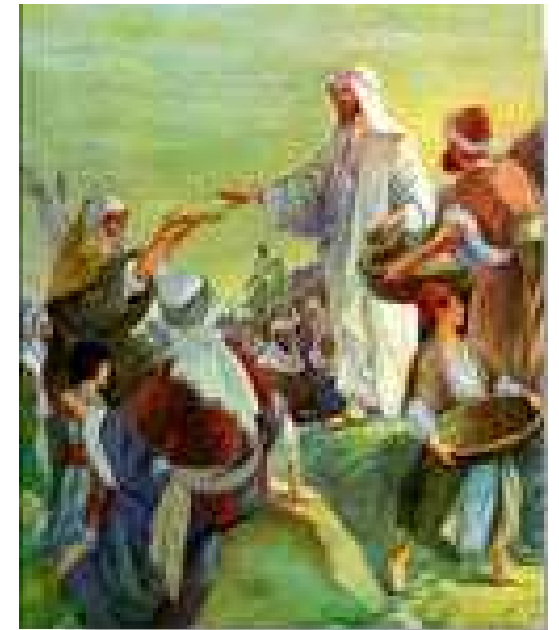


The Bible's Power to Change Lives

- Personal Experiences
 - Answers to Prayers
 - Change of One's Nature
 - Freed from Addictions
 - Entire Nations or Tribes transformed by the Word of God
 - Miracles are a sign that God exists and that He cares for His creation



Miracles of Jesus



Why Does God Allow Suffering?





Why Does God Allow Suffering?

- Many people in the Bible endure stress, pain, grief, loss, hardship, death of loved ones, etc.



Why Does God Allow Suffering?

- Many people in the Bible endure stress, pain, grief, loss, hardship, death of loved ones, etc.
- Sin is the ultimate cause of suffering and death.
- God's original creation was as God intended life to be for us, without any suffering, but mankind chose to disobey God and the result was a curse on all of God's creation.
- We have all had to suffer from this curse, some much more than others.





Why Does God Allow Suffering?

The Bible tells us that:

- God's ways are not our ways,
- His thoughts are not our thoughts and
- His ways are far beyond our understanding.
- He knows what is best for each of us.
- Even though God may not cause bad things to happen to us, He often allows them to happen.
- If He allows people to continue to suffer, He must have a reason for not healing them at this point.



Why Does God Allow Suffering?

- Suffering gives us experiences which will help us develop into the people He wants us to be.
- We learn and grow.
- We become better able to help others.
- We learn to appreciate what we had and not to take things for granted.
- Also suffering, pain, and sorrow make us more humble, less prideful, less selfish and more appreciative or thankful for what God and others do for us.
- Suffering makes us look forward to being with our Lord.

What About Contradictions in the Bible?





What About Contradictions in the Bible?

- Certain passages at first glance appear to be contradictory, but further investigation will show that this is not the case.
- Two statements may differ from each other without being contradictory.



What About Contradictions in the Bible?

- Many people think they find errors in passages, but a closer reading will reveal that the discrepancy disappears.
- Sometimes two passages appear to be contradictory because the translation is not as accurate as it could be.



What About Contradictions in the Bible?

- Often passages in Scripture are taken out of context causing improper interpretation.
- Some difficulties in Scripture result from our inadequate knowledge about the circumstances, and ignorance of the background.
- Also, Old Testament Hebrew words had no vowels.



Evidence for God

- Is there a God?
- Is there a Supreme being or Ruler of the universe?
- How can I be certain?
- How do you prove that something exists if you can not see it, feel it, smell it, taste it, or hear it?



Evidence for God

Since there is much evidence for the existence of an Intelligent Designer, Creator of the earth and universe:

It takes much more faith to be an atheist than a believer in God.

Evidence for God

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:20



Evidence for God

Throughout the ages of time people have felt compelled to worship something or someone greater than themselves:

- sun gods
- moon gods
- thunder gods
- the Great Spirit
- Yahweh
- many others

Evidence for Jesus Christ





Evidence for Jesus Christ

- Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead was the final and greatest proof of His absolute uniqueness and is documented in both Biblical and secular history with strong evidence to support its truth.



Evidence for Jesus Christ

- The miracles of Jesus were His calling card; that is, the validation of His claim to be God.
- The resurrection was His proof of identification.

Why Christianity?





Why Christianity?

- Jesus himself said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)



Evidence for Christianity vs Other Religions

Christianity

- Based on Objective Facts & Historical Records
 - Historical Facts & Acts

Other Religions

- Based on Feelings & Opinions of Men
 - Thoughts of Founders



Evidence for Christianity vs Other Religions

Christianity

- Bible is a reliable History book

Other Religions

- Religious books have poor historical accounts



Evidence for Christianity vs Other Religions

Christianity

- Explains origin of all things – God created

Other Religions

- Ignorant on account of creation from nothing



Evidence for Christianity vs Other Religions

Christianity

- Worship a “living” Lord
- The God of the Bible is personal

Other Religions

- Founders/Leaders dead
- The God of Eastern thought is impersonal



Evidence for Christianity vs Other Religions

Christianity

Other Religions

- Saved by Grace—Free Gift
- Saved by Good Works

What is More Important than Knowing About God and the Bible?





What is More Important than Knowing About God and the Bible?

- Knowing God
- Personal Loving Relationship with God



What is More Important than Knowing About God and the Bible?

- Knowing God
- Personal Loving Relationship with God
 - Communicate with Him
 - Pray to Him
 - Read His Word



Life is about Relationships!

- The Greatest Commandment

- "Love the Lord your God with all your Heart and with all your Soul and with all your Mind ...

- Love your neighbor as yourself..."

Matthew 22:36-40

- The Ten Commandments

- 1-4 show how to love and respect God
- 5-10 show how to love and respect people
- So Learn to love God and people



How Do You Show Your Love for God?

- Do What Pleases God
- Trust Him



How Do You Show Your Love for God?

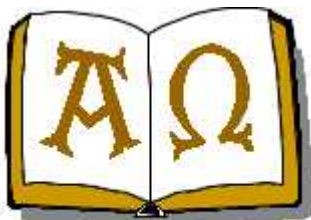
- Do What Pleases God
- Trust Him
- Keep His Commandments
 - “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15)
 - “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:21)



How Do You Show Your Love for God?

- Do What Pleases God
- Trust Him
- Keep His Commandments
- Praise Him & Thank Him
- Joyfully Serve Others
- Show Appreciation for Him
- Share His Word

So, Why Did I Study All These Evidences?



"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending."





So, Why Should You Study Evidences for Biblical Reliability?

1 Peter 3:15 states “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”



Are You Ready to Share Why to Believe?

- Would you like to see more evidence?
- Would you like to have a copy of such information?
- Would you like evidence to share with others?



For Much More Information

See the article “Evidence for Biblical Reliability” on:

- My Article CD entitled “Evidence for Biblical Reliability – A Christian Worldview”, OR on
- My Blogsite at <http://biblicalreliability.blogspot.com>

This article has several links to many web articles on each “evidence” topic.

Also this presentation is a summary of

“Evidence for Biblical Reliability-Audio CD Script” .

- Read this article on my Blogsite OR my CD (above) OR
- Listen to my “Evidence for Biblical Reliability” Audio CD.