

Why Should I Believe the Bible?

Gleaned from "Many Infallible Proofs" by Henry M. Morris (1974)

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"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

(1 Peter 3:15)

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Introduction

The average Christian in Australia today either has personal doubts concerning the infallibility of the Word of God, or he has no answers for those skeptics whom He tries to win to Christ. Many Christians believe that the Bible and science cannot be in harmony because the ungodly, atheistic school system has taught them that humanistic science is fact and the Bible is fiction. A large number of Christians have questions about the fundamentals of Christianity, especially regarding creation, the origin of man, the person of Christ, and the resurrection. Sometimes these questions, when left unanswered, result in unbelief, discouragement, liberalism, and apostasy. A doubting Christian is never a victorious Christian. Also, many an unsaved Australian will confront a witnessing Christian with the question, "Why should I believe the Bible anyway?", and the Christian has no intelligent, logical answer to give them. It is a sad fact that many people today think that you have to shut down your brain in order to become a born-again Christian. However, if Christians would simply take the time to research the matter, they would find that there are many good books that provide solid answers to such questions, strengthening the Christian's faith, and providing a valuable resource for preaching the Gospel.

Henry M. Morris wrote an excellent book on the subjects of Christian evidences called "Many Infallible Proofs," published in 1974. This book provides many well-researched and documented evidences for the fundamental Christian faith. Unfortunately, the average Christian or unbeliever may not take the time to read such a long, detailed work. Therefore, I have attempted to highlight the main points of the book in a brief booklet that may be given to a thoughtful skeptic, struggling Christian, or diligent soul winner. It by no means covers all the material of Dr. Morris' book, but I believe it will be useful in its own right. I encourage those who read this to go on and study Dr. Morris' book itself.

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1. The Uniqueness of Christianity

What is it that makes Christianity different from the other religions of the world? Many times skeptics have asked, "Why should I believe Christians are right, and everyone else is wrong?" Let us look at six simple facts that make Christianity unique:

a) The strong historical basis of the Bible

The Bible is a book containing detailed descriptions of historical people and events, many of which have been verified by archaeology. Compare this with the other religious scriptures which are usually just a compilation of teachings and philosophies.

b) Its Unique account of the origins of man and the universe

Only the Bible starts with the special creation of all things by an omnipotent, eternal, personal God. No other belief system, including evolution, can explain the problem of origins.

c) The person of Christ

- His coming was prophesied in fine detail as to lineage, birthplace, time, career, purpose, suffering, nature of death, resurrection, and more.
- The virgin birth
- The divine/human nature
- Sinless life
- Unique teachings ex. sermon on the mount
- Vicarious death: He chose to die for the sins of all men

d) The Resurrection

This is the final and greatest proof. See later discussion in Chapter 7.

e) The Bible

66 books written by about 40 different authors over a time span of at least 2,000 years, the Bible stands alone. It's theme: Christ. What other such book can boast a central, consistent theme from beginning to end, without collaboration?

- Fulfilled prophecy - hundreds of detailed prophecies have been meticulously fulfilled, often hundreds of years later. Other "scriptures" such as the Vedas or Koran can make no such boast.
- Accuracy - historically, geographically, archaeologically, scientifically.
- Unique preservation - and still the #1 world best seller!
- Claims of the writers - "Thus saith the Lord"

f) Salvation by Grace

Christianity has standards of morals and justice high above other religions, yet it is the only religion which teaches that man is justified solely by faith, without works. This goes against the grain of man's thinking, and his pride, so is clearly of God.

Parenthesis - The World's Religions

Although exact, current statistics are not available (for example, who knows the population and beliefs of Red China?), here is an approximation of the religious breakdown of the world:

Christendom		1,000,000,000
Roman Catholic	600,000,000	
Eastern orthodox	150,000,000	
Protestant & Baptist	250,000,000	
Islam		500,000,000
Buddhism		200,000,000
Hinduism		450,000,000
Confucianism		400,000,000
Animism		750,000,000
Shintoism		75,000,000
Taoism		50,000,000
Judaism		15,000,000
Miscellaneous		60,000,000
Total		<u>3,500,000,000</u>

Islam - founded by Mohammed (AD 570-632). Received "visions and revelations" which were an extension of the Old and New Testaments. These collected writings, 114 "Suras" in all, became the Koran, sacred book of the Muslims. Salvation is through belief in one God, "Allah", angels, the Koran, the prophets, the final judgment and God's decrees, and through the faithful practice of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, recital of the creed, and a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca.

Hinduism - Ancient national religion of India. Very diversified. Scriptures include the four Vedas, the Brahmanas, and the Upanishads. Two main doctrines are Samsara (reincarnation), and Karma (works decree your next existence). The only release from these endless cycles is the attainment of Nirvana through either good works, transcendental philosophic understanding, or ritualistic devotion to the gods. Most Hinduism today is steeped in idolatry.

Buddhism - Founded by Gautama (BC 563-480), partially in reaction to the Hinduism of his day, although he is not the only "buddha" (enlightened one). Gautama taught that Nirvana could be achieved through the path of right beliefs, aspirations, speech, conduct, means of livelihood, endeavours, mindfulness, and meditation. Buddhism is often polytheistic and animistic. Shintoism is a specialized form of national Buddhism in Japan. In China, Buddhism has been somewhat incorporated into Confucianism and Taoism.

Confucianism - Named after the Chinese practical philosopher Confucius (BC 551-478). It is primarily an ethical system, rather than religious, and is silent, if not skeptical, about the existence of God and an afterlife.

Animism - the great variety of religious beliefs, ancient and modern, centering in the worship of nature and the spirit beings who control the various processes of nature. It is common among the American Indians, Asian aborigines, South Pacific natives, and African tribes.

2. The Authenticity of the New Testament

There are probably available today over 5,000 handwritten manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in Greek, and at least 15,000 more in other languages. Nothing remotely comparable exists for any other ancient writing. There is also several times as many manuscripts from early Christian writers containing quotations from the New Testament Scriptures. The discrepancies between the majority of the manuscripts are quite trivial, and the validity of the *Textus Receptus* (received text) is assured when comparing the complete manuscript evidence. The two most ancient manuscripts, the Sinaitic and Vatican manuscripts, have many obvious errors, even though have been used extensively in modern translations. They were probably preserved so long because they were unused.

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, director of the British museum, although not a believer himself in the infallibility of the inspiration and transmission of the Scriptures, said after an extensive review of the manuscript evidence:

"It is reassuring at the end to find that the general result of these discoveries and all this study is to strengthen the proof of the authenticity of the Scriptures, and our conviction is that we have in our hands, in substantial integrity, the veritable Word of God."

Sir Kenyon also said:

"The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were 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."

Archaeological studies have provided further evidence for the authenticity of the New Testament. Sir William Ramsey, who made the most extensive studies anyone has ever undertaken on the authenticity of the events recorded in the book of Acts, finally said (even though he began his studies as a skeptic),

"Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historic sense....In short this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

Certain skeptics have charged the New Testament writers with fraud. The crowning proof of the sincerity of the writers is, of course, the fact that they were willing to suffer to die for their convictions. All except John died as martyrs. Only a fool would die for what they knew to be a gross deception!

Regarding the sanity of the writers, remember that the New Testament was believed and obeyed by thousands of Christians who were intensely persecuted for their faith. These Christians had every reason to test very critically the claims made by the early Apostles, and would surely have turned back if there were any grounds for thinking that the Apostles were deluded fanatics.

3. The Authenticity of the Old Testament

For Old Testament texts, we are mainly limited to the Masoretic text, the Latin Vulgate, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Syriac version, and, more recently, the Dead Sea Scrolls. The text accepted as authoritative by Christians and Jews is the Masoretic text. Prior to the printing of the first Hebrew Bible in AD 1526, there are about 1,000 manuscripts in existence. The oldest of these is dated at AD 916. However, of those that are available, there are scarcely any variations of any significance, and support from other sources also warrants confidence that we have the original Masoretic text. Such sources include the Latin Vulgate, the Book of Jubilees, the Talmud, the writings of Josephus and Philo, and the New Testament.

Parenthetically, as Bible-believing Christians, we trust by faith that God has preserved His very Words for us, both in inspiration, transmission, and translation, so that we might know Him and live according to His will. **Psalms 12:6,7** "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

It is significant that the names of over 40 different kings of various countries, mentioned in the Old Testament, have also been found in contemporary documents and inscriptions outside of the Old Testament, always consistently with the times and places associated with them in the Bible. Compare this fact with the gross errors found in other ancient histories. Nothing at all exists in ancient literature which has been even remotely as well-confirmed in accuracy as has the Bible.

Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion, systematically explored the land of Israel for archaeological records, and found the Bible to be amazingly reliable at all points. This was despite the fact that he was not a believer in Biblical inerrancy. His experience led him to the following conclusion:

"As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."

4. The Unique Birth of Christ

a) The pre-incarnate Christ.

He has no beginning and no end. John 17:5,24.

b) The descent from Heaven was planned before time began.

Examples of prophecies about the birth of Christ include:

Genesis 3:15 - the first mention of coming Messiah

Isaiah 7:14 - His virgin birth

Micah 5:2 - Born in Bethlehem

Daniel 9:25 - His time of birth

c) The incarnation.

In order for Jesus Christ to take the sins of the world upon Himself, He had to be in fact both God and man. No human mind can comprehend, or author, such a mystery. John 1:14; Philippians 2:6,7.

d) The Virgin Birth.

This was necessary for the incarnation, and has been attacked and ridiculed by humanists and liberal theologians alike. Cannot the all-powerful God who created the universe out of nothing also have the power to cause the virgin birth? Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:20.

5. The Miraculous Life of Christ

a) The perfection of Christ's character.

Note the words of his "judge", Pilate: "...And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all." (John 18:38).

b) The teachings of Christ.

Consider the sermon on the mount. "Never man spake like this man." (John 7:46) was the response of the officers commanded to arrest Him.

c) The miracles of Christ.

His demonstrations of power were designed both to meet some human need and to prove that He was indeed the Son of God.

d) The claims of Christ.

He claimed to be the way, the truth, the life, the door, the bread of life, the Son of God, the resurrection and the life, the light of the world, and more. In light of His claims, Jesus Christ must either have been:

Liar - This is not consistent with His flawless character; why would He die for a lie?

Lunatic - Could a lunatic speak the great truths that he spoke? His reputation was spotless.

Lord - His claims were, and are, valid. He is the Christ, the only-begotten Son of God.

6. The Death of Christ

Consider the many prophecies fulfilled in the strange and humiliating death of Jesus Christ. Here are some examples:

The time of His death.	Daniel 9:24-26
Betrayal by a close friend.	Psalm 41:9
Price of 30 pieces of silver.	Zechariah 11:12,13
Shameful trial.	Isaiah 50:6, 53:7-8
Suffering on the cross.	Psalm 22
The vinegar offered to Jesus.	Psalm 69:21
None of His bones were broken.	Psalm 34:20
His death in atonement for our sins.	Isaiah 53

7. The Resurrection of Christ

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If it is not true, then Christianity is a sham, a false religion. If it is true, then Christ is God, and the Christian faith is absolute truth. No other religion can claim a Founder and Author who gave his life then literally and bodily rose from the grave.

Let us consider the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave:

a) The Foundation of Christianity.

Without the resurrection, there would be no Christian church today. The disciples scattered at the death of Christ, confused and afraid. With the assurance of the resurrection, the disciples went forth across the world, boldly preaching with conviction, and under threat of execution, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

b) Predictions of the Resurrection.

Both the Old Testament and the words of Christ Himself predicted His resurrection. Psalm 16:10, Matthew 16:21. The disciples did not comprehend these predictions, and so not only did they scatter in fear after the crucifixion, but they were slow to be convinced that the resurrection had actually taken place. Certainly they did not fabricate the resurrection, at risk of their own lives!

c) The Empty Tomb.

Clearly the resurrection of Christ was literal and bodily, not just spiritual. Consider the neat pile of grave clothes in the tomb. Skeptics have proposed several theories to try to explain away the empty tomb, so powerful is its testimony:

The disciples stole the body. The disciples were in hiding, and the tomb was sealed and heavily guarded by roman soldiers, so theft was impossible.

Jesus did not die, but fainted from weakness. How then could He unwrap Himself from the grave clothes, roll away the great stone, overpower the soldiers, and find the disciples? The fact that the spear piercing Jesus' side brought forth blood and water is proof enough that He was dead, evidencing complete collapse of the heart cavity.

Mary and the disciples went to the wrong tomb. There was no other tomb there, and the Romans or Jews would have gladly found His body later and produced it to prove the falsehood of the Christian faith.

d) The Appearances of Christ.

The resurrected Jesus Christ actually appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the other women, to Peter, to the two on the road to Emmaus, to all 11 disciples, to 500 followers, and to Paul. According to Acts 1:3, He probably appeared many other times to one or more disciples.

e) The Witness of the Apostles.

If their testimony were fake, how could they have changed so dramatically into the bold preachers that they became, and why would they continue their "charade" until death? Preposterous!

Thomas Arnold, formerly professor of history at Rugby and Oxford, and one of the world's great historians, said:

"I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair enquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died, and rose again from the dead.

Simon Greenleaf, one of the most skilled legal minds ever produced in America, developer of the Harvard Law school, after a thorough evaluation of the Gospel accounts as objective testimonial evidence, concluded:

"It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths that they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact."

8. The Fact of God**a) The necessity of faith.**

No matter what evidence is presented to point to the existence of God, the element of faith must be present, or else the evidence will simply be rejected. No argument or combination of arguments will ever convince someone who does not submit to God.

b) The evidence from causation.

The First Cause of a moral and spiritual universe must be essentially moral and spiritual. For example,

- The First Cause of limitless space must be infinite in extent
- The First Cause of endless time must be eternal in duration
- The First Cause of consciousness must be personal
- The First Cause of feeling must be emotional
- The First Cause of love must be loving. etc, etc.

c) The witness of creation.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." (Psalm 19:1). An intelligently designed creation necessarily implies an intelligent Creator! The triune nature of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is revealed in His creation. Consider, for example, the three dimensions of space. Also, consider how the universe is composed of space, matter, and time.

d) Escape from reason.

How do skeptics justify themselves in rejecting the of God? They basically use one of two escapist techniques. The first is to raise objections to the doctrine of God because evil exists in the world. The second is to deny the validity of the reasoning process, especially concerning ultimate causes.

9. The Character of God

Failing to escape the causal argument for God, atheists and skeptics think that discovery of some imagined flaw in God's character will suffice to disprove His existence. Remember, though, that our own ignorance of God's motives and purposes does not prove that He has none, nor that they are not reasonable and just.

a) The problem of pain.

There are two good explanations for God allowing the entrance of pain and suffering into the world. Firstly, God wanted the love of a responsible, thinking, volitional being, not a robot. This implies the possibility of the entrance of sin and evil into the world, so that man might choose to love and obey God. Secondly, God could never manifest His redeeming grace if man had never sinned, and man could not know the fullness of God's love without the need for a Saviour. Also, it is clear from the Bible that man's character is somehow purified and strengthened through suffering. Hebrews 12:11.

b) What about the heathen?

It is clear that God has given every man some measure of light, and He has promised that anyone who seeks God with his whole heart shall find Him. However, remember that God is not obligated to any of us in any respect. No one has lived up to the light he has received, and thus no one deserves salvation. The whole world stands guilty before God, condemned in His sight. We are all selfish, proud rebels, and if God is so gracious as to allow some of us to receive the Gospel and be saved, then that is purely out of His mercy.

c) The severity of God.

In some instances in the Bible, God appears to man to be unnecessarily cruel. Some say this proves that the God of the Bible is not God. Firstly, let it be said that the inferior, ignorant created being has no right nor grounds to judge the superior, omniscient Creator! Can the clay say unto the potter, why have you made me thus? How foolish. Secondly, a careful study of the passages in question will often reveal sound and fair reasoning behind God's severe actions.

10. The Plan of God

If the God of the Bible is indeed the true God, Creator of the universe, then how can mankind know him? And why did He give His Son to die a cruel death on the cross?

a) God's purpose in creation.

God made the world and mankind so that He might have fellowship and love.

b) Separation from God.

Man broke that fellowship when he deliberately broke the command of God by eating the forbidden fruit. Since that day, the history of man has been one of sin and death. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12).

c) Salvation from sin.

Because the price for sin, which is death, must be paid by someone, then either the offender must die, or someone must take his place and die for him. "For the wages of sin is death,..." (Romans 6:23a). No religion or good works can nullify the death penalty on sin, for God is just and holy. What kind of judge would let guilty criminals roam free and unpunished?

d) Substitution and redemption.

Jesus Christ, pictured in the Old Testament as the spotless sacrificial lamb, came to be "...the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." (John 1:29). Jesus, who was sinless, took our sin upon Himself on the cross, and suffered our punishment: death. He was our substitute, and bought us back (redeemed us) to God with His own blood.

e) The Ages to come.

The home of the redeemed is Heaven, where they who have trusted Christ alone to save them shall dwell with God forever. Because sin cannot enter Heaven and the presence of God, man is separated from God forever in the place that God created for the devil and his demons: the lake of fire, a place of eternal torment.

11. The Inspiration of the Bible**a) The Unique structure of the Bible.**

- It is the only book of antiquity that gives an account of creation out of nothing.
- It is the only book that gives a continuous historical record from the first man to the present.
- It is the only book of ancient history that reveals a purpose in history.
- It is by far the purest religious literature, with the highest moral standards of all the religious books of the ancient world.
- It is the only religious book containing clear, detailed, accurate prophecies of events to come.
- It is the only ancient book that has the power to convict men of sin and lead them to the only One who can free them from sin.

b) The claims of the writers.

The Old Testament alone contains 2,600 claims of inspiration. Either they were lying, deluded, or inspired by God himself. Examples include: Deuteronomy 4:2; 2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 20:9.

c) The Old Testament in the New.

There are over 320 quotations from the Old Testament recorded in the new, as well as over 1,000 clear and definite references to it. The writer always believed he was referring to the authoritative Words of God when he made such a quotation or reference. For example, Romans 15:4; 2 Peter 1:21.

d) The testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ both approved the Old Testament Scriptures as the Words of God, particularly those passages hard to accept, and predicted that the New Testament would be written under the inspiration of the Comforter, or Holy Spirit. John 10:35; Luke 17:26,27; Matthew 12:40; John 16:13.

e) The nature of inspiration.

There are 4 inadequate and erroneous theories of inspiration which are postulated by so-called scholars. These are:

The naturalistic theory - denies special inspiration

The partial theory - some parts are inspired, and some parts are not.

The dynamic theory - the thoughts are inspired, not the words (ex. NIV)

The encounter theory - it is a vehicle of revelation, but is not a divine revelation itself.

The only proper, true, Biblical view of the inspiration of the Bible is that it is completely and literally inspired, completely free of error, and conveying exactly what God wanted it to say. This is known as *plenary verbal inspiration*. See Deuteronomy 32:46; Proverbs 30:5,6; Psalm 12:6,7; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 4:4.

Some skeptics and modernists claim that only the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts were inspired, but that the copies have been corrupted. Many also claim that our King James Bible has many translation errors. Let us see what Jesus has to say on the subject: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.**" (Matthew 24:35). Also, the psalmist, inspired by the Holy Ghost, writes in Psalm 12, verse 6 and 7: "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them** from this generation **for ever.**"

12. Fulfillment of Prophecy

Some ancient religious books and modern "prophetic" works (ex. Nostradamus) contain a few vague, forecasts about the future. A few of these predictions have come fulfilled in a general way, but most have failed to come to pass. The Bible is unique, both in its huge array of specific, detailed predictions, and in the accuracy with which these predictions have come to pass. Let us briefly look at some of these:

a) The histories of nations.

Take Egypt, for example. Jeremiah 46:19, Ezekiel 30:16 and Isaiah 19:21-22 predict that Egypt would be laid waste, but would remain a nation even until the last days. That is exactly what has happened. Egypt, once a great empire of culture and learning, is now a backward, weak, impoverished nation, yet it still exists even after 4,000 years. Detailed prophecies concerning Edom (Idumea), Philistia, Babylonia, Assyria, Tyre, Sidon, Bethel, Samaria and other nations have been fulfilled.

b) The sequence of empires.

The image in the dream of Daniel in Daniel chapter 2 forecast the succession of four great world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. The order of these empires and their characteristics have all been fulfilled!

c) The miracle of Israel.

The continued persecution of the Israelites throughout history, and their amazing survival as a nation, are in exact fulfillment of the prophecies of the Bible. See Deuteronomy 28:64-66; Hosea 9:17; Ezekiel 37:21.

d) Messianic prophecy.

There are over 90 specific prophecies which are quoted by New Testament writers in a Messianic sense. These include His lineage, virgin birth, birthplace, miracles, triumphant entry, rejection, suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection. The date of His official coming as Judah's promised Prince was clearly spelled out in the great prophecy of the 70 weeks, as given in Daniel 9:24-26. See also this document, chapter 4 paragraph b, and chapter 6.

e) Prophecies of the last days.

Examples of these include the return of the Jews to Israel; the proliferation of travel and communication; religious apostasy; worsening moral conditions; nuclear warfare.

f) Probability analysis.

The odds of the chance fulfillment of Bible prophecies are staggering. For example, the mathematical probability of predicting the time of Christ's birth is approximately 1 in 900,000. The chance of all 300 prophecies about Christ being fulfilled together by coincidence is astronomically small. Only God can write a Book with such amazingly detailed and accurate predictions.

13. The Bible and Science

There are two widespread and very harmful misconceptions about the relation of the Bible and science which are prevalent today. One is that the Bible is an antiquated religious book, filled with scientific fallacies and mistakes reflecting the naive cosmology of the primitive tribes of the far east. The other misconception is that the Bible is a book of true religion dealing solely with spiritual subjects, and that if it does touch on matters of science and history, it must be interpreted "spiritually" or allegorically. However, it is logical that the Bible is wholly reliable on every subject, or it is not the Word of God. The Bible is a true and factual book on every subject, including science.

a) Biblical creation and the basic principles of science.

The universe is a continuum of space, time and matter-energy. No one can exist without the other, so all three must have existed simultaneously from the beginning. This fundamental truth is taught in the very first verse of the Bible, which is the foundation of everything else. "In the beginning [time] God created the heaven [space] and the earth [matter]." (Genesis 1:1). As for energy, the Bible says in verse that the Spirit of God moved - or *vibrated* (from the Hebrew) - upon the face of the waters.

b) The Laws of Thermodynamics and the Genesis Record.

God set up in the beginning the physical laws by which His universe would operate. Genesis 2:2 tells us that God finished His creating work after the sixth day. This correlates with the first law of thermodynamics, the law of conservation of mass-energy. This principal states that nothing is now being created in the universe.

There is also a second law of thermodynamics, the law of increasing entropy or disorder. This firmly-proved universal law of science states that the whole universe is inexorably heading toward an ultimate state of randomness and disorder. All processes will cease, and the universe will be "dead." God Himself cannot die, so He is not subject to this law, but His creation is. Why would God create a universe with a built-in death sentence? He didn't! The answer is found in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." The decay of the universe, subject to the second law of thermodynamics, is actually recognized in Scripture. See Genesis 2:17; 3:17; Romans 8:20-22.

c) Scientific allusions in scripture.

The Bible abounds with references to nature and natural processes, and thus frequently touches on the various sciences. It contains much accurate scientific knowledge which was completely unavailable anywhere else at that time. A brief list follows; see Dr. Morris' book for a more complete listing.

Evaporation	Psalm 135:7
Condensation	Job 26:8
Hydrologic balance	Job 28:24-26
Uniqueness of snow flakes	Job 38:22
Shape of earth	Isaiah 40:22, Psalm 103:12
Rotation of earth	Job 38:12, 14
Gravitation	Job 26:7
Glacial period	Job 38:29,30
Precision of star orbits	Jeremiah 31:35-36
Circulation of atmosphere	Ecclesiastes 1:6
Blood circulation	Leviticus 17:11
Chemical nature of flesh	Genesis 1:11; 24-27
Mass-energy equivalence	Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17
Atomic disintegration	2 Peter 3:10
Radio waves	Job 38:35

14. Scientific Fallacies of the Theory of Evolution

Natural science might be defined as, "The systematic observation and correlation of present physical relationships and natural process involving the properties of matter, the forces of nature and the phenomena of life." A key word is *present*. Scientists may speculate and hypothesize about the past or future, but they can only observe the present. The study of origins, whether by creation or evolution, is necessarily out of the scope of science in its real sense. Therefore, the *theory* of evolution is not a science but is rather a belief, a religious philosophy of origins, masquerading as scientifically proven fact. Theodosius Dobzhansky, a prominent evolutionist and author on evolutionary genetics, states, "Attempts to restrict the concept of evolution to biology are gratuitous. Life is a product of the evolution of inorganic nature, and man is a product of the evolution of life." In the minds of its leaders, therefore, evolution is a complete cosmology, purporting to explain the origin, meaning, and destiny of all things. Considering the religious character of such a cosmology, it is amazing that evolutionists insist that evolution is a proven fact of science! **The theory of evolution is faith, not fact.**

a) The testimony of present relationships.

You would expect the mechanisms which caused evolution to still be present and active in our world today, but this is definitely not the case. The basic kinds of organisms are quite stable, if left to interbreed in a natural environment. Movement to a different environment may permit the change of some characteristics, but it will still be in essence only a new variety of the same kind. Artificial selection may increase the number of varieties considerably, as in the case of the dog and cat, but it cannot produce a new kind. The random processes associated with natural selection produce a conservative, rather than innovative, mechanism. The clear testimony of all present relationships in the organic world is one of stability of the basic kinds, with provision for ample variation within the kinds. There are evidently unbridgeable gaps between the kinds. If evolution were true, then these gaps should not appear at all. The present evidence bears testimony to the accuracy of the Bible when it states in Genesis that God made the animals and plants to reproduce only after their own kind.

b) The testimony of present processes.

The only mechanism which could produce the type of radical variation required for the process of evolution is the mechanism of beneficial mutations. Hybridization and recombination could never develop new and more complex kinds. However, mutations are nearly always harmful! Francisco J. Ayala, one of today's top geneticists, stated on one hand that "Mutation provides the raw materials of evolution.", yet he also admits, "Mutations are random changes of the hereditary material....Most mutations are in fact *harmful* to the organism." Not only are most mutations harmful, or even fatal, but they are also very rare. Present processes do not support evolution, but rather support special creation, and repudiate evolution.

c) The Origin of life.

Evolutionists believe (there is that faith again!) that the first living organisms were developed naturally by innate processes, from non-living chemicals. However, "spontaneous generation" is certainly not occurring in the present world, and even evolutionists agree on this. Life does not come from non-life: fact. Leslie Orgel, one of the world's leading authorities on origin-of-life studies, is forced to admit, "...one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means." Certainly these facts support special creation, not evolution, and clearly both are definitely a matter of faith.

d) The fossil record.

Were it not for the fossil record, the evolutionist would be hard pressed to produce any evidence whatsoever for his "science." You would expect, if evolution were true, that the fossil record would show an abundance of transitional forms of organisms, and a lack of large gaps between the kinds of organisms. However, such is not the case at all. The fossil record is, in fact, marked by a conspicuous absence of any truly transitional forms between the basic kinds, contrary to the predictions of evolutionary theory.

Also, you would expect that primitive life forms found in the bottom, "older" rocks of the geologic column would have disappeared, making way for newer and better creatures. However, this is definitely not so. The one-celled organisms found in the Precambrian rocks of southern Ontario are still living today! This is not an exceptional case by any means, as many "living fossils" exist today.

The evolutionist would expect a gradual development in the geologic column, with evolution of higher organisms from simpler kinds. What do the facts say? Evolutionist Tom Kemp, curator of the Oxford

University Museum in England, painfully admits, " As is now well known, most fossil species appear instantaneously in the record, persist for millions of years virtually unchanged, only to disappear abruptly." What is the response of the religious evolutionist? Steven M. Stanley postulates as part of the quantum speciation theory, " Evolution happens rapidly in small localized populations, so we're not likely to see it in the fossil record."

Therefore, evolutionists are saying now that the main evidence for evolution is that there is no evidence we can see - either in the present world or the fossil record of the past! And this is science? It is clear that, even as a scientific model, evolution fails to fit the facts, without a large number of secondary qualifying assumptions. The simplest, most logical and most *scientific* model of origins is still that of special creation.

15. Creation and the flood.

The only way to adequately and logically explain the origin and development of life on earth is using special creation combined with the worldwide flood in the days of Noah. No other model agrees with the testimony of present processes and the fossil record. Large numbers and varieties of animal and plant life were quickly killed and buried in sedimentary rock by the worldwide flood, creating the large array of fossils present today.

a) The Geologic Age System and the fossil record.

The theory of evolution (or shall we call it the religion of evolution?) presumes that the world originated about 5 billion years ago from some kind of primal "soup", and eventually man appeared on the scene about 3 million years ago. The presence of simple life forms in the bottom of the geological column and of complex organisms toward the top supposedly proves evolution. This is called the geologic age system. Firstly, the layers, or ages, of the columns are often mixed up, and even inverted. In one location archaeologists found limestones 120 million years old directly above oozes only 5 to 10 million years in age. Of course, this controverts the evolutionary model. Secondly, how can it be proved that the bottom layers are billions of years old, whereas the upper layers are "only" millions of years old? Two ways: by using the fossils in each layer to date the rocks, or by using radiometric dating (commonly known as carbon dating). However, the dates of the subdivisions in the geologic age system was determined long before radiometric dating was even discovered! If there is a serious discrepancy between the date given by the evolutionary model and by radiometric dating, the latter is always discarded. Essentially, the geologic columns used to prove the theory of evolution are dated by **assuming that evolution is a fact!**

b) Deluge stratigraphy.

Can the worldwide flood, or deluge, adequately explain the fossil records? Yes. The very presence of the preserved fossils is proof of a catastrophe on at least a local scale, requiring rapid burial. There are three ways in which the flood can explain the geological strata we see today:

- 1) Ecological zonation** - the vertical order of a strata is a function of the vertical elevation of an environmental habitat, and not evolutionary progress.
- 2) Physiological mobility** - Animals with the ability to move quickly would escape burial longer, and appear toward the top of the strata. Those complex animals which could climb, such as apes or men, would often escape burial altogether, and so very few fossils of these organisms would be found in deluge sediments.
- 3) Hydrodynamic sorting** - On a local basis, simpler, more streamlined organisms offer less hydraulic resistance to water flow and so would be deposited deeper in the strata than more complex organisms.

c) The Date of Creation.

According to Bible genealogies, the date of creation is probably 4,000 B.C., or as early as 10,000 B.C. if gaps exist in the genealogical lists. This is a far cry from the date given by most evolutionists as approximately 4.6 billion years ago! The latter is based primarily upon radiometric dating. Even today, there are no written records of early man that go back more than a few thousand years. Most historians place the beginning of civilization at around 5,000 B.C. This would lend support to Biblical chronology, rather than the evolutionary hypothesis. The evolutionist must then depend upon radiometric dating to support his theory.

However, just how accurate is radiometric dating? Of course, its results cannot be proven, but how reliable is the mechanism by which it operates? The answer is, very unreliable. Living mollusks have been tested by radiometric dating to be tens of thousands of years old, and 200 year old lava flows were tested to be 22 million years old! Radiometric dating depends heavily upon the assumption that the formation and decay rate of the isotopes are constant, and that the proportion of C-14 to C-12 in

the environment has remained in a steady state worldwide. However, both these assumptions are not supported by the facts. If the latter equilibrium is actually inaccurate by about 25%, as many recent measurements indicate, then the atmosphere of the earth can be calculated using radiometric dating to be about 7,000 years old! Also, another absurd key assumption made by radiometric dating is that when each radioactive material first crystallized, it contained only the "parent" element, and none of the "daughter" element. This assumption is easily proved in the present world to be a fallacy, thus explaining why young rocks can be dated as millions of years old. So much for conclusive proof of the geologic age system!

Incidentally, when other processes are used to calculate the age of the earth, very different answers are given compared with radiometric dating. For example, using the decay of the earth's magnetic field, the age of the earth can be shown to be less than 7,000 years.

Also, note that 4,300 years is plenty of time to develop a world population of current proportions with a growth rate of only half a per cent per year. The current annual growth rate is a high 2 per cent. 4,300 years ago is the date postulated by Ussher for the time of the flood, using Bible genealogies. Again, the facts are best supported by the special creation and worldwide flood model. The only reason to choose to believe evolution is *faith*, not facts.

16. What is the message of Fundamental Christianity?

It is not important what a religious leader or denomination says about Christianity. What does the inspired and preserved Word of God say?

- All of mankind have sinned against God, and are guilty before Him.

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

- The punishment for our sin is separation from God in eternal Hell.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

- Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, died for our sins on the cross, and rose bodily from the grave so that we might be saved from Hell and go to Heaven forever.

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, ..."

- Religion, good works, baptism, confirmation, nor any other act of man, can save us from Hell. We must put our faith in Christ alone to save us, and call upon His name for forgiveness and salvation.

Romans 10:9,13 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

** If you will trust Jesus Christ to save you from Hell and call on Him today, you can be sure that God is your Father, and Heaven is your eternal home. Won't you trust Him today, before it's too late?

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."