

# ***COULD WE EVER REALLY BELIEVE THE BIBLE???***

By Skip Elmore - For more articles see: [www.skipelmore.com](http://www.skipelmore.com)

**Isaiah 55:11 assures Old Testament readers that God's Word never returns fruitless! Oh really? Ok, but, even if that's so, how about the New Testament, wasn't it written by biased men and handed down for many years? Can it be tested for accuracy? Can we really know???**

**Let's look at archaeological findings like Bibliographical Tests, both "internal" and "external." How many copies of original manuscripts were studied? How much later were they dated or discovered from the time they were written? When compared with other historical writings we've accepted without question, it's almost embarrassing. Let's look.**

**Aristotle's poetic work was written about 343 BC, yet the earliest of five known copies is dated A.D. 1100, about a 1,400 year gap. Caesar composed his history of the Gallic wars between 58-50 B.C. and the earliest of 9 known copies is dated 1,000 years after his death.**

**Now, about the New Testament: By comparison not 9, but an overwhelming, 24,363 copies of original papyrus manuscripts were discovered within 40 to 60 years of their original date. They are mostly Greek with some Aramaic and some Hebrew, all with precisely consistent content.**

**Were the New Testament messengers trustworthy witnesses? What did they actually say? Let's review: The New Testament referenced back to the Old repeatedly. The Bible, in its entirety, was written over a period exceeding 1500 years, 40 generations, by 40 authors, on 3 continents in 3 languages. Yet amazingly, it is in harmony although it touches on many controversial subjects. Even more amazing is its singular theme: God's Salvation of humanity (AKA "choosing a Holiness life").**

**The mathematic probability of the many fulfilled Old Testament prophecies just coincidentally happening is calculated to be 1 in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power. That's 17 zeros (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000). Would we accept other odds so improbable? Volumes of incredibly detailed justification, both secular and biblical, have been researched and published stating a solid case for validating the authority of Scripture. Interestingly, much of this work was initiated by researchers who began their process desiring to gain notoriety by disproving New Testament Gospel once and for all. Instead many did become very well known and active in the process, but as converted believers.**

**The prophesized incarnation of the Christ, meaning the “anointed one” according to Old Testament Scripture, was declared to be the provisional sacrificial strategy for “self directed” human behavior (the sin nature initiated in Gen. 3:6) throughout the Old Testament. The arrival of this personification was referenced many times with unbelievable detail hundreds of years earlier; more then 700 years in Isaiah 53: 5 & 6, not to mention much earlier references in Genesis and also in later Old Testament Scripture such as Micah 5:2 which described the birth hundreds of years earlier in a very small town, Bethlehem, an unlikely place to be known so far ahead of time.**

**The New Testament Apostles declared this Jesus to be the Son of God, raised from the dead. Was that true or false? If false, was it a plot or were they misled? If it was a plot, then all eleven coordinated identical stories and dispersed into the known world with a willingness to be killed as martyrs (eleven were) rather than deny their claim. If they were misled, they could have all saved their lives by just saying, “Oh, just kidding, I admit I was wrong,” but they didn’t!**

**Jesus, claiming He was the personified Christ, said He was “*the way, the truth and the life.*” John 14:6 is only one of many references to this position. John 10:30 is another, all positioned Him either as Lord or a liar, lunatic or legend. If He was a liar, He had to be demonic too. He told people to trust Him with their eternal destiny. Also, He would be hypocritical - consistently encouraging the highest form of honesty and integrity. Finally, if we still call Him a liar, He had to also be a fool – He died claiming deity when all He would have had to do to save His life was say, “Oh, I was mistaken.” Was His core value (to die) His cause?**

**A lunatic? Hardly! The four psychiatric disorders associated with delusions of grandeur are never seen, not even in the secular historical writings about this life. The way He met circumstances of opposition with complete serenity are the complete opposite trait from a distorted personality.**

**Is it logical to assume Jesus was just a legend? This may be the weakest of the four possible conclusions. It is an established fact from many non-biblical manuscripts of history that a man named Jesus did truly live a very “unique” life during the first century A.D.**

**So, does the eternal life debate continue? Of course it does. What about just living a good life, or believing in some kind of god with no regard to hosting any kind of wisdom and counsel from a Creator’s Spirit? These questions only bring on a very thought provoking third one:**

**Who do you want to spend eternity with? Have you thought about it? Would it be the self appointed righteous among us who hope to balance out more good then compromise, but absent any genuine relationship or accountability? Both Old and New Testament Scripture testifies that: Being into self is absolutely incompatible with heavenly Relationships.**

**God elected to create a human race for the sole purpose of establishing relationships (Exodus 34:14b and many others verses). He could have locked in a perfectly programmed human society with absolute instinctive behavior like migrating birds, but genuine relationships require a “free will” to choose them. Otherwise, we would behave in a sinless way, but only as robotic puppets. The first humans experienced this incredible first hand relationship until they chose an independent “self directed” attitude, the sin nature, voiding the incredible wisdom and counsel enjoyed in the beginning where wrong choices did not exist. Fear motives like need, want, blame, shame, sickness or even locks and keys were not included in their vocabulary. All sin is fear motivated.**

**The Old Testament Christ who is from the beginning was presented as personified in the New Testament and said: *“I am the way, the truth and the life.”* This was describing the long awaited provisional sacrifice needed to defeat the results of the human choice to become “self directed” and allow the evil, Satanic destructive reversal of what had been God’s loving power to bring death baring fear into the world. This provision was for all generations, past, present and future. It allowed, once again, the hosting of the Creator’s Spirit with its incredible wisdom and counsel for this life and, more importantly, the eternal, relational compatibility intended before the fall.**

**All religions of the world, name any, are works and/or fear driven: Earn your way if you can. It’s about karma. Being heaven bound by our Creator’s way is “relationship” driven. Remember, God’s motive for establishing a human society was relationships! Now, get this, all genuine relationships, either with our Lord/Creator or each other, will include three major components; the first one is love (the verb - not an emotion), next is a mutual need each for the other and third, pleasure/joy follows.**

**Now, if I love God I will want to obey Him. If I say I won’t, that’s my sin. If I say I need God, that’s my part of a mutual need. If I say I don’t need God, that’s my sin again. So, if all genuine relationships include a two way mutual need, God has elected to need me! What’s with this? Why would my Creator need me? He did just fine before I came along, didn’t He? Well, it happens that God established our relationships to include needing us on His team. Here’s why:**

**In the first pages of Genesis, we read that God spoke all of creation into existence. You may want to think of this as metaphoric or you may accept it as a literal description. I won't argue either side; it doesn't matter. This description, speaking creation is very relative to what our Lord wants us to know about ourselves because just pages later we are told we are made in His image. It's very plain to see from almost every page in the Bible that God wants us to declare His intentions. He has elected to release manifestations of His power through the spoken faith of his children. My part in fulfilling our mutual need in the relationship is to monitor my tongue and release His power by my faith.**

**Now, remember, Satan, Genesis 3:6, took dominion over God's world. This purged the inhabitants of God's Spirit and introduced selfish fear which immediately manifested as evil manipulative power and reversed the speaking authority of its inhabitants. Why do bad things happen when we have a loving God? That's the reason! The Bible is clear, Old Testament and New; Satan took dominion over the tongues of God's children in future generations; heaven has no place for selfishness.**

**So, the bottom line, seeking a genuine relationship with God will stimulate love and obedience! Pursuing God's favor and acceptance by works, trying to earn our way or follow rules in a desperate attempt to create the relationship will never be enough to match Heaven's perfection. We will always end up with a "self worth" fear of needing to do more, be more, give more or give up.**

**God's "grace" provides a new "position" of innocence we could never earn and an "authority" that wasn't ours to release spiritual power in behalf of His will and our destiny when, by faith, we intercept and host this incredible wisdom and counsel of His Spirit as originally intended before the fall.**

**Who in this broken world commences to possess this Spirit of the Biblical Christ? The answer: Those who are earnestly driven to seek with 'faith' will find Him. Some who perhaps have never heard of hosting such a Spirit may be driven to want to know more about God by just observing creation and suddenly finding themselves searching deeper. Some may be made aware by mere sensitivity to their conscience, a dream, a book or a vision. Some may be made aware by a person who projects love in a special way. Everyone is exposed to this general revelation unless they deliberately declare themselves to be their own little god. This is the sin the world tries to teach us. Self and sin are almost synonymous terms. Heaven can't handle "self."**