

Why Do I Believe the Holy Bible is the Word of God?

How does one come to believe in something?

- They see it for themselves.
- They are persuaded by others' testimony.
- They are convinced by evidence.
- They make a conclusion based on reasonableness.

For example, if I saw a car wreck for myself I would believe it. However, if I did not see it for myself but there were eight other eyewitnesses who testified that they saw it and all of their stories agreed, I could believe it happened. In addition, if I saw pieces of the car wreck, I could reasonably conclude that a car wreck had indeed occurred.

How about when it comes to believing that the Holy Bible is absolute truth and really is the Word of God as it claims? Can a reasonable and logical person be expected to believe the Scriptures written thousands of years before he or she was born? According to the Holy Bible, God demands our complete and obedient faith and belief. The Holy Bible even teaches that if one does not believe and obey the words of the Holy Bible (specifically the New Testament), one will not go to Heaven. How can one believe in something that one has not witnessed? More specifically, how can one believe the miraculous events recorded in the Holy Bible without being an eyewitness? After all, some of the events recorded in the Holy Bible are pretty amazing. The only way I can believe that the writings in the Holy Bible are true is by being persuaded by the testimony of others, being convinced by evidence, and making a conclusion based on reasonableness.

The Holy Bible claims to be the Word of God. More specifically, the Holy Bible claims that:

- It is a collection of 66 books and letters.
- These books and letters were written by about 40 men over a 1600-year period.
- Each of these books and letters were inspired of God (i.e. God-breathed).
- God created everything including mankind.
- God created mankind with a free will.
- We all use our free will and sin which separates us from God.
- God loved man so much that He sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, down to earth in the form of a man to reconcile man back to God.
- Jesus Christ did this by being crucified on a cross, bearing the sins of the whole world, and being raised from the dead the third day.
- Jesus Christ established His kingdom on the earth, which is the church, and He is now sitting on the right hand of God.

- There will be a Judgment Day when Jesus Christ will return and gather together those in His kingdom (the church) where they will spend eternity with Him in Heaven and those not in His kingdom (the church) will spend eternity in Hell (outside the presence of God).

The Law of Excluded Middle says that something either is or is not true. The Holy Bible either IS or IS NOT what it claims to be.

The first area I will cover is the testimony of others. I will present both external testimony (secular writings from those outside the Holy Bible) and internal testimony (sacred writings from those in the Holy Bible).

Testimony

Here are some examples of secular writers who talk about Jesus Christ and His followers called Christians:

Josephus

Josephus was a Jewish historian born around 37 or 38 A.D. He wrote seven historical books entitled "History of the Jewish War." He also wrote "Jewish Antiquities". In this book, he referred to "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James" and how James and some others were delivered to be stoned to death. James is most likely the author of the book of James in the New Testament. Josephus wrote many things that corroborate events in the New Testament. Since Josephus lived during the same time period as the writers of the New Testament books and letters and was not a Christian with ulterior motives, we can reasonably conclude that Josephus would be a reliable source of corroborating testimony.

Tacitus

Tacitus was a Roman historian around 100 A.D. and he despised Christians. His writings though included points such as (1) a man named Christ was the founder of the religion of Christians, (2) Christ was executed as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, (3) Christianity, which he referred to as a "mischievous superstition", began in Judea, was suppressed for a while, then started again and had reached Rome by the time Tacitus wrote his book called "Annals", (4) Christians were tortured in Rome and many were executed in horrible ways to gratify the cruel Nero who was accused of burning down the city of Rome in 64 A.D. and who was trying to find a scapegoat to take the blame. We could consider Tacitus as a hostile witness. If he hated Christians, he certainly would not have verified that Christ really existed and was executed by Pilate if this was simply a fictitious story.

Suetonius

Suetonius was also a Roman historian born around 88 A.D. He wrote a book called “The Twelve Caesars”. He wrote that since the Jews were causing such disturbances in Rome at the instigation of a man named Christ, Claudius demanded that all Jews leave Rome. This statement corroborates Acts 18:2.

Pliny

Pliny the Younger was a Roman born in 61 A.D. and became governor of Bithynia in 112 A.D. He wrote many letters to the emperor Trajan including one letter to ask his advice on how to handle Christians.

We can see from these secular writings that Jesus Christ did exist and that He had followers who were called Christians. These Christians were so persuaded that Jesus Christ was truly the Son of God that they were willing to die horrible deaths to remain faithful to Him. Were these Christians fools following a fictitious character or were they following the Son of God? You must decide.

The 27 books and letters of the New Testament were allegedly written by eight men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James and Jude between the dates of 50 A.D. and 67 A.D.

Regarding these eight men, there are only four options. These men either (1) did not really exist, (2) were crazy, (3) were liars, or (4) were telling the truth. Now, I have never seen or heard about eight crazy people spouting off the exact same crazy stories so I believe we can reasonably rule that option out. Most people lie for a reason-especially if they are colluding together to lie about the exact same stories. We have to reasonably ask what motive these eight men would have had for making up all the same stories. As far as their existence, from secular writings, I believe we are able to tie all these men together:

- **Josephus, Tacitus, and Suetonius** confirmed the existence of **Jesus Christ**.
- **Josephus**, the Jewish historian, confirmed the existence of **James**, the brother of Jesus.
- **Jude**, the author of the book of Jude, stated he was the brother of James in Jude 1.
- **Luke** referred to James in Acts 21:18 and that he and Paul were with James.
- **Matthew** referred to James as the brother of Jesus in Matthew 13:55 and Luke knew Matthew as we can see in Luke 6:15.
- **Mark** referred to James as the brother of Jesus in Mark 6:3 and Luke knew Mark as we can see in II Timothy 4:11.

- **Peter and Paul** were with James in Jerusalem in Acts 15. Paul also referred to James in I Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 1:19, and 2:9.
- **John** did not refer to James specifically in his writings but John knew Peter who was with James (see Acts 3:11; 4:13 and 8:14 to see that Peter and John were together).

I believe this evidence shows that all of these men really existed, knew each other, lived during the same time period, wrote during the same time period, and were eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ and confessed Him as being the Son of God and Lord. If one or more of these men were fictitious characters, would not someone have disputed it?

Now I probably would not believe one man confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord. I probably would not even believe two men confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord. However, eight men confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord demands, at the very least, our consideration.

Here are some examples of these eight men confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Lord:

Matthew said in Matthew 16:13-16, "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mark said in Mark 1:1, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;"

Luke said in Luke 24:3 "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."

John said in John 20:30-31, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book: But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through his name." John also said in I John 1:3, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Peter said in 1 Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Paul said in Romans 1:4, "And declared to be the Son of God with power..."

James said in James 1:1, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."

Jude said in Jude 4, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

We also have uninspired writings from early Christians between 100-200 A.D. The last apostle John must have died after 67 A.D. because he wrote the book of Revelation around 67 A.D. So these uninspired early Christians and some of the eight authors of the New Testament lived during the same time period and knew each other or had the same acquaintances. As a result, any writings from these early Christian men, although uninspired, would lend some corroborating evidence that the eight authors of the New Testament did exist and did write the 27 books and letters when they claimed to have written them.

Clement of Rome

Clement of Rome (30-100 A.D.) was an elder at the church in Rome during the first century. It is thought (although cannot be proven) that Clement was appointed an elder by either Paul or Peter. Around 96 A.D. Clement wrote to the church in Corinth, which was the same church that Paul wrote to in his letters I and II Corinthians in the New Testament. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Clement talked about the death of Peter and Paul not as a fabricated story but as a fact. Since he lived during the same time period as some of the apostles, he would have first-hand knowledge.

Polycarp

Polycarp (65 A.D.-155 A.D.) personally knew the apostle John. Polycarp wrote to the church in Philippi, which was the same church that Paul wrote to in his letter Philippians in the New Testament. Polycarp mentioned Paul four times in his letter to the Philippian church. Therefore, Polycarp also had first-hand knowledge.

Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius of Antioch (30-107 A.D.) wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus, which was the same church that Paul wrote to in his letter Ephesians in the New Testament. Ignatius talked about the letter that Paul wrote to the church. Ignatius also talked about John and Timothy in his letter. In addition, Ignatius also wrote to the church in Philippi, which was the same church that Paul wrote to in his letter Philippians in the New Testament. Finally, Ignatius also wrote two letters to the apostle John.

Papias

Papias (70-155 A.D.) stated that he himself was not an eyewitness of Jesus Christ or the apostles but that he was taught from those who did personally know them like Polycarp.

In summary, I have presented in this section some *external testimony* from secular writers that Jesus Christ really existed, was crucified on a cross, and had followers called Christians just as the Holy Bible claims.

I have also presented some *internal testimony* from the Holy Bible that there were eight men who were eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ, His ministry, His miracles, and His death, burial and resurrection. I also showed how, from secular writings, we can connect all eight men together to show that they did exist.

Finally, I presented *external testimony* from early Christians who also corroborated that the eight authors of the New Testament did exist and did write the books and letters that they claimed to have written.

The second and third areas I will discuss are evidence and reasonableness, which I will combine.

Evidence and Reasonableness

If the Holy Bible is a fabrication, then who wrote it, when was it written, and why was it written? There are some skeptics who believe that the Holy Bible was fabricated by someone at a single point in time and made to look like about 40 men wrote it over a 1600-year period.

Let us first look at some ancient manuscripts to determine if this is a reasonable theory.

Manuscripts

The Holy Bible claims that the 39 books of the Old Testament were written between 1450 B.C. and 425 B.C. by 22+ men. We do not have any original documents of the Old Testament. The earliest *copy* of the Old Testament that we have is the **Greek Septuagint (LXX)**. The Septuagint was allegedly begun in Alexandria, Egypt around 280 B.C. where 72 Jews translated the original Hebrew/Aramaic Old Testament into Greek.

Jesus and the New Testament authors quoted from the Greek Septuagint which lends credit to the Greek Septuagint really being the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. For example, in Romans 10:13, Paul quoted from Joel 2:32, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **saved**." The Hebrew translation of the Old Testament, called the Masoretic Text (MT), uses "delivered" while the LXX uses the word "saved." Therefore, we can know that Paul was quoting from the LXX and not the Hebrew Old Testament.

Luke quoted from Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." The LXX uses this exact quote while the Hebrew Old Testament reads, "The Spirit of the Lord **GOD** is upon me..." This would indicate that Luke quoted from the LXX and not the Hebrew Old Testament.

There are many more comparisons we could make that would indicate that Jesus and the New Testament authors believed in the accuracy of the Greek Septuagint. As a result, we can know that the Old Testament had to have been written before 280 B.C.

Let's assume for a minute that the entire Holy Bible was fabricated by someone after Jesus Christ died and left behind followers called Christians. There is a problem with this theory. How do we explain the discovery of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**? In 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in clay jars in the caves around Qumran which is near Jerusalem. Fragments of every Old Testament book except for Esther were found there. The entire book of Isaiah was found there. The University of Arizona carbon 14-dated these scrolls (with a 95% probability) as being written between 150 B.C. and 5 B.C. Carbon dating is not accurate on things that are very old but the results also matched the paleography results (the study of script style). The results also matched the same test a Zurich lab performed on the scrolls. Therefore, these scrolls of the Old Testament pre-date Jesus Christ and Christianity. As a result, Christians could not have written the Old Testament. In addition, if someone fabricated the entire Holy Bible at one point in time, why were there not scrolls of any New Testament books and letters in with the Dead Sea Scrolls (which also lends credit to the accuracy of the dating of the scrolls as being before the New Testament)?

The Holy Bible claims that the 27 books and letters of the New Testament were written between 50 A.D. and 67 A.D. by eight men. We do not have any original documents of the 27 books and letters of the New Testament either although, unlike the Old Testament, we have over 5,300 copies/fragments of New Testament manuscripts. The earliest known copy of a fragment of the New Testament was dated around 130 or 150 A.D. It is called the Rylands Papyrus #52 which is in Rylands Library in Manchester, England. It contains John 18:31-33 and 18:37-38.

I believe this is enough evidence to show that the Old and New Testaments were written by different people from different centuries. That means that someone else must have written the New Testament later. This also shows that Christianity is not simply a fairly recent American-made religion but a world-wide religion that started over 2,000 years ago.

Even if we take the most conservative route possible and assume that the people (thought to be the Essenes) who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls fabricated the Old Testament between 150 B.C. and 5 B.C., how could they possibly have prophesied events that actually came true before Jesus Christ was born and before Christianity was established?

Prophecies Foretold and Fulfilled

There are skeptics who believe that whoever wrote the New Testament fabricated it so that it would look like Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled. Let us look at prophecies *foretold* in the Old Testament and prophecies *fulfilled* in the New Testament and see if it is reasonable to believe that the New Testament was fabricated to correlate with the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament book of Daniel 2:31-44, the prophet Daniel prophesied that the church (i.e. the kingdom of God) would come after five major world empires. Sure enough, in Acts 2, the church (i.e. the kingdom of God) was established in Jerusalem in A.D. 33 during the 5th major world empire (the Romans) after the Babylonians, the Medes, the Persians, and the Greeks. What are the chances that Christianity would begin during the 5th major world empire just as Daniel prophesied?

Matthew wrote in Matthew 1:22 when Jesus was born, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Sure enough, if we go back to the Old Testament, Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Okay, Matthew could have fabricated the details of Jesus Christ's birth. Secular writers may have confirmed that Jesus Christ really existed but Matthew could have read Isaiah's prophecy and decided to make Jesus Christ fit the prophecy. He would have also had to collude with Mark, Luke, and John because they all also wrote about Jesus' birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection.

Matthew talked about John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1-2 when he said, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven [church] is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias [Isaiah], saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Mark also stated this in Mark 1:1-4. Luke also stated this in Luke 3:4-6. John also stated this in John 1:23. Sure enough, Isaiah said in Isaiah 40:3, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Josephus confirmed that John the Baptist existed.

Micah prophesied in Micah 5:2 that Jesus Christ would be born in Bethlehem. Matthew then wrote in Matthew 2:1-6 that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, King Herod called for his chief priests and scribes and wanted to know where Jesus was born. They told him that Micah had prophesied that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem. Herod was afraid that Jesus would try to take over his physical kingdom so he sought to kill Jesus. Secular history shows that Jesus existed and that King Herod existed.

Moses in Genesis 49:10 prophesied that Jesus Christ would be a descendant of the tribe of Judah. Matthew in Matthew 1:2 and Luke in Luke 3:33 list the genealogy of Jesus and, sure enough, He was a descendant from the tribe of Judah. I guess this could have either been a convenient coincidence or maybe Matthew and Luke just completely fabricated Jesus Christ's lineage.

Psalms 22:16 prophesied that Jesus Christ's hands and feet would be pierced through from His crucifixion. Secular writings confirmed that Jesus Christ was crucified so this would have been another convenient coincidence or maybe Jesus Christ planned all along to make sure He was crucified so that it would look like the Old Testament prophecies came true.

We could go on for hours talking about Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in the New Testament and trying very hard to explain them away. We would have to do it over 300 times just for those prophecies relating to Jesus Christ. Some we could explain away and say that Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, Jude, Peter, and Paul fabricated the actual details of Jesus' birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection but is this reasonable? We must look at what motive these eight men would have had to make Jesus Christ fulfill over 300 Old Testament prophecies. We must also ask ourselves why no one disputed what these eight men wrote. Yes, there were many people who denied that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and Lord but none disputed that He existed and that He was crucified. Even secular writers confirmed this.

If I have provided enough testimony and evidence to show that the New Testament is true, that also proves the Old Testament is true because one cannot be true without the other. Let me prove my point with a few examples:

- Ruth, a character and a book in the Old Testament, is referred to in the New Testament book in Matthew 1:5 in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.
- Samuel, a judge and prophet and two books in the Old Testament, is referred to in Acts and Hebrews in the New Testament.
- Moses, a character and the author of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy in the Old Testament, is referred to 80 times in the New Testament—19 times by Jesus Himself.
- Solomon, king of Israel and author of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon in the Old Testament, is referred to nine times in the New Testament—six times by Jesus Himself.
- Joel, a prophet in the Old Testament, is referred to in Acts 2:16.
- Job, a character and book in the Old Testament, is referred to in James 5:11.
- Daniel, a prophet in the Old Testament, is referred to by Jesus in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14.

- Isaiah, a prophet in the Old Testament, is referred to 21 times by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul—three times by Jesus Himself.
- David is referred to 58 times by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul—13 times by Jesus Himself. All five of these New Testament authors believed that David was truly a king and that Jesus Christ was a descendant of David. Many Old Testament books discuss in great detail David's life such as: Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, and Zechariah. As a matter of fact, David is mentioned 1,027 times in the King James Version of the Old Testament. How can anyone believe in the New Testament and yet refuse to believe in the Old Testament? The two cannot be separated. If David was a fictitious character, then Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and even Jesus were either fictitious characters also or were fools for they all believed in King David. This leads us into our next discussion, which is archaeological discoveries that lend corroborating evidence that, the people, places, and events recorded in the Holy Bible really did exist.

Archaeology

There are skeptics who believe that the entire Holy Bible was fabricated at a single point in time and made to look like it was written over a 1600-year period by about 40 men. This raises a fair question. How could someone have had enough knowledge to describe people, places, and events long before or long after they lived?

For example, since we were just discussing King David, in 1993, a Dr. Avraham Biran discovered a tell and a stone slab which included the phrases "King of Israel" and "House of David."

If someone fabricated the Holy Bible at a single point in time long *before* Jesus Christ lived and Christianity began (approximately A.D. 4 to A.D. 33), how could they have talked about the Caesars Augustus, Tiberias, and Claudius who ruled Rome during the first century? How could they have written about the destruction of Jerusalem which did not occur until A.D. 70?

On the other hand, if someone fabricated the Holy Bible *after* Jesus Christ lived and Christianity began, how could they have fabricated stories about people, places, and events that they would have had no means to know about?

For example, **Sodom** is mentioned 39 times in the Old Testament and **Gomorrah** is mentioned 19 times. Archaeological digs were conducted in 1924, 1965, 1967, and 1973. It was discovered that a massive fire had destroyed the cities and that the fires had started on the roofs of the houses as if "...the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven" just as Genesis 19:24

states. How could someone in the first century have fabricated this story that would correlate perfectly with 20th century archaeological discoveries?

According to Joshua 6, the Israelites conquered the city of **Jericho** in approximately 1440 B.C. Archaeologists such as Carl Watzinger (1907-1909), John Garstang (1930's), and Kathleen Kenyon (1952-1958) have all excavated the city of Jericho and concluded that the city had a 15-foot wall surrounding it and that these walls had fallen outwards, which is unusual, and the city was destroyed with fire. How could someone in the first century have known enough about Jericho to have been able to describe its location and fabricate a story that would agree with the archaeological discovery of Jericho almost 2,000 years later?

I just don't see how it could work. No matter how you look at it. Whether you try to make the assumption that (1) someone fabricated the entire Holy Bible before Christianity or (2) someone fabricated the Old Testament and then the Jews or Christians fabricated the New Testament to correlate with the Old Testament.

Other Matters to Consider

If the Holy Bible was fabricated by someone, we would have to conclude right up front that they were liars because the writings claim to be inspired of God. For example, the phrase, "the Lord said" or "the LORD said" occurs 219 times in the King James Version of the Holy Bible. The phrase, "the word of the Lord came" occurs 92 times. The phrase "God said" occurs 46 times. All of these would be blatant lies with the intent to deceive the world. But why would liars say in Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, **and all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."? Why would liars say in Colossians 3:9, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man..."? And how could and why would liars fabricate a book instructing mankind on how to live the most perfect set of ethics possible? It is just not reasonable to believe that liars would fabricate a book of perfection.

In addition, why would these eight men, along with hundreds of other Christians, die for a lie? History and tradition say that Peter was crucified, Paul was beheaded, and James was stoned to death. For what? A lie? What did they accomplish?

Because of such claims by these men, we have only one of two choices: either the New Testament truly is the inspired Word of God as it claims to be (II Timothy 3:16-17) or it is a huge lie colluded by eight men.

Some other matters that we must consider include Jesus Christ's effect on the world. Has there ever been any character, real or fictitious, that has had such an effect on the

world? Our way of measuring time is based on the life of Christ (i.e. B.C. and A.D.). We have world-wide holidays such as Christmas and Easter based on Christ's birth and resurrection. Is the entire world fooled by an elaborate fabrication?

Let's summarize what we have discussed and what conclusions we can make:

A study of ***secular writings from historians*** prove that Jesus Christ did exist, that He was crucified on a cross, and that He had a large group of followers called Christians who were tortured and murdered for following Christ.

A study of the ***sacred writings*** of the eight authors of the New Testament prove that these eight men attested that they were eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ and that He was the Son of God and Lord and that He was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies and they were inspired of God to write down what they saw and heard so that we might believe and that their writings are so intertwined with the writings of the Old Testament that one must either accept both Testaments or reject both Testaments for one cannot be true without the other.

A study of ***secular writings from early Christians*** in the first century prove that the eight authors of the New Testament did exist and did write the 27 books and letters of the New Testament when they said they did.

A study of the ***manuscripts*** of the Old and New Testaments prove that the Old Testament was written before Jesus Christ and Christianity and the New Testament was written later. We can then conclude that it would be unreasonable to believe that the entire Holy Bible was fabricated by someone at a single point in time. Based on this reasonable conclusion, we must answer the question as to how the Old Testament could have contained so many prophecies that came true through Jesus Christ?

A study of the ***archaeological discoveries*** throughout the years prove that, at the very least, some of the people, places, and events of the Old and New Testaments were accurate.

I believe I have presented enough evidence to prove that the Holy Bible is true. Sadly, there are many who will not believe unless they see it for themselves. However, John recorded in John 20:24-31, "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And

Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Paul said in Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

The final step to truly believing the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God is to open it, read it, and study it. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. No one will ever believe it unless they read it for themselves. If they read it with an open heart, they will truly be amazed.