

Did the Bible Really Come From God? Part 1

Alrighty, well hey folks, I know this might come as a surprise, but did you know that **even Christians** make mistakes once in awhile? Uh huh! It really does happen! And for those of you who don't believe me, I got some proof. That's right! We're going to look at some actual **Church Bulletin Bloopers** and you tell me if we Christians aren't human once in a while!

- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Attend this week's conference and you will hear an excellent speaker and heave a healthy lunch.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.
- Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.
- For the pancake breakfast next Saturday, the Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the Church's new stewardship campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
- This Christmas season, smile at someone who is hard to love and say "hell" to those who don't care much about you.
- Our concluding song on Christmas Day is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

Folks, as you can see even we Christians make mistakes don't we? But that's right folks, this morning I hope there's one mistake that we never make as Christians and that is this. **To doubt that the Bible really did**

come from God. And I say that because many people in our world today are in a search for truth. Christian, non-Christian, it doesn't matter, everybody realizes that something is horribly wrong with our world. AND it doesn't matter what we say, what we do, how we vote, our world continues to spiral out of control. And so people are seeking answers to questions like, "Can we have true and lasting peace in this world? Why is there so much evil and suffering? Why is all this shooting been going on? Where did all this evil come from? And **is there any hope?**"

And folks, the irony is, all this searching for answers is actually a good thing because it gets people to start focusing on eternal things, which is good. But the problem is people are looking in all the wrong places for the answers to these questions. They're actually hoping that somebody somewhere will dig up some ancient text that will unlock all the secrets to life. Or they're actually hoping that somehow someday a supposed alien will land on the earth and solve all our problems with they're supposed higher intelligence. Or as the X-Files puts it, "**The Truth is Out There,**" right? But folks, what if I were to tell you the X-Files is right! Yeah, **the truth is out there,** it's right under our noses. It's called the Bible. But the problem nobody will pick it up. Its actually collecting dust in virtually every home in America. Check this out.

- Among households which own a Bible, the typical count is three Bibles per household.
- Almost every household in America (92%) owns at least one copy of the Christian Bible. This includes most homes in which the adults are not practicing Christians as well as the homes of hundreds of thousands of atheists.

Even they have a copy of the Bible! Yeah, the truth is out there, but the irony is it's collecting dust in virtually every home in America. And so that brings me to the question, "Why? Why is it that people refuse to pick up the Bible when they're in such a frantic search for truth? It's right out there in the open? Well hey, thanks for asking. It works well with my notes. I think it's due to **two things**. **One**, it's due to a century or more of skepticism and false criticism towards the Bible that it really did come from God, and so people don't pick it up because they think it didn't come from God, that it was just a book whooped up by man. And **Two**, it's also because of the hypocritical behavior of Christians who on the one hand say, "Oh yeah, the Bible really did come from God, and you need to read it to find these answers you're looking for, but they never even pick it up! How do I know? Because when it comes to our Biblical knowledge folks, I think it's a little lacking. Don't believe me? Just ask these kids. All I got to say is, I hope they weren't from Sunrise!

- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- The Fifth Commandment is honor thy mother and father.

- Moses died before he ever reached the UK. Then, Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
- The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew king and fought with the Finkelsteins.
- Solomon, one of David's sons, has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- When the three wise guys from the East Side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, "Man doth not live by sweat alone."
- One of the opossums was St. Matthew, who was by profession a taximan.
- A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

Now folks, that's kind of funny, but how many of you guys would say those kids probably could use a little refresher course on their Biblical knowledge there, you know what I'm saying? Uh, slightly! But that's right folks, believe it or not, even we Christian adults don't fare much better. Don't believe me? Check out these stats on Christian adults and their knowledge of the Bible and you tell me how well we're doing.

- 80% of Christians say the Bible teaches, "That God helps those who help themselves."
- 12% says the name of Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.
- 49% says the Bible teaches that money is the root of all evil.
- 50% of Christians say there is no absolute truth.
- 55% of Christians say the Bible is has errors in it.
- 47% don't have a commitment to the Christian faith as a top priority.
- 58% don't have being active in a local church as one of their top goals in life.
- 35% of Christians say that to get by in life these days, sometimes you have to bend the rules for your own benefit.
- 49% of Pastors no longer have a Biblical worldview.
- 93% of Christians no longer have a Biblical worldview.

And gee, those kids that thought that David was fighting with the Finklesteins, I wonder what kind of “Christian Adults” they’re going to be? And here’s the point. I don’t know about you but I am completely aghast at those stats. I mean, think about it. Why didn’t all those Christians have a **100% agreement** on the accuracy of the Bible? I mean, of all people who should **never** doubt that the Bible really did come from God, it should be Christians, right? But folks, that’s not what we see! Even Christians are doubting that the Bible really did come from God! And that’s why, to stave off this criticism and hypocrisy even in the Church, we’re going to begin a new series called, “**Did the Bible Really Come from God?**” And what we’re going to do is take a look at the **Ten Lines of Solid Logical Evidence** that the Bible really did come from God. And when we’re done, you’re going to see it **had** to come from God. It’s unlike any other book on the planet.

And the **1st line of evidence** showing us that the Bible really did come from God is that **the Bible says so**. But don’t take my word for it. Let’s listen to the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:10-17 “You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings – what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

So how do we know that the Bible really did come from God? Well, what did we just read? The 1st line of evidence is that the Bible says so. And believe it or not, this is a very important factor. You see, if anyone is in a **genuine search** to validate a document they must first give that document the benefit of the doubt, right? Even Aristotle knew this when he said:

“The benefit of the doubt is to be given to the document itself, and not arrogated by the critic to himself.”

And folks, this is the problem. This is what the skeptics do today. They **assume** the Bible is full of errors **until** it’s proven absolutely **genuine**. They’ve got it totally backwards. Even in our court rooms we know that something’s **innocent until proven guilty, right?** Therefore, if you’re honest in your approach, shouldn’t the same standard be applied to the validating the Bible to see if it came from God? Of course! So let’s do that. Let’s see what the Bible has to say about it being the Word of God.

- “The Lord hath spoken” – 30 times

- “It is written” – 80 times
- “The word of the Lord” – 258 times
- “Thus saith the Lord” – 415 times
- “Saith the Lord” – 854 times

And folks, that’s not all of them. That’s just a sampling! But as you can see, hundreds and hundreds of times, the Bible simply and emphatically declares that it really did come from God! And so here’s the point. If you’re **honest** in your approach to validate the Bible you have to admit this fact. You have to give it the benefit of the doubt like Aristotle said, that if it says it came from God, then maybe it really did come from God, right? And think about the hypocrisy here. Why is it that no **honest scholar** treats any other ancient document in the same **hypocritical manner** that the skeptics do with the Bible? Why do they assume it’s wrong right off the bat? Why don’t they give it the benefit of the doubt that since it **claims to be from God** that it might **really be from God**! Wouldn’t that be the **honest place to start**?

But usually the skeptics will object and say something like this, “Well, that’s just circular reasoning! One book declaring itself to be from God, that’s ludicrous. That’s exactly what you’d expect by a book whooped up by man.” Well people, hello! That’s precisely the point. The Bible is not just one book whooped up by man! It’s a collection of 66 books written by many different men, in many different time periods, who didn’t even know

each other, **proving that it had to come from God!** Man couldn't make this thing up! Don't believe me? Check out these amazing facts on the Bible.

- Written over a 1,500-year span.
- Written over 40 generations.
- Written by more than 40 authors, from every walk of life – including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.
- Written in different places, wilderness, dungeons, palaces, etc.
- Written at different times, times of war or times of peace, etc.
- Written during different moods, from heights of joy or from the depths of despair, etc.
- Written on three different continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- Written in three different languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- And it never once contradicts itself and it has the same message through and through!

What? Man on his best day, could never whoop up something like that! It proves that it **had to come from God!** And yet even with all these amazing characteristics showing that the Bible really did come from God, just like He says over and over again, people will still turn to other supposed sources of truth, to find their answers.

And the **1st faulty source of truth** that people turn to instead of the Bible is **Worldly False Prophets**. This is crazy folks! God wants us to know the truth and that's why He gave us the Bible. And that's why He tells us in the Bible to not listen to these guys, they're going to lie to you!

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in

witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD.”

Why? Because it's **demonic** and God doesn't want you **to be lied to!**

He told us over and over again that the Bible came from Him and we just need to stick to it, so we can know the truth! And yet people today, still turn to these same lying demonic spirits to get their source of truth. Don't believe me? Let's take a look at some of the most popular ones out there today. The first one is Nosehairdamus, I mean, Nostradamus.

Michael Nostradamus was a 16th century French physician and astrologer. He wrote four line verses called “quatrains” that many of his modern day followers see as proof that he was a true prophet. Really? Let's put him to the test. Here's just one example of his extremely vague quatrains.

The year 1999 seven months.
From the sky will come the great King of Terror.
To resuscitate the great king of the Mongols.
Before and after, Mars reigns by good luck.

At forty-five degrees the sky will burn.
Fire to approach the great new city.
In an instant a great scattered flame will leap up.
When one will want to demand proof of the Normans.

Well, there you have it folks, believe it or not, according to the experts, Nostradamus just predicted 9-11. And even when you call them on the insane view they will usually say something like, “Well, 1999 is no “too far off” from 2001. And the references to fire and terror from the sky “sounds” like an aerial attack. And New York City is “close” to 45 degrees latitude,” (Actually it's about 40.)

And then they of course don't mention who in the world was “The great king of the Mongols” and what does this have to do with the planet “Mars”

and who on the 9-11 commission actually demanded proof from the “Normans?”

And neither do they mention that “the great new city” spoken of by Nostradamus in original French was “Villeneuve,” which is the name of a town outside of Paris, which is near a 45 degrees latitude.

And yet, in spite of this, Nostradamus is more popular than ever. Immediately following the September 11 attacks, his books climbed to the top of Amazon.com’s sellers list, and it shot off bookstore shelves all around the country.

And furthermore, they also don’t tell you just how he got all these supposed prophetic quatrains. Nostradamus not only used a combination of astrology and divination, but he even claimed that an angelic spirit (demon) helped him to understand how these things work. He used various forms of meditation focusing on fire or water while being under the influence of mild hallucinogens which is called scrying! Scrying is a practice used by witches to concentrate on an object until visions appear.

And believe it or not, Nostradamus not only knew he was messing with the dangerous occult practices, but he even warned his own son not to follow his footsteps because he knew he was headed to hell!

“He beseeched his infant son never to dabble in such practices for, he says, they desiccate (or dry up) the body, disturb the mind, and send the soul to perdition. For that reason he burned to ashes the ancient books he learned these techniques from and when he did he said they burned with an unnatural brilliance.”

And I’m going to listen to him over the Word of God in the Bible?

Oh, but he’s not the only false prophet people unfortunately buy into. As we all just recently found out, the “Mayan Prophecy of 2012” was not only not true, but it was nothing more than wild speculations over the Mayan calendar. The only thing that ended was the Mayan calendar system. In fact, even though people said the Mayans were predicting the end of the world, these same people couldn’t even predict their own cultural extinction.

And the reason why is because once again, just like with Nostradamus, they too used occult practices to get their information from. They were also involved in astrology and used hallucinogenic drugs to induce visions and to help them to supposedly speak to their dead ancestors, which is called necromancy.

And their culture was not only full of **occult practices** but **barbaric ones**. They were actually a brutally violent people who **practiced human sacrifice** because they believed that in order to “appease the gods” they had to kill people and offer them up as a sacrifice in order to keep the sun going that they believed was powered by human blood.

And I’m going to listen to them over what God says in the Bible?

Folks, I don’t know about you, but come on, I think I’ll stick to the tried and true Word of God in the Bible that was written over 1,500-years by 40 different authors over 40 generations that never once contradicts itself and shows it had to come from God, over guys who practiced witchcraft, knew they were going to hell, did drugs and killed people including themselves just to keep the sun going! Hello! And yet, listen to this. “4% of Christians and 3% of non-Christians said they had consulted a medium or spiritual advisor, within the past month.” Did you catch that? More Christians are seeking guidance from a demonic psychic than non-Christians do! And yet, not so surprisingly, just like with Nosehairdamus and the Mayans they too are a faulty source of information.

“Amid hundreds of prophecies, Biblical prophets are not known to have made a single error. However, a study of the prophecies made by psychics showed that of the 72 predictions, only 6 were fulfilled in any way.

However, 2 of these were vague and 2 others were hardly surprising, that the U.S. and Russia would remain leading world powers.

Another study of the top 25 psychics and 72 of their predictions revealed that 92% were totally wrong. And the remaining 8 percent could easily be explained by chance and general knowledge of circumstances. In fact, in 1993 the psychics missed every single unexpected news story like Michael Jordan's retirement and the flooding in the Midwest.

And among some of their false prophecies that year were that Kathy Lee Gifford would replace Jay Leno as host of *The Tonight Show* and the Queen of England would become a nun."

Okay, apparently they forgot to tell her that. But folks, here's the point. When in the world are we ever going to learn that those sources are not only **not** a good source of truth, but this is why God tells us over and over again in the Bible that it really did come from Him. Just stick to it! Why? Because He doesn't want us lied to. He wants us to know the truth! And He wants us to know that these worldly false prophets are leading people astray!

But that's still not all. The **2nd faulty source of truth** that people turn to instead of the Bible is what I call **Churchy False Prophets**. I.E. false prophets in the Church, you got to make it rhyme! But shocker, again, God says don't listen to these guys either! You're going to be deceived! But again, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to His!

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 "But a prophet who presumes to speak in My Name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death. You may say to yourselves, "How

can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him."

Why? Because he's a liar. What he said was from God was not from God because it's a lie! God doesn't lie! And so here's the point. What are you supposed to do with that guy? According to the Old Testament, you were supposed to put that man to death! Or as other texts say, you are to stone them! And that's with rocks people. You have to say that nowadays because people get all excited. Hey, stoning people! Finally a verse I can agree with. No! That's being rocked to sleep! **But here's the point.** Why do you put these guys to death? Because again, God's not a liar like us, He's holy and He wants us to know the truth. So if somebody has the audacity to say they're speaking from God and yet it turns out to be a lie...they die! Why? How dare you impugn the Holy character of God, right? And the good news is that today under the New Covenant we don't put a false prophet **to death**, but we are called to put them **out** of the Church!

And yet, herein lies the problem. People today in the Church refuse to do this and so we're looking like a bunch of goobers. We're acting like God doesn't know what He's saying! And let me give you just a few examples of false prophets in the Church.

Even though the Bible clearly says in Matthew 24:36 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father,” referring to the Second Coming of Jesus, one false prophet in the Church named Harold Camping continues to be allowed to speak forth his lies.

He not only predicted that the world would end on September 6th 1994, but again on May 21st 2011 and then again on October 21st 2011 when he got that one wrong as well. Why? Because not even Harold Camping’s mathematics can supersede God’s Word. Nobody knows the day nor the hour, including Mr. Camping, I don’t care how nifty he is with a calculator.

In fact, he even stated that no one was saved between 1988 through 1994, and the Church Age ended in 1994, and that the Holy Spirit is no longer working in the Church. Sounds to me like the Holy Spirit is not working in Mr. Camping!

And the problem is that all these lying false prophecies made by Mr. Camping was that it caused many people to lose not only millions and millions of dollars, but several people even lost their lives. Why?

Because the Church didn’t do what God said to do with false prophets. He should’ve been kicked out of the Church back in 1994 when he made his first false prediction!

But that’s not all. So is Benny Hinn. As we’ve already seen, he’s not only a false teacher ripping people off of their cash in the Church in the Last Days, but he himself has made several false predictions himself. Here’s the actual transcription.

Benny Hinn’s False Prophecies

Benn Hinn: The Lord also tells me to tell you that in the mid 90’s--about 94 or 95 no later than that. God will destroy the homosexual community from America. He will not destroy it with what many minds have thought it to be. It will start with fire.

The Spirit tells me Fidel Castro will die in the 90’s. Oh my, some will try to kill him and they will not succeed, but there will come a change in his

physical health and he will not stay in power and Cuba will be vigilant of God.

You know a prophetess has sent me a word to my wife right here and she said, "Tell your husband that Jesus is going to physically appear in his meetings. He may very well come back with footage of Jesus on the platform."

You know the Lord appeared in Romania recently.

Now here this. I'm prophesying this. Jesus Christ, the Son of God is about to appear physically in some churches and some meetings and to many of his people for one reason to tell you he's about to show up.

So let me get this straight. You said God told you to tell us that the homosexual community would be destroyed by fire in the mid 90's and that didn't happen, and that Fidel Castro will die in the 90's and that didn't happen, and that Jesus appeared physically at your meetings and in other places around the world which is a contradiction to Scripture and calls God a liar, and I'm supposed to believe you? Hello! According to God's Word, what should happen to Mr. Hinn? He should be kicked out of the Church! He's a liar and a false teacher and a false prophet!

But he's not the only one. Another false prophet is Pat Robertson. He not only at one time ran for President of the United States, but he even recently falsely prophesied who was going to be the President of the United States. Did he get it right? I don't think so! Check it out for yourself.

Benny Hinn/Pat Robertson: False Election Prophecy

Benny Hinn: I want to ask Pat about the coming election.

Pat Robertson: Mmm Hmm.

Hinn: What's your opinion on Obama, Romney. What happens if Obama wins. What happens if Romney wins and I'm talking about economy plus foreign policy.

Robertson: Well, he's not gonna have a second term. He's gonna win. Romney's going to win.

Hinn: You believe that?

Robertson: I absolutely believe that.

Hinn: What makes you believe that?

Robertson: Because the Lord told me. (Laughs)

Hinn: Well I'm glad to know. I wasn't sure how you knew. Really, the Lord said that to you?

Robertson: Yeah, absolutely. I told Mitt a long time ago. I called him. I said, "Listen I'd been in prayer and number one you're going to win the nomination and number two you're going to win the general election" and he says, "Well what can I do for you?" I said, "Gimme a seat on the platform."

And we wonder why the world laughs and mocks and scoffs at us? Folks, I'm telling you if we want to avoid this embarrassment and hypocrisy, then we need to do what God tells us to do. Kick these false prophets and teachers out of the Church! Why? Because they're making God out to be a liar then the whole time if we would just stick to the Word of God in the Bible that was written over 1,500-years by 40 different authors over 40 generations and never once contradicts itself and **stop trying to seek a so-called "word from God" outside the Word of God** then I'd say we'd have a better witness and we'd be better off!

And people, this is why you can't have it both ways. You can't agree with some of the Bible's teaching and then turn around and deny its

authenticity. Why? Because **the Bible clearly presents itself as the genuine Word of God**. And anything short of this is hypocrisy. And **so it is with the skeptics of the Bible!** They spout off bold claims that the Bible cannot be trusted, that the Bible is full of errors. Yet all the time **it is they** who refuse to look at the evidence. And so I ask you, who's being the real hypocrite here?

And people, this is why, the last thing we'd ever want to do as a Christian, especially in these times when people are seeking the truth, it to treat the Bible like this guy.

Sunday 12:17pm: Man enters apartment after Church services and places Bible on the table.

Monday: Bible still there

Tuesday: Still there

Wednesday: Still there

Thursday: Still there

Friday: Still there

Saturday: Still there

Sunday morning: Man grabs bible where he left it last Sunday to head off for Church services.

Now folks, I don't know about you, but that's got to be the ultimate hypocritical Christians behavior. And it's ironic that it's occurring at a time when people are in a desperate search for truth, that here we are as Christians saying on the one hand, "Oh yeah, the Bible really came from God, and you need to read it, it has all the answers you're looking for and

yet, it's sitting **on our kitchen tables** just like everybody else collecting dust.

People we have got to wake up and realize the golden opportunity God is giving us. Our world is in a frantic search for purpose and direction in life. People are full of questions like, "Why do I exist? Where did I come from? Why is all this evil going on? Is there life after death?" And how sad and ironic it is that this "mysterious" book that everyone's in search of can be found on bookshelves, collecting dust, in virtually every home in America, even in the Church.

But people, be encouraged today. Let's get back on track. Let's not just **say** the Bible came from God, let's **show** the world the Bible really did come from God! Be encouraged today! You don't have to give into the **attacks of the skeptic**. You don't have to give into **doubt**. And you don't have to give into **one bit of criticism**. What we hold in our hands is the genuine Word of God! Let's get busy reading it, studying it, applying it, and sharing it. Amen?

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
