

Miracles & Archaeology
affirm the Inspiration
of the
BIBLE



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Introduction

This study seeks to look at the reasons that persuaded people to accept the writings in the Bible as Scripture that came from God. What persuaded them to accept the word of the prophets, apostles and writers of the books that are contained in the Bible as authoritative and inerrant? Do we have any remaining evidence to support the claims made in the Bible? While we live in a time where people want to re-write history, it cannot be changed since it happened in time and space, even if people distort or “cancel” some of it. It seems that people think that they more accurately know what happened in history, even if it contradicts the records of those times and want to be the arbiters of truth.

Creation

We will start by stating the obvious – we and this universe exist. Since the universe is finite, there has to be an eternal creator. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:19-20 what we already know. The creation itself is evidence of the existence of God.

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

Since God is the only one who was there at creation, He is the one that needs to tell us what happened and when it happened. Since there was a worldwide flood that destroyed everything, there is no pre-flood archaeology that we can access.

The Worldwide Flood

The only people that experienced and survived the worldwide flood were Noah and his immediate family. (8 people in all) They would have been able to pass on the accounts of events prior to the flood and the flood account. There is much evidence of the flood as evidenced by the various scientific disciplinesⁱ. We have evidence that the flood deposited the “geological column” and the fossils contained thereinⁱⁱ. Ministries such as [Answers in Genesis](#), [Associates for Biblical Research](#), [Creation Ministries International](#) have a lot of information on the subject.

It is interesting to note that written records start sometime after the flood. Dating of the earliest records dates to just a few hundred years after the flood which was about [3298 BC](#)ⁱⁱⁱ. ([Comprehensive time line](#)). It is during this time that we find accounts of creation and the flood^{iv,v}. This is also when archaeology reveals the dispersion from Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) as this is the approximate area where Noah and his descendants originally settled. Sargon of Akkad has been [identified](#)^{vi} with Nimrod, a descendant of Ham. Abraham left Ur of the Chaldeans a few years prior to it being overthrown by the Gutians coming from the Zagros mountains. They incorporated a hit and run type of warfare in the area and were already doing this when Abraham was a young man.

Moses and the Exodus

The first books of the Bible were written by Moses during the wilderness wanderings (1446 BC-1406 BC). So, where did Moses get his information and why did he and the people believe that God was speaking to them?

We need to make a bit of a detour first. “Modern” people usually believe that people evolved and became more intelligent over time. This really contradicts the reality though. God made Adam and Eve in His own image and therefore they were likely the smartest people. As DNA copying errors appeared, there would be less capacity to think and perform as compared to the original couple. Aside from this, they also lived much longer, which gave them more time to learn and hone their skills^{vii}. Based on this, we can assert that the ancient people were quite skilled and would not have had any trouble keeping records. Some of the things that are recorded about the first generations in the Bible:

- Cain built a city. Gen 4:17
- Jabal was the father of all that played the lyre and pipe. Gen 4:21
- Tubal-Cain was a forger of bronze and iron. Gen 4:22
- Noah built the ark. The ark was around 450 -500 feet long with 3 decks. Gen 6:14-16
- After the flood, they built a tower (ziggurat). Gen 11:3-4
- When God dispersed these people, they took the skills that they had. We see the remnants of what they built in various places. The pyramids in Egypt are an example. The book “Ancient Man”^{viii} documents many of these.

There are a number of places where Moses, the author of Genesis to Deuteronomy, lists sources that he was using^{ix}.

- *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.* (Gen 5:1)
- *These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.* (Gen 6:9)
- *Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.* (Gen 10:1)
- *Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran became the father of Lot.* (Gen 11:27)

The variance in the construction of the records indicates that they were originally separate accounts that were likely passed down in written form. For example, the account from Adam to Noah gives the age at birth, remaining years and total years. The account from Shem to Terah provides the age at birth and remaining years, but omits the total years lived. (Gen 5 & 11)

Aside from this, we need to remember that God was the primary author of the Scriptures. (2 Ti 3:16, 2 Pe 1:20-21, Jn 14:26, 1 Th 2:13).

Signs for Moses

There are a number of signs that God gave Moses of convince him that it was indeed the creator God that was speaking with him.

"that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." (Exo 4:5)

"If they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign. "But if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground." (Exo 4:8-9)

- The account of the burning bush got the attention of Moses as it was burning, but not being consumed. (Ex 3:2-3)
- Moses heard God calling him. (Ex 3:4-10)
- Moses then has a discussion with God. (Ex 3:11-4:17)
- Moses is given signs
 - Staff becoming a serpent. (Ex 4:2-4)
 - Hand becoming leprous. (Ex 4:6-7)

Signs for the Israelites prior to the Exodus

Moses and Aaron assembled the elders of Israel and spoke to them.

and Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped. (Exo 4:30-31)

Signs to Pharaoh and the Egyptians (witnessed by Israel)

- Aaron's staff becomes a serpent. (Ex 7:10)
- Aaron stretched out the staff over the Nile and the water was turned to blood. (Ex 7:19-21)
- Aaron stretched out his staff over the waters of Egypt and frogs came up on the land. (Ex 8:6)
- Frogs die out after Moses cried out to the Lord. (Ex 8:13)
- Aaron stretched his staff out and gnats were all through the land. (Ex 8:17)
- The plague of flies came only on the Egyptians. (Ex 8:22-24)
- Upon Moses' request, God removed the swarms of flies. (Ex 8:30-31)
- Pestilence on the livestock of the Egyptians but not the Israelites. (Ex 9:6-7)
- Moses threw soot from a kiln toward the sky and it became boils on the Egyptians and their beasts. (Ex 9:10)
- God sends Hail on Egypt but not where the Israelites were. (Ex 9:22-26)
- Moses made supplication to God and the hail stopped. (Ex 9:33)

- Moses stretched out his staff and God brought the locusts. (Ex 10:13-15)
- Moses made supplication to God and the locust were driven out of Egypt. Ex 10:18-19)
- God caused darkness to be on the land of Egypt for three days. Israel was exempted and had light. (Ex 10:21-23)
- God struck all the firstborn of Egypt so that they died. (Ex 12:29-30)

The Plagues would have lasted about two to three months^x. We can see that these events had a profound effect on the Israelites and the Egyptians. These were events that were witnessed by many people all at the same time.

The Exodus

The Exodus is possibly the most significant event that the Israelites experienced. Rahab makes mention of it 40 years later, attesting to the fact that the parting of the sea had become known to the inhabitants of Canaan. (Jos 2:9)

- A pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night accompanied Israel as they journeyed. (Ex 13:21-22)
- God parted the Red Sea (literally the Sea of Reeds). (Ex 14:16-31)
- The bitter water at Marah was made drinkable. (Ex 15:23-25)
- Manna and Quail were provided by God for the Israelites. (Ex 16:13-16)
- The Manna was provided the whole 40 years of the wilderness wanderings. (Ex 16:35)
- Water is provided at Massah and Meribah (by the rock at Horeb) Ex 17:7)
- With the incidence of the golden calf, it can be seen that even though the people had rebelled, they still respected Moses and obeyed him by putting to death 3000 of the people that had rebelled. (Ex 32:25-28)
- Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, were struck down for offering "strange fire".
- When the people complained, the fire of the Lord burned among them. The people cried out to Moses and, after Moses prayed, the fire burned out. (Num 11:1-3)
- Right after this, the people complained about only having Manna. They wanted meat, so God provided quail for them. Because of this, God punished them with a very severe plague. (Num 11:31-34)
- Korah and his associates rose up against Moses and Aaron and wanted to be able to be priests. God judged them by having the ground open up and swallow them and their families. (Num 16:1-35)
- The next day the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron and were assembling against them, God sent a plague against the people. Aaron put incense on the alter to make atonement for the people. 14,700 had died by that time.
- When they went around Edom, the people again spoke against God and Moses. There was a bit of a change here. The people recognized that they had sinned after God sent fiery serpents among them. They asked Moses to intercede with God. God told Moses to make a bronze serpent. Anyone that was bitten was to look to the bronze serpent so that they would not die. (Num 21:4-9) Since this happened near the end of the

wilderness wanderings, it would seem that the people had begun to realize that God spoke to Moses and that Moses could intercede for them.

As we can imagine, all of these miracles would have made quite an impact on the people. Even though they grumbled and complained, they did recognize that God was speaking and acting through Moses. The time that they journeyed through the wilderness was a training time for them.

Some archaeological evidence related to the Exodus and the Israelites wandering.

- An inscription at the Egyptian temple at Soleb mentions “land of the nomads of YHWH”. This dates to about 1400 BC^{xi}. There are other inscriptions as well that refer to the nomads East of Egypt during the 18th dynasty^{xii}. YHWH is the proper Hebrew name for God.
- There is an inscription which mentions Balaam, son of Beor who was a prophet or seer^{xiii}.
- The archaeology books and websites listed in the Bibliography provide more information and discoveries.

This evidence affirms the existence of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness and gives credence to the account of Balaam being hired to curse the Israelites.

Summary of the time of Moses

As the time came for the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham in Genesis 15 to bring his descendants into the land of Canaan after about 400 years in Egypt, God chose Moses to be the person to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. He first had to convince Moses that He was God. This happened at the burning bush that was not consumed. God gave him some signs to give him the confidence that it was indeed God speaking to him and sending him.

When Moses met with the elders of Israel, the signs that God gave Moses to perform, convinced them that it was indeed God that was concerned for them and was going to lead them out. The plagues that God sent on Egypt finally convinced Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. The plagues were also a testimony to Israel that God was taking care of them as the plagues from the flies on did not affect them.

Likely the miracle that most impressed the Israelites was the parting of the Sea of Reeds so that they could cross. It also impressed the people that lived in Canaan when they heard of the parting of the sea and made them afraid. As they journeyed in the wilderness, God provided food and water for them and they learned to obey. The combination of all of these miracles substantiated the words that God spoke to, and through Moses. This gives us the confidence that the Pentateuch is the word of God and that it is inspired, accurate and authoritative.

Joshua

Joshua had led the military operations under Moses. As the time for Moses to die came near, Joshua was appointed as the leader to succeed Moses. In Joshua 1:8, it specifically makes mention of the scroll of the law, indicating that the books of Moses had been written down and considered the Word of God. As we read in the first chapter of Joshua, verses 13-18, the people had learned and recognized that God was working through Moses and that it was God that provided the victory over their enemies.

God begins to exalt Joshua as he had exalted Moses in the sight of the Israelites. (Jos 3:7) God caused the Jordan River to stop flowing so that the Israelites could cross over. This would bring the crossing of the Sea of Reeds under the command of Moses to mind. (Jos 4:23-24) The Israelites crossing the Jordan River on dry ground caused great fear among the people living in the land. (Jos 5:1) The next miraculous event happened at Jericho where the walls fell down flat. Normally, when a city is attacked, the walls fall inward as the battering rams push the wall inward. In the case of Jericho, the walls fell outward, providing a ramp for the Israelites to enter the city and take it^{xiv}. Archaeology affirms that the walls fell outward and that a section of wall remained standing. (The house of Rahab who had sheltered the spies was on the wall). After they had taken Jericho and Ai, there are several references to “the Law of Moses” again indicating that they had accepted the Pentateuch as the Word of God. (Jos 8:31, 32, 34, 35).

An interesting archaeological find is the discovery of two scarabs of Amenhotep III^{xv}. He was Pharaoh from 1408 BC to 1369 BC^{xvi}. Since there were scarabs there of previous Pharaohs, but none after him, he would be the last one that reigned prior to the destruction of Jericho. This confirms the dating of the destruction to the Biblical date of about 1400 BC. Other evidence at Jericho confirms the time of year, that it was a short siege and that the food was not plundered, as there is evidence of much food in the city^{xvii}.

There are other instances during the conquest of Canaan by Joshua where God miraculously intervened. For example, God threw hailstones on the army of the 5 kings of the Amorites (Jos 10:11) and the sun and moon stopped for about a whole day to allow the Israelites more time to fight the Amorites (Jos 10:12-14). There are many other mentions of the LORD providing the victory as they battled the Canaanites.

We can see this by this comment in the book of Joshua that the LORD performing the miracles had a profound impact on the people.

Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the LORD which He had done for Israel. (Jos 24:31)

As we can see, the Israelites had come to the conclusion that their God was the creator and that they needed to follow Him. We can also see that the archaeological evidence supports the Biblical account of the events recorded in the book of Joshua.

Judges to Samuel

The time of the judges was a turbulent time for Israel. After the death of Joshua and the elders that outlived him, they did not fully obey the commands of God. The book of Judges chronicles the cycles of disobedience, oppression, crying out to God and then being rescued by God. During this time, especially towards the beginning, the Israelites were still living a more nomadic type of life as they had been accustomed to in the wilderness for 40 years.

Some archaeological evidence from the period includes:

- The Merneptah Stele has an inscription on it in which the Egyptian Pharaoh Merneptah describes a campaign, part of which states that the “Israel is laid waste and its seed (grain) is not”^{xviii}
- There are a series of “letters” (Amarna letters) to Pharaoh Akhenaten that were discovered in Egypt that are dated to about the time that the Israelites were coming into Canaan. These make mention of a people named as “Habiru” that were taking over^{xix, xx}.
- The destruction of Hazor by Joshua (Jos 11:1-13) and Deborah and Barak (Jdg 4:1-24) is verified by archaeological evidence^{xxi}.
- The destruction of Laish and immediate rebuilding (Jdg 18:7-30) is verified by the excavations of the site^{xxii}
- Eglon, a Moabite king possessed Jericho for a time. (Jdg 3:12-30) A building which appears to be the residence of Eglon has been found^{xxiii}.

There are a few miracles recorded during this time

- Gideon was afraid and wanted to make sure that it was God that was commanding him. He asked for a sign using the fleece. God answered him and the first time the fleece was wet and the ground was dry and the second time the ground was wet and the fleece was dry. (Jdg 6:36-40)
- The angel of the Lord ascended on the flame of the alter. (Jdg 13:20)
- Water comes from the hollow that was split. (Jdg 15:19)
- While there are not any miracles recorded for Samuel, we do read

Thus Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fail. All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. (1Sa 3:19-20)

- There is one event that indicates a couple of things in 1 Sa 7:8-12. The first is that the Israelites acknowledged that God was the one who could save them from the Philistines. The second is that they acknowledged Samuel being able to intercede for them. God answered them and the Philistines were defeated.

The archaeological evidence, while not extensive, again supports the Biblical account for this time period. During this time period, the Israelites were to obey the law as recorded by Moses.

When the Israelites turned away from God, and went after other gods and were oppressed as a result, they finally called out to God, who then raised up a deliverer for them.

Kings

The time of the kings covers the establishment of a cohesive Israelite nation by Saul, David and Solomon. After the death of Solomon (931 BC), the kingdom divides and the Northern tribes are exiled in 723 BC, while the Southern kingdom of Judah is exiled in 586 BC for their disobedience and sin. There is more evidence for this time period as the Israelites were now living in more permanent quarters. It is during this time that Elijah and Elisha perform a number of miracles. During the time of Hezekiah and Isaiah, God strikes down a large number of soldiers of the Assyrian army that was besieging Jerusalem.

There are a number of archaeological finds that corroborate the Biblical text:

- The Stele at Tel Dan has an inscription dating to the 9th century BC that refers to the “house of David”^{xxiv}. This verifies the Biblical account of David the king and the Davidic dynasty.
- The Mesha Stele, dating to the 9th century BC, relates the Moabite victory over Israel under Jehoram. It also mentions king Omri and “house of David”^{xxv}. (2 Ki 3:1-27)
- The Stele of Shalmaneser III from 852 BC contains a reference to “Ahab, the Israelite” and mentions his contributions of soldiers and chariots to the battle^{xxvi}.
- The “seal of Jezebel” from the 9th century BC fits the Biblical account^{xxvii}. (1 Ki 16:31)
- The black “Obelisk of Shalmaneser III” contains a reference to “Jehu of the house of Omri”. An illustrative panel also shows Jehu, king of Israel bowing down to him^{xxviii}. (2Ki 9 & 10)
- The “Bulla of Isaiah” from the 8th century BC seems to have belonged to Isaiah the prophet^{xxix}.
- There is an inscription describing the construction of the water tunnel under the direction of Hezekiah^{xxx}.
- The “Lachish Reliefs) show the siege of Lachish during the time of Hezekiah by Sennacherib of Assyria^{xxxi}.
- The “Sennacherib Prisms” contain information about his campaign against the fortified towns. It also records the tribute paid by Hezekiah to Sennacherib. A really interesting note is that Sennacherib boasts of all the towns he conquered, but just says the “he shut up Hezekiah like a bird in a cage”. As we compare that of the Biblical account, we find out that the Angel of the Lord struck down 185,000 of his soldiers^{xxxii}. (2 Ki 19:35).
- The “Jerusalem Chronicle” of Nebuchadnezzar verifies some of the account that is in the Bible. It mentions the attack on Jerusalem in 597 BC and that he captured the king (Jehoiachin) and installed a king of his choosing (Zedekiah)^{xxxiii}.

While there are other finds that attest to the accounts to the Bible, these suffice for the present time.

There are a number of miracles and military victories attributed to God during this time. A few of them are as follows:

- Jeroboam's hand withered and restored. 1 Ki 13:4-6
- Elijah says that there will be no rain or dew except at his word. 1 Ki 17:1
- Flour and oil do not run out. 1 Ki 17:14-16
- Elijah raises boy from the dead. 1 Ki 17:17-24
- Rain as a result of Elijah's prayer. 1 Ki 18:45
- Fire comes from the Lord and consumes 2 captains of 50 and their men. 2 Ki 1:10-12
- Elijah divides the Jordan. 2 Ki 2:8
- Elisha divides the Jordan. 2 Ki 2:14
- Water provided for armies. 2 Ki 3:15-20
- Elisha raises a boy from the dead. 2 Ki 4:20-36
- Elisha reveals the enemies plans to the king of Israel. 2 Ki 6:8-10
- Enemy army is struck with blindness. 2 Ki 6:18
- David defeats the Philistines in the valley of Rephaim. 2 Sa 5:22-25
- The LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa. 2 Ch 14:8-15

There are numerous references to the Law of Moses in one way or another during this time period. This indicates that, even though there were times of the people and leaders turning away from God, that there was the acknowledgement that the books of Moses were considered authoritative by those that followed God. At the same time, we can see that the people in general were rebellious against God and suffered the consequences. The miracles and military victories provided confirmation of God and His Word.

A few of the Psalms, (78, 105,106) also talk about the miracles that God performed so that they would have confidence in God and not forget God. These Psalms go through the history of Israel and speak of the things that God did. They also recount the rebellion of Israel and the consequences of disobedience. These Psalms really sum up the purpose of the miracles and the reasons to believe God, His Word and to have confidence to trust God.

New Testament

Jesus is a miracle and He also performed many miracles. Here is a selected list:

- Jesus was born of a virgin. Mat 1:18-25, Lk 1:26-38
- Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified. Mat 28:1-10, Mk 16:6, Lk 24:1-7, Jn 20:1-29
- Jesus turns water into wine. Jn 2:6-11
- Great quantity of fish caught miraculously. Lk 5:4-9
- Jesus heals a man that was sick for 38 years at the pool of Bethesda. Jn 5:5-9
- Jesus calms the sea. Mat 8:24-26
- Jesus raises the son of a widow in Nain from the dead. Lk 7:11-15

- Daughter of Synagogue official is raised from the dead by Jesus. Mat 9:18-25
- Jesus feeds 5000. Mat 14:15-21, Mk 6:37-44, Jn 6:10-13
- Jesus walks on the water. Mat 14:25-26, 6:19
- Jesus heals many at Gennesaret. Mat 14:34-36, Mk 6:53-56
- Jesus heals many on a mountain by the sea of Galilee. Mat. 15:29-31
- Jesus feeds the 4000. Mat 15:32-38, Mk 8:1-9
- Lazarus is raised from the dead. Jn 11:14-44
- Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection in the sight of His apostles. Act 1:9-10

Reminiscent of the way that God worked during the time of Moses, Jesus first performs miracles to convince his disciples.

This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. (Jn. 2:11)

Jesus performed many miracles to substantiate His claim to be the Messiah and God.

As we look at John 10:25-38, we see Jesus claiming to be God

- *"I and the Father are one." (Jn. 10:30)*
- *The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God." (Jn. 10:33)*
- *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." (Jn. 10:37-38)*

There are more verses where Jesus claims to be God:

- *But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. (Jn. 5:17-18)*
- *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. (Jn. 8:58-59)* The Jews clearly understood what Jesus was saying. Saying "I am" means "I am God". He was referencing this passage
 - *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exod. 3:14)*
- Jesus' disciples were convinced by His miracles and also performed miracles themselves.
 - Many signs and wonders performed by the apostles. Act 5:12
 - Many were healed by Peter's shadow falling on them. Act 5:15-16
 - Stephen performs great signs and wonders. Act 6:8
 - Philip performs signs and casts out demons in Samaria. Act 8:6-7, Act 8:13

- Peter heals Aeneas at Lydda. Act 9:32-34
- Peter raises Tabitha at Joppa from the dead. Act 9:36-41
- Signs and wonders performed by Paul and Barnabas at Iconium. Act 14:3
- A man is healed at Lystra by Paul. Act 14:8-10
- Paul casts out a fortune telling demon from a slave girl. Act 16:16-18
- God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. Act 19:11-12
- Eutychus raised from the dead at Troas by Paul. Act 20:9-10
- Paul heals the father of Publius at Malta Act 28:8
- Many others were healed by Paul on the island of Malta. Act 28:9
- Paul tells of having performed signs and wonders in the Power of the Spirit. Ro 15:19
- Norm Geisler writes “There is overwhelming evidence that the New Testament is a reliable record composed by contemporaries and eyewitnesses of the events^{xxxiv}”.
- In chapter 6 of “Evidence that demands a verdict” Josh and Sean McDowell go through the many references to Jesus and Christianity in Biblical, Christian and non-Christian sources. From this we can also see that Jesus was real and that Christianity was growing at this point.
- Some notable quotes:
 - Josephus (a Jewish historian working for Rome) in “Antiquities of the Jews” book 18:3:3 writes
 “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, (if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure). He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was (perhaps)[the] Christ. And when Pilate,(at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us,) had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for (they reported) he appeared to them alive again (the third day) as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” (See the discussion on this in Habermas page 192)
 - Tacitus (a Roman historian) in book 15 writes:
 Therefore, to stifle rumour, Nero made scapegoats of, and marked out for most particular punishment, those whom the masses called Christians, and who were loathed for their abominations. Christus, from whom the name derived, had suffered the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by order of the procurator Pontius Pilatus; and the deadly superstition had been temporarily suppressed, only to erupt again not only in Judaea, the home of this evil, but even in Rome, to which all that is dreadful or shameful in the world flows and here is celebrated.

- Pliny the Younger (a Roman official) in a letter to Trajan, a Roman emperor, talks about the Christians. He discusses:
 - Should they be punished just for being Christians
 - Real Christians would not renounce Christ
 - The issue of worshipping the image of the Roman gods and the emperor
 - The Christians met before daybreak; they recited a hymn among themselves to Christ as though he were a god.
 - their oath was to abstain from theft, robbery, adultery, and from breach of faith, and not to deny trust money placed in their keeping
 - For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only through the free cities, but into the villages and the rural districts, and yet it seems to me that it can be checked and set right. It is beyond doubt that the temples, which have been almost deserted,

➤ New Testament Documents

- Norm Geisler and Frank Turek state that there are about “5800 had written Greek manuscripts of the New Testament”. There are “some 20,000 manuscripts in other languages”
- Some of the fragments that we have date to around the beginning of the 2nd century AD, which is extremely close to the time that the originals were written.
- For a more in-depth discussion on the historicity of the New Testament Manuscripts see the section in the “Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics” also “The Historical Jesus” by Gary Habermas.
- There are a number of early church fathers that wrote letters. These letters all attest to Jesus, his teachings and the other historical facts from the New Testament documents. They also show the extent to which Christianity had spread.
 - Clement wrote in the 1st century AD
 - Ignatius (apparently a disciple of the apostle John) was martyred around ~107 AD.
 - Polycarp (likely date around the turn of the 1st century AD and apparently was also a disciple of the apostle John.
 - Justin Martyr was an apologist in the beginning to middle of the 2nd century.
 - Irenaeus wrote works against heresies in the second century AD.
 - Clement of Alexandria – late 2nd and early 3rd century AD.
 - Origen – early 3rd century
- The accurate transmission of the text has been shown by comparing the early copies to each other and our present text. A number of books have been written on the subject. (Some are listed in the Bibliography)

➤ New Testament Archaeology

The evidence of this period confirms the accuracy of the accounts in the New Testament.

- There are several books that provide information on this subject:
 - a. Archaeology, New Testament^{xxxv}
 - b. Evidence for the Bible^{xxxvi}
 - c. Biblical Archaeology^{xxxviixxxviii}
 - d. Unearthing the Bible^{xxxix}
 - e. An article on the "[Historical accuracy of the Book of Acts](#)"^{xl}
- Websites that provide information and videos:
 - a. Associates for Biblical Research^{xli}
 - b. Digging for Truth episodes^{xlii}
 - c. Epic Archaeology^{xliii}

Conclusion

As we can see, God performs miracles to substantiate and validate His Word. While God performed miracles throughout history, there are three major events that really stand out. The first is the world-wide flood at the time of Noah. God warned Noah about the upcoming judgement of the world. Noah believed God and obeyed by building the ark.

The second major time is the Exodus from Egypt and the giving of the law at Mount Sinai. Since this is when God revealed the history of the universe and the lineage from Adam to the Israelite people, He performed great miracles to validate His Word. The miracles also validated Moses and Joshua as people that heard God and that proclaimed His Word. God proclaimed his will and regulations. He also stated the consequences of obedience and disobedience. God would abundantly bless them if they worshipped Him and treated other people with love and respect. If they disobeyed, there would be severe consequences including being sent into exile and serving others. A good summary is found in Deuteronomy chapters 27 and 28.

The third major time is that of Jesus' ministry and the ministry of the early church. The establishment of the "New Covenant" (Jer 31:31, Luk 22:22, 1 Co 11:25, 2 Co 3:6, Heb 8:8, 8:13, Heb 9:15, Heb 12:24) required miracles to validate the replacement of the Sinai covenant. Jesus and the His followers performed many miracles to establish that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah, that he died and rose again.

We see that God proclaims His Word and verifies it with miracles. We can also see that He does not continuously repeat His requirements and perform miracles to substantiate it again. We do see that He has sent prophets to call His people back to Him and these at times did perform miracles to validate the Word of God that they were proclaiming to the people. Written records by those contemporary with the events provide the most accurate account of the past, especially when substantiated by the archaeological evidence.

The record of the miracles and archaeology substantiate the Biblical account of History and God's Word, character, love and requirements. All this gives us the confidence to believe that the Scriptures are the true Word of God and the assurance of salvation.

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[Associates for Biblical Research](#)

[Answers in Genesis](#)

[Is Genesis History](#)

Endnotes

- ⁱ (Snelling 2009)
- ⁱⁱ (Snelling 2009)
- ⁱⁱⁱ (Smith 2018)
- ^{iv} (Anderson and Edwards 2018)2-3
- ^v [_\(Hodge 2020\)](#)
- ^{vi} [_\(Petrovich, Douglas Petrovich 2013\)](#)
- ^{vii} (Landis 2012)
- ^{viii} (Landis 2012)
- ^{ix} (Kaiser 2001)58
- ^x (Steinmann 2011)83
- ^{xi} (Kennedy 2020)60-61
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- ^{xiii} (Kennedy 2020)64-65
- ^{xiv} [_\(Wood, Walls of Jericho 2008\)](#)
- ^{xv} (Kennedy 2020)68-69
- ^{xvi} [_\(Petrovich, Chronology of Egyptian Dynasties 12, 18, 19 & 20 n.d.\)](#)
- ^{xvii} [_\(Wood, Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho? A New Look at the Archaeological Evidence 2008\)](#)
- ^{xviii} (Kennedy 2020)74-75
- ^{xix} (Anderson and Edwards 2018)28-29
- ^{xx} (Kennedy 2020)70-71
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- ^{xxiv} (Kennedy 2020)98-99
- ^{xxv} (Kennedy 2020)112-113
- ^{xxvi} (Kennedy 2020)116-117
- ^{xxvii} (Kennedy 2020)118-119
- ^{xxviii} (Kennedy 2020)122-123
- ^{xxix} (Kennedy 2020)130-131
- ^{xxx} (Kennedy 2020)134-135
- ^{xxxi} (Kennedy 2020)136-137
- ^{xxxii} (Kennedy 2020)138-139
- ^{xxxiii} (Kennedy 2020)152-153
- ^{xxxiv} (Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics 1999)381.
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- ^{xxxix} (Kennedy 2020)
- ^{xl} [_\(McGrew 2015\)](#)
- ^{xli} [\(Associates for Biblical Research n.d.\)](#)
- ^{xlii} [WBPH Digging for Truth Episodes](#)
- ^{xliii} [Epic Archaeology](#)