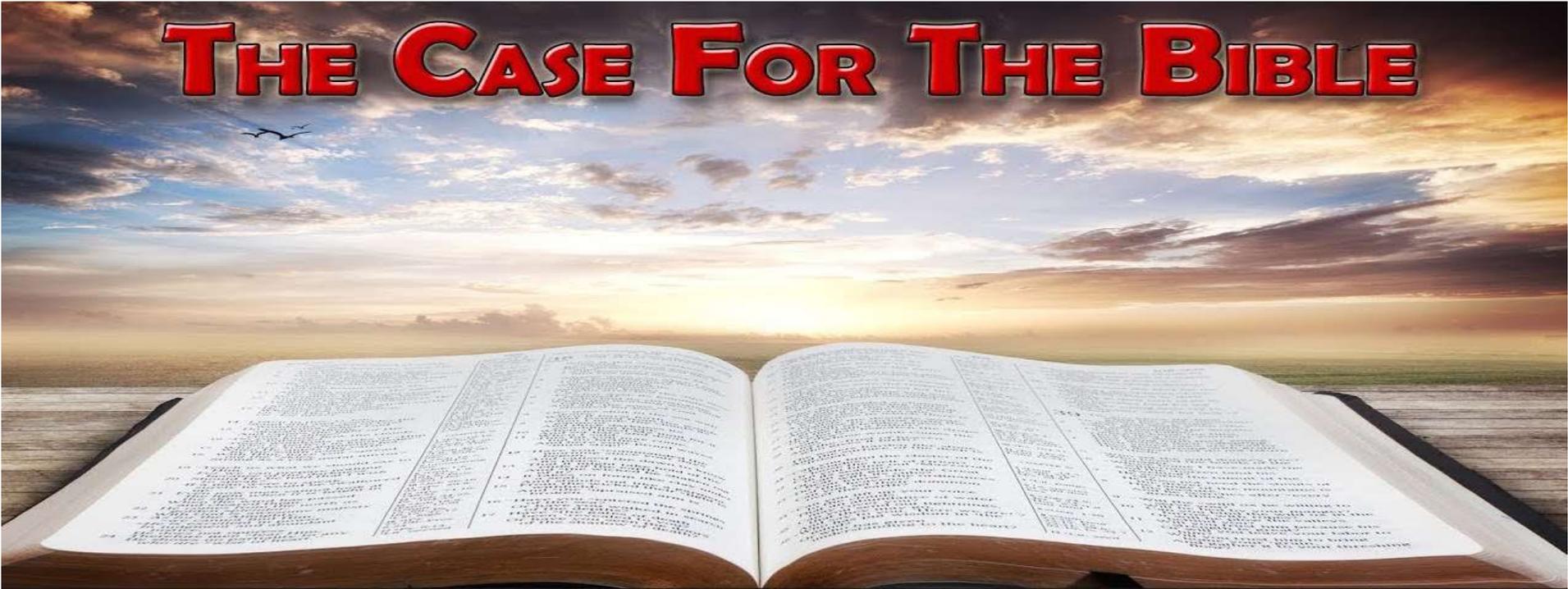


THE CASE FOR THE BIBLE



“Present Your Case...”

Implications of Inspiration (4)

2nd Timothy 3:10-17

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Inspiration Equips
for All Right Action

**Remember God's Case
for Inspiration**

Isaiah 41:21-24

²¹ “Present your case,” says the LORD. “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob. ²² “Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. ²³ Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; yes, do good or do evil, that we may be dismayed and see it together. ²⁴ Indeed you are nothing, and your work is nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.”

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“Things to Come”: Predictive Prophecy

Fulfilled Prophecy

Predictive Prophecy as Evidence of Inspiration

- **Principle of Prophetic Evidence Stated:**
 - ◆ *Isa. 42:5-9* God's place evidenced by prophecy
 - ◆ *Isa. 44:6-8* No other God; none can tell future
 - ◆ *Isa. 45:1f* Cyrus called by name to deliver Israel
 - ◆ *Isa. 46:8-11* Declaring the end from beginning
 - ◆ *Isa. 48:5* "Before it came to pass, I proclaimed..."
 - ◆ Many examples of fulfilled prophecy in nations
- **Messianic Prophecy Is Also Given as Evidence:**
 - ◆ *1 Pet. 1:10-12* Suffering of Christ was foretold
 - ◆ *Rom. 1:1-4* Christ's birth to resurrection foretold
 - ◆ *Lk. 24:25-27, 44-47* In law, prophets & psalms

Prophets of O.T. Times



Prophet

Zechariah	520-518 B.C.
Ezekiel	592-570 B.C.
Isaiah	783-704 B.C.
David	1000 B.C.
Moses	1500 B.C.

**Hundreds of
Years in Future**

Prophecies about the Nations

Babylon

Tyre

Messianic Prophecies

Messianic Prophecy

- About 332 prophecies in O.T. about the Messiah
- Peter Stoner listed 8 & calculated chance fulfillment
 - ◆ **Micah 5:2** Born at Bethlehem Ephrathah (Judah)
 - ◆ **Isaiah 40:3 & Malachi 3:1** Preceded by a messenger
 - ◆ **Zechariah 9:9** Entered Jerusalem on a donkey
 - ◆ **Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14; 22:16** Betrayed by friend for death
 - ◆ **Zechariah 11:12** Sold for thirty pieces of silver
 - ◆ **Zechariah 11:13** Money returned to temple & given as price for potter's field
 - ◆ **Isaiah 53:7** Silent before His accusers
 - ◆ **Zechariah 12:10 (Psa. 22:16) & Isaiah 53:12** Killed by crucifixion with thieves

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 - ◆ That is one chance in 100,000,000,000,000,000

100,000,
000,000,
000,000

TO 1



That many silver dollars would
fill the entire area of the state
(268,597 sq. mi.) to depth of 2 ft.

The odds of one man fulfilling the eight prophecies is 100,000,000,000,000,000

Comparing The Odds

- Odds of being struck by Lightning 1 in 700,000
- Odds of becoming a Movie Star 1 in 1,505,000.
- Odds of being Drafted by the NBA 1 in 6,864,000
- Odds of being President of the USA is 1 in 10,000,000
- Odds of being attacked by a shark 1 in 11,500,000
- Odds of winning the Powerball 1 in 175,000,000

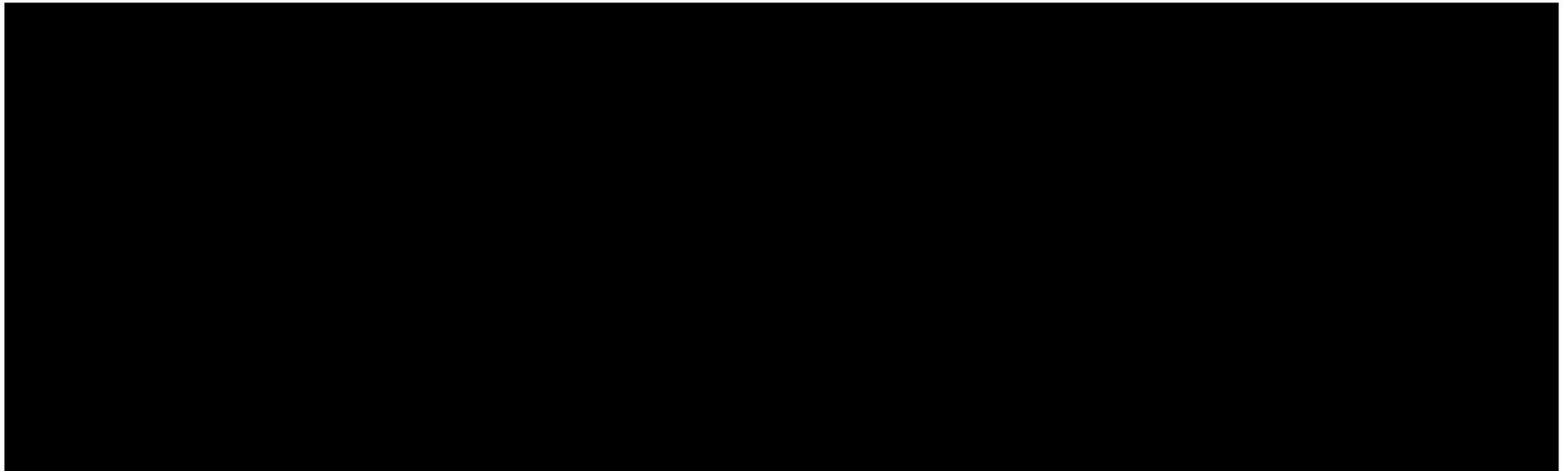
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 - ◆ “Suppose we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state 2 feet deep. Now mark one of the silver dollars red and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one?
(*Science Speaks*, Chicago, 1963, pp 106,107).
- **If 48 prophecies, what are chances of fulfillment?**

**The Probability of 48 Messianic Prophecies
Being Fulfilled In Any One Man?**

1 In 10^{157}

1 with 157 0's After It



That is:

10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
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000,000,000,000,000,000

*...Or one chance in that number the prophecies
are of man & not of God!*

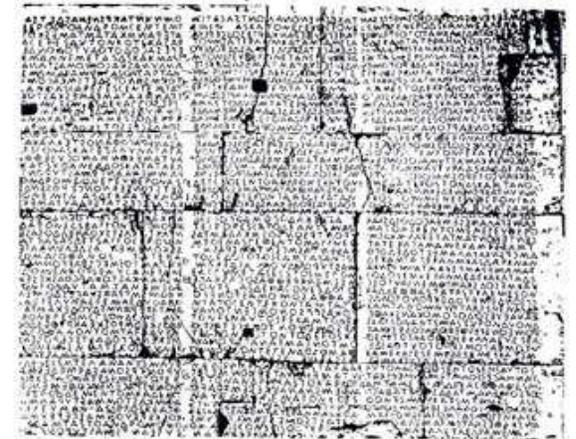
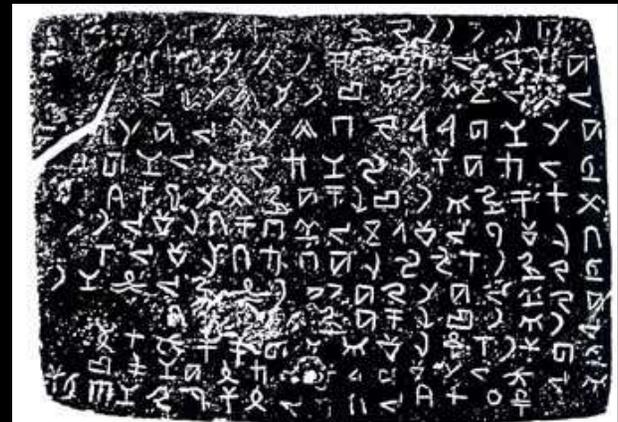
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“Former Things”: Historical Accuracy

Verified Historical Accuracy

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 - ◆ Until late 1880's, skeptics denied existence of it
 - ◆ Now, get doctorate degree in Hittite civilization



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 - ◆ Inscription with his name & title found in Caesarea, 1961

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 - ◆ Inscription of name & title found in Caesarea, 1961
- Luke records census at Jesus birth (Lk. 2:1-3)
 - ◆ Egyptian & Syrian documents confirm details
 - ◆ Edict given for imperial census (in 4 BC & 7 BC)
 - ◆ All had to return to ancestral home
 - ◆ Quirinius (Cyrenius) was governor

God Has Presented His Case

- **It Is Totally Irrefutable!**
 - Bible shows perfect record of predictive prophecy regarding the nations & messianic prophecies
 - Such a record is impossible for mere men
 - Bible shows perfect record of historical accuracy
 - Such a record has endured despite repeated efforts of skeptics to prove it wrong numerous times
 - Evidence demands conclusion that Scripture is the product of divine inspiration
- Thus, God Exists & Scripture Is Inspired by God
- **But How Did We Reach This Conclusion?**

How Do We Know Bible Is Inspired by God?

- We Read & Consider His Case Made in Bible
- Conclude the Evidence Demands the Acceptance of God's Existence & Divine Inspiration of Bible
- Remember Who Presented the Case – **God Did**
- To Say We Cannot Understand the Bible Alike Is to Undermine the Case for God's Existence
- To Say We Cannot Understand the Bible Alike Is to Undermine the Case for Inspiration of Bible
- Denying We Can Understand Bible Is **Blasphemy**

**Why Would God Give Us
Evidence That He
Inspired What We
Cannot Understand?**

**How Could We Understand
That Evidence???**

We Can Read & Understand Scripture

- Claims of Scripture – Can & Must Be Understood
 - *Psa. 119:130* Simplicity of Scripture affirmed (*Isa. 35:8*)
 - *1 Jn. 1:1-4* Written truth brings fellowship (God & man)
 - *1 Jn. 2:1-8* Enables obedience & assures we know Him
 - *Matt. 7:24-29* People understood & astonish at His word
 - *Matt. 19:3-10* Understood words on marriage
 - *Matt. 21:41-45* Even enemies got point of Jesus' words
 - *Matt. 22:29-33* Sadducees rebuked for not knowing word
 - *2 Pet. 1:2-4* Provides all thing for life & godliness
 - *2 Cor. 11:3* Devil deceives those who reject simplicity
 - *Eph. 3:3-7* God revealed → We read → May understand
 - *Eph. 5:17* Do not be foolish but understand what will is

The Choice Is Yours

- You Can Understand & Obey God's Will

-- or --

- You Can Understand & Disobey His Will

BUT

- You Cannot Rightly Conclude God's Will
Is Impossible to Accurately Understand