

Volume 2,
Basic, Objective Reasons To Believe In
God, the Bible, and Jesus



“Merely having an open mind is nothing; the object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.”

- G.K. Chesterson

By Joshua Stucki (Bibliography at end)

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INTRODUCTION

This volume is a continuation of the original “Basic, Objective Reasons to Believe in God, the Bible, and Jesus”, available free on www.callaochristianchurch.org or in print by request.

The first volume concentrated on the *believability* of God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ. The logic, math, and sheer biographical evidence support the existence and truth of Scripture’s testimony.

A brief discussion on the purpose and proper use of apologetics was also overviewed. It is important to remember that apologetics are not the primary or most effective tool for evangelism; concern and witness to one’s fellow man will go much further.

Key Fact:

“It is important to remember that apologetics are not the primary or most effective tool for evangelism; concern and witness to one’s fellow man will go much further.”

The purpose of apologetics mainly lies in strengthening the believer, being able to answer skeptics competently (1 Peter 3:15), and providing objectivity to this controversial field. Many times standards applied to the Bible are not applied to other accepted facts about history and literature, although the latter is accepted without question. When the same standards are applied, the Bible has an enormous lead in all categories.

This second volume will concentrate on accepted facts in history and science that back the Bible. The Bible is what gives us information (i.e. God’s revelation) on all of the above, and its authenticity gives us the without-a-doubt confidence for believing, living, and sharing the Gospel.

HISTORY AND IRREFUTABLE FULFILLED PROPHECY

When people think of prophecy, the media has managed to fill people’s minds of images of old men in long robes spouting out vague word puzzles that could be interpreted however it ends up suiting the situation. In the recent film, *The Lego™ Movie©*, one of main characters, voiced by Morgan Freeman, is just that, and later in the movie, the character admits “he made it all up.” This is modern society’s general feeling about prophecy today.

In many ways, it is not hard to sympathize with society for their attitude. How many so-called preachers and “prophets” on television and radio and in print have “predicted” the return of Jesus, to inevitable failure? Or how many “prophets” have predicted things like 9/11/2011, but interestingly only did so after the horrible event occurred?

This author will say confidently that absolutely no one **today** can reliably tell the future. There are no “prophets” in the strict sense of having the gift of foretelling by God’s authority any longer. The reasons for this are numerous, but are outside the context of our study here.

So, can we show prophecy in the Bible to be specific, backed by accepted history, and not merely coincidental?

Comparing “Prophecies” and their Prophets	
Believable Prophecy	Unbelievable Prophecy
Specific	Vague
Backed by accepted history	None or contradictory history
Cannot be mathematically explained to be coincidental	Easily proven to be coincidental
Prophet who gave it proven right	Prophet who gave it proven false

Let us begin with a fantastic example from ancient history:

Nineveh was destroyed around 612BC. This is not debated. A conglomeration of armies including Medo-Persians, Babylonians, Scythians, Chaldeans, and Cimmerians laid siege to Nineveh and saw to its destruction in 612BC.

To this day, the ruins of Nineveh lie across the Tigris River from the modern day city of Mosul, Iraq. It has never been rebuilt since its destruction.

Everyone is familiar with the story of Jonah and the big fish that swallowed him up. The reason why Jonah was in the big fish to begin with was because he did not want to obey God who told him to go to preach to the Ninevites (Jonah 1:1-3). So God had him swallowed up by a big fish in order to be convinced otherwise (Jonah 1:17). God was concerned for the Ninevites, and did not want them to perish (Jonah 4:11). However, Jonah did want them to perish! (Jonah 4:1-3)

Nineveh did repent and their city was spared (Jonah 3:6-10). For about 150 years, Nineveh was spared judgment. However, they turned wicked again (Nahum 1:1, 1:14, etc.) and their destruction this time would be inevitable, final, and permanent (Nahum 1:8, 1:10, 3:12, 3:13, 3:19).

Nineveh's Historical Birth, History, Destruction are in the Bible		
Birth	History	Destruction
Genesis 10:8-12	Jonah, Nahum, 2 Kings among other Bible books	Nahum 3:8ff
History agrees: Nineveh's birth was near Babylon's, it experienced its history throughout the time periods of the Bible, and saw its permanent		

end in the late 7th century BC at the hands of many nations.

Nahum was a prophet in the middle to late 7th century BC. He discusses the destruction of Thebes (Nahum 3:8) that occurred by the hands of the Assyrians (ironically, whose capital was Nineveh) in 667BC, in order to put into perspective the wrath they would now face for their impenitence (the destroyer would be now be destroyed).

Nahum predicts the following about Nineveh's destruction:

- 1) God will make an "end" to Nineveh (Nahum 1:8).
- 2) Nineveh will be "consumed like dry stubble" (Nahum 1:10).
- 3) Nineveh's "fortresses" will "fall into the mouth of the eater" (Nahum 3:12).
- 4) Nineveh's "troops" and "gates" will fall (Nahum 3:13).
- 5) Nineveh's ruin will be "fatal"; "nothing can heal" them; and basically nobody will miss them (Nahum 3:19).

These are specific prophecies, no doubt. Now, were they fulfilled as Nahum, God's prophet, said?

- 1) Nineveh indeed was destroyed (612BC).
- 2) Nineveh's ruins lie in a desert to this day.
- 3) None of Nineveh's fortresses survived as ruins; they were all destroyed.
- 4) None of Nineveh's gates (even in the ruins) or descendants has survived.

5) Nineveh has never been rebuilt; it presently sits in ruins across the modern-day city of Mosul, Iraq. Saddam Hussein's attempt to rebuild it in defiance of Biblical prophecy ended in 2003 with his rule.

Interesting Fact:

Saddam Hussein tried to rebuild Nineveh from 2000 to 2003. He was overthrown in 2003. Nineveh still lies in ruins, just as the Bible says.

So, just from one relatively-unknown Jewish, Biblical prophet – Nahum - there are five specific predictions about one specific place verified by history with no contradictions or lack of evidence. And Nahum has at least ten prophecies to go!

These prophecies were not vague, cannot be reinterpreted for another place or event or time, and *are still true to this day.* A rejection of these prophecies by Nahum is rejecting accepted history.

Now some will say Nahum simply wrote after Nineveh's destruction, nullifying these were predictions to begin with. Let us take a step back and see if this claim has any merit:

The most pertinent question is what does Nahum describe that affirms he was prophesying before the destruction of Nineveh?

1) In chapter, verse 14 of his book, Nahum describes “the house of your gods” (obviously, the pagan temple in Nineveh) having Nineveh's King's name inscribed with carved and molded images in his honor present in the temple. Nahum predicts their specific destruction. King Sennacherib had such a temple with images and inscriptions to his honor present in his temple. Nahum is aware of these idols and their specific inscriptions, something he would not have known unless he had been there before they were utterly (and permanently) destroyed.

2) Nahum also describes details of the invading nations in Nahum 2:3+4: their shields are “red”, the warrior’s clothes are “scarlet”, they have “chariots”, and “spears of juniper”. Again, these specific prophecies describe the invading armies (remember, there were multiple) who destroyed Nineveh. These details would have been lost to history unless Nahum and other contemporary authors would have recorded and verified one another’s accounts.

3) Nahum predicts the sacking of Assyria’s great treasury in Nahum 2:9+10a. Assyria was hated by many nations because they would regularly invade other city-states, nations, villages, and towns and take their various valuable items including gold, silver, and precious jewels. Nahum, being a contemporary of Nineveh, is well aware of Nineveh’s great wealth and how it would be taken away from them in their destruction. King Ashurbanipal in his journals describes how he plundered Nineveh’s great treasury just as Nahum had predicted.

4) Nineveh, like Babylon, often used lion’s dens as a means of execution of its political enemies and local criminals. Nahum predicts their unique destruction in Nahum 2:11-13. Nahum’s recording of these and other specific facts about Nineveh continue to place him there before its destruction, not after.

5) Nineveh was laid siege by the various armies and nations described above, but that did not finish them. They put up a final, horribly-bloody battle that archeological ruins have proven taken place. Nahum predicts the bloody battle in Nahum 3:1-3. Many liberal commentators believed Nahum was wrong in his account of a bloody battle until the 1989-1990 University of Berkeley in California expeditions at the Halzi Gate produced sixteen slain corpses at the city gates. Obviously, these corpses

were part of this bloody battle uniquely foresaw by Nahum. This previous criticism has disappeared since this discovery.

6) Nahum specifically taunts the Ninevites for believing their extra-thick walls and fortifications would protect them from an invading army (Nahum 3:8-11). Archeological digs have repeatedly found depictions of Nineveh's great walls and fortifications, greater than what was typical for the era or of their contemporaries. These great walls and fortifications kept invading armies away repeatedly until Nahum predicted their destruction and God followed through with overwhelming, united armies from opposing nation-states to deal with Nineveh once and for all.

Interesting Fact:
The little known Bible book of Nahum has at least fifteen specific prophecies about the destruction of Nineveh confirmed by history.

The evidence keeps going, but for the purposes of our study, it can be shown that from Nahum was a contemporary of Nineveh, and did not write after its destruction. The evidence also shows Nahum's predictions were anything but vague – they were specific, describing even the color of shields and clothing of the invading armies, to the various wealth and fortifications of Nineveh, to specific inscriptions and idols inside of its pagan temple.

Nahum has at least fifteen (11 described here), specific, verified-by-history correct predictions about Nineveh's destruction. One or two might be explained away by coincidence, but not fifteen. It takes far more faith to reject the evidence and assume Nahum was in error when

history and his specific descriptions and predictions are all accounted for, without error.

What other specific, verified-by-history prophecies are there in the Bible?

Daniel, in chapter 2 of the book named after him, describes and interprets world history as it unfolded for several hundred years before Christ came. His book makes reference to Babylon, its kings (including Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar), and other facts about his life there that help us understand Daniel was definitely a contemporary of those kings and that time period. This makes his predictions about world history after this point even more fascinating:

- 1) In Daniel 2:1-49 (the whole chapter), there is the story of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams. They troubled him, and so he sought counsel. However, his demands were unreasonable: not only did he demand that a wise man interpret the dream, but tell him the dream also. Naturally, none of his wise men could do this (who can read minds, even to this day?), but Nebuchadnezzar threatened them with death anyway (Daniel 2:5-6). Daniel alone, with God's help, was able to do so (Daniel 2:14-28).
- 2) Daniel tells the king his dream: a statue with a gold head, silver chest, bronze grieves, and feet made of iron and clay (Daniel 2:31-35). The king verified this was the dream, to his amazement (Daniel 2:46-49).
- 3) Daniel not only told the dream, but also its interpretation (Daniel 2:36-45). Four nations are represented: Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom) was the head of gold (Daniel 2:38). The next nation, one inferior to Babylon, would rise next (Daniel 2:39a). Indeed, the Medo-Persian Empire followed, but never had the greatness Babylon enjoyed (either in historical progeny or wealth). The nation following Babylon and Medo-Persia was the Greeks (Daniel 2:39b) who indeed did rule

over the whole earth. Finally, the feet of iron and clay (Daniel 2:40-43) was the fourth nation, Rome, who was the last nation to rule so widely as the Greeks did. The last Kingdom that Daniel speaks of was one that would never end, the Kingdom of God. As Old Testament unfolds into the New, we learn this Kingdom is of Jesus, and it has endured for all time everywhere it is present (Daniel 2:44-45, Matthew 16:18).

Historical and Biblical Fact:
Daniel served five kings over two different kingdoms. His prophecies from one king to the next came true just as history tells.

Daniel's book describes his work in Babylon and Medo-Persia, serving five kings, and makes numerous other predictions that have all held true over time. His predictions in chapter 2 are the most well-known and verified by history.

Some will attempt to say that Daniel wrote later than his time in Babylon and thus simply wrote from what happened in history before him. Daniel's description of his own captivity, serving Babylon and the nations that followed it over 5 kingships, and the fact that no one denies he wrote before the time of Christ shows that this is a partial-argument at best. Even if Daniel did write in Roman times (although there is no substantiation for this other than the bias for many scholars against prophets), his prediction of Jesus' Kingdom, success and longevity in Daniel 2:44-45 cannot be denied, nor his description of Jesus' ascension hundreds of years before it happened (Daniel 7:13-14).

A Common Accusation and its Logical End:
The Bible's prophecies are so accurate that a common rebuttal by liberal scholars is that the authors had to have written after the fact in order to have so many specific, clear details right about the events they

“predicted.” All their statement shows is that they recognize the Bible’s prophecies as accurate; they are merely debating the date written! And they debate these debates with no more evidence than a **presupposition** against foretelling by the historical, Biblical prophets of the time.

Daniel also predicts the nature of Jesus’ ministry perfectly in Daniel 9:24-27. Again, no one denies that Daniel wrote at least 100 years before Jesus came; many say several hundred years before. Daniel predicts the beginning of Jesus’ ministry (Daniel 9:25), Jesus’ death (Daniel 9:26a), the destruction of those who killed Jesus (Daniel 9:26b), including Antiochus’ Ephiphanes historical abominable sacrifice offered in the Jewish temple (Daniel 9:27).

Some will say this is all coincidence; let us examine this possibility:

1) Daniel’s predictions about the four world nations before the time of Christ all came true. Nobody denies the history.

2) Daniel repeats the prediction with different language in chapter 7 with new specific facts about each. Are both sets of predictions with specific detail coincidence?

3) What Kingdom could describe the Kingdom after the one of iron and clay (Rome)? The only self-described “kingdom” after Rome that has never ceased is the church of Christ with Jesus as the Head (Colossians 1:18).

4) Daniel’s predictions, including the math, of Jesus’ ministry, death, and destruction of the Jews both before and after Christ is unparalleled.

5) Daniel even predicts Jesus’ ascension in Daniel 7:13-14 at least a 100 years before it happened (by the most generous liberal possibility).

Likely, Daniel predicted Jesus' ascension several hundred years before it happened.

Important Facts to Remember:

The lack of evidence for anything does not disprove it. **Hundreds** of archaeological and historical finds match the Bible. The events or people we do not have proof for we can have reasonable faith in because of what we do know of history, it matches the Bible's account of it.

Much of "history" as it is commonly accepted has **little proof**. When the Bible's bibliographic and archaeological evidence are compared with virtually any other literary work or event in history, nothing comes close.

The Biblical prophets, over and over again, are not vague or able to be interpreted many different ways. They are specific, historically accurate and verifiable, only able to be interpreted one way (because of their specificity), and thus believable.

Some skeptics will try to show the Bible has unfulfilled, unproven, or inaccurate prophecy. At the popular website, RationalWiki.org, they try to offer examples they believe to show the Bible to be inaccurate in the area of prophecy:

1) They quote Ezekiel 26:7-14 as saying Nebuchadnezzar would destroy the city of Tyre but it was not destroyed – instead – a prolonged siege resulted in Tyre finally compromising with Babylon. This is easily explained:

1a) God many times made threats to nations if they would not repent and described their potential destruction by his chosen "tool" (here, Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar) to do so. Indeed, Babylon *did* invade Tyre, just as Ezekiel predicted. They did great damage, as Ezekiel predicted. This is also predicted in Isaiah 23:1-18 in even more detail. Ezekiel, in his own book, in chapter 29, verse 18, describes the siege

(You would think that if Ezekiel was wrong in one chapter, but was right two chapters later in his own book, he would have noticed!).

1b) Instead, we understand from history also that there were two Tyres (New and Old Tyre, about half a mile apart). New Tyre was on an island, and Old Tyre was on the mainland. Ironically, the name “Old Tyre” was attached to the younger of the two cities, because the Greeks became aware of one before the other
 (<http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=1790>)

1c) Nebuchadnezzar *did* take Old Tyre, but it was New Tyre that made the compromise. This fulfills Ezekiel’s prediction of Tyre’s (Old Tyre, specifically) destruction in Ezekiel 26:7-14 true, his prediction of its siege in Ezekiel 29:18 true, as well as matching history’s account of the attack, the siege, and the compromise New Tyre made with Babylon.

Christians should never be afraid of good research.
The Bible has not been disproven in 2000+ years. There is no reason to believe that is going to change anytime soon.

In conclusion, there are no contradictions here. However, rationalwiki.org among others immediately assumes and pursues any avenue of “wrongness” they can find in the Scriptures, ignoring the parts of history and prophecy that do not suit their case.

Another prophecy typically maligned but again – proves its point – is Ezekiel 29:8-12. Ezekiel makes comments like “Egypt would be made desolate” and neither “man or beast” would walk through it for forty years. Many liberal scholars say there has never been a time where Egypt was “laid desolate” or when “man or beast” did not walk through it.

Yet, it is recognized by history that Babylon overthrew Egypt in the battle of Carchemish in 605BC. Its reign over Egypt was about 40 years, until being routed by Cyrus of the Medo-Persians. Egypt's power over itself was indeed desolate (an isolated event in history for sure) and neither did any man or beast of Egypt walk free in the land during that period of time.

The liberal scholar often “forces” one interpretation to say it is false when there is a perfectly-good historical example that fits the prophecy without any need for creative thinking at all.

The list could go on for a very long time (there are over 360+ prophecies in the Bible that have been written on and demonstrated in history), but truly, the reader is encouraged never to assume that “historians” today are not constantly re-writing history. **History has happened, once, in one way, and the Bible constantly reflects that objective view.** Christians should have absolutely no fear of good research; if after 2000+ years the Bible is still being shown correct, there is no reason to believe that is going to change. It takes far more faith to try to find bad interpretations or ignore plain history than to see the plain history the Bible has predicted over and over again. In fact, today there is more proof than ever. There are just more enemies of that truth than ever as well.

SCIENCE, IN THE BIBLE

Many well-meaning, but misinformed, people today will say things like, “The Bible is not a science book. We should not expect to find scientific truth in it.” However, the truly ironic thing is there is lots of scientific truth in the Bible! In fact, the amount of science in the Bible that took hundreds or even thousands of years to discover is staggering:

1) Isaiah 40:22 talks about the circle of the earth. Well before science knew the world was round, Isaiah said so in the 8th century BC. The earliest evidence for a round-earth hypothesis from a non-Biblical source was Pythagoras in the 6th century BC, although it was not until Aristotle in the 4th century BC that the world started to truly adopt this line of thought.

2) Ecclesiastes 1:7 and Job 36:27-28 discuss the cycle of evaporation, clouds forming, and rain falling, completing the water cycle. Job wrote around 1500BC (no later than Moses, as he was a patriarch before the giving of the Mosaic Law), and Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes around the 10th century BC. Homer, the Greek poet, surmised parts about the water cycle in the 8th century BC, but it was Anaxagoras of Clazomenae in 460BC who brought it to the “scientific world” of ancient Greece. The Bible was 500-1000 years ahead!

3) Genesis 1:9 says that the earth was one land mass originally and the sea was one as well in the beginning. No scientist disagrees today that at one point the earth was one and the sea was one. The Bible simply said it in the beginning.

4) Psalms 8:8 discusses currents in the seas and other bodies of water. Matthew Fontaine Maury read this verse and decided to “find” these paths or currents in the sea. His work on physical oceanography is still highly regarded to this day.

5) Job 26:7 says that the earth hangs on nothing. Ancient Greek myth and others said the world rested on the shoulders of a god, or the back of a turtle, or something else. Only the Bible knew that the earth hung in space without a physical object holding it up. It would not be until

Galileo and Newton nearly 2500 years later that “science” would catch up with the Bible!

6) Acts 17:26 says all the nations of the earth are of one blood. Science agrees; they say all life on the earth goes back to a common ancestor.

7) When Noah built the ark in Genesis 6:15, its proportions are still used in boat-building today.

8) Genesis 10:25 says the original one land mass on earth eventually divided up and moved apart. Science agrees and calls this “plate tectonics.”

9) Leviticus 17:14 says that life is in the blood. As one of the earliest books in the Bible, it declares a fact whereby our blood banks and hospitals obviously verify. Yet, that same verse warns against eating blood; indeed, blood of the right type is for the veins, but eating blood carries many health risks. This is one of many reasons why we cook meat today.

10) Leviticus 13:45 says we should cover our mouths to prevent infection. It would not be until the 1850’s when the beginnings of germ theory would be accepted by “science”. This was over 3000 years after Leviticus was written.

11) Leviticus 13 and 14 go into much detail about quarantining the sick. Understandings of contagious diseases in science would not occur for thousands of years after the Law of Moses was completed and yet the Bible was right.

12) Deuteronomy 23:12 discusses, of all things, covering ones waste. Waste is a good fertilizer but can also spread disease. The Bible knew this from the beginning. Contrast this with many ancient cultures that

practiced packing open sores and ulcers with human feces and drinking urine. Where ancient, pagan culture was wrong, the Bible was right, and science caught up with the Bible in this area only in time.

13) 1 Corinthians 15:39 discuss how the flesh of different animals varies. Indeed, fish do not have the same kind of flesh as cattle, nor do cattle have the same flesh as men. All are unique and have their unique properties.

Important Fact:
The Bible “discovered” a circular earth, currents in the seas, the nature of blood, gravity with relation to the earth, etc. thousands of years before “science” did. Men are arrogant to assume “they” did!

Some scholars dispute that Moses could have written the Law because writing was not yet invented. Yet various flood stories around the world (that sometimes match the Biblical account more than others) have alphabetic writing, records of reading, literacy training, etc. before their local flood story was composed. This indicates that too in Egypt Moses would have learned reading and writing and of course, today it is well known the great literature of Egyptian hieroglyphics and other script.

The Bible even says a couple of things about the science of ethnology, or the origin of man’s races: Genesis 3:20 says that a common woman’s ancestry explains all of humanity. Indeed, science agrees (thousands of years later). Genesis 9+10 records the origins of all the races of the earth through Noah’s sons – Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The prophecies given are still truth to this day – Shem’s descendants are in the Middle East (with the Arabs being the longest-surviving direct descendants), Ham’s descendants still largely subsist in Africa, and

Japheth's descendants spread about as "maritime" peoples (Genesis 10:5) into the rest of the world. Even with today's easy travel and global economy, it is amazing how these Bible prophecies and truths remain true to this day.

OTHER OBJECTIVE HELPS IN BIBLICAL LEGITIMACY

Innumerable archeological examples could be discussed: the founding city of the Hittites (prominent antagonists to the ancient Israelites in the Bible), the home of the Edomites as wrote about in National Geographic's story, "The Red Rose City of Petra" (Esau's descendants, the brother of Jacob, who was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel), among many others. Halley's Bible Handbook is an excellent resource on dozens of Biblical archeological finds, as well as biblearchaeology.org, and several other resources (see Bibliography).

Many people today automatically assume that Christians are in-bred in their thought and logic because "they only listen to preachers." In absolute proof against this is the [discovery.org](http://www.discovery.org) Dissent from Darwin project, which keeps a list of non-theological, doctorate-level graduates who disagree with Darwinism (Evolution). This website can be found at <http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/filesDB-download.php?command=download&id=660>. There are over 1,000 non-theological doctoral graduates who have signed this list! When you consider that only about 1% of the United States' population have doctoral degrees, and of course many simply have not signed the list, or possibly are afraid to (there is great discrimination in academia – where doctorates largely work – to dissenting from evolution), or are not aware of it. The truth is a large number of scientists, biologists, professors, and

others – not even graduates in theological studies – see the Bible as a true witness to the origin of the world. This is fact.

CONCLUSION

The reader is again encouraged to look over the Bibliography for much more information on all of these subjects. **The evidence for the Bible being accurate is tremendous, timeless, and beyond any possibility of random chance or coincidence.**

Nonetheless, it is always important to remember that souls are not won on the debate floor or the college classroom. Souls are won in the hearts of men, hearing the Word of Truth from someone they love and trust (and who loves and trusts them), and responding to it thereby (see Romans 10:10-17, especially vs. 17). “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” May we preach and not argue; may we defend and not estrange. God’s Word is too precious for our pride, and His offer of salvation too important to be worried about “winning” an argument!

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