



Sermon Notes

Paris First Baptist Church

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“Hooking Up to Calibrate”

Ps 119:89

I- Why Do We Need To Be Calibrated?

From Barna Research

What do Baptist's Believe?- 6,038 adults Baptist's surveyed gave the following answers?

Question 1-Do you believe that “works” plays apart in salvation? Yes 57% No 43%

Question 2-Do you believe that Jesus lived a sinless life while here on earth? Yes 45% No 55%

Question 3- Do you believe that Satan is a real being? Yes 34% No 66%

Question 4- Do you think Christians have a responsibility to witness to others? Yes 51% No 49%

Question 5- Do you think the Bible is totally accurate? Yes 66% No 34%

Question 6- Is your religious faith important to you? Yes 81% No 19%

Question 7- Do you believe that God is the all-powerful creator of the universe? Yes 85% No 15%

A few of these caused me great alarm. Today we begin a journey that will hopefully settle things as we go back and calibrate our thinking to come in line with God. If 85% think He is all-powerful and Creator then we have hope. So we go back to the question of the Bible being totally accurate.

In a recent survey of our youth the answer to Do you think the Bible is totally accurate was 56% no. What if we gave that to the whole church? I wonder what it would be. So we are going back and hooking up to the Bible. But first we must look to see if the Bible is God's infallible Word.

II- Why We Know the Bible is the Word of God

The Bible has been called the best selling book of all time. In sheer volume of sales the Bible is the greatest book of all times. Still should be only look at the Bible as a best seller, or is it more. *Ps 119:89* says, “*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*”

Other verses given in the Bible declare it will endure for ever as well. *Isaiah 40:8* “*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*”

Matthew 5:18-35 “*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*”



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Matthew 24:35 *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*

In our world today we have many claims that they have the revelation of God to man. I submit to you that more than one truth cannot exist. If their claim is true then the Bible's claim is a lie because the Bible claims one God and salvation through Christ alone. So can we know for sure the Bible is the Word of God? I submit to you we can and do know it not just by faith but by reason, research, science, experience, and many other ways.

A- Prophetic Accuracy have verified and vindicated it as the Word of God.

No other religious book in the world is accurate when it come to predicting the future. May I say the soothsayers get something right but they accept a failure rate of 1 in 100 being right? The Bible accepts no such thing.

One study reported that the top ten psychics who published their prediction (I refuse to call them prophecies) for 1976-1979 found that they were wrong 98% of the time. Only 2 percent were right and 6 out of 10 were wrong all the time. (Grant Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, p 196)

God declares through the Prophet Isaiah, *“Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Isa 42:9*

And again in *Isa 46:9-10* *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”*

Notice the prophet Ezekiel words and the amazing fulfillment of them on May 15, 1948. Shortly after the vision of the valley of dry bones Ezekiel is given another vision from God.

Ezek 37:15-22 *“ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, ¹⁶ Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: ¹⁷ And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. ¹⁸ And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? ¹⁹ Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. ²⁰ And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. ²¹ And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold,*



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I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: ²² And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all."

Beloved when Israel went into captivity they went as TWO nations. Israel, the Northern Kingdom was taken into captivity over 100 years before Judah, the Southern Kingdom was taken into captivity. In fact two different nations, Babylon and Assyria took them into captivity. But when this amazing prophecy was fulfilled it was only one Israel that came back.

Another amazing prophecy that has been fulfilled in part during our lives is the restoration of the Hebrew language. No language of the world has ever been revived after it died except Hebrew. *Zephaniah 3:9* **"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent."** The part that is left to be fulfilled is they will use this language to call upon the Lord as a nation.

In my mind the one of the most amazing Biblical prophecies concerned the one given by Isaiah concerning Cyrus king of Persia. Notice *Isa 44:28* ***"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid."***

This was some 700 years before the time of the rebuilding of the temple recorded by Ezra. ***"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia...the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, ² Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah."*** *Ezra 1:1-2*

Jeffrey says, "Explorers in Iraq in the last century found the ancient inscribed clay cylinder bearing the actual decree of King Cyrus of Persia allowing the various captured natives of many different nations to return freely to their ancient homelands." He goes on to say, "In this incredible discovery we find the confirmation of one of the most astonishing events in the pages of Scripture." (Grant Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, p 86) This brings us to another reason we know the Bible is the Word of God.

B- Archeology has verified and vindicated it as the Word of God.

There are many things in the Bible that skeptics have scoffed at and ridiculed that later with new discoveries were proven to be accurate. The Bible has been verified as accurate in even the smallest details. Its message has been



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vindicated by archeology discoveries. Grant Jeffrey says, "...for the past one hundred and fifty years, many brilliant scholars have conducted detailed archaeological examinations at thousands of sites throughout the Middle East. The results of their discoveries have proven that the Bible is reliable and accurate in every single area where its statements could be tested." (Grant Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, p 73)

Jesus when He was told to rebuke His disciples when He entered Jerusalem said according to *Luke 19:40* "***And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.***" While he was not talking about archeology I wish to state that the stones are crying out that the Bible is the Word of God.

"Dr. Nelson Glueck, the most outstanding Jewish archeologist of this century, wrote in his book, *Rivers in the Desert*, this fascinating statement. "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference...." (*The Signature of God*, p 75)

In addition to the one concerning King Cyrus above lets look at some of at least hundreds of examples of archeology.

First there are many that claim the David never existed and never was king of Israel. This seems absurd to us. Jeffrey said, "...many scholars contemptuously reject the Bible's statement about King David." (Grant Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, p 77) Beloved this is not just so called secular people but many liberal so called biblical scholars as well.

Jeffrey reports, "In 1993, archeologist digging at Tel Dan in the Galilee in northern Israel found a fragment of a stone inscription the clearly refers to the "house of David" and identifies David as the "king of Israel." (Grant Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, p 78) There has also been a stone uncovered created by King Mesha of Moab that referred to the house of David.

Another amazing discovery and perhaps the most amazing is known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. In the spring of 1947 an Arab shepherd boy while searching for a missing goat threw a rock into a cave and heard what sounded like breaking pottery. They contained parts of what would become known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. All told there were some 500 manuscripts, or large portions of manuscripts and thousands of fragments were found in some 11 caves. "More than one-third of these are books of the Old Testament, which are older by at least 1000 years than the hitherto earliest known Old Testament manuscripts.... There are manuscripts or fragments of every book of the Old Testament, except Esther." (*The Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, Archeological Supplement, #4356, p 327, 329)

These scriptures that predated any for 1000 agreed almost letter for letter with those produced later. God's Word lives on as it was given.



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C- Scientific Accuracy and Discoveries have verified and vindicated it as the Word of God.

The Bible is not a book of science but for it to be the truth every statement it makes concerning science must be true. For a contrast the Bible teaches us God created man from the dust of the ground and we know our body is made up of elements that are in the dirt. The Koran on the other hand claims Allah created man from a blood clot. Which is true based on scientific accuracy? Beloved it can be no other than the Bible.

I have 3 favorite scientific statements in the Bible. Let us explore these quickly.

First is the statement in the book of Genesis that the life is in the blood.

Genesis 9:4 "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat."

Gen 9:4 in the New King James says, ***"But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. "***

Beloved we know your blood carries all the things throughout the body that are essential for life. Many people die not from wounds necessarily but from the loss of blood through the wounds. The life is in the blood but man did not know this until a few years ago.

Second is the statement in the book of Jonah where we are told that there are mountains in the ocean. ***Jonah 2:6 "I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God."***

While this may seem small to us I remind us that not all things have always been the way they are not. No one would argue that there are not mountains in the ocean. No one today would say that the ocean goes down in a gradual slope and then rises again gradually on the other side of the ocean. However until recently this was the teaching. The tallest mountain from the bottom of the ocean up is known as the Hawaiian Islands. Just the tip sticks out but from the bottom of the ocean to the tip that is sticking out of the volcano it is taller than Mount Everest.

D- Hidden Bible Codes have verified and vindicated it as the Word of God.

"Several years ago computer scientist in Israel discovered a staggering phenomenon – encoded words hidden within the text of the Bible. Within the Hebrew text of the Old Testament they found hidden codes that revealed an astonishing knowledge of future events and personalities. The existence of these codes can only be explained if God inspired the writers of record His precise words." (Grant Jeffrey, *The Handwriting of God*, p 107)



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These Bible Codes are known as “Equidistant-Letter Sequence.” Grant Jeffrey explains how these codes work. “A researcher...will ask the program to search the text of the Hebrew Bible to find a target word, such as “Hitler.” The computer then begins with first letter of the Hebrew word “Hitler

הִיטְלֵר, which is the letter heh הֵ (Hebrew reads right to left). Then the program will search forward by skipping 2 letter, 3 letters, 4 letters, et cetera, (skipping up to 500 letters forward, for example) searching for the second letter in Hitler’s name, the letter yud י. When the computer find the second letter י in the target word “Hitler,” after skipping, for example, 22 letters, the program will automatically skip forward an equal number of letters (22), looking for the third, fourth, and fifth letters. When the program fails to find the next letter in the target word at an equal spaced interval, it abandons that search and examines the next occurrence of the letter heh הֵ in the text and begins the process again.” (Grant Jeffrey, *The Handwriting of God*, p 125)

These Bible Codes have been published in secular scientific journals and found to be totally true. This same process has been done on other writing such as Shakespeare and they find none of the hidden codes.

You may wonder why he mentioned Hitler. In a section of Scripture in Deuteronomy there are some 15 hidden codes concerning the holocaust. Words such as Hitler (2 times), The Fuhrer, Germany, Auschwitz (2 times) etc.

In Genesis 48 the words, Yitzchak Rabin as well as the month day and year of his birth and the day he was killed as well as his assassin are encoded. In Deut 8 and 9 they find Israel, Arafat, PLO, Shimon, Peres, Peace Treaty, etc. Also encoded is a group of codes known and the Gulf War Codes where Saddam, America, George Bush, Schwarzkopf, Scud-B, Russian etc are found in Genesis 8, 19, 20, 29, 33. They also find CNN and Peter Arnet encoded in a section of Numbers 33 and 36. The Oklahoma City Bombing is found as well as many other events that have transpired. (for additional information on this subject see Grant Jeffrey *The Handwriting of God*)

Grant Jeffrey said, “...we have witnessed an unrelenting assault on the authority of the Bible by the intellectual elite, the academic community, liberal theologians, and the media during the last hundred years. Most people in our culture have been exposed to countless attacks on the authority and accuracy of the Scriptures throughout high school, university, and from the mass media. I believe the God has provided this extraordinary new evidence in the form of the Bible Codes to prove to this generation of skeptics that the Bible is truly the Word of God.” (Grant Jeffrey, *The Handwriting of God*, p 116-117)



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Beloved today is the only time in History that this type of research was possible. It can only be done with the aid of computers. For instance to find Hitler Jeffery says took 45 million calculations. This was impossible before computers.

III- Calibration Time:

Because the Bible has been verified and vindicated as being God's Word it has exclusive claim on our lives. The Bible reveals that a time is coming in the future that all men will die. The past teaches us this is not just an idle claim. Death is certain and beloved so is judgment. Notice *Heb 9:27-28* "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* ²⁸ *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*"

The scripture is plain that we must look to Him if we are to be saved. Are you saved and ready for death if it came today. If not will you prepare today for eternity?