

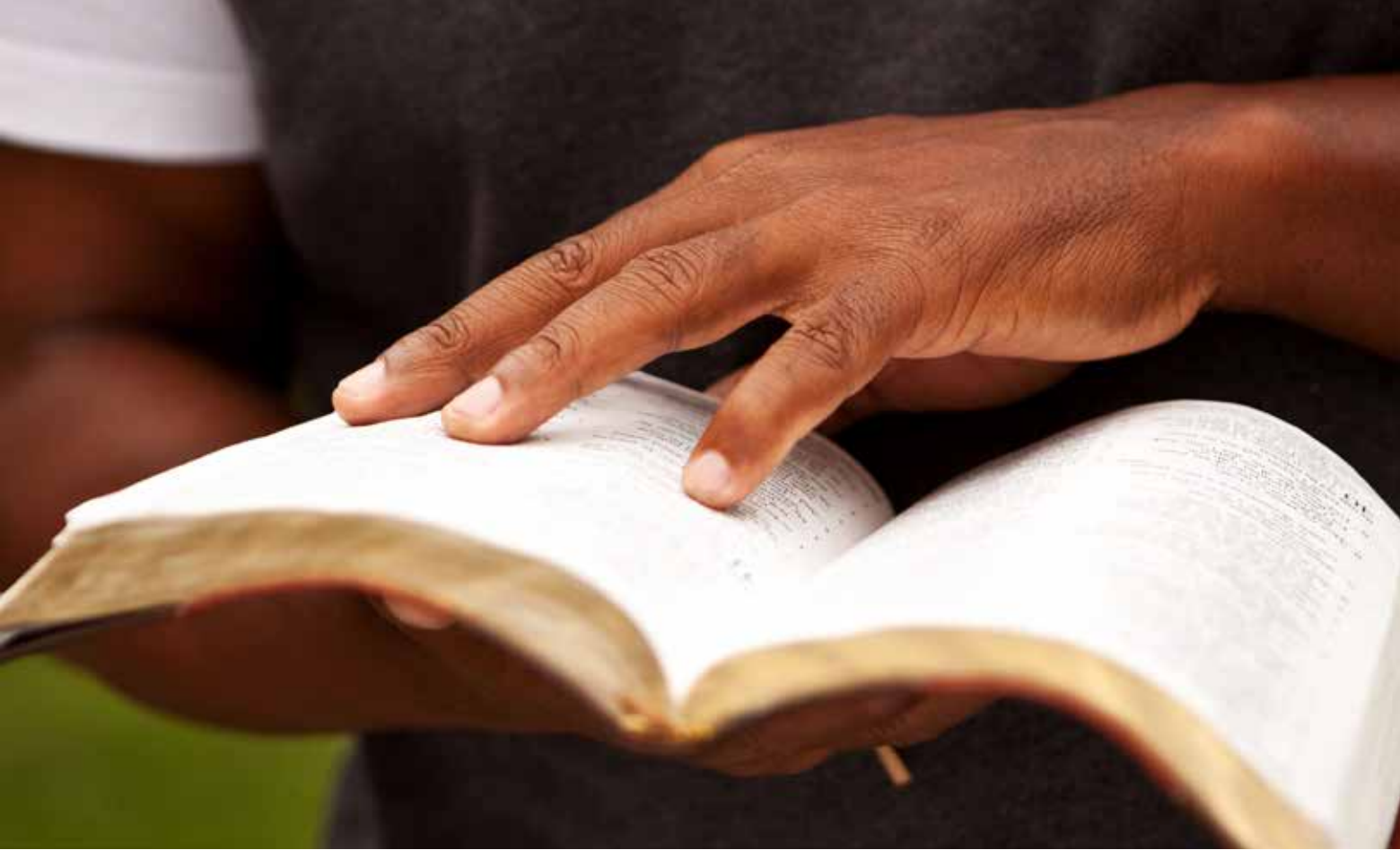
HOPE THROUGH PROPHECY

Seven Messages to Prepare You for the Soon Return of Jesus!

Dustin Pestlin

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The Authority of God's Unchangeable Word

The Bible has been burned, banned, belittled, and attacked. But it is still here. Can you trust it? How can we know that these ancient words are true?

FACT 1 THE BIBLE IS THE BEST-SELLING BOOK IN HUMAN HISTORY

The complete Bible has been translated into 717 languages, and the New Testament has been translated into more than 1,550 languages.¹ The Bible is also the highest selling, most read book in history—and no other book comes close! Guinness World Records reveals that the Bible simply dominates the all-time best-seller chart with an estimated five billion copies sold between 1815 and 2021!²

Why is this? What makes the Bible the best-selling book in history?

Well, according to the Bible itself, God is the true author of this best-selling book. Here is what the Bible says about itself: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16).

FACT 2 THE BIBLE HAS SURVIVED MULTIPLE ATTACKS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

For much of recorded history, the truth of the Bible was kept in darkness.

The Bible was banned! The decree of the Council of Toulouse, made by the dominant church of the day, reads: “We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old and the New Testament; unless anyone from the motives of devotion should wish to have the Psalter or the Breviary for divine offices or the hours of the blessed Virgin; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books.”³

The Bible was publicly burned! According to the ruling of the Council of Tarragona of AD 1234: “No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after the promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned.”⁴

Men and women shed their blood for the Bible that sits on your desk! John Wycliffe, who was aptly called the “Morning Star of the Reformation,” was the first to translate the Bible into the English language. As a reward for this great act, he was attacked and persecuted, and even after his death his corpse “was dug up and burned. The ashes were scattered in the nearby River Swift.”⁵

William Tyndale, John Huss, and many other Bible-believing Christians were killed for being champions of the Bible.

The Bible has been belittled! The story has been told of the French atheist Voltaire saying before his death, “One hundred years from today the Bible will be a forgotten book.” Ironically, one hundred years after his death, Voltaire’s own home was used to distribute Bibles for the French Bible Society!⁶ John 10:35 clearly states that “the Scripture cannot be broken.”

The Bible is the most attacked book in the history of humanity, but it still stands.

FACT 3 THE BIBLE HAS BEEN PRESERVED OVER TIME

The Bible’s New Testament has more than 5,800 manuscripts in the original Greek,⁷ and more than 19,000 in other languages, far more than any other ancient book in the world.⁸ The evidence is clear that the Bible has been uniquely preserved through the centuries.

The words of the LORD are pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.
You shall keep them, O LORD,
You shall preserve them from this generation forever (Psalm 12:6, 7).

The Almighty God has protected the Bible so that we can have its guidance today.

FACT 4 SCIENCE AND ARCHAEOLOGY SUPPORT THE BIBLE

Some say that science is at odds with the Bible, but true science is always in harmony with the Bible. For example, the Bible clearly reveals the shape of the earth in Isaiah 40:22: "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth." Long before scientists knew, the Bible revealed that the earth was round.

Did you know that the Bible was the first to teach that air has weight? Job 28:25 states, "To make a weight for the wind." It took scientists until the early 1600s to make this breakthrough discovery, centuries after the Bible declared it.

Archaeological finds such as the Tel Dan Stele, the Mesha Stele, the Nabonidus Cylinder, and the Dead Sea Scrolls all help prove the accuracy of the Bible.

FACT 5 THE BIBLE HAS INTERNAL CONSISTENCY

The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by forty different authors. Despite many of the authors never meeting each other, they wrote with perfect internal consistency and in seamless harmony with each other's writings. Could it be that a divine hand was guiding them?

According to the Bible, this is exactly what happened: Second Peter 1:21 states that "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

And the sixth fact truly separates the Bible from the scriptures of every other world religion. Please read on.





FACT 6 THE BIBLE CONTAINS PROPHECY

Prophecy has been defined as history written in advance—the ability to hear from God and even predict the future with perfect accuracy. This ability is undisputable proof of divine origin.

In *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, J. Barton Payne states that there are 1,817 prophecies in the Bible, making up about 27 percent of the Bible’s total content.⁹ No other world religion even comes close. And it makes sense—if someone attempts to predict the future and is wrong, that person is instantly discredited. But the Bible stands alone in its ability to accurately tell the future.

For a powerful example of an ancient Bible prophecy that came to pass exactly as the Bible predicted, check out the video titled “Daniel 2: Urgent Bible Prophecy for Today!” on the *Hope Through Prophecy* YouTube channel and read chapter 2 in this book.

As another example, let us consider the life of Jesus. There are more than 125 prophecies in the Bible’s Old Testament of the coming Messiah, the One who would die for sins of humanity. Jesus perfectly fulfilled each and every one of these Old Testament prophecies! Dr. Peter Stoner, a mathematician and former chairman at Pasadena City College, calculated that the odds of one man fulfilling just 8 of these 125-plus prophecies is one in ten to the thirty-third power!¹⁰

God knows the end from the beginning. This separates the God of the Bible from all other gods. Isaiah 46:9, 10, declares, “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done.”

But perhaps the most powerful evidence for the authority of the Bible is this seventh undeniable fact.

FACT 7 THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES

The Bible states: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I have seen countless lives transformed by the powerful message of the Bible. It makes the drunkard sober, it makes the hateful kind, it shows how we can attain victory over our bad habits and how we can receive eternal life.

In my case, the teachings of the Bible have given purpose and direction to my life and hope for the future. I know that it can do the same for you.

It will help you answer life’s three most important questions: *Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?*

Dear friends, I commend to you the Bible: the inspired Word of God. This book has been tested by time and has been proven trustworthy. It is a book that stands apart from the rest. It is a book that you can build your life on.

In these pages, and on my YouTube channel, you have my commitment to let the Bible—and *only the Bible*—be the standard, the benchmark, and the final authority.

When it comes to vital truth, if it is in the Bible, I want it. If it is not in the Bible, it is not for me. I appeal to each of you to let the Bible be the guide for your life. If this is your desire, ask

God to send the Holy Spirit so you can understand it. Read it every day, and be willing to follow its teachings.

The video for this chapter is on YouTube. Search for “Hope Through Prophecy/Seven Incredible Bible Facts That Will Blow Your Mind,” or scan this QR code.



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