Resources for Authenticity of the Bible

Websites

1. Executableoutlines.com (sermon series – “Can We Trust the Bible?” and “Christian Apologetics”)
2. <http://executableoutlines.com/gmtb.htm>
3. Deadseascrolls.org
4. Biblicalarcheology.org
5. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/the-study-of-god/how-do-we-know-the-bible-is-true/how-do-we-know-bible-is-true>
6. http://www.truthinmydays.com/the-testimony-of-josephus-powerful-evidence-for-the-truth-of-christianity-or-an-interpolated-fraud/

Books

1. God’s Infallible Word (David K. Bernard)
2. Understanding God’s Word (David K. Bernard)
3. You Can Understand the Bible (Daniel Segraves)
4. Discoveries From the Time of Jesus (Alan Millard)
5. Inspiration of the Bible (B. H. Carroll / Benjamin Harvey)
6. Thy Word Is Truth (E. J. Young)

Notes

In Genesis, God spoke to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, and called him out of his land to become separated unto God. In Genesis 26:5 God says Abraham has kept “My statutes”. This word in Hebrew is “*chuqqah*,” which means something that is “prescribed”, or “written instructions.” From this earliest knowledge of God’s written Word, to the Ten Commandments written on stone; from the prophets in the Old Testament to the apostles in the New Testament, everything God spoke to the hearts of men were written down and copied meticulously. “Scribes” copied these words in a special way – a specific ink formula was designed, along with very stringent rules (i.e. no two letters could touch). They washed themselves and their pen before writing the name Jehovah, and if a mistake was found, they had to start all over from the beginning. The documents had to be stored in a sacred place. In this way, every word of God given to mankind was purely preserved.

In the 1940’s, shepherds found some of the earliest manuscripts (the Dead Sea Scrolls) of the Old Testament in Israeli caves. These manuscripts maintained integrity and accuracy of the Bible and were universally proclaimed as the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th Century.

The Bible was prescribed by more than 40 authors over 1500 years, most of them never having met each other. However there is unity of thought and history in all 66 books without controversy. This is nothing short of miraculous. The Bible is the only book of its kind.

Was Jesus Real?

The existence of Jesus and his death at the hands of Pilate was recorded by the historian and scholar, Josephus (37 a.d.-100 a.d.) in factual terms. Josephus was not a professed Christian, he simply recorded history as an eyewitness. Since history establishes that Jesus lived and died on a cross, we must recognize the amazing accuracy of the prophecies regarding Him given hundreds of years before in the Old Testament. There are hundreds of prophecies regarding the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, at least 28 specific to his crucifixion alone. Among them:

Isaiah 7:14 Jesus would be called Immanuel

Psalm 69:21 Jesus would be given vinegar to drink on the cross

Psalm 22:18 Soldiers would gamble for Jesus’ garments

Psalm 34:20 Jesus’ bones would not be broken

Psalm 16:10/49:15 Jesus would be resurrected from the dead

Isaiah 53:5-12 Jesus would be a sacrifice for sin

Evidence for Apostles

Historical evidence for the Apostle Paul is overwhelming. Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, and other historical figures of the late 1st-2nd Century write about Paul. Their writings confirm his missionary journeys and his epistles. Even early opponents of Christianity did not dispute the reality of Paul. The historical evidence of Paul and other apostles is widely documented, and there are several thousand manuscripts and fragments of the New Testament in existence today.