

How Can We Know the Bible is God's Word ?

If an unsaved person asked you this question, what would be your reply? Keep in mind that they do not have the Holy Spirit's assurances as a believer would. I was about 21 years of age when I received Christ as Savior and became a born again child of God. Like many new believers, I received encouragement from older believers. One of the older Christian women in the church Joyce and I attended, had been a student at the Washington Bible College and taught women's classes in our church. When I asked her this question of how she would answer those who desired to know why we consider the Bible to be God's Word, her reply was "Fulfilled Prophecy". Years later, whenever I was asked that same question by men at the Baltimore Detention Center, along with two other reasons, "Fulfilled Prophecy" was the first one I would mention. As the prophet Isaiah says, we serve a God who knows the end from the beginning.

My favorite prophecy in this regard is the 70 Weeks or 70 Sevens of Daniel. Almost 500 years into the future, this powerful prophecy tells the time of the crucifixion or "cut off" of Christ following His first advent, as set forth in Daniel 9:25 & 26.

25 "Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.
26 "And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; NKJV

$69 \times 7 = 483$ Prophetic Years \times 360 days/year = 173,880 days

$173,880 \text{ days} / 365.25 \text{ days/year} = 476 \text{ years} + 21 \text{ days}$

March 14, 444 BC + 476 years = March 12, 32 AD

March 444 BC to March 1BC = 443

March 1BC to March 1AD = 1

March 1AD to March 32AD = 32

476 years

March 12, 32AD + 21 days = April 6, 32AD Messiah Cut Off

Bible critics opposing scripture have been so challenged by this and other predictions of the book of Daniel that, in the past, they declared that no one could know details in the book of Daniel, such as those of chapter 11 without them already having occurred. So they tried to late date the writing of the book of Daniel. Things were so contested in my day that the apologist, Josh McDowell, wrote a book called "Daniel In The Critics Den". Unfortunate for the critics, the Septuagint, written about 275BC and containing the book of Daniel, would argue against the theory since the events prophesied happened long after this date. Also, since that time, the Dead Sea Scrolls, containing a number of complete copies of Daniel have also been found. These recordings are dated as early as 385BC. Thus, Daniel had to be written years before the reign of Antiochus, the final historical king mentioned in Daniel 11, whose reign was 215-164BC.

The 70 Weeks or Sevens of Daniel is described as a timed prophesy. Just recently, I've been made aware of two additional timed prophecies which have been fulfilled not in the time of Christ, but in our time: - the first, Israel Reestablished as a nation on May 14, 1948 and the second, Israel getting administrative control of the temple mount on June 7, 1967 (ie. the Six Day War). The details are shown on the sheet furnished you. The starting points in all three of these timed prophecies are decrees made by three separate well-known kings whose reigns are a matter of history. The first was a decree to restore and build Jerusalem by Artaxerex, The second and third related to decrees by Cyrus and Darius to rebuild the temple.

Israel Reestablished As A Nation - Decree of Cyrus to May 14, 1948 -

Ezek 4:4-6 "Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity. 5 For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year. NKJV

Lev 26:18 And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. NKJV

$390+40-70 = 360 \times 7 = 2,520$ prophetic years $\times 360$ days/year = 907,200 days
 $907,200 \text{ days} / 365.25 \text{ days/year} = 2,483 \text{ years} + 285 \text{ days}$

August 537BC to August 1BC = 536
August 1BC to August 1AD = 1
August 1AD to August 1947AD = 1,946

2,483 years

August 3, 1947 + 285 days = May 14, 1948 Israel Established As A Nation

Israel Gets Control of Temple Mount - Decree of Darius to June 7, 1967
 $390+40-70 = 360 \times 7 = 2,520$ prophetic years $\times 360$ days/year = 907,200 days
 $907,200 \text{ days} / 365.25 \text{ days/year} = 2,483 \text{ years} + 285 \text{ days}$

August 518BC to August 1BC = 517
August 1BC to August 1AD = 1
August 1AD to August 1966AD = 1,965

2,483 years

August 25, 1966 + 285 days = June 7, 1967 Israel Gets Control of Temple Mount

In summary, we can know and be confident that the Bible is God's Word because of its fantastic prophecies like the three just mentioned. Isa 46:9-10 reads, ...I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, ... NKJV

Finally, I want to briefly talk about prophecies that relate to you as an individual, if you are a born-again child of God. Ephesians 1:4 says that the father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world and 1:5 says we were predestined to adoption as the father's children. Now as amazing as these scriptures are, scripture says that each of the very works each of us would do in our lifetimes to glorify God were determined before we did them.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. NKJV