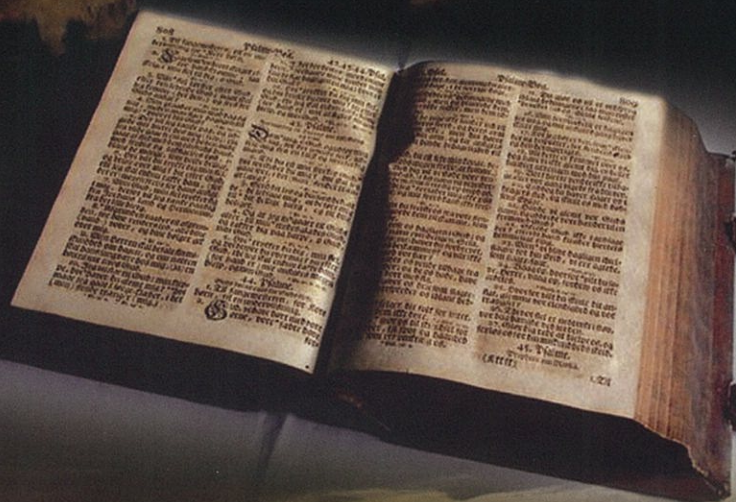


THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE AND IT'S FREEDOM FROM DISTORTION



FR. AUGUSTINOS HANNA

Book: The Divine Inspiration of the Bible and
It's Freedom from Distortion

Author: Fr. Augustinos R. Hanna

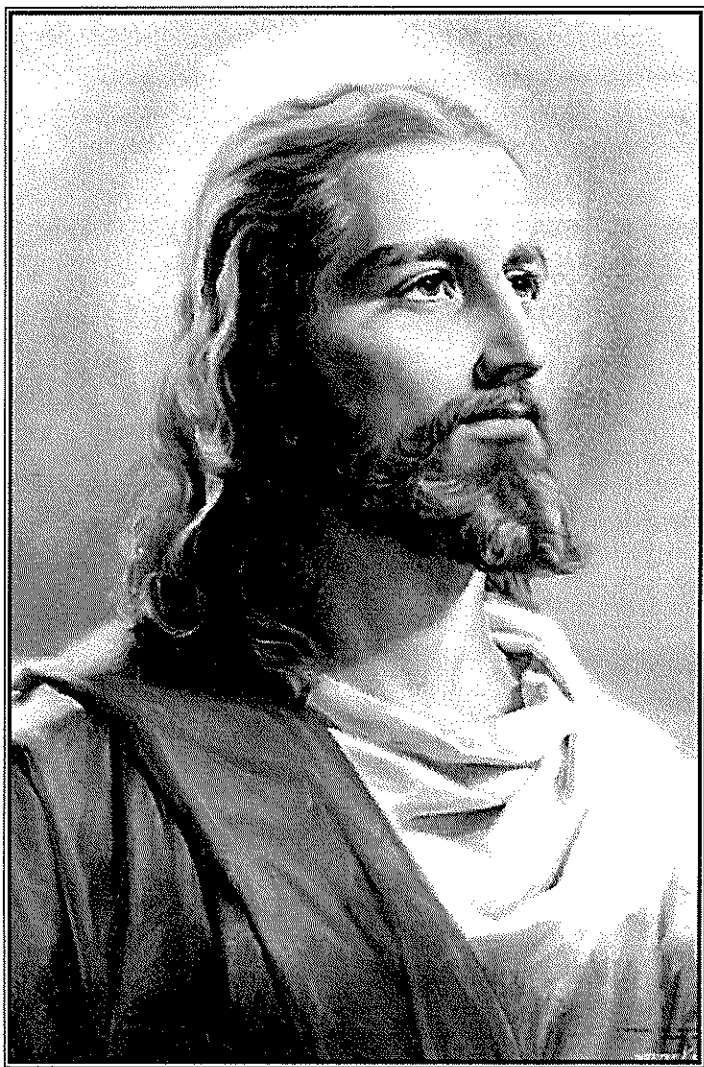
Publisher: Saint John
Coptic Orthodox Church

Design: Maged R. Abdel Said

Printed By

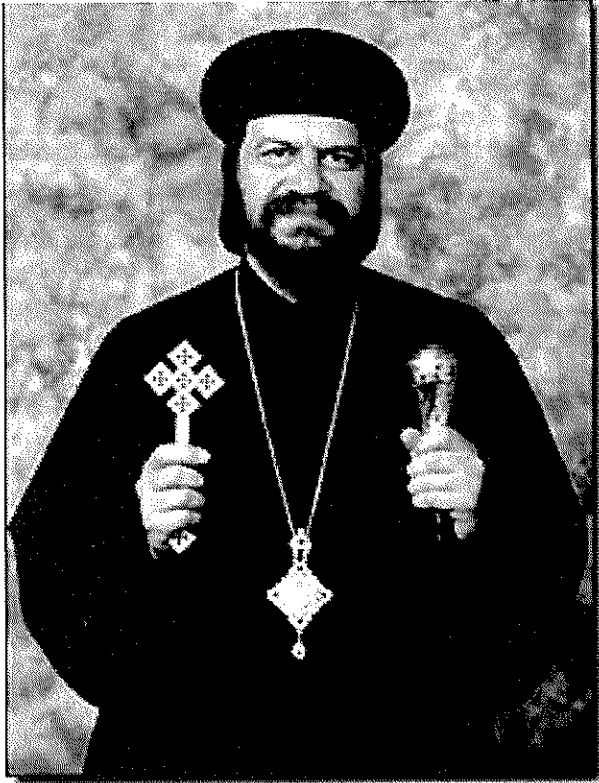


Tel. (909) 702-9911
(949) 292-8279





H.H. Pope Shenouda III,
117th Pope of Alexandria
and the See of St. Mark



H.G. Bishop Serapion
Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles,
Southern California, and Hawaii

Contents

Preface	3
The Importance of this Research	5
(I) Evidence of the Bible Divine Inspiration	7
First - The External Evidence	8
Second - The Internal Evidence	17
(II) The Bible is Free from Distortion	45
First - The Old Testament	46
Second - The New Testament	55
Conclusion	63

Preface

This booklet was a sermon or a lecture delivered on August 1978 by attorney Maher R. Hanna (now Fr. Augustinos Hanna after his ordination in priesthood), during the Fifth Sunday-school Teachers Convention held at St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church in Fleming, Alexandria, Egypt.

H.H. Pope Shenouda III was the head of that convention who attended its meetings and spoke to 12 Bishops, 300 Priests and 3000 church servants. He was the one who invited me to talk in the convention about this topic, "The Evidence of the Bible Inspiration, and its Freedom from Distortion or Alteration."

There were many reasons for choosing this subject. One of them was local, which was the surrounding Islamic environment that denies the current Bible and claims that it was altered and not the same Bible which the Muslim Quran recognized and praised! Therefore, it was necessary to defend and confirm the Bible against such false attacks.

Also, many Christians, although they know some parts of the Bible, they know nothing about the Bible itself, how it was written, who wrote it, what were the media and languages used, when, where and what are the proofs of its authenticity and inspiration.

Regarding the ministry, the Bible as the word of God is the life of the servant, the essence of service, its material and power. The "seeds are the word of God" that bring forth fruits, and the rock on which the wise builds up his/her house. It is the "power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16); the living bread (Matt. 4:4), the "water of life" (Isa. 55:10,11), a "Lamp to our feet" (Psa. 119:105), and the sword of the spirit" (Eph. 6:17). The more we know and study the Bible, the more we love it and love God and people.

In 1986, Rev. Fr. Marcos Hanna translated this lecture into English and published it in English and Arabic. In this second edi-

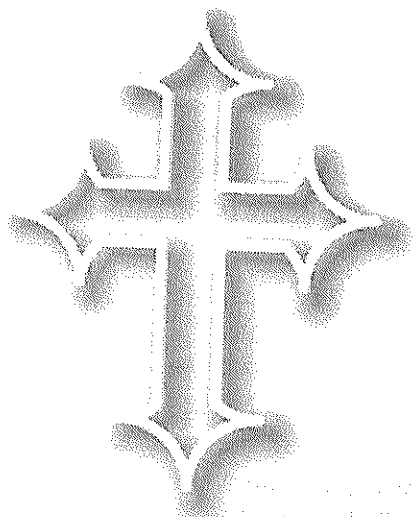
tion, I added more details to the internal evidence of the Bible inspiration, namely the prophecies and the types and symbols.

I pray that the Living God, the author of the Holy Bible, may bless this small book to confirm the faith of the youth, servants and unbelievers in the "Book of Books", for the salvation and edification of their precious souls that God dearly loved. And I hope that we never forget the words of the Lord Jesus Christ words, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35 & 5:18)

Fr. Augustinos R. Hanna

Los Angeles, California

The Feast of the Cross, September 2006



The Importance of this Research:

This research is important for several reasons:

1. The human mind is too limited to comprehend spiritual and heavenly issues, which need divine revelation and a book inspired by God.

2. Not every book that is said to be of God is truly the book of God. The world is full of false religions, man made religions, and every "so called religion" has a book. Every book contradicts the other and every religion claims that its book is God's book. So what is the criterion that shows us whether or not that book is truly God's book?

3. If one is certain that the recorded words of a book are truly the words of God, then it follows that the book is inspired and faultless and is a source of goodness, salvation, happiness, peace and eternal life.

4. As one's life, destiny and eternity depend on such a book, it is essential for one to be convinced of it and to trust it fully without any shade of doubt as to its soundness and being free from falsification.

5. Since we came to the conclusion that such a book is God's Book, any other book, which contradicts it must be false.

In the first part of this research we will discuss "The Evidence of the Divine Inspiration of the Bible"; and in the second part "The Freedom of the Bible from Distortion or Alteration."

(I)

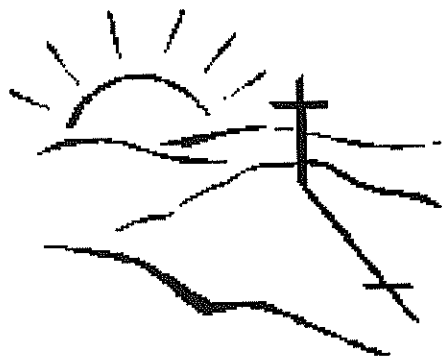
Evidence of the Bible Divine Inspiration

What is the proof and evidence of the inspiration and authenticity of the Holy Bible?

We deal with two types of proofs, i.e. external and internal ones.

The external evidence is the evidence we perceive from external phenomenon and extraordinary observations about the Bible, even before we read it.

The internal evidence is what we realize through reading the Bible and studying it.



FIRST

THE EXTERNAL EVIDENCE:

1. The uniqueness of the Bible in its writing time span, number of writers, different times, places, culture, language and vocations:

(1) The Bible may be considered the oldest encyclopedia in history and the most amazing and marvelous book ever written. It is the Book of books. Its main subject is the True God, man and God's love and salvation to mankind.

(2) The Bible was written over 1600 years.

The first author was the prophet Moses, who was educated with all the wisdom of the ancient Egyptians, (Acts 7:22), inspired by God, and a miracle performer. He wrote the Pentateuch, or the Torah, or the Law (known as the first five books of Moses). Moses lived, historically, 1500 years before Christ. The last writer was St. John who wrote his Gospel in 98 AD. No other book in the history of the world was written over a period of sixteen centuries.

Some scholars believe that since Job has a book in the Bible bearing his name, and Job lived 2000 years BC, so they think the Bible was written in duration of 2100 years!

(3) Forty authors participated in writing the Bible:

Those authors were prophets, priests, scribes, kings, philosophers, physicians, wise men, farmers, shepherds, fishermen! For instance, Moses was first a military commander and heir of the throne of Egypt and later became a shepherd and a prophet. Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah and many others were prophets. David and Solomon were wise kings. Ezra was a scribe and Nehemiah was a governor. Ezekiel and Zachariah were priests, and Amos was a farmer. Most of the New Testament disciples were fishermen; Luke was a physician and a historian. Paul was a tentmaker and a philosopher.

How huge such a mixture was that differed in time, location, knowledge, work, vocation, talent and language!

How marvelous it is that such a book came one unit in perfect harmony, without contradiction as if all the authors gathered together in one given time and one place to write that amazing Book. But why wonder when the Book actually originated from one source through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to all those people. This means that the actual writer is ONE, the Holy Spirit, despite the variety of the human instruments used in writing it.

(4) The Bible was written in three languages:

The New Testament was written in Greek, the Old Testament in Hebrew, and small parts of it were written in Aramaic.

(5) The Bible is composed of two Testaments.

The total number of its books is 66 different books. The Old Testament (O.T.) consists of 39 books. The New Testament (N.T.) is consisted of 27 books. Each of these books is completing the other and explaining it in amazing unity.

There are seven more books called "Deutro-canonical Books" or the "Second Canonical Books" omitted by Protestants in their versions, but they are admitted by all the apostolic and traditional churches like the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. If they were added, then the number of the books would be 73.

It is true, what St. Augustine has said,

*"The New Testament was hidden in the Old Testament,
And the Old was revealed in the New".*

(6) The Holy Bible includes Theology, religion, law, history, literature, wisdom, geography, philosophy, science, poetry, devotion, ethics and high morality and prophecy.

2. The survival and durability of the Bible for 35 centuries (3500 years):

There is no other book in the world which was exposed to terrible and evil wars and horrible persecution and opposition along

the ages like the Bible.

A war of annihilation was declared against the Bible by emperors, kings, rulers of the world throughout the ages, such as Antiochus IV, and the pagan Roman Emperors: Nero, Dometian, Trajan, Valerian, Marcus Aurelius, Diocletian and Maximianus.

Many Muslim rulers and califs waged war against the Bible since Islam began in the 7th century and until present.

Also, some famous contemporary philosophers, politicians and authors, such as Voltaire, Renan, Bertrand Russell, Linen, Karl Marx, Stalin and others attacked the Bible and tried to doubt about it. All of them have gone (to hell) while the Bible remained mighty as a Rock, victorious and witness to its Divine origin, being God's great and eternal Book. As Christ said about it, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35). He also said, "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Matt. 5:18).

3. The Miraculous Speedy Widespread of the Bible:

The Bible did not only survive, but also spread around the world in an extraordinary way. Statistics inform us that the Bible is the most famous, popular and widespread book and bestseller on the face of our planet.

The Bible defied all the terrible persecutions and resistance, and defied the primitive slow means of communication and transportation of the old world and overcame hardships and impossibilities while apreading miraculously.

It was translated, in parts, to 1500 languages and dialects, and in whole, to more than 300 languages and dialects! The second famous work of Shakespeare was translated only to 40 languages. Other religions' books were translated into ten languages and some of them were impossible or forbidden to translate, and when they were translated to few languages they lost their meaning and value!

In the 15th century when Gutenberg invented the printing machine, the Bible was the first book to be printed. The Bible now is recorded on Cassettes, tapes, CDs and videos, carried around

the world through radio, TV, satellite, computer and capsules. All that was predicted by Christ who said, *“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the entire world”* (Matt. 24:14).

The Torah Association alone has distributed one billion copies of the Bible since it was founded in 1804. Other billions of Bibles in hundreds of languages and dialects have been distributed by other Bible societies and associations all over the world.

If taken into consideration that there were no fast means of transportation in the ancient world, and Christianity has some difficult doctrines like the Trinity, the incarnation and crucifixion, loving the enemies, monogamy and no divorce; all of that will double the power of spreading the Bible and God’s great support to that. What a glorious book that talks to all races, languages and generations all over the world. Needless to say, it would not have reached this greatness and majesty had it not been God’s Divine Book.

4. The Quality of the Authors of the Scriptures:

The writers of the Bible were distinguished for such virtues as purity, honesty, truthfulness, holiness, sacrifice, righteousness, love, peace, humility and strong relationship with God. They taught the world the greatest morals and principles. Besides, they were miracle performers.

They proved the authority of God in their lives by their prophecies and signs such as raising the dead, healing the sick, casting out demons, leading people to turn to God, knowing the secrets and mysterious events of the future. Moreover, they had no benefit to suffer horrible sorts of persecution if they were deceivers. Many of them were killed and tortured as martyrs yet claimed to the last breath that this was the Word of God.

5. The distinguished Qualities of the Believers in the Bible:

Peoples, countries, families and individuals who believe in the Bible and follow it, are distinguished for their civilization, progress, discipline, justice, cleanliness, freedom, power and prosperity,

when compared to heathen or Islamic countries and non-Christian people.

6. The Testimony of Jewish and Christian Councils that the Bible is God's inspired word:

Old Jewish Congregations and Christian Ecumenical Councils have testified unanimously that the Bible is the Holy Book of God.

7. The Effect of the Bible on people's Lives:

The profound influence of the Bible on the life of its readers is undeniable and marvelous. It reproves the sinners, changes their lives completely and renews their hearts and character. It makes saints of adulterers, turns the atheists into missionaries, ignorant to wise, the hopeless to the happiest ones and vicious criminals into peaceful lambs and martyrs.

8. The Testimony of Archeology and Modern Science:

Archeology has testified for the truthfulness of the Holy Bible. **Assyrian plates from the ruins of Nineveh** have been found and are now kept in the British Museum. They date back before the time of the prophet Moses and carry the story of Creation, the fall of man, the flood, Noah's Ark, and the confusion of tongues, which are all in complete agreement with what the Book of Genesis informs us.

There is also a very old **Babylonian Post**, kept in the British Museum that supports most of the events in the Book of Genesis. **The stone of Moab** that verifies the events of the second Book of Kings.

The Rosetta Stone which was discovered by Champoleon who could decipher the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and the Demotic language and which revealed the old Egyptian Paranoiac Civilization, and the old and long relationship between old Egypt

and the events of the Bible thus supporting the truthfulness of every event and fact mentioned in the historical books of the Bible.

There are also the **Paintings of Seloam and obelisk of Shalmaneser, and the Dead Sea Scrolls and the discoveries of Qumran Valley**, all of which support the truthfulness and validity of the Holy Bible.

Modern science also supports the truthfulness of the Holy Bible as far as geology, astronomy, history, geography, medicine, anatomy, language, law or physics are concerned. (For more details, see my article about “True Science Supports True Religion and Vice Versa”).

9. The Testimony of the Qu’ran:

The Muslims’ Qu’ran, which came into being in the seventh century after Christ, testified to the divine nature of the Bible and to the fact that it was inspired by God.

The Qu’ran quoted from the Holy Bible most of the prophets’ deeds and the historic events that were mentioned in the books of Genesis, Exodus, Kings, Psalms, Jonah and the four Gospels. We will cite some of the Quranic verses that prove this fact, which refer to the soundness, and preservation of the Bible from distortion.

Moreover, the Qu’ran commands Muslims to read the Bible in its two parts, the Torah and the Gospel, and makes these Holy Books as judge and praises them with great honor describing them as light and guidance from God.

Here are some Qora’nic verses:

- (1) “We (God) have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it” (Sura xv: Al-Hijr).
- (2) “We sent before you men, to whom We granted inspiration: If you realize this not, ask of those who possess the Message” (Sura XXI: the Prophets).
- (3) “No change can there be in the words of God” (Sura X: Jonahs or Youness).
- (4) Say ye: “We believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to the prophets from their Lord: We

make no difference between one and another of them" (Sura II: the Heifer).

(5) If you were in doubt as to what we have revealed unto you, then ask those who have been reading the Book before you" (Sura I: Youness).

(6) "And he sent down the Torah (Law of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind" (Sura III: Imran).

(7) "But why do they come to you for decision, when they have their own Law before them" (Sura V: The Table).

(8) "God has sent down the Book which Moses brought, a light and guidance to man" (Sura VI: Cattle).

10. The Testimony of the great famous persons of the world to the Bible:

Great historians, philosophers, scientists, kings, rulers, and politicians have acknowledged the Holy Bible.

Astronomists, geologists, humanists, zoologists, botanists, physicists, medical scientists, historians, archaeologists and legislators, have all acknowledged it. These were actually scientists in every area of science and they comprised very renowned individuals such as Isaac Newton, Edison, Mandel, John Locke, and Galileo. There were also philosophers such as Francis Bacon, John Stewart Mill, Kant, and Hegel, poets and men of letters such as Shakespeare, Milton, Thompson, Goethe, Jean Jaques Rousseau, Tolstoy, Chekhof, and Gibran Khalil Gibran. Included are musicians such as Bach, Handel, Betthoven, Haydn, Mozart, Wagner, along with artists such as Michaelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo DaVinci, and kings and rulers such as Queen Victoria, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, John Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Gandhi, Gladstone, and Napoleon.

Following are some examples of some of these peoples' sayings:

+ Queen Victoria: "The Holy Bible is the secret behind the greatness and power of England."

+ **George Washington:** “It is impossible to rule the world in justice and equity without God and the Holy Bible.”

+ **An epitaph inspired by Abraham Lincoln’s** proverbial sayings reads, “Here rests the remains of the most equitable man and president ever known in the United States of America. He loved the Holy Bible and he felt that neither he nor anyone else could rule in equity and justice, except on the basis of the Holy Bible. Everything that concerns the good of mankind is cited in It. The bright enlightenment of its information has Its blessed reforming effect upon mankind and society. So, were it not for the Bible we wouldn’t know right from wrong.”

+ **Napoleon said:** “This is the Book of Books, I am never tired of reading it every day, and I read it with great pleasure and passion. I do not see in any other book what I see in It; and I do not find any other great moral teaching as I do in this Book. The soul is never distressed so long as the Bible is its guide.”

+ **Gandhi said,** “The Holy Bible is the crown of all books, and the Sermon on the Mount is a gem in this crown.”

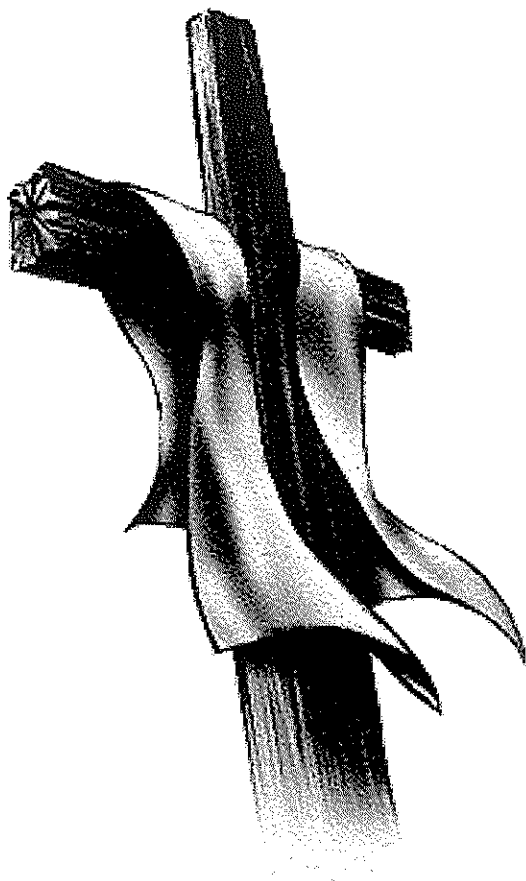
+ **Emmanuel Kant said,** “If you establish your peace and piety in the Bible, you will find in It the origin and source of all the profound spiritual facts, while the mind goes tired and bankrupt in all fields and directions.”

+ **Gladstone,** the former prime minister of Britain, wrote a whole book entitled: *The Inaccessible Fortress in the Holy Bible*.

+ **Goethe,** the German poet, said about it: “Let the world advance as it wills, and let all the various branches of human research grow in everything to their peak, but nothing at all can replace the Holy Bible.”

+ **Sir Walter Scott, on his death-bed,** addressed his son-in-law, saying, “Son, get me the Book and read.” His son-in-law got con-

fused, as the English author's library filled with thousands of books, and asked, "Which book do you want?" Scott answered him calmly saying, "My son, when I say 'THE BOOK', there is no other but one. Read something from the gospel according to St. John."



SECOND THE INTERNAL EVIDENCE:

The second type of evidence is the internal evidence, which one can easily realize that the Bible, beyond doubt, is God's book when he/she opens it and reads it.

I. THE PROPHECIES:

The prophecy, in general, is predicting the future. It talks about an unusual thing or event, which will take place in the far future and is explained accurately in full detail before it happens hundreds or thousands of years. When it happens exactly as it was described, then we know that it was inspired of God and God revealed it to that person whom we call a prophet, because God alone is Omniscient and knows the future and there is no way that man can know such information.

God, usually, supported the prophets with the prophecies as well as with the power of performing miracles. Therefore, the Bible says, *"No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation. For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:21, see also 2 Timothy 3:16).

Prophecies are one of the strongest proofs that the Bible is God's Word. If it were two or three prophecies only, we may doubt and say this is just a coincidence. But we have about 400 prophecies about countries, kingdoms, cities, kings, historical events, the end of the world and among them 330 prophecies about Christ, the Savior of the world, alone!

That is why the Bible says, *"The testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy"* (Rev. 19:10); and made it a condition to differentiate the true prophet from the false prophet by prophesying about Christ or not saying, "To Him (Jesus Christ) all the prophets

witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

St. Augustine said that when he studied the prophecies, he was stunned and fascinated by them, and they led him to believe in the authenticity and truthfulness of the Bible, beyond any shadow of a doubt, as the true word of God. All these prophecies mentioned in the Bible have been already fulfilled, except those which talk about the second coming of Christ for judgment and the end of the world.

Here are some examples of these magnificent prophecies:

1. The miraculous conception and virginal birth of Christ:

Isaiah the prophet of the 8th century BC, said, *"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel"* (Isa. 7:14; see its fulfillment in Matthew 1:23 adding the meaning of Emmanuel which is "God with us").

2. Unusual qualities of the promised Messiah:

Again, Isaiah says, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. *And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, MIGHTY GOD, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*" (Isa. 9:6).

3. Christ's birthplace and His everlasting presence:

The prophet Micah (758 BC) prophesied: "But you *Bethlehem* though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the *One to be ruler in Israel. Whose goings forth has been from the old, from everlasting*" (Micah 5:2, and see the fulfillment in Matt. 2:5).

4. The time of Christ's coming and crucifixion and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple:

The prophet Daniel (606-534 BC) says, *"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression; to an end of sins. To make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness. To seal up vision and proph-*

ecy, and to anoint the Most Holy...to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the prince and after the sixty two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary...Then He shall confirm a covenant with many... He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate...etc." (Dan. 9:24-27. Note that the weeks of Daniel are yearly weeks; $70 \times 7 = 490$ years. See the fulfillment in Matt. 24:15, 16).

5. John the Baptist who will prepare the way before Christ:
"The voice of one crying in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord..." (Isa. 40:3; Malachi 3:1 and fulfillment in Matt. 3:1-3; Mark 1:2-4 & Lk. 3:2-6).

6. Balam's prophecy about the star of Christmas:

"A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel; that shall smite the brows of Moab..." (Numbers 24:17/ fulfillment in Matt. 2:2 & Rev. 22:16).

7. The Massacre of the children of Bethlehem:

Jeremiah the prophet (628-588 BC) says, *"Thus says the Lord, a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they are no more"* (Jer. 31:15/ Matt. 2:16).

8. The glory and universality of the Messiah's reign: (Psalms 2 & 72 / Matt. 25: 31- 46; 28:18).

9. The Flight into Egypt:

"Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud and will come into Egypt. The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence..." (Isa. 19:1 / Matthew 2:13, 14).

10. The return of Christ from Egypt:

Hosea the prophet (786—724 BC) says, *"Out of Egypt I called My Son"* (Hos. 11:1).

11. The Messiah's Sonship to God, kingdom & triumph:

David the king and prophet (1000 yrs. BC) prophesied, *"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves against the Lord and His anointed....The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance and the ends of the earth for Your possession...Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in the way"* (Psalm 2).

12. Christ is the Wisdom of God in Person, the Creator and Anointed from everlasting:

Solomon the wise king and prophet says in this regard, *"The Lord possessed Me at the beginning of His way, before the works of old, and I have been established-in other translation "anointed"- from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When He prepared the heavens I was there... I was beside Him as a master craftsman...etc."* (Proverbs. 8:22-31/ see fulfillment in John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15, 16; 2:2, 3 & Heb. 1:3).

13. Solomon's prophecy raised five questions provoking the mystery of the incarnate Son of God and Christ's Godhead:

"Who ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? WHAT IS HIS NAME, AND WHAT IS HIS SON'S NAME, if you know?" (Proverbs 30:4/ fulfillment in Jn.3:13; Matt. 8: 26, 27; 16:16, 17).

14. Christ teaches in parables:

"I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old" (Ps. 78:2/ Matt. 13:34, 35).

15. Christ's signs and miracles:

"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful hearted, 'Be strong, do not fear. Behold, your God will come with the recompense of God, he will come save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be cleared. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the

tongue of the dumb sing" (Isa. 35:3-6/ Matt. 11:2-5)

16. The beloved Son of God is the same elect servant of the Lord:
"Behold, My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him, He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coast-lands shall wait His law" (Isa. 42:1-4/ Matt. 3:16, 17; 12:16-21).

17. The Messiah is both the Son of God and the Son of Man:
He is the Son of God as indicated to in these verses (Psa. 2:7; Prov. 30:4 & Isa. 9:6).

And He also is the Son of Man as He used to call Himself, not only for His love to mankind or out of humility, but also referring to Daniel's prophecy as God incarnated and appeared in the form of man.

Daniel said six centuries BC, *"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven. He came to the Ancient of days and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom which shall not be destroyed."* (Dan. 7:13, 14).

It is obvious that this is not a regular son of man who sits upon the clouds of heaven and is given everlasting dominion and glory, but He is God manifested in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16).

18. Christ is both the Son of David and His Lord:

The prophecy says, *"The Lord said to My Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"* (Psa. 110:1 / look at its explanation by Jesus in Matthew 22:41-43). He is the God of David in His divinity and the son of David in his humanity and His incarnation.

19. The Messiah is the Good Shepherd:

(Psa. 23, Ezekiel 34, Isa. 40:11 and the fulfillment in John 10).

20. The triumphal entry of Christ as a king to Jerusalem:

(Zech. 9:9; Gen. 49:11/ fulfillment in Matt. 21; Luke 19).

21. Christ is the seed of the woman, Abraham, Judah and the heir to the throne of David (Gen. 3:15; 12, 22; 49:10 & Lk. 1:42).

22. Christ is the Sun of Righteousness and the healer:

Malachi the prophet, 400 BC says, *"But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings"* (Mal. 4:2 / John 8:12 & 12:35).

23. The Messiah will be betrayed by one of His disciples:

There are three prophecies about that in Psalms 41:9; 55:12-14 & 109: 7-17).

24. Christ will be sold as a slave for 30 pieces of silver:

(Zech. 11:12 and the silver were thrown to the potter – Zec.11:13).

25. Christ will be beaten, and spitted upon His face:

"I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting" (Isa. 50:6 / Matt. 27:28).

26. Christ is the Substitute Redeemer:

"For the transgressions of My people He was stricken" (Isa. 53:8).

27. Christ will keep silent during His trials:

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth" (Isa. 53:7 & Psa. 38:13, 14).

28. Despised and rejected by men:

"He was despised and we did not esteem Him" (Isa. 53:3)

29. He is our sorrow and grief bearer:

"He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." (Isaiah. 53: 4, 5).

30. The crucifixion of Christ:

"They pierced My hands and My feet" (Ps.22:16, 17).

31. The Holy One was counted among thieves:

"He surrendered Himself to death and was counted among the wicked" (Isa. 53:12).

32. Dividing His garment and casting lots on them:

"They divide My garment among them, and for my clothing they cast lots" (Psa. 22:18).

33. Christ's side was pierced:

"They will look on Me whom they have pierced"
(Zech. 12:10; see John 19:34).

34. Offering Him vinegar during His thirst:

"They gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Psa. 69:21).

35. Three words said by Jesus on the cross were prophesied in the Psalms of David:

+ The fourth word: *"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"*
(Ps. 22:1; Matt. 27:46).

+ The seventh word: *"Into Your hand I commit my spirit"* (Psalm 31:5; Luke 23: 46).

+ The fifth word: *"I thirst"* (Psalm 69:21; John 19:28).

36. One of His bones is not broken:

(Psa. 34:20; Exodus 12 ; John 19:33, 36).

37. Darkness at noon on the crucifixion day:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord God, that I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight" (Amos 8:9).

38. Christ will be buried on a rich man's tomb:

"But with the rich at His death" (Isa 53: 9).

39. Christ will rise again in the third day:

(Ps. 16:9, Jonah 1:17; Hosea 6:3; Matt. 28 & 12:40).

40. Christ's ascension to heaven:

"You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive..." (Psa. 68:18 & Ps. 24: 7, 8; see Eph. 4:8).

41. Christ will come again to judge the world:

"Enoch, the seventh son from Adam, prophesied saying, 'Behold the Lord come with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Enoch 4000 BC, see Jude 14).

42. Christ will come again with His saints:

"Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You" (Zich.14:5; and the previous prophecy).

43. The rejected stone became the chief corner-stone:

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" (Psa. 118:22; Isa 28:16; Matt. 21:42).

44. Christ's name in Jeremiah:

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will raise to David a branch of righteousness, King shall reign and prosper... Now this is His name by which He will be called: The Lord our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:5)

45. Christ is the anointed king and Lord who will reign forever and ever:

"Your throne O God is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom" (Psalm 45:6, 7 / see St. Paul's interpretation in Hebrews 1:8 applying it on Christ the Son of God).

2. THE TYPES AND SYMBOLS (TYPOLOGY)

Typology is the science of studying types and symbols in the Bible. It has been defined as "The establishment of historical connections between certain events, persons or objects in the Old Testament and similar events, individuals or things in the New Testament". The Holy Bible is full of such types, symbols, examples and miniatures. There are wonderful Bible stories, given to us by God Himself, that convey to us a hidden meaning. They are true stories. They do not only tell us what happened long ago, this in itself would be quite interesting; but many O. T. scenes teach us something about the future, from prophecies mainly about the Lord Jesus Christ, and His great love and salvation. These hidden pictures are called types.

In the road to Emmaus the Lord Jesus gave two of His disciples, the greatest Bible study they have ever heard. *"He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself"*.

After a while He explained to the disciples in the upper room, *"All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me. Then He opened their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures"* (Lk 24:44, 45).

To speak about abstract theology is very difficult with such an audience but with the help of these wonderful stories, the most ignorant may learn something "Concerning Himself".

Let us not forget St. Augustine's famous words,

**"The New Testament is in the Old concealed,
The Old Testament is by the New revealed."**

The Bible's types refer mainly to the Lord Jesus Christ, but some of the types point to the Holy Spirit, the Church, the holy sacraments such as baptism and communion and to the Virgin Mary.

The types of the Old Testament are divided into three major categories:

(1) Individuals

(2) Objects

(3) Events

1- INDIVIDUALS:

Some biblical figures give a hidden, but clear picture or miniature of the Lord Jesus Christ. Among those are **Adam, Abel, Noah, Melchizedech, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Boaz, Job, David, Solomon, Elisha and Jonah.**

There are a lot of parallels and similarities between these personalities and Christ. For instance, St. Paul called Christ **the second Adam** in his letters to the Romans chapter 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. He also mentioned that the offering of Isaac was a type to Christ's cross (Heb. 11:19 & Jn.3:16). If we compare the life of Joseph or Moses, or David, with the life of Christ, we will discover more than 40 similarities in each. This topic needs a separate book to explain in full detail.

2- OBJECTS:

The Old Testament is full of many objects that compose amazing types to Christ, such as:

- (1)** The hovering of the Spirit of God upon the face of the water (Gen.1:2) / a Symbol of baptism (Jn. 3:5).
- (2)** The Tree of Life (Gen. 2 & Rev. 21; 22), a type of Christ, communion and the word of God (Jn. 6:55).
- (3)** The garments of skin (Gen. 3:21), symbolizes the righteousness of Christ (Matt. 22:12 & Rom. 13:14).
- (4)** The Ark of Noah as a type of Christ, His Church and baptism (Gen. 6 - 9; see 1 Peter 3:18-20).

- (5) The rainbow is a sign of the covenant as a type of the cross (Gen. 9:11-17).
- (6) The bread and wine of Melchizedech (Genesis 14:18; Psalm 110:4 & Heb.7; a type of Christ's order of Priesthood, His body and blood- see Matt. 26:26-28).
- (7) The bride of Isaac (Genesis 24), a type of the church.
- (8) The ladder of Jacob (Gen. 28; a type of Christ who came from heaven to earth in His incarnation; Jn. 1:51).
- (9) The seven dreams of Joseph (Gen. 37-41).
- (10) The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12; see 1 Cor. 5:7).
- (11) The four bloody sacrifices in the book of Leviticus.
- (12) The pillar of cloud and of fire (Exod. 14).
- (13) The green tree of Marah and the 12 springs of sweet water and 70 palm trees in Elim (Exod. 15; Lk. 10)
- (14) The manna in the wilderness (Exod. 16; John 6:49).
- (15) The Stricken Rock at Horeb (Exod. 17), a symbol of piercing the side of Christ with the spear.
- (16) The Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40), full of symbols to Christ in its components, furniture and service.
- (17) The cleft of the rock (Exod. 33:21, 22; a symbol of Christ pierced side on the cross.
- (18) The grain offering (Lev. 2), a symbol of the body of Christ and His humanity.
- (19) The two clean birds' sacrifice of cleansing the leper (Lev.14), a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection.
- (20) The Red Heifer (Numbers 19).
- (21) The Brazen Serpent (Numbers 21; see the interpretation of Christ Himself in John 3:14).
- (22) The cities of refuge (Deut. 4:41& 19:1).
- (23) The Urim and the Thummim (Deut. 33:8).
- (24) The scarlet cord off Rehab as a symbol of Christ's blood (Joshua 2).
- (25) Elisha's wooden stick and the floating iron ax head (2 Kings 6:1-7), a symbol of the cross of Jesus.
- (26) The stone that was cut off without hands and struck the great image of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2); a symbol of Christ's incarnation and kingdom.

- (27) The fiery furnace (Daniel 3).
- (28) The Golden Scepter (Esther 4:11).
- (29) The pit of Job and the Redeemer (Job 33:24)
- (30) The Wisdom who built her house and hewn her seven pillars, symbolizes Christ and His church and the seven sacraments (Proverbs 9:1; Matt. 16:18).

3- EVENTS:

Many events in the Old Testament portray Christ's life and salvation, and work as types and symbols such as:

- (1) God clothing Adam and Eve in skin coats to cover their nakedness, as a symbol of His sacrifice and righteousness (Gen.3:21).
- (2) Abel's offering (Gen. 4; compare Hebrews 11:4).
- (3) The salvation of Noah from the judgment of the flood, symbolizes baptism (Gen.6-9 / 1 Pet. 3:18).
- (4) The weary dove and the fresh olive leaf (Gen. 8:11).
- (5) Melchizedek, the priest and king of peace, received from Abraham the tithes and gave him bread and wine, symbolizes the order of the "New Covenant" priesthood, and its non-bloody sacrifice of Christ's body and blood which lasts forever (Gen. 14:18; Psalm 110:4; Heb.7, Matt. 26:26-28 & 1 Cor. 11:23-29).
- (6) The offering of Isaac (Gen. 22 and its application in John 3:16 & Hebrews 11:19).
- (7) The wedding of Isaac (Gen. 24 / Matt. 22; 25; Song of Solomon; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 2:19, 20; 2 Cor. 11:2 & Rev. 19, 21).
- (8) Feeding the children of Israel with the manna (Exod. 16 / John 6:48-51).
- (9) Crossing the Red Sea and the victory over Pharaoh (Exod.14), symbolizes baptism and defeating Satan (1 Cor. 10:1-4 & Romans 6).
- (10) Changing the bitter water of Marah into sweet water (Exod. 15:22-27), a symbol of the cross.
- (11) Conquering Amalek by lifting up Moses hands along with Joshua's fighting as a symbol of the cross, grace (prayer) and struggle (fighting against the enemy).

- (12) Moses fasting forty days before taking the Ten Commandments in Sinai Mountain.
- (13) The sacrifice of the two clean birds for cleansing the leper (Leviticus 14).
- (14) The Day of Atonement and the scapegoat (Lev. 16).
- (15) The feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles (Lev. 23).
- (16) The service in the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40).
- (17) Lifting up the brazen serpent (Num. 21 & John. 3:14).
- (18) The Jubilee celebration, the Sabbath year (Lev. 25).
- (19) The Messianic prophet (Deut. 18:15-18).
- (20) Joshua's crossing of the Jordan River (Joshua 3).
- (21) The Angel of the Covenant who bears the Wonderful Name (Judges 13).
- (22) The marriage of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4).
- (23) David prevailing over Goliath (1 Sam.16; Matt.4).
- (24) David honors Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9).
- (25) David weeping on the Mount of Olives (2 Sam. 15).
- (26) Solomon builds the great Temple (1 Kings 6-9).
- (27) The Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10).
- (28) Zerubbabel typifies Christ in restoring His people from captivity (Ezra 5 & Haggai 1, 2).
- (29) Nehemiah portrays Christ in restoration.
- (30) Job's personality, suffering, patience and prophecies about the Redeemer and the Mediator.
- (31) In Proverbs 8, 9 & 30 Christ is typified as the everlasting Creator, holder of all and Wisdom of God.
- (32) In the Song of Solomon, Christ is the bridegroom.
- (33) The coal which the Seraphim picked up from the altar and touched the lips of Isaiah, typifies the body and blood of our Lord (Isa. 6).
- (34) In Jeremiah, Christ is the Branch of Righteousness and the author of the New Covenant (Jer. 23 & 31:31; compare Matt. 26:26-28).
- (35) Ezekiel depicts the Messiah as a tender twig that becomes a cedar and the Good Shepherd and New David (Ezekiel 17 & 34).
- (36) In Daniel, Christ is the Stone that crushed Nebuchadnezzar's image of ages (Dan.2).

(37) In Daniel's vision, Christ, the Son of Man reigns on the clouds and given dominion and glory that all nations should worship Him (Dan. 7:13, 14).

(38) Jonah, spending three days in the belly of the fish, is a clear type of Christ risen from the dead after three days in the tomb (Jonah 2; Matt. 12:42).

(39) In Zechariah, Christ is portrayed in His two advents, entering Jerusalem victoriously and coming again for judgment (Zech. 3, 9, 10 and 13).

(40) In Malachi, Christ is the Sun of Righteousness arising and carrying healing in His wings (Mal.4:2).

3- The 3rd internal evidence- Unity of the Bible:

Despite the wide writing span (1600 years), the large variety of the authors (40 persons), the difference in cultures, languages, vocations, education, continents and countries, the Bible came in a wonderful unity without contradiction. Each book is explaining the other and completing it. There is one theme, an introduction and conclusion as if it is one book written in one time by one author! No wonder, because the real author is the Holy Spirit.

If you, for example, compared between the first three chapters in Genesis and the last three chapters in Revelation, you will find amazing facts and logical results about the story of the fall and God's salvation.

+ The tree of life, in Genesis 3, which man was deprived of, because of his sin and disobedience, this "Tree of Life" appeared again and became available in the book of Revelation after salvation had been accomplished.

+ Also the river of life reappeared in Revelation and God's compassion prevailed finally. The first Paradise was lost in Genesis; the second Paradise was regained in Revelation.

- + In Genesis, we find Adam and Eve, husband and wife; and in Revelation we find the “wedding of the Lamb and the Bride”.
- + In Genesis, we find curse pronounced; in Revelation curse removed.
- + In Genesis, all faces wet with tears; but in Revelation God will wipe away all tears.
- + In Genesis, the Cherubim keep man out; but in Revelation the Cherubim welcome man in. What a great unity and purpose!

4- The Bible is the oldest encyclopedia:

The Bible is considered one of the oldest and greatest encyclopedias ever known. It is composed of 66 books, plus the seven books omitted by Protestants. It contains 1189 chapters, written in three languages, talking about all subjects, 2930 characters and 1551 sites on 10 sorts of media like papyrus, parchments, clay and stone.

5. The main theme of the Bible is God's salvation to man:

This is the main theme of the Holy Bible the great salvation God prepared to save man from sin, death, Satan and hell and restore him to eternal life.

6. The Bible is distinguished for its deep spirituality, holiness and truthfulness, which is unparalleled in any other book.

7. The simplicity and depth of the Bible:

The Bible is so easy and simple to understand by the young, yet it is very deep and baffling to scientists.

8. The Unique Wisdom of the Bible:

The Bible contains profound wisdom and a very high standard of principles and commandments, which cannot, by any means, be the product of its authors alone without the guidance and inspiration of God.

This fact is more obvious when we know that most of the authors were uneducated. Some of them were shepherds and some were fishermen!

The Bible says about itself;

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16).

"No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20, 21).

David the prophet says, *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes..."* (Psalm 19:7-10).

"The proverbs of Solomon...to know wisdom and instruction, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion...the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7).

The Lord Jesus Christ foretold his disciples that they will face trials and persecution after His departure and encouraged them saying, *"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist"* (Luke 21:15).

9. The Novelty of the Bible:

The Bible has a wonderful and permanent novelty to attract and fascinate everyone that reads it. Every time we read it, we discover inexhaustible depth, freshness and new treasures. Despite it is ancient and written thousands of years ago; it is still relevant to modern man.

Although it was oriental, it affected the whole world, east and west, north and south and still millions of copies come out of the press every year.

Listen to what David the wise king and prophet says in this regard, *"How precious also are Your thought to me, O God! How great is the sum of them. If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand"* (Ps.139: 17, 18). He also said, *"I have seen the consummation of all perfection, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad."* (Ps. 119:96).

10. The Interconnection of Meaning and Style:

There is an amazing interceptive style and meaning in all of scripture that assures that it had ONLY ONE REAL INVISIBLE WRITER behind the big variety of human tools used in different times, ages and places to write it.

11. The Bible's Fantastic Beauty:

The Holy Bible has a majestic beauty that captivates its reader and touches his/her heart, mind, soul, conscience and emotions. Millions of people testified all over the world and the ages that they shed tears when they read the Bible. It has an awesome glory and unlimited perfection.

12. The Harmony of the Scriptures:

There is such complete harmony throughout its subjects without any contradiction or inconsistency that every book completes and explains the other. Likewise, it is true that the New Testament is hidden in the Old one, and the Old Testament is revealed in the New.

13. The Bible's Powerful Influence:

The Bible has irresistible influence on the human soul, on people, civilizations, laws, arts, music and literature. It has had a mighty power to convict the soul and convert the sinners into saints, the atheists into missionaries, the thieves, murderers and adulterers into earthly angels. It reshapes the human personality and lifts up from the mud of sin to heaven.

William Shakespeare quoted 60 verses from the Bible. The great musicians like Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Mozart, Hyden, Schubert and Wagner wrote their masterpieces inspired by the Bible. Michaelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo Da Vinci, Murillo, Caravaggio, Rubins and Rembrandt, all great painters, drew thousands of their compositions motivated by the Bible.

14. Christ is the Focus of the Bible:

The Lord Jesus Christ is the central theme in the whole Bible. The main reference in all the books of the Bible, the historic as well as the prophetic, and wisdom books is to the Messiah, the Savior of the world. He is the subject of prophecies, types, symbols and pre-incarnation appearances, "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10).

15. The Book of the Perfect Truth:

The Bible declares the perfect truth in everything. It is honest in its revelation about God, man, creation, sin, salvation, heaven and hell. It never lies, errs or compromises in the truth. That is why it is likened with the pure mirror that reflects our inner picture as is, in the sight of God without any prejudice or favoritism. *"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only deceiving yourselves. For the hearer is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror"* (James 1:22-25)

It recorded the history of the kings and prophets very accurately without any compliment, when Abraham, David and Solomon fell in some sins, the Bible rebuked them and exposed their weak-points, and when Joseph, Daniel, Job and Mary walked blamelessly, the Bible praised them.

16. The First Historical Book:

The Bible was the first historical book in the world that talked about creation before the existence of man and included historical records about many nations, emperors, kings, prophets and kingdoms before any other history had ever written. Then, it was supported by science and archeology hundreds and thousands of years later.

17. A Unique Book of Genealogy:

The Bible is the only Book on earth, which ties up human beings together into one family and offered a precise lineage starting from Adam up to Christ (more than 4,000 years! See the first nine chapters in 1 Chronicles and Lk. 3)

It contains also many other genealogy, lists, predating Noah's flood and after it, and of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Judah, Ishmael, Esau and David as well as the Levitical priesthood (Gen. 5; 1 Chron. 1-9; Neh. 7; Matt.1 & Lk.3).

18. The Bible is the Book of the Spirit:

It is the only dependable book, which speaks about the spirit of man, its source, characteristics, actions and destiny. It differentiates between the spirit and the soul, the spirit of man and of the invisible creatures like angels and demons, the desires and fruits of the spirit and of the flesh. The Bible is the only Book that quenches the thirst of the spirit and answers all the questions about it.

19. The Biblical Analysis of Humanity:

It analyzes man from the spiritual, physical and psychological aspects. It reveals his temper, thoughts, emotions, desires, lusts, attitudes, speech and deeds.

20. The Goal of the Bible:

The Bible's goal is to lead everyone who reads it to the knowledge and faith in the true living God, to taste his love and to enjoy His salvation and to have eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible sanctifies our life and beautifies it with spiritual virtues.

21. Science Supports the Truthfulness of the Bible:

The Bible provides true and precise historical, geographical and scientific information. Thus it spoke about the earth being spherical and round (Isaiah 40:22), and the law of gravity thousands of years before Isaac Newton (Job 26:7), the breaking up of elements (atoms) in 2 Peter 3; the origin of races, languages, and kingdoms in Genesis 10, 11. It talked about wars, plants and current animals and those that were extinct (Job. 39:41).

22. Unveiling the Mysteries of Life and Death:

It talked about many details of the invisible world and eternity. The Bible tells us about heaven and some of its descriptions as the dwelling of God, the angels and saints (Rev. 21:22). It tells us about hell as the terrible dwelling of Satan, his demons and their followers (Luke 16:19; Matt. 25:34; Mark 9:43).

23. The Bible Offers Man the Best Life:

It presents the holiest and most glorious life one may live on earth, no matter how his/her circumstances and obstacles are. The Bible always points out to the sources of power, peace, victory, security, joy and happiness, here in this world and thereafter. It reveals the true remedy to overcome sin, Satan, slavery and bad habits through the grace of God in a practical way which millions of believers experienced throughout the ages.

24. The Bible Reveals God's Perfect Attributes:

It declares that God is perfect in His holiness, love, power, wisdom, mercy and justice. He is Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Immutable, Sovereign, Unchangeable, Everlasting and Eternal. God is our Creator, a compassionate Father, Almighty Savior, Redeemer and Healer. He loves us to the point that He sacrificed His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to save us. He loves the sinners yet hates their sins. He honors the saints and the humble and recorded their biography, while resists the proud.

25. A Treasure of Divine Promises:

The Bible is a great treasure of truthful promises and it shows us that we can obtain their fulfillment by faith, prayer, persistence and pure hearts.

It is full of blessings and curses and mentioned how to be blessed or cursed according to our choice by our free will (Deut. 28). It did not deceive us but told us explicitly that in the world we will have tribulation, but promised us victory and eternal life.

26. The Bible prophesied about its endurance and miraculous spread all over the world, and that heaven and earth will pass away but Christ's words will by no means pass away (Matthew 24:35).

27. The Bible likened itself with many essential things in life which man cannot dispense with. For instance:

A) Food:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4 & Luke 4:4). Also it is likened with milk, honey, butter and meat (Isa. 55 & Psalm 19).

B) Light:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

C) Water:

"For as rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bud, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth, it shall not return to Me void" (Isa. 55: 10).

D) The Sword of the Spirit:

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17).

E) Mirror:

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is

like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away and immediately forgets what kind of man he was" (James 1:22). The Holy Bible as the word of God does not have favoritism or partiality; it blamed Abraham when he lied and David when he fell in the two sins of adultery and murder, despite they were prophets and kings. In the mean time the Bible praised the poor widow who gave the two mite donation!

F) Health and Medicine:

"The words of God are life to those who find them and health to their flesh" (Prov. 4: 22)

G) Seeds:

(Matt. 13 & Mark 4:26).

H) Fire:

"Thus says the Lord God of Hosts, Behold, I will make my words in your mouth fire" (Jer. 5:14).

I) Gold and silver:

(Psalms 12:6 & 19:10).

28. Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ To the Old Testament

The Lord Jesus who is the incarnate word of God testified to the written word included in the Old Testament as the Holy Scriptures. After proving His divinity and His infallibility, we have to trust and believe His testimony without any shadow of a doubt. If some modern atheists and modern thinkers nowadays are trying to deny some of the facts mentioned in the Bible, we have to repeat what St. Peter once said, "*God ought to be obeyed more than men*" (Acts 5:29 & Rom. 3:4).

In the following table, we find 20 examples of the testimony of Christ to the Old Testament as the Divine word of God, which deserves every honor and trust:

1. The story of Satan's fall mentioned in Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-20:

+ Jesus said, "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*" (Luke 10:18). He also said, "*He was a murderer from the beginning, and*

does not stand in the truth" (John 8:44, see also 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; and Rev. 12:7-10).

2. The creation of Adam and Eve and the first marriage mentioned in Genesis 2:24:

+ "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, '*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*'" (Matthew 19:4-6).

3. The murder of Abel (Gen. 4:8):

+ When Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, He said, "*That on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of the righteous Abel...*" (Matt. 23:35)

4. The Flood of Noah: (Genesis 6 - 9):

+ "*But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, and marrying...until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be*" (Matt. 24: 37-39).

5. The burning of Sodom and Gomorrah by brimstone and fire, and the death of Lot's wife (Gen. 19):

+ "*Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot, they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from Heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed*" (Luke 17:28-30). Jesus also said, "*Remember Lot's wife*" (Luke 17:32).

6. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph: (Gen. 12-50):

+ "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad*" (John 8:56). "*Many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness*" (Matt. 8:11, 12; see also Luke 16:22-30, and John 4: 5, 6).

7. Moses, the Law, circumcision, the burning bush, the Manna, Judging divorce and the brazen serpent (Exodus 4:16, 18,20; Numbers 21 and compare with Luke 20:37, 38; John 7:19; 6:49; Matt. 19:8; 5:21, 27, 43; John 3:14; Matt. 12:3, 4; Matt. 22:43, 44).

8. David eating from the holy bread when, he was hungry and his prophecies about Christ in the Psalms (1 Samuel 21:6. Psalm 110:1):

+ (See Christ's quotation in Matthew 12:3, 4; 22:43, 44).

9. Solomon, his superb royal clothing, and his wisdom which attracted the Queen of Sheba from the end of the earth (1 Kings 10):

+ Jesus said, "*Consider the lilies of the field, they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these*" (Matt. 6: 29). "*The Queen of Sheba (the south) came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here*" (Matt. 12:42).

10. Elijah the prophet and the prevention of rain through his prayer and his support to the widow in Sidon (1 Kings 17:8-17):

+ (See Luke 4:25).

11. Elisha the prophet and the miracle of healing Naaman the Syrian from leprosy (2 Kings 5):

+ (See the quotation of Jesus in Luke 4:27).

12. The prophet Isaiah and his numerous prophecies (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; 11:1; 35; 40; 53; 61):

+ Jesus read in the book of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor...Then He closed the book and began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing' (Luke 4:17 -21; Matt. 13:14; Mark 7:6).

13. Jeremiah the prophet and his prophecies and lamentations (Jer. 3:25):

+ (John 15:25; Matt. 2:17; 18; 21: 13).

14. Daniel and his prophecies concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple (Dan. 9:24-27; 11:31, 12:11):

+ *"Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place.."* (Matt. 24:15).

15. Jonah the prophet and his miraculous stay in the belly of the great fish for three days and his safe release on the third day (Jonah 1: 17).

+ Jesus said, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40).

16. Quotation from the book of Zachariah 13:7:

+ *"I will strike the Shepherd,; and the sheep of the flock will be scattered"* (Matt. 26:31).

17. Quotation from the book of Malachi (Mal. 4:5):

+ Jesus answered and said to them, *"Indeed Elijah is coming first and will restore all things"* (Matt. 17:11).

18. Quotation from the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20):

+ *"Jesus said to him, 'But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments...you shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor you father and your mother'"* (Matt. 19:18-19).

19. Three quotations from the Torah (Deuteronomy 8:3' 6:13; 6:16):

+ Jesus answered and said, *"It is written; man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"* (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4).

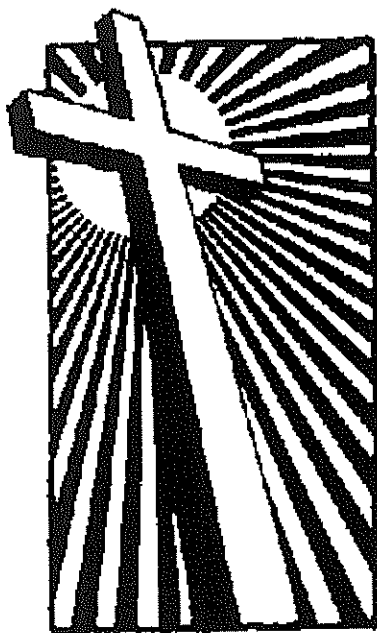
+ *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your*

God" (Deut. 6:16; Matt. 4:7).

+ "Then Jesus said to him, *'Away with you Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'*" (Matt. 4:10).

20. Six Quotations from the book of Psalms (8:2; 22:1; 31:15; 110:1; 41:9; 118:22, 26):

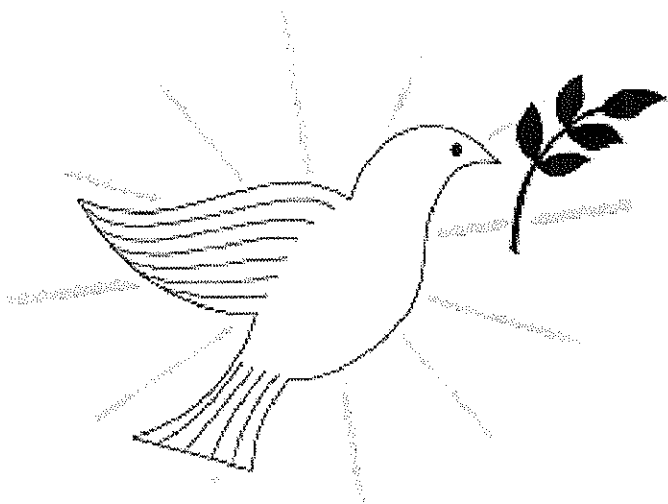
+ (See Matt. 21:16; Matt. 27:46; Luke 23:46; Mark 14:20; Matt. 21:42; Matt. 23:39).



(II)

The Bible is Free from Distortion

In this second part, we are going to discuss the Muslims' false accusation that the Bible was changed or exposed to distortion, and refute it using both the Old and the New Testaments.



First The Old Testament

The answer to this strange and false allegation concerning the so-called distortion of the Torah or the Old Testament is as follows:

1. False allegation without proof:

It is a false, obscure, and feeble allegation worthy of rejection because it does not tell us where, in the Bible, it happened, or when or how or why it happened.

It does not tell us who did it and what the perpetrators gain from that. Nobody can say or prove where the original manuscript is and why they do not show it to the whole world?

Those who could dare to claim such ridiculous accusation cannot answer one single question of these or tell what are the differences between the original manuscripts and the billions of current Bibles?

No court of law accepts such false allegation, which is groundless and without a shadow of proof.

2. Is it possible or reasonable that the Jews have altered their Holy Book?

The Torah (the Law or the five books of Moses) was in the hands of the Jews. Would it be possible or reasonable to say that the Jews altered their own Holy Book? This is impossible for the following reasons:

(A) The Jews venerated the Scripture, and assigned certain groups of people, such as the scribes, pen-men, and Bible transcribers, to serve and move it. They did their utmost to preserve, protect and defend it. It is written in their books and in their traditions: God revealed the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai, and Moses entrusted it to Joshua. The latter gave it to the Judges and the elders of Israel

who in turn handed it over to the prophets. The prophets gave it to the Sanhedrin (the great Jewish Council) instituted by Ezra, God's prophet, priest and scribe, for the sake of protecting the Torah and its teachings to the people. The Council enacted three commandments which were:

1. Be fair in judging

2. Teach many

3. Be a strong safeguard & stronghold to the Torah

The council imposed these three rules on every person of the Jewish people, saying: *"The world is raised upon three pillars: The Torah, worship, and good deeds."*

So, they venerated the Torah, protected and safeguarded it with their lives, and worshipped and treasured it as the greatest trust that God used to distinguish them for their belief that they are God's chosen people.

This is what St. Paul explained in his letter to the Romans saying, *"What advantage then has the Jew? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God"* (Rom.3:1, 2).

B) They had strict rules imposed by the teachers of Israel on the Torah scribes. These laws, rules and regulations literally ordered:

"Before writing a single word of God's words, you should wash your body, put on your Hebrew clothes, and be ready yourself with humble thoughts.

As for the parchments to be used in writing, they should be the skin of clean animals according to the Law.

Moreover, the ink to be used for writing should be pure and black and made from a mixture of charcoal carbon and honey: Although you know or rather memorize the book of inspiration (Scripture) by heart, do not write one word from your memory. Look at your copy and pronounce the word loudly before writing it.

Before writing any of God's names, you should wash your

pen, and before writing the Great Name of God, you should wash your whole body. If, after finishing scribing, you found three mistakes in your copy you should destroy this copy completely.”

(C) It was imposed on the Jewish scribes that each one should count the letters in his book, know how many letters of each kind would be written on each page, and that each line consisted of 30 letters. He should abstain from speaking while writing, otherwise he was expelled and considered unworthy for the holy task.

Thus, they knew by heart every Scripture, its parts, lines verses, words and letters. For example, it was well known to them that the letter “A” occurred in the Pentateuch 42,377 times, while the letter “B” occurred 38, 218 times...etc.

(D) If the Jews had supposedly thought of altering their Holy Book, i.e., the Old Testament, they would have eliminated the woes, curses, dispersion, the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple which were all things that God threatened them with for being rebellious people.

For instance in the Book of Leviticus 26:27 - 31; the Lord said to the Jews, “If you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury, and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons and your daughters!” (See also Deuteronomy 28 and Isaiah 1 & 66).

(E) If it had ever occurred to the Jews to alter their Scripture, they would have eliminated the parts that condemned their prophets, as for instance the part about the lies of Abraham their father of whom they boast, and about begetting Ishmael from his Egyptian slave Hagar, or David’s adultery and murder, and the corruption of Solomon and his downfall.

(F) Despite the Jews’ denial of the coming of Christ, His miracles, crucifixion, death and resurrection and ascension are very clear and are direct prophecies that, up until now, refer to all these events in their own Scriptures! (See Isaiah 7:14, 9:6,7, 35, 50 and 53; Psalms

22, 24, 45, 69, 110 etc.). In spite of their enmity to Christ, they could not eliminate one letter of what was inscribed in their Scripture despite the fact that all this condemns them and confirms their crime of rejecting and killing their Messiah and Savior, and their stupidity for not believing Him.

3. Hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament actually came true. They were mostly about Christ (His birth date, birth place, His extraordinary birth, His miracles, parables, shepherding, sufferings, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, second coming, His eternal Kingdom...etc.)

Also the prophecies about the nations, kingdoms, and countries such as Israel, the Arabs, Greece, Persia, Ethiopia, Rome, Egypt, Palestine, Assyria, Tyre, Sidon, Babylon and Nineveh...etc., all these prophecies were actually realized in extreme and marvelous precision, so how would it be possible to say that any sort of alteration took place?!

4. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself attested to the Torah and the whole Old Testament, in all their parts and sections, starting from the Law of Moses, to the books of the prophets and the Psalms –the three main divisions of the Old Testament - as you read in Luke 24:44.

He also stressed the truthfulness and validity of the Old Testament books, affirmed their inspiration from God, attributed them to the Holy Spirit (Mark 12:36). He defended the O.T. Scriptures and said, “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). He quoted from the Old Testament books as the true word of God and referred to their prophets, actions and sayings from Genesis to Malachi.

Here are some examples of Christ’s defense of the Law and all of the Old Testament’s sacred books:

+ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17).

+ He said, “*Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Law, till all is fulfilled*” (Matthew 5:18).

+ *“Is it not written in your Law, I said ‘You are gods? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came and the Scripture cannot be broken...”* (John 10:34, 35).

+ *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me...For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me”* (John 5:39, 46).

5. When did this so-called distortion take place? Was it before or after Christ?

If it is said that it took place before Christ, we would answer that Christ quoted from the Old Testament and supported it, and so did His disciples and apostles. So, He said to the Jews: “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day” (John 8:56). He also said, “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39); Moses wrote about Me” (John 5:36); David calls Me Lord” (Matt. 22:42, Psalm 110:1). Therefore, how could it be reasonable that Christ should prove His teaching, quote from distorted books, and ask them to search them?

And if those people claimed that the so-called distortion or alteration was done by the Jews after Christ’s time, we would say that the Torah and the entire Old Testament, from that time until now, were available to the Christians as they were to the Jews. So, would it be reasonable for the Jews to dare to alter them though they know that they are in the hands of Christians? Of course not, or else their distortion could immediately be proven and made known because of the difference between the Torah that is with them and the Torah that is in the hands of Christians.

But if it is said that if the alteration was done by the Christians, we would say the same thing. The Christians would not alter the Torah while they knew it was in the hands of the Jews, their opponents, who would not let this distortion occur.

It is absolutely unbelievable to think that the Jews and the Christians conspired to alter the Torah! No reasonable man would say that, for the Jews are against the Christians, and they are their

adversaries who killed their Christ and denied Him. It would be impossible to believe that they would agree with the Christians to add the prophecies existent in the Torah about His coming, His divinity, incarnation and birth from a virgin in Bethlehem, His crucifixion and resurrection which are all issues that the Jews refuse and as a result of which they discriminated against and killed His disciples.

Can you imagine, likewise, if Christians wanted to conspire with the Muslims to add verses to the Qu'ran that prove the Trinity, and crucifixion and the divinity or deity of Christ, would the Muslims agree and accept these issues that are against their beliefs?! Of course not.

6. Where is the original transcript or copy that does not contain the alleged alteration?

No copy or manuscript of the Torah has yet been found that is different from the copies that are in our hands and those that are kept in museums throughout the world.

7. Islam defends the validity of the Old Testament and the Qu'ran lays the responsibility of guarding the Old and the New Testaments on God as it states in the following ten Quranic verses:

1) "We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it" (Sura XV- Al-Hijr).

2) "Before thee, also, the apostles we sent were but men, to whom we granted inspiration: If thee realize this not, ask of those who possess the Message" (XXI: The Prophets).

3) "No change can there be in the Words of God" (Sura X: Jonah or Youness).

4) "Say ye, we believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to all prophets from their Lord: we make no difference between one and another of them" (Sura II: The Heifer).

5) "If you were in doubt as to what we have revealed unto you, then ask those who have been reading the Book from before you." (Sura I: Jonah or Youness).

6) "To you we sent the Scripture in truth, confirming the scripture that came before it, and guarding it in safety" (Sura V: The Table).

7) "Those who reject the Book and the (revelations) with which we sent our apostles: But soon shall they know, when the yokes (shall be) round their necks, and the chains; they shall be dragged along in the boiling fetid fluid" (Sura XL: The Believer).

8) "And he sent down the Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind" (Sura III: The Family of Imran).

9) "But why do they come to you for decision, when they have (their own) law before them? Therein is the (plain) command of God" (Sura V: The Table).

10) "Say, who then sent down the Book which Moses brought? A light and guidance to man, say God (sent it down). (Sura VI: Cattle).

Accordingly, we may ask the following questions:

- How would God refer the Muslims to the upholders of a distorted Bible to ask them and to get doubt removed from their hearts?

- How would the Qu'ran come down to watch over or be the guardian of a distorted book?

- How could God be accused of inability to protect His book, or rather of inability to keep His promise to protect it? God forbid. If the Old Testament had been distorted at the time of the Qu'ran, the latter would have praised those who rejected it. Conversely, it threatens that those who do not keep it will be severely punished,

deeming them disbelievers and saying they would remain in hell forever.

It is clear then that the Old Testament was free from any distortion up to the advent of Islam and the Qu'ran in the seventh century A.D.

8. Could it be possible that the Old Testament was altered after the time of the Quran?

This is also impossible and unacceptable for the following reasons”

A) If Muslims said so, they would be repudiating the promises of the Qu'ran, which testifies to the fact that the Old Testament is God's inspired Word which He gave us and which He promised to keep and guard (Sura XV: Al Hijr).

B) Muslims would be attacking the Qu'ran mission which is to guard, protect, and safeguard the Old Testament. They ought to have kept some copies of the original Old Testament which they talk about—in their imagination- or at least to have kept a single true copy of it as guardians should do in order to relieve themselves of the responsibility of such guardianship, especially that they believe that the Old and the New Testaments hold some prophecies for them. Just as Christians believe that the Old Testament contains prophecies about Christ, and so were keen on keeping the Old Testament of the Jews, besides printing it, preserving it up until now, and studying with the Gospel, it behooves the Muslims to have kept a copy of the Old and New Testaments which they are charged with preserving. They have no excuse if they could not get a copy of the Old and the New Testaments which they claim have been distorted.

C) The claim of distortion contradicts not only logic, reason and the Qu'ran itself, but also the point of view of the chieftains of Muslims themselves. El-Razy, one of their famous scholars, says: “Distortion of the text of the Old and the New Testaments is impossible because they were too well-known and widespread for distortion to be done to them.”

El-Baidawy said, "Guarding it means securing it from any alteration." In Al-Galalyn's interpretation of text nine of Sourat Al-Higr, it is mentioned, "We sent down the Message and we will assuredly guard it, **"meaning that He guards what He has revealed from alteration and distortion or increase and decrease."**

9. The false claim that the Old Testament was distorted contradicts HISTORY too:

It is impossible and illogical that such a serious act, which has its destructive effect on the faith of millions of people all over the world, should happen and be completely ignored and not mentioned in history!

10. All kinds of science such as history, geography, geology, physics, astronomy, medicine, chemistry, biology, zoology, botany, law, and languages ratified the truth of the Old Testament. If ever any change or alteration by any human had taken place, many differences and contradictions would have become clear and easy to detect or discover.

11. Archeology has testified to the soundness of the Old Testament as we mentioned earlier in Part One.

12. The Old Testament includes tens of verses that clearly speak of God's protection and preservation of the Old Testament as when it says, "*I am ready to perform my word.*" (Jeremiah 1:12).

Also, the LORD Jesus Christ said about God's Law, in the Old Testament, "*For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled*" (Matt. 5:18).

Second - The New Testament

Concerning the New Testament, as being safe from any distortion, we present the following facts:

1. All that has been said about the Old Testament being free from distortion can also be applicable to the New Testament and the whole Bible, and we may add to it the following....
2. It is only a claim or rather a false assumption with no shadow of evidence.
3. It is a vague and anonymous claim which is unable to tell us about the place, time location, and manner of the so-called distortion: who did it, what benefit he or they, could possibly get out of it, nor what is the purpose of that and where is the original undistorted version? No information or justification or proof at all!
4. Since it has been proved that the Old Testament is correct and free from distortion, it follows, necessarily, that the New Testament is also free from distortion because there is utter conformity and amazing conformance between the two Testaments, and due to the fact that the New Testament confirms the validity of the Old Testament as well as the Old Testament is prophesying and supporting the New Testament. The New Testament confirms the validity of the Old Testament, complementing, completing and asserting its inspiration. Hundreds of prophecies, types and symbols have already been fulfilled in marvelous precision, thus asserting it and proving its truth.
5. The disciples and apostles of Jesus Christ preached in the greatest countries then known for their philosophers, such as Greece, and their major military power, such as the Roman Empire, and the vastest atheist school of Alexandria, Egypt, although they were poor, weak, uneducated, and unarmed except for the Gospel; they could by the power of God and His Divine Words in the Gospel, conquer

all the gigantic fortresses which tumbled down before them and still believe in the Holy Gospel of Christ. Needless to say that Christianity spread in a quick and amazing way in the then known continents of Asia, Europe and Africa with love, peace and sacrifice and without any violence or sword, like Islam.

A) Note that Christ's disciples were weak, poor, helpless and many of them were simple fishermen.

B) They preached difficult beliefs such as the incarnation and the Trinity, the Divinity of Christ, the cross and the resurrection of Christ.

C) They preached difficult principles that were against human inclinations like that of the New Testament prohibiting the love of the world, its lust, its materialism, and even the evil or the lustful look, the idle word, and forbids polygamy, divorce, slavery, and calls for love of the enemies, turning the other cheek to have it slapped and accepting the looting of one's money joyfully!

D) They were tortured horribly and were joyful, sang their hymns and stuck firmly to the Word of the Gospel to the end while dying as martyrs.

All this proves the power of the Bible, and God's vital and active Word which was said to be "sharper than any two-edged sword" and must be preached to all humanity until the end of days.

6. Even today, we have manuscripts of the Scriptures the oldest of which dates back to 200 A.D. There are also many other; copies of the whole New Testament dating back to the end of the third century and the beginning of the fourth century A.D. These copies correspond exactly to the copies existing now in circulation.

If for the sake of argument, the Bible had been altered, then this must have happened before the second century A.D., as of course it would never have happened in the first century because those who wrote the books of the Bible were then still alive, and it would be impossible that what they wrote could have been changed while they were

still alive. Therefore, the said change must have happened after the first century and this is impossible because the hand-written Bibles were known and had spread everywhere.

St. Clement of Rome tells that Christians everywhere used to read the Bible in their public gatherings in the church on Sundays, as exactly is the case now, and a few years after the writing of **St. John's Gospel in 98 A.D.** , 3000 copies were in circulation and a few years later this number went up to 30,000 copies and to 60,000 copies at the end of the second century. Christians used to revere and honor those copies as divine and to kiss them lovingly as if they bore the print of the lips of the Lord Jesus. Those copies were immediately translated into three languages: Hebrew, Greek, and Syriac (Syrian), and Christians had it in their wills that a copy of the Bible be buried in their graves, which was one of the important reasons why the Bible was preserved.

If there had been any intention to change the Bible, the change could never have taken place, for it would have required the collection of all copies from churches, homes, graves, kingdoms, islands, and deserts, and destroying them completely without leaving any trace of that change of distortion! Would any sensible person believe this to have been feasible?!

7. Heretics, heathen philosophers and the enemies of Christianity wrote a lot against it, but none of them mentioned that the Christians or anybody else made any change in their New Testament or their Bible. If any of this had taken place, those opponents would have defamed Christianity and recorded this against it.

8. If any distortion had taken place in the New Testament copies then it must have been done either by the Jews, the Pagans, or the Christians, and this is impossible:

- If the Jews had the distortion in mind, they would have omitted everything that was against them. They would have removed everything related to Christ's Divinity, His miracles, His crucifixion

His resurrection, His ascension and His second coming. They would have removed the crime of their rejecting Him, the curse laid upon them, their dispersion, and the prophecies about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Such things are actually there in the Gospel and have not been omitted, which proves that the Jews did not touch the Bible and had no authority over it, as it was not in their sole possession but in the hands of the Christians also.

- If we suppose that the change had been done by the Heathens, then they would have removed everything in it about the destruction of paganism, the miracles of Christ, His Divinity and the obligation of believing in Him. However, all these things still exist in it.

- Therefore, there remains nobody but Christians. However, would it be reasonable to say that Christians changed their own Bible? This is a joke! What would they gain by such a deception? If they were good they would never embark on any deception, and if they had been bad they would never have succeeded in manufacturing their own teachings and those very sacred commandments that are full of sacredness, purity, sincerity, perfection, and sacrifices of everything precious, even of life itself, for the sake of the Word.

They would even have removed the Cross, spiritual struggle, hardships, the narrow gate for lusts and keeping up with the world, which never happened.

9. Despite the division of Christians into various sects, and denominations each with their own beliefs, they have never disagreed about the soundness of their Bibles and its freedom from distortion.

10. If we, hypothetically, set aside the whole New Testament, there would remain the life of Jesus Christ, His characteristics, His great miracles, teachings, Divinity, Cross and resurrection shining like the sun in the Old Testament with all its prophecies, and symbols indications and appearances before incarnation.

11. The Bible, with both its Old and New Testaments, was translated into Latin to be used by Churches in Italy and Africa, then

the New Testament and most of the Old Testament were translated into the Coptic and Upper Egypt dialects in the first and second centuries. It was translated into Ethiopian in the fourth century by Bishop Fromentius, the disciple of St. Athanathius in the fifth century, into Syrian in the sixth century and into several Arabic versions before the eighth century. Later on, it went through several modern translations. Then it was translated into most of the world languages and dialects until the number of its translations up till now went up to about 1500 languages and dialects.

12. In the third century, the Greet scholar Origen spent 28 years, starting from 231 A.D., collecting copies and translations of the Gospels from all over the world. He was assisted by seven scribes and he kept comparing translations to the hand written copies. Then he wrote his book, which he called *Intrapla* and which Epiphanius called *Hexapla*, in 50 volumes comprising in parallel columns four translations among which are Hebrew, Greek, and the Septuagint.

Origen also wrote hundreds of books and volumes, and quoted thousands of verses and commented on them, to the extent that it was said that the whole Bible could be grouped together from the writings of Origen alone.

In addition, there are also tens of books as well as contemporary and preceding writers such as **Hermas**, **Clement of Rome**, who was referred to in the writings of the Apostle Paul, **Clement of Alexandria**, **Saint Agnathius**, the disciple of the Apostles Peter and John, **saint Policarpus** the disciple of St. John who was alive in 108 A.D., and was mentioned in the Book of Revelation (as the Angel of the Church of Smyrna), and Papias, his companion...etc. All the sayings of those saints are full of quotations from the Gospels and the whole Bible, and they all talk about the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ's Divinity, His redemption, His crucifixion, His resurrection, His Sonship, baptism, Holy Communion, as well as other Christian beliefs occurring in the Scriptures.

13. The three Ecumenical Councils, the Nicene Council in 325 A.D., the Constantinople Council in 382 A.D., and the Ephesus

Council in 431 A.D., unanimously agreed that the Bible with its Old and New Testaments and their Divine inspiration is valid, and they referred to it in supporting the beliefs of the Christian Church and in setting the Code of Creed and other canons.

14. Christ's disciples and apostles were eye-witnesses and recorded carefully and honestly all that they had seen heard and touched.

St. John, the beloved disciple says, *"That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled concerning the word of life..."* (1 John 1:1, 2).

In Acts 10:41, St. Peter says, *"And we are witnesses of all things which He (Jesus) did...we who ate and drank with Him after he arose from the dead"*.

He also says in his second letter, *"We were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain'"* (2 Peter 1:16 – 18).

Saul of Tarsus saw the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and turned from being the most dangerous persecutor of Christians into the greatest of Christ's apostles. He wrote 14 letters and ended his life with martyrdom. He would even excommunicate angels, saying, *"If we, or any angel, preach to you anything different from what we have preached you earlier, consider it anathema"* (means cursed / Gal. 1:9).

15. As God promised in the Old Testament to guard His Book and protect it, He likewise promised to do the same thing in the New Testament.

+ In the Old Testament, He said, *"I am ready to perform My Word."* (Jer. 1:12).

+ In the New Testament, Jesus Christ says: *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words by no means will pass away"* (Matt. 24:35).

+ He also said, *"All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me...."* (Luke 24:44-27).

+ And finally He said in the Book of Revelation: *"If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the Holy city and from the things which are written in this book"* (Rev. 22:18).

16. The apostle Paul said, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."* (2 Timothy 3:16). And the apostle Peter said, *"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:21, see also his second letter, 2 Peter 1:19).

17. Old Manuscripts testify to the correctness and soundness of the Old and New Testaments: The copy which was kept at the Vatican in 328 A.D., by the Byzantine Emperor's order and is still kept up till now at the Vatican. Library, correspond exactly to the current copy we have now in hand.

The Sinai-tic copy of the fourth century with four columns in every page discovered by Schindorf, the scholar at St Catharine Monastery in Sinai is now kept at the British Museum and corresponds exactly to the other old and new copies.

There are copies in Alexandria, Egypt written in the fifth century. They are the Ephraim and Pisian copies, as well as the Dead Sea Scrolls and others all of which match.

18. Islam's Testimony to the soundness of the Gospel:

The Muslim's Qu'ran testified to the inspiration and preservation of, not only the Old Testament but also the Gospel as well. Here are some verses from their book:

+ *"Let the people of the Gospel judge by what God has revealed therein"* (Sura: The Table:47).

+ “Then, in their wade, we followed them up with our apostles, we sent after them Jesus the Son of Mary, and bestowed on him the Gospel” (Sura: Iron 27).

+ “And He sent down the Torah and the Gospel before this, as a guide to mankind” (Sura: the Family of Imran 3).

The Qu’ran described the Gospel, saying, “*The Bright Book, which contains teachings, light, and preaching to the pious, it has guidance and mercy*”

One would rightly question here: When was the Bible altered? Was it before Islam or after it?

If it is said before Islam, we will ask: How did it then attest to it? And if it is said after Islam, we will answer: It is impossible because, in the seventh century, the Bible had spread in the form of millions of copies in various languages and translations all over the world and it was impossible to collect them all. Moreover, Muslims never kept one single copy to support their false allegation that contradicts all the others!

19. The Devil’s Testimony!

Even the Devil himself testified that the Bible is the Word of God! For example, when trying to tempt the Lord Jesus, Satan quoted a verse from Psalm 91, when he said to Him:

*“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. **For it is written:** He shall give His angels charge over You, and in their hands they shall bear You up, lest you dash Your foot against a stone”* (Matthew 4:6).

It is mentioned in the Bible that *“Even the demons believe and tremble”* (James 2:19).

The devil and his demons also give a practical testimony as to the truthfulness of the Bible, since they get frightened, tremble, flee from any demon-possessed person at the prayers or reading from the Bible or any part of it like the Psalms or the Gospels. There are thousands of real stories in the church’s history, throughout generations, and we can see that happening before our own eyes every day up till now.

From all what we said, it is clear that those who deny the Bible in

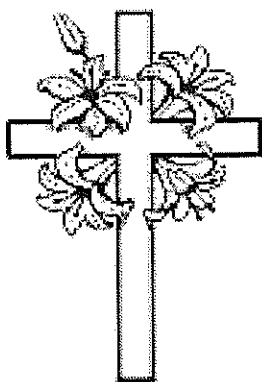
our days as the inspired word of God, have slipped into a worse situation than the devil, or rather they fell as a prey in the snare of the devil as it is written: "The god of this age has blinded the minds of who do not believe lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ should shine on them" (2 Cor. 4:4).

Conclusion

This is a short review of our sacred, great and eternal Divine Bible, which is the only true word of God, "*A spirit and life*" (John 6:63).

"Blessed are those who do His Commandments, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life, and may enter through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

"Blessed are the sensible and the wise who built their houses on the Rock, and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall" (Matthew 7: 24, 25).





THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY BIBLE AND ITS FREEDOM FROM DISTORTION

BY

FR. AUGUSTINOS R. HANNA,

PRIEST OF ST. JOHN COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
COVINA, CALIFORNIA

AS A FORMER ATTORNEY FOR 25 YEARS, IN EGYPT, PRIOR TO HIS ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD, FR. AUGUSTINOS POINTS OUT TO THE FALLACIES AND WEAKNESS BEHIND THE ARGUMENTS MADE BY THE ISLAMIC LEADERS, WHO CLAIMED THAT THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY IS DISTORTED AND ALTERED FROM THE ONE WHICH EXISTED AT THE TIME OF THEIR PROPHET MOHAMMED!

THROUGH THIS FALSE CLAIM, THEY DECEIVED MILLIONS OF MUSLIM PEOPLE FOR TWO REASONS:

- 1- TO PREVENT MUSLIMS FROM READING THE HOLY BIBLE AND CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY.
- 2- TO FIND JUSTIFICATION WHY THEIR QURAN, THOUGH WRITTEN IN THE 7TH CENTURY A.D., PRAISED AND GLORIFIED THE BIBLE AND APPROVED ITS DIVINE INSPIRATION AS GOD'S WORD AND DESCRIBED IT AS "LIGHT" AND "GUIDANCE"?

THIS SMALL BOOK WAS, IN FACT, A LECTURE GIVEN BY ATTORNEY MAHER HANNA (THE PREVIOUS NAME OF FR. AUGUSTINOS' BEFORE PRIESTHOOD) IN A SERVANTS' CONVENTION ON AUGUST 1978, IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT TO TEACH OUR YOUNG GENERATION HOW TO RESPOND TO MUSLIMS FALSE ATTACKS THAT LACK EVIDENCE, AND TO CONFIRM THEIR FAITH IN THE GREAT BIBLE.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SAID, "HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY"
(MATTHEW 24:35)