**How do we know the Bible is the Word of God?**

Answering that question is easy when talking to a person who is asking out of sincerity. However, the skeptic asks the question as more of a statement. He's not only doubtful but doesn't really believe it to be God's Word.

When people don't believe the Bible to be the Word of God, it's usually a matter of ignorance. First, they are obviously not a Christian and therefore have not had the opportunity to investigate the Bible. They have no idea when it originated. They have heard lots of different rumors about its existence, usually that it was written by a bunch of men who had motives for personal gain. Others believe it's just a good book and then there are others who believe some of it is the Word of God and some of it is not, and they pick and chose. Usually to support their own views.

Reading the articles on the **Compilation of the Scriptures, O.T. and N.T.** is a good starting point for understanding how the Bible came together. Why there are 66 separate books written by 40 authors over 2500 years that have come to be compiled together to be the inspired Word of God. -(that's a whole lot of years and a whole lot of men for a conspiracy to be brought about.)

Now that we've seen some reasons for not believing the Bible to be the Word of God, let's examine some **positive** ones.

First, the Bible itself claims to be the Word of God. **II Timothy 3:16** says " all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (NIV version). -(this is a vital verse, because it's informing the reader, that although written by 40 different authors, every word in the original text is the inspired Word of God, and therefore we can trust it to be true.) This wouldn't mean much to a skeptic but to a Christian it's a confirmation.

Another reason for believing the Bible to be the Word of God is that it is a book of facts. It actually proves itself to be true by the fulfillment of its own predictions. A mathematician said that the odds of 8 prophecies being fulfilled in one person would be the formula of 8x10(63rd power), which would equal infinity. Whether or not that equation is valid, there most definitely have been 8 prophecies fulfilled in one person. Below are just a few of them:

He is the Son of God. -Psalm 2:6-7

The Virgin birth of Jesus the Savior.- Isaiah 7:14

The Birthplace of the Messiah.- Micah 5:2

Jesus was Pierced on the side while He was on the cross.- Zechariah 12:10

Darkness. Psalm 22:2

Vinegar was offered to Him.-Psalm 69:21

Mocking of Jesus on the cross.- Psalm 22:6-8

Nakedness.- Psalm 22:17

Gambling for clothes. - Psalm 22:18

Unbroken bones. Not one of His bones were broken.- Psalm 34:20

 His Burial.- Isaiah 53:9

The above 12 prophecies that have been fulfilled should by themselves prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Bible is the Word of God. However, there will still be those for their own personal reasons do not want to believe the Bible and they won't accept the facts.

Over 300 prophecies have been fulfilled as they were foretold. Some of the most recent were:

In 1948 the Jews gathered back into the land of the place where they were originally dispelled from in 70 AD., and became a country**. This is the fulfillment of two prophecies:**

The Lord had told the people of Israel in **Leviticus 26:33-35** " I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will enjoy its Sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the Sabbaths you lived in it." (NIV) -**--(this happened in 70 AD. Israel was scattered throughout the world** . The final result was not only because of her idolatry over the many years, and the fact that they did not keep their Sabbath days, but her denial of the Messiah in 32 AD.)

The Lord also told the Israelites that if they repented He would remember His covenant with Abraham and bring them into the promised land. **Leviticus 26: 40-42** says "But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers — their treachery against me and their hostility toward me, which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies — then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin, I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land." (NIV) --(it took many years for them to cry out to the Lord for a land of their own. It actually took the holocaust before the leaders of the world listened to their cry.)

**The Lord honored His word and in 1948 Israel became a nation once more**.

**Ezekiel 36:24-28** says "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land." (v-25 says " I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God." (NIV) -(here it goes one step further as we see another reason the Lord brings them back into the land is to bring them into the millennium. Those of you who are prophecy students are aware that there are years between verses 24 and 25. Verse 24 has been fulfilled as Israel came back into their land in 1948 **but verse 25 has not yet occurred.**  Daniel's 70th week prophesy, (**Daniel 9:27** which talks about the antichrist agreeing with the peace treaty with Israel which starts the prophesy of the seven year period known as the Tribulation Period). After that seven year period of time, the millennial period will start. ( This will be the onset **of Ezekiel 36:25** noted above.)

Another prophesy to be aware of is **Zechariah 14: 1-5,** "A day of the Lord is coming when your plunder will be divided among you. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azal. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. (NIV)

After the Lord brings Israel back into the land as noted in **Ezekiel 36:24**, He will prepare them for Daniel's 70th week, (**Daniel 9:27**). He says He will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it. This will be that period known as the Tribulation Period. -(presently we see Israel surrounded by her enemies who desperately want to defeat her- to eliminate her from the face of the earth.)

And so we have seen the **fulfillment of the prophesies of Ezekiel 36:24**, and **Leviticus 26: 40-42**, and **Leviticus 26: 33-35** and Israel is now set up for the final stages of the future prophesies of war and the seven year Tribulation Period and then the millennial period which follows.

All of these prophesies could not have been coincidences. They show us that the Bible is a book that is designed, and the Designer could only be the Lord God Almighty. These prophesies that have come true should not only sharpen our faith but bring to our attention the future prophesies.

This should convince anyone who has an open mind and is searching for the truth that the Bible is truly the Word of God.