

WHAT MARKS THE BIBLE AS AUTHENTIC?

Note to the speaker:

This talk should strengthen the faith of our brothers as well as encourage newly associated ones and build up their faith. It should increase conviction that the Bible is God's inspired Word of truth by which we must direct our steps in these critical last days

TRUE CHRISTIANS CHAMPION THE BIBLE'S AUTHENTICITY (5 min.)

Today, powerful elements work to discredit the Bible (*gm* 31-35)

Critics, modernist clergy, evolutionists, and philosophers attack its authenticity and invent theories to supplant faith in the Bible, even dismissing need for belief in God

God-dishonoring conduct of professed Christians has brought reproach on Bible both inside and outside Christendom (Ro 2:21-24; *w05* 9/1 30-31)

Jehovah's Witnesses boldly proclaim that the Bible is the authentic, inspired, and infallible Word of God

Their teachings and organization are based solidly on the Bible

They recognize it as much more than a great literary masterpiece

To them, the Bible is unique, the most outstanding and beneficial book

Jesus Christ upheld God's Word as truth and used it to defeat temptation (Mt 4:4; Joh 17:17)

As his followers, we must use and view the Scriptures in similar ways

We know from experience that the Bible is the only reliable guide for knowing and pleasing God (Ps 119:105)

Provides a sound basis for belief and faith (1Pe 3:15)

We have firm evidence showing that the Bible is God's authentic and inspired Word

UNDENIABLE MARKS OF BIBLE AUTHENTICITY ARE ABUNDANT (20 min.)

Marks of authenticity seen in content, attitude of writers, and other factors

Candor of the writers is strong proof of Bible's reliability (*w05* 5/15 18; *w05* 7/15 6; *si* 341; *it-1* 312)

Integrity of Bible attested to by its writers and early Christians who bore witness to facts, knowing that they could be condemned to death on the basis of their testimony (*si* 342; *it-1* 312)

Internal harmony adds to proof that Bible is authentic and inspired

Bible is harmonious even though some 40 people were involved in writing it over a period of 1,600 years (*si* 341)

It has one theme throughout—the vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty and the sanctification of Jehovah's name by his Kingdom under Christ (*si* 342; *it-1* 310-311)

Practicality of Bible's righteous principles and moral standards testifies to divine inspiration (*w05* 7/15 5; *si* 340; *it-1* 312)

Accuracy of Bible account, including geographic, geologic, and chronological records, supports its authenticity (*si* 339-341)

Though the Bible is not a treatise on science, it is accurate when it touches on scientific matters (*w05* 7/15 5; *si* 340; *it-1* 312)

Historical accuracy of canonical books of Hebrew and Greek Scriptures has been confirmed (*g01* 3/8 8-11; *si* 338-339; *it-1* 153-154, 311-312)

Fulfilled prophecy most powerful testimony to authenticity of Bible

Outstanding are the prophecies concerning Jesus and their fulfillment (*si* 343-344) [Select several, such as matters concerning his birth, ministry, death, and resurrection, and mention both the prophecy and the fulfillment]

Fulfilled prophecies regarding ancient nations and present conditions add to our confidence in Bible as God's Word (*si* 344-346) [Use following examples and others as time permits]

Fall and eventual desolation of Babylon (Isa 13:17-22; 45:1, 2; Da 5:22-31; *gm* 122-125)

Rebuilding of Jerusalem and temple by the returning Jewish exiles (2Ch 36:22, 23; Ezr 1:1-4; Isa 44:26-28)

Succession of world powers (Da 8:1-8, 20-22; *gm* 125-128)

Great time of trouble before complete end of this system of things (Mt 24:7-14; 2Ti 3:1-5; *gm* 136-148)

PAY ATTENTION TO THE AUTHENTIC WORD OF GOD (5 min.)

Bible's counsel and teaching beneficial and rewarding (2Ti 3:16, 17)

Get to know the Author of the Bible by taking in life-giving knowledge of him and his Son (Joh 17:3)

Heed Bible's counsel, which will make you wise (Ps 19:7b; Pr 2:6; 2Ti 3:15)

Bible prophecies show that with end of this world nearing, time left to act is running out (1Co 7:29; *w04* 2/1 21-22; *bh* 86-95; *wt* 175-183)

We invite you to study the Bible with us to “prove to yourselves the good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Ro 12:2)

By demonstrating faith in the good news, you will benefit yourself now and in future (Isa 48:17; Heb 10:38, 39)
Heeding Bible counsel offers sure hope of blessings in God’s new world (2Pe 3:13)

(Not all cited texts need to be read)

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TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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