



AREOPAGUS PROCLAMATION

Volume 22 • No. 6 • Nov—Dec 2012

What Most Convinces Me That Christianity Is True?

An original article by
Bryant G. Wood, Ph.D.

Dr. Wood is Director of Research with Associates for Biblical Research and senior editor of Bible and Spade journal. He has taught at numerous educational institutions and presently continues to do archaeological field work (photo). He and his wife, Faith, live in Manheim PA. Dr. Wood has been an AIIA Resource Associate since 1997.

The beliefs and doctrines of Christianity are set forth in a collection of writings referred to as the Bible.

Since the human authors of the Bible claim that their writings were inspired by God, one is confronted with the question, "Are these claims valid, or is the Bible just another religious book originating in the minds of men?"

Based on overwhelming evidence, much of which has been presented in previous issues of this thought-letter, I believe that indeed the Bible is divinely inspired, revealing to mankind God's plan of salvation.

A very powerful argument is the fulfillment of prophecies given by Old Testament prophets. Many of these prophecies have to do with the Messiah, the coming Savior, which

were perfectly fulfilled in Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament.

A bimonthly thoughtletter published by the AIIA Institute PO Box 262 Monson, Maine 04464

Jesus Himself made a number of predictions, all of which came to pass.

Perhaps His most amazing pronouncement was that Herod's Temple, one of the most magnificent buildings in the Roman Empire, would soon be destroyed. "The days will come," He said, "when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." (Luke 21:6) Jesus' words came to pass some 40 years later when the Romans sacked Jerusalem and threw the stones of the Temple into the Tyropoeon Valley on the west side of the Temple Mount. Those stones have been uncovered by archaeologists and were left in place, providing graphic testimony to the fulfillment of Jesus' declaration.

The Bible is a history of God's dealings with mankind, culminating in the sending of His Son, Jesus, to die as a sacrifice for our sins.

Much of this history can be verified by independent sources, such as historical records and archaeological findings. We will never have proof for every statement in the Bible, but what we do have is a multitude of samples of evidence along the timeline of Biblical history which demonstrate in each and every case that the Bible's record is true and accurate.

As new discoveries are made, they are added to our "database" of evidence confirming the Bible. From this ever growing database, we can conclude that the entire Bible is true and accurate.

While the history of the Bible can be validated in this manner, the miracles and spiritual message cannot. It can never be proven that God spoke to Moses, for example, or that Jesus bore our sins when He died on the cross. Those things must be accepted by faith.

In fact, according to the Bible, faith is the basis of our relationship with God. The apostle Paul, writing by inspiration, said, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

This leap of faith on our part is not a blind leap into the unknown, however. God, in His mercy and wisdom, has provided us with His Holy Spirit.

The thing that most convinces me that Christianity is true is the working of God's Holy Spirit in my life.

First, in bringing me to a personal relationship with the Lord. Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44).

Second, in authenticating in my heart the truth of the spiritual dimension of Scripture and the reality of my relationship with God. "The Spirit himself bears witness with

our spirits that we are children of God." (Romans 8:16); "it is God... who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." (1 Corinthians 1:21-22)

Third, in guiding and directing me in my everyday life. Jesus told His disciples, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13) Paul stated that "all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

As one who has been a devoted follower of Christ for many years, I can testify not only to the working of the Holy Spirit in my life, but also to God's daily provision, His wondrous healing, and many amazing miracles.

There is no doubt in my mind as to the validity of the Biblical message and the reality of Christianity.



More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith