



**AREOPAGUS  
PROCLAMATION**

Volume 11, No. 8 • May, 2001

Revised to 7/2017

# The Remarkable Congruency of Scripture

by Daryl E. Witmer

*The following dialogue is based, in part, upon an actual exchange conducted via e-mail in January of 2000 between a self-described skeptic and a friend of AIIA whose responses we were able to fortify with the material included here.*

**CHRISTIAN:** You asked why someone should believe that the Bible is from God and not just men. Here are five reasons: **1)** its record of fulfilled prophecy; **2)** its congruency; **3)** its endurance; **4)** its confirmation by archaeological discovery; and **5)** its unparalleled circulation.

**SKEPTIC:** What do you mean by "its congruency?"

**CHRISTIAN:** The Bible is comprised of 66 separate books written over hundreds of years by many authors representing many vocations, of varied personality, and in all sorts of circumstances. It was written in three languages from three continents and it covers hundreds of controversial subjects. Yet it fits together into one cohesive story with a central character and a consistent theme. How does one explain such historical, structural, prophetic, doctrinal, and spiritual congruency apart from the fact that it's real author was Divine?

**SKEPTIC:** I don't buy that. So there's a little commonality among three dozen religious writers. So what?

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

**CHRISTIAN:** Have you ever tried to get a committee of three to agree on some thing? And remember — many of the writers of Scripture didn't even know each other, and lived centuries apart.

**SKEPTIC:** But they were all familiar with previous writings. So they stuck to a common theme. So what? So do all James Bond movies, even though they've been created by dozens of producers, directors, writers, and actors. And all that the Bible authors wrote was actually *not* in agreement. At least 15 books of the Bible were removed from the original collection by second and third-century monks because they *didn't* agree with the main theme. It's easy to claim that all Bible books follow the same theme if you just write off all the ones that don't!



**CHRISTIAN:** I'm afraid that you've misunderstood the history of the Biblical canon, or James Bond movies, or both. Consider the following:

- The Biblical canon was formed over a period of approximately 1500 years. James Bond movies have only been produced since 1962, a span of not nearly even 100 years.

Approximately 40 men were inspired to record the Word of God. They had no e-mails, no faxes, no smart phones. In contrast, the producers of the first 19 official James Bond movies met together and corroborated in developing what became known as the 'Bonded Line' — the pedigree of all official Bond films. No movie was considered part of the real series if it didn't include certain features —

even though the character, James Bond, may have appeared in it.

- The Bible portrays an incredibly consistent picture of the Messiah throughout all 66 of its canonical Books. But compare Sean Connery to David Niven, and Niven to George Lazenby. What a difference. In fact, Lazenby was so unconvincing in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (1969) that they gave the role back to Connery in 1971. And then there was Timothy Dalton. What variance!

James Bond is a fictitious figure, able to be bent (to some extent) to suit a producer's fancy. Jesus is a recognized historical figure. Biblical characterizations of Him conform to the accounts of unbiased historians. The early church and church councils endorsed (by consensus) as canonical only those books which met certain criteria. The canon was *not* arbitrarily formed by random groups of monks — or anyone else.

- James Bond movies have their fans. But followers of Jesus have often laid down their possessions and even their lives to follow Him.

- Contrast the *alleged* contradictions in the Bible with many *well-established* contradictions in the identity of James Bond, e.g. the James Bond in the movies attended Cambridge University where he studied Oriental languages (*You Only Live Twice*), unlike the James Bond in the novels.

- The authors of Scripture never sat down to script fiction for profit as did the producers of Bond movies.

- Compare the historic harmony of the Biblical authors with the James Bond screenwriters who once (in December, 1997) actually sued the producers of the 007 films over film-related issues.

**CHRISTIAN:** In the end, the thematic congruency of Scripture is unique in all literature, and especially sacred literature, as a powerful and persuasive testimony to the Divine authorship of the Bible.

**More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith**