

“Why I Believe the Bible Is the Inspired Word of God”

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by W. S. Sadler

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**Sources for “Why I Believe the Bible Is the Inspired Word of God”
in the order in which they appear**

- (1) Rev. Charles Leach, D.D., *Our Bible: Where Did We Get It?* (Chicago: The Bible Institute Colportage Association, copyrighted 1898, by the Fleming H. Revell Company)

Note: The second part of the book is “Ten Reasons Why I Believe the Bible Is the Word of God,” by R. A. **Torrey**.

- (2) L. W. **Munhall**, M.A., D.D., *The Highest Critics vs. The Higher Critics* (Chicago: The Winona Publishing Company, 1896)

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row, or parallelisms separated by yellowed parallelisms.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and the Sadlers pointedly differ from one another.
- (e) **Light blue** indicates passages which strongly resemble something in the Urantia Book, or which allude to the Urantia phenomenon.

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WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

“TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE
THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD”
(Torrey 114)

FIRST, *on the ground of the
testimony of Jesus Christ...*

We find His testimony as to the Old
Testament in Mark 7:13. Here He calls
the law of Moses the “Word of God.”

That, of course, covers only the first five
books of the Old Testament, but in Luke
24:27 we read, “And beginning at Moses
and all the prophets, He expounded unto
them in *all the Scriptures* the things
concerning Himself,” and in the forty-
fourth verse He said, “All things must be
fulfilled which were written in the law of
Moses and in the prophets and the
Psalms” (T 115-16).

SECOND, *on the ground of its
fulfilled prophecies* (T 117).

Taking the prophecies regarding the
Messiah as an illustration, ... they were
fulfilled to the very minutest detail of
manner and place and time (T 118).

1.1 1. Because it inspires me—even as
it has inspired thousands of other mortals,
to be better men, truer husbands, nobler
fathers and more dutiful sons.

1.2 2. Because Jesus Christ, whom I
accept as a Divine Being, called the Old
Testament scriptures “The Word of God.”
(Mark 7:13.)

1.3 3. Because of the remarkable
prophecies of the Bible,

many of which have been fulfilled with
such exactness

that it was known on just what day a
nation would fall—and it did fall.¹

SOURCE

[Compare: Take the prophecies of the building of Babylon, and the kingdom of Cyrus, uttered nearly one hundred and fifty years before anything was otherwise known of them. All fulfilled in exact detail (Munhal 83).]

THIRD, *on the ground of the unity of the book...*

... The Bible consists of sixty-six books, written by more than thirty different men,

extending in the period of its composition over more than fifteen hundred years;

written in three different languages, in many different countries, and by men on every plane of social life ...; written under all sorts of circumstances; yet in all this wonderful conglomeration we find an absolute unity of thought.

A wonderful thing about it is that this unity does not lie on the surface. On the surface there is oftentimes apparent contradiction, and the unity only comes out after deep and protracted study (T 119-20).

So in this marvelous temple of God's truth which we call the Bible, ... we are forced to say that back of the human hands that wrought was the Master-mind that thought (T 121).

"WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE ..."

In the first advent of Christ,

the rise and fall of nations,

and in other fields, the prophecies of the Bible convince me of its supernatural origin.

1.4 4. Because a book uninspired could not be

written by thirty men in sixty-six sections,

covering a range of 1,500 years,

presenting infinite variety yet affording no bona fide contradictions.

This is proof enough for me of

a master mind which indited the whole Book.

SOURCE

FOURTH, *on the ground of the immeasurable superiority of the teachings of the Bible to those of any other and all other books* (T 121).

FIFTH, *on the ground of the history of the book, its victory over attack* (T 123).

IX: THE MIRACLE OF THE BIBLE. (Munhall 86)

Again. It must be remembered that the Bible is the oldest book in the world; portions of it ante-dating, by many centuries, any other book (M 87).

And yet, with all our boasted learning and progress, and the accumulated wisdom of the centuries, it stands to-day, in the estimation of the foremost Philosophers and Statesmen; Scientists and Poets; Metaphysicians and Historians, Warriors and Wise men, pre-eminently, the Book of books! (M 87-88)

And yet there are those who ridicule the Book, and make light of this fact [*i.e.*, that God is its Author] (M 88).

“WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE ... ”

1.5 5. Because of its lofty, superior, superb standards, and its acknowledged divine ideals.

It is the only piece of literature presenting to mankind the goal of perfection, and the definite means of attaining thereto.

1.6 6. Because the Grand Old Book has survived the combined attacks of its enemies,

and the neglect and slights of its professed friends; while many of our human productions are extinct, even though no effort was made to exterminate them.

1.7 7. Because it is the oldest book in the world.

It has withstood the discoveries of the ages, and stands to-day

alongside the researches of modern science, undaunted by

all the scoffing and ridicule which the worldly wise have heaped upon it.

To-day thousands of true scientists bow to the divine authority of the Bible.

“TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE
THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD”
(Torrey 114)

SEVENTH, *on the ground of the
influence of the book.*

There is more power in that little
book to save men, and purify, gladden
and beautify their lives, than in all other
literature put together—more power to
lift men up to God (T 125).

V: THE BIBLE AS A LITERARY
WORK. (Munhall 41)

HISTORY. (Munhall 46)

The Bible contains the most ancient
history of any book in the world. It
reaches centuries beyond Josephus,
Xenophon, and Herodotus, clear back to
the dawn of creation (M 46).

1.8 8. Because the Bible has power to
transform the lives of men and women

who believe it and practice its precepts.

This Book has changed my life; I know it.
I also know scores of others who have
been made into entirely new and different
beings by this Book of Books—the
Bible.²

1.9 9. Because it is the only history we
have of the “beginning” of things.

Without the Bible we know not whence
we came nor whither we go. As an
ancient history it stands without a peer;
with it we know the whole story of
creation, sin, salvation and redemption;
without it, we know nothing of this
world’s past, but little of its present, and
absolutely nothing of its future.³ For my
part, I prefer to hold on to the only guide
book the race has ever had.

SOURCE

“WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE ...”

PHILOSOPHY. (Munhall 51)

1.10 10. Because the Bible presents a complete and consistent philosophy of life here and hereafter. It provides all I crave and more too. It recognizes my weakness and sin, and offers me strength and a Saviour—a real, living Redeemer. It satisfies my soul longings. I believe it is true. The better I understand it and the more I read it, the better it suits me, and the more I am convinced that the Bible is the Word of the Living God.

“TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE
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1.11 11. Because I discover more and more that the Bible is the “fountain of truth.”

EIGHTH, *on the ground of the
inexhaustible depth of the book* (T 126).

I find it an **inexhaustible** mine of beautiful gems.

I am just beginning to learn why so many thousands in ages past were willing to die rather than disbelieve or dishonor its sacred precepts. The better I know its pages, the more I love it.

TENTH, *on the ground of the direct
testimony of the Holy Spirit* (T 129-30).

1.12 12. Because there is something within me—I believe it is the **Holy Spirit**—which tells me the Bible is God’s Word.

Now this Good Spirit (the same voice that always tells me to do right, be honest, and avoid sin) has always told me the Bible was the Word of God. Did this **monitor in your soul** ever tell you anything different?

SOURCE

SIXTH, *on the ground of the character of those who accept and of those who reject the book* (T 124).

[S]how me a man who rejects the Divine authority of that book, and I will show you a man living a life of greed, or lust, or spiritual pride, or self will (T 124).

III: INSPIRATION. (Munhall 19)

Turning to the books called prophetic we find Isaiah saying, Hear the word of the Lord (Isa. 1:10) ... Almost one hundred times does Jeremiah say, “The word of the Lord came unto me” ... “Came the word of the Lord to Haggai the prophet” (Hag.1:1) ... [Etc.] (M 28-29)

V: THE BIBLE AS A LITERARY WORK. (Munhall 41)

BIOGRAPHY. (Munhall 52)

The character drawing of the Bible is true to life,

“WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE ... ”

1.13 13. Because I have observed that

very many who presume to doubt the Bible and reject its teaching

quickly go wrong.

I look out now, on the sea of life and behold the drifting wrecks of scores of youth who once thought I was superstitious⁴ because I believed the Bible. They have missed their port. They have neither chart nor compass. Do you blame me for sticking to my Bible?

1.14 14. Because the Bible is the only book I ever read that appealed to me and impressed my mind as being the Inspired Word of God. I never read in any other book such solemn language as

“The Word of the Lord came unto the prophet saying,” etc.

It is the only message direct from heaven to earth, from God to man.

1.15 15. Because the Bible is true to Life.

and the best work of Dickens and Thackeray is not to be mentioned by comparison (M 53).

When God gave the record of the lives and doings of the men of old—His friends, He made it according to the facts of the case. He tells us of Noah’s drunkenness; Abraham’s lying; the rascalities of Jacob; the dissembling of Moses; how King David committed adultery and murder; and all about the lying and profanity of Peter (M 52-53).

It fearlessly exposes and condemns the misdeeds of its greatest and grandest characters.

In this Book of Books I find not the hero of the novelist.

Sin is condemned in the great, and virtue is commended in the prisoner. There is a sincerity and fearlessness about the Bible which, combined with its tenderness and mercy, profoundly impresses me that no mere man, unaided by the Divine Mind, ever penned its pages and then palmed them off on the world as inspired.

1:16 You may believe what you will, but as for me, for these reasons and others which I know not how to express, or describe, I shall live happily and die peacefully because I believe the Bible, worship the God of the Bible, and have accepted as mine the precious sinner-Saviour of the Bible.

1. In Sadler’s 1905 article, “Prophecy May Be Understood,” he wrote: “Josiah Litch, in the last century, wrote a book based on prophecy, in which he predicted that Turkish rule and power would end on Aug. 11, 1840.” (See “Signs of the Times,” Vol. 31, No. 41, Oct. 11, 1905.) Sadler’s source for this statement was Uriah Smith’s *Daniel and the Revelation* (1897). Smith had written: “From the first publication of [Litch’s] calculation of this matter in 1838, ... the time set for the fulfilment of the prophecy—Aug. 11, 1840—was watched by thousands with intense interest. And the exact accomplishment of the event predicted, showing, as it did, the right application of the prophecy, gave a mighty impetus to the great Advent movement then beginning to attract the attention of the world” (p. 516).

2. Torrey gives an example of a person whose life was transformed by the Bible:

I have in mind as I write a man who was the most complete victim of strong drink I ever knew; a man of marvelous intellectual gifts, but who had been stupefied and brutalized and demonized by the power of sin, and he was an infidel. At last the light of God shone into his darkened heart, and by the power of that book he has transformed into one of the humblest, sweetest, noblest men I know to-day (T 125-26).

3. From the SDA periodical, *The Bible Echo* (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia), Vol. 9, No. 16, April 23, 1894:

The Bible not only gives us the only true account of creation and also of the Lord's dealings with His people in the past, but it shows, as no other book does, what is to be.

4. Torrey cites a case of a Bible believer being called superstitious:

You will sometimes meet a pious old lady, who tells you that she knows that the Bible is God's Word, and when you ask her for a reason for believing that it is God's Word she can give you none. She simply says:

“I know it is God's Word.”

You say: “That is mere superstition.”

Not at all. She is one of Christ's sheep, and recognizes her Shepherd's voice from every other voice (T 129).