

example, in Matthew 2:1-9, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, King Herod demanded of the Jewish “chief priests and scribes” where the Messiah would be born and they answered that the prophets said, “in Bethlehem of Judea.” A fetus does not control his place of birth. Jesus was born in the right place to fulfill the Micah 5:2 prophecy given 700 years earlier.

Alfred Edersheim, a Jewish Christian scholar, helps our understanding on messianic expectation from Jewish literature. The Jewish commentaries on Scripture, called Midrash (*midrashim* in 2 Chronicles 13:22; 24:27), speak of messianic expectations. Edersheim points out that early Jews expected a literal messiah to fulfill OT messianic prophecy.¹⁹ The following prophecies defy prearrangement because they were done by Christ’s enemies.

OT Passage	Date	Subject	NT Fulfillment
Zechariah 11:12	500 BC	Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:14-16
Zechariah 11:13	500 BC	30/silver buy a Potter’s field	Matthew 27:3, 6-10
Isaiah 53:12	700 BC	Numbered with transgressors	Luke 23:33
Psalms 22:16	1040 BC	Pierce his hands and feet ²⁰	Matthew 27:35
Zechariah 12:10	500 BC	look at Me . . . they pierced	John 19:34
Psalms 22:18	1040 BC	Divide My garment and cast lots	Matthew 27:35

There are over 300 prophecies and references to Jesus in the OT. But in addition to that, there are distinct prophecies about Israel, other nations, cities, specific people, Jerusalem’s destruction, and many other events. Each one has been precisely fulfilled.²¹

In Conclusion

The Bible is a trustworthy work about God’s interaction with mankind to bring us to salvation in Jesus Christ. No part of the Bible begins with “once upon a time,” because it took place in real history. The Bible sufficiently demonstrates God love and any demand for more proof is answered with Luke 16:29, “they have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.” That is perfect advice. The Bible is a precious gift. It is God’s communication to you. Will you read it and get to know God better today?

[These endnotes contain several free resources. To search Bible verses, see www.blueletterbible.org.]

1. February 1, 2002 www.ted.com/talks/richard_dawkins_on_militant_atheism.
2. Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006), 237.

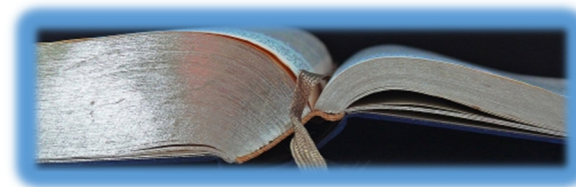
3. Ibid., 122.
4. R. Dawkins and J. A. Lennox, “Has Science Buried God,” at 44:44 minutes www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOUlbd0eLxw.
5. All Bible quotes are NKJV. On Christ’s deity, see Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; John 1:1; 5:18; 8:58; 10:30; 20:28; Philippians 2:6-8; and Revelation 1:8.
6. The verb, “is,” shows continuous action as “present indicative active.” Free Article: On the Greek grammar, see http://academic.enmu.edu/rollinsh/greek/grammar/g_verb-PIA.pdf.
7. Jesus said on several occasions, “I say unto you . . .,” to supersede the Pharisaic law, which often caused them to try to stone or kill him. See Matthew 5:18-22; 5:28; 5:32; 5:44; 6:5; Mark 12:12; John 5:18; 8:59; 10:31; 15:15.
8. Free Article: www.josh.org/wp-content/uploads/Bibliographical-Test-Update-08.13.14.pdf.
9. See Bruce M. Metzger, *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981).
10. F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003).
11. Norman Geisler and William E. Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1968), 241.
12. Free Article: www.christianity.com/11631775.
13. <http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/en-gedi-scroll-deciphered-04216.html>.
14. <https://apnews.com/60785bb2031a478cb71ce9278782c320/scanning-software-deciphers-ancient-biblical-scroll>.
15. <https://phys.org/news/2016-09-digitally-unwrapped-scroll-reveals-earliest.html>. See the photographs too!
16. For a refutation of higher criticism see, http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/te_d_hildebrandt/otlit/week4/walker-highercrit-ctr.pdf.
17. Free articles at the website of archaeologist Dr. Bryant G. Wood, www.biblearchaeology.org. See Joseph A. Holden and Norman Geisler, *The Popular Handbook of Archaeology and the Bible* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2013), and Walter C Kaiser, ed., *Archaeological Study Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).
18. Free book: Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976), <http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net>.
19. Free book: <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes.x.vi.html>, paragraph 10.
20. Free booklet: Ps. 22:16 is validated in DSS, McDowell, Josh. *Discovering a Living Treasure* (2013), pages 5-7. See <https://www.josh.org/resources/apologetics/discover-the-evidence/> and click the free download.
21. Free books on prophecy fulfillment in the Bible: <https://books.google.com/books?id=t0MHAAAQAAJ>
<https://books.google.com/books?id=VK0TAAAYAJ>
<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.174975>.

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Is The Bible God’s Word?



The Bible is God’s communication to the human race. Every generation has those who either love or hate the Bible. One adversary is the Roman Emperor Diocletian, whose 303 AD edict ordered the burning of all Christian Scriptures. That edict failed, but intolerance toward the Bible and Christians has surfaced over the centuries from a variety of sources, be it atheists, agnostics, deists, philosophers, political movements, cults, or world religions. A new intolerance appeared in 2002 as the New Atheists, which is led in part by Oxford professor Richard Dawkins, who called for “militant atheists” to confront Christianity.¹

Professor Dawkins summarized his position, “much of the Bible is not systematically evil but just plain weird, as you would expect of a chaotically cobbled-together anthology of disjointed documents, composed, revised, translated, distorted and ‘improved’ by hundreds of anonymous authors, editors and copyists, unknown to us and mostly unknown to each other, spanning nine centuries”² Another Oxford professor, John A. Lennox, took issue with Dawkins and successfully debated him. Mr. Dawkins trapped himself by questioning the historical existence of Jesus Christ.³ When Mr. Lennox pressed Dawkins to provide his sources, this caused Dawkins to retract his claim, “I take that back. Jesus existed.”⁴ Dawkins’s public retraction dealt a fatal blow to his argument—his book is wrong.

How Would God Communicate to Humans?

By analogy, let us look at how superior beings communicate with lower beings, like humans to dogs. There are only two ways to effectively communicate. A dog would have to rise to the human level or we need to lower ourselves to their level. The ultimate way, though impossible for humans, would be if a human could become a dog without diminishing his superior nature and without