



## **How We Got The Bible - Pt. 2**

**Bishop Steve Norman**

**Bible Study – 6-5-2025**

The question we have to ask ourselves, especially in today's society, is, do we accept the Bible as the infallible, inerrant word of God?

At JLAL, we uphold the belief that the Bible is the infallible and inerrant word of God. However, it's essential to acknowledge that other Christian denominations may hold differing interpretations. This is why we have to know what it says.

### **Infallibility:**

This term, often used in the context of the Bible, suggests that the Word of God will accomplish what God intends it to do and, therefore, is incapable of error.

### **Inerrancy:**

This term means that the Bible is without error in its **original manuscripts**, encompassing all aspects of its teachings.

When individuals do not share this perspective that the Bible is the infallible and inerrant word of God, it can lead to the incorporation of personal opinions shaped by tradition, worldview, and contemporary culture. This approach can sometimes lead to the perception that certain biblical teachings may be considered outdated in today's context.

*To someone who claims to be a Believer but denies the inerrancy of scripture, I would point out that this contradicts God's own claim about the Bible. You're rejecting the Holy Spirit's affirmation that all scripture is inspired and pure. By denying inerrancy, you're essentially placing yourself as the authority over the Bible, deciding what is true and what isn't. This ultimately means you're rejecting parts of scripture you find uncomfortable, asserting that what the Bible says is not true. You've broken the link in the chain. How do we know that anything is true? So, when the Bible claims inspiration for all of it and you break that, then where do you go, how do you trust any of it? You could start, for example, by saying, "I don't believe Genesis 1 and 2. I don't believe in a six-day creation. I believe in some kind of evolutionary process that's not in Genesis 1 and 2. So the question is, if that's not true, what else isn't true, and who's the person that's going to tell us what else isn't true, and is what isn't true is hiding something that is true, and where do we go for that, you literally unravel the scripture if you deny its inerrancy. "John MacArthur"*

## **The New Testament or Covenant**

Jesus was very clear that the new covenant does not replace or nullify the old covenant; instead, it fulfills and builds upon it. The gospel is the story of Jesus, encompassing His birth, life, teachings, death, resurrection, ascension, and sitting.

However, we don't have any writings directly from Jesus himself, so we rely on the four gospel accounts. Two of these accounts are written by apostles, and two are written by individuals who traveled with apostles, all carrying Apostolic authority.

The Gospels serve different purposes: Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the synoptic Gospels because they record Jesus' public ministry, sermons, and miracles.

John's Gospel presents more of Jesus' private discourses, reflecting his close relationship with Jesus and his intent to include details that the other Gospels omitted.

Matthew was primarily writing for a Jewish audience, focusing on how Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies. Mark was addressing a Roman audience, portraying Jesus as a superhero, while Luke wrote for a Gentile Greek audience, emphasizing that Jesus is the savior for all people, not just the Jewish community.

Understanding the historical context is crucial, which is why the book of Acts was written.

Just as the Old Testament prophets corrected people according to the law, the New Testament apostles corrected people according to the gospel. The apostles established numerous churches but faced many issues, with some communities forgetting the gospel. Consequently, they sent letters to these churches, urging them to remain faithful to the gospel of the Kingdom of God, full of Grace and Truth.

One of the most impactful and thought-provoking sections of scripture can be found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. These passages carry a weight of significance that extends beyond the specific churches to which they were originally addressed.

The gospels about Jesus, along with the letters of the apostles, were collected to form the New Testament. These books are considered harmonious because there was no significant debate about their legitimacy. While some books faced discussions regarding inclusion, specific criteria were used to determine which texts should be incorporated.

First, they needed to avoid being obvious forgeries, which disqualified several works.

Second, they had to be authored by apostles or those directly associated with them, rather than early church fathers.

### **Prophetic predictions that prove the Bible's Authenticity and that it is inspired by God.**

**Ten Old Testament prophecies about Jesus that were written 100s of years before His Birth that find clear fulfillment in the New Testament include:**

**1. Virgin Birth:** *Isaiah 7:14 foretells a virgin conceiving and giving birth to a son named Immanuel (God with us). This is fulfilled in **Luke 1:26-38** and **Matthew 1:18-25**.*

**2. Birthplace in Bethlehem:** *Micah 5:2 predicts the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem, which is confirmed in **Luke 2:4-6**.*

**3. Descendant of David:** *Psalms 89:34 and 2 Samuel 7:16 prophecy that the Messiah would be a descendant of David. Jesus is genealogically linked to David in **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3**.*

**4. Sufferings and Death:** *Various passages, including **Psalms 22** and **Isaiah 53**, detail the Messiah's suffering, betrayal, and death, which are mirrored in the accounts of Jesus' crucifixion.*

**5. Wound on Side:** ***Psalms 22:16-18** predicts that the Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced, and his side wounded, as seen in **John 19:34**.*

**6. Resurrection:** ***Psalms 16:10** promises that the Messiah would not be abandoned to death but would be resurrected, which is confirmed in **Acts 2:31** and **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**.*

**7. Ascension: Psalm 110:1** *prophesies that the Messiah would sit at God's right hand, which is supported by the accounts of Jesus' ascension in Acts 1:1-11.*

**8. Forerunner: Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 3:1** *predict a forerunner who would prepare the way for the Messiah. John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy in Matthew 3:1-4 and Mark 1:1-11.*

**9. Public Ministry in Galilee: Isaiah 9:1-2** *foretells the Messiah's ministry in Galilee, which is reflected in Matthew 4:12-17.*

**10. Miracles: Isaiah 35:4-6** *describes the Messiah performing miracles, which is seen throughout Jesus' ministry in the Gospels*

While it can be argued that the prophecies in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament, essentially demonstrating the Bible's own validity, someone may be wondering if there are any external prophecies that can be identified today as having been fulfilled during these end times. For skeptics, history is just a series of coincidences. But for those with eyes to see, Israel's story is undeniable proof of divine intervention. Here are ten biblical prophecies about Israel that have been fulfilled in modern times—prophecies that should make every believer sit up, take notice, and reaffirm their faith in God's Word.

### ***10 Biblical Prophecies Pertaining to Israel That Have Come True in Modern Times.***

**1. The Rebirth of Israel as a Nation: Isaiah 66:8** *"Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment."*

This one is a no-brainer. On May 14, 1948, Israel was declared a state. After nearly 2,000 years of exile, the Jewish people returned to their homeland, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. The United Nations, in a move that can only be described as miraculous, recognized Israel's right to exist. Nations are not born overnight, but Israel was.

**2. The Ingathering of the Jewish People: Ezekiel 36:24:** *"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land."*

Since the late 19th century, Jews from all over the world have returned to Israel. From Russia, Ethiopia, Yemen, and even America, the Jewish people have made Aliyah (immigration to Israel). The establishment of the Law of Return in 1950 solidified this prophecy as Jews worldwide were granted the right to come home. Today, Israel's population is over 7 million Jews—a modern miracle

**3. The Revival of the Hebrew Language: Zephaniah 3:9** *"Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder."*

Hebrew was a dead language for centuries, used only in prayer and religious texts. But in the late 19th century, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda began reviving it, and today it is the official language of Israel. Can you name another ancient language that has been brought back to life? You can't—because it hasn't happened. Only Hebrew. Only in Israel

**4. The Land Becoming Fertile Again: Isaiah 27:6** *"In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit."*

Mark Twain visited the Holy Land in 1867 and described it as a barren wasteland. Yet today, Israel is one of the world's leading agricultural innovators. It exports fruits, vegetables, and flowers to every corner of the globe. From deserts blooming to high-tech irrigation systems, Israel has literally transformed desolation into abundance, just as the Bible foretold.

**5. Jerusalem Under Jewish Control: Zechariah 8:7-8** *“I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem.”*

In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Israel captured East Jerusalem, uniting the city under Jewish sovereignty for the first time in nearly 2,000 years. Since then, Jerusalem has been at the heart of Jewish identity and faith. The prophecy doesn't stop there—God says Jerusalem will remain a source of contention, which leads us to...

**6. Jerusalem as a Burdensome Stone: Zechariah 12:3** *“On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations.”*

Take a look at the news: Jerusalem is at the center of global politics. The world struggles to agree on its status, and nations continually pressure Israel to divide the city. Nevertheless, it remains whole, unshakable, and fiercely defended by its people. This situation is unfolding right before our eyes. We should also remember that the entire nation of Israel is roughly the size of the state of New Jersey. Despite its small size, the actions of Israel are always under the world's scrutiny and have a significant impact globally.

**7. The Rebuilding of Cities and Villages: Ezekiel 36:10-11)** *“I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.”*

After centuries of neglect, the cities and villages of Israel have been rebuilt. Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, and countless other places that were once desolate are now thriving. Modern highways, skyscrapers, and communities cover the landscape.

**8. The Desert Blooming (Isaiah 35:1)** *“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.”*

If you want proof, look no further than the Negev Desert. Israel has made the desert bloom through advanced agriculture, desalination, and water recycling. The barren wilderness has become a place of life, producing food and sustaining entire communities.

**9. The Worldwide Impact of Israel: Isaiah 42:6** *“I will make you a light for the nations.”*

Israel plays a major role in developing new technologies. Many popular inventions come from Israel, such as USB flash drives, Waze, and PillCam. It also contributed to the development of Microsoft Windows and Intel computer chips. Israel's advancements cover various areas like agriculture, with drip irrigation, medicine through devices like PillCam, and cybersecurity. Israel stands out on the world stage. Along with humanitarian aid during disasters, show how Israel helps other nations. The idea that Israel would be a *“light to the nations”* is clearly becoming a reality.

**10. The Survival of Israel Against All Odds: Amos 9:15** *“I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them.”*

Israel has faced war, terrorism, boycotts, and relentless hatred from its neighbors. Yet it stands strong. Despite being surrounded by enemies, Israel has not only survived—it has thrived. God's promise that Israel would never be uprooted again is being fulfilled before our very eyes.

**The Takeaway: God Keeps His Promises**

Some people see Israel as just another country. They're wrong. Israel is a living testament to God's faithfulness. These prophecies are not vague predictions that can be applied to any nation—they are specific, detailed, and unique to Israel.

If these prophecies have come true, what does that mean for the rest of God's promises? It means that He will do exactly what He said. Evil will be defeated, and the Kingdom of God will reign forever.

Israel is the proof that God is still working in the world. It's a call to action: to stand with Israel, to trust in God's Word, and to look forward with hope. The story isn't over. More prophecies will come to pass. Are you paying attention?

