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The Bible has undergone thousands of translations and copies in all areas of the world. The evidence of the Bible's validity can be found, whether it is in its lingering affect on our daily lives, the constancy of information between those many manuscripts, or even the continual findings being dug up by archaeologists. This paper will not only expose truthful evidence to support the belief in the Bible's validity, but also challenge those who believe it to be fiction.

A wise pastor named Ray Brown once said in one of his sermons, "you can just look at people's lives and how they have been changed, people who needed to find hope and found (salvation) in God's Word." (Corrigan 1) He was trying to say that one could simply look around at the people who have been affected by God's Word and conclude that it is a very powerful book. The Bible's power can be seen in the formation of our morality and laws, our culture and even in our politics.

There are three forbidden acts from the Ten Commandments that are still punished to this day. They are lying, stealing and killing. Stealing and killing are actions that are publicly known as being wrong and are commonly judged in courts of law. It is in these courts of law that the third action, lying, comes into play. Lying in court, or perjury, is

enough to land the liar in prison with a hefty amount of fines. When a witness is brought to the stand so that they can be questioned, they must place their right hand on the Bible and swear to tell the truth. The Bible, not a random book or symbol, was chosen for this moment and has been used for hundreds of years.

Our culture is one that changes quickly with time. On a daily basis it shifts from one kind of music to another, from one brand of clothing to the next, etc. One thing if not the only that remained unchanged is the Bible. The Bible doesn't merely exist either. It affects our everyday lives. Elaine Wainwright wrote in her book *The Bible in/and Popular Culture* about one instance that she thought clearly portrayed the Bible's influence on culture. About four hundred church members dressed like Jesus and carried about their daily activities, from working to shopping, in an attempt to "protest what they felt was the removal of Jesus from all things related to Christmas." (Wainwright 41) Basically, our culture is one that shifts focus rapidly yet somehow the influence of the Bible still remains. This once again exhibits the Holy book's power.

Nick Spencer wrote in his article "The Bible and Politics" about six main concepts that he believe were withdrawn from the Bible and placed into politics. They are as follows: due process of law, politics as service, democracy, human equality, toleration, and hermeneutics.

First, due process of law was an idea born from the writings of 1 Samuel and it gives each an every person fair treatment in legal matters. Second, "politics as service" is an

issue that will always exist. It is not uncommon for rulers to be corrupt and abuse their powers. Mark, Luke and John all wrote about this problem and how all rulers should be humble and submit themselves to God and ultimately use their position of power to assist those underneath them. Third, governments have one main purpose and it is to service the people they govern. To do so, the people put certain individuals of their choice into position to represent themselves. This is called a democracy and has been derived from ancient rulers under God being placed into their positions by God for the well being of the people. Fourth, Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created mankind in his own image." We were all created equally and therefore we should be treated equally. The idea of equality is one that has struggled at times but remains in our legal system to this day. Fifth, equality somewhat plays a role in the concept of toleration. Jesus is depicted in the Bible as tolerating and loving everyone no matter what. Governments today, such as that of the United States for example, are seen tolerating groups of people such as immigrants and foreign third-world countries, and providing for their needs. Finally, the Bible can be interpreted in millions of different ways. However, the main beliefs and doctrines that the Bible contain are now active in modern politics despite the many different translations. Concluded, politics are grounded on the central beliefs of the Bible.

The Bible's presence in morality and laws, culture and even politics is a prime example of how powerful the text is. By simply observing our surroundings we can see that the Bible is no ordinary book.

Moving on, the sheer strength of the Bible is now visible and it is time to find evidence supporting the text. Many people see that the Bible is a religious book and it is therefore biased. However, archaeological findings as well as the pure consistence of the Bible throughout its many manuscripts are two fountains of evidence supporting otherwise.

Archaeologists have dug up a series of artifacts that are mentioned in the Bible. Many of these artifacts are tablets that either appear to be pieces of the Bible or clay writings that contain information also seen in the Bible. For example, tablets were found explaining the existence of Belshazzar, his position as king and his interactions with Daniel. Additionally, records of the Hittites were found in Bogazkoy, Turkey. Even the Ebla, a clay tablet that mentions Canaan, was found about fifty years ago. These are only the tip of an iceberg of what has been and will be discovered. Scientists, whether they are Christian or not, will continue to uncover ancient civilizations and writings about people who were featured in the Bible.

As previously mentioned, there are several different writings that were found all over the world. Their consistency between each other is possibly the most credible source for the validity of the Bible. No other book besides the Bible has over forty authors, sixty-six books within it and is written over a period of a millennium and a half. What's more is that those books fit together like perfect puzzle pieces. The Bible consists of a beginning, end, main character and theme just like any other book.

The Bible starts with God creating earth. For many, the sight of a beautiful and complex world, the intelligent creatures within it, and the intricate human body is enough to make someone believe that someone created them. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, gives answers to who that creator is. It also explains the order that God created everything in and how it was perfect. Then, it goes on to explain how Adam and Eve committed the first sin, which then leads to the sinful world that we now live in.

The main character of the Bible is Jesus Christ. Earlier books of the Bible mention him before he is even born in such detail that it alone provides evidence for his existence and the validity of the Bible. Isaiah 7:14 says, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” This was written long before Jesus was born and fits perfectly into other books that talk about Jesus’ birth.

The theme of the Bible lies primarily on the concept of “love”. From God’s love to love between humans, love is mentioned over five hundred times in the Bible. Many of our thoughts on the subject actually originate from the Bible. Marriages might not even exist if it weren’t for the Bible.

The end of the Bible comes with the book of Revelations. This book is known for providing a series of events and prophecies that are expected to come with the end of the world. Seeing as how the rest of the Bible has seemingly come true, Revelation is a book that many Christians take seriously.

From the Bible's influence on our lives and culture today, to its constancy over time or even archaeology, we have found evidence that leads us to believe that it is all truthful. How else would Isaiah have known that Jesus would be born from a virgin? Basically, there is more evidence supporting the Bible than what opposes it. Hebrews 11:2 states, "by faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible." The Bible itself says that God does not leave behind cold, hard evidence supporting his existence. Instead, he wants us to have faith that the Bible is true. In conclusion, there are strong indications that the Bible is utterly reliable, enough to convince most people, but there will always be some individuals that will counter these beliefs with those of their own.

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