

# THE SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

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## IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

By RACHMIEL FRYDLAND

The English word "Bible" is derived from the Greek root word *biblos* which means "a book." This simple word was adopted to refer to the sixty-six books written by Jewish men who claimed that they wrote their messages under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God.

### THE MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is divided into two major portions. The first portion, originally written mostly in Hebrew, consisting of thirty-nine books, is commonly called the Old Testament. The second portion, which has come down to us in the Greek language, consisting of twenty-seven books, is commonly called the New Testament.

One of the thirteen basic confessions of the Jewish faith formulated by Maimonides in the thirteenth century is as follows: "I believe with perfect faith that all the words of the prophets are true." We wholeheartedly agree with this principle. Because of this, we believe in both major divisions of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament. God prophesied the coming of the New Testament in the Old Testament when He spoke through Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

### OTHER DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

The Hebrew portion of the Scriptures is further divided into five books of law, twelve historical books, five poetical books and seventeen prophetic books (five major prophets and twelve minor prophets). Jewish traditions divide the Hebrew portion of the Holy Scriptures into three major divisions: the five books of the Law, *Torah*; the books of the Prophets, *Nevi'im*; and the Writings, *Ketubim*. Therefore the Bible is referred to in Hebrew as *Tenakh*, the initial consonants of *Torah*, *Nevi'im* and *Ketubim*.

The New Testament, *Brit Hadasha*, is divided into four Gospels, i.e. books of Good News; one book of history; one book of prophecy; and twenty-one letters, thirteen (fourteen if the book of Hebrews is included) written by the apostle Paul, three by the apostle John, two by the apostle Peter, one by the apostle James and one by the apostle Jude.

### THE BIBLE, THE TRUE WORD OF GOD

Many Writers—One Theme

We believe the Bible is the true, revealed

Word of God from the first book of Genesis in the Old Testament to the last book of Revelation in the New Testament. One reason is because one great theme runs through this Book from cover to cover—the love of God, and His plan to reconcile sinful man to Himself and to restore all of His creation to its former beauty and perfection.

The writers of the various books lived in different countries, in different circumstances, in different ages and belonged to different classes of their respective societies. Moses lived in 1500 B.C. and was brought up in the royal palace of Egypt. David and his son Solomon were kings who lived in Palestine 500 years later. Amos, the Hebrew prophet, was a herdsman who lived about 760 B.C. Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, were fishermen who lived about 1000 years after David and Solomon and 1500 years after Moses. These, and many others, wrote the various books that comprise the Old and New Testaments, yet together their books form ONE Book with one grand theme.

The whole Book is one revelation which tells of God and of His creation, of God's love and holiness, and of God's desire for fellowship with man, the crown of His creation. The Bible tells of man's failure to

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obey God and how fellowship with God was broken through man's sin and disobedience. It tells of God's love for the nation of Israel, and of Israel's failure to keep God's commandments. Isaiah describes his people's spiritual condition in these words:

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear (Isaiah 59:2).

All through this Book the way of reconciliation between God, the Creator, and man, His creation, is plainly taught. It is by the blood of atonement that sinful man is reconciled to a Holy God. The way of reconciliation as revealed in the Hebrew portion of the Scriptures is by the sacrifices offered in the Holy Temple, and by the hope and promise of the Messiah who would suffer and die for our sins. The way of reconciliation as revealed in the New Testament is through faith in Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, Who gave His life that all who believe in Him, Jew or Gentile, might be reconciled to God. He was the perfect Sacrifice, of Whom the Old Testament sacrifices were but types or symbols. Because He gave His life for us, we are invited to renewed fellowship with God with these Words:

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

The Bible further teaches that not only is the Messiah to restore our spiritual fellowship with God, but one day He will also restore the whole physical creation which is now in a state of corruption and decay as a result of sin. Thus the prophets Isaiah and Micah speak of the time when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). The apostle Paul informs the believers that "the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21). Finally John sees in his vision a new heaven and a new earth, "and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

(Revelation 21:4).

### *The Permanence and the Universality of the Bible*

Another reason why we are impelled to believe that the Bible is the Word of God to us is the fact of its power to resist all attacks. God Himself says:

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

(Jeremiah 23:29)

The Lord Jesus, the Messiah, says:

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away

(Matthew 24:35)

The Bible is both permanent and universal. It was written almost entirely by Jewish people, most of whom came from the little country of Palestine, but it meets the needs of the Jewish person and the non-Jewish person in the four corners of the earth. Great intellects of the Western world have not exhausted it, although millions of books have been written about it. Savages on the islands of the sea read it and cease their savagery, because they have been gripped by its message of the love of God and His plan of redemption.

### *Prophecy Fulfilled*

The Bible itself gives another reason why we can fully trust that God was its Author, and not man. We read as follows:

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them (Isaiah 42:9).

I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

Only God, Who alone is omniscient, could prophesy the rise and fall of four Gentile world-empires, in some instances centuries before they made their appearance. The four world-empires, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome are accurately described in the Bible in the book of Daniel the prophet. The Bible also described exactly the time and place of the birth of the promised Messiah, His work, His death by crucifixion and His resurrection. This description was given to us by God through His Hebrew prophets centuries before these events took place.

Truly this is the Book that you can rely on. It was written by men who were inspired by God's Holy Spirit. God Himself is speaking to you from these sacred pages and asks you to listen to His voice.

## THE WORD BECAME FLESH

The Word of God has clothed itself in flesh in the Person of the Lord Jesus, the Messiah. He is the fulfillment of the predictions of the prophets. He invites you to believe in His sacrificial atonement for you so that you may be restored to fellowship with God. In the words of the Psalmist and the apostle Paul, "Today if ye will hear His voice harden not your heart." Do you believe the writings of Moses and the prophets? Then you ought also to believe in the New Testament, the *Brit Hadasha*, and in the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, of Whom they did write.

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## פארזאם מיר גלויבן איז דער ביבעל (תנ"ך)?

פון ירחמיאל פרידלאנד

### אנדערע חלקים פון דער ביבל

ווייטער צעטיילט מען די ביבל אויף די פינף חומשים פון דער תורה, די היסטארישע ביכער, פאָעטישע און פראָפּעטישע ביכער. מיר יידן טיילן איין די ביבל אין תורה, נביאים און כתובים, פארקירצט תנ"ך.

דער נייער טעסטאמענט (ברית חדשה) ווערט איינגעטיילט אין פיר עוואַנגעליעס (בשורות טור-בות), איין בוך פון געשיכטע, איין בוך פון נבואה און איין-און-צוואַנציק בריוו, פערצן גע-שריבן דורך שאול איש תרשיש, דריי פון דעם שלית יוחנן, צוויי דורכן שלית שמעון פּעטרוס, איין בריוו פון יעקוב השליח און איין בריוו פון יהודה השליח.

### די ביבל — גאָטס וואָרט

מיר גלויבן אז די ביבל איז גאָטס וואָרט וואָס איז אַנטפלעקט געוואָרן צו אונדז פון ברא-

חיס זייערע עלטערן אין דעם סאָג וואָס איז האָב אָנגענומען זייער האָנט זיי אַרויס-צוציען פון לאַנד מצרים; וואָרום זיי האָבן פאַרשטערט מיין בונד, הגם איז ביו געווען זייער האָר, זאָגט גאָט. נייערס דאָס וועט זיין דער בונד וואָס איז וועל שליסן מיט דעם הויז פון ישראל נאָך יענע טעג, זאָגט גאָט: איך גיב אַרײַן מיין תורה אין זיי, און אויף זייער האָרץ וועל איך די אויפשרייבן; און איך וועל זיי זיין צום גאָט, און זיי וועלן מיר זיין צום פאָלק. און זיי וועלן מער ניט לערנען איסלעכער זיין חבר, און איסלעכער זיין ברודער, אזוי צו זאָגן: קענט גאָט! וואָרום זיי אַלע וועלן מיר קענען, פון זייער קלענסטן ביז זייער גרעסטן, זאָגט גאָט; וואָרום איך וועל פאַר-געבן זייער זינד, און זייער חסא וועל איך מער ניט דערמאָנען (ירמיה ל"א, 30-33).

דאָס וואָרט „ביבל“ קומט פונעם גריכישן וואָרט ביבלאָס וואָס איז יענער שפראַך באדייט אַ בוך. דאָס דאָזיקע איינפאַכע וואָרט איז אַני גענומען געוואָרן צו באַצייכענען די זעקס-און-זעכציק ביכער וואָס יידן האָבן זיי אָנגעשריבן אונטער דעם איינפלוס פונעם רוח הקודש פון גאָט ב"ה.

### די הויפט חלקים פון דער ביבל

די ביבל צעטיילט מען אויף צוויי הויפט חלקים. די ערשטע ניין-און-דרייסיג ביכער גע-שריבן אין עברית און אַרמית, ווערן אָפט באַ-צייכנט אַלס דער תנ"ך, אָדער אַלטער טעסטא-מענט, און די איבערבלייבענדע זיבן און צוואַנ-ציק ביכער, איבערזעצט פון דער גריכישער שפראַך, ווערן גערופן דער ברית חדשה, אָדער נייער טעס-טאמענט.

אין איינע פון די דרייצן אָני מאַחינט פונעם רמב"ם זאָגן מיר:

„אני מאמין... איך גלויב מיט אַ פול-קאָמענעם גלויבן אז אַלע ווערטער פון די נבי-אים זענען אמת.“

מיר גלויבן אויך אין דעם, דערפאַר טאָקע גלויבן מיר אויך אין דעם צווייטן חלק פון די כתבי הקודש, דעם ברית חדשה און מיר זעען אז גאָט האָט דערפילט זיין וואָרט וואָס איז פאַראויס געזאָגט געוואָרן דורך ירמיהו הנביא.

זע טעג קומען, זאָגט גאָט, און איך וועל שליסן מיט דעם הויז פון ישראל, און מיט דעם הויז פון יהודה, אַ נייעס בונד; ניט ווי דעם בונד וואָס איז האָב געשלאָסן

### אן אויסערגעוויינלעך ספר

דאָס בוך האָט מען איבערגעזעצט אין מער ווי אַ טויזנט שפראַכן. עטלעכע שרייבער האָבן זיך באַטייליקט אין שרייבן דעם אויסערגעוויינלעכן ספר וואָס איז שוין כּאַלד 2000 יאָר אַלט. עס איז שמענדיק געווען דאָס מייסט פאַרקויפטע און מייסט געלעזענע בוך אין דער גאַרער וועלט.

כדי אייך צו באַקענען מיט דעם דאָזיקן בוך ווילן מיר אייך שיקן אַן עקזעמ-פלאַר אינגאַנצן אומזיסט. שרייבט אונדז נאָך היינט און פאַרלאַנגט דעם ברית חדשה מיט די נבואות פונעם תנ"ך. אונדזער אַדרעס:

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