

The Three Fingerprints

The documents contained in the Bible have three fingerprints left on them by what seems to be an outside “Editor.” It seems that this “Editor” has overseen the writing and compilation of these 66 documents over the almost 2000-year period during which they were written.

These three fingerprints are:

1. Prophecies
2. Numbers
3. Symbols

These fingerprints point to an outside, overseeing “Editor” in the following ways:

1. Prophecies

The Bible is the only collection of sacred writings that claims to contain verifiably fulfilled prophecies. The historical impact has been astounding. According to the first-century Jewish historian Josephus, Alexander the Great had a dream assuring him he would succeed in conquering the Persians and dominating Asia. In this dream Alexander saw a man, dressed in specific outfit, who would be central to this achievement. Alexander recalled this dream sometime later when he and his army were approaching Jerusalem, and Alexander saw such a man in person; it was the high priest of the Jewish temple. Alexander proceeded to enter the temple where he then offered sacrifice to God, believing that this would bring his army under divine conduct and ultimate success. While he was there, the priests showed Alexander the scroll of the prophecies of Daniel. Alexander was stunned when he saw himself and his conquests predicted vividly no fewer than three times in those prophecies. God had provided Daniel a glimpse of Alexander’s world conquest approximately 250 years before it happened. Josephus tells us that Alexander was so impressed that he granted all sorts of favors to the Jews. Whose fingerprints are these?

Most if the Old Testament prophecies refer to a coming “Messiah” who would be born to a virgin in Bethlehem. He would experience betrayal, suffer and die for the sins of the world, be resurrected, and offer salvation for all mankind. His throne would last forever. Scattered throughout the writings of the Old Testament are over 333 prophecies that were fulfilled in the life of one man—Jesus.

The odds of just eight of these prophecies coming true in the life of one man were calculated by a mathematician. The number had so many zeroes in it that he had to use this illustration to make it conceivable. Suppose you took the state of Texas and spread silver dollars two feet deep across the whole state, then marked just one of them with an “x” and buried it somewhere in the state. Then, if you chose one person to skydive over Texas, blindfolded

him, and told him when he landed to pick up just one silver dollar, his chances of picking up the marked one on his first try would be one in 10 to the 17th power. If these are the odds of eight of these prophecies being fulfilled in the life of one man, imagine the odds of all 333 being fulfilled in the life of Jesus! (Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, Vol. 1, pp.144, 167). Whose fingerprints are these prophecies?

2. Numbers

One of the most eerie discoveries in the Bible is that numbers throughout the scriptures tend to consistently symbolize the same things no matter which Bible author was writing, no matter which language or culture they wrote from and whatever time period they wrote in.

It can be fun and interesting as you read the Bible to circle numbers and compare them to this list that explains what some numbers seem to consistently represent.

- 1 God
- 2 Testimony
- 3 Trinity & DBR Factor
- 4 Entirety (four points of the compass)
- 5 Atonement
- 6 Man (incomplete)
- 7 God (complete)
- 8 New Beginnings
- 10 Judgment
- 12 Community
- 24 New Community
- 40 Testing
- 144,000 Super Community

Using Bible knowledge you already have, can you think of any examples of these numbers and their meaning? Here are a few to consider:

- There were 10 plagues that made the Exodus from Egypt possible.
- It rained 40 days and 40 nights during the Great Flood of Noah's time.
- The Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness, and Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the wilderness.
- Jonah was in the whale 3 days, Jesus rose on the 3rd day, Saul experienced 3 days of blindness before becoming the Apostle Paul and being baptized.

- Man was created on the 6th day, and God rested on the 7th day.
- Hebrew boys were circumcised on the 8th day of life.
- A rainbow has 8 colors; the 8th is the same as the 1st.
- The major and minor scales in music have 8 tones; the 8th is the same as the 1st.
- There were 12 tribes in Israel, and there were 12 apostles.

One of many hair-raising examples from the book of John (a biography of Jesus written by one of his disciples who was a fisherman) are the seven “I am” sayings of Jesus found scattered throughout John’s account.

1. I am the Gate
2. I am the Good Shepherd
3. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
4. I am the Resurrection and the Life
5. I am the Bread of Life
6. I am the Light of the World
7. I am the Vine, you are the branches

“I am” is the name God gave Himself when He appeared to Moses in Exodus 3:13-14. The number 7 is the number of completion. This fingerprint from the “Editor” is revealing in these seven statements that Jesus is completely God.

But there’s more...John wrote one more book in the Bible—Revelation. It opens with an eighth “I am” saying: “I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.” When Jesus comes, He offers a new beginning to all of us, to all mankind. I do not believe a fisherman could have engineered these numerics. These “I am” sayings are only one of a myriad of examples of this kind of fingerprint.

3. Symbols

People and things can be seen as symbolic of what God was going to eventually do through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Three examples of this kind of fingerprint:

- King David wrote Psalm 22 to describe the persecution and suffering he was experiencing in his own life. Curiously, it also symbolizes Jesus on the cross, vividly

describing his experience. Read it, thinking of Jesus and realizing it was written 1000 years before Jesus was born and 600 years before crucifixion was even invented.

- The story of Isaac, son of Abraham, contains many elements that can be seen as symbolic of Jesus. Both Isaac and Jesus were promised ahead of time and miraculously conceived. Scripture refers to both of them as their father's "only son" (though Abraham had an older son who was not the one promised by God). In Genesis 22, God tested Abraham by instructing him to take his son Isaac to the hills of Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice. Jesus was the sacrifice for all the sins of mankind in the same location. Both Isaac and Jesus carried the wood they were to be sacrificed upon up the hill to the chosen site. Both voluntarily submitted without resisting to their being sacrificed. Both fathers (by the way, Abraham means "exalted father") anticipated their son's resurrection. At the last moment, God supplied a sheep to sacrifice in place of Isaac. God promised Abraham, "Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and . . . through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed." (Genesis 22:16, 18.) Over 2000 years later, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV.)
- The name "Jesus" is the Greek version of the Hebrew name "Joshua." There are some interesting parallels between the two namesakes. Joshua was the one chosen to lead God's people into the land God had promised them. Following God's instructions on how to conquer Jericho (the first city they came across in the Promised Land), Joshua had seven priests carry seven trumpets for seven days and encircle Jericho seven times. Then the army gave a loud shout and the walls around Jericho fell down, allowing God's people to enter the city. In the book of Revelation we see seven trumpets being used again, the seventh announcing Jesus' reign forever over the kingdoms of the world.

Many, many books have been written examining the numerous examples of these three fingerprints found throughout the Bible. So, what do these fingerprints reveal about who wrote the Bible? My conclusion is given in Video 4: *Trusting the Bible*. It contains the words to fill in the blanks in the sentence below which can be found in your Next Steps booklet.

Conclusion:

The Bible is an **integrated message system** that has been **created** by something living outside of **time** and **space** itself.