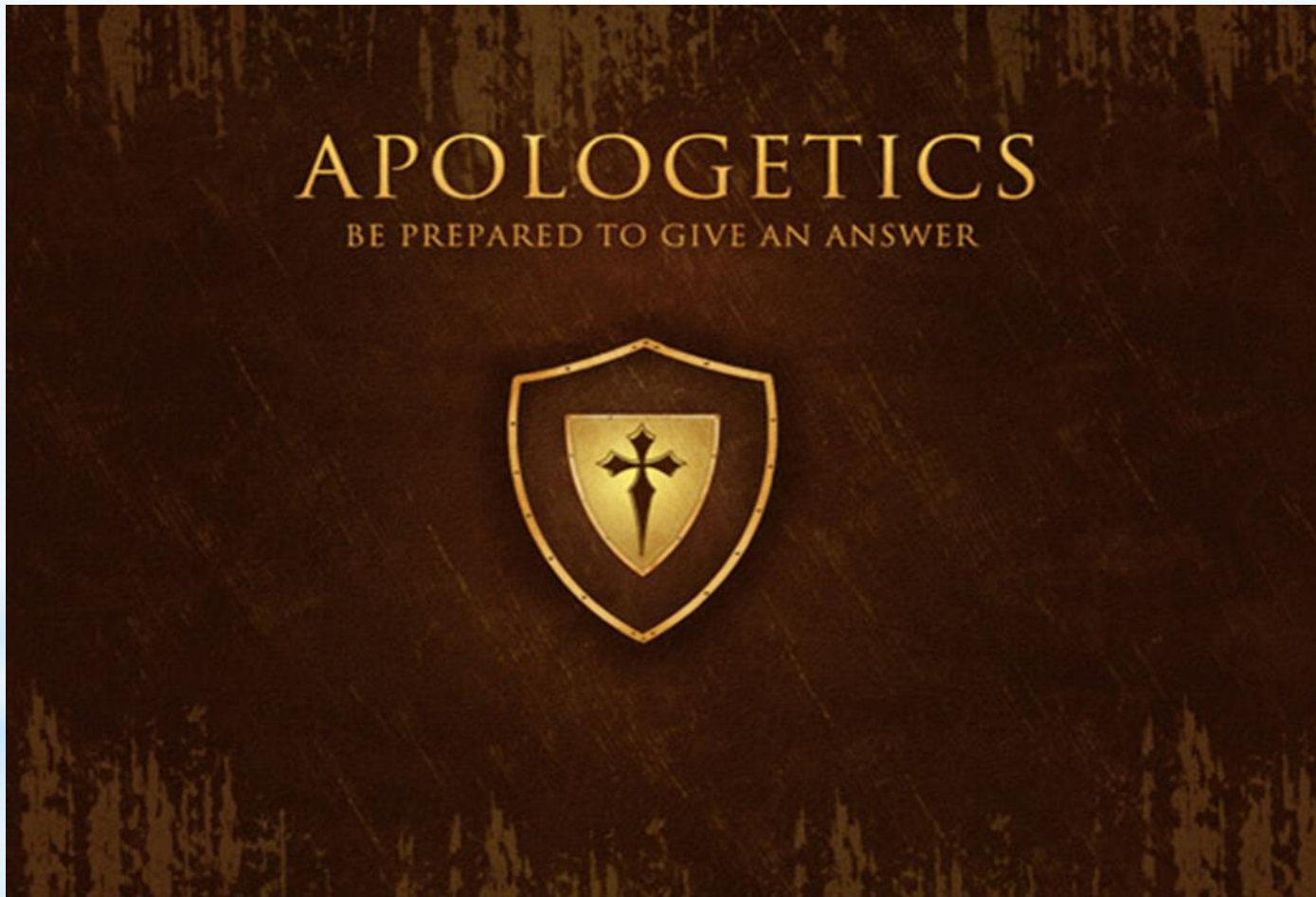


Defense of the Christian Faith



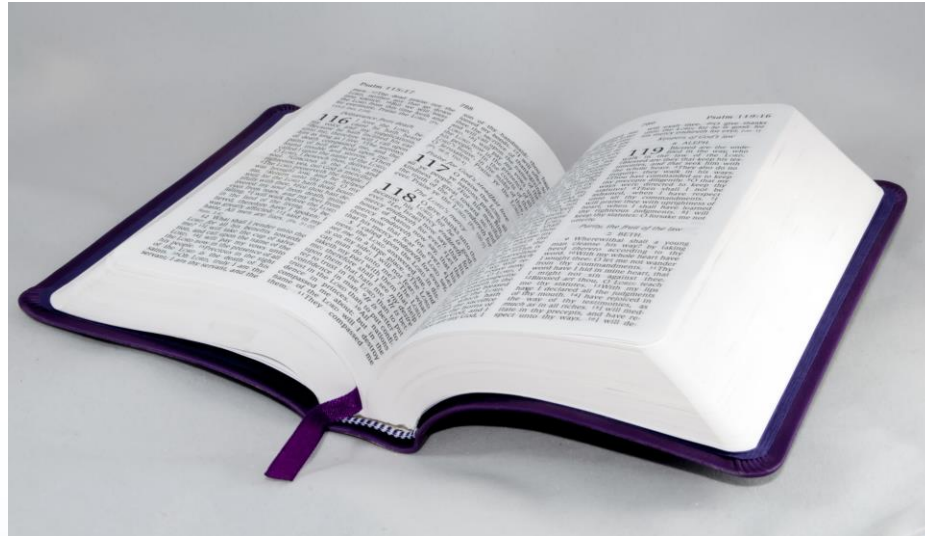
Christian Apologetics Defined

- Christian apologetics is the formal defense of the Christian faith against doctrinal error, misrepresentation, and various types of objections.
- Christian apologetics is the science and art of Christian persuasion.
- Christian apologetics attempts to show that the gospel message is true in what it affirms.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer (*apologia*) to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Apologetics and the Bible



Reasons to Believe that the Bible is the Word of God

Evidences for the Inspiration of the Bible (Chapter 11)

1. First impression *prima facie* evidence.
2. The internal witness of the Holy Spirit.
3. The ability of the Bible to change lives.
4. The unity of the Bible.

The Bible's Consistency

- The Bible is not a single revelation from an angel to a sole author. It is written by forty different authors, over a fifteen hundred year period, in three different languages, under many different circumstances.
- These authors of the Bible were from diverse backgrounds, but yet they managed to tell the same story sixty-six different ways.
- The themes of reconciliation and redemption run throughout the Bible.

Genesis 3:15 and John 3:16

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. – Gen. 3:15

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. – John 3:16

More Evidences for the Inspiration of the Bible (Chapter 11)

5. The historicity of the Bible;
6. The testimony of Christ;
7. The fulfilled prophecies of the Bible;
8. The influence of the Bible;
9. The apparent indestructability of the Bible;
10. The integrity of the human authors;
11. The miracles of the Bible; and
12. The argument from alternate possibility.

Four Reasons to Trust the Bible

1. The Bible is remarkably consistent in its story and message.
2. The Bible contains numerous fulfilled prophecies and miracles.
3. The Bible is historically accurate.
4. The Bible changes lives.

Isaiah 41:21-22

²¹ “Present your case,” says the LORD.

“Bring forth your strong *reasons*,” says the King of Jacob.

²² “Let them bring forth and show us what will happen;

Let them show the former things, what they *were*,
That we may consider them,
And know the latter end of them;
Or declare to us things to come.

Isaiah 41:23-24

²³ Show the things that are to come hereafter,
That we may know that you *are* gods;
Yes, do good or do evil,
That we may be dismayed and see *it* together.

²⁴ Indeed you *are* nothing,
And your work *is* nothing;
He who chooses you *is* an abomination.

Isaiah 39:5-6

⁵ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: ⁶ ‘Behold, the days are coming when all that *is* in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the LORD.

Isaiah 21:9

⁹ And look, here comes a chariot of men *with* a pair of horsemen!”

Then he answered and said,

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen!

And all the carved images of her gods

He has broken to the ground.”

Isaiah 44:28-45:1

²⁸ Who says of Cyrus, *'He is My shepherd,*
And he shall perform all My pleasure,
Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built,"
And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be
laid." '

Isaiah 44:28-45:1

¹“Thus says the LORD to His anointed,
To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—
To subdue nations before him
And loose the armor of kings,
To open before him the double doors,
So that the gates will not be shut:

Isaiah 41:21-22

²¹ “Present your case,” says the LORD.

“Bring forth your strong *reasons*,” says the King of Jacob.

²² “Let them bring forth and show us what will happen;

Let them show the former things, what they *were*,
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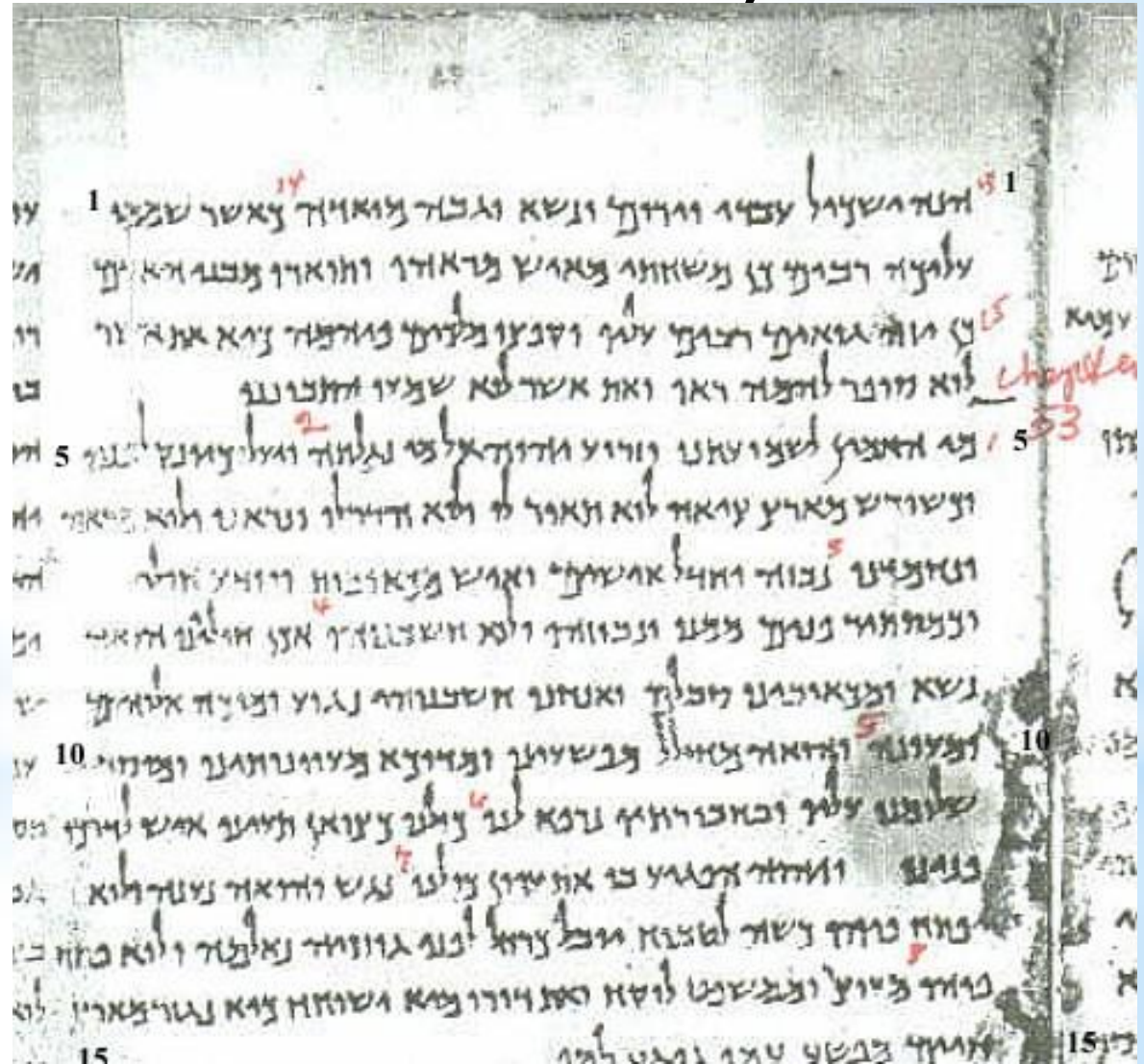
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Isaiah 53 in the Great Isaiah Scroll

(A Dead Sea Scroll from 100 B.C.)



Prophecies and Miracles

- Biblical prophecies are so specific, unambiguous, and accurate that they provide reliable evidence of divine inspiration. For example, the Old Testament predicts the birthplace, time of birth, ministry of miracles, manner of death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Prophecies and Miracles

- Miracles not only provide evidence for the activity of God, but they often confirm the authenticity of a message that God sends and the messenger through whom he sends it.

Jesus Christ and the Resurrection

1. The Empty Tomb
2. The Post-Resurrection Appearances
3. The Spread of Christianity