

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

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Honors Composition

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 - A. Thesis: The authenticity of the Bible has been assured due to various accounts of the text proving itself genuine
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 - C. Bring land of Oz to the forefront

Intense winds swirl and heavy clouds sprawl throughout the sky as a dark film covers a woman's eyes. She seeks protection against nature's wrath. The twister creeps close, the woman's death surly imminent. Attempting to drown out the fierce weather, she tightens her eyes. The world seems faint when her eyes cautiously open. Shockingly, a world of vibrant colors overwhelms her. A bold, blue sky, and rich, rolling green grass as far as the eye can see surrounds the woman. Her uneasy eyes follow a yellow brick path as it fades into the horizon. The tornado, a masked passageway, brought her to the Land of Oz. After countless adventures in Oz, the woman returns home. Once home, she feels anxious to share her accounts in Oz. Witches, an Emerald City, and the Yellow Brick Road spill from her lips. Listeners hear obscure stories and their ears dismiss the accounts as an elaborate fable. The desperate woman strives to prove to the audience that Oz exists. One cannot command the passageway to Oz. Humans do not believe words passed through one's lips. Eyes crave evidence. Many stories receive scrutiny regarding their authenticity. Similarly, greatest tale ever told—the events found in the Bible—generate mixed beliefs regarding the truthfulness of the scripture. Society should consider the Bible an accurate account of history due to the word proving itself genuine beyond reasonable doubt numerous times from before Christ to after death.

The contents of stories found inside the Bible settle within minds of individuals worldwide. People contain knowledge regarding the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, and other Biblical icons. Media uses the ground basis of Biblical stories as allusions in various outlets. Many people ponder the authenticity of the word of the Lord, largely because the Bible serves as "...the only, source for the events it records" (Collins 14). Within the Bible, text explains that the scripture's meaning will hold truth forever (CEB,

John. 10.35). Science attempts to destroy the credibility of the word, but has continually failed in the objective. While science attempts to stab holes in a steel Biblical text, studies have washed away flimsy scientific findings. Astronomers and physicists determined the age of the universe as 13,700,000 years old, while geologists concluded the age of the universe near 4,550,000 years old (Frost 54). People wrote content in the Bible roughly 2,000 years ago. Religious faith spurs from text in the Old Testament. Word of the Lord holds validity and presents paradoxes to readers, however, instruction regarding an understanding of questionable paradoxes does not exist (Collins 14, 50). Today, science and religion clash, fueling an already intense debate between atheists and believers. A virgin Mary, who gave birth to a child conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, instigated an inferno of arguments that would burn for over 2,000 years (Collins 24, CEB, Luke. 1.27-31). Scripture within the Book of Corinthians explains the Lord's fear of a world transforming into a state He does not want and that He will not exist in a way people illustrate Him to be. The Lord fears "...that there might be fighting, obsession, losing your temper...and disorderly conduct" (CEB, Corinthians. 2.12) practiced throughout the world. Throughout history and into modern day, a fiery debate roars worldwide regarding the truthfulness of text printed in the Bible.

One should consider the Bible as a genuine account of history due to its similar record of Roman history. A portion of the Roman Empire's timeline portrays a period of peace. Romans enjoyed the illuminating two centuries. Scholars refer to the gleaming segment of history as the *Pax Romana*, meaning Roman peace (Latourette 37). Christianity results as God's providence enlightens individuals. A person feeling His providence may reflect his or her belief as an individual or as a group. A civil rights

movement in the United States or the peace movement in Northern Ireland demonstrates God's providence ("And God Created Darwin" 21). Both the American civil rights and peace movements in American and Northern Ireland appear as recent accounts of God's providence. The *Pax Romana* portrays God's providence, despite the date, which the Roman peace occurred. People should consider biblical text as authentic accounts of history due to the consistency of the word's application and events that parallel the intended application of the Bible's text. When one investigates further information about the Roman timeline, he or she may learn about Caesar Octavius. The Roman senate "...named him imperator, or commander of all the armies, and second, they ceded him control of the aerarium, the state treasury" (Roberts 108). Later in Octavius's career, senators awarded him the title "...*Augustus*, meaning 'consecrated' or 'holy one,' as part of his name" (Roberts 109). Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire alongside the time Jesus imprinted foot marks on the soil of earth (Roberts 9). The Bible demonstrates that Caesar Augustus imposed a tax list throughout the Roman Empire while Jesus developed into a young man (CEB, Luke. 2.1). The text found in the book of Luke of the Bible explains Caesar Augustus collected taxes from individuals living within the perimeter of the Roman Empire. The Bible regards Caesar Octavius as Caesar Augustus. Both the tax collections and name of Caesar Octavius Augustus mirrors Biblical text with historical manuscripts. The history of the Roman Empire remains consistent in the Bible and historical records until the very end of the empire. Rome's vast empire does not exist today. The metropolis receded and the remains do not reflect the civilization's mighty prime era in today's world. Scripture regards the fall of the Roman Empire. Jesus knew of the crumbling of Roman structure and stated "...see ye not all these things? Verily I say

unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down” (KJV, Matthew. 24.1-2). On earth, Jesus foretold a decline of the Romans. He warned of a downfall in Roman structure. Ruins of the mighty empire demonstrate to today’s world that a downfall of the Romans commenced. Word found throughout the Bible proves its legitimacy by containing text that foretold future events with complete accuracy, reflected by the fall of the Roman Empire. Individuals should regard the Bible as a genuine account of history because the book holds information about the Roman Empire that concurs with historical paperbacks, including the ultimate collapse of the empire.

The mighty Roman Empire existed in a time similar to the Egyptians’ prime activity. Accounts of Egyptian history demonstrate the Bible’s legitimacy by mirroring records stated within the Bible. Rabbi Mordechai Becher describes that an individual discovered a papyrus, originating from the end of the Middle Kingdom, in the 1800s. A.H. Gardiner interpreted the papyrus at the Leiden Museum in Holland. A book titled *Admonitions of an Egyptian for a Hieratic Papyrus in Leiden*, published in 1909, resulted from the interpretation. Gardiner’s interpretation of the papyrus explains a graphic episode in Egypt, involving drought, starvation, slaves’ escape, and numerous casualties (Rabbi Mordechai Becher). Rabbi Becher relays to readers that a staggering amount of deaths resulted during the Egyptian Empire. A verse from the book of Exodus, a chapter of the Bible, illustrates the Egyptians, including Pharaoh himself, crying out, for the land became overwhelmed with death (CEB, Exodus. 12.30). Scripture deriving from the Bible portrays an identical event that a recovered and translated text regards about an event that transpired in Egypt. Recovered documents that mirror claims made in the Bible

enhance the legitimacy of the word. The translated papyrus describes a river flowing with blood. Moses “raised the shepherd’s rod and hit the water in the Nile in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood” (CEB, Exodus. 7.20). A retrieved documentation, recorded by an Egyptian onlooker, described a river transforming into a bloody oasis. The Bible describes Moses channeling power to convert water into blood. People should consider text within the Bible as genuine accounts of the past because a recovered document confirms the book of Exodus. Papyrus translation reveals “...everywhere barely has perished...” (Rabbi Mordechai Becker). According to the papyrus translation, barley suffered all throughout Egypt. The Exodus, found in the Bible, explains that God eliminated barley and that barley remained in the ear (CEB, Exodus. 9.24). An aspect of the Plague, the extermination of barley, arises from Biblical text and recovered documents of history confirm the Exodus, which should lead individuals to regard the Bible as authentic scripture. Not only does an abomination of barley remain consistent within the word of the Lord and a recovered Egyptian document, but also enormous numbers in deaths and river water becoming blood prove the same. All three events described in the Exodus should cause individuals to accept the Bible as a genuine historical account because of recovered documentation from the time of Egypt during the Exodus and explains events that the Bible portrays as well.

Biblical stories must be accurate because the word predates science and disproves widely known beliefs. One travels to Paris, France. He or she visits the Louvre, and in the Louvre, the person inspects the scientific text region. The science books in the Louvre contain irrelevant and false information. In fact, an individual can line the science books filled with disproven information and would have three and one half miles of outdated

science books. An individual can explore a Bible. One Bible, about two inches thick, remains relevant and man has not disproven the scripture today (Pastor Guy Conn). Pastor Conn relays to the chapel that the thousand years after Jesus' physical presence on earth, scientific scholars concluded that the 1,025 stars existed in the night sky (Pastor Guy Conn). While science suggests the exact number of stars in the sky, the Bible states "...the stars in the sky cannot be measured..." (KJV, Jeremiah. 33.22). Scientific advancements later disproved that 1,025 stars exist during twilight. Because of the discrepancy, one can conclude that Biblical text contains information more advanced than science. The Bible's word proves itself more reliable than scientific findings; therefore, people should consider the word an accurate source of information. Another puzzle piece of evidence that encourages the authenticity of the Bible includes another disproven fact concluded by science. During medieval times, common knowledge involved the figuration of the earth as a flat surface, resulting in that "...ships sailing west would careen off the edge of the earth" (Dor-Ner 94). Scholars also determined that soil on earth existed on three landmasses: Asia, Africa, and Europe (Dor-Ner 21). The word of the Lord predates scientific knowledge, demonstrated by an image of God in the book of Isaiah illustrating "It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..." (KJV, Isaiah. 40.22). Biblical imagery describes the world with a round composure. Scientific attacks at the authenticity of the Bible hold no validity, as the word consistently defends itself against science and predates science. Individuals should respect the Bible as an accurate abundance of information due to its predation of scientific knowledge. One other viable piece of evidence that certifies the Bible's authenticity includes a description of blood. Medical practices once involved bloodletting as a means of healing. George Washington,

the first president of the United States, had physicians treat his illnesses by bloodletting, which ultimately killed him. People cannot live without blood; therefore, bloodletting would contradict the intended goal of healing (Pastor Guy Conn). Text derived from the book of Leviticus, found within the Bible explains to readers that life flows through blood, and blood generates flesh for a soul to express itself through (KJV, Leviticus. 17.11). Biblical predation of medicine demonstrates that the book contains a bank of knowledge. Medicine once lagged behind the word of the Lord for its knowledge of anatomy. The Bible's truth about the human body existed before medical science evolved to the same understanding, demonstrating that accounts of events described throughout the Bible hold truth. The timeline of scientific innovations and discoveries trailed behind Biblical events. Biblical information contained more genuine information than scholars and astronomers in history. People should consider the Bible a genuine account of history because the book has proved itself more authentic than once current scientific knowledge and medical practices.

Scientific knowledge once contradicted the Bible, and science later altered information to parallel text within the Bible. While science today matches scripture in the word of God, newly discovered artifacts compliment descriptions of Noah's Ark and the book of Isaiah. News article, originating from *The Sun* illustrates a group of explorers determined to conquer Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey. Gravel crunched underneath the hikers' feet and the group pursued the mountain. On the pursuit, the group discovered a cradle of life, the remains of Noah's Ark that allegedly once contained two of every species on earth. Carbon dating of the remains from the wooden vessel suggests the ship to have existed for 4,800 years. Remains of the ark reflect that the boat contained various

compartments, possibly the home of animals during a period of no rain (“‘Noah’s Ark’ found in Turkey”). The Bible explains the story of a man named Noah, who, motivated by the Lord, constructed an ark. Droplets of water sprinkled from the sky, until a great volume of rain began and persisted for forty days and forty nights. After nearly one half of a year after the first rain drops contacted earth’s soil, the water ceased to accumulate. Eventually Noah’s ark rested on the Ararat Mountains (CEB, Genesis. 6.13-20, 7.4-5, 8.3-4). One can find the book of Isaiah as a story in the Bible—and in the Dead Sea. Near the Dead Sea, explorers discovered a set of scrolls written in an old Hebrew language. Once discovered, the scrolls underwent research and observation. The author of the scrolls wrote the text on a leather material, believed to be about 2,000 years old. After observation and translation, researchers determined the Dead Sea Scrolls as text parallel to the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Before the Dead Sea Scrolls, people copied the book of Isaiah into Bibles when one required a replica of the Biblical text. The scrolls account for the book of Isaiah as an independent, single piece of writing that predates any other text of the Bible (Iris 18-19). People can observe Biblical text as a book in the Bible and another, independent set of scrolls, paralleling the book of Isaiah. Having more than one source of events described in the Bible increases the book’s credibility. The Bible does not contain the only information about events recorded in the book. After the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, information independent of the Bible secured Biblical activity. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the remnants of Noah’s Ark both match descriptions found in the Bible. Noah’s Ark, described in the Bible exists today in Turkey. Explorers discovered the book of Isaiah outside of the pages woven in the Bible. People should

respect the authenticity of the Bible because artifacts discovered today serve as physical evidence of events that unfolded in the word of the Lord.

Once presented with physical evidence, the senses guide an onlooker to formulate an analysis of Biblical truth. Not only do the traditional five senses exemplify the existence of Biblical tales, but also a sense of a spiritual dimension. Evidence supporting the theory of evolution corresponds with studies involving a spiritual dimension (Frost 55). The Bible exhibits numerous occasions of the Lord's delicate presence before his people. The first book of Kings refers to a fire after an earthquake and after the fire subsided, He announced his presence delicately (CEB, 1 Kings. 19.22). One may interpret an existence of a spiritual dimension as a realm where the Lord exists. Research conveying to individuals a dimension of spiritual existence perhaps stumbled upon the abstract residence of God. Frost further justifies a spiritual dimension when explaining that "...throughout their history, humans inherently have been aware of the spiritual dimension in which they live" (Frost 55). For example, time traveler's destination lands him or her in medieval times. During the time, people know of a spiritual dimension. Rewind few hundred years further in the past and visit the Silk Roads, meeting traders pulling caravans. They too acknowledge the existence of a spiritual dimension. Back in present day; stop at Titanic's maiden voyage. As individuals board the unsinkable vessel, ask them about a spiritual dimension. Along the timeline of human existence, people recognize the existence of a spiritual dimension. God's existence now justified. The Bible depicts the Lord's presence within numerous scriptures. A spiritual dimension, explored by Frost may hold the presence of an incomprehensible form of existence—an existence of God. Society should interpret the Bible as an accurate description of historical events

because of the book's depiction of God's existence harmonizing with a spiritual dimension.

Text of the Bible proves itself authentic through various accounts of events that occurred throughout history. Egyptian history and Roman history both parallel Biblical text about the empires. Besides similar records of history of both civilizations written in history text and the Bible, the word remains consistent all throughout history. The Bible predates scientific knowledge. Individuals discovered physical evidence that resembles artifacts described in the Bible. People should accept the word of the Bible because of various undeniable proofs of authenticity that have unraveled as history progresses into modern day. One cannot reassemble the timeline to introduce evidence regarding stories within the Bible. People only rely on history unfolding and people finding artifacts in the modern world that may resemble items described in the Bible. As one reads stories within the Bible, he or she expels more details and historical accounts from his or her lips. As one walks the Yellow Brick Road found in Oz, he or she illustrates more of the land that he or she retains in memory. The Yellow Brick Road severs the rolling hills of grass; leading to the Emerald City. On the road, an individual encounters a wicked witch on a broomstick. Oz, a foreign land, no one on earth can mentor an individual as to combating supernatural forces. Advance past the witch, Emerald City straight ahead, the green towers in plain sight. The individual in Oz accumulates a long and elaborate story that he or she becomes eager to relay to others. Only a few more yellow bricks until the city of green impedes an individual's walk. Once he or she embarks in Emerald City, he or she may never return to earth. Many people walk the road to the Emerald City. The Wicked Witch prevents numerous travelers from advancing towards the great metropolis. The

individual may return to earth, reflect the experience he or she created in Oz, and eventually see the bright brick once again. Everyone travels to Oz. An Emerald City seems only a myth to those that have not gazed upon the gleaming green walls of the city. The doors open, and the final destination of the brick lies in front of him or her. White light overwhelms the traveler; the individual cannot distinguish contents inside of the city. Within two final steps, the end of the traveler's journey on the Yellow Brick Road and through the gates of the magnificent Emerald City the traveler goes.

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