



Gordon Watts &lt;gww1210@gmail.com&gt;

## I need help finding resource to prove Bible accuracy...

6 messages

Gordon Watts &lt;gww1210@gmail.com&gt;

Sat, Dec 23, 2023 at 8:40 AM

To: "Dr. Charlie Dyer" <charles.dyer@moody.edu>, Jon Gauger <Jon.Gauger@moody.edu>  
 Cc: openlineradio <openlineradio@moody.edu>, michael.rydelnik@moody.edu, eva.rydelnik@moody.edu  
 Bcc: "Gww1210@aol.com" <gww1210@aol.com>, Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>, "Gww12102002@yahoo.com" <gww12102002@yahoo.com>, gordon@gordonwaynewatts.com, gordon@gordonwatts.com, gordon <Gordon@contractwithamerica2.com>, Gordon@thirstforjustice.net, BobbyFWatts@gmail.com, Thirstforjustice777 <thirstforjustice777@gmail.com>, thirst4justice <thirst4justice@yahoo.com>, BruceBarham73@gmail.com, Richey Polk <RPolk115@gmail.com>, Anne Watts <annewmwatts@gmail.com>

**From:** Gordon Wayne Watts, in Plant City, FL, listening via WKES 91.1 FM

**To:** Dr. Charlie Dyer, host, THE LAND AND THE BOOK

**Cc:** Dr. Michael Rydelnick, host, OPEN LINE LIVE

**Date:** Saturday, 23 December 2023

**Subject:** I need help finding resource to prove Bible accuracy...

**Short version of my Bible Question:** What are 2 more books -- besides Josh McDowell's and Lee Stroble's -- that I might invest my time and (hopefully) your money in for me & my friends seeking answers?

**Longer Version:** Charlie, this is Gordon again! Long time no see. Hey, I have 3 or 4 friends that seem to doubt the accuracy of the Bible (saying stuff like it's made up "after the fact" and just a bunch of "unproven fable," based on earlier manuscripts like Gilgamesh, etc.)

I am aware that both Josh McDowell and Atty. Lee Stroble (a former atheist) have written books providing proof of this historical accuracy of the Bible, and now that 1 or 2 of said unbelieving friends are now actually reconsidering their agnostic or doubtful stance and seeking God, I wanna provide some resources that will help assess the accuracy (particularly HISTORICAL, but also PROPHETIC, SCIENTIFIC, and MORAL) of the 66 books of the Bible. One of my 2 agnostic friends even asked me to Blue Tooth him MP3 audio of Genesis, Job, & Revelation, which he said "spoke to him," while still assuring me that most of the Bible was made up and that he could never accept a God of the Old Testament who broke all His own commandments (when doing Noah's flood, etc.-- to which I replied God was being generous here, as I would have hit the DELETE button lots quicker given how mu friend and I both agree most people are evil and not reliable if you need help!).

I've done my own research on Bible accuracy

<https://GordonWatts.com/theology/reincarnation.html>

<https://GordonWayneWatts.com/theology/reincarnation.html>

<https://Archive.vn/z8DbW>

<https://Web.Archive.org/web/20230320064109/https://GordonWatts.com/theology/reincarnation.html>

And, you know me, Charlie, I'm the smartest 🐱 cat 🐱 🐱 in the world and the best researcher/writer, but at the end of the, I'm still just a cat, and trust you'll keep this secret while I seek your help.

I don't know if you can squeeze this into your 8am--9am program today, but I plan to listen (it's 9am EST In Florida), and call in to Dr. Michael Rydelnick's program with the same question, promptly at 10amEST (9amCST in Chicago).

While both of you didn't give as much time to several very hard Bible questions in the past as I'd like, I am not mad, as I know both of you sincerely try.

What I'm asking today (and probably could help others) is 1 or 2 more books that address whether we can truly trust the 66 books of the Bible to be accurate. In a perfect world, you'd name 2 more books, and then send me 4 books each for myself and my 4 other friends (5 total), as I'm SUPER POOR, =equals= 4 books/person × 5 persons = 20 books total, with a promise to follow-up on how it went. But I'll take anything I can get, at least you and Professor Rydelnick "teaming up" to help me & other seekers here. (My own faith is buckling like Peter failing Jesus, and even a genuine Christian like

me needs these resources to give an answer to do like Peter says: {1 Pet. 3:15b} be "ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

**⚠ BIBLE QUESTION:** *What are 2 more books -- besides Josh McDowell's and Lee Stroble's -- that I might invest my time and (hopefully) your money in for me & my friends seeking answers?*

P.S.: I'm pulling my weight, here, where I provide free MP3 audio downloads of all 66 Bible books-- on THREE (3) download mirrors, in case, say, I don't pay my web hosting bills and/or it goes doen:

<https://GordonWatts.com/BIBLEaudioFILES/>

<https://GordonWayneWatts.com/BIBLEaudioFILES/>

<https://Web.Archive.org/web/20221207135611/https://gordonwaynewatts.com/BIBLEaudioFILES/>

Sent from my mobile Gmail app///

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Gordon Wayne Watts, Natl Dir, CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II®™, Registered Trademark ; <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com> ; Editor-in-Chief, The Register ; <https://GordonWatts.com> / <https://GordonWayneWatts.com>

BS, The Florida State University, double major with honours: Biological & Chemical Sciences, AS, United Electronics Institute, VALEDICTORIAN

\* <https://GordonWatts.com/education>

\* <https://GordonWayneWatts.com/education>

2046 Pleasant Acre Drive

Plant City, FL 33801-2113

Phone: (863) 687-6141 And: (863) 688-9880

\_\_\_ ///

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**Charlie Dyer** <charles.dyer@moody.edu>  
To: Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 23, 2023 at 11:31 AM

Hi Gordon!

I answer the questions to the program in the order they are received so it will be some time until I'm able to answer your question on air. But I do respond as quickly as I can in writing, which is why I'm sending this email! Now in response, I think there might be a better approach than simply suggesting the names of more books. The two books you've already mentioned are excellent, and that's why I'm not sure adding additional books to the list will ultimately help your friends. The ultimate question is the question of faith. As Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." In light of that, here's what I would suggest.

First, challenge your friends by saying the real issue is the issue of faith. For the next month encourage them to pray and ask God, if He does exist, to reveal Himself in a

special way. And at the same time, tell them to commit to reading through the Bible in a modern translation and to journal their thoughts, questions, and impressions. Then have them come back to you to discuss what they found.

Second, ask them, if they say the Bible contains errors, inaccuracies, etc., to record the specific details and bring them to you. Promise them that you will then come back to them with answers to those specific questions. I suggest this because many people say the Bible is full of mistakes and errors, but then they really can't identify any. (It's just something they have heard repeated by others.) Tell them you'll take their specific questions very seriously...if they will then listen carefully to your response. Doing this will often uncover what the "real" issue is that is keeping them from faith.

There are not enough books in the world to persuade someone who chooses not to believe. But if someone is willing to seek honestly for answers and interact with the Bible—and with a good friend who can help them understand it—I believe God will then work in their heart to bring them to a point of understanding, and hopefully of faith.

I trust this is helpful. Thanks for writing!

Charlie



**Dr. Charlie Dyer**

Professor-at-Large of Bible | Host: *The Land and the Book* radio program

820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610

[thelandandthebook.org](http://thelandandthebook.org)

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**From:** Gordon Watts <[gww1210@gmail.com](mailto:gww1210@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 6:40 AM

**To:** Charles Dyer <[charles.dyer@moody.edu](mailto:charles.dyer@moody.edu)>, Jon Gauger <[jon.gauger@moody.edu](mailto:jon.gauger@moody.edu)>

**Cc:** openlineradio <[openlineradio@moody.edu](mailto:openlineradio@moody.edu)>, Michael Rydelnik

<[michael.rydelnik@moody.edu](mailto:michael.rydelnik@moody.edu)>, Eva Rydelnik <[eva.rydelnik@moody.edu](mailto:eva.rydelnik@moody.edu)>

**Subject:** I need help finding resource to prove Bible accuracy...

**Moody ITS Alert:** This email is from an external source. Please exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking on links, or replying to the sender.

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**Gordon Watts** <[gww1210@gmail.com](mailto:gww1210@gmail.com)>

Sat, Dec 23, 2023 at 4:22 PM

To: Charlie Dyer <[charles.dyer@moody.edu](mailto:charles.dyer@moody.edu)>

Bcc: "Gww1210@aol.com" <[gww1210@aol.com](mailto:gww1210@aol.com)>, Gordon Watts <[gww1210@gmail.com](mailto:gww1210@gmail.com)>, "Gww12102002@yahoo.com" <[gww12102002@yahoo.com](mailto:gww12102002@yahoo.com)>, [gordon@gordonwatts.com](mailto:gordon@gordonwatts.com), [gordon@gordonwaynewatts.com](mailto:gordon@gordonwaynewatts.com), [gordon@contractwithamerica2.com](mailto:gordon@contractwithamerica2.com), [Gordon@thirstforjustice.net](mailto:Gordon@thirstforjustice.net), [Thirstforjustice777@gmail.com](mailto:Thirstforjustice777@gmail.com), [thirst4justice@yahoo.com](mailto:thirst4justice@yahoo.com), [BruceBarham73@gmail.com](mailto:BruceBarham73@gmail.com), [RicheyPolk@gmail.com](mailto:RicheyPolk@gmail.com), [AnneWatts@gmail.com](mailto:AnneWatts@gmail.com), [BobbyFWatts@gmail.com](mailto:BobbyFWatts@gmail.com)

I think your advice is very helpful, Charlie. Thank you! Indeed, Occam's Razor, to get rid of extra stuff and find the simplest solution (in this case, not adding a 3rd or 4th book when 2 books already will provide a lengthy challenge to read) seems good.

Moreover, I think I've heard your assessment about faith versus loads of information before, and this rings true.

Since I'm already familiar with this concept (of actually asking people what problems they have and trying to help them answer genuine questions), and have actually tried to genuinely offer my help, I hope to continue this tact. And, it seems to provide progress and clarification to those involved in seeking truth.

Don't worry if you're slow to air my question and answer-- you've answered me, and you have my question here, and can use it at your convenience to help others, as you feel led.

One of my friends did read the entire Bible whilst in prison, excepting some portions of Kings which he said were tedious genealogy data or some such. But it was likely in KJV, and he did not report that he did Journaling or take notes.

One of the questions both my agnostic friends raised was the eternal issue of why bad things happen to good people, and I reminded them that earth is full of evil people, who are at fault, as God didn't make them do evil, as they have free will.

Thank you again, Charlie. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours.

Gordon

On Sat, Dec 23, 2023, 11:31 AM Charlie Dyer <[charles.dyer@moody.edu](mailto:charles.dyer@moody.edu)> wrote:

Hi Gordon!

I answer the questions to the program in the order they are received so it will be some time until I'm able to answer your question on air. But I do respond as quickly as I can in writing, which is why I'm sending this email! Now in response, I think there might be a better approach than simply suggesting the names of more books. The two books you've already mentioned are excellent, and that's why I'm not sure adding additional books to the list will ultimately help your friends. The ultimate question is the question of faith. As Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." In light of that, here's what I would suggest.

First, challenge your friends by saying the real issue is the issue of faith. For the next month encourage them to pray and ask God, if He does exist, to reveal


Himself in a special way. And at the same time, tell them to commit to reading through the Bible in a modern translation and to journal their thoughts, questions, and impressions. Then have them come back to you to discuss what they found.

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There are not enough books in the world to persuade someone who chooses not to believe. But if someone is willing to seek honestly for answers and interact with the Bible—and with a good friend who can help them understand it—I believe God will then work in their heart to bring them to a point of understanding, and hopefully of faith.

I trust this is helpful. Thanks for writing!

Charlie

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**Dr. Charlie Dyer**

Professor-at-Large of Bible | Host: *The Land and the Book* radio program

820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610

[thelandandthebook.org](http://thelandandthebook.org)

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Radio™ 9K

**Gordon Watts** <gww1210@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 6, 2024 at 4:54 PM

To: Charlie Dyer <charles.dyer@moody.edu>, Jon Gauger <Jon.Gauger@moody.edu>, thelandandthebook@moody.edu

Cc: michael.rydelnik@moody.edu, eva.rydelnik@moody.edu, Tricia.McMillan@moody.edu, openlineradio <openlineradio@moody.edu>, openline@moody.edu, "Gww1210@aol.com" <gww1210@aol.com>, Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>, gordon <Gordon@contractwithamerica2.com>

Bcc: "Gww1210@aol.com" <gww1210@aol.com>, Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>, "Gww12102002@yahoo.com" <gww12102002@yahoo.com>, gordon@gordonwatts.com, gordon@gordonwaynewatts.com, gordon <Gordon@contractwithamerica2.com>, Gordon@thirstforjustice.net, BobbyFWatts@gmail.com, Thirstforjustice777 <thirstforjustice777@gmail.com>, thirst4justice <thirst4justice@yahoo.com>, BruceBarham73@gmail.com, Richey Polk <RPolk115@gmail.com>, annmitchelllakelandfl333@gmail.com, Anne Watts <annewmatts@gmail.com>

**Cc: Dr. Michael Rydelnick & Open Line Live**

Charlie, this is Gordon again with what looks like a "final" update about my search for books -- to share with friends seeking answers -- that help defend the "inerrancy" aka accuracy of the Bible.

*Thank you for replying, below, in great detail. (Some people may say that's too much detail, but I appreciate your detailed response, and I reply accordingly.)*

As you recall, I posted downloadable MP3 files online **of the entire Bible in KJV**, linked below, as well as a short article I wrote titled "SPECIAL REPORT: Exploring Reincarnation, Past Lives, and the accuracy of the Bible.," attempting to address 2 questions: QUESTION #1: Is Reincarnation real?? and: QUESTION #2: Is the Bible True?? (Linked below and attached as PDF Prints for your convenience.)

As a courtesy and convenience to Dr. Rydelnick, to whom I asked the same question, I am Cc copying him my reply to you, because **I want to share your great responses below with him and his team.**

Likewise, they replied and weighed in, **& I wanted to share his thoughts with you.**

You recall that, briefly, you thought that Lee Stroble and Josh McDowell wrote good books on this (Stroble wrote many, so I hope to pick the first one he wrote, perhaps). And you suggested that this was enough books, and that the weak link here to focus on was not number of books, but rather faith.

However, when I called in to Open Lines this morning, while they chose to not take my call, Tricia McMillan, who was producing, said she asked Michael during the break, and he suggested "Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible," by Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer.

Tricia went on to say that Open Lines had recently received several similar questions, and that, this Tuesday, they plan to pre-record an "all mail bag" question and include both mine and 1 or 2 similar questions, hopefully to be broadcast next Saturday, 13 January 2024, and hosted by Michael, his wife Dr. Eva Rydelnik, and producer Tricia McMillan, if I recall correctly.

I say all that to say that I want to thank you, Michael, and the rest of your team for being there when I sought "wise counsel":

"For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety." PROVERBS 6:16, KJV

Furthermore, while I hope to slightly deviate from your suggestion to use only 2 books, it's only a minor deviation, and, to that end, here are the books, for I hope to purchase multiple copies for me & my friends:

**(#1.)** Atty. Lee Stroble, the legendary legal journalist for the **Chicago Tribune** & other newspapers for 14 years, was an atheist when he began investigating Biblical claims about Jesus Christ after his wife's conversion; I hope to get a copy of the most updated version of his first (flagship) book, which appears to be:

\* "The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus," Zondervan; Updated, Expanded edition (September 6, 2016), by Lee Stroble, ISBN-13: 978-0310345862, \$11.89--\$19.99, LINK:

<https://www.Amazon.com/Case-Christ-Journalists-Personal-Investigation/dp/0310345863/>

**(#2.)** "Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World," Thomas Nelson; Illustrated edition (October 3, 2017), by Josh McDowell & Dr. Sean McDowell, PhD, ISBN-13: 978-1401676704, \$21.56--\$44.99 New, LINK:

<https://www.Amazon.com/gp/aw/d/1401676707/>

**(#3.)** "7 Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible," Moody Publishers; Illustrated edition (August 4, 2015), by Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer, ISBN-13: 978-0802413314, \$13.39--\$15.99, Paperback, LINK:

<https://www.Amazon.com/Reasons-Why-You-Trust-Bible/dp/0802413315/>

**(#4.)** One friend, an agnostic (who believes there MAY be a God, but just not like the Bible describes), is more Christian in behaviour and helping our family than most Christians, and he doubts that Noah's Ark could contain all the animals described in the Bible, so I am leaning towards downloading something off the ANSWERS IN GENESIS website to address this--and, hopefully, print out a copy for ease of reading (estimated cost: \$5.00 for time, paper, ink, per copy, plus or minus)

LINK: <https://AnswersInGenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>

Attached as PDF and Archived below:

ARCHIVE TODAY: <https://Archive.vn/vGEs>

WAYBACK: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20231006231728/https://AnswersInGenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>



(#5.) "SPECIAL REPORT: Exploring Reincarnation, Past Lives, and the accuracy of the Bible: QUESTION #1: Is Reincarnation real?? QUESTION #2: Is the Bible True??" by Gordon Wayne Watts, THE REGISTER, Published: Tuesday, 09 June 2009 ; UPDATED: Wednesday, 20 January 2010, (estimated cost: \$5.00 for time, paper, ink, per copy, plus or minus), LINKS:

<https://GordonWatts.com/theology/reincarnation.html>

<https://GordonWayneWatts.com/theology/reincarnation.html>

<https://Archive.vn/z8DbW>

<https://Web.Archive.org/web/20230320064109/https://GordonWatts.com/theology/reincarnation.html>

At an estimate cost of sixty (\$60.00) dollars for one  printed  copy of each of these five books or news articles (\$20 + \$21 + \$15 + \$2 + \$2 = about \$60 total per set), and considering I have at least 4 friends (3 guys and a girl...or two), and I'd like 2 copies each for myself (a backup copy, you know, total 3+1 plus 2 for me = six copies... **no, make that eight**, see below --to be safe aka Good Godly Stewardship, ask

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Ecclesiastes 11:2

New International Version

11:2 Invest in seven ventures, yes, **in eight**;  
you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

James 4:13-17, NIV

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

So, Charlie, if you're OK with it and have it to spare, I'd appreciate \$60 times 8 or \$480.00, and, on my honour, I am going to give an accounting of my stewardship (LUKE 16, wise steward, hello?)

You may donate as follows:

<https://GordonWayneWatts.com/#donate>

<https://GordonWatts.com/#donate>

<https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#donate>

If you can't donate, I understand, and plz pray 4 me, please, but I wanna knock this out, get it done, and knock out the devil with 1-punch knockout power.

*Gordon*

Sent from my mobile Gmail app///

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Gordon Wayne Watts, Natl Dir, CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II®™, Registered Trademark ; <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com> ; Editor-in-Chief, The Register ; <https://GordonWatts.com> / <https://GordonWayneWatts.com>

BS, The Florida State University, double major with honours: Biological & Chemical Sciences, AS, United Electronics Institute, VALEDICTORIAN

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2046 Pleasant Acre Drive

Plant City, FL 33801-2113  
 Phone: (863) 687-6141 And: (863) 688-9880

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On Sat, Dec 23, 2023, 4:22 PM Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com> wrote:

I think your advice is very helpful, Charlie. Thank you! Indeed, Occam's Razor, to get rid of extra stuff and find the simplest solution (in this case, not adding a 3rd or 4th book when 2 books already will provide a lengthy challenge to read) seems good.

Moreover, I think I've heard your assessment about faith versus loads of information before, and this rings true.

Since I'm already familiar with this concept (of actually asking people what problems they have and trying to help them answer genuine questions), and have actually tried to genuinely offer my help, I hope to continue this tact. And, it seems to provide progress and clarification to those involved in seeking truth.

Don't worry if you're slow to air my question and answer-- you've answered me, and you have my question here, and can use it at your convenience to help others, as you feel led.

One of my friends did read the entire Bible whilst in prison, excepting some portions of Kings which he said were tedious genealogy data or some such. But it was likely in KJV, and he did not report that he did Journaling or take notes.

One of the questions both my agnostic friends raised was the eternal issue of why bad things happen to good people, and I reminded them that earth is full of evil people, who are at fault, as God didn't make them do evil, as they have free will.

Thank you again, Charlie. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours.

Gordon

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#### 4 attachments



**IsBibleTrue\_WATTS\_viaArchiveToday.pdf**  
103K



**IsBibleTrue\_byGW\_WATTS\_PDF.pdf**  
68K



**HowCouldAllAnimalsFitOnArk\_AnswersInGenesis\_PDF.pdf**  
1854K



**HowCouldAllAnimalsFitOnArk\_AnswersInGenesis\_ARCHIVE\_TODAY.pdf**  
2912K

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**Gordon Watts** <gww1210@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 11:07 AM

To: Charlie Dyer <charles.dyer@moody.edu>

Cc: Jon Gauger <Jon.Gauger@moody.edu>, thelandandthebook@moody.edu, "Gww1210@aol.com" <gww1210@aol.com>, Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Bcc: BobbyFWatts@gmail.com, Thirstforjustice777 <thirstforjustice777@gmail.com>

Thank you, once again, for your fast reply, last year, Charlie! Regarding tips for Bible Accuracy books, which included those from Lee Stroble, Dr. Erwin Lutzer, and Josh McDowell. (Both my own research, linked below, and the "AnswersInGenesis" website, are also helpful in this regard.)

Good news and update--

Although I'm very poor, I was still able to purchase a very few for myself and hopefully 1 or 2 friends. All without begging you or other "big" friends for donation\$\$\$ (via the "donate" links which are copious on my vast web-ring!).

However, I write because I'm confused about Isaiah 66:7-8 and Ezekiel 37:21-22.

As you may recall (and as referenced in my original email, below), I had previously written an article on this subject, claiming that these passages were fulfilled when Israel was "reborn" and, on May 14, 1948, returned to its land. However, one friend insists that the Isaiah prophecy refers to Israel's return from Babylon in 538Bc--536Bc or so (and he didn't tell me what his church elders, at probably a cult religion, say about the Ezekiel passage, because he promised to look into only "one" Bible verse, Lol!).

So, my question is simple: What is referred to in these passages? My initial guess would include "dual fulfillment" to include both the May 14 date (when Great Britain withdrew her mandate, and caused Israel to be declared a sovereign state) as well as their return from Babylon in 538Bc--536Bc or so.

Thanks if you can offer insight.

Sent from my mobile Gmail app///

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Gordon Wayne Watts, Natl Dir, CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II®™, Registered Trademark ; <https://ContractWithAmerica2.com> ; Editor-in-Chief, The Register ; <https://GordonWatts.com> / <https://GordonWayneWatts.com>

BS, The Florida State University, double major with honours: Biological & Chemical Sciences, AS, United Electronics Institute, VALEDICTORIAN

\* <https://GordonWatts.com/education>  
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2046 Pleasant Acre Drive

Plant City, FL 33801-2113  
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I've done my own research on Bible accuracy

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**2 attachments**



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**Charlie Dyer** <charles.dyer@moody.edu>  
To: Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 11:47 AM

Hi Gordon!

Thanks for the email. In regard to Ezekiel 37 I don't see it being fulfilled either in the return from Babylonian captivity or in 1948. In the larger context—when the details are taken literally—I believe it's looking forward to Israel's still-future complete restoration at Christ's Second Coming. Here's why I say that.

- The prophecy begins in chapter 36 where Ezekiel describes his version of the New Covenant. (He doesn't use those words, but what he writes parallels Jeremiah 31.) He says God will bring Israel "out of the nations" and "back into your own land" (v. 24). But they aren't just restored physically. He also says God will "cleanse you from all your impurities" (v. 25), "give you a new heart" (v. 26), "put my Spirit in you" (v. 27), and "save you from all your uncleanness" (v. 29). And then in verse 33 God says "on the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns and the ruins will be rebuilt." In other words the fulfillment will happen when Israel is restored physically to the land and spiritually to her God. That did not happen following the Babylonian captivity. (Just read Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai. or Malachi to see their continued sin.) And it didn't happen in 1948, since Israel as a whole still doesn't acknowledge the Lord, nor have they received His Spirit. But all that will take place at the Second Coming.
- In chapter 37 Ezekiel then gives two illustrations that further explain what God will do. The Valley of Dry Bones shows that God will restore the nation physically and spiritually. (Verses 11–14 are the interpretation.) The Two Sticks show that God will restore all Israel, not just the southern kingdom of Judah. There will be one nation with one king, which hasn't been true since the time of King Solomon. I tie these events with the prediction of Zechariah 12–14 where he describes the events that will take place on "that day" in the future when God restores His people.

I take Isaiah 66:7–24 to also look forward to this time. Isaiah looks ahead from his day and sees a number of "mountain peaks of prophecy" in the distance. These include the new heavens and the new earth (65:17; 66:22), the dramatic restoration of Israel and Jerusalem (65:19; 66:8), and a time of universal peace and longevity of life (65:20–25; 66:12–13). Later writers add additional details to help clarify the specific order of these events. (For example, Revelation 21:1 lets us know that the new heavens and new earth come after the millennial kingdom.) But taking Isaiah's words at face value we see a regathering to the land and time of universal peace that did not happen when Israel came back from Babylon, nor did it happen after 1948. And that's why I believe these passages describe a time that is still future...and that is further described in passages like Zechariah 14 and Revelation 20:1–6.

I hope this is helpful! Thanks for writing!

Charlie



**Dr. Charlie Dyer**

Professor-at-Large of Bible | Host: *The Land and the Book* radio program

820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610

[thelandandthebook.org](http://thelandandthebook.org)

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**From:** Gordon Watts <[gww1210@gmail.com](mailto:gww1210@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 8:07 AM

**To:** Charles Dyer <[charles.dyer@moody.edu](mailto:charles.dyer@moody.edu)>

**Cc:** Jon Gauger <[jon.gauger@moody.edu](mailto:jon.gauger@moody.edu)>, thelandandthebook <[thelandandthebook@moody.edu](mailto:thelandandthebook@moody.edu)>, "Gww1210@aol.com" <[gww1210@aol.com](mailto:gww1210@aol.com)>, Gordon Watts <[gww1210@gmail.com](mailto:gww1210@gmail.com)>

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