



Luke 16:31 *“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”*

### **The Bible Part Three: The connections**

I was looking at a website that claimed there are over 63,000 cross references between the Old and New testaments. I do suspect that it’s subjective. I have studied verses in the Bible while writing and preparing sermons. At times, the study takes me down rabbit holes. People have made a lifetime of finding Jesus in everything from tree bark to clouds. That also includes every word of the Bible. J Vernon McGee believes that Jesus can be found in very chapter of the Bible. If you’re looking for it, you will find it. I know people who open the Bible and believe that the first scripture they see is God talking to them. It’s not that you can’t find Jesus within all the Bible. Better yet, is Jesus found in the entire Bible or is the character of God found within it all?

I know many non-believers that say the Bible is poorly written and full of errors. Yet, they have never read it. If someone on Twitter posted a false verse, is that enough proof? If someone on Facebook tells you one impossible fact in the Bible is that enough? Can you claim Stephan King is a terrible writer by one line or one paragraph? How does your view line up if you have never read Mr. King or the Bible? Can you rate a movie, book, or person without having a relationship with them? So many people forge an opinion and view based off of someone else’s view. How often do we say “science proves it” or “they said?” What scientific

proof are we being told? Who actually said it? I have always wondered who “they” are? Our belief and view of many things is flimsy. What knowledge have we gained ourselves to make a verified claim to know?

I have read the whole Bible many times. Each time through, I am amazed at the connectiveness of the two Testaments. Look at this one set below.

*2 Kings 6:17 “And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”*

*Matthew 26:53 “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”*

Two verses that are in reference to different stories. Yet, within each is a common thread. Clearly, someone can call on the armies of heaven to protect them. Two books in two different time periods written by two different authors that never met. That is just one of those 63,000 connections. Every time I read the Bible; I find them. Yet, you have to read it to see it. I could find something on homosexuality in the Bible. There are several stories that make reference to being gay. Yet, there is less written on being married. Is that a thread too? The wonder of the Bible is consistency. I am amazed that around 40 authors wrote a similar theme. God is good. People should be faithful. God will send a savior. Jesus is the savior. On and on I could go pinpointing connections.

I think the Bible is real because of its connectiveness. Genesis 1 starts with “*in the beginning.*” John 1 begins the same way. The different writers saw God in the beginning. They can see the connections. It’s so fascinating to read a verse and then see another verse

complimenting it. This is such a big book. In the Bible's sheer size alone, it would be ridiculously impossible to make connections like they do. I mean I would have to be supernatural like God. Now, I don't believe there are necessarily 63,000 connections. Yet, there are way too many to discount. There is a cohesiveness that I admire.

I had a professor remind his students that the Old Testament writers did not know Jesus. Yet, they wrote with Jesus in mind. How so? These ancient writers tell of a promised Christ from God. The New Testament writers read their Old Testament. They knew what this Christ should look like. These New Testament writers consequently spent time with Jesus. They could see Jesus in the prophets, in the Christ descriptions, and through the promises of God. Haven't you ever had déjà vu? Haven't you ever thought "oh, I can see the connection now." We do it all the time. Could a group of men sit down and concoct 63,000 (plus) connections in the Bible to make it a scam? Seriously?

Before I was a Christian, I had beliefs about Christianity and the Bible. My father always said that men wrote the Bible to keep us moral. God does not exist, Christianity is man-made. How could all these writers (in different time periods) complete the scam? I have to ask, why complete the scam? Yet, throughout history, God is maintained as love. The Messiah is supposed to suffer. Why did Matthew sell Jesus as the new Moses? What possessed John to see Jesus as the word of God that was there in the beginning? Why does Isaiah 53 look so much like Jesus life? How could a psalm touch my heart so easily like it does? Do I see myself in David's life? Connections in the Bible make it more than just a book. They make it real life.

I believe the Bible is real directly because of this second reason. It's way too connected to be a scam. Way too connected to just be a book. What the Bible talks about in the first book it reminds us in the last. The message of God is woven throughout the stories of the Old and retold

within the wisdom found in Paul's writing in the new. Why do all these writers tell the same theme? That God loves us and he wants us to return to him? It's because they felt the message and believed it.

*Jerimiah 24:7 "I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart."*

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*