This message is on the Bible, the world of God. Why we know the Bible is the word of God, message by Doctor Charles Lee Feinberg, dean of Talbot theological seminary in La Mirada, California. Why we know the Bible is the word of God. If you were to look at Psalm 119, versus 153 to 160, you would see the Psalmist is indicating, "Consider mine affliction and deliver me for I do not forget thy law. Plead my cause and deliver me. Revive me according to thy word. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they seek not thy statutes. Great are thy tender mercies, oh Lord, revive me according to thine ordinances. Many are my persecutors and my enemies, in yet, do I not decline from my testimonies. I behold the treacherous, the transgressors, and was grieved because they kept not thy word. Consider how I love thy precepts, revive me oh Lord according to thy loving kindness. Thy word is true from the beginning and every one of our righteous ordinances endureth forever." In the 19-1 version, Psalm 119, verse 160 reads, "The sum of thy word is truth and every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth forever." In the high-priestly prayer of our Lord Jesus in John 17, it's verse 17 where our Lord Jesus prays, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." Notice the Psalmist says "The sum of thy word is truth", our Lord Jesus bears a similar testimony, "Sanctify them in the truth, thy word is truth." Why we know the Bible is the word of God, the all-important question today that which divides men into two totally separate camps all over the world in these positions are polls apart. They're the opposite. The question today is, friends, is the Bible God's word or is it man's? Now it's a purpose that we chose the title why we know the Bible is the word of God, for we are not primarily concerned for the moment in what I think or you think, what I believe or someone else
believes, what you or I surmise or conjecture or suppose or what others do; we're here speaking of certainties and of such a certainty as is assured to the unified and united church of the living Christ. Now, it's a matter of deep gratitude to the discerning believer that he finds the Christian faith one of certainties not one of assumptions or guesses or hopes-so's. Nowhere is this truer than with respect to the Bible itself. Fully forty times we meet the word known in the first epistle of John in one form or another; a large percentage is we know. So, you see, certainty and assurance, friend, are written boldly across the face of our faith. But while this is the truth of our faith, and is the heritage of us all, many have not laid hold of it in the measure that is their God given privilege. A modern writer, a writer of this century, has put it beautifully in this way, said he, "The need of the hour for twentieth century Christians is to come out of a mist, the shadows of uncertainty and unbelief into a faith in the Bible, which is an absolutely dominating conviction of its authority and verity as the living word of the living God." Now there are many reasons that form the basis of our united and common knowledge that the Bible is God's word but from among the many reasons we choose for the sake of time, just four. For our purposes now, four reasons why we know the Bible is the word of God. First, because of the unity of its construction, when you hold in your hand a Bible you say, "It is one book", it is but it is many books, it is a whole library. Believers are confident that the message in the scriptures is God's because of the unity that pervades and permeates and penetrates the whole structure of the Bible. Now, the Bible, we say is one book, yes, but it is also sixty six books written not by one writer but by about forty different authors. These men were not even of the same rank or station or culture or position, intellectual background, or condition in life. Among the writers of the Bible are David and Solomon who were Kings, Isaiah who's a statesmen and prophet. Peter, James, and John were so called ignorant fisherman. Zechariah and Jeremiah were of priestly families, as
well as prophets. This is clear from the genealogies. Amos was a herdsmen and a dresser of sycamore trees, the means were by they used to pinch the fruit in order to bring it to greater fruition, a dresser of sycamore trees. Luke was a highly intelligent, cultured, beloved physician. Matthew was a tax collector. Paul was a giant of a scholar, versed and steeped in all the wisdom of the Hebrew Old Testament; he accumulated traditions of the Rabbi, the current modes of Greek though and declared a vowed pensioner on the grace of God. Now, these men obviously did not write in one year or in one generation or even all in one century, not all even in one millennium. They wrote, under God, over a period of about fifteen-hundred years, a millennium and a half, from Moses to John the apostle. If you want to see what a span of time that is, friends, a similar period in European history would take us from St. Agustin with his [day queue] with [Tate Dei] concerning the city of God, takes us from St. Agustin's city of God all the way to Tennyson's Memoriam Nor did the human writers write in one locality or one place, not the same century, not the same millennium even but not the same locality. We have parts of the word of God that come from the wilderness of Sinai, parts from Syria, books from Arabia, Greece, Italy, and Palestine. But the greatest variety and diversity appear in the subjects that are discussed in the Bible. If it's history that we want, there is not any that could equal that of the historical books of the Old Testament or that found in the gospels and Acts. You know as well as I do, from the presses of our country and other lands that come every year, an unnumbered multitude of new works of historical bearing. Why? Why have the facts of history changed? Ah, there you have it, there is the wrong. They must all admit, they do not have all the facts, therefore of necessity their conclusion is based on partial information, cannot be final. How can they [divine] what mental processes work in the great minds and leaders of the centuries? Nor do mere men fathom the real philosophy of history that is the motive, the purpose of it all. Toward what is it going? What's its
tremendous goal and objective? Listen to the very succinct summation of it. In the word of God, Paul says in Romans 11:36. "For of him, that is of God, as the source, as the origin, as the fountain head, as the first cause, as the un-caused cause of him and through him. Through God as medium, channel, sustainer, administrator, governor, ruler, sovereign, and unto him as the end in the goal, in the objective, in the consummation are all things to him be the glory forever. Amen."

There is the true, genuine, valid, philosophy of history telling where it is all going. It all comes, ultimately, of God, through God, and unto God's glory. Now, is it poetry that we want? Some people love poetry. Poetry is that type of literature which is characterized by loftiness of expression, grandeur of expression, depth and intensity of feeling. All who know the Bible, all who know the book of Psalms, are in accord that therein one finds such depth of feeling, such heights of thoughts, such grandeur of expression has had been found nowhere else in any literature of the world. Your parents, your grandparents may have read the Psalms many times but how many of them took time out to think that Psalm 23 was originally written in an oriental, a near eastern language, the Hebrew? Its Mizmor le-David, the Psalm of David, Lo-eschar, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not, I must not, I dare not want. Why, even in translation you can't kill the grandeur of expression, the beauty in depth of feeling you have in the 23rd Psalm or 42nd Psalm. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, oh God." You can't find poetry like that anywhere else in the world. Poetry, the first order is this, and what shall we say of the Songs of Solomon? To say it is superb beyond all comparison. It's merely to seek to [guild] the lily, to honor a common platitude. Now some men occupy themselves in the field of what they call religion. A subject that's much lotted and much ridiculed. But religion is from a Latin word religio, re meaning back. You return something; you've turned in back, given it back. And ligio, to bind like the ligaments in your body. Ligio then means to bind or tie back. Now
where, yes where in all the religions in the world can one find such a tying back of the sinful, polluted, degenerate, degraded heart of sinful man to the transparently holy, loving, merciful heart of God such as we find in the scriptures. You think you could find something like in the religions of antiquity? Well studies the religions of ancient Egypt, the religions of ancient Mesopotamia, the religion of Ancient Canaan, Palestine are old. My dear friends, in their most devout moments of worship they were performing acts for which we put men and woman in prison, in jail today. Oh no, there isn’t pure religion and undefile. There is impure religion with them and defile but the Bible, as in James, the first chapter speaks of, pure religion and undefiled, that's what we find in the Bible. It's without [pier], it's without parallel, it's without comparison, it's without rival, it's without competitor. Now for the sake of brevity, we want to dwell in other subjects of the Bible. Perhaps not quite so fully, is it drama that interests you? We'll read that soul searching drama found in the book of Job where the minds of Ariodite men grapple with the age long problem of the suffering of the righteous. Young man came to a Professor at Columbia University and waited to know what he could find for his written work for this thing that he had to write on the suffering of the righteous. He wanted to know where he could find discretion on that and the Professor of Columbia University acclaimed the discretion of the treatment in the book of Job is the best discretion of the question in existence. Philosophy, is it? Notice the why sententious maxims of the book of Proverbs, telling you how to get along in this world. We're personally acquainted with a man, remember a man years ago made it his duty to provide every high school graduate of his fairly large city with a copy of his book when they graduated from high school. Into it, 31 chapters have been compacted. Wisdom for every relationship of life is the best hand book because in the 31 chapters, there have been compacted, there has been marvelously condensed wisdom for every relationship of life and an [outline] that
commends itself as approved to God. Is it psychology that you want? Read with insight the play of minds and feelings and interplay in at home in the beautifully simple story of Joseph, nothing like it anywhere. Take time to meditate on the steps where, by our blessed Lord Jesus led the Samaritan woman, in the fourth chapter of John, to a faith in himself. Why, volumes on psychology can add nothing here, they cannot approach it. Is it medicine quarantine was then joined by Moses upon the children of Israel in case of certain diseases? The laws of Moses containing regulations for leprosy, whether a person, a garment, or a house are still the marvel of medical science. And is it political science that is the study of government, refresh your memory again on the way in which Moses, under God's hand, led a disunited ban through the wilderness. Just a [motley] band of liberated slaves and how they were finally settled in the land. How, and under what circumstances they were granted peace and order. How God ruled through 42 Kings in all. The books of Kings, in themselves, form an incomparable [inaudible word] on what an acceptable government is and what it is not. Is it geography that one is seeking? No place ever mentioned in the Bible has ever been proved in error, erroneous, no. Doctor Melvin Groove Kyle, the internationally famous archeologist, one of my teachers in this subject said, "On more than one occasion, that not one single discovery of excavation in one hundred years, not one has in any way invalidated, proved wrong, one single positive, declarative, statement in our Bible geography," it was because one general in the English during World War I believed the Bible and read the accounted 1 Samuel 14 that he wanted to create Michmash, he found the account true to the geography of the land. And it's well known that after the [inaudible word] [growing] massacres in Russia, at the early part of this century, a Jewish community in Russia sent and honored a member of the community, their religious community. Attorney Joseph Rabinowitz, they sent him, great talented scholar as well as an attorney, great lover of his people, they sent
him to the holy land to see if they couldn't find a place of refuge there. He went into a book store and said, "I want to find a book that will help me with the geography of the land," and wonderfully God would rule so that the book seller, salesmen, the keeper of that bookstore, sold him a New Testament. And he took it. This is historical, this is factual. Attorney Joseph Rabinowitz took that New Testament and sat on the Mount of Olives, so that he could see over the whole city and he read it and when he finished he said, "This must be the reason that we've suffered so, in Russia and across the world, this is the place we belong." The reason is, we must account that we have rejected our Messiah, we have cast him off. We have disowned him, that's why all these matters, all these problems, all these persecutions, all these harassments have come upon us. Yes, it's a book not only of physical geography, it's a wonderful book of spiritual geography where the soul can find the safe, wonderful, protection of the haven and harbor that God provides. Is it physiology, take one verse, Leviticus 17:11, "For the like of the flesh is in the blood and I've given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls. For it is the blood that make atonement. It's the blood that maketh atonement," the reason of the life. You just bind a chord about your thumb so that no blood courses through it and it will begin to decay immediately, why? The life of the flesh is in the blood, yet it was only in about the seventeenth century that medical science discovered the truth, that the blood circulates in the human body. Moses knew it century before Christ, how? Does not the living God who made the human body know all its component, constituent, elements? Moses knew it not by study, not by reflection, not by observation; Moses knew it by revelation and by that alone. Is it law that you want? Every reputable law school in the world studies the Mosaic code of laws. Exodus the twentieth chapter and following, every important code of law since Moses' time from [Distinian's] code to the code of Napoleon, this code and others, all these codes I say are indebted in greater or lesser nations to
the laws of Moses. Biography, the best known most beloved biographies in the world, those of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, Peter, John, Christ, need we remind you that the book that tells of these lies is the Bible. What a wonderful book it is on geography and then astronomy, although the Bible isn't primarily a book of science, whenever it touches science it is absolutely accurate, just as it teaches spiritual truth, moral truth, ethical truth, so whenever it touches science it doesn't teach moral truth through scientific error, no it's absolutely accurate. If one were to turn, if you were just to try it out, turn to the statement, numbers of statements, of the ancient Greeks and Romans concerning the matters of the heavenly bodies, one would find such statements that are both ridiculous, absurd, and ludicrous but come to the Bible, you'll see that no word has been found untrustworthy despite the advances of modern science and all the advances of space research. For instance, has modern astronomy disproved Job's statement in Job 26:7?

"God, he stretcheth out the north over empty space and hangeth the earth upon nothing." The earth is revolving in space, God has hung, he hangeth the earth upon nothing. And what shall we say more? Time would fail us to speak of a matter in which the Bible speaks authoritatively of botany and zoology and ethics and biology and ethnology, study of nations, and philology, the study of languages, and geology, the study of the earth. Yes, encyclopedia Britannica admits that the best description of the nature, habits, and ways that the crocodile called in Job, leviathan, and of the hippopotamus called behemoth, the best description of them is to be found in the book of Job. Perhaps you've been wondering if the recital of these very subjects, that maybe, that you began to think that the Bible is a mere hod podge. It's a conglomeration of many discordant elements, sort of like hash. Someone has said the good thing about hash is that you don't have to make it, it accumulates but the Bible is not that kind of conglomeration of many many discordant elements. There is the point, despite all these many subjects so faithfully presented and
discussed, there is but one, [hear it] friend, one simple theme throughout the entire book, the redemption of sinful man by a holy thrice, holy righteous, God through the willing, loving, sacrifice of God's son on the cross of Calvary for all men. Such is the unending wonder of the unity of the construction of the Bible. Now such unity, such harmony, demands the supervision of a wise God just attempt to achieve such a harmony as this today. One subject, say medicine, or let's say one specialized field of that subject, say the study of the human heart and its functions and diseases. Suppose a call were issued from a reliable source, a reliable medical source, that all the heart specialists in the world should come to one central place, maybe come by car, maybe come by plain, come by train, come by ship, they can come any way they want, from all over the world and all the hotels needed would be provided for them. The seminar rooms and the space and the provision for their entertainment, food, and lodging. Then they take all the time they want but they must prove, they must gather together, all the have learned through medical years and then through practice, through consultation with others through research, through discussions. My friends, you will soon find, impossible task that that is, you will not find that even on that one vital organ of the body nurses much unity and harmony and consensus as there is on such a wide area in the wonderful book we call the Bible. To what shall we compare it? Is as though one man entered a cathedral and struck a note on the great organ and then left. And 39 other men of different periods did the same and then if we were to gather these [notes] together, we're supposing there was a means of preservation, it wasn't at the time the Bible was in composition that there is now of course, but supposing there were means of preservation and when you put all these elements together, a single chord like Obadiah, a single chord for instance like Jude, the book of Jude, or a whole [oratorio] like Isaiah, or the quartet of the gospel. Suppose you took all these together and find they made up the great work of Fredrick
[Hunnel], his Messiah, would you say it just happened that way? No. We should be justified in believing some great mind had supervised it. Who then could oversee the writing of 66 books of about 40 different authors of different ranks over a period of about 1500 years on such a variety, such a multiplicity of subjects? My friend, no one but God, the Bible is God's word; we repeat that we know the Bible is the word of God because of the unity of its construction. But there is another reason we know the Bible is the word of God because of the continuity of its existence has continued to exist. It is the consensus of conservative, reverent, Christian opinion that the Bible is God's word because of its continued existence. But you say, what's so marvelous about that? We have the works of Shakespeare, we have the works of Milton, we have the works of Virgil, [Avid], Browning, Kelly, [inaudible names] and all the rest of them. Why, they're still with us. Yes, but who was ever sought to destroy them? Who has ever persecuted them the way the Bible has been persecuted? Some books may survive without persecution, without notice. The book of books has lived on in spite of it because it is from God. Satan has always opposed it. For instance, history will show you that, century after century, men burned it. Attempt after attempt was made to blot it out. Heathen philosophers like Celsus and Porphyry shot their most fiery darts at it. They couldn't heap enough ridicule and scorn on the word of God, seeking to prove it inadequate, untrustworthy. For instance, Julian the apostate, the nephew and successor of Constantine the great, unknown to his uncle, he was studying under pagan teachers in his early years of his life. Well this Julian, surnamed correctly the apostate, tried more than once to disprove the truths of the Bible. He read Luke 21, the Jews [from whom] be [trotted] down with the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles [inaudible word] would be fulfilled. He said, "I'll prove that that's a lie." He sent a crew to the Holy Land to work and rebuild the temple and in the midst of their work, fire broke out of the ruins and a number of them were killed and the whole
project was discontinued. Yes, men have tried more than once to disprove the truths of the Bible, especially the prophesies but they have utterly failed. They have been a colossal failure. Having ascertained that the Bible taught one thing, he wasn't willing to allow it to stand to that. So determined was his opposition to the word of God. Yes, men may be venomous in their opposition but they cannot overturn one single word of the living word of God. Diocletian was a Roman emperor in the 4th century A.D. He instituted, he inaugurated, in the year 303 A.D. Mark that date. Diocletian, the Roman emperor instituted in 303 A.D., the worst attack on the Bible ever known against any book, almost every Bible was destroyed. Multitudes of Christians perished with their wonderful Bibles. Diocletian thought he had done his work so well that he had a column of triumph erected with the Latin words [noman cristiani es perdita], the name of the Christian has been extinguished. That was the year 303 A.D., fool that he was, yet in 325 A.D., less than a quarter of a century later, Constantine the Great declared the Bible, the whole Bible, the supreme final absolute authority in all the deliberations of the first general counsel at Nicea which affirmed in opposition to Arius that Christ was not the created son of God but very God, a very God, the uncreated son of the Father. Think of the opposition to the Bible on the part of the [ruling] church throughout the Middle Ages. Those who adhered to it and loved it were hounded and persecuted to the death. They died at the stake. They were imprisoned with their feet in the stocks. It was withheld from the common people, as it is in some parts of the world, yet [inaudible word] of the great German reformer was fully grown before he'd seen a Bible. His colleague [Carls Todd] at the University of [Vitenberg] had his degree of doctor of theology without having read it through.