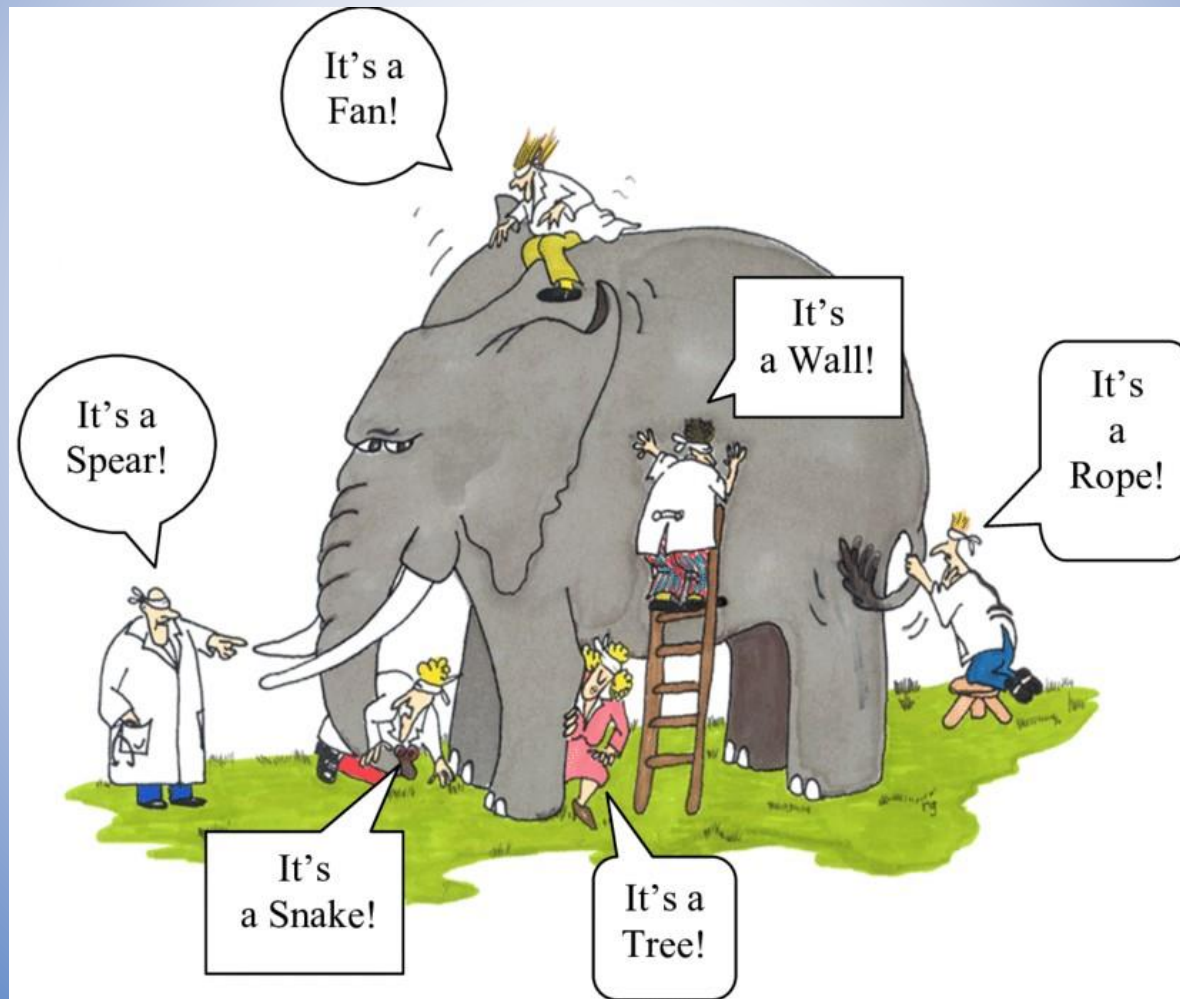


Something Greater Than Ourselves



Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Blind Men and the Elephant

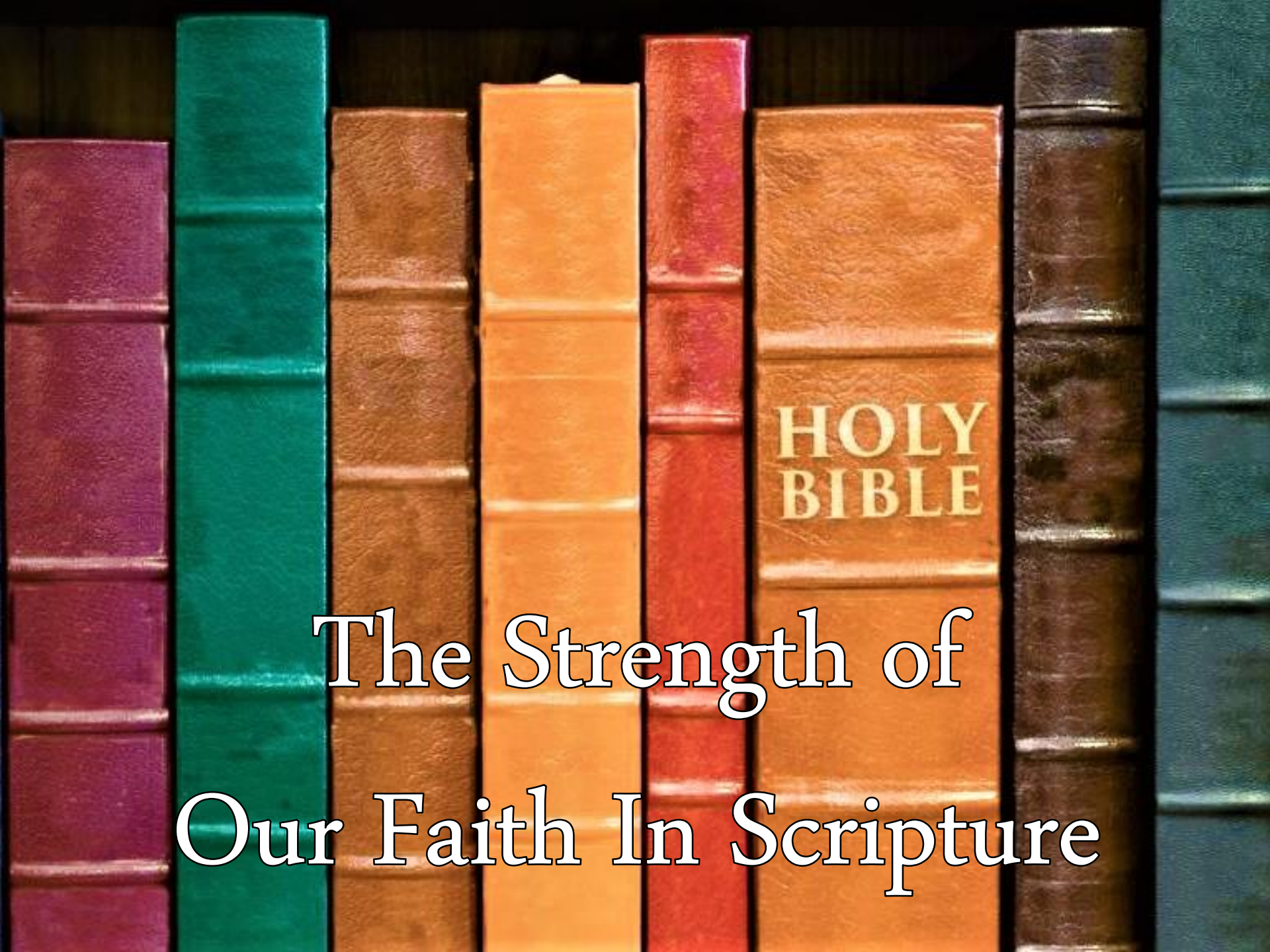


Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Blind Men and the Elephant

Problems with this parable:

- 1. If all mankind is blind, how does this storyteller know what the whole elephant looks like?**
- 2. The “Elephant” has revealed himself!**
- 3. The parable makes us greater than we are.**

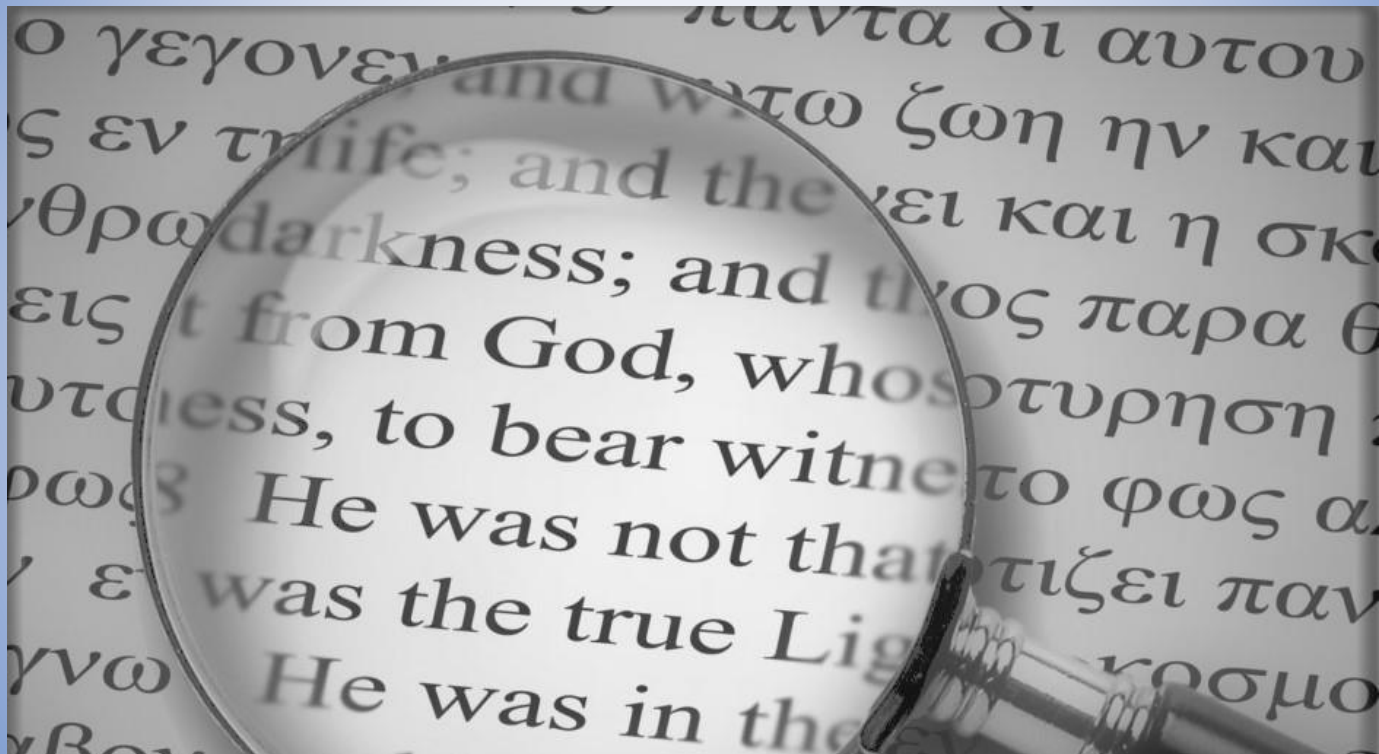
A row of seven books standing upright. From left to right, the spines are purple, teal, brown, orange, red, light orange, and dark brown. The light orange book has the words 'HOLY BIBLE' embossed in gold capital letters.

HOLY
BIBLE

The Strength of
Our Faith In Scripture

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Strength of Our Faith in Scripture

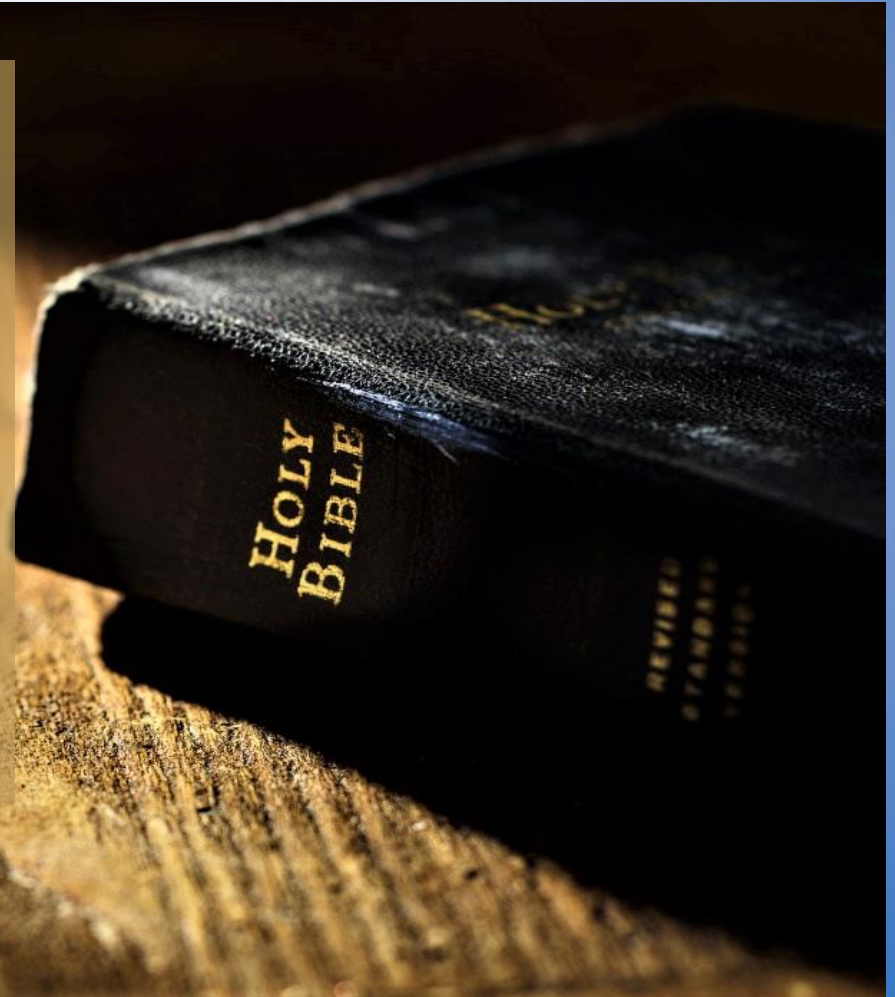


Evidence vs. Faith

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Strength of Our Faith in Scripture

“[*God's*] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...”
(2 Peter 1:3-4)

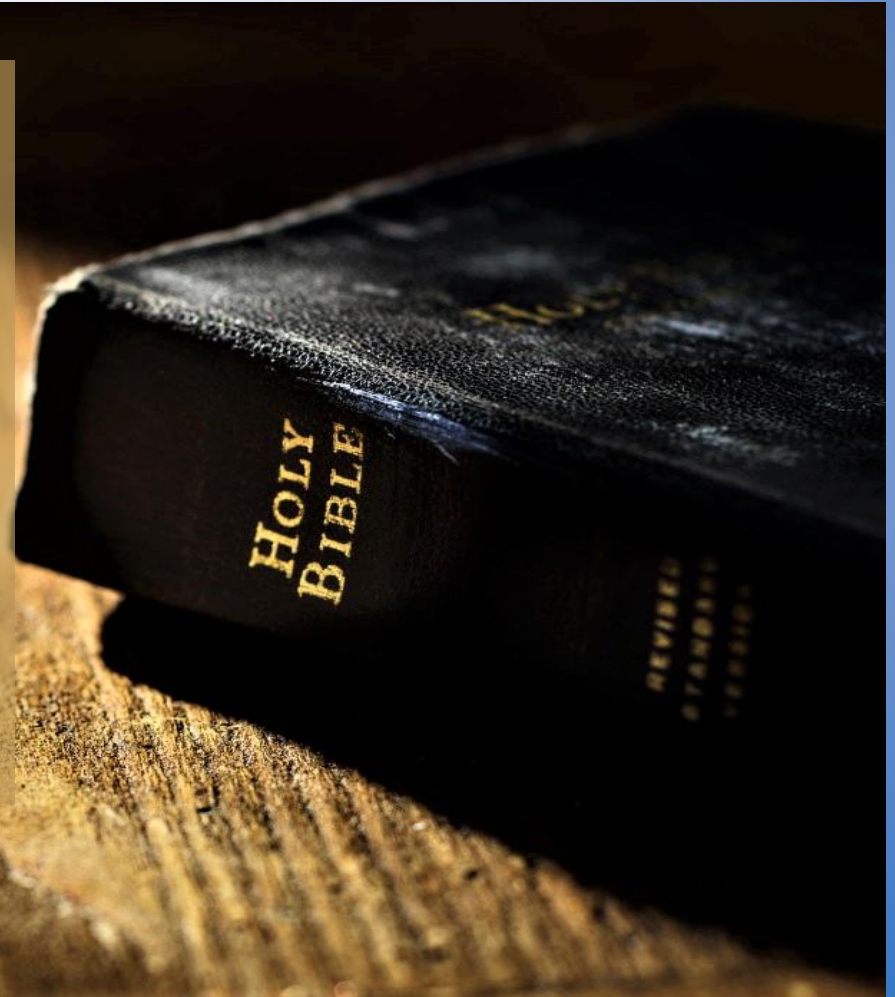


Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Strength of Our Faith in Scripture

“...by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature...”

(2 Peter 1:3-4)

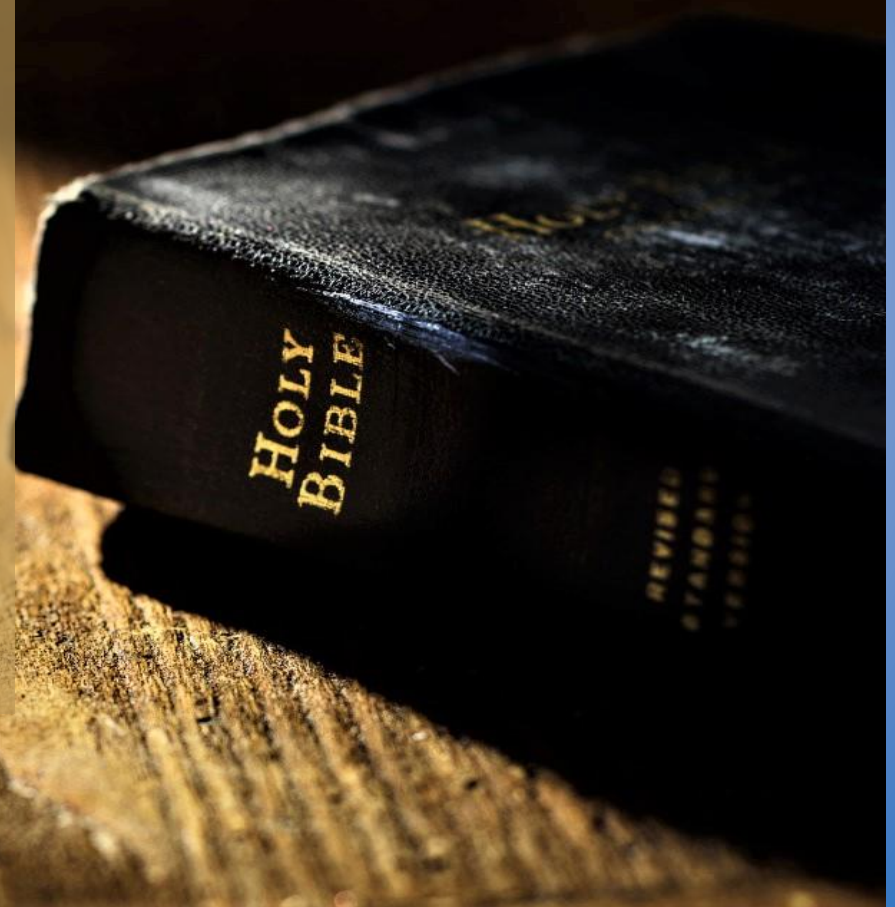


Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Strength of Our Faith in Scripture

“...having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

(2 Peter 1:3-4)



Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Ultimate Test

Fundamental life questions:

- **Origin**
- **Meaning**
- **Morality**
- **Destiny**

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Ultimate Test

The ultimate test of whether the written Scriptures are trustworthy is relational.

It can only be conducted by a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, a partaker in God's divine nature.

And this test must begin with believing that there's something, or Someone, greater than ourselves.

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Something Greater

“When God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, ‘Surely I will bless you and multiply you.’ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.” (Hebrews 6:13-18)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Something Greater

“So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.” (Hebrews 6:13-18)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Something Greater

“The purpose of the oath was to prove how irrevocable was the resolve expressed in the divine promise. The notion that God swears by himself signifies that he is bound to his word by his character. The divine oath provides the guarantee that excludes doubt and affirms the abiding validity of the promise.” —

— Dr. William Lane



The Word of Promise

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Word of Promise



Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Word of Promise

Testament = Covenant = Promise

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Word of Promise

“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” (Numbers 23:19)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Word of Promise

“He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.” (Psalm 105:8)

“If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Word of Promise

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” (Genesis 28:15)

“Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed. All came to pass.” (Joshua 21:45)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Word of Promise

“The relevance to Christians of the oath sworn to Abraham lies in the proof that God is absolutely trustworthy in the act of promising.”

– Dr. William Lane

A dramatic low-angle shot of the crucifixion. The silhouette of Jesus is centered on the cross, set against a sky filled with golden and orange clouds from a setting or rising sun. The lighting creates a strong backlight effect, highlighting the edges of the cross and the figure.

The Promised Messiah

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Promised Messiah

“As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you...was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”

(2 Corinthians 1:18-20)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Promised Messiah

*“You were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”
(Ephesians 2:12-13)*

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Promised Messiah

“Jesus said], ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” (Matthew 26:28)

“We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.” (Acts 13:32)



Covenantal Submission

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Covenantal Submission

Ancient Near Eastern Covenants

- Covenants or treaties were ratified between a more powerful conquering or rescuing king and a less powerful people or nation.
- These covenants required mutual action, but they were not equal—they required submission.
- The conquered or rescued people were to pay allegiance the greater king, follow his rule of law, offer him tribute, and they'd then receive blessings and safety.

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Covenantal Submission

The Old Testament Covenant

“I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.’ Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness.”

(Joshua 24:13-14)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Covenantal Submission

The New Testament Covenant

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”
(Acts 2:38-39)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Covenantal Submission

The New Testament Covenant

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

(Romans 10:9)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Covenantal Submission

The New Testament Covenant

*“[Jesus said], ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’”
(Mark 12:28-31)*

Something Greater Than Ourselves

Covenantal Submission

The New Testament Covenant

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)



The Promised Holy Spirit



Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Promised Holy Spirit

*“When you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, [you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”
(Ephesians 1:13-14)*

Something Greater Than Ourselves

The Promised Holy Spirit

“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



A Hope Firmly Secured

Something Greater Than Ourselves

A Hope Firmly Secured



“Whether he is a sinner I do not know.

One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” (John 9:25)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

A Hope Firmly Secured



“[Jesus said], ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’

He answered, ‘Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’” (John 9:35-38)

Something Greater Than Ourselves

A Hope Firmly Secured



“Jesus said, ‘You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.’

*He said, ‘Lord, I believe,’
and he worshiped him.”
(John 9:35-38)*

Something Greater Than Ourselves

A Hope Firmly Secured

“Faith provides the objective ground upon which others may base their subjective confidence.

This capacity of faith permits Christians to exercise a present grasp upon indemonstrable truth and to exhibit stability in the presence of hostility, knowing that the blessings for which they hope are firmly secured by the promise of God.”

– Dr. William Lane

Something Greater Than Ourselves

