

Can the Bible Be Trusted?

2 Peter 1:19-21

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1 Thess. 2:13

And we also thank God constantly[a] for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men[b] but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Think Biblically
About Everything.

- . Why not think logically and forget about all of that nonsense instead?
- . If we thought biblically about everything, including science, we'd still be in the Dark Ages."
- . Put down your fantasy novel and pick up a science text. The world will be a better place.

"The Bible shows no traces whatsoever of supernatural influence. Quite the contrary, it is obviously the product of superstitious men who, at times, were willing to deceive if it would further their doctrines."

George H. Smith (atheist)

Many Christians –

“I just know it is true.”

“You just have to believe.”

1. The Bible claims to be the True Word of God.

O.T – And now, O Lord God, You are God and Your words are true. 2 Sam. 7:28

Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Ps. 119:89

The sum of Your word is TRUTH. Ps.119:160

Over 400 times in the OT.

“Thus Says the Lord...”

N.T. – All Scripture is breathed out by God... 2 Tim. 3:16

Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:21

2. The character of God requires it to be TRUE.

In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ...
Titus 1:2

Your Word is TRUTH.

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away not an iota, not a dot will pass from the Law until it is accomplished.
Matt. 5:18

“iota” – Hebrew Language has marks of accents that distinguishes one letter or sound from another.

“dot” – Hebrew letter mark.

“If there be even one mistake in the Bible there may be 1,000. If erred once, what assurance do we have of others?”

John Wesley

Some say – “The Bible contains the Word of God”
(But who can say what is or is not the Word of God?)

3. The Consistent message declares that it is TRUE.

40 authors over 1600 yrs. from diverse backgrounds – yet a consistent unity of themes and teaching.

“The Bible is a chaotically cobbled together anthology of disjointed documents.”
Richard Dawkins” – The God Delusion

Contradictions? Many solved when you understand –
. Literary purpose –(Poem? Parable? History? Prophecy?)

- . Historical setting – (time? Culture? Unique setting?)
- . Style diversity – (Unique personalities of its authors)
- . Author's perspective and purpose – (Gospel writers)
- . Original languages

“I candidly believe I have been confronted with just about all biblical difficulties under discussion in theological circles today... as I have dealt with one apparent discrepancy after another. .. My confidence in the trustworthiness of the Scripture has been repeatedly verified and strengthened by the discovery that almost every problem in Scripture that has been discovered by man, from ancient times until now, has been dealt with in a completely satisfactory manner by the biblical text itself.”
Dr. Gleason L. Archer

Center verse in the Bible is

Ps. 118:8

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.” (NKJV)

. Manuscript evidence

O.T

. Scribes – hand copy a page

2nd scribe would check it and count letters
any mistake – destroy and start over.

- Dead Sea Scrolls – 1947 discovery in a cave in clay jars

. Eight hundred sections dating 200 yrs before Christ

. Very minimal difference from present day copies.

N.T. - Number of copies –

- over 5,000 Greek manuscripts

- over 5,000 other language manuscripts

including Latin during the first 1,000 yrs.

- 24,643 manuscripts of the N.T.

Contrast: works of Plato – 7 copies

12,000 years after his life

Early age of copies – some are within one generation of the apostles

. Accuracy –

Variations among copies?

- 70-80% - spelling or grammar

- 20% - no theological challenges

- 1 % - meaningful differences but not core theological

. Historical evidence

. Every discovery of archaeology has confirmed the Biblical account.

Discovery of sites in Egypt at Pithom

and Raamses

. Built with mortar

- . Lower levels – used stubble
- . Second and upper levels – made without straw

Sir William Ramsay – atheist- PHD Oxford

- Set out to disprove the Bible – focused on Luke and Acts.
- 25 yrs. later – hundreds of confirmation of cities, people, etc...
- Later book announced he had become a Christian.

Book of Mormon not one city or people group confirmed by historical records. Luke makes reference to 32 countries, 54 cities and 9 islands without a single mistake.”

A. N. Sherwin White – Oxford scholar
Prophetic Evidence

“It is noteworthy that in no other religious writings in the world do we find any specific predictive prophecies like we find in the Scripture. Yet in the Scripture there are well over 2,000 prophecies, most of which have already been fulfilled.”

Dr. James Kennedy

Sample prophecies concerning Jesus

- . Line of David – 2 Sam 7:12
- . Virgin birth – Isa 7:14
- . Born in Bethlehem – Micah5:2
- . Ministry in Galilee – Isa. 9:1-2
- . Do miracles – Isa. 25:5-6
- . Be ridiculed – Ps. 22:7-8
- . Be sold for 30 shekels – Zech. 11:12
- . Forsaken by disciples – Zech. 12:7
- . Pierced – Ps. 22:16
- . Killed among thieves – Isa. 53:12
- . No bones broken – Ps. 22:17
- . Buried in a rich man’s tomb – Isa. 53:9
- . Would rise from the dead – Ps. 16:10

- Over 300 prophecies concerning the life of Jesus

(Ps.22; Isa. 53; Micah 5:2)

O.T. Prophecies concerning –

- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Life of Joseph, Moses, Joshua
- David and his descendants
- Daniel – precise predictions of the nations to come and the Messiah to come.

Life transformation evidence

“God’s Word in us changes us.”

- . Lila Lebaron – raised polygamist fundamental Mormon family
- began attending a bible study with her uncle and aunt
- exposed to the power of God's Word
- became born again after 3 yrs. studying God's Word
- now serves with Adam's Road Ministry

How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:15

... You accepted it not as the word of man but as what it really is, the word of God which is at work in you believers.

1 Thess. 2:13

For the Word of God is living and active... Heb. 4:12

The law of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Ps. 19:7

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me;
it has feet, it runs after me;
it has hands, it lays hold of me.”
Martin Luther.