



Can We Trust the Bible?

Evidence for the Reliability of Scripture

The Bible—Human or Divine?

- The Bible claims to be the very words of God given to humanity through the agency of specially chosen men – 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Ephesians 3:3–5.
- We can trust what the inspired writers wrote because God oversaw its production from start to finish!
- But how can we know that the human authors did not lie and simply attribute their work to God? What evidence is there for the inspiration of the Bible?

Proof #1: Unity in Content and Purpose

The Bible—Human or Divine?

- The Bible claims to be the very words of God given to humanity through the agency of specially chosen men – 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Ephesians 3:3–5.
- We can trust what the inspired writers wrote because God oversaw its production from start to finish!
- But how can we know that the human authors did not lie and simply attribute their work to God? What evidence is there for the inspiration of the Bible?

Proof #2: Historical and Scientific Accuracy

The Bible—Human or Divine?

- The Bible claims to be the very words of God given to humanity through the agency of specially chosen men – 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Ephesians 3:3–5.
- We can trust what the inspired writers wrote because God oversaw its production from start to finish!
- But how can we know that the human authors did not lie and simply attribute their work to God? What evidence is there for the inspiration of the Bible?

Proof #3: Fulfilled Predictive Prophecy

The Bible—Human or Divine?

- The Bible claims to be the very words of God given to humanity through the agency of specially chosen men – 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Ephesians 3:3–5.
- We can trust what the inspired writers wrote because God oversaw its production from start to finish!
- But how can we know that the human authors did not lie and simply attribute their work to God? What evidence is there for the inspiration of the Bible?

Proof #4: Moral Transformation

Complete and Accurate?

- The people of God accepted the inspired writings and gathered them into a single collection (canon) – Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; Colossians 4:16; cf. Council of Nicaea.
- What about the “mistakes” in the copies (MSS)? The Bible is the best attested ancient document (5,800 Greek MSS) which results in numerous variants (400,000?). Yet <1% of the differences are significant and none deny fundamental Christian doctrine – John 10:34–35; 1 Peter 1:22–25; e.g., 1 John 5:7–8; Mark 16:9–20.
- Do reliable translations of the Bible accurately relate the content of the Bible? Yes! Even Jesus used a translation – e.g., Mark 7:6–7.

What Is the Next Step?

- Test the Bible to see if it holds up to scrutiny. If the Bible is from God and thus truth, it has nothing to fear from human inquiry. (Keep an open mind!) – 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22; Acts 17:11.
- If the Bible proves itself reliable, accept it as truth and place your faith in it as the very word of God – 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
- Obey it. (Judgment Day is coming.) – John 12:44–50.
- Preview: The Bible records the story of God and his interaction with people—including you and me! At our next “Invite Sunday” (April 3) Stephen will tell this story. (If you would like to learn more before then, please let us know!)



Can We Trust the Bible?

Evidence for the Reliability of Scripture