

Is the Bible True?

At Reborn we believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man: the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. The Bible is the inerrant Word of God.

- **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

The Bible says that Scripture is from God. But can you trust Scripture to speak about itself?

I won't have time to give a complete proof, nor answer all questions. I'll do what I can for this morning.

Let's start with a popular opposition: How do we know that what we are reading today is actually what they wrote thousands of years ago?

- We do not have the original manuscripts penned by the original authors.
- This is true of all books of antiquity – Yet almost no other books have their veracity questioned.
- The most accurate tests for determining the accuracy of copies is 2-fold:
 - How many copies do you have
 - The more the better – Copies that are the same, but found in various locations prove the accuracy, the more the better.
 - How close in time are they from the original source?
 - The closer to the actual original the more likely to be accurate.
- For the New Testament we have about 5,856 Greek texts dating as early as 125 A.D. Plus 3,000 Armenian texts, 975 Coptic (Egyptian versions), 329 Gothic versions, 600 Ethiopian, Over 10,000 Latin copies, 350 Syriac, and over 4,000 Slavic.

This is far greater than any other book in existence.

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Another Opposition: What about the reliability of the Old Testament?

- From the time of Ezra onward, a profession known as Scribes was created. Scribes copied the Old Testament scrolls by hand. There were multiple sects of scribes from all the various regions. They all were responsible for copying the Scriptures, then comparing scrolls from other sects, making sure they were error free, and then copying them again.
- We have many of these scrolls from some of the later Scribes. In fact, we have about 318 of them, dating back to 135 B.C.
- We also have many non-Hebrew versions of the Old Testament, such as the Septuagint.

For the Bible as a whole:

- 66 Books – 3 Continents – 3 languages over 1600 years.
- 40 authors from all walks of life. Kings, herdsmen, soldiers, legislators, fisherman, priests, prophets, a tentmaker, and a gentile physician.
- It includes history, poetry, law, treatises, parables, biography, memoirs, and apocalyptic.
- Yet in all this it has one unifying message and zero contradictions.

It is unique in its teachings.

- The only religious text to contain a God that dies for His people, salvation through faith and not works, and a God that is still living after dying.
- Prophecy – over 300 just about Jesus in Old Testament
 - The statistical odds of anyone fulfilling 8 of those are 1 in 10^{17} or 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000
 - To fulfill 48 is 1×10^{157}
- All prophecies have been fulfilled save those of the end times.

The Bible speaks of real times, real events and real people

- **Luke 1:1-4** Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.
- Narrative – diegesis – A recital. Declaration. An historical account.

All mentions of native plants are accurate. Not all ancient documents get those details right.

- Tacitus in Annals gets the title for Pontius Pilate wrong. Archaeological evidence shows that the Bible is correct.
- While other ancient writers get titles and botany and biology wrong, the Bible does not get anything wrong.

2 Kings 18:13-15 shows Sennacherib, King of Assyria attacking Judah from Lachish. In the British Museum, there is a wall from Lachish that depicts the Syrian conquest by Lachish and it shows Sennacherib defeating Hezekiah. This account from the Lachish point of view is the same telling as the Bible account from the Israelites point of view.

- Taylor's Prism (an archeological find) also shows this same account.
- All historical records confirm the Bible in regards to historical events. Where there are disagreements, the non-Biblical source has been proven to be inaccurate.

All archaeological finds that are related to the Bible have corroborated and supported Biblical accounts.

We have never found anything in the archaeological record that would contradict any account of the Bible. In fact, they have only strengthened the position of the accuracy of the Bible.

- The Tel Dan Steele confirms King David's lineage
- The Pool of Siloam has been found
- The Merneptah Stele, dating to the late 13th century BCE, is a remarkable Egyptian inscription that references "Israel" by name. This artifact provides the earliest extrabiblical mention of the Israelites, confirming their presence as a distinct people in Canaan during that period.
- Hezekiah's Tunnel has been found mentioned in 2 Kings.
- The Cyrus Cylinder, unearthed in Babylon, documents the Persian king Cyrus the Great's policy of allowing exiled communities, including the Jews, to return to their homelands. This decree closely parallels the narrative found in the Book of Ezra, where Cyrus permits the rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple.
- The city of Jericho was unearthed and it has been shown that the walls fell down.
- The Babylonian Chronicles are a collection of ancient clay tablets that document key events such as the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem and the subsequent exile of its people.
- And so many more

We can confirm the accounts from the Bible with external non-biblical sources. We know that these stories actually happened.

From a science perspective:

- The Bible was not written as a science book and the intent of it was not to teach science. However, whenever anything from science is mentioned in the Bible, it has always proven to be accurate.
- And no, the Bible does not state that the earth is flat.
- The Earth is suspended in space

- **Job 26:7** He stretches out the north over empty space; *He* hangs the earth on nothing.
- All other civilizations had theories on surfaces the earth sat on, or something like Atlas.
- The water cycle
 - **Ecclesiastes 1:7** All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea *is* not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.
- The importance of blood
 - **Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.'
- The expansion of the universe
 - **Isaiah 40:22** *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
- Entropy – The second law of thermodynamics
 - **Psalms 102:25-27** Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. ²⁷ But You *are* the same, And Your years will have no end.
- One race – All people have a common ancestor
 - **Acts 17:26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,
- And so many more

Names in the Bible that we tend to skip over give context, geographical locations, times to those willing to study.

- This is also used to verify authenticity. For example, the Gospel of Judas contains 2 names common to the time and location, but 15

other names that do not show up anywhere else until the 2nd century in Egypt.

- People living in different areas at different times would have a very difficult time to get names and qualifiers (son of Alpheus, the tax collector) correct, yet multiple authors from various regions all are in complete synch throughout the Bible.
- The Apocrypha and gnostic Gospels do not pass this test.
- Moses and Esther are not Hebrew names but are accurate to their location and times.

What about our modern translations?

- The Bible was originally written on tablets. Then they moved to scrolls. Then codex, which became books. But now we have regressed. Today we scroll through books on a tablet.
- KJV printed in 1611 used 31 manuscripts, earliest was 1000AD
- Now, we have 5000+ manuscripts dating back to 200AD.
 - Modern translations are actually important.
- We are actually getting more certain as we progress in time. When we look at a Codex, like P66, the words are exactly the same as we are reading now.
- The Bible records extreme flaws in their heroes. David, Moses, so many others. But that is because it is to point to Jesus. They do not gloss over the failings of kings, the people, and the leaders. The Bible is brutally honest.
- All other religious books only show perfect heroes.
- Notice that inerrancy applies only to the original manuscripts. It does not necessarily extend to every single copy.
 - There are many translations today, but their differences do not always equate to errors.
 - Example of As – Hise – in the manner of, not as small as.
 - That is write bias.
 - Writer bias is why we look at original texts, why we must listen to the Holy Spirit when reading and studying. Bible Strong app.
- There are no variants from the original texts that altar the meaning of any Scripture. And differences we note today are from Interpretations and those must be studied in depth.
 - We are seeing more and more interpretations of the Bible coming from people whose worldviews cause them to want to

change Scripture to more closely match what they believe. This is wrong and very dangerous.

Jesus believed in Scripture:

- **Mark 12:10** Have you not even read this Scripture: "*The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.*"
- **John 7:38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
- **Matthew 19:4** And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning '*made them male and female,*'
- **Matthew 22:31** But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,

So did Paul:

- **Romans 10:11** For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*"
- **Romans 11:2** God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,

And James:

- **James 2:23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" And he was called the friend of God.

And Peter:

- **1 Peter 2:6** Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "*Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.*"

If the Bible is God's Word we should cherish it, read it, study it, obey it.

Mark 8:29 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

- If the Bible is true, we must answer this question like Peter had to.

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." - C. S. Lewis