

“CAN I REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE? I NEED EVIDENCE TO TRUST THIS BOOK.”

CONTEXT

The Christian faith doesn't require mindless belief. Having questions about the faith are okay. That includes questions about the Bible. The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. It is the most quoted book of all time. It has been translated into more languages than any other book in human history. But how do we know we can trust the Bible? In this episode, we will discover why the Bible really can be trusted, despite what some say. Listen in as we present evidence why you can trust this book.

What is the Bible?

- i. The Bible is God's special _____ to humankind through written word.
- ii. General revelation vs. special revelation
 - 1) God speaks through _____ (Romans 1:20).
 - 2) God speaks through _____ (2 Peter 1:21).
 - (1) 66 Books (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament)
 - (2) About _____ authors

How Can I Trust a Book that People Wrote?

- i. The Bible's source is God Himself.
 - a) The Bible isn't _____ it is _____ (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - 1) John Wycliffe and KJV translates "inspired."
 - 2) The Greek word really means "_____."
 - 3) Scripture is a result of God _____, not just humans _____.
- ii. But what role did the human authors play?
 - a) God _____ human authors recording His words.
 - b) God used the writers' _____ and _____ to communicate his truth.
 - c) Diverse _____ (prophets, priests, tax collectors, fishermen, tentmakers, shepherds, and a physician).

Objections/Myths About the Bible

i. **Objection #1: Anything written by humans isn't trustworthy.**

- a) Things people trust written by humans: prescriptions, instruction manuals, and dictionaries.
- b) The human authors weren't writing their thoughts about God, but _____.
 - 1) Moses was instructed to write what God communicated to him on Sinai (Exodus 34:27).
 - 2) Jeremiah (and other prophets) were given "thus says the Lord..." (Jeremiah 30:2).

ii. **Objection #2: The Bible has been tampered with and isn't trustworthy**

- a) Facts that prove the Bible was not tampered with.
 - 1) **Number of Copies:** There are over _____ manuscript copies of the New Testament.
 - (1) The next closest book from the ancient world is Homer's *Illiad*: 643 copies.
 - 2) **Number of Years:** Manuscripts of the New Testament were copied within 25 years from the time books were written.
 - (1) Most other books: Manuscripts created one thousand years after the book written.
 - 3) **The Accuracy:** Manuscripts of the New Testament are copied with greater accuracy than any other book in the ancient world: _____ accurate.
 - 4) **Church Father Testimony:** You could reconstruct nearly the entire New Testament from quotations from Church Fathers in the first few centuries.
- b) Takeaway: If you can't trust the _____ of the Bible, then you can't trust the transmission of any other work in antiquity.

Truths About the Bible to Trust in the Bible

i. **Truth #1: The Bible has hundreds of fulfilled prophecies.**

- a) Number of fulfilled prophecies in Hindu Vedas, the Quran, or the Book of Mormon: **0**
- b) _____% of the Bible contains specific, _____.
 - 1) The Bible predicted the coming Messiah would be a descendant of _____ and _____ (Genesis 22:18; 2 Samuel 7:12).
 - 2) The Bible predicted the coming Messiah would be born in _____ (Micah 5:2).

- 3) The Bible predicted that he would be crucified, _____ years before crucifixion was invented (Psalm 22:16-18).
- 4) The chance of Jesus fulfilling _____ prophecies is 1×10^{17}
- 5) _____ distinct predictions were fulfilled in the life of one person: Jesus.

ii. Truth #2: The Bible has unprecedented internal harmony.

- a) The Bible is _____ in what it teaches from Genesis to Revelation.
- b) Why is this evidence of Divine origin?
 - 1) The Bible was written by _____ different people, over _____ years, on _____ different continents, and in _____ different languages.

iii. Truth #3: Bible accounts have been authenticated by archeological evidence.

- a) **1961**-Archeologist team found a limestone block in Caesarea written in Latin: "Pontius Pilate, Perfect of Judea."
- b) **1968**-Discovery confirmed crucifixion as a Roman method. Bones found of Jewish man killed in rebellion in 70 AD with an iron spike driven through his heel
- c) **1993**-No evidence for David outside of the Bible before 1993. An inscription found in Israel mentioning David as King of Israel.
 - 1) "The skeptics' claim that King David never existed is now hard to defend."-Time magazine December 18, 1995
- d) In contrast, no Book of Mormon location has been found (Examples: Zarahemla and Bountiful).

iv. Truth #4: The Bible led people to die for its truth.

- a) After Jesus' death, fearful men and women were emboldened to preach the Gospel in the face of death.
- b) If the Gospel was false, people were alive who could have disproved it.
 - 1) _____ people believed the first post-resurrection sermon and were just a stone's throw from the tomb where Jesus was buried (Acts 2:41)
- c) They were threatened, imprisoned, beaten, stoned to death, thrown to wild animals, and attacked by angry mobs (Acts 4:18; Acts 12:4; Acts 16:22; Acts 7:58; Acts 17:5)
- d) _____ was killed with an axe in Ethiopia.
- e) _____ was hung to death in Greece.
- f) People lie to get _____ trouble, not throw themselves headlong into it.
- g) Nobody dies for something they know is a _____.
 - 1) What about terrorists who believe in religious teachings?
 - (1) _____ - disciples lived and walked with Jesus.
 - (2) _____ vs. _____ - Terrorists die for something they hope is true, the disciples saw Jesus die and raised to life again.