



The Reliability of the Bible

“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

Internal Evidence : What does the Bible teach about itself?

Psalms 119:160, “the **sum of Your word is truth**, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.”

2 Timothy 3:16, “**All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

Luke 24:27, “Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He (Jesus) explained to them **the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**”

Matthew 24:35, “heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words shall not pass away.**”

The authors gave first hand accounts and were either eyewitnesses or studied with them (accountability):

Luke 1:1-4, “Many have taken to draw up an **account** of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses** and servants of the word.

Therefore, since I myself have **carefully investigated** everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an **orderly account** for you...so that you may know the **certainty** of the things you have been taught.”

John 19:35, “And **he who saw it (the eyewitness) gives this evidence**, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe also.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-6, “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, **most of whom are still living**”

2 Peter 1:16, “For we were not following cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), but **we were eyewitnesses** of His majesty.”

Unity and Consistency:

66 books of the Bible, written over 1,600 years, by 40+ authors, from diverse backgrounds (shepherds, kings, tax collectors, fishermen, prime ministers), in 3 different continents (Africa, Asia, Europe), in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek) => With Complete Unity => God’s Redemption of Humankind Through Christ

Fulfilled Prophecy:

16 Messianic Prophecies fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – Born of a Woman (Gen 3:15 - Gal 4:4), Born of a Virgin (Isaiah 7:14 - Matt 1:21), Cutoff 483 years (Dan 9:24), Abraham’s Seed (Gen 12:1-3; 22:18 – Matt 1:1; Gal 3:16), Of the Tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10 – Luke 3:23, 33; Heb 7:14), Of the House of David (2 Samuel 7:12 – Matt 1:1), Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 – Matt 2:1; Luke 2:4-7), Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2 – Matt 3:16-17), Heralded by the Messenger of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3; Mal 3:1 – Matt 3:1-2), Would Perform Miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6 – Matt 9:35), Piercing His Hands and Feet (Psalm 22:16 – Luke 23:33), Crucified with Thieves (Isaiah 53:12 – Luke 23:38), Praying for His Persecutors (Isaiah 53:12 – Luke 23:43), Buried in a Rich Man’s Tomb (Isaiah 53:9 – Matt 27:57-60), Casting Lots for His Garments (Psalm 22:18 – John 19:23-24), Would Rise from the Dead (Psalm 16:10 – Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31), Would sit down at the Right Hand of God (Psalm 110:1 – Hebrews 1:3)

=> **Chance one man could fulfill all these = 1X10⁴⁵ # of people who have ever lived ~1X10¹⁰**

Bibliographic Evidence

Is the Bible that we have today the same as what was originally written?

Manuscript Evidence of Ancient Writings:

<u>Author</u>	<u>When Written</u>	<u>Earliest Copy</u>	<u>Time Span</u>	<u>No. of Copies</u>
Cesar (The Gallic Wars)	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1,200 years	7
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	49
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Tacitus (Roman Historian)	90 - 116 AD	1,100 AD	1,000 years	20
Euripedes	480 - 406 BC	1,100 AD	1,500 years	9
New Testament	50 - 90 A.D.	117 AD	25 years	>24,000

“To be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”
- Prof. John Warwick Montgomery

External Evidence from Non-biblical Sources

Archaeology:

Israel (Merneptah stela 13th BC), House of David (inscription 10th BC), David (Tel Dan stela 9th BC), YHWH & Omri (Moabite Stone 9th BC), Ahab (Kurkh Monolith of Shalmaneser III 9th BC), Jehoram & Ahaziah (Tel Dan stela 9th BC), Jehu (Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III 9th BC), Joash (Tell Al-Rimah stela of Adad-Nirari III 9th BC), Uzziah, Menahem, Pekah, Ahaz, Hoshea, & Hezekiah (Annals of Tiglath-Pileser III 8th BC), Manasseh (Prism B of Esarhaddon; Rassam Cylinder of Ashurbanipal 7th BC), Jehoiachin (ration documents of Nebuchadnezzar 6th BC), Herod (Wine Jug 1st BC), Pilate (inscription 1st AD)

“It may be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”
- Noted Archaeologist Prof. Nelson Glueck

Non-Christian Historians:

Tacitus writes (116 AD): “Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated... **called Christians by the populace. Christ, from whom the name had its origin**, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus”

Historian Josephus in The Antiquities of the Jews (94 AD) writes, “Now there was about this time **Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works**, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. **He was [the] Christ**. And when Pilate... had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; **for he appeared to them alive again the third day**; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. **And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.**”

“As I have dealt with one apparent discrepancy after another and have studied the alleged contradictions between the biblical record and the evidence of linguistics, archaeology, or science, my confidence in the trustworthiness of Scripture has been repeatedly verified and strengthened.”
- Dr. Gleason Archer

No other book, and resulting worldview, offers reasonable answers to these 5 key questions:

Origin: Where did we come from? Identity: Who are we? Meaning: Why are we here?

Morality: How should we live? Destiny: Where are we going?

“Is it reasonable to doubt that Christianity is true in light of all the evidence? Probably not. In fact, in light of the evidence, you ought to have a lot more doubts about atheism and every other non-Christian belief system. They are not reasonable. Christianity is.”
- Geisler & Turek, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

“Why would the apostles lie?... what did they get out of it? What they got out of it was misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, torture, and martyrdom. Hardly a list of perks!”
- Dr. Peter Kreeft

“While many people will die for a lie that they think is truth, **no same person will die for what they know is a lie.**”
- Prof. Norman Geisler & Dr. Frank Turek