

How Do We Know We Can Trust the Bible?
Part 2: The Accuracy of the Bible

A. Knowing the Challenge

1. The world claims the Bible is full of myths:
 - a. Creation
 - b. Adam and Eve
 - c. Noah's Flood
 - d. Moses and the Burning Bush
 - e. The Exodus
 - f. Jonah and the Great Fish
 - g. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace
 - h. Daniel and the Lions Den
 - i. The Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus
 - j. The Miracles of Jesus

2. The world claims the Bible is full of CONTRADICTIONS:
 - a. Did God create animals before man (Genesis 1) or man before animals (Genesis 2)?—Genesis 2 doesn't actually say the animals were made after man
 - b. Is Eve to blame for sin (Genesis 3:6; 1 Timothy 2:14) or Adam (Romans 5:12)?
 - c. Did Noah take two of every kind of animal (Genesis 6:19-20) or seven (Genesis 7:2-3)?—both because he took two of every kind of unclean animal and seven of every kind of clean animal
 - d. Did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a colt (Mark 11:7) or a donkey (John 12:14)?—both Greek words refer to young donkeys
 - e. Which genealogy of Jesus is correct, Matthew 1 or Luke 3? – both because one represents the line of Joseph while the other represents the line of Mary
 - f. Are we supposed to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) or only the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38)?

3. The world claims the Bible is filled with MISTAKES and ERRORS (in all areas like science, history, biology, geography, etc.):
 - a. The Bible claims everything was created in six days, but that must be wrong because according to evolutionary scientists, science has "proven" that it took billions and billions of years—Is evolution a fact or a theory?
 - b. Genesis 1:2 says light existed before the sun (Genesis 1:16) but scientists say that's impossible?—is the sun the only source of light? The Bible describes God and other angelic beings radiating light (Ezekiel 10:4; 2 Samuel 22:13; Matthew 28:3; Luke 2:9; Revelation 18:1)
 - c. Genesis 1:16 also refers to the moon as a "light", but some will say the Bible's wrong because the moon doesn't produce any light—but it does provide light to the earth by reflecting the sun due to its light surface
 - d. Genesis 1:2 also says the earth existed before the sun, but the theory of evolution says that's not possible—why not?
 - e. Ecclesiastes 1:5 gives the impression that the earth sits still while the sun moves (the sun rises and sets)—but this is merely a figure of speech

- f. Leviticus 11:20-23 refers to an insect having four legs, but insects have six legs—this passage refers to a small class of winged insects like grasshoppers and beetles which have six legs, but use only four to walk and the other two to jump
- g. Jesus claimed that the mustard seed was the smallest seed (Mark 4:30-32), but there are other seeds that are smaller (e.g. orchid seeds)—but, the black mustard seed was the smallest seed planted by farmers in Israel which is who Jesus was speaking to

B. Knowing the Truth—FOUR things that demonstrate the reliability of the Bible

1. FULFILLED PROPHECY demonstrates the reliability of the Bible:
 - a. There are over 2500 prophecies in the Bible which were given years—sometimes hundreds of years—before they occurred (all but about 500 hundred of them have already been fulfilled just as predicted)
 - 1) **Genesis 15:13**—God told Abraham his descendants would spend 400 years in Egypt; this came true 215 years later when Jacob and his brothers moved to Egypt and their descendants were enslaved for the next 430 years before the Exodus
 - 2) **Jeremiah 25:11-12**—approximately 50 years before it happened, Jeremiah prophesied that Judah would be carried away by the Babylonians, spend 70 years in captivity, and then ultimately be released to return home when the Babylonians would be conquered by the Assyrians; it happened exactly as Jeremiah predicted
 - 3) **Isaiah 45:1; 13:19; 14:23**—Isaiah also prophesied about this same event approximately 150 years before it happened and did so with incredible details, including the name of the Assyrian King that would conquered Babylon and release the Jews, and how he would do it!
 - b. The Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies referring to Jesus that were all fulfilled through his birth, death and resurrection
 - 1) Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1)
 - 2) Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23)
 - 3) Descendent of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Genesis 12:3; 17:19; Numbers 24:17)
 - 4) From the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - 5) A messenger would prepare his way (Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 3:3-6)
 - 6) He would be crucified (Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; John 20:25-27)
 - 7) He'd be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)
 - 8) He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; 49:15; Mathew 28:2-7)
2. HISTORICAL ACCURACY of the Bible demonstrates its reliability:
 - a. Secular historians (those who refuse to believe the Bible) are always making claims that the Bible's history isn't correct or accurate. Some examples:
 - 1) Historians claimed the Hittites (mentioned over 50 times in the Bible) never existed...until archeology proved they did when their capital was discovered in Turkey in 1906
 - 2) Historians claimed that King David never existed, nor did Israel as a nation before King Solomon...until archeology proved he did in 1993 when a large inscription referring to the "House of David" the "King of Israel" was found at an ancient mound called Tel Dan in northern Israel. In 2005 archaeologists, USING THE BIBLE AS THEIR GUIDE, even found King David's ancient palace!

- 3) Historians claimed that the Pool of Siloam never existed and they used such statements to discredit the miracles of Jesus. This is where Jesus healed the blind man in John 9:1-7 by putting clay on his eyes and having him then go to the Pool of Siloam to wash the clay off his eyes. Guess what? The pool was discovered in 2005 exactly where John said it would be. I guess it did exist.
 - 4) Secular historians STILL continue to claim there is no evidence that the Israelites ever lived in Egypt, that they were enslaved by them, that they escaped through the wilderness, or that they conquered Canaan. But, there is TONS of evidence and they have simply chosen to IGNORE it because it doesn't fit their time table (See Patterns of Evidence below)—one example is the story of Joseph
- b. Historical accuracy was extremely important to the Biblical authors and most of the historical references found in the Bible are first hand, eye witness accounts (Moses and the Exodus, Joshua and the conquest, Samuel and the divided Kingdom, the prophets of the Exile, Peter, James, Luke, Paul, etc.)
 - c. These events are verifiable by external evidence, such as other historical writings and archeology
 - 1) The OT makes hundreds of references to nations and their kings, people groups, cities, countries, customs, religious practices, socio-economic realities, geological formations (e.g. mountains, rivers, valleys), dates, etc. that have all been verified
 - 2) Roman, Greek and Jewish sources from the first century attest to the accuracy of the Biblical description of the time, culture, and events surrounding the life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ
 - d. Two excellent resources:
 - 1) ***Patterns of Evidence: Exodus*** (Timothy P. Mahoney, Thinking Man Media)
 - 2) ***Evidence for the Bible*** (Clive Anderson and Brian Edwards, DayOne Publications)
 - 3) **Does Archaeology Support the Bible?** <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/does-archaeology-support-the-bible/>
3. SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY of the Bible demonstrates its reliability:
 - a. While the Bible does not claim to be a science book, it has been demonstrated time and time again that it is accurate in its depiction of scientific areas (the following taken from AIG:
 - b. Astronomy:
 - 1) Stars are innumerable (Genesis 22:17; Jeremiah 33:22)
 - 2) Stars differ in glory (1 Corinthians 15:41)
 - 3) Stars follow a predictable pattern (Jeremiah 31:35)
 - 4) Earth is round, not flat (Isaiah 40:22; Psalm 103:12)
 - 5) Earth hangs on nothing (not built on pillars) (Job 26:7)
 - 6) Scientific evidence of a young universe:
 - Spiral galaxies
 - “Missing” supernova remnants
 - Short-lived comets
 - Moon moving away from Earth
 - c. Anthropology:
 - 1) The Bible states that there is one human race which has been proven genetically

- 2) The Bible's depiction of man's character, will, thoughts, psychology, actions, behavior, etc. reflects reality
 - 3) Origin of people groups and language (Evidence for the Tower of Babel):
 - Universal language that split into multiple languages: in 2015 MIT claimed to have found a universal grammar ("language universal") that underlies all known languages
 - Literary evidence demonstrates this truth with cultures from all over the world sharing similar Creation stories, a world-wide flood and the Tower of Babel
 - Archeological evidence also validates this by demonstrating that different cultures from all over the world share similar building techniques and structures (e.g. step pyramids like in Egypt, ziggurats, Steles/Obelisks like the Washington Monument, earthen mounds like in Newark, Ohio, Henges like Stonehenge, earthen mounds like those in Newark and nearly every other continent)
 - 4) Resources:
 - ***The Genius of Ancient Man: Evolutions Nightmare*** (Don Landis, Master Books)
 - ***The Secrets of Ancient Man: Revelations from the Ruins*** (Don Landis, Masters Books)
 - ***Tower of Babel: The Cultural History of Our Ancestors*** (Bodie Hodge)
- d. Geology:
- 1) Water cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10)
 - 2) Sea currents (Psalm 8:8)
 - 3) Fountains of the deep (Genesis 7:11)
 - 4) The fossil record and geological formations all over the world are best explained by the Biblical Flood
4. INTERNAL CONSISTENCY of the Bible demonstrates its reliability:
- a. 66 different books
 - b. Written over nearly 1500 to 2000 years in three different languages
 - c. By 40 different men from all different walks of life (e.g. shepherds, kings, scholars, fishermen, priests, prophets, an
 - d. d even a doctor)
 - e. From three different continents
 - f. Yet, with such amazing diversity, the Bible maintains an incredible consistency from the first chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation when it comes to depicting God's nature, character, actions, words and spiritual truths
 - g. This defies natural explanation!

C. Knowing How to Respond

Remember, your goal is not to prove anything or convince anyone. You simply need to give a defense for why you believe the Bible can be trusted.

Q. How do you know the Bible is true?

A. Well, first there are the **PROPHECIES**. There are over 2500 prophecies made in the Old Testament and eighty percent of them have come true so far, just like the Bible said and this can be verified by other historical writings, not just the Bible. Some of these were about Jesus (over 300), including how he would be a descendent of King David, that he would be born to a virgin in Bethlehem, about how he would be crucified, and how he would raise from the dead in three days. There are other Roman and Greek historians that give evidence of these things. Second, there is the **HISTORY**. The Bible is a history book and every year there are more and more archeological discoveries that prove the historical events recorded in the Bible. Third, and this is subjective, I just get a different **SENSE** when I read it. The Bible claims to be inspired by God and that's the sense I get when I read it. It just makes sense and seems true.

S. The Bible is just a bunch of myths or stories.

A. Sure, the Bible is filled with stories, but how do you know (or why do you believe) they aren't true? Do you have some examples that we can talk about? How much do you know about those stories? Would you be interested in looking those stories up with me in my Bible and see what it says?

Q. Do you really believe Jonah got swallowed by a whale\fish?

A. I actually do because that's what the Bible says. In fact, Jesus must have believe it because He said Jonah was in the belly of a fish for three days (Matthew 12:40). I know it sounds crazy but it's not all that crazy if you believe that God can do miracles. Do you believe in miracles? Do you want to look at some other miracles in the Bible? (e.g. Moses and the Burning Bush, the plagues of Egypt, Crossing of the Red Sea, Elijah and the Prophets of Baal, Birth of Jesus, Jesus healing the sick, raising the dead, His own resurrection).

S. Science disproves the Bible.

A. What do you mean? How does it disprove the Bible? Can you give me an example?

S1. Science has proven that the earth is 4.5 billion years old and that evolution is true.

A1. Actually, science hasn't proven the earth is that old or that evolution is true. That's why it's called a theory. Facts don't change, but the theory of evolution is always changing with new ideas, new explanations, new timelines. Evolution is far from scientific fact. Plus, if evolution were a fact, then all scientists would be evolutionists but that's not true. There are many world renowned scientists that reject the theory of evolution, and they are not all Christians. So, evolution is just a theory, just like Creationism is just a theory. Evolutionists and Creationist all look at the same evidence; we just interpret it differently and I believe the Bible's description of earth and human history best explains the evidence, and there are many, many world renowned scientists that agree. Plus, there are tons of science that supports the Bible. Answers in Genesis and the Creation Research Institute have thousands of scientific articles showing this available for free on their websites.

S. The Bible is filled with contradictions.

A. Can you give me some examples and would you mind if we looked them up in my Bible to see what it says?