

# How Can You Trust the Bible?

## Series: Questions Unbelievers Ask

### Presuppositions:

1. Unbelief is the greatest hurdle skeptics face.

It is a choice, an attitude and a sin.

2. People are hindered in coming to know truth because of negative bias. Satan works hard to make sure the things that are life changing are cast in the worst possible light to people's mind.

3. The sin of Pride makes most people unwilling to go against the prevailing opinion of the culture in which they live. People desire the praise of men above the praise of God.

4. Many people understand that if they accept the Scriptures as the Word of God, it means major life change is expected of them. They are often unwilling to change because they are lovers of pleasure more than God.

### Arguments For the Truth and Validity of Scripture.

1. The Existence of the book itself is a miracle in light of how many enemies it has had and how determined to destroy it they have been.

2. Fulfilled Prophecy

- Abraham's being told before he had any children that his offspring would be numerous and inhabit a country hostile to them for 400 years. But God promised to bring them out with a powerful hand and free them from their oppressors.
- 430 years they were in Egypt then God delivered them.
- Daniel's prophecy of the major rise and collapse of empires before they came to power leading up to the revelation of Christ who started a kingdom not built by man that would never end. Those empires came and went and then Christ appeared.
- All the Prophecies about the Christ.
- Born in Bethlehem
- Called out of Egypt
- Lived in Galilee
- Born of a Virgin
- Both God and Man
- A Suffering Servant
- Died a Substitutionary Death
- All predicted hundreds of years before their occurrence.

3. Conversion of some of its harshest critics

Example: C.S. Lewis and Lee Strobel both avowed atheist who converted to Christianity after an honest assessment of the Scriptures.

4. Personal Experience

While you and I cannot prove God to anyone else. God will prove himself to every honest seeking soul.

"My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own..." John 7:16-17

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to

him and make our home with him." John 14:23

God honors his truth wherever it is discovered and sought.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

5. Evidence of True Christians You Have Met

God Providentially allows His people to Cross others paths.

They became the kind of people they are by believing the Scriptures and obeying them.

6. The number of Fragments and Copies we have of the Scriptures dating back to within a hundred years of the Apostles ministries. Over 10,000 of them and 5808 copies. More than any other ancient document in History.

The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1940's Many copies of most of our Old Testament Scriptures dating back to 200-300 AD. Nearly complete accuracy to today's Bible

When we set aside all superficial variations between texts, we have a Greek Testament that is 98.33% certain. 5 texts are disputed. (These are commonly found in our Bibles with a note in the margins saying these texts are not found in the oldest manuscripts.) These 5 texts do not influence a single Christian belief. You could remove them and every doctrine would still stand on the basis of other Scriptures.

A book as old as the Bible written by several authors over several hundred years proving that accurate after many translations from one language to another is simply miraculous in itself.