

God, I have a Question? "GOD, CAN I REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE?"

Pastor Chuck Wysong

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"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible Is Remarkable

The Bible Is Unique In Its Circulation

It is without question the single most published book in the history of the world. It has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book. Billions have been printed and tens of millions continue to be sold and circulated year after year. Find another book that has stayed on top of the bestseller list for three hundred years!

The Bible Is Unique In Its Translation

It is the single most translated book in the world. Even though it's been translated in over 1,200 languages already, literally an army of fulltime translators is working today to make it available to still more people groups.

The Bible Is Unique In Its Durability

It has survived bans and burnings, ridicule and criticism. Countless kings and rulers have tried to eradicate it - but it lives on and its influence continues to spread. Thousands of Bibles continue to pour into Eastern block countries, the Middle East and communist China. The Bible has outlived every one of its cruelest opponents.

(Voltaire, the noted French infidel who died in 1778, said that in one hundred years from his time, Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Fifty years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his press and began printing Bibles in his house.)

The Bible Is Unique In Its Impact

Over the centuries, millions upon millions of people have credited the Bible for transforming their lives, altering their view of the world, changing their relationships, values and their view of eternity. Not many books have that kind of affect on people's lives.

This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning. He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.. . Historian Philip Schaff

The Bible Is Unique in its Composition

1. **Written over a 1,500-year span**
2. **Written over 40 generations**
3. **Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.:**

- Moses: political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt
- Peter: fisherman
- Amos: herdsman
- Joshua: military general
- Nehemiah, a cupbearer
- Daniel: prime minister
- Luke: doctor
- Solomon: king
- Matthew: tax collector
- Paul: rabbi

4. Written in different places:

- Moses in the wilderness
- Jeremiah in a dungeon
- Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
- Paul inside prison walls
- Luke while traveling
- John on the isle of Patmos
- Others in the rigors of a military campaign

5. Written at different times:

- David in times of war
- Solomon in times of peace

6. Written on three continents:

- Asia, Africa and Europe

7. Written in three languages:

- **Hebrew:** Was the language of the Old Testament
 - 2 Kings 18: 26-28 called the language of Judah
 - Isaiah 19:18 called the language of Canaan
- **Aramaic:** Was the common language of the Near East until the time of Alexander the Great (6th century B.C. 4th century B.C.) 32/218
- **Greek:** New Testament language - was the international language at the time of Christ

The Bible was written over a 1,500-year time span by 40 different generations coming from radically different backgrounds and cultures. It was written from different places, at different times, in different languages by writers on different continents yet it contains an unmistakable thread of continuity throughout its pages.

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

PROBLEM: *Of course it's not accurate. It's riddled with myths and mistakes and contradictions. It has nothing to do with historical fact.*

ANSWER: The Bible makes hundreds of references to historical events, places, and people so there's plenty of opportunity for contradiction with a historical record. But, there is remarkable agreement between the historical record and the Biblical account. In the few cases where there have been contradictions

between the Biblical account and the historical record, recent archeological discoveries have tended to prove that the Biblical account was the more accurate account.

Among the examples of amazing discoveries:

- **The Hittite Nation**
- **Belshazzar (the King of Babylon)**
- **The Walls of Jericho**
- **King Nebuchadnezzar**
- **Pontius Pilate Inscription** (*Confirms Matt. 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19*)

William Ramsey, a archaeological scholar, went to the lands of the Bible a few decades ago to prove that it was full of historical errors. He was an atheist. He was going to write a book about it. After years of painstaking study he said, .I am amazed to find the Bible completely trustworthy in every historical and geographical detail.

"It can be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference." —Nelson Glueck, famed Israeli archaeologist

The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the accuracy of the Bible!

What was actually learned? *Even through the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were thousand years earlier than the oldest dated manuscript previously known (A.D. 980), they proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling.* Scholar Gleason Archer.

The last foundation for any doubt that the scriptures have come down to us substantially as they have been written, has been removed. The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries. - Sir Fredrick Kenyon, Director of the British Museum and a legend in the field of paleography.

PROPHECY

Among many examples:

TYRE (Ezekiel 26)

Prophecy: To be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, many nations will attack, made like a bare rock, fishermen will spread nets, debris thrown into water. All this is exactly fulfilled.

NINEVEH (*Book of Nahum*)

Prophecy: To be destroyed in floods, inhabitants drunk, gates dissolved, burned down, never to be rebuilt. All this is exactly fulfilled.

JESUS

Over 300 references to the Messiah in Hebrew Scriptures were fulfilled in Jesus. "We find that the chance that any man might have fulfilled all 48 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 157th power." —Peter Stoner

So What?

The Bible LEADS ME TO JESUS CHRIST

Jesus said: "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." John 5:39-40

"There is no magic in . . . the mechanical reading of the Bible. The written Word points to the Living Word and says to us, 'go to Jesus'. If we do not go to the Jesus to whom it points, we miss the whole purpose of Bible reading. We do not worship the Bible; we worship the Christ of the Bible. We love it only because we love him of whom it speaks." —John Stott

The Bible CHANGES ME

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

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