

Sermon Title: Can We Trust the Bible?

Sermon Series: Frequently Asked Questions

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



How can we know if the Bible is reliable?

Objections:

– **The Bible never claims to be reliable.**

If someone claims this, ask them “Could you show me?”

What does the Bible claim?

A. The Bible is _____’s _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

B. The Bible is God-ordained through _____

2 Peter 1:16-21 ESV

16 For we **did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the

prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were **carried along** by the Holy Spirit.

- The Bible does not claim to be a moral story, but an eyewitness account where god used the hand writing and style of the author to produce the words He wanted to say.

C. Jesus says the Bible is true

John 17:17 ESV

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

1. The Bible claims to be _____.

Objections:

- The Bible never claims to be reliable.
- The Bible was written so long after the events that it couldn't be reliable.

“The Argument from Scripture”

“The fact that something is written down is persuasive to people not used to asking questions like: ‘Who wrote it, and when?’ ‘How did they know what to write?’ ‘Did they, in their time, really mean what we, in our time, understand them to be saying?’ ‘Were they unbiased observers, or did they have an agenda that coloured their writing?’ Ever since the nineteenth century, scholarly theologians have made an overwhelming case that the gospels are not reliable accounts of what happened in the history of the real world. All were written long after the death of Jesus...”

—Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, p.118

One of Dawkins claims is that the Bible is not reliable because it was written so long after the fact. If someone claims this, ask them...

How do we know whether Julius Caesar was real?

- 251 Copies of the works of Julius Caesar
- 1st Century BC — Caesar lived
- 9th Century — Oldest Copy — 900 years removed

It is universally accepted that Ancient Copies of Manuscripts have hundreds of years between the originals and the copies.

Manuscript Test for the Bible

- 4 BC — AD 90 — Lifetime of the attributed writers
- AD 130 — Earliest copy fragment
- AD 200 — Earliest copy of a complete book of the New Testament
- Late AD 300's — Complete copies of New Testament,
- 5,600 Greek fragments and copies of the New Testament
- 24,000 Ancient copies of the New Testament <https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/what-is-the-most-recent-manuscript-count-for-the-new-testament>

In comparison to other ancient manuscripts, the New Testament has the _____
and the _____ to date manuscripts

Objections:

- The Bible never claims to be reliable.
- The Bible was written so long after the events that it couldn't be reliable.
- The Bible has many errors and it has been changed over the years.

Aren't there many errors in the Bible?

Hasn't it been changed over the years?

- If someone claims this, politely ask them to show you the errors.

Below is a link to Ian's Video Sermon Illustration:

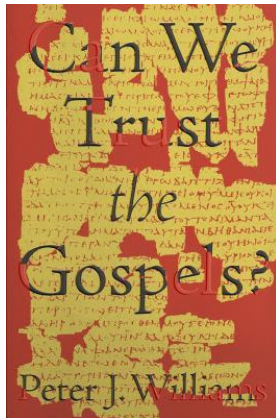
<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/852702684/20049659f0>

"It turns out that Ehrman has the ability to complain about the existence of these passages only because we happen to possess the accurate methodology to remove them from consideration in the first place. As a result, we ought to have even more confidence that we possess documents today that are a reliable reflection of what was originally written thousands of years ago."

—J Warner Wallace – ColdCaseChristianity.com

1. The Bible claims to be reliable

2. Our Bible is a reliable piece of _____ Literature



So what? What is the Bible about, and why was it written?

Below is a link to Ian's second video sermon illustration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkNa6tLWrqk>

The Bible is a reliable document about God's story of redeeming His people through _____.

Will you be a part of that story?

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

Resources

Books

Can We Trust The Gospels - Peter Williams

Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels - J Warner Wallace

Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World (2017) - Josh and Sean McDowell

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus - Gary Habermas

Articles

Archeology and the New Testament - <https://probe.org/archaeology-and-the-new-testament/>

What is the most recent manuscript count for the New Testament - <https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/what-is-the-most-recent-manuscript-count-for-the-new-testament>

Top Ten Discoveries Related to David - <https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2021/06/11/top-ten-discoveries-related-to-david/>

The Tel Dan Inscription: The First Historical Evidence of King David from the Bible - <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/the-tel-dan-inscription-the-first-historical-evidence-of-the-king-david-bible-story/>

Conquest of Canaan: Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho?
<https://biblearchaeology.org/research/topics-by-chronology/conquest-of-canaan/2310-did-the-israelites-conquer-jericho-a-new-look-at-the-archaeological-evidence?highlight=WyJqZXJpY2hvlwliwiamVyaWNobydzliwiamVyaWNobyCiLCInamVyaWNobyIslidqZXJpY2hvJyJd>

Videos

New Evidence the Gospels were based on Eyewitness Testimony | Peter Williams - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5Ylt1pBMm8>

The Resurrection Argument That Changed a Generation of Scholars | Gary Habermas https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay_Db4RwZ_M

The Walls of Jericho - <https://vimeo.com/134824504>

What is the Bible Primarily About - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkNa6tLWrqk>

What do we do with the variations in the text – J Warner Wallace - <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/852702684/20049659f0>