

WHY I CAN BELIEVE—3 THE BIBLE

Three ways of thinking about God:

- “I understand that I may believe.” [Concrete rationalism]
- “I believe and that settles it forever.” [Unconditional faith]
- “I believe that I may understand.” [Measured rationalism]

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY TRANSLATIONS?

“Go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:19,20

- Challenge: Modern language is a moving target.
- Multiple translations provide cultural context for timeless truth.

2. HOW CREDIBLE IS THE BIBLICAL LITERATURE?

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

- “How do we know what the authors wrote after all this time?”
- “What about all of the typos and variations in the Bible?”

The integrity of any ancient writing is determined by the number of documented manuscripts, or fragments, available to examine.

3. HOW HISTORICALLY CREDIBLE IS THE BIBLE?

“Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.”
Matthew 24:35

Bible’s claims are commonly supported through archeological research. There has never been a discovery that has refuted the biblical record.

4. ISN’T THE BIBLE FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS?

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
2 Peter 1:20-21

“Don’t the four biographies of Jesus have Jesus doing different things and saying different things?”

All alleged contradictions in the Bible are matters of varying details one account adds that another might leave out. That is not a contradiction.

Sources: Dr. James Emery White, for research and inspiration. Dr. Timothy Keller, The Reason for God

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