

I Don't Know What I Believe Is The Bible Reliable?

July 30, 2017

James 1:5-8 NIV If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Is the Bible reliable?

2 Timothy 3:16 NASB All Scripture is inspired by God.

- ✓ The word “Bible” means Book.
- ✓ It was written over a period of 1600 years in over a dozen countries on three continents by people from all walks of life.
- ✓ It is historically, scientifically, and prophetically sound.
- ✓ There were about 40 writers but only one Author.
- ✓ No man could write a standard so high.
- ✓ Changed Lives.

Matthew 5:17 (MSG) Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete.

Matthew 5:18 (NIV) For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Overview of the Old Testament

Law – 5 books – Genesis through Deuteronomy - Pentateuch

Historical – 12 books – Joshua through Esther

Poetical – 5 books – Job through Song of Solomon

Prophetical – 17 books

5 Major Prophets – Isaiah through Daniel / 12 Minor Prophets – Hosea through Malachi

Overview of the New Testament

Gospels – 4 books – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Acts – historical record of the first church

Epistles – 20 books – Romans through Jude

Revelation – prophecy of the last days and eternity

Believing the Bible

1 Timothy 4:13 (NIV) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

1. When the Bible speaks clearly that's what we believe.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

2. When the Bible appears to be unclear, let's look for principles to apply.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Romans 15:4 (NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

3. When principles are hard to find, seek Godly Wisdom.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

Proverbs 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

4. The goal of the Bible is finding and following Jesus.

John 5:39 (NLT) "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!"

2 Timothy 1:12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.