

The Journey Begins: Foundations for Discipleship

Session 2: Is the Bible Credible?

1. Introduction

- The credibility of the Bible matters because _____.
 - Many people assume the Bible is _____, but the Bible is _____.
 - How does credibility affect personal trust in Scripture?
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2. Historical Reliability

- Number of New Testament manuscripts compared to other ancient writings: _____.
 - Time gap between originals and earliest copies: _____.
 - Archaeological discoveries that support Scripture include _____ and _____.
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3. Internal Consistency

- The Bible was written by _____ authors, over _____ years, in _____ languages, yet maintains unity.
 - Major consistent themes: _____, _____.
 - Example of Old Testament pointing to New Testament: _____.
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4. Prophecy and Fulfillment

- Prophecy definition: _____.
 - Example of prophecy fulfilled in Jesus' life: _____.
 - Why prophecy matters for credibility: _____.
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5. The Uniqueness of the Bible

- Unlike other ancient writings, the Bible has been _____ and _____.
 - Its influence on culture includes _____.
 - The way it has been preserved demonstrates _____.
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6. Transforming Power

- One example of a changed life through the Bible: _____.
 - How the Bible has impacted my own life so far: _____.
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7. Conclusion & Reflection

- Main reasons the Bible is credible: _____, _____, _____.
 - My confidence in the Bible after this study is (circle one): Low / Growing / Strong.
 - Questions I still have: _____.
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Key Takeaway:

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Answer Guide

Operation Timothy – Chapter 2: “Is the Bible Credible?”

1. Introduction

- The credibility of the Bible matters because **faith is only as strong as the reliability of its foundation.**
 - Many people assume the Bible is **just a collection of myths or altered stories**, but this chapter argues **it is historically accurate, preserved, and trustworthy.**
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2. Historical Reliability

- Number of New Testament manuscripts compared to other ancient writings: **over 24,000 (in Greek and other languages)** vs. only a few hundred at most for other classics.
 - Time gap between originals and earliest copies: **less than 100 years** (compared to centuries for works like Homer, Plato, or Caesar).
 - Archaeological discoveries that support Scripture include **the Dead Sea Scrolls** and **finds confirming places and rulers like King David, Pontius Pilate, and ancient cities (e.g., Jericho, Nineveh).**
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3. Internal Consistency

- The Bible was written by **about 40 authors**, over **1,500 years**, in **3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)**, yet maintains unity.
 - Major consistent themes: **God’s character, humanity’s need for redemption, and God’s plan of salvation through Christ.**
 - Example of Old Testament pointing to New Testament: **Messianic prophecies fulfilled in Jesus (e.g., Isaiah 53, Micah 5:2, Psalm 22).**
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4. Prophecy and Fulfillment

- Prophecy definition: **a foretelling of future events given under divine inspiration.**
- Example of prophecy fulfilled in Jesus’ life: **born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), crucified with details matching Psalm 22, resurrection foretold (Psalm 16:10).**

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- Why prophecy matters for credibility: **it shows divine authorship and accuracy beyond human ability.**
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5. The Uniqueness of the Bible

- Unlike other ancient writings, the Bible has been **preserved with remarkable accuracy** and **translated into more languages than any other book.**
 - Its influence on culture includes **shaping law, morality, literature, education, and social reform movements.**
 - The way it has been preserved demonstrates **God's protection over His Word and its unique authority.**
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6. Transforming Power

- One example of a changed life through the Bible: **the Apostle Paul (from persecutor to missionary)**, or modern testimonies of personal transformation.
 - How the Bible has impacted my own life so far: **(personal reflection — e.g., strengthened faith, provided guidance, brought comfort, given purpose).**
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7. Conclusion & Reflection

- Main reasons the Bible is credible: **historical manuscript evidence, internal consistency, fulfilled prophecy, uniqueness, and life-changing power.**
- My confidence in the Bible after this study is (circle one): **Growing / Strong** (depending on where you are).
- Questions I still have: **(personal — e.g., about specific contradictions, how translations were made, or deeper study of archaeology/prophecy).**