

1 OBJECT

COMMON OBJECTIONS
TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



OBJECTION #3

"The Bible is not completely authentic."

The Bible has Unmatched Literary Consistency

“There is indeed a wide variety of human authors and themes (in the Bible). Yet behind these... there lies a single divine author with a single unifying theme.”

- John Stott

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

I. The New Testament was written by eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and ministry.

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“The Bible should be taught, but emphatically not as reality. It is fiction, myth, poetry, anything but reality. As such it needs to be taught because it underlies so much of our literature and our culture.”

- Richard Dawkins

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

I. The New Testament was written by eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and ministry.

“To be skeptical of the resultant text of the new Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well tested bibliographically as the New Testament.”

- John Warwick Montgomery

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

2. Manuscript Evidence: The number of New Testament manuscripts and their closeness to the original.

“The historical ‘once-for-all-ness’ of Christianity which distinguishes it from those religious and philosophical systems, which are not specially related to any particular time, makes the reliability of the writings which purport to record this revelation a question of first-rate importance.”

- F. F. Bruce

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

3. The writings of the Church fathers and extra biblical writers.

“The evidence for our New Testament writings is ever so much greater than the evidence for many writings of classical authors, the authenticity of which no one dreams of questioning.”

- F. F. Bruce

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

4. Archaeological Evidence: The Bible is a historically accurate document.

“The excessive scepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth-and-nineteenth centuries, certain phases of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.”

- Archaeologist William F. Albright

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

5. Eyewitness Accounts.

“It is no moderate approbation (approval or praise) of Scripture that it has been sealed by the blood of so many witnesses, especially when we reflect that they died to render testimony to the faith... with a firm and constant, yet sober, zeal toward God.”

- John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion

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Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

6. Prophetic Consistency.

“The very dimension of the sheer fulfillment of prophecy of the Old Testament Scriptures should be enough to convince anyone that we are dealing with a supernatural piece of literature... God has himself planted within the scriptures an internal consistency that bears witness that this is his Word.”

- R.C. Sproul

Professor of Science at Westmont College

After examining only eight different prophecies, they conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in 10^{17} .

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Peter Stoner

In another calculation, Stoner used 48 prophecies, and arrived at the extremely conservative estimate that the probability of 48 prophecies being fulfilled in one person is the incredible number 10^{157} .

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The Bible Can Be Trusted!

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

- 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible Can Be Trusted!

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

- Hebrews 4:12

Reasons We Can Trust the Bible

7. The Bible's Impact.

“Christianity”, as set forth in the Bible “is responsible for a disproportionately large number of the humanitarian advances in the history of civilization – in education, medicine, law, the fine arts, working for human rights and even in the natural sciences...”

- Craig L. Blomberg

The Bible Can Be Trusted!

“The mere fact that the Bible claims to be the Word of God, does not prove that it is such, for there are other books that make similar claims.

The difference is that the Scriptures contain indisputable evidence as being the Word of God.”
- Josh McDowell, Apologist