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## Can I Trust the Bible?

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*“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” – Matthew 24:35*

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### 1. The Bible Claims \_\_\_\_\_ Origin

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17                      – John 1:1                      – 2 Peter 1:21
  - “God-breathed” means **inspired by God**—originating not from man, but from the Spirit of God.
  - Scripture’s authority rests upon God’s authorship, not public opinion or cultural approval.<sup>1</sup>
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### 2. The Bible Has Been \_\_\_\_\_ Preserved

- Matthew 24:35
  - God’s Word is eternal—unchanged by time or shifting worldviews.
  - Despite persecution and attempts to destroy it, the Bible remains the most printed, translated, and studied book in human history.<sup>2</sup>
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### 3. Archaeological Evidence \_\_\_\_\_ Biblical Accounts

- The **Dead Sea Scrolls** (1947) confirmed the accuracy of Old Testament transmission.
  - Excavation of **Jericho**, **David’s palace**, **Pontius Pilate inscription**, and the **Pool of Bethesda** all confirm biblical references.
  - Over 25,000 archaeological finds are directly related to Bible places, people, and events.<sup>3</sup>
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### 4. Prophecy \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible’s Supernatural Origin

- The Bible contains **hundreds of prophecies** fulfilled with remarkable precision:
  - Jesus fulfilled **over 300 messianic prophecies**, including His birth, life, death, and resurrection.<sup>4</sup>
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### 5. The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ Lives and Cultures

- Beyond intellectual credibility, the Bible demonstrates **spiritual power**:
  - It convicts, comforts, corrects, and guides.
  - Lives are transformed—from individuals to entire nations—by its truth.<sup>5</sup>
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## Resources

1. Geisler, Norman L., and William E. Nix. *A General Introduction to the Bible*. Moody Press, 1986, and Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* InterVarsity Press, 2003.
2. Metzger, Bruce M. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. Oxford University Press, 2005; Wallace, Daniel B. "The Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts." *Bible.org*, 2004.
3. Archer, Gleason L. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Moody Press, 1994, and Hoffmeier, James K. *The Archaeology of the Bible*. Lion Hudson, 2008.
4. Stoner, Peter. *Science Speaks*. Moody Press, 1958, and Kaiser, Walter C. *The Messiah in the Old Testament*. Zondervan, 1995.
5. D'Souza, Dinesh. *What's So Great About Christianity?* Tyndale, 2007, and McDowell, Josh. *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. Thomas Nelson, 2017.

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## Common Objections and Honest Questions

### 1. Isn't the Bible just a book written by men?

**A:** The Bible is a divine-human book—God used human writers without error to communicate His truth.

### 2. Hasn't the Bible been changed over time?

**A:** No. Thanks to thousands of ancient manuscripts, scholars can confidently reconstruct the original texts with over 99% accuracy. The **Dead Sea Scrolls** proved the Old Testament was faithfully preserved for over 1,000 years.

### 3. Why trust the Bible over other religious texts?

**A:** Unlike any other text, the Bible contains **fulfilled prophecy** (e.g., messianic prophecies in Jesus). **Historical and archaeological confirmation**. A **coherent message** across 66 books, 40 authors, and 1,500 years—pointing to one Savior.

### 4. Isn't the Bible full of contradictions?

**A:** No, most so-called contradictions are misunderstandings of context, culture, or language. When studied carefully, Scripture is found to be internally consistent and harmonious across all major themes.

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Next Week

**TOUGH QUESTIONS, HONEST ANSWERS**

**TOM JOHNSON**

UPCOMING EVENTS



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