

# How Can I Trust the Bible?

## Tough Questions Message Series Week 5

### 2 Timothy 3:16

Pastor Scott Marshall

July 9, 2023

#### Five reasons why you can trust the Bible...

1. **What the Bible says about itself.** (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:16)
2. **How it's put together.** (1 John 1:1-4; Luke 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

A. Transcribers & Timing

B. Complexity & Cohesiveness

“The canonical gospels were written at the very most forty to sixty years after Jesus’ death. Paul’s letters, written just fifteen to twenty-five years after the death of Jesus provide an outline of all the events of Jesus’ life found in the gospels—his miracles, claims, crucifixion, and resurrection. This means that the biblical accounts of Jesus’ life were circulating within the lifetimes of hundreds who had been present at the events of his ministry.”

Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*,  
Riverhead Books, New York, NY, 2008, p.106.

3. **How well it's preserved.**

**4. How it's proven again and again.** (Isaiah 13:1-5, 22:1-10, 44:24-28)

- A. Historically
- B. Archeologically
- C. Prophetically

“There are nonbiblical sources such as Josephus, Tacitus and Pliny the Younger who mention facts about Jesus and his followers that consistently line up with New Testament teachings. In fact, historian Gary Habermas, who wrote *The Historical Jesus*, lists thirty-nine ancient sources outside of the Bible that provide over one hundred facts about Jesus’ life, teachings, death and resurrection.”

Mark Mittelberg, *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask*, Tyndale House, Carol Stream, IL, 2010, p. 78.

“Though our faith is not dependent on the next archeological find, it is gratifying to know that as time moves on, more and more discoveries confirm the biblical record. Unbelievers must grudgingly admit that archeology has proved to be a friend of the Bible, not its foe.”

Erwin W Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 2008, p. 60.

**5. How lives have been changed.** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Resources:**

- *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible* by Erwin Lutzer
- *Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask* by Mark Mittelberg
- *Unearthing the Bible* by Titus Kennedy
- *Excavating the Evidence for Jesus* by Titus Kennedy
- *The Historical Jesus* by Gary Habermas
- *gotquestions.org - How does archeology support the Bible?*
- *gotquestions.org - How did we get the Bible?*
- *iamsecond.com*
- *Patterns of Evidence* (DVDs) from [patternsofevidence.com](http://patternsofevidence.com)