

Series: Life's Ultimate Questions

Is the Bible True and Really From God?

Various Passages

How I Can Know the Bible is True and From God:

I. Its _____ amid its _____ (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible:

- It took over 1,500 years to write.
- It was written by 40 different authors (shepherds, kings, fisherman, tax collectors, Jews, a Gentile, rich, poor, etc.).
- It was written on 3 different continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe).
- It was written in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
- It was written under different circumstances (war, peace, persecution, etc.)

II. Its _____ in comparison to other books.

A. Unique in its _____.

The Bible addresses hundreds of controversial themes, yet agrees completely from cover to cover.

B. Unique in its _____.

The Bible is the best selling book of all time. It has been a best seller since the printing press was invented in 1455.

C. Unique in its _____ and _____.

Look at the chart below for an answer as to how much we can trust the New Testament in comparison to other works of antiquity...

<u>Author:</u>	<u>When Written:</u>	<u>Earliest Copy:</u>	<u>Time Span:</u>	<u># of copies:</u>
Caesar	100-44 BC	AD 900	1,000 years	10
Plato	427-347 BC	AD 900	1,200 years	7
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	900 years	20
Thucydides	460-400 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Herodotus	384-322 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Aristotle	450-385 BC	AD 900	1,400 years	49
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
New Testament	AD 40-95	AD 98	3 years	24,900

D. Unique in its _____.

No other book has suffered the same kind of attacks as the Bible. From ancient Rome to modern communism to Islamic states, the Bible has been banned, burned, outlawed, and restricted. Yet, it remains the most widely circulated and read book in the world.

III. Its evidence from _____.

What the Bible says:

Earth is a sphere.

Number of stars = more than a billion.

Every star is different.

Light is in motion.

Air has weight.

Winds blow in cyclones.

Blood is a source of life and healing.

What people thought:

Earth is a flat disk.

Number of stars = 1,100.

All stars are the same.

Light is fixed in place.

Air is weightless.

Winds blow straight.

Sick people must be bled.

What we now know:

Earth is a sphere.

Number of stars = more than a billion.

Every star is different.

Light is in motion.

Air has weight.

Winds blow in cyclones.

Blood is a source of life and healing.

In addition to the phenomena just mentioned, the Bible describes:

- the conservation of mass and energy¹,
- the hydraulic cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation²,
- gravity³,
- the Pleiades and Orion as gravitationally-bound star groups⁴,
- the effect of emotions on physical health⁵,
- the spread of contagious disease by close contact⁶,
- the importance of sanitation to health⁷.

IV. Its evidence from _____.

To date, more than 25,000 archaeological findings have been discovered which verify the writings dealing with things like rulers, cities, people groups, wars, etc.

Scholar Hugh Ross writes this, "In the crucible of scientific investigation, the Bible has proven invariably to be correct. No other book, ancient or modern, can make this claim."

V. Its evidence from _____.

The Bible lays out a simple test for the authenticity of anyone claiming to be a real prophet of God: 100% accuracy (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

While the Bible makes hundreds of prophecies about numerous different topics we will focus our attention here on just the prophecies concerning the Messiah.

All told, at least 332 prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' first coming.

*"...we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled eight prophecies is 1 in 10¹⁷."
(1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.)⁸*

The probability that 48 of these would be fulfilled in one person is 1 x 10¹⁵⁷. There are 10⁶⁶ atoms in the universe.

Closing:

With what we know about the Bible we can conclude that we can completely trust the Bible in the only two areas of life that matter...

- 1. The matters of life that we live now here on earth.**
- 2. The matters of eternal life that we will have someday either in heaven with God or in hell eternally separated from Him.**

¹ Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:14-15.

² Job 36:27-29; Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10.

³ Job 26:7; Job 38:31-33.

⁴ Job 38:31 (Note: According to Dr. Ross, "All other star groups visible to the naked eye are unbound, with the possible exception of the Hyades.")

⁵ Proverbs 15:30; 16:24; 17:22.

⁶ Leviticus 13:45-46.

⁷ Numbers 19; Deuteronomy 23:12-13.

⁸ Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1963, cited in McDowell, *Evidence*, pp. 175-176.