



Is the Bible Reliable?

“Sure, I read it. I mean, that’s what Christians do, right? But to be honest there are days I’m just not sure about it. I think I would be more willing to read it if I could just know for sure that it’s true!”

Realizing the Bible is the reliable unchanging Word of God is more important to our relationship with Him than we might realize. The Bible is the foundation of the Christian faith. We must be very careful to never undermine the Ultimate Authority of Scripture. Everything in the Bible was inspired by God and is true. It’s just that simple.

Think about how wonderful God is to us! The Bible doesn’t discriminate. It is useable by every Christian: children, adults, anyone, in any circumstance. It relates to all human-kind, just like God. We need to take notice that becoming a student of the Bible isn’t an option in our faith journey...it’s a must! Not only does God speak to us in our heart as we read and study the Scriptures, but it also prepares us to defend the Word of God when people try to discredit its authenticity and reliability.

The Bible has passed the three predominant tests that prove the reliability of its contents: Bibliographical, which examines the original manuscripts; the Internal Evidence which exposes discrepancies in Scripture; the External Evidence which provide works of literature apart from the Bible that confirms its truth.

The **Bibliographical Test** looks at how it was written and compares it to other works of antiquity. It was, for example, written over a span of 1500 years, having 40 different authors, from three continents, written in innumerable circumstances, and is a collection of writings from three different languages. It is the most widely criticized book in the world and, though it has faced tremendous opposition, it has still survived. It has been compared to other works of antiquity and the numbers of the original documents compared to the other works is astounding.

One of the most amazing things about the Bible is the fulfillment of prophecy. This is part of the **Internal Evidence Test**. The mathematical probability for one man to fulfill all 48 pure prophecies written about the Messiah is 1 in 10^{157} . That number is so great that the human mind can not begin to conceptualize the magnitude of such a figure. Yet, Jesus fulfilled them all.

There are a multitude of writers of antiquity that wrote about Jesus, His life, His death and His resurrection. These include writers like Eusebius, Flavius Josephus and Cornelius Tacitus. Such writings confirm the passage of the third test of reliability of the Bible, which is the **External Evidence Test**.

God invites us all to read and study His love letter so that we will not only know Him more, but so that we might also learn how to love and live life to the full.

2 Timothy 3:16 *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*