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Suggested Order:

1. Why I Believe in the Bible
2. Why I Believe in Bible Salvation
3. Why I Believe in One God
4. Why I Believe in Holiness
5. Why I Believe in Creation



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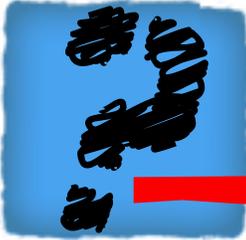
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Why I Believe
in the Bible

suggested order: lesson one



What is the Bible?

1 The Bible is...

...the inspired, infallible Word of God!
That means it is God-breathed and incapable of error. God spoke the very words of the Bible while the human authors wrote them down.

Purpose of the Bible

God gave us His Word (the Bible) to show us how to please Him. He intended for it to be the instructional manual for our lives!

Romans 15:4
1 Corinthians 10:11
Galatians 3:24

Order of the Bible

The Bible is divided into 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Within each book are chapters and within each chapter are verses. Although these divisions weren't there originally, they help us find an exact text quickly.

2 Where did it come from?

The Bible has one divine author: God; however, He used many writers from many walks of life, including fishermen, judges, kings, military leaders, musicians, philosophers, poets, scholars, shepherds, and tax collectors. These were people who knew God.

Some Bible books, such as 1 Kings and 2 Kings, tell us what God has done in people's lives. Other books, like Isaiah, show God speaking to us through the voice of a prophet. The New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have Jesus speaking directly to us.



1 Thessalonians 2:13
2 Timothy 3:16
2 Peter 1:20-21

Myth Buster!

Myth: "I heard the Bible is hard to understand."

Truth: God's word can easily be understood if the reader is sincere. Jeremiah 29:13 says, "And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart."



What Does the Bible Require?

After Peter preached to the crowd that had gathered to see what all the noise was about, as recorded in Acts 2, they asked him the same question in verse 37, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

The Bible requires us to do something if we truly believe the Bible is the Word of God and desire the salvation God offers in His Word.

Peter shared the plan of salvation in Acts 2:38:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."



Repent



Be Baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ



Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost

According to Acts 2:39, that same salvation experience is for anyone and everyone who wants it today. It is the best thing that can ever happen to you!

Thank you for taking your time to go through this Bible study.

We pray this Bible study has helped you understand why we believe in the Bible. As you study the Bible, let it become more than just a book to you. Let it become alive to you as it has to so many others!

God has so many jewels in His Word that are just waiting to be found! So search the Bible for yourself and find your own relationship with God. There is nothing that can take the place of your own personal experience with God and His Word.

How Do We Know it is True?

The Bible is the only prophetic book of all the books of major religions. It is the only book containing many specific predictions that actually came to pass. The Bible standard for prophetic accuracy is 100%. When the Bible says something is going to happen, it will happen. For example:

Fulfilled Prophecy 4

- The Bible predicted that Israel would be dispersed, destroyed, restored, and regathered. Almost 1,900 years after the dispersion, in 1948, Israel again became a nation. (See Hosea 3:4-5.)
- The Old Testament contains about 300 references to the coming Messiah. Jesus Christ fulfilled all of these prophecies in the New Testament. According to Josh McDowell, the probability of Jesus fulfilling just 8 of the 300 prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} . To better understand this probability, imagine we took 10^{17} , that is 100,000,000,000,000,000, silver dollars and laid them on the face of Texas. They would cover the entire state two feet deep. If we marked only one silver dollar and stirred them all up, then blindfolded a man and told him to pick-up the marked silver dollar, what would be his chances of choosing the right silver dollar? Yet Jesus fulfilled not just 8 prophecies, He fulfilled all of them.¹ (See Micah 5:2 - Luke 2:4-7; Psalm 41:9 - Matthew 26:47-50.)

5 Impact on Society

The Bible is the world's oldest and best-selling book of all time. Over 6 billion copies have been printed and sold or distributed. Approximately 80 million Bibles are sold or distributed each year. The complete Bible has been translated into approximately 95% of the world's languages. The Bible or portions of it have been translated into over 2,000 languages or dialects. Over 90% of American households own at least one copy of the Bible.

Although there have been many attempts to destroy, ban, and discredit the Bible, it has survived. In fact, the Bible has impacted society like no other book. It has inspired some of the world's greatest music, poetry, and literature, and has influenced the basic fundamental laws of many nations.

Without question, the Bible is the world's most influential book.

How Do We Know it is True?

6 Impact on individuals

The Bible, because it is the Word of God, has the supernatural power to impact individual lives. Countless lives have been changed for the better by the Bible.

The Word of God has the power to save from any sin, heal any sickness, deliver from any addiction, and comfort any sorrow.

If we sincerely pray and read the Bible, God's Spirit will confirm to each of us individually and personally that the Bible is His Word.



Frequently Asked Questions



1. What does it mean to say the Bible is "true"?

Not only is it accurate in details, but more importantly it is relevant information that we can apply to our lives today!

2. Why are there so many translations of the Bible?

Every careful translator wants to communicate the ancient text into the most easily read and understood language. For example, there might be four possible English words for one Greek word allowing one translator to choose one word while another translator may select a different word.

3. What sets the Bible apart from other religious writings?

Unlike other major religious books, the Bible was not written in secret; the process was visible to the public. It has also withstood the hardest tests and closest scrutiny.

In addition, the Bible wasn't written by only one person. There are many points of view. For example, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all record in their own words the life and ministry of Jesus, yet they all agree.

What Are The Benefits?

1 Our Foundation

The Bible is the foundation on which we should build our lives. If we build our life on a

solid, unshakeable foundation, when the storms of life come, our life will last.

Luke 6:47-49
1 Corinthians 3:10-14
Ephesians 2:20

2 Our Guide

Psalms 119:105 tells us that the Bible is like a lamp or a flashlight that lights up our path. If we will read and obey the Bible, God will show us how to live and avoid sin.

John 1:1-5, 9
2 Peter 1:19
1 John 1:7

3 Washes Us

When the Bible is handled with an honest heart, it is able to wash our souls. If we obey the Bible, God is able to cleanse our lives.

Psalms 119:9
John 15:3; 17:17
Ephesians 5:25-26

4 Brings Salvation

Obeying the Bible is our only hope for salvation. Every person is a sinner because of our fallen human nature, but God offers us eternal life through the Bible. As Peter said in John 6:68, "Thou hast the words of eternal life."

James 1:21
1 Peter 1:23, 25
1 John 2:14

5 Gives Nourishment

The Bible will help us grow in our walk with God and teach us about His ways. Reading our Bible daily is as important as eating daily. It's food for the soul!

Jeremiah 15:16
Luke 4:4
1 Peter 2:2

6 Brings Success

According to Joshua 1:8, when we obey the Bible, God notices! God honors those that honor the Bible and will bless them in all kinds of ways from material to spiritual.

Psalms 19:7-11
John 13:17
James 1:22-25

How Do We Know it is True?

1 Unity

Main character: the one, true, living God

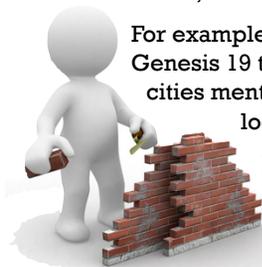
66 different books
40+ writers from many walks of life
Covering many topics and events
Written over a span of 1500+ years
Written during different situations
Written in different literary styles

Written in 3 languages
Written on 3 continents
Yet 100% of the Bible agrees!
There's not a single contradiction!

Main theme: God's redemption of mankind

2 Historical Accuracy

The Bible agrees with history. Archaeologists (people who study remains of past human life and activities) have made many discoveries that confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible, including over 25,000 Biblical sites.



For example, many people thought the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19 to be bogus until archaeologists discovered that all five of the cities mentioned were in centers of commerce and were geographically located as the Bible said.

During the excavations of Jericho, archaeologists found that the walls of Jericho fell outwards so the children of Israel could take the city. Walls of cities don't fall outwards, they fall inwards, but they did in Joshua 6:20, and archaeologists have proved it.

3 Scientific Accuracy

The Bible accurately refers to scientific truths once unknown to ancient societies, such as:

- The life-sustaining role of blood (Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:11)
- The number of stars, more than we can see (Genesis 22:17)
- Mankind being made of the same elements as the earth (Genesis 2:7)
- The earth hanging in outer space (Job 26:7)
- The roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- Global wind circuits (Ecclesiastes 1:6)
- Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- Air as having weight (Job 28:25)

