

The Reliability of the Bible

Video

1 Peter 1:22-25 ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

How does a person become a Christian?

Peter says that the word of God is absolutely essential and contains the good news of Christ..

Romans 10:17 says, "*faith comes through hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.*"

So God's word/the word of Christ is instrumental in salvation and ultimately the OT and the NT point us to Christ - His deity, His Lordship, His perfect character & obedience, His sacrificial work on the cross, His victorious resurrection.

And it's by faith we come to know Him as savior and Lord.

That said, doesn't it make sense that if you're a Christian you would want to have the same view of Scripture that your Lord has? [Consistency] What is Jesus' view? Mt. 4:4, 5:17-18

What does Scripture claim about Scripture?

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed [or **breathed out by God**]

2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The bible's claim is that God has revealed Himself in 3 basic ways – creation, Scripture, His Son. He is the God who speaks!

Creation – “Let there be light”

Scripture – “Thus says the Lord”

Son – “And the word became flesh and dwelled among us”

.....and Jesus[the Word] was a preacher of God's word.

But let's be fair, all of these Scriptural teachings require faith – but it's not blind faith. It is reasonable faith.

Is the bible reasonable/reliable? Is the bible true?

[common questions]

So this morning I want to give you some tools you can use to answer these questions....

Let's start with **reliability**: **Does the bible have historical integrity as an ancient book?**

66 books, 40 authors written over a period of 1500 years.

Are we sure we have the bible as it was written?

NT – 5,000 documents within decades or centuries of the originals. Is that good? 1st copy of Homer's Odyssey was written 2,200 yrs. after the original writing.

OT – scribes, Dead Sea Scrolls [1948] - in these findings was a copy of Isaiah that predating the then oldest copy by 1000 yrs.. Significance – earlier sources showing the meticulous nature of Jewish translation. Breeds confidence

Do we have the bible text as it was written 2000-3500 yrs. ago?

Yes! Princeton scholar Bruce Metzger said that we have the bible as it was originally written with 99.6% accuracy and the .4% doesn't change the meaning of the biblical text.

Is it accurate?

Foremost archaeologist, W.F. Albright, said that “no archaeological find has ever contradicted the bible.”

-For years scholars pushed back on the existence of the Assyrian king, Tiglath-Pileser, mentioned in 2 Kings. However, in the 1840's a tablet picturing this king was excavated in Iraq.

-Another question was the land of Ur that Abraham supposedly came from. But once again, scholars uncovered a slate that speaks of the king of Ur.

The bible is accurate – historically, geographically

Is it consistent?

Do 40 authors have a consistent message?

Sin – Gen. 2, Rom. 3:23

Salvation by Faith – Gen. 15:6, Ps. 13:5, Nahum 1:7, Jn. 6:47, Acts 6:31, Eph. 2:8, Heb. 11:6,

Is it true? Biblical prophecy

Christmas is coming – the king is coming

OT pointers.... Gen. 12:7 [Gal. 3:16], Gen. 49:10. 1500BC

Is. 7:14, Mic. 5:2 700BC

Easter is coming – the king will die and rise again

Gen. 3:15, Is. 53, Ps. 22

Ps. 16:9, Is. 53 again

Real life examples of people changed by the word of God.

The illuminating witness of the Holy Spirit.