

Is the Bible Reliable?
www.exploregod.com

Questions? Text them to: 757-298-7733

What is the Bible?

- **“Bible” = *ta biblia (Greek) = “the books”***
- **2 Testaments:**
 - **Old Testament (39 books; Hebrew/Aramaic)**
 - **New Testament (27 books; Koine Greek)**
- **Records the story of God’s interactions with creation from “beginning” to “end.”**
- **Includes: History (*What happened*), Theology (*What we believe*), and Ethics (*How we live*).**

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How Does Culture View the Bible?

- **Just another religious book.**
- **Just another regular book.**
- **A self-help book.**
- **An unreliable ancient text**
- **A nice “book-shelf” resource**

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Most would say that they know there are many great stories and sayings in the Bible, but today “you can’t take it *literally*.” What they mean is that the Bible is not entirely trustworthy because some parts – maybe many or most parts – are scientifically impossible, historically unreliable, and culturally regressive.

— *Tim Keller, The Reason for God*

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“Reliable” (Def.): consistently good in quality or performance; dependable; able to be trusted.

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Is the Bible Reliable? YES ...

1) The Bible is *Externally* Reliable

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- **History affirms it.**

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About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross,

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those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

**— *Flavius Josephus, Jewish Antiquities*
*18.3.3, c. A.D. 93***

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Is the Bible Reliable? YES ...

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- History affirms it.**
- Archaeology continues to affirm it.**

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Biblical Manuscripts

- **New Testament (*5,800+ in Greek, 10,000 in Latin, 9,000 others*)**
- **Earliest were written decades after Jesus ascended**

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Biblical Manuscripts

- **New Testament (*5,800+ in Greek, 10,000 in Latin, 9,000 others*)**
- **Earliest were written decades after Jesus ascended**
- **Old Testament (*42,000 ancient MSS*)**
- **Dead Sea Scrolls (c. 250 B.C)**

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Is the Bible Reliable? YES ...

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- History affirms it.
- Archaeology continues to affirm it.
- Manuscript evidence affirms it.
- Its content affirms it:

The “*Embarrassment Factor*”

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2) The Bible is *Internally* Reliable

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- 66 books ...
- 40+ authors ...
- Writing over 1500 years ...
- One single, consistent message: *A holy God loves His lost and broken creation and is constantly seeking to redeem and restore it.*

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“The New is in the Old concealed and the Old is in the New revealed.”

— *Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 4th/5th c.)*

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- Process of Inspiration**

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All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16

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²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

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“We believe ... In the inspiration of all the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit, and that they are the final authority for our faith and practice.”

***From the Williamsburg Community Chapel
Statement of Faith***

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- Process of Inspiration**
- The entirety of the Bible points to Jesus Christ: John 6**

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“I AM” statements: 17 times in the Gospel of John:

- **6:20, 35, 48, 51; 8:12, 24, 28, 58; 9:5; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1; 18:5**
- **Exodus 3:14: *“I AM WHO I AM.”***

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⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

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⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

Luke 24:44-46

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There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby. Every Story in the Bible whispers his name.

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**He is like the missing piece in a puzzle
— the piece that makes all the other pieces
fit together, and suddenly you can see a
beautiful picture.**

— The Jesus Storybook Bible

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3) The Bible is *Eternally* Reliable

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⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6:67-69

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Is the Bible Reliable? YES ...

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2) The Bible is *Internally* Reliable

3) The Bible is *Eternally* Reliable

4) The Bible is *Personally* Reliable

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^{9b}the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:9b-11

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**Getting people into God's Word and
God's Word into people.**

***From the Williamsburg Community Chapel
Mission Statement***

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The best way to *explore God*, is to *explore the Word of God.*

- **5x5 Challenge: 5 minutes a day/5 days this week.**
- **Start with the Gospel of John.**
- **Text your questions to (757) 298-7733.**

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