

The Believable Bible!

Thinking again about the evidence



Grace and Truth
came by Jesus Christ!

Why should I believe the Bible?

Why do I believe that the God of the Christian Bible is the Author of Truth, and His Word is true? How do I know that my faith is not misplaced? Just as science and mathematics record and measure facts, which do not change regardless of our ability or willingness to believe them, so too, Truth is absolute, and is not defined by our understanding of it.

Let me tell you how I believe the Bible is the embodiment of Truth, the words of the only true God. Firstly, and most importantly, God's Word is living and powerful. Its impact is only fully appreciated by those who have imbibed its truth for themselves and believed its message of salvation from sin through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who are new to the Faith cannot begin to comprehend some of the great mysteries of Truth and it is only since my salvation, that moment of conversion when I trusted the God of the Bible, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as my Saviour, that I have come to have some little grasp of the great God that I believed in. I am a professional educationalist, not an archaeologist, scientist, mathematician or historian, but I have discovered that the truths of the Bible all stack together in the most logical, intelligent and harmonious way possible.

In this article, there is a consideration of five main strands of evidence, demonstrating the reliability of the Word of God: its internal unity; historical veracity; prophetic fulfilment, gospel impact and individual conscience. Let me briefly outline these for you.

Internal Unity

The Bible is a library of 66 books, written by 40 different writers, from 3 different continents, over 1600 years. Yet within this varied collection of history, law, poetry, romance, prophecy, and other genre, there is a unity of theme, imagery and metaphors, numerology and purpose.

Can you explain how writers who are separated by hundreds of years and different continents, can choose to present one unified theme - the theme of redemption through a Messiah? The books of ancient Scripture were unavailable to the general public in those days, and there was certainly no world-wide internet service to source the correct metaphors and imagery

to use. Or, explain how many of these writers use the same imagery to present this redemption - the sacrifice of a lamb. Some of these writers were imprisoned at the time of their writing, yet, guided by the Holy Spirit of God, they chose words which revealed the Divine plan and order of salvation.

I know of no other collection of books in the world where the great theme of the love of an almighty God for His creation weaves through each book like a golden thread of brilliance and purity. In Genesis, for example, God created humanity so He could have fellowship with us; spend time in love and enjoy the company of humans. In Leviticus, the many sacrifices all point forward to the greatest embodiment of love that this world has ever known - the voluntary sacrifice of Christ on the cross at Calvary. In Psalms, we read some of the tender devotion of the poets for this God that they have come to know and see a little of the two-way communication between Heaven and Earth. Job tells us that there is way, way more to the wisdom and purposes of God than we can ever understand. In loving-kindness, God points out our inability to grasp all the subtleties of life - we need to trust Him for that. The prophets show God reaching out again and again in love to His earthly people so He can enjoy renewed fellowship with them. In the Gospels, we see the embodiment of love, Jesus Christ Himself and the amazing extent of His love - 'while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' [Romans 5:8]. Even the book of Revelation shows the last acts of love towards this world which is rejecting God: final opportunities for individual repentance are offered as God slowly and deliberately wraps up these epochs of time. I could go on, but words cannot simply describe the vastness of this theme throughout the Bible!

Not only is there thematic and metaphorical unity, there are many features in the use of numbers which highlight some of the complexity of Holy Scripture. For example, the number 7 is used repeatedly throughout the Bible to demonstrate perfection, the number 2 is the number of witness, and the number 6 the number of man. You can trace the use of numbers throughout the various, diverse historical eras of Scripture for yourself, but they are beautifully illustrated by a study of the tabernacle of the Old Testament.

Historical Veracity

Secular, historical records prove the existence of a man called Jesus; His death, resurrection and ascension. That being so, the existence of such a man, God incarnate, demands a response from mankind. It makes absolutely no sense that a mere man would voluntarily sacrifice Himself as an atonement for the sins of ungrateful humanity, much less desire to have a personal relationship with those who trust in Him. What could possibly motivate such a person to do this, unless He were God Himself, and capable of a love beyond our very comprehension?

Furthermore, what could be the motivation for Jesus' contemporaries, the apostles, to face martyrdom, were they not utterly convinced of the deity of Christ? If, as accused, they were merely propounding a fantastical lie about the resurrection of the Messiah, why on earth would they give their lives in support of such a fable?

Much of the New Testament is verifiable from accredited historians, as are large parts of the Old Testament. Archaeological records have also verified the incidents and events of the Bible. Over 20,000 artefacts have been discovered, which support the Biblical account.

Consider this though - early parts of the Bible were recorded over 5000 years ago. The Biblical writings were completed early in the first century AD. That is over 2000 years ago for the latest writings, yet God has preserved both Old and New Testament writings with a high degree of accuracy, making them available in many languages, down through the centuries of time. If there is one historical wake-up call for the veracity of the Holy Scriptures, it has been the price the martyrs have been willing to pay to ensure that the truth of God has been preserved and made readily available to common humanity. Martyrs like Tyndale, Rogers and others are some tremendous examples of this.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls [Qumran Scrolls], from 1946 to the present, is another testimony to God's careful preservation of His Word. Perhaps the greatest manuscript discovery of all time, these were uncovered in caves in the Judean desert near the Dead Sea. The ages of these 981 individual manuscripts range from the 8th century BC to the 11th century AD. The discovery includes multiple copies and fragments of most Old Testament books.

Creation itself is another historical fact, bearing testimony to the scientific accuracy of the Bible. No science book on earth has been able to record scientific facts before they have actually been discovered, but there are many, many instances of this in Scripture. Here are a couple of examples for your consideration.

The sun has a circuit. Initially many early scientists thought that the Earth was at the centre of the solar system. However, over 1000 years BC, God tells us in Psalm 19 that the sun has a circuit through the heavens! Whilst it has been known for many years now that the Earth goes around the Sun [1500AD], it has only been fairly recently [1927] that science has uncovered the fact that the solar system itself is moving in orbit within the Milky Way.

The star cluster, Pelaiades, is fixed, but Orion is moving apart. Again, this has been recorded in Job, one of the oldest books in the Bible, but it has only been discovered by astronomers after the modern telescope was invented!

Prophetical Fulfilment

Prophecy, God's spoken word regarding the future, has often been used by God to demonstrate His truth. He used prophecy at the time of Noah's flood, to the Old Testament prophets regarding the future of the Israelite people, and most importantly, regarding the birth, death and resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. During the Old Testament period [4000BC to 400BC], there were over 300 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah [Jesus Christ]. Over 110 prophecies have already been fulfilled. It is significant that many of these prophecies could not have been manipulated by their participants, who were at times even unaware of their existence. For example, the Roman soldiers at the cross of Christ were mostly likely unaware that they were fulfilling prophecy by offering the Lord Jesus Christ vinegar to drink, piercing His side with a spear, and gambling over His clothing.

A God who can decide, outline and determine the future is worthy of my trust!

On that note, if God has predicted the past so accurately, right down to the very day of the arrival of the Messiah [Jesus Christ], then future

events, which are revealed in significant detail, are also certain to be fulfilled! The Rapture [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17], the Judgement Seat of Christ [2 Corinthians 5:10], the Great Tribulation [Matthew 24:21], the Visible Return of Christ to Earth [Revelation 1:7], the Millennial Reign of Christ [Revelation 20:6], the 'Great White Throne' Judgement [Revelation 20:11-12] and the Eternal State [Revelation 21:1 - 22:5] are all as certain as if they had already happened.

Have you considered what might happen to you if God's prophecy of the future is fulfilled, just as His past prophecies have been fulfilled?

Gospel Impact

No other world religion has had such an impact on this globe! In almost every country on earth, there has been an outreach with the gospel. It has transformed lives, changed societies and altered the course of history. True Christians themselves are a living, walking testimony to the veracity of the Bible, as they prove that the God of the Bible does exist, His Son has transformed their lives, and they are living a life of purpose and direction. You will not meet one Christian, cognisant of the Word of God, who is still searching for a meaning for life. Nor will you meet one true Christian who wishes they had never converted - not for a second!

Just as an 'aside' - there are many who believe they are Christians because they have participated in the religions of Christendom, but these do not have genuine Christianity. They have not repented, turning to Christ alone as their Saviour, but instead have often added their own efforts and understanding into the equation, creating a man-made, Christian-flavoured religion, which has absolutely no bearing on the original! Someone has once described it like tasting chocolate. It may look like chocolate, smell like it, but without tasting, one cannot verify that it actually is chocolate!

Individual Conscience

Sceptics often ask, "What about those who never hear about God - how are they expected to find out?" The Bible outlines three great witnesses to God - Creation, the Word of God and individual conscience. You would consider that a supremely intelligent Creator-God would have some meta-cognitive aspects to the revelation of Truth to His Creation, and in this you are right.

Psalms 19 gives a revelation of God, using these three means. The psalmist comments that, "The heavens declare the glory of God" [v1] [witness - Creation], "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" [v7] [witness - The Word of God], and "Who can understand his errors?" [v12] [witness - Conscience]. Romans 1 also outlines how man is aware of God's existence, divine nature and power, through general revelation, and so all who seek truth will find it - "ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" [Jeremiah 29:13].

We are truly without excuse! We have eternity written within our very DNA - we know there is a greater power, we are aware of the existence of right and wrong, and can judge subtle differences between the two. If evil exists within this world, and it most certainly does, then so too, does good. Where does this 'good' come from and what is its source? What about evil and the source of evil? In this age of relativism, our knowledge of good and evil is becoming increasingly twisted. Society's norms are changing and good and evil are becoming confused with one another - not so with the God of the Bible. Truth never changes, because God never changes!

God has given you a conscience, so that you can recognise your sin, repent from it and turn to Christ for salvation. Will you listen to this 'voice' of reason?

On a personal note, God gave me a conscience. I became aware as a child that I was a sinner in God's sight. Each time I sinned, I made a determined effort to quiet my conscience so my sin did not trouble me so much. I am so glad I eventually listened to my conscience and assessed myself as God saw me - a sinner in need of forgiveness for my sins!

Having considered these five strands of evidence of the veracity of the Word of God, I appeal to you, my reader - please don't take my word for it! Get out your Bible and search the Scriptures for yourself to see if these things are true. If the God of the Bible is true, then you will meet Him one day. You cannot afford to be in error.

Returning to our original premise: facts are hard things. They do not go away. The Truth does not and cannot change. There is only one embodiment of Truth. Anything else that claims to be truth or a version of it, must by default be inaccurate and thus unworthy of my trust.

The Bible stands scrutiny at the highest level from unbiased academics and professionals. It is not a book just for the unlearned or uneducated.

God's salvation shows all the hallmarks of supreme intelligence and to obtain it requires the simplest of faith - not human wisdom. You need a personal salvation, available alone through faith in Jesus Christ, the 'Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me'. (Galatians 2:20). True Christians have not been persuaded just by rational argument, but by the God who has saved them and is residing in them through His Holy Spirit.

So, there is a clear choice to make. There is no fence to sit on regarding the truth!

Jesus said: ' you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'

John 8:32.

'If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself.'
Proverbs 9:12

The purpose of this leaflet is to encourage the reader to consider issues which are of eternal significance. However, if you wish to explore Christian apologetics in more detail, the sources mentioned below may be of interest to you.

Evidence That Demands a Verdict: by Josh McDowell

Christianity Opium or Truth? By David Gooding & John Lennox

The end of Reason: by Ravi Zacharias

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