

## The Validity of the Bible (The Good Book)

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There has been throughout the ages conjecture as to whether or not the Bible is true, let alone written by God (written by God through men or God-Breathed). And there are plenty of people out there that say just because something is written on paper or in a book or on Wikipedia doesn't make it true. The old standby "Don't believe everything you read." I completely agree with that statement. It is neither wise nor a good practice to simply believe every single thing that we read. If someone doesn't believe the Bible to be true that's their opinion, and they are entitled to it. I have met people as I'm sure you have too who will argue till they are blue in the face that the Bible is all a bunch of manmade nonsense, composed in the not-too-distant past by rich ne'er do wells to keep the simple and unlearned in perpetual subservience. They don't believe in heaven or hell, only in autonomy and the power of their own will. But if you're not 100% positive in the nonexistence of a hereafter or an omnipotent creator and there is even the tiniest bit of doubt in your mind, then I'd say it's a pretty big wager to stake your life on if you're not entirely sure.

So let's make a case for the Bible. The word Bible stems from Latin word "Biblia" which means a collection of books. The Bible should be viewed as a history textbook comprised of the Old and New Testaments. The Old testament is history before the birth of Jesus, and the New testament is history of and after the birth of Jesus.

**NOTE** - Some of the information to follow is from [Impact Video Ministries](#), [The Institution for creation research](#), [Jesus.net](#), [Sunstar.com](#), [Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry](#), [Blue Letter Bible.org](#), [NeverThirsty](#), and the [BIBLE](#).

So what is the Bible?

The Bible - 1 book containing 66 books in total written by one God through many different authors. Most scholars believe the Bible was written by around 40 different authors over the span of 1500 years.

What do the authors of the bible state about it?

Luke – Dr. and disciple of Jesus, as well as the author of the gospel of Luke states: Luke 1:1-4 “**1** Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, **2** just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, **3** it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus (who he's writing to), **4** that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.”

Peter – A Disciple and The Rock on which Jesus built his church, states: 2 Peter 1:13-18 “**13** I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** since I know that

the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. **15** And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. **16** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.”

Peter is referring to the Mount of Transfiguration. At the Mount of transfiguration, Jesus had a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state. We’ll call this His Godly appearance where “his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light”. Peter was present for said event. Both Luke and Peter assert that they are giving eyewitness accounts and are not drawing on an outside source because they didn’t need to being that they were there. And they are just two of Jesus’ twelve disciples that walked, and talked with him, and were privy to his miracles first hand.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 Says – “**16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:19-21 Says – “**19** We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

I believe every word of the Bible is true, and I have faith enough to believe that God wrote his mighty tome through his chosen. I also don’t omit certain parts of the bible while keeping others, or twist its words to serve my own purposes like some evangelical Nazi who’s hell-bent on winning a biblical argument all while losing the soul that they are trying to reach. My mission is love by way of the hard unchanging truth and always will be. It’s unfortunately pretty common that as Christians we know just enough of the bible to get us into trouble, but not enough to dig ourselves out of the holes we quickly find ourselves in or present the gospel in a cohesive way. In addition, there are many ignorant and unstable people out there who seem to exist only to challenge the Word and Christianity by distorting the scriptures. Many Atheists & Agnostics, like Richard Dawkins, have and will undoubtedly attempt to pick apart any argument made for a creator and his scriptures. Even the Bible acknowledges this in 2 Peter and Psalms ---

2 Peter 3:14-18 “**14** Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16** as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Psalm 53 - "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good."

Do I know everything? Absolutely not, which is why I study the word daily. The Bible is inexhaustible, and if you have a question in your heart about what I say then I urge you to search the word yourself and study scriptures as well. But be exhaustive in your search and do not distort the verses you read. There are incredible Biblical research tools like The Bible app, BibleGateway.com, and BlueLetterBible.com that will aid you in your search. If you seek God out, He will be found by you. Proverbs 25:2 Says - "It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out."

Concerning Avoiding Truth, Edmund Spencer penned these words – "There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all argument, and which cannot fail to keep man in everlasting ignorance. That principle is condemnation before investigation."

Proverbs 18:13 - "He that answers a thing before he hears it, it is a folly and shame unto him." So before you write off what I'm presenting, check the word and what I'm presenting yourself. You'll be enriched for the effort and you may learn a thing or two.

Jesus' disciples who were eyewitnesses to his life and ministry believed so strongly in him and who he claimed to be, that apart from Judas Iscariot who took his own life, and John the Beloved who died of old age, every other of the 12 disciples was martyred for their faith.

### **The Martyrdom of the Apostles**

Andrew – "Andrew traveled to Patras in western Greece in 69 A.D., where the Roman proconsul Aegeates tried to convince him to forsake Christianity so that he would not have to execute him. For not renouncing his faith, Aegeates crucified Andrew to an X shaped cross (the origin of the saltire's shape), tying him instead of using nails to prolong his suffering." – Jesus.net

Tradition also holds that Andrew was first scourged before he was tied to the cross. He lived for 2 full days before he died. And while he hung there, he preached to people who passed by. – Sunstar.com

James son of Zebedee – Acts 12:2 tells us that James was killed with a sword. "The newly-appointed governor of Judea, Herod Agrippa, decided to gain favor with the Romans by persecuting leaders of Christianity. After James was arrested and led to the place of execution, his unnamed accuser was moved by his courage. He not only repented and converted on the spot but asked to be executed alongside James. The Roman executioners obliged, and both men were beheaded simultaneously." – Jesus.net

Philip – "He became a missionary to Greece, Syria, and Phrygia. Eventually, he traveled to the Egyptian city of Heliopolis, where he was whipped, thrown into prison, and then crucified around 54 A.D." – Jesus.net

Bartholomew – “According to tradition, he preached in several countries, including India, where he translated the Gospel of Matthew for believers. In one account, “impatient idolaters” beat Bartholomew and then crucified him. In another account, he was flayed alive and then beheaded.” – Jesus.net I wouldn’t want to go either way.

Thomas – “According to the Syrian Christian tradition, Saint Thomas was preaching at Saint Thomas Mount in Chennai, India around the year 72 A.D., when a group of angered locals martyred him with a spear.”

James son of Alphaeus – “At the age of 94, he was beaten and stoned by persecutors, and then was killed from a blow to the head with a club.” – Jesus.net

Jude or Judas Thaddaeus - Thaddeus “partnered with Simon the Zealot and they preached in Judea, Persia, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Iran and Libya.” There are three versions of his death: “that he was crucified in Edessa, Turkey, or clubbed to death.” – Sunstar.com or That “Thaddeus was martyred around the year 65 A.D. in Beirut and his body filled with arrows.” – Jesus.net Whichever way it went, what is understood is that he was martyred.

Simon the Canaanite or Simon the Zealot – “It is thought he preached in Mauritania on the west coast of Africa, and then went to England, where he was crucified either around the year 65 A.D. or 107 A.D.” – Jesus.net

Matthew – “According to tradition, the tax collector-turned-missionary was martyred in Ethiopia, where he was stabbed in the back by an assassin sent by King Hertacus after he criticized the king’s morals.” – Jesus.net

Peter – “Jesus gave him the name Cephas, which means 'stone' in Aramaic (as Peter was to be the rock on which Jesus built his church). He was martyred by crucifixion sometime around the year 64 A.D. during the Great Fire in Rome under the rule of Emperor Nero. Tradition says he requested to be crucified upside-down, because he saw himself unworthy to die the same way as Christ.” – Jesus.net

Matthias – Matthias who was chosen to Replace the Apostle Judas Iscariot in Acts 1, was also martyred by being stoned to death. – NationalGeographic.com

John the Beloved Apostle – John “is reported to have also gone to Rome where he was thrown in boiling oil but survived, to live to a ripe old age, the only one reported to have a non-violent death.” – Sunstar.com

Paul – The Apostle Paul (originally named Saul) initially stood in opposition to Christianity. He violently ravaged the church and persecuted believers, dragging Christian men and women out of their homes and throwing them in the dungeons (Acts 8). Paul was called by Jesus into the Lord’s service when he was blinded by brilliant light while on the road to Damascus in Acts 9. After having his sight returned, Paul converted to Christianity and preached the gospel everywhere he went. Although we have no biblical account of Paul’s death,

according to tradition Paul was martyred by beheading with a sword, following imprisonment in Mamertine Prison in Rome.

NO way these guys were sold out for Jesus on the possibility that he was the son of God. And no way they died for a lie. They believed the truth and good news to their core, and they did so to their graves.

Let's look at another piece of compelling evidence that the Bible was just as real 2000 years ago as it is today, which is Biblical manuscripts. As we know, making manuscripts of documents was the earliest form of copying that existed. These manuscripts were tediously copied by hand, and as manuscripts go, the smaller the gap between the original writing and the first manuscript, the less room for historical error.

Let's take a look at some ancient writings. First up on the list we have:

Caesar's Gallic Wars - The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 1,000 years after the original.

Aristotle's Poetics - The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 1,400 years after the original.

New Testament and more importantly the Gospels containing Jesus - The earliest textual evidence we have was copied within 100 years after the original.

IN CONTRAST:

Caesar's *Gallic Wars* was written in the first century B.C. There are only 10 manuscripts in existence.

Aristotle's *Poetics* was written in the fourth century B.C. There are only 5 manuscripts in existence.

The New Testament was written in the first century A.D. There are 5,686 manuscripts in the original Greek language. Another 19,000 manuscripts were also written in Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic, and more are still being found.

The closest ancient writing we have in terms of the number of existing manuscripts that would allude to the validity of the document is *The Iliad* by Homer - 643 Manuscripts

One issue facing Christianity is the questioning of Jesus' existence let alone his deity. 10 manuscripts exist for Caesar's *Gallic Wars*, and no one questions who Caesar was or the fact that he existed. Over 20,000 manuscripts exist of the New Testament concerning the life and times of Jesus Christ, and people still question his existence and the work He did on earth.

There are even a significant number of ancient writings outside of the Bible that testify to the existence of Jesus, who he was, what he taught, what he did, and how he died. The writings

of Flavius Josephus (A.D. 37-100), Cornelius Tacitus (Early Second Century), Mara Bar-Serapion (70AD), and Phlegon (80-140AD) just to name a few. Jesus is even mentioned 5 times in the Quran. However the Quran describes him as just a miracle-working prophet, but denies that he was the son of God (Q.5:110-118) or that he was crucified.

You may say “That because there are so many manuscripts of the Bible then there is so much room for error and or misinterpretation from the original writings,” and that’s absolutely right. That is why the manuscripts have been exhaustively weighed against each other to check for inconsistencies. The Iliad with its 643 manuscripts has a 95% accuracy of consistency between manuscripts for corroborating information. Meaning that the information is 95% the same spanning all 643 copies. The Bible with its 5,686 original Greek manuscripts has a percentage of 99.5% accuracy of consistency between all those copies. Way more by comparison to any other historical document. The Biblical manuscripts are also better preserved.

The Bible is real and authentic. It’s not some made up propaganda by the government, it wasn’t written by rich men to control the masses, and it most certainly wasn’t documented off gold plates at the base of a gentleman’s top hat dictating that we need to wear magic underwear. If critics and skeptics want to disregard the Bible then they better throw out all we know about Plato, Homer, Aristotle, and Socrates. Now you can take this or leave it. It’s not my place to force anything on any one. I simply speak the truth in love. Maybe the manuscript argument I’m making seems like overkill, but to quote Frank Underwood – “There is no better way to overpower a trickle of doubt, than with a flood of naked truth.” But don’t just take my word for any of this though. I urge you to study the scriptures, research on line, and seek this stuff out for yourself. You will be amazed by what you will find. Be blessed and be a blessing.

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