

Is The Bible Reliable?

2 Timothy 3:16

Explore God, Pt. 6

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2 Timothy 3:16, *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

The Reliability, Authority And Accuracy Of The Bible:

1) EXTERNAL EVIDENCE Affirms The Bible's Reliability

- The number of manuscript copies, and the short length of time between the original manuscripts and our first copies of the New Testament.
- Extreme care was taken when the Scriptures were copied.
- Confirmation of places and dates by archaeology.

2) INTERNAL EVIDENCE Affirms The Bible's Reliability

- The majority of the Bible is from eyewitness accounts.
1 John 1:1, *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard...*
1 Corinthians 15:3, *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He*

was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- Amazing agreement and consistency throughout the Bible.
- The only historical document that deals with the problem of evil from beginning to end.

3) INSPIRATION Affirms The Bible's Reliability

- Inspiration is the process through which God gave us the Bible. The Spirit of God worked in the hearts of the human writers to inspire them to write down the words. God's written words through these human authors are perfect, infallible and trustworthy.

2 Peter 1:16, *For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." ¹⁸**We ourselves heard this voice** that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain... ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 1:16, *...and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke*

long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.

4) JESUS And The Early Church Affirm The Bible's Reliability

- Jesus recognized the authority of the Old Testament.
Luke 24:44, *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*
- In the early church, for a New Testament book to be considered Scripture, it had to have the authority of an apostle; teach absolute historical truth; be confirmed by the early church to be part of the canon. The word canon refers to the list of books that are accepted as Scripture based on the above criteria.

5) PERSONAL EVIDENCE Affirms The Reliability Of The Bible

- Historically the Bible is the world's best-selling book.
- Countless lives have been changed through its message.
- No one has ever regretted building his or her character, family, business and life on the teachings of the Bible.
2 Peter 1:19, *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place...*

Take Action:

- 1) Follow my blog for more daily thoughts on the reliability of Scripture at johnmarkcaton.com or on Twitter [@johnmarkcaton](https://twitter.com/johnmarkcaton).
- 2) Invite your neighbors and their kids to Fall Fest this Saturday, October 24 from 4:00p - 7:00p.