



Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Corinthians 15:14, Hebrews 11:1

Hey everyone, I'm really glad you're here today. I hope your week's been good!

Let me ask you something: has anyone ever told you a story that sounded just too wild to believe? Maybe a friend told you they met a celebrity at the mall. You don't think they'd lie, but it still sounds a little *out there*. What do you usually do? You ask questions, check with other people, and try to figure out if their story checks out.

That's kind of what a lot of people do with the Bible. They wonder: **"Can we actually trust this?"** Is it reliable? Is it legit? Or is it just an old book full of myths and stuff that's been changed over time?

Those are big questions—and if you've ever asked them, you're not alone.

Today, we're going to dig into that together. We'll look at some solid evidence, but in the end, trusting the Bible isn't just about facts, it's about faith; a decision to believe and live by what God says in His Word.

Let's pray and then jump in.

[Prayer]

Before we decide if we can trust the Bible, let's make sure we understand what it is. The Bible isn't just one book. It's actually a collection of 66 books, written by about 40 different authors, over 1,500 years. And yet somehow, through all that time and all those voices, it tells one big, consistent story: God working throughout history to rescue and redeem His people through Jesus.

And the Bible doesn't just *tell* stories; it makes a pretty bold claim about itself. Check out **2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)**:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

“**God-breathed**” means the Bible isn’t just good advice or a spiritual journal—it’s God speaking to us.

Now here’s something important: God shows Himself to the world in two big ways. The first is **general revelation**. That’s the stuff you can see in creation, in history, or even in your own conscience. Like when you look up at the stars or think about how crazy detailed the human body is. That all points to a Creator.

But that doesn’t tell us *who* God is or how we can *know* Him. That’s where **special revelation** comes in. This is where God shows up in very specific ways, like through the life of Jesus, and through the Bible itself. Scripture is His message to us, revealing His character, His promises, and His plan.

And it’s not just words on a page. Check out **Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)**:

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

The Bible is *alive*. It speaks into our lives; convicting, encouraging, and shaping us. It’s not just ancient; it’s active.

So, If the Bible really is God’s Word, we’d expect it to hold up, right? Historically, logically, and even scientifically. Let’s look at three big reasons we can trust it.

1. Eyewitness Accounts

One of the best ways to know if something happened is to hear it from someone who was there. In court, eyewitness testimony is a big deal.

The New Testament is packed with eyewitness stories. The disciples lived with Jesus for three years. They saw the miracles. They heard His teaching. They saw Him after He rose from the dead.

Now think about this: these guys weren't just making up stories or repeating ones others had told them. No, they were willing to die for speaking about what they had seen. People don't suffer and die for something they know is fake.

[Here's a good spot for you to add a quick story about two people in your life; one you'd believe no matter what, and one you'd question right away if they told you something wild. That contrast really lands well with students.]

2. Manuscript Evidence

Here's another reason the Bible is reliable—it's been preserved incredibly well. For example, the New Testament has **over 5,000** ancient Greek manuscripts. For comparison, *Homer's Iliad*, one of the most respected ancient writings, only has around **650**.

Now some people say, "Well, aren't there errors in those manuscripts?" Well, the answer to that is yes and no. Let me explain. You see, it is yes because there are extremely minor differences, like spelling variations or word order changes that don't affect the meaning. This is largely due to translation challenges. For example, we have shortcomings in linguistics that encompasses everything a word could mean.

So, when it comes to the meaning of the Scripture texts, I would say, no. The Bible has a consistent and clear message that is accurate. Scholars Norman Geisler and William Nix estimated that the New Testament is 99.5% textually pure. That means what we read today is essentially the same as what was originally written.

So, if we're cool trusting our history books about stuff like the Roman Empire or the Declaration of Independence, then we should consider the evidence for the Bible, which is way stronger.

3. The Resurrection

Now let's talk about the biggest claim in Christianity: the resurrection of Jesus. If Jesus didn't really rise from the dead, then Christianity totally falls apart. And the Bible agrees. Check out **1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)**:

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

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