

Hard Questions: Why should I believe the Bible?

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1. Before a thought ever reached the pen of a biblical writer, all the words in the text were originated by God. The Holy Spirit filled the writers, they wrote the very thoughts God inspired in their minds. (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. The big picture: The bible consists of 40 authors, from different backgrounds, on 3 continents, in 3 different languages, spanning 1500 years of history, and yet it maintains complete thematic harmony.
3. The Bible ranks first in all the world in manuscript evidence by a factor of 10.
4. The second most respected document of antiquity has 18 times more variants than the New Testament; and most of the variants in the New Testament are simply a missing letter, misspelling, or word reversal of 2 words.
5. Prior to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the earliest copy of Isaiah was from 900 A.D. This discovery moved the dating of Isaiah back more than 1000 years with no change in the text.
6. Increasing archeological discoveries continue to authenticate the Bible,
7. The Bible is astounding in scientific evidence; astronomical science confirms that time, space, & matter came into existence in one massive burst of energy.
8. Ultimately, your capacity to go beyond the black & white to the point of heart application, to the degree in which the Word is able to transform your heart is only because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.
9. The Bible is proven to be true, but it is the truth that extends beyond the historical & scientific, the truth that extends to the eternal that captures our heart.

QUOTES

"... to be skeptical of the text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament."

~**Dr. John Warwick Montgomery - Professor of Philosophy - Concordia**

"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition."

~**Dr. William F. Albright - Johns Hopkins University**

"Jews preserved it as no other manuscript has ever been preserved ... they kept tab on every letter, syllable, word and paragraph. They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity ... who, ever counted the letters, syllables and words of Plato or Aristotle?"

~**Dr. Bernard Ramm, Ph.D. - USC & Baylor**

"The excessive skepticism [regarding the Bible] ...stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous predisposition against the supernatural." ~**Dr. Millar Burrows, Ph.D. - Yale (Archeologist)**

"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."

~**Dr. Nelson Glueck (Archeologist)**

"Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind."

~**Dr. Albert Einstein**

"...the essential elements in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy."

~**Dr. Robert Jastrow - Director NASA Goddard Space Institute, (Edwin Hubble Chair)**

"Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover... that there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact." ~**Dr. Robert Jastrow**

"The Bible cannot be understood simply by study or talent. You must count on the influence of the Holy Spirit."

~**Martin Luther - 1536**

"The testimony of the Spirit is superior to reason, for these words [Scripture] will not obtain full credit in the hearts of mankind until they are sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit..." - "...we need not wonder if there are many who doubt as to the author of the Scripture for although the majesty of God is displayed in it, yet none but those who have been enlightened by the Holy Spirit have eyes to perceive what ought indeed to have been visible to all and yet is visible to the elect alone." ~**John Calvin - 1560**

Other Readings:

Evidence That Demands a Verdict - **Josh McDowell**

The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah - **Alfred Edersheim**

I don't have enough faith to be an Atheist - **Norman Geisler & Frank Turek**

The Case for Christ - **Lee Strobel**

Signature in the Cell - **Stephen Meyer**

SONG TITLES

Healing Rain - **Michael W. Smith**

Angus Dei - **Michael W. Smith**

Build My Life - **Pat Barrett**