

CAN I REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE?

Why Should I Trust It?

Part 3

CLAIMS MEAN LITTLE

Jesus did not expect people to believe him simply because he said he was God the Messiah. On the contrary, Jesus said . . .

“Don’t believe me unless I carry out my Father’s work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don’t believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father.”

Jesus in John 10:37-38 NLT

The Biblical writers did not expect the world to receive their writings as God’s Word simply because they claimed they were. They insisted the content in the Bible was based not on imaginary, unverifiable people and events, but on solid, verifiable facts.

For we were not making up clever stories . . . we were eyewitnesses.

2 Peter 1:16 NLT

Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, . . . so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

Luke 1:3-4 NLT

WHY WOULD I TRUST THE BIBLE TO BE WHAT IT CLAIMS TO BE?

IT CLAIMS TO BE FROM GOD . . .

- 1500+ (“**God said;**” “**the Lord said;**” “**God made known**”)
- **All Scripture is inspired by God** . . . 2 Timothy 3:16
- **no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation** . . . men spoke from God 2 Peter 1:20-21
- plus other claims

IT SUPPORTS ITS CLAIMS . . .

1. ITS HONESTY . . . it doesn’t hide character flaws of heroes, our problems in life, weaknesses etc.

2. ITS UNITY . . . 1600 yrs, 40+ writers, 13 countries, often totally unaware of what the others wrote, yet it has marvelous unity

3. ITS PRESERVATION . . . most persecuted book in history yet is both internally and externally preserved . . . over 10 billion produced and distributed

4. ITS INFLUENCE . . . even our Canadian culture is highly influenced by the Bible in both language and moral standards

5. ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ACCURACY . . . Nelson Glueck wrote: “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

6. ITS SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY . . . in the medical realm we find instructions to fight germs, quarantine, etc. long before science understood their role in health.

7. ITS PROPHETIC ACCURACY . . . the clarity and precise fulfilment of prophecy can be reconciled in no other way than to say the book is divine.

- prophecy is unique to the Bible
- Daniel’s prophecy about four nations
- 109 specific prophecies about Jesus all fulfilled
- Ezekiel’s prophecy about Tyre
- many, many more . . .

8. ITS SUPPORT BY JESUS . . . Jesus used the Old Testament stories and teachings referring to them in many cases directly as authoritative. Jesus trusted the Bible.

9. ITS PROMISE TO ISRAEL . . . The Biblical promise to Israel is clear. Yet here is a small nation that has survived like no other nation in all of history.

This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the Lord Almighty is his name: “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the Lord, “will Israel ever cease being a nation before me.”

Jeremiah 31:35-36

THE BIBLE BACKS UP ITS CLAIM TO BE FROM GOD