



Skeptics and the Bible

We are living in a culture that is drowning in a sea of myths and lies presented as credible philosophies or theologies that lead to eternal life. We are witnessing truth losing ground in the hearts & minds of individuals due to the increasing love for pluralism and emotionalism. This same pursuit has led many skeptics to dismiss the Bible as a trustworthy source of truth, hope, and knowledge. The Barna Group observed this trend in a recent study,

Skeptics dismiss the idea that the Bible is holy or supernatural in any way. contend that it is simply a book of well-known stories and advice, written by humans and containing the same degree of authority and wisdom as any other self-help book. The remaining one-third are divided between those who believe the Bible is a historical document that contains the unique but not God-inspired accounts of events that happened in the past, and those who do not know what to make of the Bible but have decided it deserves no special treatment.¹

1 in 4 unchurched adults
are skeptics—either atheists
or agnostics



¹ Barna Group, "2015 State of Atheism in America." March 24, 2015.

The number of those who are skeptical or agnostic toward the Bible—who believe that the Bible is “just another book of teachings written by men that contains stories and advice”—has nearly doubled from 10% to 19% in just three years. This is now equal to the number of people who are Bible engaged—who read the Bible at least four times a week and believe it is the actual or inspired Word of God.²

One of the major questions that Christians must be ready to answer today deals with the reliability of God’s Word.

Big Question – Can I Really Trust the Bible?

This booklet will provide reasonable evidence to show that the Bible is trustworthy, credible, and inspired by the Lord. The Apostle Paul answers this question by declaring this truth,

2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

We observe within this text that the Word of God is unique serving as the only document known to mankind that is “God breathed” or “inspired by God.” Due to the nature of God’s Word we observe that it is credible, stable, and reliable as God’s primary written source to lead mankind into a saving and sanctifying relationship with Jesus Christ.

Credibility of the Word of God

There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history. – **Sir Isaac Newton**

The Word of God is the most credible resource known to mankind due the inspiration of God.

Some skeptics argue that the Bible cannot be trusted because we have no original manuscripts of the Word of God. It is true that we do not have these original manuscripts but it must also be noted that we do not have original manuscripts of the writings of Plato,

² Barna Group, “The State of the Bible: 6 Trends for 2014.” April 8, 2014.

Aristotle, or Caesar yet these writings are not attacked by skeptics on the basis of “not having original manuscripts.”

We have 5,750 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament and various other translations give us more than 25,000 more copies. Every New Testament book was also recorded within 100 years of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

In short, the number of manuscripts in support of the reliability of the New Testament text (and their chronological proximity to the original writings) is far beyond anything else known in human literature. There are only nine or ten good manuscripts of Caesar's Gallic War, for example, and the oldest extant manuscript is a thousand years later than the original.³

Taking this standard, we observe that the Bible is the most credible literary document known to mankind. You can trust the Bible because it is God's Inspired Word!

Stability of the Word of God

The Bible is found to be trustworthy because it is also the inerrant Word of God. Some individuals claim that the Word of God is full of contradictions and errors but there is no evidence to support these claims. Dr. John Warwick Montgomery observes,

Dr. John Warwick Montgomery – “I myself have never encountered an alleged contradiction in the Bible which could not be cleared up by the use of the original languages of the Scriptures and/or by the use of accepted principles of literary and historical interpretation.”⁴

The Bible is the inerrant Word of God which means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm. The Word of God is the stable, solid foundation on which you can build your faith.

³ Robert J. Morgan, *Evidence and Truth: Foundations for Christian Truth*, Biblical Essentials Series (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003), 85.

⁴ John Warwick Montgomery, *The Shape of the Past*, p. 176.

Reliability of the Word of God

Finally, we observe that the Bible is trustworthy because it is reliable as the authoritative Word of God. Consider these facts,

If the Bible is really the Word of God, an errorless original text is what one would expect from a truthful God...Could 40 plus writers from highly divergent backgrounds and temperaments—kings, tax collectors, prophets, physicians, exiles, fishermen—writing over a period of 1500 years from 1450 B.C. to A.D. 50, on scores of different subjects, in widely varying and difficult circumstances, including persecution; writing history in extremely specific detail, even giving hundreds and hundreds of predictions of the future—plus much more that would make errors a certainty—could all of them to the last man have written something the size of the Bible without a single error? At ten hours a day it takes seven days just to read the Bible—if you read fast. Talk about the supernatural. Try generating an errorless text that size with 66 books and 40 authors over 1500 years with any other group of writers in history. Indeed, just try it with any ten books and five writers over 50 years. Yet the evidence strongly suggests the Bible is inerrant, and again, only divine inspiration can account for it.⁵

The Bible is the most reliable document known to mankind and it is completely unified in theme and purpose.

Application for Life

God desires for each person to recognize the importance of His Word. Share God's inspired Word with one person this week!

- What would you tell a skeptic about the importance of the Word of God for life and eternity?

A free download of this booklet can be found at

www.TimLueking.Com

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⁵ John Ankerberg and John Weldon, *The Facts on Why You Can Believe the Bible* (Chattanooga, TN: ATRI Publishing, 2011).