

Is the Bible true?

We can be certain that our English copy of the Bible is an accurate copy of the Bible which contains all the books that God wanted to be included in His Word. But, we still need to know whether what is written in the Bible is true.

What are some of things we read about in the Bible that people find hard to believe are true?

1. What does the Bible teach us about the truthfulness of God's word?

Complete the table to find out.

	What do these verses teach about the truthfulness of God's Word?
Titus 1:2 Hebrews 6:18	
Psalms 12:6 Proverbs 30:5	
John 17:17	

What does the Bible teach us about our own understanding of God?

Isaiah 55:9: _____

Deuteronomy 29:29: _____

1 Corinthians 13:12: _____

Romans 1:18-19: _____

If we see a contradiction in the Bible (a passage in one part of the Bible that suggest that another part of the Bible is wrong) what should we assume?

The technical word for the truthfulness of God's Word is *inerrancy* (without error). The inerrancy of Scripture means that...*"the Bible always tells the truth, and that it always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about."* (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology)

2. Is there any evidence to back up the claim that the Bible makes about God and His Word?

a) Evidence from history

The Bible is full of promises that God has made to His people about events that will take place in the future.

Complete the table to see how some historical events that took place in the Bible were promised years beforehand.

	Which historical events took place which was promised many years beforehand?
Genesis 15:13-14 Exodus 1:8-11; 6:1	
Micah 5:2 Luke 2:1-7	
Zechariah 9:9 Luke 19:35-37	
Zechariah 11:12 Matthew 26:15	
Psalms 22:1 Matthew 27:46	

But not all the promises that God has made to His people about what will happen in the future have taken place.
Does that mean God is a liar?

b) Evidence from non-Christian sources

“Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man... he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. ... when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him.... and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” (Josephus)

“...Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus...” (Tacitus)

“When the New Testament mentions such historical facts as rulers, nations, people groups, political events, and the existence of Jesus, non-Christian historical sources confirm the accuracy of the New Testament accounts.” (Mars Hill Church, Seattle)

c) Evidence from archaeology

Archaeology has uncovered much evidence to prove that the people, place, events described in the Bible did take place. There are many examples to choose from, but below are two of them.

- Luke’s mention of Quirinius as the governor of Syria during the birth of Jesus has now been proven accurate by an inscription from Antioch.
- Luke’s usage of Politarchs to denote the civil authority of Thessalonica (Acts 17:6) was questioned, until some 19 inscriptions have been found that make use of this title, 5 of which are in reference to Thessalonica.

“When Luke has been suspected of inaccuracy, and accuracy has been vindicated by some inscriptional evidence, it may be legitimate to say that archaeology has confirmed the New Testament record.” (F. F. Bruce)

In spite of all the evidence we have, there are some things that we will never be able to prove are true. **What is required to believe that these things are true? (see Hebrews 11:1)**

3. Why is it important that the Bible is true?

4. Can the Bible be trusted?

How would you answer this question and what reasons would you give for your answer?

