

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

I Peter 1:19-21

I. I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

Let's just focus on the documents we know as the books of the New Testament.

A. There are tests for the authenticity of any documents for historical reliability

1) Bibliographical – Does the document we have match the original writings?

Aristotle – of any one of his works there are only _____ MSS, and the oldest (closest to when he lived) is 1,400 years _____ his life.

For Caesar's Gallic War, we have only _____ reliable MSS, and the oldest is _____ years later than Caesar's day.

Herodotus is a historian who lived 488-428 BC. Everyone trusts his authenticity, yet we only have _____ copies of his MSS, and the oldest is 1,300 years _____ he lived.

New Testament: we have 13,000 different MSS of the NT documents – there is only 1/10 of 1% difference (misspelled word, grammar, etc – NOTHING of major or doctrinal importance), and some of the oldest (closest to the time) are within 100 years of Christ's life.

2) Internal test. What does it claim about itself?

In the OT, over _____ times it claims to come from God.

New Testament: II Peter 1:19 – 21; I Thess. 2:13

II. I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE – How well does it square with what we know from other sources of information?

A. Other writers.

In about AD 52 a man named Thallas wrote a history of the Mediterranean world. He wrote about Jesus being crucified, and the darkness that fell during that time.

We have at least _____ ancient sources outside of the Bible that tell us about the life of Christ, and _____ are non-Christian sources.

B. Archeology and history regularly and repeatedly confirm the Bible as Truth.

Gen. 14 – 10 kings

Josh. 6:20 - walls

Judges 16:23 – 30 – columns supporting temples

II Kings 18:13-19:37 - the invasion of Judah by Sennacherib, king of Assyria.

Don't ever doubt God or the Bible because of some so-called "discovery" that seems to undermine the Bible. Give them time, and they will confirm what the Bible says.

I recommend Evidences that Demand a Verdict; Set Forth Your Case; Protestant Christian Evidences as good reading materials in this field.

III. I CAN TRUST THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF FULFILLED PROPHECIES

There are _____ major prophecies in the OT that tell about the birth or life of the Person Who would be God's Son. Many of these prophecies come from books written _____ years before Christ was born. And _____ of them were written at least 250 years before His birth – and He fulfills them all!!

The Christian faith is built on historical truth. Jesus Christ is the Son of God!
But it's not just enough to know the Bible is God's Word. You must accept it as YOUR Final Authority.

II Tim. 3:16,17 - ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

A. Profit of the Scripture

- 1) _____ (teaching) - what God requires
- 2) Reproof/Rebuke - showing us our error – where we fall short
- 3) Correcting - helping us get back on _____ – to set something straight
- 4) Instruction - structured training – disciplined life-style

B. Purpose of the Scripture

- 1) Complete – to be adequate/ to be in complete adjustment
- 2) _____ – able to do what God has for you.

Judge it all by the Bible!

