

Why I Trust the Bible

2 Peter 1:16-21 & 2 Timothy 3:16

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¹⁶We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹And we have the word of the prophets made more certain ... ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

~ 2 Peter 1 16-21

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16

"The Bible is like a lion. You don't have to defend it, just let it _____!"
~ Martin Luther

The Bible is held up by many as the Word of God, but to make such an assertion is to invite a greater _____ than we assign to other literature.

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- ✓ Ancient history supports the Bible's accuracy as a legitimate historical record.
- ✓ The Gospels provide multiple reliable accounts of Jesus' life.
- ✓ _____ has proven time and time again the accuracy of the Biblical account.
- ✓ Textual scholarship confirms that the books of the Bible have not changed since they were first written.
- ✓ Its prophetic accuracy is astounding
- ✓ Its preservation is nothing short of miraculous
- ✓ Its _____ impressive
- ✓ Its honesty is intriguing
- ✓ Its claims for itself are bold
 - As we read the New Testament, do its claims and content (_____ witness) offer support for believability?

Questions for a Skeptic

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✓ Questions for a Skeptic

If the New Testament is nothing more than a fabricated account:

- Why would the leaders of the early Christian movement have made up the story of the crucifixion if it didn't happen?
- Why would any Christian make up the account of Jesus asking God in the garden of Gethsemane if he could get out of his mission? (*"Take this cup from me..."* Luke 22:42)
- Why ever make up the part on the cross when Jesus cries out that God had _____ him? (*"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"* Matthew 27:46)
- Why invent _____ as the first witnesses of the resurrection in a society where women were assigned such low social status that their testimony was not even admissible evidence in a court of law?
- How could a group of first-century Jews have come to worship a human being as divine?
- How does one account for the hundreds of eyewitnesses to the resurrection who lived on for decades and publically maintained their testimony, eventually giving their lives for their convictions? Why would hundreds of people change the whole course of their lives, sacrificing so much and eventually die a martyr's death knowing all the time that the resurrection of Christ was a _____?
- Apart from the resurrection of Jesus Christ, what historically feasible alternate explanation for the birth of the Christian Church can be given?

Source: Keller, Timothy, The Reason for God; Dutton, 2008