

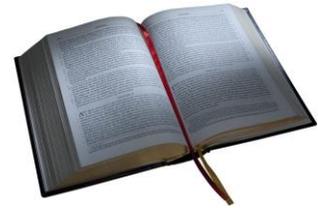
APOLOGIA

Finding Answers to Life's Most Interesting Questions



1 IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD?

The best-selling book in history remains one of the most controversial. Revered by Christians as God's holy Word, the Bible spans centuries of history, contains a variety of literary styles and culminates in the person of Jesus Christ. But how do we know the Bible is true? Isn't it just a collection of stories and myths? Even if it contains some history, is there any way we can trust it completely?



A. IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD?

1. Yes, because of its _____.

The Bible, which is about 25% prophecy, contains hundreds of fulfilled prophecies, 322 amazing prophecies relating just to the Messiah. Many of these prophecies were made as much as 1,500 years before the predicted event, yet each was fulfilled perfectly just as prophesied in the Bible.

2. Yes, because of its _____.

Its unity is mind boggling! The Bible is not one book, but a library of sixty-six books, written over a 1,500-year period in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) by forty authors living in ten different countries.

APOLOGIA: IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD?

3. Yes, because of its _____.

The Bible has better manuscript evidence than any other ancient book in history. Only 1/1000th of the Bible's text is in doubt yet no doctrinal teaching is affected.

4. Yes, because of its _____.

Look within yourself and you will discover how the Bible has transformed your own life. This occurs because the Holy Spirit illuminates the Bible to us in a special way. "My sheep know my voice," (John 10:27), and you know that the voice that speaks to you from the pages of the Bible is the voice of your Father.

5. Yes, because of its _____.

This book has always been hated—many have tried to stamp it out, yet it still exists today.

6. Yes, because of its _____.

It has been translated into 2,200 languages. Even though this represents only about one-third of the world's languages, these languages include over 90% of the world's population.

7. Yes, because the Holy Spirit _____.

As we read and study the Bible, the Holy Spirit opens its truth to us. What is clear and obvious to those who belong to Christ is not always obvious to unbelievers.

B. IS THE BIBLE TRUSTWORTHY?

1. YES...because it is " _____ " (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17 NIV)

2. YES...because _____ scripture is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

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3. YES...because _____ is inspired by God (1 Corinthians 2:13).

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words (1 Cor. 2:13 NIV)

4. YES...because it contains _____ in the original languages.

D. FIVE KEY TERMS

| TERM | MEANING |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Inspired | Spoken ("breathed") by God |
| Plenary inspiration | All scripture is inspired |
| Verbal inspiration | Every word is inspired |
| Inerrant | Scripture is without error |
| Infallible | Can be fully trusted |

E. WHICH BOOKS ARE INSPIRED BY GOD?

The only books that are inspired are those that met the requirements of the "*canon of Scripture*." The word "canon" means to measure against a *standard*.

F. THE TESTS FOR CANONICITY

1. **The test of _____.**

Did the book claim to be divinely inspired?

2. **The test of _____.**

Was the book written, edited, or endorsed by an accredited agent of God, such as a prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ, or one of His apostles?

3. **The test of _____.**

Was there soundness and consistency with other canonized writings? Did the book agree doctrinally with the teachings of known canonical books?

4. **The test of _____.**

Was the book universally recognized by the Jews and/or by the early Christian church as being God's Word? Does the Holy Spirit bear witness to the regenerated reader that the book is His Word?

5. **The test of _____.**

Is there any evidence in history, or in the known canonical books, of the fulfillment to this book's promises or predictions?

G. TWO IMPORTANT POINTS

1. **Point No. 1.** The canon detected inspired writings, it did not make the writings inspired.

APOLOGIA: IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD'S WORD?

The canon is like a Geiger counter which simply detects radioactive material, it does not make the material radioactive. See the following table.



| INCORRECT VIEW OF CANON | CORRECT VIEW OF CANON |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Church Determines Canon | Church Discovers Canon |
| Church is Mother of Canon | Church is Child of Canon |
| Church is Magistrate of Canon | Church is Minister of Canon |
| Church Regulates Canon | Church Recognizes Canon |
| Church is Judge of Canon | Church is Witness of Canon |
| Church is Master of Canon | Church is Servant of Canon |

2. **Point No. 2.** The canon is complete. Nothing is to be added to the Bible or taken away from it.

H. WHICH BOOKS ARE NOT INSPIRED BY GOD?

1. Apocrypha ("Hidden")

Fifteen books written about 30-150 BC. Contains a number of false teachings such as the command to use magic (Tobit 6:5-7), forgiveness of sins by almsgiving (Tobit 4:11; 12:9), and offering money for sins of the dead (2 Maccabees 12:43-45). They were completely and permanently rejected by the early Christian Church.

2. Pseudepigrapha ("False writings")

Fifty-two books written anywhere from 200 BC to AD 300. Written by unknown authors who attempted to gain a readership by tacking on the name of a famous biblical character.

3. Gnostic Gospels

Sixteen books written by early "Christian" Gnostics, A.D. 100-300. The Gnostics fraudulently attached the names of famous Christians to their writings, such as the gospel of Thomas, the gospel of Philip, the gospel of Mary, etc.

4. Other books which do not meet the canon of scripture

Book of Mormon, Qur'an, Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures, Hindu writings (including the Veda), and all other books.