

Explaining Christianity

Part 2: Explaining the Bible

CHALLENGE QUESTION: If the Bible was written by men thousands of years ago, how can you say it's the Word of God?

A. INTRODUCTION



The Bible has been called *the most influential book in human history*—yet also one of the most misunderstood. Many people admire its moral teachings but question its divine origin: *Wasn't it written by men? Hasn't it changed over time? What about science, and other religious books?*

These are honest questions that deserve thoughtful answers. In this study, we'll look beyond assumptions and explore compelling evidence that the Bible is not merely a human product but the inspired Word of God—accurate, enduring, and life-transforming for all who believe it.

B. COMMON OBJECTIONS

- “The Bible was written by men, so it can't be divine.”
- “The Bible has been changed over time.”
- “The Bible contradicts itself.”
- “Science disproves the Bible.”
- “There are other holy books—why is the Bible unique?”

C. NINE AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. **It's the most translated book in history:** Portions of the Bible have been translated into over 3,600 languages, making it the most widely translated and distributed book in the world.

2. **It was written over a period of 1,500 Years:** The Bible was written over a span of about 1,500 years by more than 40 different men¹ from diverse backgrounds—kings, shepherds, prophets, fishermen, and scholars—yet it presents one unified message: God’s plan of redemption through Christ.
3. **It has more manuscript evidence than any other ancient writings:** There are more than 5,800 complete or partial Greek manuscripts of the New Testament—far more than any other ancient work of literature.² Only about 0.5% of the Bible is in question. No central doctrine of the Christian faith is affected.³
4. **It contains amazing prophetic accuracy:** Example: Over 300 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, including His birthplace (Micah 5:2), betrayal (Psalm 41:9), and crucifixion (Psalm 22).⁴ Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors.⁵
5. **It has unity despite diversity:** Despite being written in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek) and on three continents (Asia, Africa, Europe), the Bible maintains remarkable unity and internal consistency.
6. **Archaeology confirms it:** Discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Hittite city ruins, and the Pool of Bethesda confirm the historical accuracy of biblical accounts.
7. **It has enduring influence:** The Bible has shaped laws, literature, art, and moral values more than any other book in history.
8. **It contains scientific foresight:** Long before modern science, the Bible referred to facts such as the roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22), the vastness of the universe (Jeremiah 33:22), and the hydrological cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7).
9. **It has transforming power:** The Bible continues to change lives across cultures and generations—offering forgiveness, guidance, and hope to millions every day.

D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How would you respond to the following statements about the Bible?

¹While no woman is listed as the author of a biblical book, several women spoke prophetic words, prayers, and songs that the Holy Spirit inspired and preserved in Scripture. Their faith and testimony demonstrate that God used both men and women to accomplish His redemptive plan and reveal His truth to the world.

² (e.g., Homer’s *Iliad*² has fewer than 700. Written around 700 BC

³ Rene and Laurie Schlaepfer, “Is the Bible reliable?” April 28, 2012.

⁴ The probability of these events happening by chance are 1 in 10²⁶. Peter Stoner, “*Science Speaks*,” p. 106, Moody Press, 1969.

⁵ Hugh Ross, “Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible. Reasons to Believe, August 22, 2003.

1. If the Bible was written by men, how can it be divine? (Hint: see 2 Peter 1:21)
→ A: God used human writers, but the message itself came from Him. As 2 Peter 1:21 explains, “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” Just as a musician uses an instrument to produce music, God inspired the words while allowing each writer’s personality and style to shine through.
2. Hasn’t the Bible been changed over time?
→ A: No. Thousands of early manuscripts confirm the Bible’s accuracy. The Dead Sea Scrolls, dating from around 150 B.C., match today’s Old Testament nearly word-for-word. Likewise, over 5,800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament verify that its message and doctrines have remained unchanged through the centuries. Only about 0.5% of the Bible is in question. No central doctrine of the Christian faith is affected.
3. With so many other holy books (Qur’an, Book of Mormon, etc.), what makes the Bible unique?
→ A: The Bible stands alone in fulfilled prophecy, historical accuracy, manuscript reliability, and its power to transform lives. No other ancient book foretold future events—such as the Messiah’s birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and His suffering (Isaiah 53)—and then fulfilled them so precisely centuries later.
4. If the Bible is God’s Word, what does that imply about how we should treat it?
→ A: It deserves reverence, study, and obedience (2 Timothy 3:16–17). It’s not optional advice, it’s divine direction.

E. THE “BOTTOM LINE”

1. The Bible was written by **40 authors** under the inspiration of the **Holy Spirit**.
2. God’s Word is **historically** accurate, **textually** preserved, and **spiritually** powerful.
3. The **unity** of Scripture shows that one divine Author guided its message.
4. Believers can trust the Bible because God’s character ensures His Word **is true**. (Psalm 119:160)
5. If the Bible is God’s Word, then obedience is the ultimate proof of **belief**.

F. WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

- F. F. Bruce, “The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?” Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1981
- GotQuestions.org – Articles on Bible reliability and inspiration
- Josh McDowell, “Evidence That Demands a Verdict,” Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999.
- Lee Strobel, “The Case for Christ,” Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998
- W. H. Griffith Thomas, “How We Got Our Bible,” Moody Press, 1926.