

Can I  
Trust  
The BIBLE?  
?

By Pastor Doug Farmer  
Copyright, April, 2007

**Can I Trust the Bible?**  
Psalm 1; 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible repeatedly claims to be the Word of God. Of course, any book could make that claim, so we will examine WHY we accept the Bible – and only the Bible – as the INSPIRED, Inerrant Word of the One True God. Of course, if it is God’s Word, as it claims repeatedly to be, the guidance, counsel and teachings it offers are of UTMOST value to our life.

**1. What is the Bible:**

The English Bible is a collection of 66 books written by about 40 authors over a period of about 1500 years. The writers come from all kinds of backgrounds—fishermen, Kings, Prophets, Musicians, Tax collectors—who lived in several different settings and at different times and circumstances. Many of them did not even know each other or know *of* each other! Yet the Bible portrays beautifully and accurately the history of the world from beginning to end.

The Bible contains an “OLD TESTAMENT” and a “NEW TESTAMENT”

**Broadly speaking, the OT covers...**

- a) The Creation of the Heavens and the earth.
- b) The Creation of the human race – Adam & Eve.
- c) Their fall into rebellion and sin.
- d) God’s promise to provide a way back to Himself.
- e) The call of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to father a people dedicated to God, through which would come a SAVIOR to bring people back to God.
- f) The gradual formation of the Nation Israel. Their entrance into the Land of Promise.
- g) The splendor and glory of Israel as they followed God and their disgrace as they forsook Him and were taken into captivity.
- h) The gracious, undeserved restoration of part of the Kingdom – JUDAH.

- i) **The writings of the prophets** which continued to speak of One who would come through Israel to become the SAVIOR of the world. They spoke of His birth place, virgin birth, etc...

### **The New Testament covers...**

- a) The coming of JESUS CHRIST, Eternal God the Son, into the human race through the miracle of Virgin Birth to a Young Maiden by the Name of Mary.
- b) **The Gospels** tell of His sinless life, His love for all people, His teachings, His miracles, His rejection and Crucifixion by the godless, His resurrection—victorious over sin and death, His commission to His followers to tell the world of the Savior.
- c) **“Acts”** tells the history of the early church, its triumph (2) over persecution, and the spread of the Good News of Jesus all the way to Rome!
- d) **Several letters** follow which instruct pastors and churches on living the Christian Life.
- e) **The Book of Revelation** closes on the triumphant note that—no matter what we are called on to endure in this life—it will be nothing compared to the blessings, joy and celebration Christians will have in Heaven forever.

### **2. The Authority of the Bible:**

- a) God’s **Word** Majestically **displayed**: “AND GOD SAID!”
- b) God’s **Word** **challenged**: Gen. 3:1 “God may have said it, but what He said is not true!”
- c) The **consequences** of rebellion against the Word are extraordinary! Gen. 3:6-15
- d) Every challenge to His authority **destroyed**: Revelation 19:16; 20:14
- e) What the Scripture says, **God** says.
- f) This is a **PIVOTAL** doctrine of our faith! All other doctrine believed by the church and stands or falls by the Authority of Scripture!

- g) It claims that “God said”...the plainest of all Bible teachings is that the Bible has its origins in the Will of God!
- h) The testimony of the Word itself:
1. God speaks... “And God said,” Gen 1-2 Creation Ch. 2-3 with/Adam and Eve: Ch 4: Cain Ch 6-7-8 to: Noah; 12-50 Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Heb 1:1 Exodus/Deut. – God’s call to Moses, the giving of 10 commandments
  2. OT prophets: Thus saith the Lord!
  3. In the NT, along with the Words of God Inspiring the Writers, Jesus Christ, being “Incarnate God” speaks for the Word of God!
  4. Jesus: John 10:34 The Scriptures cannot be broken. Mk 12:36 David, Speaking by the Spirit... Matt 19:4-5 The Creator SAID... Matt 4 / Luke 4—IT IS Written...
  5. Apostolic Use of the Old Testament
  6. Peter: Paul’s Writings are called Scripture. 2 Peter 3:15-16
  7. The Testimony of the Holy Spirit: Calvin: That same Spirit, therefore, Who has spoken through the mouths of the prophets must penetrate into our hearts to persuade us that they faithfully proclaim what has been divinely Commanded.”

**The “CHICAGO” STATEMENT:**

“The HOLY SCRIPTURE, being God’s own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of INFALLIBLE, DIVINE AUTHORITY in all matters on which it touches. It is to be Believed, as God’s instruction, in all that it affirms; Obeded, as God’s command, in all that it requires; Embraced, as God’s pledge!”

**3. Why do we accept the Bible as the Unique Word of God?**

**a) The UNITY of the Bible...**

Today, when so many voices – lifestyles, philosophies and religions are contradicting each other, the unified message of

the Bible bears an amazing stamp of the inspiration of Almighty God!

What begins in Genesis reaches its “conclusion” in Revelation!

1. Genesis opens in a beautiful place prepared by God just for His creation, the human race. Revelation closes with a beautiful city of gold where mankind and God will be together forever.
2. In Genesis, Adam & Eve—now “in sin” – are kept from the tree of life. In Revelation, the tree of life is in the Heavenly City, and the Redeemed are united to eat of its fruit!
3. In Genesis God comes and fellowships with His creation on their level. In Revelation the redeemed fellowship in the presence of God, in Heaven.
4. Genesis tells of the 1<sup>st</sup> “heaven and earth.” In Revelation there is a new heaven and a new earth!
5. In Genesis, the Devil appears on the scene and successfully tempts Adam and Eve to sin. In Revelation, he is cast forever into the Lake of Fire.
6. In Genesis, we see the first sin, its resultant sorrow and suffering. In Revelation all of these are NO MORE!
7. In Genesis, we have the record of the first death. In Revelation, we have the promise of “no more death!”
8. In Genesis we read of Adam’s bride. In Revelation we read of Jesus’ bride, the church!
9. In Genesis, Babel raises its ugly head. In Revelation, Babylon is completely/forever destroyed.
10. In Genesis, Satan “changed” the Word of God. In Revelation, if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city.

b) ***The Perfect 100% fulfillment of the Bible prophecies:***

No other book – religious or occult – can even approach the perfect accuracy of fulfillment that the Bible continually demonstrates!

***c) The continual affirmation of Bible Archaeology***

This could be a study all to itself! Bible Archaeology has consistently demonstrated that even minute details in the Bible are accurate:

This is too intricate to delve into here, but just one or two examples:

In 2 Kings 15:29, there is a reference to a king by the name of Tiglath-Pileser. He is said there to have conquered the Israelites of the northern kingdom and to have taken many of them into captivity. ***Liberal Bible Investigators*** said for many years that this king never existed and that this account was mistaken; therefore there are errors in the Bible!

Recently, archaeologists excavated the capital city of Assyria and found the name Tiglath-Pileser pressed into clay tablets—which began, “I Tiglath-Pileser, king of the west lands, king of the earth, whose kingdom extends to the great sea.” There are even accounts of his battles with Israel!

Other “scholars,” for years, maintained that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible because *writing had not been invented in his day*. In the last several years, the archaeologists have unearthed thousands of tablets and inscriptions written many hundreds of years before Moses, even before Abraham!!! In fact, they unearthed 20,000 clay tablets in Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham was raised 400 years before Moses!!!

Back before Time magazine was infested with liberals, in the cover story of December 30, 1974, they wrote:

“After more than two centuries of facing the heaviest scientific guns that could be brought to bear, the Bible has survived—and is perhaps better for the siege. Even on the critics own terms—historical fact—the scriptures seem more acceptable now than they did when the “rationalists” began to attack!”

#### **d) The character of God**

The character of God demands that His Word speak only absolute truth. If every utterance is from God, and God is a God of truth—and He is—then, the Bible must be wholly truthful and without error. Any attack on the Bible IS an attack on God Himself!

As John 17:17 says, “Your Word IS truth!”

Psalms 119:160 “All Your Words are true.”

Proverbs 30:5 “Every Word of God is flawless.”

Titus 1:2 “God...does not lie!”

Hebrews 6:18 “It is impossible for God to lie!”

#### **e) The Person of Jesus Christ**

The character and teachings of Jesus Christ are a matter of history. Consider: His integrity is without flaw; He spoke and lived Perfect Truth. Even Pontius Pilate had to admit: “I find no crime in this Man.” (Luke 23:4)

When Jesus spoke, He taught the *accuracy and inspiration* of the Scriptures. (Read Matt 21:42; 22:29; 26:54, 56; Luke 24:27, 32, 44; John 2:22b; 3:14-15; 5:39)

Jesus constantly affirmed the inerrancy and truth of the Scriptures.

In Matthew 4:1-11, while being repeatedly tested and tempted by Satan, Jesus *quotes* from the Book of Deuteronomy as the reasons He would not succumb to the wooing of the evil one. “It is written, it is written, it is written.”

In Luke 20:37-38 He quotes Exodus 3:6 to prove the resurrection of the dead.

In Mark 11:15-17 He quotes the Old Testament as His rationale for cleansing the Temple.

In Matthew 26:53-54 Jesus tells Peter to put away his sword. “Do you not think I cannot call upon My Father and He will at once put at My disposal twelve legions of angels? But how

then would the scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

And again in vs. 56 "But all this has taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled."

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2 and declares that His Ministry is the fulfillment of that prophecy.

In Matthew 5:17, He explicitly declares that His purpose for coming was to FULFILL the Law and the Prophets.

In John 5:39 Jesus said that it was the Scriptures that testified of Him!

In Luke 24:25-27 Jesus opened the scriptures and shared with His disciples all that they said concerning Himself.

On and on we could go. He said that not one word of the Law would disappear until everything is accomplished. (Matt 5:18) He lived His life in keeping with the Old Testament Law as given by Inspiration!

Let's review the evidences of the Inspiration of Scripture:

1. The Incredible Unity of the Bible
2. The 100% accuracy of all fulfillment of prophecy
3. The confirmation of Bible archaeology
4. The character of God necessitates a Book of Truth and accuracy!
5. The Person of Jesus Christ!