



We are a gospel-centered church in Orange County committed to spread the Good News of God's love to everyone. We invite you to join our family-oriented, culturally diverse congregation.

Whether you are investigating the claims of Jesus or are a mature believer, we want you to connect with others and grow in your relationship with God and other Christians.

Proving biblically and historically that **Christ Exist** **Is the Bible True?**

April 7, 2019

Do we truly believe the bible and that all the things it says took place? If so, then *would we* be able to defend our faith to someone who doesn't trust the bible? How *could we* know without using the Bible?

God had a specific purpose for His Word: to COMMUNICATE God's Will to His people.

Read: 2 Peter 1:20-21

"...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

I. Is the Bible reliable? 2 Good Tests: Numbers and Age (Shorter the time frame of the original completion and earliest copy)

Earliest Books	Approx. Copies	Completed	Copy	Differnece
Plato's Tetralogies	7	60 BC	900 AD	1000
Caesar-Gallic Wars	10	400 BC	900 AD	1500
Homer's Illiad	643	900 BC	400 BC	500
New Testament	24,000	100 AD	125-200 AD	25
Old Testament	10,000	425 BC	100 BC	325

Crucial to the reliability test: The Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)

What are they? Very old copies of the Old Testament discovered in 1948-49.

- They *discovered* over 40,000 fragments. Before these were found, the *oldest copies* and/or fragments of the Old Testament were *dated* to 900 AD. Parts of the DSS *date* to 100 BC; a *difference* of over 1,000 years.
- Example: When Isaiah 53 was examined (166 words in that chapter) – *only* one word was different and it did not change the meaning of the passage.
- In all the copies made for 1,000 years, only one word got changed by mistake! The Book of Isaiah proved to be 98% accurate; the 2% that was changed was mostly differences in spelling and conjunctions.

Scripture reaffirms other passages and books of Scripture that we are not given proper authorship to or **Jewish literature** outside the OT claims knew no one who could speak with the authority of God as the OT prophets had done. **Josephus** (born c. A.D. 37/38) explained, "From Artaxerxes to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of failure of the exact succession of the prophets" (Against Apion 1.41). This historian considered writings known as the **Apocrypha** as "not worthy of equal credit".

Jesus and the NT authors quote various OT Scriptures as divinely authoritative over 295 times, but not once do they cite any statement from the books of the Apocrypha or any other writings. **Roman Catholic Church** accepted the **Apocrypha** as **Scripture**, but they were not even accepted by the Jews as Scripture. When they were added in A.D. 404, even the translator said they were not books of the canon but merely books of the church. In 1546, the Council of Trent was the response to Martin Luther and rapidly spreading of Protestant Reformation. Here, this council suggested the catholic teaching of prayers for the dead and justification by faith plus works, and not by faith alone.

KEY FACTORS FOR DIVINE SCRIPTURE (Canon Inerrancy):

1. It must claim to have the same kind of authority as the Old Testament writings.
2. It must be regarded as God's words by the Jewish people from whom they originated.

For a book to belong in the Bible, it is absolutely necessary that the book have divine authorship.

3. It must be considered to be Scripture by Jesus or the New Testament authors.

The NT quotes various parts of the OT Scriptures as divinely authoritative over 295 times, but not once did the NT cite any other writings as having divine authority.

4. It must contain teachings consistent with the rest of the Bible.

*Remember that the Bible itself proves that God's Word is Holy. Also, God's words [**not man's interpretation**] help us evaluate what is Scripture and what is not.*

II. *What about Archaeology?* Study of ancient artifacts that have been found geographic

- There have been innumerable attacks on the Bible, but beginning in the mid-1800s, the ***holy land*** began being excavated and the Bible has been proven right time and time again.
- Over the last 100 years over **25,000** separate sites have confirmed the Bible – not one of the **25,000** sites has proven wrong!
- Many events in the Bible are found in sources ***outside*** of the Bible.
- Archaeology does not necessarily prove the Bible is **true**, but it does prove that it is reliable in history and geography.

III. *What about Prophecy?* Prediction of an event that will happen in the future

- The Bible is the only book in the world that has specific prophecies fulfilled **hundreds**; even **thousands** of years after the prophecies were given.
- Jesus fulfilled over **300** prophecies; the chance of one person fulfilling only 8 of those is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. (that's a 1 with 17 zeros after it)

IV. *Look at the Amazing Way the Bible was Written*

1. Written over a period of **1500** years.
2. Written by at least **40** different men from different backgrounds.
3. Written on **3** different continents. (*Europe, Asia, and Africa*)
4. Written in **2** main languages. (*Greek and Hebrew; parts were Aramic*)
5. Written in many different **places**.
6. Written by men in different **moods**.
7. Written in a variety of **styles**.

- Yet despite all these differences and long time periods, it tells one main story; God pursuing the people He loves and His offering of salvation for them!

God, by His Spirit, has empowered FALLIBLE men to record an INERRANT word.

God was at work in the preservation and assembling together of the books of Scripture for the benefit of his people for the entire church age.

V. *Look at the Changed Lives*

- Thousands have died every year for the last 2,000 years for the name of Jesus. Had people died only occasionally for Jesus, this might be no big deal (like with the Heaven's Gate cult), but it has been consistent for over 2,000 years.

VI. *Look at How the Bible has Lasted*

- No book has ever been attacked for as *long*, as *often*, or by as many brilliant people as the Bible, yet none have succeeded in disproving the Bible.
- Parts of it were written thousands of years before the printing press on paper that disintegrates, so books had to be copied and recopied, yet the Bible has never disappeared or changed in its correctness.
- It has been banned, burned, and outlawed, but it has never been done away with!