

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

Isaiah 40:8 (NIV) *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.*

The fact that the Bible has survived the generations is incredible.

- Most books don't make it 20 years.
- Most ancient writings were never copied
- The books assembled in our Bibles were written between 2000-3500 years ago. Not only did the books survive, they survived in tact and with incredible accuracy. It's like they were so careful, they believed they were actually copying the Word of God.
- The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Caesar, Plato, or Aristotle.
- Over time, special scribes who had developed intricate methods of counting words, copied the Bible very accurately, ensuring that no errors had been made.

3 Reasons why we can trust the Bible

Luke 1:1 (NIV) *Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

1. **Accurate History.**

Luke 1:1 (NIV) *Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 3 ... I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning*

"Excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible has progressively been discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of the numeral details. It has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history."

-Archeologist W.F. Albright, John Hopkins University

2. **Accurate Eyewitness Accounts**

Luke 1:2 (NIV) *just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.*

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV) *For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.¹⁷ 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."¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

What about writers who both were eyewitness yet the text is different or some say contradictions?

a). Paraphrasing/Interpretation

- "Blessed are the poor" (Luke 6:20).
- "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3)

- "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Matt. 27:54, Mark 15:39)
- "Surely this was a righteous man." (Luke 23:47)

b). Some things may be omitted or abbreviated.

3. Accurate Predictions about the Future

Luke 1:3b-4 (NIV) *I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

Isaiah 48:3 (NIV) *I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.*

2 Peter 1:20 (NIV) *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

It comes down to the concept of _____