

**Introduction: Is it intellectually feasible to believe the Bible really is God's Word?**

**Five Crucial Questions About the Bible:**

1. Is the Bible the word of men or the very words of God?
2. Is the Bible full of myths, legends, and fairytales, or historically reliable?
3. Is ALL of the Bible true and trustworthy or only portions of it?
4. Can a Bible that has been translated so many times for so many hundreds of years really be accurate?
5. What makes the Bible so different than all other religious writings and their claims to truth?

**7 Reasons Why I Believe in the Bible:**

**1. ARCHEOLOGY – The Bible is a historically accurate document.**

- Hittites Empire Discovered
- Moses' writing of 10 Commandments
- Solomon's Reign – 1,000s of horses
- Luke – New Testament – Sir William Ramsey's Work

**2. REVELATION – The Bible claims to infallibly reveal the very words and mind of God.**

- “All Scripture is God breathed...” 2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)
- Biblical Proverbs = Scripture 1 Timothy 5:18 (NIV)
- “...Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.” 2 Peter 3:16 (NIV)
- 3,000 inferences of Divine authority

**3. ORIGIN – The Bible’s unity, structure, and subject matter argue for a supernatural authorship.**

- 40 authors, 3 languages, 1,500 years
- Central theme is Jesus Christ
- 2 billion publications since 1455
- Who would write such an honest account (even unfavorable) of themselves?  
i.e. David, Solomon, Paul

**4. JESUS – believed the Old Testament to be the very words of God and predicted the New Testament to be likewise.**

- Not “concepts” or portions, but the actual words are “God-breathed”
- The scope of the whole Old Testament Matthew 5:17-18 (NIV)
- Jesus’ view of the resurrection is based on the tense of a verb Matthew 22:29-32 (NIV)
- Paul’s argument based on plural vs. singular use of “seed” Galatians 3:16 (NIV)
- Jesus’ view of Adam, Noah, Jonah, Sodom & Gomorrah

## 5. FULFILLED PROPHECY – sets the Bible apart from all other religious writings

- Judgment of Tyre Ezekiel 26
- Succession of World Empires Daniel 2, 7
- Fulfillment of Jesus as Messiah – 300 Predictions  
(probability of 8 predictions = 1 out of  $10^{17}$ )\*

\*Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to eight prophecies, “we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup>.” That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that ‘we take 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the **state two feet deep**. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man.

Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*

## 6. TRANSMISSION – The Bible’s purity and perseverance throughout the centuries is nothing short of miraculous

- Meticulousness of Copyists in Transcriptions
- Proximity of Manuscripts
- Over 24,000 New Testament Manuscripts
- Dead Sea Scrolls

**7. IMPACT – The Bible’s power to transform lives and the history of nations is overwhelmingly documented**

Joshua 1:8

Jeremiah 15:16

Psalms 119:9, 11

Matthew 4:4

1 Peter 2:2

Hebrews 4:12

**Your Response – 3 Challenges:**

- I am willing to examine the evidence to my honest questions about the Bible.
- I am willing to read the New Testament and make up my own mind concerning the Bible.
- I am committing to live my life based on biblical convictions rather than on contemporary culture.

**Resources:**

*Seven Reason Why You Can Trust the Bible*, by Erwin W. Lutzer

*Is the Bible True?*, article by ChristianAnswers.Net

*From God to Us – How We Got Our Bible*, by Norman L. Geisler & William E. Nix