

The Anchor Q&A

How accurate is the Bible?

Introduction – What is the Bible?

Psalms 119:105 – “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – List the uses of Scripture below

- Doctrine – teaching truths
- Reproof – show you when you are wrong
- Correction – show you how to get straightened out
- Instruction in righteousness -

The Bible claims to be the source of spiritual truth for mankind.

Our need for a source of truth

Proverbs 29:18 – **This verse is commonly misunderstood!**

We all need the rock of truth to build our lives on. If we don't find the true rock, we will build one out of our own opinions and whims. The problem is that there is only one truth and everything else falls short because it doesn't work, causes us harm, and causes harm to others.

Genesis 6:1-12 – **Men had corrupted the ways of God and the earth was full of violence**

Man has a natural hunger for truth. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, “...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Consider yourself, you are studying this lesson for a reason. It is likely that you feel this hunger in you. The Word of God is precious because it is true. It is real. It works. It changes hearts and lives. It brings life and hope. It does what no lie can do.

Amos 8:11-12 – “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.” – This was the 400 years between the completion of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament

Where does the Bible come from?

For the Bible to be true, it must be written from a source that has knowledge of the truth. The Bible doesn't leave any doubt about its authorship and how its words were transcribed. Throughout Scriptures, we see writers claiming that they were penning the words from God. We see Scriptures being interpreted this way by other Scriptures as well.

2 Peter 1:20-21 – “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Reasons that the Bible is the Word of God¹

Beyond the statements that Scripture makes about itself, there are other facts we can consider that support the Bible's claim that it is the inspired Word of God. **If the Bible is authored by God, it will represent His knowledge and character.** Truly, if the Bible is from God, and God is who the Bible says He is, the Bible should be clearly different from any other book written exclusively by man. The list below looks at ten such proofs that demonstrate the Bible is different than any other written document.

¹ Taken from, Theology for Today by Elmer L. Towns

- The unique **revelation** of Jesus Christ
- The extraordinary **claims** that the Bible is from God
- The proven fulfillment of **prophecy**
- The **convicting, convincing, converting** power of the message
- The **inexhaustible infinity** of its message
- The **unity** of the message from diverse human sources
- The **trans-cultural** appeal of the Bible
- The immeasurable **superiority** to other literature
- The test of **experience – it works!**
- Its **miraculous endurance** over thousands of years

How accurate is the Bible?

How perfect and inerrant are the Scriptures? Did God just inspire the ideas or is every word of the Bible accurate and trustworthy? Let's first look to Jesus to find the answer to this question.

Matthew 5:17-18 – “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Jesus made it clear that every word of the law would be fulfilled by Him, down to the dotting of the “i” and crossing of the “t”. He considered it all to be accurate and dependable. It is worthy to note that Jesus likely used the Septuagint as His primary Bible. The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the original Scriptures, which were written in Hebrew. Likewise, we use a translation made from copies of the original texts. The Bible, as originally written was completely perfect. It is true that there were occasional spelling errors and a word missing here or there as the originals were copied for others to read (they didn't have copy machines back then). However, whenever the archaeologists dig up another old manuscript, they always find that the differences are not significant enough to affect any doctrinal belief.

What if there are parts of the Bible that are true and other parts that are false? This is a popular belief today. However, if you take this position, you have to then decide which parts are true and which are false. How would you determine which parts were true and false?

To make this determination, you would have to set up another source as superior to the Scripture in order to judge the Scripture. You then have to determine why the superior source is better than the Bible. This is an endless cycle of questioning.

As we've seen from Jesus, the Bible doesn't indicate that any part of it is false. Those who believe that parts of the Bible are false put themselves in the position of judge and decide what parts they like and don't like based upon their opinions. This leads to dangerous ground because you have moved off the rock of the truth.

Ultimately, the proofs we discussed above testify to the Bible's complete accuracy. If part of it is in error, then we might as well throw the whole thing out. Also, if part of the Bible isn't true, then God is either a liar or unable to preserve His truth for us so that we can know truth. These are not the characteristics of an all-powerful and holy God.