

Is the Bible True?

The God Questions – Part 2 of 6

October 6, 2024

The more you read the Bible, the more you'll fall in love with its author.

1. The Bible Is _____.

⁵ “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ⁶ Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. – Proverbs 30:5-6

2. Where Did the Bible Come _____?

The Bible is divided into two major sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains thirty-nine books, and the New Testament has twenty-seven books.

The Old Testament contains:

- *History* (Genesis through Esther). History has a plot and can be read like a story.
- Next comes *Poetry* (Job through Song of Songs). Poetry is more expressive and rational as humans think and interact with God.
- Third, there's *Prophecy* (Isaiah through Malachi). Prophecy looks forward to what God says He will do for His people.

The New Testament contains:

- *History* (Matthew through Acts). Again, this history is written in narrative and can be read like a story.
- Then, the New Testament has *Letters* (Romans through Jude). Letters are actual, physical letters written from leaders in the early church to people living in various cities throughout the world.
- Finally, there's *Prophecy* (the book of Revelation). Again, this prophecy is God foretelling what He will do for His people.

Ephesians 2:20 - ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Here's what we need to know – Every book in the Bible was written by a prophet, an apostle (eyewitness of the risen Christ), or someone with a direct link to its teachings.

3. How the Bible is _____.

A. In Its Composition:

1. It was written over 1,600 years (from 1900 BC to AD 90)
2. By more than forty authors
3. With different backgrounds
4. In three different languages from three continents
5. Yet with continuity and agreement from cover to cover

B. In Its Circulation

The Bible is the single most-published book in the history of the world.

C. In Its Translation

It's the single most widely translated book in the world.

D. In Its Durability

It has survived bans, burnings, ridicule, and criticism for centuries.

E. In Its Effect on People

People read books all the time.

4. How the Bible Was Copied and _____.

- A. The Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- B. The Talmidim were meticulous.
- C. The Masoretes were MORE meticulous.
- D. The New Testament has 24,000 manuscripts to compare.
- E. The English Bible is translated directly from the original languages.

5. How Science Compares to the _____.

What the Bible Says	What People Thought	What We Now Know
Earth is a sphere	Earth is a flat disk	Earth is a sphere
Number of stars = more than a billion	Number of stars = 1,100	Number of stars = more than a billion
Every star is different	All stars are the same	Every star is different
Light is in motion	Light is fixed in place	Light is in motion
Air has weight	Air is weightless	Air has weight
Wind blows in cyclones	Wind blows straight	Wind blows in cyclones
Blood is the source of life and healing	Sick people must be bled	Blood is the source of life and healing.

For now, recognize how unlikely it is that Moses, writing 3,400 years ago, could have guessed all these details about the universe's structure.

In addition to the phenomena just mentioned, the Bible describes:

- The conservation of mass and energy (*Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:14–15*)
- The hydraulic cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation (*Job 36:27–29*)
- Gravity (*Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10*)
- The effect of emotions on physical health (*Proverbs 15:30; 16:24; 17:22*)
- The spread of contagious disease by close contact (*Leviticus 13:45–46.*)
- The importance of sanitation to health (*Numbers 19; Deuteronomy 23:12–13*)

6. How _____ Compares with the Bible.

At least 332 prophecies were told and fulfilled in Jesus's first coming.

After doing his calculations, he said, "...we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} ."

Here's what that looks like: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

The probability that forty-eight of these would be fulfilled in one person is 1×10^{157} .