

Is the Bible from God?

Is Bible useful for living a meaningful life?

3 Words to Understand the Bible

1. _____ - God chose to reveal his nature and will to us through the Bible.
Ezekiel 38:23
2. _____ - the process God used to give us the Bible.
2 Timothy 3:16
3. _____ - the work of the Holy Spirit that allows us to understand the Bible
Luke 24:45

How Do We Know the Bible came from God?

1. Non-biblical evidence _____ the Bible is a historical book.
QUOTE: There are 5,366 [Manuscripts] to compare and draw information from, and some of these date from the second or third centuries. To put that in perspective, there are only 643 copies of Homer's Iliad, and that is the most famous book of ancient Greece. No one doubts the existences of Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars, but we only have 10 copies of it and the earliest of those was made 1000 years after it was written. To have such an abundance of copies of the New Testament from dates within 70 years after their writing is amazing. - Norman Geisler from *When Skeptics Ask*

QUOTE: In all, Luke (in the Gospel of Luke and Acts) names 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 islands without error. - Norman Geisler from *Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics*
2. The way the Bible was _____ provides evidence that it is unique.
QUOTE: One piece of evidence historians look for in assessing the reliability of a document is the number of generations that passed on a story before that story was

The events of the Bible were primarily recorded in the generation in which they were experienced by those who experienced them!
-Tom Holladay from *Foundations*

QUOTE: The Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years in various places stretching all the way from Babylon to Rome. The human authors included over 40 persons from various stations of life: kings, peasants, poets, herdsman, fishermen, scientists, farmers, priests, pastors, tentmakers, and governors. It was written in a wilderness, a dungeon, inside palaces, on lonely islands and in military battles. Yet it speaks with agreement and reliability on hundreds of controversial subjects. Yet it tells one story from beginning to end, God's salvation of man through Jesus Christ. NO PERSON could have possibly conceived of or written such a work!
- Josh McDowell from *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*

The Bible is translated from 24,000 copies of the New Testament alone, with millions of people having seen some of these copies. Those copies have been translated by thousands of scholars.	The Book of Mormon is translated from a supposed single original that is claimed to have been seen and translated by one man: Joseph Smith (who was not an expert in languages). That original was "taken back." There are no copies of that original.
The Bible was written by more than 40 different authors spanning over 50 generations and 3 continents. It speaks with agreement on all matters of faith and doctrine.	The Qu'ran is the writings and record of one man, Muhammad, in one place at one point in history. It differs at many points with the Old and New Testament accounts of history.
The Bible provides God's distinctive solution to man's problem with sin and focuses on God's work in actual, verifiable history.	Hindu scriptures claim all roads lead to the same place and focus on stories of things that happened in the "celestial realms."

- Tom Holladay from *Foundations*

3. _____ testimonies give evidence the Bible is a powerful book.

4. Jesus believed and taught the Bible came from _____.

a. Jesus taught the Spirit is the _____ of the Scriptures.

Matthew 22:43-44

b. Jesus taught the _____ is authoritative and should be obeyed.

Matthew 22:29, Luke 11:28

c. Jesus taught the Scriptures were _____ than any other book.

Matthew 5:18-19, John 17:17

d. Jesus called the Scriptures the "_____."

Mark 7:13

Quote: Even though Jesus did not possess the original writings of the Bible by Moses, David, and so forth, he nevertheless considered the manuscript copies used in his day to be "the word of God." This powerful and personal expression to us of the truth that God works to preserve the integrity and accuracy of the Bible through generation after generation. - Tom Holladay from *Foundations*

e. Jesus fully _____ the people and places mentioned in the Bible were real.

- * He believed in the prophets (*Matthew 22:40; 24:15*)
- * He believed in Noah (*Luke 17:26*)
- * He believed in Adam and Eve (*Matthew 19:4*)
- * He believed in Sodom and Gomorrah (*Mark 10:15*)
- * He believed in Jonah (*Matthew 12:40*)

References

Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics by Norman Geisler

Don't Hold Back: Leaving Behind the American Gospel to Follow Jesus Fully by David Platt

Evidence that Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell

Foundations by Tom Holladay

When Skeptics Ask by Norman Geisler

