

“Is the Bible Reliable?”

Is the Bible a trustworthy document or merely a human book? How do we know that we can trust it as the inerrant and infallible Word of God?

I. What does the Bible claim for itself?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16–17

...No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

—2 Peter 1:20–21

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

—Hebrews 4:12–13

II. Are the claims accurate?

- Internal Evidence
 - Remarkable agreement in theme and doctrine
 - Eyewitness testimony
 - Fulfilled prophecy

Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.

—Daniel 9:24-27

“decree to restore Jerusalem” = March 5, 444 B.C.

“sixty-two and seven weeks” = 483 Jewish years

1 Jewish year = 360 days

483 Jewish years = 173,880 days

173,880 days = 476 Gregorian years (365 days)

March 5, 444 B.C. + 476 years = March 30, A.D. 33!

- External Evidence
 - Historical attestation (Josephus, Tacitus)
 - Archaeological attestation
- Bibliographic Evidence
 - OT: Dead Sea Scrolls, Masoretic copyists
 - NT: Abundance of manuscripts

WORK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY FRAGMENT	TIME SPAN	NUMBER OF COPIES	ACCURACY OF COPY
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1200 Years	7	-----
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1400 Years	49	-----
Thucydides	5th Cent. BC	900 AD	1300 Years	8	-----
Sophocles	496-406 BC	1000 AD	1400 Years	193	-----
Homer (<i>Iliad</i>)	9th Cent. BC	400 BC	500 Years	643	95%
New Testament	40 - 100 AD	125 AD	25 Years*	over 24,000**	99+%

- Practical Evidence

III. How should we respond?

- Trust
- Know
- Obey!