

"Is the Bible Reliable?"
2 Peter 1:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Objections regarding whether the Bible was preserved accurately over time, originally recorded with historical accuracy, and scientifically plausible necessitate that we have an explanation that maintains our assurance in the inerrant and inspired Word of God. For the Bible lands us at the feet of Jesus for salvation, conviction, and preparation for every good deed.

I. Objections to it

A. Change over time

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	>24,000	99+%

B. History inaccurate

1. Too consistent

"History is always written by the winners ... the winner writes the history books - books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said, 'What is history, but a fable

agreed upon?' ... [At Council of Nicea] many aspects of Christianity were debated and voted upon [including] ... the divinity of Jesus. Until that moment in history, Jesus was viewed by His followers as a ...
... mortal prophet...a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal ... It was all about power ... [Yet] thousands of documents already existed chronicling His life as a mortal man ... Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's human traits and embellished those gospels that made Him godlike. The earlier gospels were outlawed, gathered up, and burned."

—Teabing in *DaVinci Code*

"For the king knows about these matters ... none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner."

—Acts 26:26

Secrets are weird:

"Simon Peter said to them, 'Let Mary go away from us, for women are not worthy of life.' Jesus said, 'Lo, I shall lead her, so that I may make her a male, that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself a male will enter the kingdom of heaven."

—Gospel of Thomas

2. Too inconsistent

C. Scientific implausible

"Either half of my colleagues are enormously stupid, or else the science of Darwinism is fully compatible with conventional religious beliefs."

—Stephen Gould vs. Richard Dawkins

Science & Bible

"For we did not follow cleverly devised tales ... but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty ... Such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining."

—2 Pet 1:16-19

"Inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine, morality, or with social, physical, or life sciences."

—Paul Feinburg in *Inerrancy*

II. Objectives of it

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

—2 Peter 1:20-21

“All Scripture is inspired by God.”

—2 Timothy 3:16

A. To Save

“The sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

—2 Timothy 3:15

B. To reveal

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

—Heb 4:12

C. To equip for service

“All Scripture is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

—2nd Timothy 3:16-17