

The Bible: Is It Reliable?

QUICK REFERENCE COUNSELING KEYS Excerpt

Definitive Information . . .

Think about it . . . radio, television, print, and computers invade our homes with instant worldwide information. News anchors and analyzers give editorial opinions about what “it” all means, yet how much of what you receive can you believe with absolute certainty? Precious little. We often receive definitive information . . . only to hear newer news making the older obsolete.

Yet as Christians, we have a permanent source of accurate information without fear of being blown to and fro by the changing winds of time. Our timeless rock on which our hope is built is the Bible.

*“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall
accomplish that which I purpose, and shall
succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”
(Isaiah 55:11)*

*“The Bible is the one supreme source
of the revelation of the meaning of life.”*

—Woodrow Wilson,
28th President of the United States

Q: “Why should I trust the Bible?”

Three important words define Scripture: Inspired. . . . Infallible. . . . Inerrant.

1. God Himself has authored the text through human hands.
2. He has achieved the precise message He intended.
3. The Bible will never mislead or deceive—it is without mistake. Ultimately, because God’s Word is “God breathed,” it is totally trustworthy.

As a source of information that cannot become obsolete, the Bible is all we need for wisdom and truth. Think about the generations of people who not only believed God’s Word, but also built their lives on its principles. Thank God for every courageous leader whose character was built on a foundation that can never crack!

*“The one who looks into the perfect law,
the law of liberty, and perseveres,
being no hearer who forgets but a doer
who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”
(James 1:25)*

Surface Causes of Unbelief

Ignorance— without knowledge of Scripture

“Jesus answered them, ‘You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.’”
(Matthew 22:29)

Insolence— intellectual pride

“If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”
(John 5:46–47)

Impurity— loving sin and living in it

“This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”
(John 3:19–20)

Indifference— no fear of God

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
(Proverbs 1:7)

Reality of Prophecy

- Israel would spend 400 years in Egypt fulfilled in 1800–1400 BC (Genesis 15:13)
- Israel would spend 70 years in Babylon fulfilled in 605–536 BC (Jeremiah 25:11)
- Israel would be scattered among the nations of the world fulfilled in 722 BC and 605–586 BC (Deuteronomy 28:37)
- Israel would reject her Messiah (John 7:48)
- Destruction of Jericho and its rebuilding fulfilled in 930 BC (Joshua chapter 6)
- Destruction of the wicked city of Nineveh fulfilled in 612 BC (Book of Nahum)
- Destruction of the great empire of Babylon fulfilled in 539 BC (Isaiah 13:17–19)
- Destruction of the city of Tyre fulfilled in 332 BC (Ezekiel 26:3–4)
- Destruction of the Persian Empire fulfilled in 331 BC (Daniel 8:1–8)
- Destruction of the Greek Empire fulfilled in 301 BC (Daniel 7:6)
- Destruction of Jerusalem fulfilled in AD 70 (Luke 19:41–44)

Key Verse to Memorize

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Key Passage to Read and Reread

2 Peter 1:16–21

Dead Sea Scrolls

The most important archaeological discovery to date

- Found in 1947 in Palestine
- Found by a young Bedouin boy looking for a stray goat
- Contains 157 parallel biblical texts, reconfirming the accuracy of Scriptures¹
- Reveals information about . . .
 - Palestinian Judaism in first centuries BC and AD
 - Copying and transmission of texts of the Old Testament
 - Background of the New Testament²

*“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”
(Proverbs 30:5)*

Textual Preservation and Unity

The text has been miraculously preserved with care and accuracy.

- approximately 6,000 manuscripts of the Greek New Testament

The amazing circulation of the Bible has virtually penetrated the entire world (more copies than any other ancient or contemporary literature).³

The Bible has supernatural indestructibility in spite of . . .

- political persecution . . . Roman emperors
- philosophical persecution . . . Stalin and communism

The Bible has unbelievable unity of thought and detail in spite of . . .⁴

- the long period of time (1600 years) involved in the writing
- the 40 different human authors
- the three different languages
- the three different continents
- the 10 different styles of writing

*“As it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”
(1 Corinthians 2:9–10)*

Related Topics . . .

- Cults:
The Truth Twisters
- Evil & Suffering . . . Why?
Is God Fair?
- God: Who Is He?
Who Do You Say That He Is?
- The Holy Spirit:
Living Free in the Power and Peace of the Spirit
- Spiritual Warfare:
Strategy for the Battle

HOPE FOR THE HEART's *Biblical Counseling Library Quick Reference* provides immediate, concise, biblical truths for today's problems.

For more comprehensive help, refer to our *Biblical Counseling Keys . . .*

**The Bible: Is It Reliable?:
*Truth on Trial.***

If you would like more information, call 1-800-488-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hopefortheheart.org.

For prayer encouragement and biblical counsel call 1-866-570-HOPE (4673).

1. See Erwin W. Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible* (Chicago: Moody, 1998), 80–84; Clifford A. Wilson, *Rocks, Relics and Biblical Reliability*, Christian Free University Curriculum (Grand Rapids: Zondervan and Probe Ministries, 1977), 103–10, and R. Laird Harris, “How Reliable Is the Old Testament Text?” in *Can I Trust the Bible?* ed. Howard F. Vos (Chicago: Moody, 1963), 122–26.
2. Robert H. Mounce, “Is the New Testament Historically Accurate?” in *Can I Trust the Bible?* ed. Howard F. Vos (Chicago: Moody, 1963), 188–90.
3. See Henry M. Morris, *Science and the Bible*, rev. and updated ed. (Chicago: Moody, 1986), 114–15.
4. *Can I Really Trust the Bible?* Critical Questions (Grand Rapids: Radio Bible Class, 1986), 13.



*Together . . . Changing Minds.
Changing Hearts. Changing Lives.*

P.O. Box 7, Dallas, TX 75221

Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*.
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.