

How Do I Know I Can Trust The Bible?
2 Timothy 3:14-17

Wasn't the selection of books for the Bible a purely political move?

Haven't the copies of the Bible been hopelessly corrupted and changed over time?

Even if we do have reliable copies, how can we ever know if we're interpreting the Bible correctly? Don't we all just make it say what we want it to say?

Doesn't the Bible condone slavery, sexism, and genocide?

Doesn't the Bible conflict with science?

Isn't the Bible filled with contradictions?

THE AUTHOR OF TRUST

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching,
for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness...

2 Timothy 3:16

When a lot of people think about the idea of *inspiration*, they confuse it with the idea of *dictation*.

Many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed them down to us. It also seemed good to me, since I have *carefully investigated* everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honorable Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed.

Luke 1:1-4

They captured the Hagarites' livestock—50,000 of their camels, 250,000 of their sheep, and 2,000 donkeys.

1 Chronicles 5:21

As much as the Bible is 100% God's words, it is also 100% human words.

When we don't read the Bible, we shouldn't feel guilty, we should feel hungry.

THE CONTENT OF TRUST

He said to them, “How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself *in all the Scriptures*.

Luke 24:25-27

Christ is the content of our trust.

So I'm reading Genesis. God lets Abram sleep with a woman who is not his wife to have a child??

What if, in the face of problems we run into in the Bible, we trust Jesus that Scripture is telling a coherent, unified story. And then, when we don't see how that is true, that we question our reading of the Bible, rather than his.

Do I have all of the relevant information?

Does what I think this passage is saying cohere with what Jesus says about the Bible?

Is my interpretation one that is held by others as well?

Where is my heart in this? Do I *want* a certain answer to be true?

Curious how I remained a Christian while studying science, friends and acquaintances would ask me, “Have you ever questioned your faith?” ...I would answer, “Sure, I question my faith, but I also question my doubts.”

-Christina Powell

Historians today are typically elated when we have a double-digit number of copies of an ancient work, as with 75 copies of the works of the Greek historian Herodotus (fifth century BC), 20 copies of the histories of his contemporary Thucydides, and 27 of the works of the Roman historian Livy (first century BC to first century AD). And the oldest surviving manuscript for any of these authors dates from at least four centuries after the time it was first written, sometimes as many as nine centuries after, versus a gap of only one century, or less, for most of the NT books.

-Craig Blomberg

Those who do not want to eat before they understand the entire process by which food arrives at their table will starve to death. And those who do not want to believe the Word of God before they see all problems resolved will die of spiritual starvation.

-Herman Bavinck

THE GOAL OF TRUST

..You know that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom *for salvation* through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15

The goal of trusting the Bible is to lead us to Jesus and faith in him.

You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

John 5:39