

## **“IS THE BIBLE REALLY TRUSTWORTHY? ”**

Selected Scriptures

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### **Biblical Claims of Divine Origin:**

II Timothy 3:16

II Peter 1:20-21

Hebrews 4:12

Matthew 6:18

“What if we were to systematically page through the Bible, listing all of the instances in which it claims to be of divine origin? Either directly or indirectly we would find some fifteen hundred statements that claim its divine origin. The sixty-six books speak with a consistent voice that these are the words of God.”

Erwin Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*,  
Moody Press, Chicago, IL, page 43.

### **CBC Statement of Faith:**

“**The Scriptures:** We believe the sixty-six Books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired of God and are the Word of God without error in the original writings. We believe this inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of Scripture. The Scriptures are unchangeable Truth, the final authority in faith and life, and the complete revelation of God’s will for the salvation of man.”

### **Five reasons every person can trust the Bible:**

#### **1. Consistency**

“Even though it was written over a span of one-and-a-half millennia by more than forty authors, in several different languages, and addressing hundreds of topics, it displays an uncanny uniformity in its message.”

Mark Mittelberg; *The Reason Why*,  
Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, IL, page 34.

#### **2. Historical Reliability**

“Dr. Henry Morris, a Christian apologist and scientist, has written, ‘It must be extremely significant that, in view of the great mass of corroborative evidence regarding the biblical history of these periods, there exists today not one unquestionable find of archaeology that proves the Bible to be in error at any point.’”

Erwin Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*,  
Moody Press, Chicago, IL, page 68.

A few examples of archaeological finds that confirm the Old Testament Biblical record:

- “For decades it was said that the Old Testament writers invented the Hittite tribe, since their existence could not be independently confirmed. However, in 1911-12 Professor Hugo Winckler of Berlin discovered some ten thousand clay tablets at Bogazkoy, the site of the Hittite capital. The existence of the Hittite empire is now extensively proven and documented.
- The existence of Solomon’s reign and his thousands of horses was at one time questioned. But in Meggido, which was one of the five chariot cities, excavations have revealed the ruins of thousands of stalls for his horses and chariots (cf. 1 Kings 10:26-29).”

Erwin Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*,  
Moody Press, Chicago, IL, page 73.

A few examples of archaeological finds that confirm the New Testament Biblical record:

- “the existence of the pool of Bethesda with its five porches (John 5:2).
- Pilate, whose existence was doubted, has been confirmed as a high-ranking Roman official by the discovery of ‘The Pilate Stone’ in Caesarea.
- An altar to ‘an unknown god’ was found in Athens (Acts 17:23).”

Erwin Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*,  
Moody Press, Chicago, IL, page 75.

### 3. Textual Superiority

The Bible has far more historical evidence for its manuscript than any other ancient writing.

<b>Ancient Writing</b>	<b>Date Written</b>	<b>Earliest Manuscript</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Plato’s Writings	350 B.C.	895 A.D.	1,245 years
Homer’s <i>Iliad</i>	800 B.C.	200 A.D.	1,000 years
Josephus: The Jewish War	100 A.D.	1,000 A.D.	900 years
Gospel of John	Between 85-95 A.D.	Between 100 - 150 A.D.	65 years (maximum)

<b>Ancient Writing</b>	<b>Number of Manuscripts</b>
Josephus: The Jewish War	<u>9</u>
Plato's Writings	<u>30</u>
Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	<u>650</u>
New Testament	<u>24,000</u>

(Data based on *The Case for Christ, The Reason Why, and Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible.*)

“Kenyon has said ‘in no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament.’”

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, page 63.

“Let me quote Kenyon again: ‘The Interval, then, between the dates of the original composition and the earliest extant (existing) evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.’”

Erwin Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*, Moody Press, Chicago, IL, page 77.

Eyewitness Accounts: John 19:35; Luke 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7

#### 4. **Supernatural Activity**

“The Bible gives powerful evidence that it was supernaturally inspired through numerous detailed prophecies that were recorded earlier and then fulfilled to the letter centuries later.”

Mark Mittelberg, *The Reason Why*, Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, IL, page 39.

#### 5. **Spiritual Authority**

Millions of ordinary people through the centuries of time have had their lives transformed by accepting and living out the principles found in the Bible.

## Messianic Prophecies

Topic	Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
Messiah to be of the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33; Matthew 1-2
Messiah to be of the seed of David	Psalms 132:11; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Isaiah 11:10	Matthew 1:6; Luke 1:32-33; Romans 1:3; Acts 2:30
Messiah to be the Son of God	Psalms 2:7 (Proverbs 30:4)	Luke 1:32; Matthew 3:17
Messiah to be raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Acts 13:35-37
The crucifixion experience	Psalms 22; 69:21	Matthew 27:34-50; John 19:28-30
Messiah to be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18, 21
Messiah to be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35
Galilee to be the first area of Messiah's ministry	Isaiah 9:1-8	Matthew 4:12-16
Messiah will perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	John 11:47; Matthew 11:3-6
Bethlehem to be the place of Messiah's birth	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-6
Messiah will enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-10
Messiah will be pierced	Zechariah 12:10; Psalms 22:16	John 19:34-37
Messiah's final victory over death	Isaiah 25:8	1 Corinthians 15:54; Revelation 7:17; 21:4

Excerpts from The Ryrie Study Bible Addendum,  
Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL

### For Further Study:

*Seven Reasons Why You can Trust the Bible* by Erwin W. Lutzer

*The Reason Why* by Mark Mittelberg

*The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel

*The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller

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