

10 REASONS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

1. Jesus Christ believed the Bible was literally true

There are many passages where Jesus speaks of the Bible as God's word (John 5:39). Since the Bible reliably records the historical event of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead we are able to believe, based upon historical proof, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. The Father put his stamp of approval on Jesus by raising him from the dead. The apostle Peter wrote, "hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. . . you have taken and by lawless hands have crucified him and put him to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it" (Acts 2:22-24). Whatever Jesus tells us to believe we must believe because he alone is the risen Savior of the world. God has proven that by raising him from the dead.

2. The Bible's power to convert a person

There are many biblical examples of unusual conversions recorded in the Bible. There are also many examples of incredible conversions recorded in history and currently. One powerful example from the New Testament is the Apostle Paul. He used to be named "Saul" and was a Jewish Pharisee. He hunted Christians down, tortured and killed them. He then met the risen Savior Jesus and fell before Jesus in worship. He then was baptized and became the greatest Christian missionary in history. He eventually was beheaded by the Roman government preaching that Jesus was the risen Son of God. Why would Paul do this if he were lying? People don't die for what they know is a lie. Many people die for a lie but no one dies for what they know is a lie.

3. The Bible's power to comfort a person

I could relate many Scriptures that have been of great comfort to me over the past thirty years. I have read many "holy books" but none of them speak as the voice of God to me in my trials and dark times of need. The God of the Bible is personal. He is my heavenly Father and he knows me personally, and I have a deep, personal relationship with him. When I read the Bible it is like a frightened child getting a loving letter from his strong, powerful father. The LORD is my Shepherd! He watches over me and loves me and has comforted me time and again through his words of love to me. I have many clear answers to specific prayer too.

4. The Bible says the Bible is the Word of God

Many Bible verses speak of the Bible as God's word. Psalms chapter 119 is a whole chapter speaking in praise of the Bible as God's word. Every verse in chapter 119 speaks in praise of the Bible. For example, "The entirety of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous judgments endures forever" (Psalm 119:160). If the Bible had been corrupted over the centuries then every one of His righteous judgments would not have endured forever.

5. The Bible's literal fulfillment of prophecy

There are literally hundreds of amazing prophecies of the Bible that convince me the Bible is God's word. I could list hundreds of fulfilled prophecies but a simple way to prove this is to read the gospel of Matthew. When you start in chapter one underline every time you read, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet" (e.g. 1:22). Everything about Jesus was foretold hundreds of years before it happened! The date of his coming, his location of birth, his manner of preaching, his rejection by his own people, his genealogy, his virgin birth, his sinless life, miracles, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection and much more.

6. The Bible's confirmation by archaeology

Archaeology consistently proves the Bible and never disproves it. There has never been an archaeological discovery that has undermined or disproved a single thing in the Bible. There have been gaps in the archaeological record. There have been times the Bible will speak of a king or a city or some other archaeological fact that has not been discovered. However, every year those gaps are being filled in. There are many important resources to examine to research this fact out.

7. The Bible's total freedom from all error or contradiction

The Bible alone is completely free from all contradiction and error. This complete harmony and unity is especially miraculous considering the facts that the Bible was written:

- . in three languages
- . over a period of 1600 years
- . by 40 different authors
- . amidst radically diverse cultures of the world
- . from most of the major continents in the world
- . by authors with very diverse backgrounds -kings, prophets, slaves, fishermen, etc
- . covering a broad range of highly controversial theological topics
- . all with complete harmony and freedom from contradiction.

8. The Bible's divine standards for living

An important proof for the divine inspiration of the Bible is the fact that the morality of the Bible is far superior to any other holy book or book of ethics known to man. Jesus taught us to love our enemies! Match that anywhere. The closest would be "tolerate your enemies." Look at how the Bible elevates the role of women in the cultures which follow the teachings of Jesus. Women are fully equal with men in the Bible teaching. Slavery was abolished on two continents (England and America) because the Bible gives full and equal worth to men of all classes and races.

9. The Bible's plan of salvation

Only the Bible has a plan of salvation that depends upon the sacrificial death of the son of God in the flesh. No other religion has a substitutionary atonement. No other religion offers free salvation apart from earning it by works. In no other religion does God pay the penalty of sin in the place of the sinner! Every other religion offers salvation as a reward for a lifetime of good works. God reveals the truth -we are all wicked sinners. The reason people think that they can earn their way to heaven by good works is that they do not understand the offensiveness of their sins to God. God is perfectly pure and undefiled. People think that they can have a few bad thoughts or a few white lies or a few lustful attitudes and God will accept them as long as they do not do any "really bad" sins. But think of it this way, a bloodhound has much better sense of smell than a human right? If a human thinks something smells bad, and if the blood hound has the same opinion of that smell, then it smells really bad to the bloodhound. Make sense? So too, we see a sin and think it is bad but God has an infinite sense of holiness, so the smallest sin smells" infinitely putrid to Him. In God's nostrils there are no small sins. They all stink to high heaven. All of mankind smells like the city dump to God. Even our best works, the prophet said are as "filthy rags" to God. Salvation could never be earned by good works because even our best good works are soaked through with offensive odors to God.

10. The Bible's plan of sanctification

Basically "sanctification means how to live a holy, meaningful life being set apart from sin and serving God. Only the Bible's plan brings love, joy, peace, gentleness, self-control, and freedom from addictions, depression and meaninglessness. Psychology simply does not work.