



Explore God: Is the Bible Reliable?

October 23, 2023

2 Peter 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1. The Bible is _____ clear story.

a. Written over many _____.

- *Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) 16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas,...*

b. Written by many _____.

- *Hebrews 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

c. Written with one clear _____.

- *John 8:39 [Jesus said,] You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. **These are the Scriptures that testify about me,** 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

- *John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

2. The Bible is a record of _____!

a. Events that are carefully _____!

- *Luke 1:1-4 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

b. Events that intersect with _____ history!

- *Ezra 6:3 In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be ninety feet high and ninety feet wide,*
- *John 3:1-2 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert*

c. Events verified by _____ eyewitnesses!

- *2 Peter 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

3. The Bible is _____!

a. In its fulfillment of _____.

- *Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*
- *Matthew 8:17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."*

b. In its faithful _____.

- *Matthew 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

c. **In its _____ on faith.**

- *Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*
- *Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*
- *Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

4. How do I answer this question?

- a. What has led you to think that the Bible is not reliable?
- b. What evidence would help convince you that the Bible is reliable?
- c. Take one or two "proofs" from this week's message and ask permission to share them as reasons you are convinced of the Bible's reliability.

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE FOR ANCIENT WRITINGS

Author	Written	Earliest Fragment / Copy	Time Span (in years)	Number of Manuscripts
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1,000	20
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1,400	193
Homer (Illiad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
NEW TESTAMENT	A.D. 40-100	A.D. 125	8-30	24,000

NEXT WEEK: Explore God! – “Can I Know God Personally?”

Miss a week of the series “Explore God” Go to www.crosspointgtx.com Live Stream page to find sermon archives!

Also, don't miss the devotional emails this week to build on today's message!

(Go to crosspointgtx.com and click on “Daily Devotions” – bottom left.)

MY PERSONAL NOTES

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message: