

God

The Bible

What is the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

The word Bible is from the Greek word Biblia which simply means books. This is exactly what the bible is. It is a collection of 66 different books that make up 1 book. Those 66 books are separated into 2 sections called Testaments. The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is made up of 39 books and the New Testament is made up of 27 books. These 66 books were written over 1500 years, on 3 continents, by 40 different authors, in 3 different languages (O.T.-Hebrew, N.T.-Greek/Aramaic) and they all come together to tell 1 story and point to 1 person.

Ultimately the Bible has ONE author...GOD

Why do we as Christians believe the Bible is reliable and can be trusted?

M – MANUSCRIPTS

This refers to the **textual transmission** of the Bible: how well the original texts were preserved and passed down through copies.

• Quantity:

- 24,000+ total New Testament manuscripts
- 43,000+ total Old Testament

• Comparison:

- Compared to other ancient works, like...
 - Homer's *Iliad* (643 manuscripts, 500 years after original)
 - Caesars Gallic Wars 10 manuscripts, 900 years after)
 - the Bible has **vastly superior documentation**.

• Quality:

- Early fragments date within **30–100 years** of the originals
- High **agreement** between manuscripts (~99.5%), with most variations being minor (spelling, word order).

Isaiah 40:8 (NLT); Matthew 24:35 (NIV)

A – ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology provides **physical evidence** that supports the Bible's historical claims. There are thousands of discoveries validating the events and people the Bible talks about.

1. The Dead Seas Scrolls (Discovered 1947)

- Contain OT texts from ~250 BC – AD 70
- Confirm the reliability of the Masoretic text (Hebrew Bible) used today showing the

remarkable consistency of biblical texts over time.

2. The Tel Dan Inscription (Discovered 1993–94)

- **Significance:** An Aramaic inscription mentioning the “House of David.”
- **Validation:** Confirms the historical existence of King David's dynasty.

3. Hezekiah’s Tunnel & Inscription (Discovered 1880)

- **Significance:** King Hezekiah's Tunnel is a 1,750 foot long water tunnel built during the 8th century BC in Jerusalem, diverting water from the Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam within the city walls. It was likely constructed to secure the city's water supply during a potential Assyrian siege. In the tunnel is an inscription detailing how the tunnel was built.
- **Validation:** Mentioned in 2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:30.

4. The Pool of Siloam (Discovered 2004)

- **Significance:** The pool where Jesus healed a blind man (John 9).
- **Validation:** Confirms a New Testament location and context.

5. The Pilate Stone (Discovered 1961)

- **Significance:** Inscription mentioning Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.
- **Validation:** Affirms the historicity of a key figure in the crucifixion narrative.

Luke 19:40 (NIV) - “I tell you”, he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

P – PROPHECY

The Bible contains **specific, fulfilled prophecies**, many written centuries before the events occurred.

- **Messianic Prophecies:**
 - Over **300 prophecies** about Jesus, including:
 - Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
 - Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13)
 - Pierced hands and feet (Psalm 22:16)
 - Buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:9)
- **Prophecies about nations:**
 - Destruction of **Tyre** (Ezekiel 26) – fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander the Great
 - Fall of **Babylon** (Isaiah 13, Jeremiah 51) – fulfilled by the Medo-Persians
 - Rise and fall of **empires** (Daniel 2, 7) – Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome

2 Peter 1:21 (NIV) - For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Action Steps

Meditate on God’s Word: Psalm 119:11, 105 (NLT)

Apply God’s Word: James 1:22 (NLT); Psalm 119: 105 (NLT)

Proclaim God's Word: Mark 16:15 (ESV)



Podcast



Sermon Resources Group Questions Overtime