

How we got the Bible

So, how, exactly, do we know that the Bible is accurate?

1. Bibliographical test:

How do we know it's been translated accurately over the years?

- A. Compare Bible manuscripts from 200 AD and 1600 AD; they're virtually identical.
This can be said of no other book of antiquity...

2. Internal test:

Did what's written about really happen?

- A. Despite the popular rumor, there are no mistakes in the Bible.
- B. A disciple couldn't afford to risk inaccuracies which would be at once exposed by people only too glad to do so; specifically the Jews...
- C. Disciples appealed to common events the average person would have known.
Example: in **Matthew 3** with the story of the desert of Judea.

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3. External test:

Does other historical material agree, or disagree with the Bible?

A. Archaeology confirms the Bible. The late, renowned archaeologist, Nelson Glueck, said that no archaeological discovery has ever disagreed with the Bible...

B. Josephus, a 1st Century historian confirms many things in the Bible...

C. Many of the early Church fathers were excellent historians.
Eusebius; also ***Luke 1:1-4***

Archaeology **CONFIRMS** the Bible...
Many times the Bible has filled in historical gaps
that have added immeasurably
to our knowledge of historical backgrounds.
This can be said of **NO OTHER BOOK** of antiquity!

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So, how, exactly, do we know that the Bible is accurate? (Continued)

4. Fulfilled prophecies:

Unlike any other book, the Bible contains thousands of accurate predictions.

A. Exponents:

$10 = 10^1$, or 10 to the 1st power, or a 1 followed by 1 zero

$100 = 10 \times 10$, or 10^2 , or 10 to the 2nd power, or a 1 followed by 2 zeros

$1,000 = 10 \times 10 \times 10$, or 10^3 , or 10 to the 3rd power, or a 1 followed by 3 zeros

$1,000,000 = 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$, or 10^6 , or 10 to the 6th power,
or a 1 followed by 6 zeros

B. Scientists have defined impossibility as being no greater than 1 chance in 10^{53} power.

Ten times impossible is 1 in 10^{54} power.

One hundred times impossible is 10^{55} power.

C. Peter Stoner's statistics class figured out the chance of just 11 Old Testament prophecies coming true by random chance.

They arrived at 1 chance in 10^{59} power!

D. More than 300 prophecies of the coming Messiah were completely accurate / fulfilled as predicted... Just taking 48 of these, the chances of this happening randomly is 1 chance in 10^{157} power!

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4. Fulfilled prophecies: (Continued)

Unlike any other book, the Bible contains thousands of accurate predictions.

E. These statistics cannot be applied to any other book in all of history, whether ancient or present literature...

F. Modern-day psychics are wrong more often than they're right. In fact, their chance of being right is a little better than the chance of guessing...

G. For more on prophecies, see http://truthforsaints.com/science_speaks.html
Scroll down to Chapter 2: Prophetic Accuracy and
Chapter 3: the Christ of Prophecy

5. Sociological effects:

What effect has Christianity had on individual lives and on civilization?

A. Transformed lives of the _____.

B. Transformed lives over _____
_____.

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5. Sociological effects: (Continued)

What effect has Christianity had on individual lives and on civilization?

C. Civilization

1. The Christian Church; for whatever its negative effects, its positive effects far outweigh the negative ones...
2. Because of Christianity, _____ has dramatically increased around the world.
3. _____ have been elevated to an equality with men due to Christianity.
4. _____ for the common person is a result of Christianity.
5. _____ for the common man is a result of Christianity.

Most of the world's hospitals, orphanages, soup kitchens, care ministries, etc. were started by Christians or Christian organizations.