How Do We Know the Bible Is God's Word?

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Objective: To provide evidence for the inspiration and inerrancy of scripture, that is, evidence that the Bible is actually from God, and true. And we'll consider the implications.

There are at least three reasons to believe that the Bible is of supernatural origin, and from God.

1. The unity of the Bible.

The Bible contains 66 books written by some 40 authors, in 3 languages, over the course of 1500 years, yet contains one unifying theme: The redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ. How does one explain this?

“Imagine various pieces of a cathedral arriving from different countries and cities, converging on a central location. In fact, imagine that some investigation proves that forty different sculptors made contributions over a period of many centuries. Yet the pieces fit together to form a single magnificent structure. Wouldn't this be proof that behind the project was a single mind, one designer who used His workmen to sculpt a well-conceived plan?”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Old Testament prophecy concerning Jesus.

Dozens of prophecies about Jesus, for example, the place and manner of his birth, aspects of his life, betrayal, death by crucifixion, and so many more, were written hundreds of years before his life. How can this be possible?

For example, that Jesus would be:

* Born into the Human Race (Gen. 3:15).
* From within the Jewish Nation (Gen. 12:1).
* Of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10).
* From the dynasty of David (2 Sam 7:12).
* Of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
* Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
* Crucified in 33AD (Daniel 9:24).[[2]](#footnote-2)

The odds of just 8 prophecies to come true in one man have been calculated at 1 in 1x1017.[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. The teaching and authority of Jesus. Following is the argument[[4]](#footnote-4):
* The New Testament is historically reliable.
* In the New Testament, Jesus claimed to be God and predicted his Resurrection. (John 8:58, Mark 8:31).
* The Resurrection confirms Jesus’ claim to be God. (Acts 2:22). Further, the minimum facts argument provides a case for the Resurrection of God without assuming the inspiration of the New Testament, avoiding the appearance of circular reasoning.
* Whatever Jesus, who is God, taught is true because God can not make a mistake, and can not lie. (Titus 1:2, Heb. 6:18).
* Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God. He affirmed the Old Testament and promised the coming of the New Testament by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26, John 16:13).
* Therefore, the Bible is from God and true.

This is an example of inductive reasoning, when we follow the evidence where it leads.

This leads to the doctrine of Inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16), that the scriptures were "breathed out" by God, the Holy Spirit, through the writers.

Inspiration is then followed by the doctrine of Inerrancy, that the original documents were wholly free from error, because God cannot make a mistake.

What are the implications that the Bible is the very word of God?

* It means that everything in the Bible is true. The Biblical worldview is true, and anything opposed to it is necessarily false.
* We have a spectacular opportunity to study the Bible to get the answers to all of the big questions in life, that is, worldview related questions. Where did I come from? Is there purpose and meaning to my life? Is there an objective moral standard, and how then should I live? What is my destiny? Further, God provides us with the end of the story.
* We also have an incredible opportunity to study the Bible to understand who God is. As we study God and his attributes (this is Theology), we find again and again that he is Faithful, Truthful, Merciful, Holy, Loving, and Good, among so many others.

Conclusion: We have sufficient evidence independent of the Bible; from the historical reliability of the New Testament, and the minimal facts argument for the Resurrection; that the Bible actually is from God. The doctrine of inspiration as claimed in the Bible is true, and the doctrine of inerrancy follows, because God can not make a mistake. The Bible truly can be trusted as God's Word.

1. Erwin W. Lutzer, *Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible*, (Chicago: Moody, 2001), 51. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For more information see: https://www.gotquestions.org/seventy-sevens.html; accessed 6/26/23. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, (Chicago: Moody, 1976), 100-107. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This process is detailed in Dr. Norman Geisler, *12 Points that Show Christianity is True*, (Indian Trail, NC: NGIM, 2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)