

The Reliability of The Bible

Many learned and powerful men throughout the ages have sought to disprove or destroy the Bible. Yet the Bible, against such vehement opposition, has not only endured, but has flourished; while those who sought to destroy it went on to death and decay. Over the history of man, the Bible has indeed proved to be "the anvil that has worn out many hammers." The Bible is the Word of God, is reliable, and therefore worthy of our trust.

Amazing Facts

- A. The Bible was written by 40 different authors
- B. It was written over a 1500 year period, different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek)
- C. Authors were from a variety of backgrounds
 - 1. Solomon was a king
 - 2. Peter was a fisherman
 - 3. Joshua was a military general
 - 4. Amos was a herdsman

Despite such cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic and human diversity the message of the Bible is of one accord, and written in complete harmony! It has also survived every attempt to eliminate it.

The Arrangement of God's Word

A. Old Testament

- 1. Number of books in the Old Testament: 39
 - a. Historical - the first seventeen books
 - b. Poetical - the next five books
 - c. Prophetical - the last seventeen books
- 2. Jesus validates the Old Testament (Matthew 12:39-40; Luke 24:44)
- 3. The Old Testament begins with creation, and tells the story of the Jewish people up to the time of Christ, and points to the coming Messiah.

B. New Testament (Prophecy fulfilled through Christ)

- 1. Number of books in the New Testament: 27
 - a. The Gospels and Acts - First five books are historical
 - b. The Pauline Epistles - Next thirteen books to Churches (nine) and individuals (four)
 - c. The General Letters - last nine books
- 2. Peter referred to Paul's writings as scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- 3. The New Testament quotes both Old Testament and itself:

1 Timothy 5:18 quotes both: Deuteronomy 25:4 (OT) and Luke 10:7 (NT) as Scripture.

Total number of books in the Bible:66

What the Bible says about itself

- It is eternal (Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24-25)
- It is powerful (Jeremiah 23:29; Hebrews 4:12; Luke 16:31)
- It is authoritative (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 4:4)
- It is the truth (John 17:17)
- It points Jesus Christ (Luke 24:27; John 5:46-47)
- It is essential (Matthew 7:24-27; Psalms 119:11)