

# 5 Reasons To Trust The Bible

**1. *The Bible's own claim to authority...*** Hundreds of verses claim God as the author of parts or the whole of the Scriptures. For example, in the OT, Exodus 20:1 and in the NT, 2 Timothy 3:16. Also, you find warnings to not add or take away from what is recorded, like in Revelation 22:18-19. Some people claim this reason is circular, which, in one sense, it is. But it is also a truth claim that can be assessed by other factors. If God did not claim to be the originator of the Bible, then why would we spend so much time confirming it?

In his book, Seven Reasons You Can Trust The Bible, Erwin Lutzer writes... *“What if we were to systematically page through the Bible, listing all of the instances in which it claims to be of divine origin? Either directly or indirectly we would find some fifteen hundred statements that claimed its divine origin. The sixty-six books speak with a consistent voice that these are the words of God. To say that the writers were either deceived or lying just does not wash. If so, the Bible is surely the most fraudulent book that has ever been written! It would be a matter of incomprehensible irony that the very book that has inspired the highest standard of morality, the book that has given the world the most coherent worldview, the book that has given us a Christ who is admired even by skeptics – that this book is based on multiplied deceptions is beyond belief.”*

**2. *The Bible's internal unity of message.*** The Bible was written by over 40 different authors, over 1500 years, on three different continents, in three different languages, and in many different cultural settings... and the message is totally **unified**: God saves His people through a Messiah who is Jesus Christ.

**3. *Historical Accuracy.*** To date, archeology has not been able to disprove any historical facts recorded in the Bible. Quite the opposite. The more that archeology searches, the more they **confirm** the historical references in the Bible. And I have personally experienced much of that archeology in Israel on my trips there! I'm a believer! If anyone doesn't believe in the historical accuracy of the Bible, they should take a tour of Israel.

**4. *Textual Accuracy.*** This is always my favorite. There is no other book from antiquity that has been verified in so many different ways. Regarding the NT, there is no other book that has nearly as many “extant copies” (available copies) to verify accuracy. In Josh McDowell's Evidence That Demands A Verdict he writes, *“There are now more than 5300 known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Add over 10,000 Latin Vulgate and at least 9300 other early versions and we have more than 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence today (which, in combination, verify every word). No other document of antiquity even begins to approach such numbers and attestation. In comparison, the Iliad by Homer is second with only 643 manuscripts that still survive.”* Check out chapter 4 of Evidence That Demands A Verdict.

Regarding the OT, I just need to cite one fact out of many that verify its accuracy. Prior to discovering the Dead Sea Scrolls, the earliest manuscripts of the OT were from around 800 AD. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, they dated back to the second century BC. All the texts of the hundreds of manuscripts found absolutely verified **everything** in our current OT Bibles! Scholars say that the discovery of the scrolls was the greatest archeological discovery ever. (By the way, I had opportunity to visit the museum in Israel where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept, one of which they have on display).

**5. *Affirmation by Christ.*** In Jesus' teaching he often referred to the OT... both to make theological points and to discuss historical points. In fact, he often used the historical stories to prove his theological points (like how the story of Jonah predicted his death, burial and resurrection). So if Jesus considered the Bible to be so important, then if we do not, we are discounting the legitimacy of Jesus' words.

These are the five reasons that I always go back to on this discussion. There are more if you look. It's a pretty open and shut case. You have to be blind to all the facts in order to say that the Bible is not from God or not trustworthy.