



BASICS

Revisiting
the
foundations
of Christian
faith!

Why the Bible?

“So then faith comes by
hearing, and hearing by
the word of God.”

Romans 10:17

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Why the Bible?

Christian faith “is about something that *happened*. Something that happened *to Jesus of Nazareth*. Something that happened *through Jesus of Nazareth*.”
(from *Simply Christian*, N.T. Wright)

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Why the Bible?

Wright continues...

“Christianity is all about the belief that the living God, in fulfillment of his promises and as the climax of story of Israel, has accomplished all this -- the finding, the saving, the giving of new life -- in Jesus.”

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Why the Bible?

**But how do we
know this?**

**We know it from the
testimony of the Bible!**

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Why the Bible?

Romans 10:14-17

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

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Why the Bible?

Romans 10:14-17

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'

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Why the Bible?

Romans 10:14-17

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Goes
Beyond Incredible!**

Consider its Unity

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Why the Bible?

Rabbi Glenn Harris observes...

“Imagine questioning forty different people on their religious views: people from every socio-economic background ranging from extreme poverty to...

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Why the Bible?

...immense wealth in nearly every walk of life...

**Kings and paupers,
statesmen and fishermen,
poets and physicians...**

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Why the Bible?

**...on three separate
continents...**

Asia, Africa, and Europe

**...in three different languages
Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic**

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Why the Bible?

...taking several forms

...poetry, history, civil and criminal law, ethics, didactic, parable, biography, prophecy, personal correspondence...

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Why the Bible?

**And spanning a
period of nearly
1,500 years!**

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Why the Bible?

And if you asked them to put their observations, thoughts and feelings about God and about ultimate reality into writing what kind of book do you suppose you'd end up with?

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Why the Bible?

**Would they all agree?
Hardly. You'd probably wind
up with a mishmash. Well,
the Biblical writers represent
exactly this societal,
linguistic, cultural and
geographic diversity,**

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Why the Bible?

...and yet there is remarkable harmony and both thematic and statistical consistency throughout the book! At the very least, it must be acknowledged that the Bible is a unique book!

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Goes
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Consider its Historicity

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Why the Bible?

Comparison of Homer's *The Iliad* with the New Testament

WORK	WHEN WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN	NUMBER OF COPIES
Homer The Iliad	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 years	643
N.T.	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.*	25 years	24,000+

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

J. Harold Greenlee, wrote that the quotations of the Scripture in the works of the early Christian writers,

“... are so extensive that the New Testament could virtually be reconstructed from them without the use of New Testament manuscripts.”

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

Sir David Dalrymple states,

“All but eleven verses of the New Testament are found in the works of second and third century writers.”

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

Sir David Dalrymple continues...

“In addition to the many thousands of NT manuscripts, there are over 86,000 quotations of the NT in the early church fathers, and quotations in thousands of early lectionaries.”

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

The late Millar Burrows, renowned Professor of Archaeology at Yale University has written...

“The excessive skepticism of many liberal theologians stems not from a careful evaluation of the available data, but from an enormous predisposition against the supernatural.”

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

Prior to 1906 critics of biblical historicity argued that the Bible's descriptions of the Hittite Empire were later insertions, since they were certain the Hittite Empire didn't exist, owing to lack of physical evidence for it.

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

But in 1906 archaeologists unearthed the Hittite capital and in the years following excavated what is now known to have been a massive and very prominent Hittite civilization.

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

More recently, liberal scholars, intent on maintaining their criticism of the Bible, argued that the Gospel of John could not have been written by John, but must have come much later, owing to two factors...

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

1. The use of imagery they presupposed to be of later Gnostic influence (i.e., terms such as "sons of light" and "sons of darkness").

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

2. Allegedly inaccurate historical details (such as a 5th portico at the pool of Bethesda [cf. John 5:2] whereas every Judean pool excavated had just four porticoes).

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

Texts paralleling and even pre-dating the NT manuscripts (chiefly at Qumran, the Dead Sea Scrolls) evidenced the very same apocalyptic terminology.

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Historicity

In 1956 archaeologists discovered underneath what they had previously thought was the earliest level at the site of Bethesda an older mikveh (pool) which had a fifth portico!

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Goes
Beyond Incredible!**

Consider its Accuracy

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Accuracy

The New Testament contains approximately 20,000 lines, of which 40 lines are in question. This equals one fifth of one percent, .002%

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Accuracy

The Iliad contains approximately 15,600 lines, of which 764 lines are in question. This equals five percent. That's over twenty times more variants than the New Testament in a document which is only three-quarters its length.

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Accuracy

Many of these variants involve nothing more than a missing letter in a word, a misspelling, or a reversal of the order of two words.

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Why the Bible?

Consider its Accuracy

Some may involve the absence of a word; but of all the variants in the NT, it should be noted that only about 50 have any real significance, and that not one essential point of Christian doctrine rests upon a disputed reading.

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Asks the
Most Important
Questions!**

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Why the Bible?

**Why does man exist?
What is our purpose for
being here?
Why is there evil and
suffering in the world?**

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Why the Bible?

**What happens to me
after I die?**

**Is there such a thing as
objective truth?**

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Why the Bible?

**“I have read many
books, but the Bible
reads me.”
(Anonymous)**

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Why the Bible?

**“When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, 'It is talking to me, and about me.’”
(Soren Kierkegaard)**

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Why the Bible?

“But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” John 6:68

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Why the Bible?

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Reveals the
Way to Salvation &
Life Transformation!**

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Why the Bible?

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,” 1 Peter 1:22-23

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Why the Bible?

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ Luke 4:4

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Reveals the
Way to Salvation & Life
Transformation!**

**The What
Objective Truth & Revelation**

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Why the Bible?

**“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things
were made through Him, and
without Him nothing was made that
was made. In Him was life, and the
life was the light of men.”**

John 1:1-4

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Reveals the
Way to Salvation & Life
Transformation!**

**The Who
A Lord & Savior**

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Why the Bible?

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”

John 1:6-9

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Why the Bible?

**The Bible Reveals the
Way to Salvation & Life
Transformation!**

**The How
Through Faith & Belief**

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Why the Bible?

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John 1:12-13



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