

# CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

March 15, 2026  
Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

## IN THE "ANSWERS" SERIES:

**March 8:** *Does God Exist?*      **March 15:** *Can We Trust the Bible?*  
**March 22:** *Why Does God Allow Suffering?*      **March 29:** *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?*  
**April 5:** *What Does the Resurrection Prove?*  
**April 12:** *Effective Ways to Give Answers and Defend Your Faith*

## THE CHRISTIAN FAITH HAS SOLID AND THOUGHTFUL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PEOPLE ARE ASKING.

**1 Peter 3:15b–16a (NLT) (15)...**If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. (16) But do this in a gentle and respectful way...

## TODAY'S BIG QUESTION: CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

### FIVE REASONS WE CAN AND SHOULD TRUST THE BIBLE:

1) The \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ even though it was written over 1500 years by 40 different authors.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT) (16)** All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (17) God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

**2 Peter 1:20–21 (NLT) (20)** Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, (21) or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

2) No book in human history has \_\_\_\_\_ what the Bible has survived.

Document	Manuscripts	Earliest Copy	Time Gap
Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars	~10 copies	~900 A.D.	~1,000 years
Homer's Iliad	~650 copies	~400 B.C.	~400 years
New Testament	5,800+ Greek copies	Fragments: ~100 A.D.	Within decades

## THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS MORE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE, AND BETTER MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE, THAN ANY OTHER DOCUMENT FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD—AND IT ISN'T EVEN CLOSE.

3) Archeological discoveries \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.

## NO ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY HAS EVER CONTRADICTED OR DISPROVED THE BIBLE.

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4) The \_\_\_\_\_ found in the Bible demonstrate God’s direction of the human authors.

TOPIC	O.T. Prophecy	N.T. Fulfillment	Written Before
Jesus’ Place of Birth	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1	~700 B.C.
Jesus’ Virgin Birth	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18	~700 B.C.
Triumphal Entry	Zechariah 9:9	John 12:13–14	~520 B.C.
Jesus’ Betrayal	Psalms 41:9	Mark 14:10	~1000 B.C.
Jesus’ Rejection	Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11	~700 B.C.
Jesus’ Crucifixion	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38	~700 B.C.
Resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Acts 3:15	~1000 B.C.
Ascension	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9	~1000 B.C.

5) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible and often quoted it in His teachings.

**Matthew 5:17–18 (NLT)** (17) “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. (18) I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

**JESUS—THE SON OF GOD, THE ONE WHO CONQUERED DEATH—TRUSTED THE SCRIPTURES.**

**CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? YES! CHOOSE TO LIVE BY IT. IF YOU WILL, IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE BOTH ON THIS EARTH AND FOR ALL ETERNITY!**

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For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at [info@otterbeinchurch.org](mailto:info@otterbeinchurch.org), or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking “**Next Steps > Jesus**” on

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