

But Why?

Part 3: Why should I trust the Bible?

April 23, 2023

"Then [John]... went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. (John 20:8–9, New Living Translation)

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side. (John 20:24–25, NLT)

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe! (John 20:26–27, NLT)

What is the Bible?

1. The Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus came.

1.) The Law of Moses

- 5 books: Genesis through Deuteronomy

2.) The Prophets

- 21 books: Joshua and Judges; the books of 1 Samuel through 2 Kings; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea through Malachi.

3.) The Writings

- 13 books: Psalms, Proverbs, and Job; Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther; Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah, and 1 & 2 Chronicles.

"When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44–45, NLT)

2. The New Testament was written AFTER Jesus came.

1) The Gospels are eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life.

Eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you . . . so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. (Luke 1:2–4, NLT)

- 4 books: Matthew through John.

2) Acts tells the history of the Early Church.

- 1 book: Acts

3) The Epistles were letters from the Apostles.

[Jesus] was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. . . Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles." (1 Corinthians 15:5–9, NLT)

All they knew was that people were saying, 'The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!' And they praised God because of me. (Galatians 1:23–24, NLT)

- 16 books: Romans through Jude

4) Revelation is about the End Times.

- 1 book: Revelation

Yes, I am coming soon! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people. (Revelation 22:20–21, NLT)

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY IS THE REAL DEAL?

Why should I read the Bible?

1. It is God-breathed.

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. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NLT)

2. It is alive!

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. (Hebrews 4:12, NLT)

Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us! (1 Samuel 7:12, NLT)

3. It will accomplish what God sends it to do.

My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do. (Isaiah 55:11, Holman Christian Standard Bible)

How do I read my Bible?

1. Read through the whole Bible.

2. Start where you have a need.

Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter...

(1 Corinthians 7:1, NLT)

START READING TODAY!



My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." (John 20:28–29, NLT)

Final thought: Read God's Word for yourself!