

THE BIBLE:

*Is the Bible Historically
Reliable?*

AT THE CORE OF CHRISTIANITY IS
THIS HISTORIC CONVICTION:

*God influenced and directed the writers of
Scripture so that, even while writing
according to their own styles, personalities,
and life experiences, the end result was that
God's Word was written, authoritative,
trustworthy, and free from error in the
original manuscripts.*

AT THE CORE OF CHRISTIANITY IS
THIS HISTORIC CONVICTION:

2 Peter 1:20-21

*Above all, you do well if you recognize this:
No prophecy of scripture ever comes about
by the prophet's own imagination, for no
prophecy was ever borne of human impulse;
rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit
spoke from God.*

IS THE TEXT WE HAVE TODAY HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

- *How many copies of the original manuscripts do we have?*

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- *“Perhaps we can appreciate how wealthy the New Testament is in manuscript attestation if we compare the textual material for other ancient historical works. For Caesar’s Gallic Wars there are several MSS, but only nine or ten are good, and the oldest is some 900 years later than Caesar’s day. Of the 142 books of the Roman history of Livy, only 35 survive ... Of the 14 books of the Histories of Tacitus only four and a half survive ... There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the NT.” Books and Parchments, 178.*

IS THE TEXT WE HAVE TODAY HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

- *How many copies of the original manuscripts do we have?*
- *How much time elapsed between the time when the original was written and the first manuscript evidence?*

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“In the original Greek alone, over 5,000 manuscripts and manuscript fragments of portions of the NT have been preserved from the early centuries of Christianity. The oldest of these is a script of papyrus containing John 18:31-33, 27-28, dating from A.D. 125-130, no more than forty years after John’s Gospel was most probably written. More than thirty papyri date from the late second through early third centuries, including some which contain good chunks of entire books and two which cover most of the Gospels and Acts or the letters of Paul. Four very reliable and nearly complete NTs date from the fourth and fifth centuries.” William Lane Craig, Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics, 193-194

IS THE TEXT WE HAVE TODAY HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

- *How many copies of the original manuscripts do we have?*
- *How much time elapsed between the time when the original was written and the first manuscript evidence?*
- *How accurate are the copies?*

IS THE TEXT WE HAVE TODAY HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

*“The New Testament is unrivaled
among ancient writings in the purity of
its text as actually transmitted and kept
in use.” Introduction to Textual
Criticism of the New Testament, 12-13*

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- *Were the authors in a position to know what they were talking about?*
- *Did the authors intend to accurately record the historical account of what actually happened?*
- *Does archeology and other external evidence verify the facts?*

GOD HAS SPOKEN!

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

GOD HAS SPOKEN!

2 Timothy 3:16

*All Scripture is God-breathed and it is useful
for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and
training in righteousness*

GOD HAS SPOKEN!

John 17:15-17

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.