

7 Reasons we can trust the Bible

1. **Fulfilled Prophecies** Centuries before Jesus was born, Old Testament prophets predicted the coming of a Savior who would:
 - Be a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1–3, 22:18)
 - Be born into the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - Be born into the lineage of David (2 Samuel 7:12f)
 - Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - Be born to a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
 - Come while the temple was still standing (Malachi 3:1)
 - Open the eyes of the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, and cause the lame to walk (Isaiah 35:5–6)
 - Be “despised and rejected” by His own people (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7)
 - Probability of these and other prophecies being fulfilled: 1 in 100 quadrillion (Isaiah 46:9–10).
2. **Archaeological Discoveries** Thousands of archaeological discoveries have verified the Bible's historical reliability, including:
 - Evidence of David, Pontius Pilate, and first-century crucifixion.
 - Ancient accounts of a catastrophic flood (Genesis 6–8).
 - The palace of Sennacherib and the siege on Lachish (2 Chronicles 32:1f; 2 Kings 18:13–17; Isaiah 36:1–2).
 - Ruins of Jericho (Joshua 6).
 - Hezekiah's tunnel (2 Kings 20:20).
 - The “Pool of Siloam” (John 9:1–12).
 - Jacob's Well (John 4:6).
 - Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2).
3. **Internal Consistency**
 - The Bible consists of 66 books by about 40 authors from various backgrounds.
 - Written over 1,500+ years, in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek).
 - Scripture addresses life's most controversial questions:
 - Universe's origin.
 - God's existence and nature.
 - Human purpose.
 - Evil and suffering.
 - Life after death.

4. The Bible is Forthcoming About Failures

- Records the failures of key figures like Abraham, Moses, David, and the apostles.
- Examples include Noah's drunkenness (Genesis 9:21–22), Abraham's lies (Genesis 12:13, 20:2), and David's adultery (2 Samuel 11).
- Highlights the failings of Israel and the disciples.
- If one were trying to make up a story with truth claims, he or she would not include such broken witnesses.

5. Early Christians' Persecution

- Early Christians endured severe persecution:
 - Matthew: slain in Ethiopia.
 - Mark: dragged in Alexandria.
 - Luke: hung in Greece.
 - John: tortured and exiled to Patmos.
 - James: beheaded in Jerusalem.
 - Others faced stoning, flaying, crucifixion, and spearing.

6. Transformative Power

- The Bible has inspired:
 - Hospitals and orphanages.
 - Universities (Harvard, Yale, Princeton).
 - Humanitarian efforts.
 - Biblical Justice movements.
 - Scientific investigation.
 - Great art and music.
 - Abolition of slavery (William Wilberforce and others).

7. Testimony of Jesus

- Jesus affirmed the Scriptures as:
 - Sanctifying Truth (John 17:17).
 - Historically Reliable.
 - Divinely Authoritative (Matthew 4:1–11).
 - Accurate on Human Origins (Matthew 19:4).
 - Dependable (John 10:35).
 - Indestructible (Matthew 5:18).

For further reading, consider "What if the Bible Had Never Been Written?" by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe.

