

# Core Beliefs

## The Bible Is True



While God reveals his power and beauty in creation, we get little information from it about his nature, his will and how we play a part in it. That must come from a more direct revelation. For Christians, that revelation is found in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

The Bible is one of the most ancient religious writings in existence. Its earliest books are written as early as 1500 BC, but it begins with stories of events that date back thousands of years earlier. And from its beginning, the writers assert that what they are writing is not their own ideas, but God’s direct communication to his people. The phrase, “The Lord says” appears almost 200 times in the Old Testament. From the Ten Commandments to the warnings of the prophets, God communicates to us through his inspired word.

### What is Inspiration?

The idea of inspiration means “breathed out by God” and there was universal agreement among the Jewish people that the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings were special because they were words from God’s own breath. How inspiration works is a more complex matter. We don’t fully understand how God used flawed humans to communicate his flawless message, but Peter explained it like this,

*For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21*

In the first century, Jesus came as God’s unique Son and brought the authoritative message of God to humanity. The Sermon on the Mount is a perfect example of Jesus’ message and authority. He would say, “*You have heard it said to people long ago,*” speaking of the Jewish people and their understanding of God’s will. “*But I say to you . . .*”, and then he would pass on a clearer understanding of that ancient message—not replacing it but perfecting it. Jesus was God’s heavenly messenger to show us the Father and reveal God’s plan.

But how do we know the Bible is what it claims to be—God’s protected communication to humanity? One thing is certain, if God inspired the Bible, then we have in it all the information we need to understand our world and chart the course for our future. We’ll always have unanswered questions, but if God speaks to us through the Bible, that is the place we should go to find our answers.

So why should I trust the Bible to be God’s inspired word? Well, let’s be honest. There is not one light-bulb-answer that makes us go, “that settles it.” But there are many reasons to believe it to be so, and all of them together makes a compelling case for the inspiration of the Bible. Let’s look at a few.

## The Unity of the Bible

Some people mistakenly believe that someone sat down one day and wrote down the whole Bible. Actually, the Bible is a collection of books that were written over 1500 years, by 40 different writers in three different languages. And they had no grand outline to work from. God guided each to write in their time to their people. Over time, their writings were collected in our Bible, but when you read it, the Bible reads like one story. It begins with the tree of life in the perfect Garden of Eden and it concludes with that same tree of life flourishing in God's perfect Kingdom. Early prophets describe the coming Messiah and the gospels tell of the arrival of Jesus to fulfill that promise. The unity of the Bible points to God as its overarching author. Although it was written by many people over many years, its author and protector has woven together a unified story of God's pursuit to redeem and restore humanity.

## Historical Accuracy

Over the years, people have tried to show that the stories in the Bible were ancient myths not grounded in reality. But archaeology has repeatedly proven that the Bible is a historically accurate account. Places mentioned there have been uncovered. People mentioned there have been shown to have lived and ruled. And while there are still some unanswered questions, archaeology continues to affirm the accuracy of the Biblical account of history.

## Prophetic Fulfillment

We mentioned that the unity of the Scripture is affirmed by the fulfillment of its ancient prophecies. There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament and many of them are about the promise of a coming Messiah. Although Jesus was not the kind of Messiah they were looking for, he proved to be the authentic one because he fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Old Testament. The number of prophecies is debated, but some suggest that over 300 statements from hundreds of years earlier were fulfilled by Jesus. If you know the story of Jesus' life, you should read Isaiah 53 and marvel at how accurately it portrays future events.

## Its Life Changing Ability

Finally, the Bible has endured throughout the centuries and has brought about profound changes in the lives of people, communities and nations. Even though its last pages were written almost 2000 years ago, it still reads like a God-given guide to help us face the struggles and problems in our modern world. Jesus reminds us of its value when he says, *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it"* **Luke 11:28**. It can change our nature, our thoughts and actions and even the course of our future.

The best way to see that the Bible is from God is to read it for yourself. We are sure it has the power to convince you that God is the source of every command and promise. We suggest that you begin with one of the Gospels in the New Testament. That story is still considered Good News for all people.

**VIDEO:** [Nine Discoveries That Confirm The Bible](#)