



IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

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The word Bible comes from the Greek

τὰ βιβλία which means "**the books.**"

- The 66 books of the Bible were written over a 1600 year span,
- over 60 generations,
- by more than 40 authors from all sorts walks of life including priests, political leaders, fishermen, rabbis, tax collectors, shepherds, and cupbearers.
- They were written on three different continents Asia, Africa, and Europe. In three languages Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NRSV *"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."*

Inspiration

What we believe is that God the Spirit worked in tandem with the human authors to get across what it was that he wanted to say. Now what this doesn't mean is that the Spirit took over the writers or used them as typewriters. No instead it means he worked with their personality, their education, their experience to communicate what he wanted to communicate. Thus making it a work of both God and humanity.

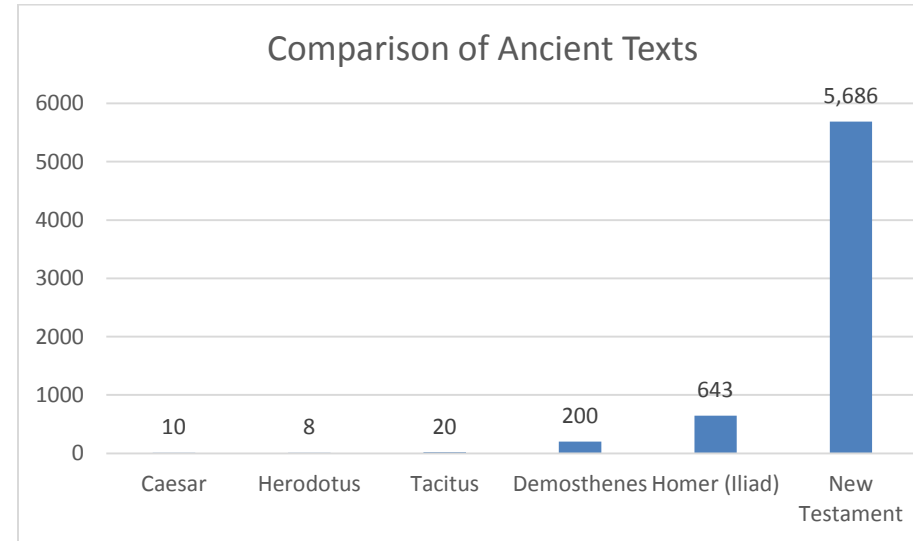
Hebrews 4:12 NRSV *"Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

Illumination

The same Spirit of God who inspired the writing of the Scriptures inspires our reading of it today.

HOW CAN IT BE DEEMED RELIABLE?

1. Manuscripts



2. Archaeology

"The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, certain phases of which appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history." ~ William Albright

3. Prophecy

4. Statistics

In his book “*More Than A Carpenter*”, Josh McDowell references a study by a doctor, Peter Stoner who was a professor of Mathematics at Westmount College. His study was to see the probability of someone fulfilling just 48 of the prophecies relating to the life of Jesus, including his birth and his death. And he says that the probability of someone fulfilling all of them is 1 in 100 trillion, that’s a 1 with 17 zeros behind it.

Recommended Reading

Timothy Keller
The Reason For God

Josh McDowell
Evidence That Demands A Verdict

Josh McDowell
A Ready Defense

Josh McDowell
More Than A Carpenter

Norman Geisler & Peter Bocchino
Unshakable Foundations

Bruce Shelley
Church History in Plain Language

F.F. Bruce
The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?
www.ncbible.info/MoodRes/Transmission/NTDocuments-Reliable-Bruce.pdf

N.T. Wright
How Can The Bible Be Authoritative?
ntwrightpage.com/Wright_Bible_Authoritative.htm