

Defending our Faith:

Week 2 (Prep)

The Bible: Is it Reliable?

The Bible: The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. From <<http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/basicbeliefs.asp>>

Arguments Against the Reliability of the Bible

Issues related to:

Integrity

- The Bible has been altered/doesn't include all of the books (i.e. other "gospels")
- The Bible was written too long after the events actually occurred
- The Bible wasn't written in English/ has been corrupted through translation
- The Bible's authors aren't known for sure

Accuracy

- The Bible isn't true/historical (fiction)
- The Bible has been disproven by science
- The Bible's authors were biased so we can't trust them

Inerrancy

- The Bible is full of inconsistencies/ contradictions

Inspiration

- The Bible was written by man, not God

Interpretation

- The Bible can be interpreted differently by different people

The Bible's Reliability: Research & Discussion Prep

Articles

- CARM: <https://carm.org/evidence-and-answers>
- Creation.com: <http://creation.com/bible-questions-and-answers>
- Answers in Genesis: <https://answersingenesis.org/bible/>
- Cold Case Christianity: <http://coldcasechristianity.com/category/writings/bible/>
- Stand to Reason: <http://www.str.org/Search?q=bible+reliability>
- Apologetics Press: <https://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=13> (long list)

Video

- Is the Bible Reliable – Center for Christian Apologetics (3 vids)
<http://www.centerforchristianapologetics.com/is-the-bible-reliable.html>
- Dr. Voddie Baucham – Why I Choose to Believe the Bible (~45min):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWU12DzPTUo>

Your Assignment for Next Week

The Bible: Is it Reliable? (Biblical Integrity)

1. Research the arguments and evidence in support of the Bible (focus on **integrity**)
 - a. What kind of evidence do we have in support of the Bible's integrity?
 - b. Which are the best arguments and why?
 - c. Should we avoid any arguments and why?
2. Research the arguments in opposition to the Bible (focus on **integrity**)
https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=arguments+against+the+bible
 - a. Are there additional arguments against the Bible's integrity to add to the list?
 - b. What are the most common arguments and how do we refute them?
 - c. Any other observations about the nature of arguments against the Bible that we should note?
3. Do you have any new apologetic resources to add to the list?
4. Consider the list of topics below
 - a. What other topics would you like us to cover?
 - b. Do you have a preference as to the order in which we cover them?

Knowledge Topics

1. The Bible (reliability)
2. Jesus (deity, Trinity, resurrection)
3. God
 - a. Does God exist?
 - b. Natural law
 - c. Existence of Evil
 - d. Miracles
4. Christian History, Denominations & Doctrine
5. World Views vs. Christianity
 - a. Morality
 - b. True for you but not for me
6. World Religions vs. Christianity
 - a. Islam
 - b. Hinduism
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Judaism
 - e. Mormonism
 - f. Jehovah's Witness
 - g. Scientology
7. Creation & Origins
8. Hot Button Issues in the Culture
 - a. Marriage & Sexuality
 - b. Sanctity of Life
 - c. Religious Freedom
9. Common Misconceptions/ Twisted Scripture
 - a. The Bible is demeaning to women
 - b. Christianity is intolerant

Wisdom Topics

1. Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions (book)
2. Identifying the Opposition's Tactics
 - a. Self-defeating statements
 - b. Strawmen arguments
3. Logic & Truth
 - a. Three laws of logic
 - b. How can we know anything at all?