



REASONING FOR HOPE: How Do We Know the Bible is the Word of God?

May 25, 2025 | Pastor Brett Mayes

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

What does the Bible say about itself?

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ 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 1:20-21 NIV

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NASB

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17 ESV

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Proverbs 30:5 ESV

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11 ESV

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

Reliability and Validity

- Reliability - Is the evidence consistent over time and applicable beyond one person's experience?
- Validity - Does the test accurately measure what we're trying to establish?

Reliability

Transmission - the process of preserving and passing down the word of God from one generation to another.

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New Testament	Various	45-100 A.D.	90-225 A.D.	25-150 years	5800

Validity

- External Validity
 - Science
 - Archaeology
 - History
- Internal Validity
 - Prophecy

Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, "Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho.

"At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates."

Joshua 6:26 ESV

In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

1 Kings 16:34 ESV

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,
and he shall fulfill all my purpose';
saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,'
and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

Isaiah 44:28 ESV

- Coherent Message
- Description of Reality
- Transforming Power

- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 19:7-11 ESV

¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 NIV

- ⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Psalms 130:5-6 NIV

Resources

The Canon of Scripture by F.F. Bruce

The Biblical Canon by Lee Martin McDonald

Documents of the Christian Church (fourth edition) by Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder

A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament by Bruce M. Metzger

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reasons.org

answersingenesis.org