

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears of various sizes inside the brain area. The background is a solid blue color.

A Reasonable Faith in An Uncertain World

Is believing in God and Jesus Christ a matter of blind faith or are there reasons to believe?

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. Inside the head, several interlocking gears of various sizes are visible, rendered in a light blue color with a slight glow. The background is a solid dark blue.

A Reasonable Faith in An Uncertain World

Can We Trust the Bible?



12. The Bible

Instead: **The Notebook** by Agota Kristof

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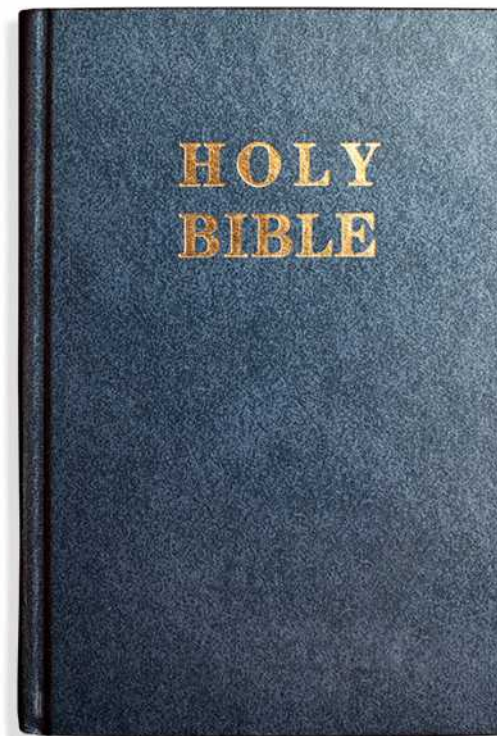
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The Holy Bible is rated very highly by all the people who supposedly live by it but who in actuality have not read it. Those who *have* read it know there are some good parts, but overall it is certainly not the finest thing that man has ever produced. It is repetitive, self-contradictory, sententious, foolish, and even at times ill-intentioned. If the thing you heard was good about the Bible was the nasty bits, then I propose Agota Kristof's *The Notebook*, a marvelous tale of two brothers who have to get along when things get rough. The subtlety and cruelty of this story is like that famous sword stroke (from below the boat) that plunged upward

through the bowels, the lungs, and the throat and into the brain of the rower. —*Jesse Ball, 'Census'*




Proverbs 26:4-5 (NIV)

*Do not answer a fool
according to his folly,*

or you yourself will be just like him.

*5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
or he will be wise in his own eyes.*



A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears visible inside the brain area. The background is a dark blue gradient.

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

– 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

See the Questioner Behind the Question

Don't Necessarily Accept
the Terms the Skeptic Throws At You.

Statement:

The Bible is full of myths!

Response:

What myths?



Don't Necessarily Accept
the Terms the Skeptic Throws At You.

Statement:

The Bible is full of contradictions!

Response:

Can you show me?



Don't Necessarily Accept
the Terms the Skeptic Throws At You.

Statement:

The Bible was written hundreds of
years after Christ

Response:

What is the evidence of that?



Things to Remember When Discussing the Bible

A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. Inside the head, there are several interlocking gears of different sizes and colors (blue, grey, and white). Two white arrows point towards the gears from the left side of the head.

No other book so revered and
reviled

No other book that has had a
profound influence on the world.

Three Tests Historians Use To Determine the Reliability of Ancient Texts

- The Bibliographic Test

Biblical texts are remarkably close
to the original manuscripts



Ben Witherington

Historical and Textual Critic

The New Testament we have is 99% the same
as the original manuscripts



Three Tests Historians Use To Determine the Reliability of Ancient Texts

- The Bibliographic Test

- 5,000+ manuscripts (some dating back to 120 AD)


- Hundreds of papyri

- 32,000 quotes that date back before 325AD




2 Peter 1:19-21 (NIV)

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.



2 Peter 1:19-21 (NIV)

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.



Three Tests Historians Use To Determine the Reliability of Ancient Texts

- The Internal Test

Was this document written by
eyewitnesses?

➤ The Bible not 1 but 66 books




Three Tests Historians Use To Determine the Reliability of Ancient Texts

- The Internal Test

▶ Most of the NT Written from 30's-60's AD...well within the lifetimes of eyewitnesses



A silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with several interlocking gears inside, symbolizing thought or memory. The background is a dark blue gradient.

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

1 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. John 21:24 (NIV)

Three Tests Historians Used To Determine the Reliability of Ancient Texts

- The External Test

Archaeology

www.biblicalarchaeology.org



Acts 17:6-8 “Officials” – Politarchs

Acts 18:12 Proconsul Gallio

John 5:1-2 The Pool of Bethesda


King David

Isaiah




Here is the real problem

A 2015 study by the Barna Group found that a whopping 82% of Americans profess to be Christians, but 3/4 simultaneously do not believe that the Bible should be the standard for their decisions. Application, therefore, is optional



Have Confidence in the Bible



For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)



*For we did not follow
cleverly devised stories
when we told you about the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ in power,
but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)