L3 Bible Answers - *Why trust the Bible? Do we know this is the Word of God?*

Additional Notes

Introduction - At one point or another, each of us comes face to face with the thought from within or the suggestion from without—- Can we trust this book that we have to be the inspired, inerrant Word of God?

We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of all Scripture. In other words, we believe that God-breathed every word of this book by the Holy Spirit, using human penmen to pen every Word in the original manuscripts.

Can we trust the Bible? Do we know this is the Word of God? And more importantly, how do we know this is the Word of God? Let's look at an introductory passage on the subject in **2 Peter 1:19–21**

"19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

To understand what Peter is saying here, we have to back up and look at the verses prior to **verse 19.**

2 Peter 1:15–18 *"15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount."*

What event is Peter referencing in **verse 17** and in **verse 18**? This is the transfiguration of the Lord.

What Peter is saying is that the Word of God is even more sure than me just giving a personal testimony.

I. The Bible _____

A. The Bible Itself Claims To Be Authored By _____

The Bible:

1. Did not originate with _____.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man…"

2. The Scriptures were_____ by men.

*"…but **holy men** of God **spake**…."*

3. God, the _____ _____, is the Author.

"*…as they were **moved by the Holy Ghost**."*

2 Timothy 3:16 uses the word 'inspiration,' which means **God-breathed.**

*"16 **All scripture** is given **by inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

In addition to these verses consider **the following internal claims:**
The phrase, "*Thus saith the Lord…"* is found **413 times**.
The phrase, "*…the LORD spake…"* is found **144 times**.
The phrase, *"…the word of the LORD…"* is found **255 times**.

Beyond these direct claims concerning the Word of God consider some other internal claims found in the Bible:

B. The Bible claims to be _____.

Isaiah 40:8 *"8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: But **the word of our God shall stand for ever**."*

Psalm 100:5 *"5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; **And his truth endureth to all generations**."*

Psalm 117:2 *"2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: And **the truth of the Lord endureth for ever**. Praise ye the Lord."*

Psalm 111:7–8 *"7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; **All his commandments are sure**. 8 **They stand fast for ever and ever**, And are done in truth and uprightness.*

Matthew 24:35 *"35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, **but my words shall not pass away."***

1 Peter 1:25 *"25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever**. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."*

C. The Bible claims to be _____ and _____.

The term inerrant means 'without error.'

Psalm 12:6 *"6 The **words** of the Lord are **pure words**: As silver tried in a furnace of earth, **purified seven times**."*

Psalm 19:8–9 *"8 The statutes 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 for ever: **The judgments of the Lord are true** and righteous altogether."*

Psalm 119:140 *"140 **Thy word is very pure**: Therefore thy servant loveth it."*

Proverbs 30:5 *"5 **Every word of God is pure**: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."*

II. The Bible's _____

A. Is composed of 66 different books.

Now if you had 66 different books here, even if they were covering the same subject, the message in each of these books would vary from author to author. And the reason for that is because you have different authors penning these different books. The Bible however, is **unified from cover to cover.** The subject matter that is found in the Bible concerning Creation, the Fall of Man, the cataclysmic worldwide flood, sin, angels, Satan, Heaven, Hell, the future, Salvation, and God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost— is unified and progressive throughout the entire Bible.

B. Is penned by at least _____ different penman.

Some of the penman of the Bible cover such a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures.

David and Solomon **were kings.** David was also a **shepherd and a musician.**
Nehemiah was a **cupbearer** in captivity.
Daniel was a Jew who was a **statesman and political figure** in Babylon.
Peter and John were **common labourers — fishermen**.
Matthew was a **tax collector.**
Moses was brought up in the **Egyptian culture.**
Ezekiel was a **son of a priest** who was heavily immersed in Babylonian culture.
Luke was a **physician** and Greek.
Paul was an well educated Jew.
Amos was a **shepherd an dresser of sycamore trees.**

C. Is written in ____ different languages.

Even though the great span of the Bible, it is penned in predominately **two different languages.** The main language in the Old Testament is Hebrew. There are some small portions of Aramaic in the Old Testament. The New Testament was penned in Greek. Yet for all of this, the Bible is still unified.

D. Is written over a span of _____ years.

Now this singular fact alone is astounding.

E. Is written across ____ continents.

The Bible's writings span Asia, Africa, and Europe. Some have suggested some 1500 miles.

F. Is Prophetic

One of the amazing proofs concerning the validity of the Bible is Bible prophecy. One scientist by the name of Hugh Ross, who holds a PHD in Astronomy and a Bachelor's degree in Physics, began reading all of the "holy books" of the world's religions to determine whether any could be inspired by the cosmic Creator. "Nearly all these writings included predictions, or "prophecies," of future events. These forecasts were intended to show that their message, or "messengers," came from God or gods to humanity. However, I found that they either forecasted easily predictable events or failed completely to match future historical and/or scientific facts. With one clear exception, their record for accuracy seemed abysmal." "That single exception was actually a collection of books into one, the Bible." Hugh Ross then lists just four prophecy groupings to illustrate His point.

The first, is:

The Jews _____ _____ Twice From Their Nation and Returned

Jeremiah 25:11 *"11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations* ***shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.****"*

Isaiah 11:11–13 *"11 And it shall come to pass in that day, That the Lord* ***shall set his hand again the second time To recover*** *the remnant of his people, Which shall be left, from Assyria, And from Egypt, and from Pathros, And from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, And from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, And shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth. 13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim*

shall not envy Judah, And Judah shall not vex Ephraim."

The reestablishment of Israel in 1948, is at the very least, a setting of the stage for **Isaiah 11.**

Hosea 3:4–5 *"4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king;* ***and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.****"*

Luke 21:23–24 *"23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."*
He states, the probability of this fulfillment, 1 in 10 to the 20th power. That would look like this----100,000,000,000,000,000,000!!!

The Crucifixion _____

Psalm 22:14–18 *"14 I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint: My heart is like wax; It is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; And my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; And thou hast brought me into the dust of death. 16 For dogs have compassed me: The assembly of the wicked have inclosed me:* ***They pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I may tell all my bones: They look and stare upon me. 18 They part my garments among them, And cast lots upon my vesture.****"*

Zechariah 9:9 *"9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:* ***Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; Lowly, and riding upon an ass, And upon a colt the foal of an ass.****"*

Zechariah 12:10 "10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, The spirit of grace and of supplications: **And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, And they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, And shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Zechariah 13:7 *"7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, Saith the Lord of hosts:* ***Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: And I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.****"*
Again, this scientist says chance of fulfillment is 1 in 10 to the 14th power.

Jehoshaphat's Victory _____ Battle

2 Chronicles 20:14–17 *"14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation; 15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat,* ***Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's****. 16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17* ***Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you****, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you."*

The chance of this fulfillment as calculated by the scientist is 1 in 10 to the 8th power.

The Messiah Born In _____

Micah 5:2 *"2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, Though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."*

This prophecy was given **around 700 BC.** It was known by the Chief Priests and Scribes for we read — 700 plus years later in **Matthew 2:1–6** *"1 Now when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Beth-lehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."*

The Fall Of _____

Isaiah 44:28 "28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, And shall perform all my pleasure: E**ven saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; And to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid**."

Isaiah 45:1 *"1 Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, Whose right hand I have holden, To subdue nations before him; And I will loose the loins of kings, To open before him* ***the two leaved gates****; And the gates shall not be shut;"*

Isaiah 45:13 *"13 I have raised him up in righteousness, And I will direct all his ways: He shall build my city, and* ***he shall let go my captives****, Not for price nor reward, Saith the Lord of hosts."*

Isaiah prophesied of the name of Cyrus **150 years before He was born** and **180 years before He fulfilled these prophecies**.