

“I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies, and they claim to be divine rather than human in origin”

why**thebible?**

The Bible is comprised of 66 books written by around 40 authors over a period of approximately 1500 years.

- The Old Testament, which accounts for the first 39 books, was written at different intervals between 1450 BC and 425 BC.
- The New Testament, which accounts for the remaining 27 books, was written at different intervals between 45 AD and 90 AD.

If a judge punished some crimes but not all crimes, the judge would not be perfectly just because I can imagine someone who punishes all crimes. At the same time, if a judge forgives some crimes but not all crimes, the judge would not be perfectly forgiving because I can imagine someone who forgives all crimes.

We as humans commit so many moral wrongs on a daily basis, and thus the Bible says that even with all our good deeds we are guilty and deserving of punishment before a perfectly holy God. But Jesus, who being God Himself, humbled Himself into the form of man to die on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus paid the cost of perfect justice for our wrongdoings, allowing us to accept His perfect forgiveness.

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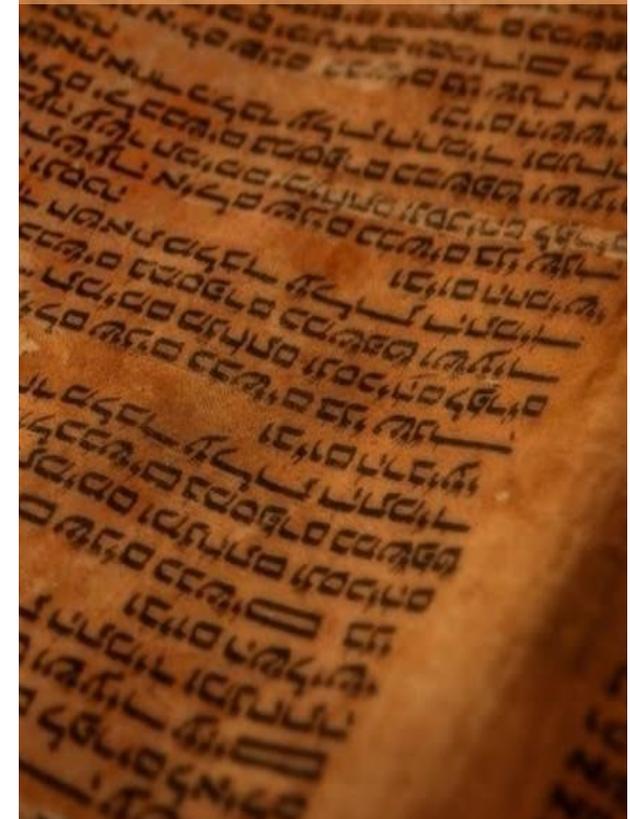
Your life is not the product of random chance. You are an intricate being created by a God who wants you to experience His love. Love cannot be robotic and therefore love demands the freedom to choose to love or to not love.

God gives us free will so we can choose to experience His love. When we use our free will to reject God, who is the objective point of reference for absolute morality, we are left with evil. God hates evil but He allows it to exist temporarily so that you and I have an opportunity to choose to experience His love eternally.

Those who reject His love will instead suffer eternally because our wrongdoings are against an eternal God who is infinitely holy. We cannot earn our way to God; but we can accept Jesus' sacrifice, believe in His resurrection, and let His love transform our lives. Truth by nature is exclusive, and Jesus is the only hope we have.



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In a sense, **Christianity rests on the writings of the New Testament**, and because we do not have the original autographs, we have to examine whether the New Testament manuscripts available to us are textually reliable.

To put the textually reliability of the New Testament manuscripts into context, it helps to examine the evidence for other ancient works.

- Homer's *Iliad* was written around 800 BC, and the earliest extant copy is from around 400 BC; which indicates a time lapse of approximately 400 years. We now have 1757 manuscripts altogether.
- Herodotus' *History* was written around 480-425 BC, and the earliest extant copy is from around 1000 AD; which indicates a time lapse of approximately 1350 years. We now have 109 manuscripts altogether.

If these ancient works are considered to be textually reliable, there are greater reasons to trust that the New Testament writings are textually reliable.

- The New Testament was written around 45-90 AD, and the earliest extant copies that cover the entire New Testament are the Codex Vaticanus (325-350 AD) and the Codex Sinaiticus (330-360 AD); which indicates an insignificant time lapse of approximately 300 years. Yet, that 300-year gap vanishes when earlier manuscripts are factored into the equation.

- We now have over 5800 Greek manuscripts for the New Testament, which is important because the New Testament was originally written in Greek.
- The large quantity of manuscripts has allowed scholars to compare and contrast various manuscripts in order to accurately render the New Testament. Only about 400 words out of 138,020 words (0.3%) are in doubt amongst the Greek manuscripts, and the differences are not significant.

Some claim that the New Testament's intended message got corrupted early on. If that was the case, we should expect to find denials of corrupted texts, especially since the alleged corruptions were written during the lifetime of eyewitnesses and people who personally knew eyewitnesses. Yet, **instead of finding evidence that the New Testament was corrupted, we find eyewitness accounts that corroborate each other.**

Beyond the reliability of the New Testament writings, I believe the Bible is credible because it reports supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies. Prophecies, in this context, refers to the foretelling of future events by means of divine inspiration.

The Old Testament was written at different intervals between 1450 to 425 BC, and Jesus lived on earth between 3 BC and 31 AD. Amazingly, **there are predictions in the Old Testament being fulfilled centuries later in the life of Jesus**; some of which I share next with the first reference from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament.

- Messiah would be born of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:25)
- Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2 & Matthew 2:1)
- Messiah would be preceded by a messenger. (Isaiah 40:3 & Matt. 3:1-2)
- Messiah would be rejected by His own people. (Isaiah 53:3 & John 7:48)
- Messiah would be crucified. (Psalm 22:16-18 and John 19:22-24)
- Messiah would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10 and Acts 13:34-37)

The fact that Jesus perfectly fulfilled Old Testament prophecies could not have been a matter of coincidence or even manipulation.

As Jesus was dying on the cross, He did not waver in His claim to be God. The guarded tomb He was buried in was left empty. If only the Romans and Jews produced the body of Jesus, Christianity would have been quashed. The disciples, and those who saw the resurrected Jesus went on to die horrific deaths because of their beliefs. **Many people die for things they believe to be true, but not many would die for something they know is completely false.**

Full article available at:
marshillapologetics.ca/whythebible



He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3-5, KJV)

...written approx. 700 years prior to Jesus' earthly life, with the earliest extant manuscript from around 125 BC.