

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

An easy way to remember evidence for the reliability of the Bible are these simple acronyms: SAT (the external evidence) and RPM (the internal evidence).

SCIENCE

The Bible is not a science book; it's a collection of books written about God. However, when the Bible does address scientific data, it is profoundly accurate in its observations. Here are a few examples of scientific ideas that the Bible mentioned thousands of years before man discovered them:

1. Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
2. The earth free-floats in space (Job 26:7)
3. Vast number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)
4. Oceans contain springs and pathways (Job 38:16)
5. Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)
6. Gravitational field (Job 26:7)

ARCHEOLOGY

There has never been a contradiction between archeological discoveries and the history found in the Bible. In fact, many archeologists have found that the Bible has been astoundingly accurate in its descriptions of ancient landmarks, people, and cities. A few of the many discoveries include:

1. Pilate's Stone. Historians doubted the existence of Pontius Pilate, the man who sentenced Jesus to death, until they discovered an ancient limestone inscribed with his name at Caesarea Maritima in Israel.
2. The existence of numerous cities, such as Jericho, Gibeah, Haran, Shechem, Hazor, Dan, Megiddo, Samaria, Shiloh, Gezer, Beth Shemesh, Beth Shean, Beersheba, and Lachish, have been accepted as historical fact.
3. The House of David Inscription. King David is a prominent character in biblical history, and there is now external evidence to support his existence. A stone from around the eighth century BC describes the house of David from the perspective of an outsider.

TESTIMONY

Another source of external evidence is the personal experience of those who have been changed by the Bible. There are genuine differences in the life of a person who has placed his or her trust in Jesus Christ and who walks according to His Word, the Bible. This change cannot be explained by anything other than a supernatural intervention in their lives.

RESURRECTION

The resurrection is one of the most historically verifiable occurrences of the ancient world. There are four facts that are agreed upon by almost all ancient historians concerning the resurrection:

1. **Jesus' Burial in Joseph of Arimathea's Tomb.** According to John A. T. Robinson of Cambridge University, the burial of Jesus in the tomb is "one of the earliest and best-attested facts about Jesus." Because of how early and incredibly consistent the accounts are, we must conclude that this did, indeed, occur.
2. **The Empty Tomb.** The first-century Jewish audience would have been able to go see the empty tomb for themselves, as Joseph of Arimathea was a well-known individual. The empty tomb is further confirmed by the fact that the gospel writers used women's testimonies as evidence. At this time, a woman's testimony was not admitted into court. This makes it obvious that they were not trying to convince people, but they were just telling the truth. The account also lacks any language that was typical of legendary stories of the day; it deals with the information as plain facts.
3. **Post-Resurrection Appearances.** This is one of the most important details of discovering real history. Accounts of Jesus' appearances provide multiple, independent verifications of His appearing. He was seen by more than 500 people at one time and many others in the 40 days of His post-resurrection time on earth.
4. **The Disciples' Faith.** One of the most convincing evidences for the resurrection is how firmly the people closest to Jesus believed in Him. They not only went to great extents to change the world, but they were willing to give their lives for this belief.

PROPHECY

If the Bible was written by God, we would expect it to be able to predict the future. Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, 2,000 of which have already been fulfilled. Here are few examples:

1. Jesus fulfilled numerous prophecies. The place of His birth, His death, substitutionary atonement, and many other factors were predicted hundreds and hundreds of years before His life in passages such as Isaiah 53, Micah 5:2, Daniel 9:25–27, Jeremiah 23:5–6, and Psalm 16:8–11.
2. Jesus predicted that the temple would be dismantled brick by brick in Mark 13:2. Around 60 years later, the Roman general Titus ordered his soldiers to burn the temple and remove every stone to get the gold out.
3. On May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation after nearly 2,000 years of Jews being alienated from their country. This fulfilled several Bible prophecies, including those of Amos 9:13–15, Ezekiel 39:27–29, and Jeremiah 33:7.

MANUSCRIPTS

Many people challenge the accuracy of the Bible translations, but the reality is that there is more manuscript evidence for its accuracy than any other book of antiquity. For example, Aristotle's works have only 49 copies, with a 1,400-year gap between original authorship and copy. Plato has only 7 copies with 1,200 years between the original and the copy. However, the New Testament has over 4,600 copies with less than 100 years between the original and the copy—with incredible accuracy between them. That is absolutely unheard of in the realm of manuscript history, meaning that the Bible is the most reliable ancient book in the world.