

The Facts of Life

The Answers to the Questions!

“Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us...” *The Message*

“Fact #2 – The Bible is True”

“Sink the Bible to the bottom of the ocean, and still man's obligations to God would be unchanged. He would have the same path to tread, only his lamp and guide would be gone; the same voyage to make, but his chart and compass would be overboard!” – Henry Ward Beecher

A. The Bible is...

- A book of books divided into two major sections.
 - The Old Testament with 39 books.
 - The New Testament with 27 books.
 - That's a compiled total of 66 books.
- A book of books that was... written over a span of at least 1500 years, in 3 languages, on 3 continents, from 10 different nations.
- The first book to...
 - Be printed on the printing press.
 - Go into outer space.
 - Be translated into another language.
- Unique in that it is...
 - The best-selling book of all time.
 - The most-read book of all time.
 - The best-selling book every year since the invention of the printing press (1450s) despite any controversy.
 - Has been translated into more languages than any other book.

(From Hal Seed in *The God Questions*)

B. The Bible claims...

- The universe has a Creator and He inspired men to write down all of Scripture.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1, NIV) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful...” (2 Tim. 3:16a)
- Miracles do happen.

Jesus exorcises Legion (Mark 5), the ten plagues of Egypt (Exodus), Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14), Balaam and his

talking donkey (Numbers 22), crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14), Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11), Joshua stops the sun (Joshua 10), Jesus' Resurrection (Matthew 28), and many more!

3. Jesus and God the Father are one.

“I (Jesus) give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” (Jn. 10:28-30, NIV)

4. There is a life after this one, and there is one way to spend it with God in heaven.

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6, NIV)

C. The Bible has been...

1. Preserved well, both physically and accurately.

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Number of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	AD 900	1,000 yrs.	10
Plato	427-347 BC	AD 900	1,200 yrs.	7
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000 yrs.	20
Thucydides	460-400 BC	AD 900	1,300 yrs.	8
Herodotus	480-425 BC	AD 900	1,300 yrs.	8
Aristotle	384-322 BC	AD 1100	1,400 yrs.	49
Homer (<i>Iliad</i>)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs.	643
New Testament	AD 40-100	AD 125	25 yrs.	24,000

“Jews preserved it as no other manuscript has ever been preserved. With their massora (*parva, magna and finalis*) [methods of counting] they kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word and paragraph. They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity – scribes, lawyers, massorettes. Who ever counted the letters and syllables and words of Plato or Aristotle? Cicero or Seneca? – Bernard Ramm (Professor and apologist)

“To be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.” – John Warwick Montgomery

2. Proven right by science.

The Bible Says	What People Thought	We Now Know
Earth is a sphere	Earth is a flat disk	Earth is a sphere
Number of stars = more than a billion	Number of stars = 1,100	Number of stars = more than a billion
Light is in motion	Light is fixed in place	Light is in motion
Air has weight	Air is weightless	Air has weight
Blood is a source of life and healing	Sick people must be bled	Blood is a source of life and healing

3. Right when it comes to prophecy.

Here are just a few examples:

- Isaiah predicted the Israelites return to Jerusalem and the name of the ruler who would free them 100 years before it happened. (*Cyrus, 538 BC*)
- Jesus fulfilled 332 O.T. prophesies in His first coming.

D. So, what do you think? Is the Bible true?

Some questions we should all answer:

- Have you read it? How much of it?
- What opinions might you have had before reading it? (A bias – positive or negative)
- Have other people influenced your opinion about the Bible? Who are they?
- How much of your opinion comes from other people versus what the Bible actually says?
- How has the Church (God's people) influenced your opinion about the Bible? Are there past hurts?

Some additional questions:

- If the Bible doesn't guide your life, what does?
- If you say the Bible is your guide, how much do you read it, know it and follow it?
- If you have more questions than answers, could you commit to reading the Bible for one year?

Digging Deeper

There are resources in the Well Read Bookstore to assist you. *The God Questions* book at \$2.50 and \$7.50 for follow up. Plus, Well Read has additional materials upon request for the serious student!

Coming soon:

October 9: Fact #3 – Only One Road Leads to Heaven

Answer to the Question – Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?

October 16: Fact #4 – A Good God May Allow Suffering

Answer to the Question – How Can a Good God Allow Suffering?

October 23: Fact #5 – God Created

Answer to the Question – Which Is Right: Evolution or Creation?

October 30: Fact #6 – Heaven is a Place for Eternity

Answer to the Question – What Will Heaven Be Like?

November 6: *Friend Day (End of 40 Days)*