

WHY

I BELIEVE

?

THE BIBLE IS RELIABLE | PASTOR GLEN BARNES | AUGUST 23RD, 2026

First
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEBANON

We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired and inerrant Word of God and that it is, therefore, the final authority in matters of faith and practice.

- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE:

1. Is it really from God?
2. Is it historically verifiable?
3. Are today's translations still accurate?
4. What makes the Bible different from other religious books?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF:

- *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and light for my path."* Psalm 119:105
- God's Word is like: a firm foundation, a fire, honey, a sharp sword, a mirror, etc.
- *"The Law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul."* Psalm 19:7
- *"All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."* 2 Timothy 3:16
- *"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."* 2 Peter 1:21

THE AMAZING UNITY OF THE BIBLE

- Made up of _____ different books.
- Written over a period of about _____ years.
- Composed on _____ continents and in _____ languages.
- Written by some _____ different authors.
- Many different _____ styles.

EVIDENCE FOR THE RELIABILITY AND ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE

M _____

HOW WE GOT THE NEW TESTAMENT:

The Original "Autographs" (50-90AD)
Papyrus Manuscripts (90-300AD)
Uncial or Codex Manuscripts (300-800AD)
Miniscule Manuscripts (800-1400AD)
Printed Bibles (1456AD - Present)
Digital Bibles (Present and beyond)

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The remaining interval between the date of writing and the earliest manuscript evidence is so small as to be negligible. The last foundation of doubt that the scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has been removed.

- Sir Fredrick Kenyon, *British Museum*

A _____

Some examples of Archeological support for the Bible

- Tel Dan: Beth David Reference
- Hezekiah's Ring
- Cyrus Cylinder
- High Priestly prayer in Numbers 6

“

It can be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.”

- Neslon Glueck, *Archeologist*

“

I am amazed to find the Bible completely trustworthy in every historical and geographical detail.”

- William Ramsey

“

This (Beth David) is a tremendously important find that will certainly cause anxiety for skeptics.”

- James Hoffmeyer

P _____

Approximately _____ specific Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus

“

We find that the chance that any one man might have fulfilled even 8 major prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.”

- Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*

“

therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. ⁴They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. ⁵Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nation”

EZEKIEL 26:3-5 (NIV)

SO WHAT ?

How are the inspired truths of Scripture impacting my life?

DISCUSSION Questions:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP | Google TV

- 1 - What questions or doubts do people commonly have about whether the Bible is truly God's Word? Have you ever wrestled with any of these?
- 2 - What evidence or reasons for trusting the Bible do you find most convincing? Why?

- 3 - How does believing that the Bible is God's Inspired Word affect the way we read and respond to it?
- 4 - Are there areas where you find it difficult to trust or obey what the Bible says? What makes those areas challenging?
- 5 - What is one practical step you can take this week to grow in your confidence in and commitment to God's Word?

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