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## The Bible was OK then, but we know better now

(How to know for sure that the Bible is trustworthy and authoritative)

(SERIES: 7 LIES OF ORGANIZED RELIGION: 06 of 07)

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"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," (2 Tim 3:16 NIV)

### 3 Current Views

Some view the Bible as an **outdated book of rules.**

Some view the Bible as a **composite of biased opinions.**

"And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but MEN SPOKE FROM GOD AS THEY WERE CARRIED ALONG BY THE HOLY SPIRIT." "But there were also false prophets among the people . . . ." (2 Pet 1:19-21; 2: 1-2 NIV)

Some view the Bible as a **religious artifact.**

"And we will never stop thanking God for this: that when we preached to you, you didn't think of the words we spoke as being just our own, but you accepted what we said as the very Word of God--which, of course, it was--**and it changed your lives when you believed it.**" (1 Th 2:13 TLB)

### Let's Be Reasonable

1. **Stuff exists.**
2. **I exist.**
3. **You exist.**
4. **Therefore God exists.**
5. **God is creator.**
6. **God is awesome.**
7. **God is infinite.**
8. **God is generous.**
9. **God is good? That's the question isn't it?**
10. **God is a communicator.**
11. **God wants to be known.**
12. **God can make Himself known.**
13. **God would speak truthfully whatever the message.**
14. **God would speak to be understood.**
15. **God would faithfully preserve whatever He said.**

16. **God would act to protect His word.**
17. **God would expect to be taken seriously.**
18. **God would hold Himself responsible for promises made.**
19. **God would hold me responsible for promises rejected.**
20. **Men who opposed truth would oppose this truth.**
21. **Men who would reject God would try to discredit His word.**
22. **God would oppose those who attack or mishandle His word.**

" . . . warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book." (Revelation 22:18-19 NIV)

### Reasons To Trust The Bible

**Trust the Bible because it explains reality.**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Gen 1:1-2 NIV)

**Trust the Bible because it is a solid foundation.**

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." (Mat 7:24-27 NIV)

**Trust the Bible because it equips you for life.**

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone." (2 Tim 3:16-17 TLB)

**Trust the Bible because it feeds your soul.**

"I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Psa 119:101-105 NIV)

"For the word of God is living and active. . . ." (Heb 4:12 NIV)

**Trust the Bible because it blesses those who obey it.**

"He replied, 'Yes, but even more blessed are all who hear the Word of God and put it into practice.'" (Luke 11:28 TLB)

**Trust the Bible because it promises a future.**

"However, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him'" (1 Cor 2:9 NIV)

"May I never forget your words, for they are my only hope." (Psa 119:43)