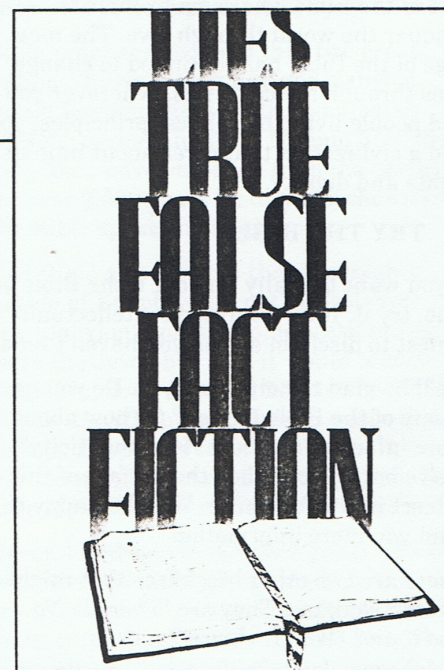


Can You Trust
The Bible?



Is the Bible true or false?
Is it fact or fiction?
Is it lies or truth?
Is it a book of lies or a book of truth?

An alcoholic shuffled to the corner of a busy intersection in downtown Chicago muttering to nobody in particular, "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John--they're just a bunch of liars! I've read the lot, and you can't trust a one of 'em!"

Many people might not voice their distrust of Bible writers the way this man did, but they are equally sceptical about it. They wonder how intellectually honest people can believe in an ancient Book. Can you prove its accuracy, reliability or truthfulness?

▼ WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Before we answer that question, we need to look at what the Bible is and how we got it.

The Bible is the world's oldest book in common use. It is the world's foremost book of religion, recognized in whole or in part by three of the world's principal faiths, Christianity, Judaism and Mohammedanism.

The Bible is not a single book, but a collection of 66 books written by several writers, over a period of 1,600 years. Most of the writers did not know each other, yet their writings harmonize.

The Bible has two great divisions, the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.

▼ IS THE BIBLE ACCURATE?

There are no original manuscripts of the Bible, but it has been carefully copied and preserved for centuries. One group of Jewish scholars, the Masoretes, were so careful in copying the Old Testament that they counted verses, words and even letters. If these counts didn't tally in the newly made copies, the work was discarded.

▼ YOUR REQUESTS

- ☐ YES! Please send me the Come Alive with Jesus Bible study guides.
- ☐ I need a Bible. Please send me a price list.
- ☐ Please send me more information about who Jesus is.
- ☐ Please send the brochure, "There Is No God?"
- ☐ Please send the brochure, Who Is Jesus?

Mr Mrs Ms Miss

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Please cut along the dotted line on the left and mail to:

Hamilton Seventh-Day Adventist Church
PO Box 755
Hamilton Victoria 3300
Australia

We'll be glad to help you try it. Do you need a copy of the Bible to read? Or how about more information about its authenticity? We've barely scratched the surface of this subject in this brochure. We'd be happy to send you more information.

There are two other brochures that might interest you, too. They are *"There Is No God ?" and "Who Is Jesus?"*

We also offer a set of seven, short study guides that could get you into the Bible. They are entitled "Come Alive with Jesus." There is no cost for the brochures, Bible study guides or other materials offered you.

▼ QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Perhaps you have specific questions and comments you'd like to make after reading this pamphlet. Please talk to us by writing down your thoughts at the end of this brochure. We want to hear what you have to say so that we can help you get any additional information you need to make an intelligent decision about the Bible.

▼ YOUR REACTION

In the space below, please write down any thoughts, questions, or comments you wish to make.

The accuracy of the copyists of the Hebrew Bible was affirmed when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. These scrolls, containing portions of every book of the Old Testament except the book of Esther, were 1,000 years older than any of the manuscripts previously available. Yet the language was almost identical. Scholars around the world were amazed to learn that the Old Testament has come down to us through so many centuries practically unchanged.

The New Testament was copied by hand by the early Christians and there are 24,633 of these manuscripts in existence today. Some of them date back to the third century, or only a little over 100 years after they were originally penned. This makes the Bible the number one book in all history for manuscript authority. The number two book is Homer's Iliad with only 643 manuscripts available to scholars.

By comparing these manuscripts, it is possible to discover the original message of the writers. This method is employed to check the accuracy of many ancient books and in this case, the Bible leads the way in volume of manuscripts to study.

▼ WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

It means that the Bible of today is accurate. It contains the same message as when it was originally written thousands of years ago.

▼ IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

The words of the Bible might have been accurately preserved, but were they true when they were written? There are several ways to prove the truthfulness of the Bible messages. Let's look at a few of them:

Proof One: History

Archaeological discoveries continually verify the truth of the Bible. There are many examples, but here is just one: In Isaiah 20:1 we read of King Sargon of Assyria, but for many years sceptics declared that no such king ever existed. Then Paul Botta, of the French consulate in Mossul, dug up the king's palace and proved that the Bible spoke the truth.

Proof Two: Science

3,500 years before William Harvey discovered the circulation of blood through the body, God told Moses about it. (Leviticus 17:14) 2,000 years before Columbus set forth to prove the world is round, the Lord talked to Isaiah about the circle of the earth. (Isaiah 40:20,21) Today we know that the earth is suspended in space, but for centuries men theorized that the earth rested on the back of a huge elephant or on the shoulders of Atlas. Yet God told Job that "He... hanged the earth upon nothing." (Job 26:7)

Proof Three: Prophecy

The Bible made many predictions. If you could disprove any of them, you could disprove its truthfulness. But no one has been able to do that. Here are just a few:

Bible prophecy declared that two great nations, Syria of that day and Babylon, would be completely destroyed. (Isaiah 13:9,22; Jeremiah

50:13; Nahum 3:7) These kingdoms have vanished from the earth, so for over 2,500 years history has shown that the Bible spoke the truth.

The Bible also foretold that the mighty nation of Egypt would not be destroyed as was Babylon, nor its people scattered as were the Jews, but that it would become a weak kingdom. (Ezekiel 29:15; 30:6,12,13; Isaiah 19) When the prophets wrote these things, Egypt had been a powerful nation for about 1,500 years, but this has not been true of her for the past two thousand years.

Seven hundred years before Jesus Christ was born, Bible prophecy predicted the very town in which this event would take place. In fact, the Old Testament gave 300 predictions about Christ, all of which were fulfilled. (For more information, order the brochure, "Who Is Jesus?")

Proof Four: Experience

The New Testament was written by people who wrote what they saw and heard. They presented their message to nonbelievers, hostile sceptics who would have immediately corrected them had they departed from the truth. The first Christians did not lie, but they died for what they believed.

Their lives were changed by believing in the God of the Bible who came to earth to conquer the world through love. The message of the Bible has continued to change lives through the centuries. Wherever you find people living by Biblical principles, you find a civilization that cares about human rights and dignity.

**"The message of the Bible has continued
to change lives through the centuries."**

▼ TRY THE BIBLE

If you want to really find out if the Bible is true, try it. It certainly isn't intellectually honest to disclaim a book you haven't read.