

Is the Bible Reliable?

A Quick Reference Guide

By Kirk Cowman



Many people wonder if the Bible can be trusted. How do we know it's accurate? Is it more than just a book of ancient stories? This guide provides a quick overview of key reasons why the Bible is considered reliable, using historical, archaeological, and prophetic evidence. It's based on insights from Kirk Cowman's message and aims to give you a solid foundation for understanding why millions of people place their trust in the Bible.



Historical Evidence: The Bible's Consistency Through Time

- **Manuscript Evidence:** The New Testament has over 5,800 Greek manuscripts, with some dating as close as 25 years to the original writings. This far exceeds other ancient texts, like Homer's Iliad, which has around 600 copies.
 - **Why It Matters:** The sheer number of manuscripts allows scholars to cross-check for accuracy, showing that the Bible has been reliably transmitted through time.
- **Dead Sea Scrolls:** Discovered in 1947, these ancient scrolls include some of the oldest copies of Old Testament books, dating back over 2,000 years. They align closely with the later Hebrew texts we use today.
 - **Why It Matters:** This discovery confirms that the text of the Old Testament has been preserved accurately for centuries.
- **Historical Cross-References:** The Bible contains references to historical figures and events, like King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the census under Caesar Augustus, which align with external historical records.
 - **Why It Matters:** When biblical events align with known history, it supports the Bible's reliability as a historical document.

Archaeological Evidence: Discoveries That Support Scripture

- **City of Jericho:** Archaeologists have discovered the remains of ancient Jericho, and some evidence suggests that its walls fell suddenly—similar to the biblical account in the book of Joshua.
 - **Why It Matters:** It provides a physical connection to the events described in the Old Testament.
- **Pool of Bethesda:** Once thought to be a myth, the Pool of Bethesda (mentioned in John 5) was uncovered in Jerusalem, matching the description given in the Gospel of John.
 - **Why It Matters:** These findings confirm the geographical and cultural details found in the New Testament.
- **The Hittites:** For many years, the Bible's mention of the Hittite civilization was questioned because there was no external evidence of their existence. In the 20th century, archaeologists discovered extensive records of the Hittites.
 - **Why It Matters:** Archaeological discoveries like this one affirm that the Bible accurately describes ancient peoples and cultures.



Prophetic Evidence: Fulfilled Prophecies in Scripture

- **Messianic Prophecies:** The Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies about the Messiah, including details about his birthplace (Micah 5:2), method of death (Psalm 22:16), and resurrection (Isaiah 53). These were written centuries before Jesus' life and were fulfilled in the New Testament.
 - **Why It Matters:** The precise fulfillment of prophecies about Jesus supports the claim that the Bible is inspired by God.
- **Daniel's Prophecies:** The book of Daniel predicts the rise and fall of empires, including Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. History has confirmed the accuracy of these predictions.
 - **Why It Matters:** Accurate predictions of future events add credibility to the Bible's claim to divine inspiration.
- **Destruction of Tyre:** In Ezekiel 26, the prophet predicted the destruction of the ancient city of Tyre. History records that the city was destroyed as prophesied, including specific details like the scraping of debris into the sea.
 - **Why It Matters:** The detailed fulfillment of such prophecies demonstrates the Bible's supernatural insight into future events.





Scientific Accuracy: Insights Ahead of Their Time

- **Round Earth:** Isaiah 40:22 describes God as sitting “above the circle of the earth,” which can be interpreted as an indication that the earth is round. This insight predates modern understanding of the earth’s shape.
 - **Why It Matters:** While not a science textbook, the Bible contains insights that align with scientific discoveries.
- **Hygiene Laws:** The Old Testament includes hygiene practices, such as quarantine for contagious diseases (Leviticus 13) and instructions for washing (Numbers 19). These practices align with modern understanding of infection control.
 - **Why It Matters:** These practices were advanced for their time and reflect a wisdom that aligns with later scientific findings.
- **The Water Cycle:** Ecclesiastes 1:7 and Job 36:27-28 describe processes that resemble the water cycle, including evaporation and rainfall.
 - **Why It Matters:** The Bible’s insights into natural processes show a remarkable alignment with scientific understanding.

Unity of Scripture: A Consistent Message Over Centuries

- **Written Over 1,500 Years:** The Bible was written by around 40 different authors over a span of 1,500 years, across different cultures and languages.
 - **Why It Matters:** Despite its diverse authorship, the Bible maintains a consistent message about God's character, human nature, and redemption.
- **Coherent Storyline:** From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells a unified story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Every book contributes to this overarching narrative.
 - **Why It Matters:** The unity of the Bible supports the idea that it is divinely inspired, not just a collection of random writings.
- **Focus on Jesus:** The Old and New Testaments consistently point to Jesus as the central figure of God's plan for humanity.
 - **Why It Matters:** This consistency across different books and authors reinforces the reliability of the Bible's message.



Next Steps

The evidence for the Bible's reliability spans across historical, archaeological, prophetic, and scientific domains. While faith is a vital part of belief, this evidence provides a strong foundation for trusting the Bible as an accurate and inspired text. If you're exploring the Bible's trustworthiness, this guide is just the beginning of a deeper journey into understanding the greatest story ever told.

1. Share This Guide with a Friend

Found this guide helpful? Share it with someone who has questions about the Bible's reliability. Sometimes, all it takes is a little encouragement to spark a deeper conversation. Forward this PDF or send them the download link!

2. Explore More Messages on Faith & Truth

Dive deeper into the evidence for faith and the reliability of Scripture with messages that challenge, inspire, and equip you to trust God's word. Here are a few messages you might enjoy:

- [How can you grow a DEEPER connection in Faith?:](#) Tangible examples to follow in your daily life with the primary principle being that one must be rooted in the Word of God to understand the Heart of God.
- [What does DECONSTRUCTING YOUR FAITH really mean?:](#) A video discussing deconstructing your faith - and more specifically, how parents can help their teens/young adults work through some challenging questions.
- [How to align your HEART!:](#) All around how to align your heart with Jesus and what he has for you in your life.

3. Visit In Person

We'd love to meet you in person! At St. Albert Alliance Church, we're all about being "Good News to our neighbors and beyond by practicing the way of Jesus." Whether exploring faith for the first time or looking for a community to call home, you'll find a welcoming, friendly environment here. Come just as you are—we hope you'll feel right at home!

Service Times: Sundays at 9 AM & 11 AM

Location: 200 Villeneuve Rd., St. Albert, AB T8N 3X8

Online Services: 9 AM & 11 AM on our YouTube channel—join us from wherever you are!

For Families: We offer children's programs during both services in our Xtreme Kids wing, and our Fresh Ground coffee shop is open from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM—your first coffee's on us!

About Kirk Cowman

Kirk Cowman serves as the Lead Pastor at St. Albert Alliance Church, where he is passionate about helping people discover the life-changing truths of the Bible. He loves creating a space where people can explore faith, ask questions, and grow in their understanding of God's word.

About St. Albert Alliance

At St. Albert Alliance Church (StAAC), our mission is simple: to be Good News to our neighbors and beyond by practicing the way of Jesus. We believe that church should be a place where you can come as you are, ask questions, and explore what it means to follow Jesus in a welcoming and friendly community.

Whether you're new to faith or looking to reconnect, StAAC is a space where you can grow at your own pace. Our services blend heartfelt worship, thought-provoking messages rooted in the Bible, and opportunities to connect with others. We offer programs for all ages—kids, youth, young adults, and beyond—making StAAC a place for the whole family.

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, there's a place for you at StAAC. We look forward to meeting you and walking alongside you as you discover the life-changing message of Jesus.