

Part 2: Can We Trust The Bible?

Bottom Line:

The Bible is trustworthy and reliable, backed by historical and archaeological evidence.

Introduction:

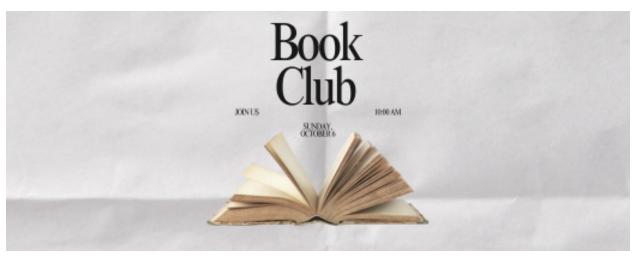
- In this message, we explored one of the most important questions when it comes to faith: Can we trust the Bible?
- Whether you're new to faith, exploring, or a long-time believer, at some point we all wrestle with questions about the Bible's reliability.

Why Trust Matters:

- We all have things we need to figure out when it comes to faith. For many, one of the biggest questions is whether the Bible is true and reliable.
- If we can trust the Bible, it changes everything about how we live our lives and approach faith.

Luke's Investigation (Luke 1:1-4):

- Luke, a doctor and historian, carefully investigated the events of Jesus' life. He didn't set
 out to write part of the Bible—he wanted to provide a reliable account for his reader,
 Theophilus, so that he could know the truth about Jesus.
- The Gospel of Luke is an example of how the Bible was written based on **eyewitness reports**, making it historically trustworthy.



Historical and Archaeological Evidence:

- The Masoretic Text was the most reliable Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament for centuries until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947. These scrolls, hidden in caves in AD 70, matched the Masoretic Text with a 95-97% accuracy rate. This archaeological find demonstrated the Bible's preservation over time.
- When it comes to the New Testament, we have around 28,000 manuscript copies in different languages, making it one of the best-preserved historical documents from antiquity. In comparison, we only have 643 copies of Homer's *The Iliad*, one of the best-preserved non-biblical ancient texts.
- With so many manuscript copies, scholars can compare them to ensure that what we read today closely matches the original writings.

Paul's Example:

- Paul, who initially persecuted Christians, radically changed after encountering Jesus. He suffered imprisonments, beatings, and hardships, not for personal gain, but because he believed in the truth of the gospel.
- Paul's willingness to endure suffering proves that he didn't just believe the Bible was reliable—he believed it was true.

Conclusion:

- The Bible is not just a collection of old stories; it is historically trustworthy and life-changing.
- This week, Chris challenged the church to dig deeper into the trustworthiness of the Bible by starting the Why Jesus? Bible reading plan on the Bible App.