

The Bible For Grown-ups

Part 2: Trust It?

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INTRODUCTION

When people hear the word “Bible” there are so many questions that come to mind. Can it be trusted? How is it any different from any other religious work? How do we know it’s historically accurate? What makes it any different from other works of antiquity? Those are honest questions that deserve grown-up answers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up what influenced the way you thought about the Bible? Did it help you trust or did it create more questions?
2. What barriers or hesitations (gaps) do you have that keep you from believing the Bible is true?
3. How does the manuscript evidence of the Bible impact your trust? (24,000 manuscripts and 50 years between original events and first witness)
4. Have you ever thought about or heard the idea of, “Eyewitness Knowledge Profile?” (Geography, Topography, Agriculture, Architecture, Botany, Economics, Traditions, Laws, Language, Names, Culture, Etc.) How does this impact your trust around the Bible one way or the other?
5. John Warwick Montgomery says, “...to be sceptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 - a. Don’t forget to ask your questions at npaustin.com/bible
6. Buck asked, “Do you honestly want to know truth?” Why is that an important question?

MOVING FORWARD

“There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament.” F.F. Bruce