

## Monday

### How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God

It is important to remember that the things we believe about God and His Word are all matters of faith. Hebrews 11:3 says, “Through faith we understand...” It is through our faith that we have insight into Biblical things and thereby gain understanding. However, to say that the Bible is true because it says it is doesn’t hold much water, so we look for external proofs to support what we already understand by faith. We will look at different external proofs each day.

1. One external proof is the Bible’s amazing unity. From beginning to end, the central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. It has maintained that unity in spite of literary obstacles. The first is the long period of time involved in its writing. The Bible was written over a period of time of 1,600 years. Read Genesis 3:15 – To what does that verse refer?
2. Read Revelation 22:13 – Who is speaking in this verse?
3. Another obstacle is the many different writers and their various occupations. There were over 40 different people whom God used to write His words. Read Psalm 68:11 – Who made unity possible in spite of the many different writers?
4. The third obstacle is the different geographic places where the Bible was written. Every different geographic region would influence the writing to some degree, yet there is still unity in the Bible. Read the following verses and notice the places of writing: Revelation 1:9, Philippians 1:13, Jeremiah 1:2.
5. The final obstacle is the different styles of writing, such as poetry, prose, narrative, prophecy, correspondence, and history. The Bible overcame all these obstacles and still maintained its unity. What does this teach you about the reliability and authority of the Bible?

## Tuesday

### How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God

Again, our beliefs are based on faith. These external proofs that we are studying only support what we already understand by faith.

1. Today, we will look at the Bible’s indestructibility. Read Psalm 119:89 – Where is God’s Word settled? For how long?
2. Who can destroy God’s Word there?
3. Read Isaiah 40:8 – What will stand forever?
4. The Bible has faced many persecutions throughout history. Read about a political persecution in Jeremiah 36:19-25 – Who tried to destroy Jeremiah’s words?
5. Were the attempts successful?
6. There were also religious persecutions against the Bible. The Spanish Inquisition was established in 1481 and lasted for nearly 350 years. People were fined, tortured, and killed for believing the Bible. It is estimated that 3,500-5,500 people were killed by the Spanish Inquisition. In spite of the religious persecution against the Bible, it has stood strong and not been destroyed. What would you do if you were in a similar situation?
7. There has also been philosophical persecution against the Bible. There are continuous debates and arguments taking place in an effort to discredit the Bible. However, the Bible has never been proven to be wrong. What did Jesus say about the Bible in John 17:17?
8. How does this affect your trust and confidence in the Bible?

God’s Word is forever settled. It cannot be destroyed. Any attempt to destroy it will surely fail!

### Wednesday

#### How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God

Today, we will look at two external proofs. Much more could be written about each of these. Hopefully, you will take the time to study more about each topic.

1. The next external proof is the Bible's historical accuracy. Historical events recorded in Scripture are also recorded in other historical literature. Read Daniel 1:1 and Luke 2:1-2 – What historical places are mentioned in these verses?
2. Archeology has also supported the accounts of the Bible. Read Luke 2:4, Matthew 21:1, and Joshua 6:1 – What places are mentioned here that archeologists have discovered?
3. Another external proof is that the Bible is scientifically accurate. Christopher Columbus proved that the earth is round in 1492. Isaiah 40:22 was written at least 2,000 years before Columbus. What does it teach about the shape of the earth?
4. An old myth about the earth is that it sat on the back of a giant turtle. Scientists later “discovered” that the earth in fact was suspended in space. Read Job 26:7 – What does this verse teach about the earth's suspension in space?
5. An old medical practice was for sick people to be bled by leeches. The idea was that sickness was caused by bad blood, so if the bad blood were removed, the sickness would go away. George Washington was bled to death by leeches. If the doctors had read Leviticus 17:11, what would they have known?
6. The Bible has been proven to be accurate long before historians and scientists figured it out. How does that affect your view of the reliability of the Bible?

### Thursday

#### How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God

Remember that our beliefs are based on faith. “We walk by faith, not by sight.” These external proofs only support what we already understand by faith. Today, we will study the Bible's prophetic accuracy. Fill in the table below to help you see how accurate the Bible's prophecies are.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Genesis 12:2	Exodus 1:7
Genesis 15:3	Exodus 12:40-41
Deuteronomy 28:64	Acts 8:4
Ezekiel 37:21	What happened in 1948?
Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67, 27:26
Isaiah 53:3	John 1:10-11
Isaiah 53:4	Matthew 27:46
Isaiah 53:5	I Peter 2:24
Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:3-5

Trust God's Word! It is always right!

## Friday

### How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God

You may be asked someday how you really know the Bible is what it claims to be, the Word of God. Hopefully, this study will help you answer that question. We will look at two more external proofs today.

1. The Bible and its teachings have world-wide influence. Most American and European civilizations are founded directly on the Bible and its teachings. The Bible's influence in Asia is not as wide-spread, but it's still there. Read Genesis 2:21-24 – How have these verses affected our civilization?
2. Also, most of the world's law systems are based on Biblical teachings. Read Exodus 20:13-16 – How have these verses influenced our laws?
3. The Bible's influence extends to the world's calendar. What is the central event in human history?
4. Another external proof is the Bible's vast circulation. An old statistic claims that the American Bible Society has distributed over 900 million Bibles since 1816. In a little over 100 years, the Gideons have distributed 1.3 billion Bibles. Other publishers have also made it their goal to distribute Bibles around the world. No other book can match those numbers. Read Mark 13:10 – What did Jesus say about the Bible's circulation?
5. Another statistic says that 80% of all books are forgotten in one year. Only .5% of all published books survive 7 years. The Bible has lasted thousands of years. Read Matthew 5:18 - What did Jesus say about the Bible's survival?
6. How do these external proofs affect you and your faith in God's Word?

## Saturday

### How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God

Another external proof that the Bible really is the Word of God is the care that was taken in its copying. Until Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1436, all copying was done by hand. Because of the possibility of human error, strict guidelines were given to insure the integrity of the text. There is no other book that can make these claims. The Bible truly is a unique and special book!

1. Each column of the text could have no less than 48 and no more than 60 lines.
2. The ink had to be no other color than black and had to be prepared according to a special recipe.
3. No word or letter could be written from memory. The scribe must have an authentic copy before him, and he had to read and pronounce each word aloud before writing it.
4. The scribe had to wipe his pen reverently each time before writing the word "God" and had to wash his entire body before writing the name "Jehovah."
5. One mistake on a sheet condemned the sheet. If three mistakes were found on any page, the entire manuscript was condemned.
6. Every word and every letter was counted. If a letter were omitted, an extra letter inserted, or if one letter touched another, the manuscript was condemned and destroyed at once.
7. Read Matthew 5:18 and Luke 16:17 – What do these verses teach about the preservation of the Bible?
8. There was obviously a great deal of respect for the text of the Bible. How well do you respect your Bible? It's not just another book that we throw around. It is God's holy Word. Give it the respect it deserves.

**Sunday**  
**How to Know the Bible Really Is the Word of God**

Understanding the Bible and its origin is a matter of faith. “Through faith we understand...” Remember, the external proofs we studied this week only support what we already understand by faith. We will look at two final proofs today.

1. Another proof that the Bible really is what it claims to be is its absolute honesty. People could not write the Bible if they wanted to. The Bible’s message and theme is too intricate, accurate, and unified to be a work of imperfect people.
2. The other side of that is that people would not write the Bible even if they could. One reason is the bad things God says about His friends. Read I Samuel 13:14 – To whom was God referring?
3. Read II Samuel 11:1-5 – What did God record about David?
4. Another reason people would not choose to write the Bible even if they could is because some of the teachings go against human logic. Read Revelation 20:15 and 21:8 – Do these teachings go along with human logic?
5. The final external proof is probably the most convincing. The Bible has life-changing power that no other book has. Read I Timothy 1:12-15 – How did Paul describe himself before he was saved?
6. Paul didn’t do too well before he was saved, but he did a lot better after salvation. Read Acts 20:18-27 – How did Paul’s life and attitude change after he was saved?
7. How is your life different because of the Bible’s influence?

The Bible really is the Word of God. You can trust it!