

The Big Story (Bible Overview)

Why do I believe the Bible is Reliable? The MAP says so!

Manuscripts

New Testament → No central publishing HQ

- 5,800 (fragments and full) in Greek
- 200,000-400,000 variants
- Honest look reveals that less than 40 “head scratchers” – but no major doctrine!
- Around 30 years between earliest manuscripts we have and the events in them.

• **Greater than 99% certainty**

Compare that to Iliad...643 copies none earlier than 500 years before original!

Old Testament (Some say oral transmission is inaccurate)

Parchment had to be perfect

Counts for lines...words...letters...then count from both ends to confirm middle

If imperfect, throw out!

Dead Sea scrolls (1,000 years older than previous oldest ms – virtually no dif!)

Why so many versions? Dynamic/Formal Equiv AND dialect/style

Archaeology

- Nineveh: 1840-50 French, British, and German archeologists. WK, p. 243.
- Hittites: 1905 ancient manuscripts discovered by Hugo Winkler a German Egyptologist Professor. Two years later, Hittite ruins discovered. ~ WK, p. 113.
"The Bible is right after all!" ~ Werner Keller, The Bible as Archeology, Intro.

Prophecy

- Cyrus (Isaiah 44/45) → 150 yrs before! Before the Persian Empire was significant!
Imagine someone saying in 1866, right after the Civil War, that we'd have an African-American prez in 2016!
- Jesus' lineage: Man, Israel, Tribe of Judah, descendant of David...
- Jesus' birthplace: Bethlehem Ephrata (Micah 5:2)

Why is the Bible “God’s Word” instead of other religious books?

- The Bible claims divine inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16); “thus saith the LORD”
- Its message is unique → grace (“done” v “do”); flaws of main characters
- Its unity
 - 66 Books
 - 40 Authors
 - 1500 years
 - 3 continents and languages
 - 1 message
 - 0 contradictions

The Bible is not such a book a man would write if he could, or could write if he would. ~ LS Chafer

The Big Story (Bible Overview)

THE BIBLE'S STORY IS TOLD IN FOUR ACTS

CREATION (Genesis 1-2)

Made in the Image of God
Made for fellowship with God
Made Purposefully for a Purpose
Dominion over all the Earth

FALL* (Genesis 3 – Malachi)

A historical event that explains the mess the world is in
Gives us a glimpse of the Enemy's tactics
Awfulness of sin

REDEMPTION (Matthew 1 – Revelation 20)

God had a plan and He is greater than sin
God loves and values humanity
God's love and justice meet at the Cross (they are not at odds)
"Already, but not yet" (Lion, Witch and Wardrobe...winter's thaw)

RESTORATION (Revelation 21-22)

Back to Edenic conditions – everything in harmony
A fresh start
Physical...we won't just sit on clouds playing harps!

***THE OLD TESTAMENT INCLUDES THE WAR FOR OUR SALVATION:**

Declaration of War (Gen 3:15)

Human race destroyed in the Flood (except for 8)

Abraham → Ishmael/Isaac (Gen 15-17)

Egyptians kill male Jews (Exodus 1)

Saul attempts to kill David (1 Samuel 18-30)

Judean kings marry pagan wives (1 & 2 Chronicles)

Israel dispersed by Assyrians, BUT Judah isolated Babylonians
(2 Kings 17:6 and 23:31-24:30)

Herod orders all Jewish male infants killed (Matthew 2)

Jesus crucified