



Doubtters
WELCOME

First things **first!**

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Three **questions...**

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My story of **doubt**

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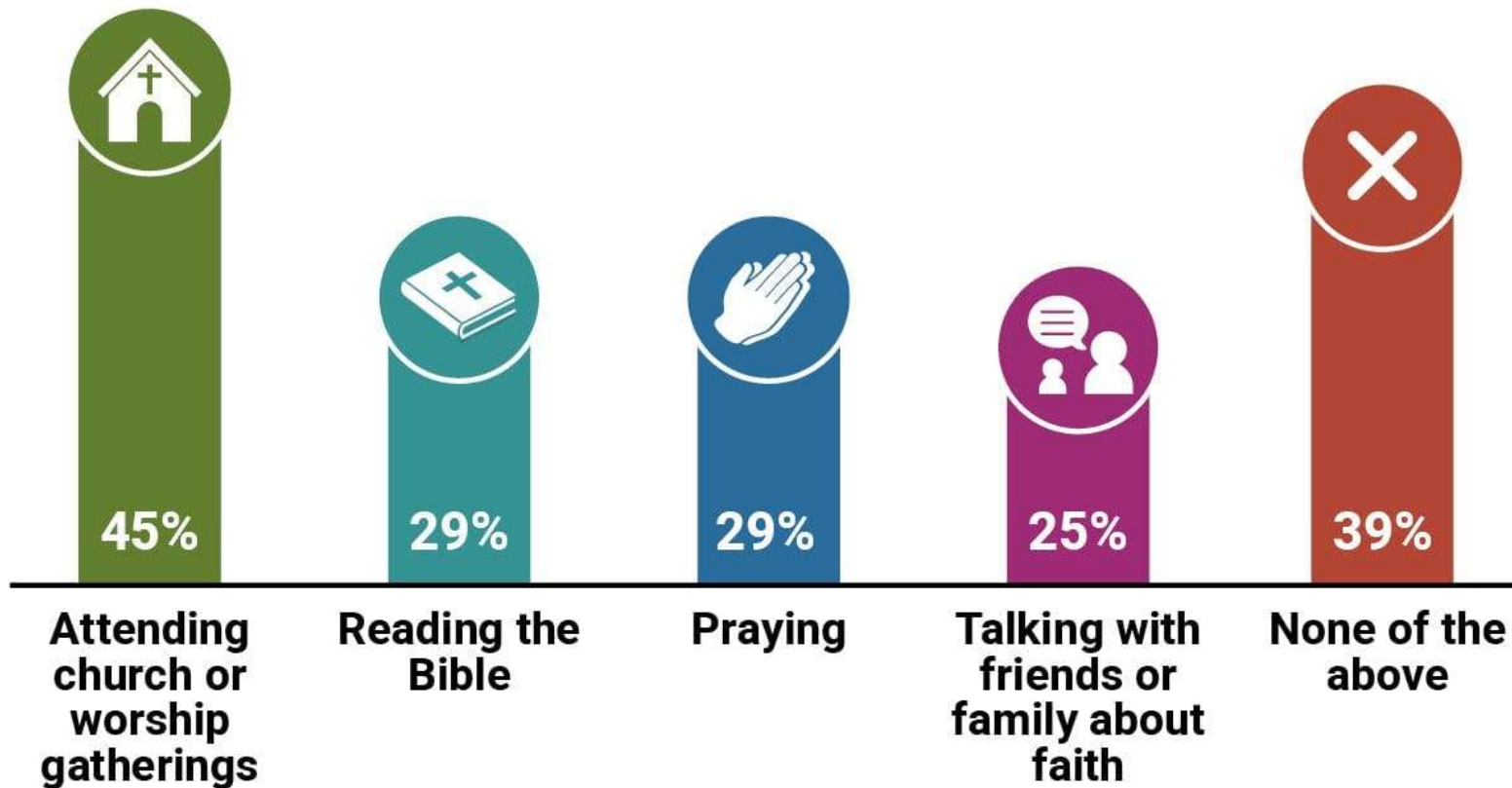
- 40% of students will **seriously question** their faith.
- 27% of students between 13-18 don't think church is a **safe place** to express doubts.

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THE RESPONSE TO DOUBT

When you experienced spiritual doubt did you STOP doing any of the following?

(% of Self-ID Christian or past Christian, experienced spiritual doubt)



You are **not** alone!
This is a safe place!

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When we encounter tough questions about our faith we have **four options:**

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When we encounter tough questions about our faith we have **four options**:

- Panic
- Ignore it
- Give up on faith
- Pursue the truth

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When we encounter tough questions about our faith we have **four options**:

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The **missing** wallet:

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The **missing** wallet:

If something is really valuable, then it's
worth **searching after.**

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- Does your life have a purpose?
- How can you live a good life?
- What happens when you die?
- Does God Exist?

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Bible

Jesus

God

Truth

Truth:

?

?

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Truth:

Statements which accurately **reflect** reality.

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Truth:

Statements which accurately **reflect** reality.

Truth  Reality

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“There’s **no such thing** as truth.”

“That’s true **for you**, but not for me.”

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Subjective Truth:

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Subjective Truth:

Truth **based** on a person's perspective, feelings, or opinions.

Objective Truth:

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Objective Truth:

Truth not **based** of a person's perspective, feelings, or opinions.

The Claims of **Christianity**:

- God exists
- Jesus rose from the dead
- The Bible is God's word

- Where did I come from?
- Does your life have a purpose?
- How can you live a good life?
- What happens when you die?

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Christian **Apologetics**: 3.5 hours

- 6.5% of your weekend
- 3% of your week
- 0.003% of your life

Matthew 7:7 - “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

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Bible

Jesus

God

Truth

Matt's # - 613.899.2470

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What did we talk about **yesterday?**

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- 40% of students will **seriously question** their faith.
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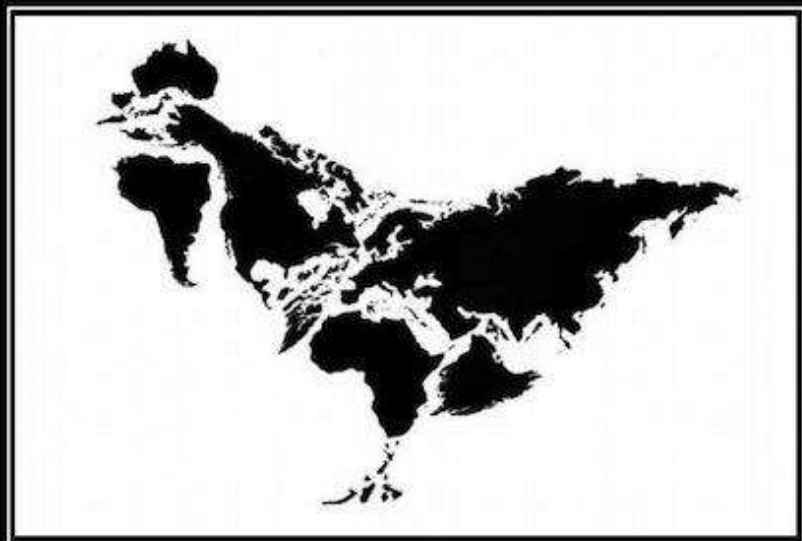
Truth

Does **God** Exist?

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Is there **evidence** for God?

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IF THERE IS NO GOD
how comes the world fits so perfectly into a chicken?

CHECKMATE ATHEISTS!

What would count as **evidence** for God?

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What would count as **evidence** for God?

- **Deductive Arguments**

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A **Deductive** Argument:

The presentation of statements that are assumed or known to be true as premises for a conclusion that necessarily follows from those statements.

A **Deductive** Argument:

1. Every student at Spring Folly loves pizza.
2. Larry is at Spring Folly.
3. Therefore, Larry loves pizza.

Romans 1:20 - For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, **being understood from what has been made**, so that people are without excuse.

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Three Deductive Arguments:

The Cosmological Argument

The Moral Argument

The Teleological Argument

Three Deductive Arguments:

The Cosmological Argument

The Moral Argument

The Teleological Argument



Or is the **material** universe?

The Cosmological Argument:

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause

Care to **summarize?**

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Care to **summarize?**

God is the best explanation of origin of the universe.

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Three Deductive Arguments:

The Cosmological Argument

The Moral Argument

The Teleological Argument

CAN YOU BE
GOOD
WITHOUT
GOD?



The Moral Argument:

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist
2. Objective moral values and duties do exist
3. Therefore, God exists

Care to **summarize?**

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Care to **summarize?**

God is the best explanation objective moral values and duties.

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Three Deductive Arguments:

The Cosmological Argument

The Moral Argument

The Teleological Argument

The
Constants
and
Quantities

Scalar fluctuation amplitude Q

2×10^{-5}

Baryon, dark matter mass per photon

0.57 eV, 3 eV

Entropy of the Universe

4×10^{81} J/K

Number of spacetime dimensions

3 (space) + 1 (time)

The Teleological Argument:

1. The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either necessity, chance, or design
2. It is not due to necessity or chance
3. Therefore, the universe is designed

Care to **summarize?**

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Care to **summarize?**

God is the best explanation of the apparent design of the universe.

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What would count as **evidence** for God?

- Deductive Arguments

Bible

Jesus

God

Truth

It is **reasonable** to believe that there's a timeless, spaceless, immensely powerful, morally perfect, designer and creator of the universe.

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How do you **know** I exist?

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What would count as **evidence** for God?

- Deductive Arguments
- Personal experience
- Answered prayer
- Miracles

What **would** convince you God exists?

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It really **matters!**

- Where did I come from?
- Does your life have a purpose?
- How can you live a good life?
- What happens when you die?
- Did Jesus rise from the dead?

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Bible

Jesus

God

Truth



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Truth
SNACK

What did we talk about **this morning?**

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- 40% of students will **seriously question** their faith.
- 27% of students between 13-18 don't think church is a **safe place** to express doubts.

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You are **not** alone!
This is a safe place!

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Bible

Jesus

God

Truth

“But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth **to forgive sins.**” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

Matthew 9:6

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“We are not stoning you for any good work,”
they replied, “but for blasphemy, because
you, a mere man, **claim to be God.**”

John 10:33

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Is Jesus **God**?

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“And **if Christ has not been raised**, your faith has not been raised, **your faith is futile**; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

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Corinthians 15:7-19

Christianity is founded on the
event of Jesus' resurrection.

Today we're discussing the
evidence of the Jesus' resurrection.

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The argument I **won't** be making:

1. The Bible is the inerrant word of God
2. The Bible teaches Jesus rose again
3. Therefore, Jesus rose again

The Bible:

- Collection of authentic 1st century documents
- Eye-witness accounts
- Considered generally historically reliable

“If historians want to know what Jesus said and did they are more or less constrained to use the New Testament as primary sources. Let me emphasize that this is not for religious or theological reasons... **it is for historical reasons**, pure and simple.”

- Bart Ehrman

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The argument I **will** be making:

The resurrection of Jesus is the best explanation of all the historical facts.

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The **Historical** Facts:

- Jesus lived
- He was crucified
- He was buried in a known tomb
- His tomb was found empty
- He was believe to be seen alive
- His disciples died for that belief

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The Historical Facts:

- **Jesus lived?**
- He was crucified
- He was buried in a known tomb
- His tomb was found empty
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- His disciples died for that belief

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Yes:

- The accounts of the New Testaments
- Extra-Biblical accounts:
 - Jewish - Josephus
 - Greek - Lucian of Samosata
 - Roman - Tacitus

...and others!

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An **Extra-Biblical** Outline of Jesus:

- First Century Jewish man
- Considered a miracle worker
- Had disciples
- Ran contrary to religious leaders
- Was executed by Pontius Pilate

First-century historians were not asking if
Jesus lived, but rather **who he was.**

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The Historical Facts:

- Jesus lived
- **He was crucified?**
- He was buried in a known tomb
- His tomb was found empty
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Swoon Theory?

- Jesus' physical condition before crucifixion
- Josephus' account
- Roman Centurions
- The opinion of medical professionals

“Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound to his side was inflicted and supports the traditional view that the spear, thrust between his right ribs, probably perforated not only the right lung but also the pericardium and the heart...

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...and thereby **ensuring his death.**

Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge.”

- William D. Edwards (Journal of the American Medical Association)

“Jesus’ death by execution under Pontius Pilate is **as sure as anything historical** can ever be.”

- John Dominic Crossan
(Skeptical Scholar)

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The Historical Facts:

- Jesus lived
- He was crucified
- **He was buried in a known tomb?**
- His tomb was found empty
- He was believe to be seen alive
- His disciples died for that belief

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Yes:

- Multiple, independent accounts
- No competing accounts of his burial
- Criteria of embarrassment:
 - Joseph of Arimathea
 - Sanhedrin member

The burial of Jesus is “one of the earliest and **best attested** facts about Jesus.”

- A. T. Robinson
(Skeptical Scholar)

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The Historical Facts:

- Jesus lived
- He was crucified
- He was buried in a known tomb
- **His tomb was found empty?**
- He was believe to be seen alive
- His disciples died for that belief

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Yes:

- Multiple, independent accounts
- Criteria of embarrassment:
 - Discovered by women
- Jewish response

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“Let not the testimony of women be admitted [in court], on account of the levity and boldness of their sex.”

- Josephus

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Yes:

- Multiple, independent accounts
- Criteria of embarrassment:
 - Discovered by women
- Jewish response

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Matthew 28:13-14 - “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were sleeping.’”

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“By far most scholars **hold firmly** to the reliability of the biblical statements about the empty tomb.”

- Jacob Kremer
(Skeptical scholar)

The Historical Facts:

- Jesus lived
- He was crucified
- He was buried in a known tomb
- His tomb was found empty
- **He was believe to be seen alive?**
- His disciples died for that belief

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Yes:

- Multiple, independent accounts
- Seen alive by:
 - Disciples
 - Skeptics - James and Paul
 - Crowds - 1 Cor. 15:6 - "Go ask them!"
- Contrary to 1st century theology

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Hallucination Theory?

- Not individual experiences
- Not wish fulfillment:
 - Disciples are shocked
 - Some doubted
 - James and Paul didn't want to believe

Yes:

- Multiple, independent accounts
- Seen alive by:
 - Disciples
 - Skeptics - James and Paul
 - Crowds - 1 Cor. 15:6 - "Go ask them!"
- Contrary to 1st century theology

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Galatians 3:13 - “**Cursed** is everyone who
is hung on a tree.”

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The Historical Facts:

- Jesus lived
- He was crucified
- He was buried in a known tomb
- His tomb was found empty
- He was believe to be seen alive
- **His disciples died for that belief?**

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Yes:

- Transformed disciples
- Dying for their beliefs
- The rise of the church

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Conspiracy Theory?

- Missing motive:
 - Die
 - Poor
 - Hated and ridiculed
 - With no actual hope

The Historical Facts:

- Jesus lived
- He was crucified
- He was buried in a known tomb
- His tomb was found empty
- He was believe to be seen alive
- His disciples died for that belief

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The argument I **will** be making:

The resurrection of Jesus is the best explanation of all the historical facts.

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Alternative?

- Myth
- Swoon theory
- Conspiracy theory
- Hallucination theory
- Twin Theory

So why doesn't everyone agree?

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Habermas vs. Flew:

Antony Flew (then atheist) reluctantly admitted that no alternative theories explain the resurrection. Yet, he concluded for Jesus to rise again is “impossible.”

“The birth and rapid rise of the Christian church therefore remain an unsolved enigma for any historian who refuses to take seriously the only explanation offered by the church itself.”

- C. F. D. Moule

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1 Corinthians 15:3-8 - “For I delivered to you what I also received:... That Christ **died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was **buried**, and that he was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he **appeared** to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

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Bible

Jesus

God

Truth



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What did we talk about **yesterday?**

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Bible

Jesus

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Truth

Is The Bible **God's word?**

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“It is repetitive, self-contradictory,
sententious, foolish, and even at times ill-
intentioned.”

- GQ Magazine

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1. The Bible is still **relevant**

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Which of these saying is in The Bible?

- “Drop in the bucket”
- “Wit’s end”
- “By the skin of your teeth”
- “Going the extra mile”

Which of these saying is in The Bible?

- “Drop in the bucket” (Isa. 40:15)
- “Wit’s end” (Ps. 107:27)
- “By the skin of your teeth” (Job 19:20)
- “Going the extra mile” (Matt. 5:41)

The Bible...

- Is the world's most popular book
- Sells 100+ million copies a year
- It is the most stolen book in the world
- Influenced literacy rates
- Influenced our whole society

The Bible has something to say about...

- Racism
- Abortion
- Sexuality and identity
- The value of the individual
- Your life's purpose!

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“We are living in a **cut-flower** civilization.”

- Dr. Os Guinness

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1. The Bible is still **relevant**

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1. The Bible is still relevant

1. The Bible is **God's word**

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The Bible's claims **about itself**

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The Bible's claims **about itself**

- “The Lord says”, or “God said”: over 3800 times throughout the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16 - **All Scripture** is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

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2 Peter 1:20-21 - Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretations of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as **they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

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Hasn't the Bible been **corrupted**?

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Hasn't the Bible been **corrupted**?

- “Broken Telephone”

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Hasn't the Bible been **corrupted**?

- “Broken Telephone”
- Textual Criticism:
 - OT - 10000+ fragments
 - NT - 5800 manuscripts

“The essential Christian beliefs are **not affected** by textual variants in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament.”

- Dr. Bart Ehrman

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Archaeological Evidence?

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Archaeological Evidence?

“Wherever archeology has been able to check on the historicity of the Bible, it has supported the Bible.”

- Dr. Norm Geisler

Archaeological Evidence?

BibleArchaeologyReport.com

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Prophecy:

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Prophecy:

- 300-400 prophecies about Jesus
- 300-400 years before Jesus was born

Prophecy:

- Lineage: Abraham, David, Judah
- Birthplace (Micah 5:2)
- Virgin birth (Isa. 7:14)
- Serve others (Ps. 8:5-6)
- Would perform miracles (Isa. 35:5-6)

Prophecy:

- Would be betrayed (Zech. 11:12-13)
- Would be abandoned (Ps. 41:9)
- Would be crucified (Ps. 22:16)
- He would be resurrected (Ps. 118:17-18)

Jesus' beliefs about the Bible...

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Jesus' beliefs about the Bible...

- Jesus never disrespected scripture, ever!
- He studied it in depth (John 7:15)
- He used scripture as authoritative against Satan (Matt. 4)

- He used scripture as the primary support for his beliefs (Matt. 22:40)
- He warned against replacing scripture (Mark 7:1-12)
- He believed all prophecies would be fulfilled (Luke 24:25-27)

- He believed every single word of scripture was authoritative (Matt. 5:18)
- Jesus treated scripture as fact, including God's words and commands (Matt. 19:4)
- Jesus confirmed the coming of the New Testament (John 14:26)

You can't follow Jesus
without following the Bible!

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Bible

Jesus

God

Truth

1. The Bible is still relevant

1. The Bible is God's word

1. The Bible is **central for LIFE**

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- God the creator: “And God **said...**”

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- God the creator: “And God said...”
- Jesus the **Word**: “Life and life abundantly”

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- God the creator: “And God said...”
- Jesus the Word: “Life and life abundantly”
- God’s **word**: Connects us to The Life







Bible

Jesus

God

Truth



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