

# Week 2 Apologetics for the Reliability of the Bible

## 1. Lecture Objectives

- 1) Understand why the Bible is trustworthy
  - 2) Defend the authority of Scripture using historical, textual, and theological evidence
  - 3) Develop responses to modern criticisms
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## 2. Key Topics

### 1) Self-Authentication of Scripture

- (1) The Bible testifies to itself as the Word of God  
    “All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16)
  - (2) Inner witness of the Holy Spirit
  - (3) Key Idea: The authority of Scripture comes from God Himself
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### 2) Historical Reliability

- (1) Archaeological discoveries support biblical accounts
- (2) Real historical figures and events

#### Examples:

- (1) Evidence of King David (Tel Dan Inscription)
- (2) Discovery of the Hittite civilization

#### Conclusion:

The Bible is rooted in real history, not myth

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### 3) Manuscript Reliability

- (1) Number and accuracy of biblical manuscripts
- (2) Compared to other ancient texts

#### Example:

- (1) New Testament: over 5,800 Greek manuscripts
- (2) Far more than Homer’s *Iliad*

#### Conclusion:

The Bible is the best-preserved ancient document

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#### 4) Fulfilled Prophecy

- (1) Prophecies written centuries in advance fulfilled accurately

##### Examples:

Messianic prophecy (Isaiah 53)

- (2) Birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - (3) Key Message: Fulfilled prophecy points to divine revelation
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#### 5) Internal Consistency

- (1) Written by about 40 authors over 1,500 years
  - (2) Yet one unified redemptive story
  - (3) Key Point: This unity is difficult to explain naturally
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#### 6) External Evidence

- (1) Non-Christian sources mention Jesus and early Christianity

##### Examples:

Tacitus

Josephus

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### 3. Modern Criticism and Apologetics

#### 1) Common Criticisms

- (1) “The Bible is man-made”
- (2) “It contains errors and contradictions”
- (3) “It conflicts with science”

#### 2) Apologetic Responses

- (1) Contextual interpretation
  - (2) Understanding literary genres
  - (3) Distinguishing science and faith domains
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### 4. Application

- 1) Trust the Bible as the foundation of life
  - 2) Be prepared to defend the Gospel
  - 3) Rely on the Holy Spirit for understanding
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### 5. Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the strongest evidence for the Bible’s reliability?
- 2) Why is the Bible questioned in modern society?
- 3) How can you personally trust the Bible?