

Reasons to Believe

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1. **Reasons to believe in the Bible.** It is **logically consistent** and **corresponds with reality**:
 - a. The Bible is scientifically accurate – it describes:
 - i. Radioactive decay, in **2Peter 3:10**.
 - ii. Hydrologic cycles, in **Ps.135:7, Ec.1:7** and **Job 36:27-29**.
 - iii. Atmospheric jet streams, in **Ecc. 1:6**.
 - iv. Clouds and condensation, in **Job 26:8, 37:11**.
 - v. Earth's spherical shape, **Is. 40:22**.
 - vi. The expansion of the universe, in **Job 26:7**.
 - vii. Earth's foundation – hung on nothing, **Job 26:7**.
 - viii. That air has weight, **Job 28:25**.
 - ix. Hydrothermic vents, **Gen. 7:11** and **Job. 38:16**.
 - x. That like begets like – a biological law, **Gen. 1:11-12, 21, 25**.
 - xi. That one event could be seen across the world – an impossibility then – now possible through TV, **Mt. 24:30** and **Rev. 11:9-11**.
 - b. Bible is prophetically accurate (here are a few out of thousands of examples):
 - i. Jesus alone fulfilled over 300 (**odds of just 8 = 1 in 10¹⁷**).
 - ii. Jesus' crucifixion prophesied 1000 years before crucifixion invented, in **Ps.22:16**.
 - iii. Alexander the Great, prophesied in great detail: Great warrior from West → early death → empire split four ways → combined into Tolomaic and Selucid, in **Daniel 8:5-12**.
 - iv. Rebuilding of Jerusalem and temple by Cyrus prophesied 100 years before Cyrus' birth and 100 years before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, in **Is.44:28**.
 - v. Tyre's destruction prophesied in great detail: destroyed, made bare as a rock, a place where fisherman dry their nets, rubble throne into the sea and never rebuilt, in **Ez.26**.
 - c. The Bible is historically accurate: real people, places and events corroborated by archeology (here are just a couple of examples).
 - i. Hitites – critics condemned the Bible's description of this group; archeological digs have since proven their existence.
 - ii. Caesar Augustus' census at the time of Christ's birth (**Luke 2:1**).
 - d. The Bible's authors agree.
 - i. Written on 3 continents, in 3 different languages, over 1500 years, over 40 generations by 40 authors of different backgrounds, social status, languages and ethnicities.
 - e. The Bible is textually authentic (here is a quick comparison with Homer's Illiad).
 - i. NT has copies from as early as **AD 125 (~25-70 years after written**, within life-spans of Jesus' contemporaries). The Iliad's earliest copy is from 400 BC (500 yrs after written).
 - ii. NT has **24,000 early copies** (~300 yrs) vs. Iliad's 643.
 - f. The Bible has the power to change human beings. **Ex.** Just look around this room.
 - g. Most of Jesus' disciples and many early church founders died for this message.
 - i. People often die for a belief but never for a known lie.

You may choose at the end of your investigative processes of the New Testament to say, "I choose not to believe it." But you may not reserve the right to say, "Because there is not enough evidence to believe it."– Simon Greely - Famed Professor, Harvard Law School.

2. **The Bible points to one person and one event – Jesus and salvation.**
 - a. Jesus alone accurately described the human condition and the remedy.

The depravity of man is at once the most empirically verifiable reality but at the same time the most intellectually resisted fact. – Malcom Mugridge

- b. Jesus provided a remedy for that condition – **a free gift of salvation (experientially relevant).**
 - c. Jesus impacted history more than any other human that has ever lived.
 - d. Jesus triumphed over death (overwhelming historical evidence for this).
 - i. He alone has authority to describe the means of salvation.
 - e. **Jesus’ message corresponds with reality – He alone hit the nail on the head.**
 - f. The Bible is **logically consistent**, only Jesus’ description of our condition is **empirically correct** and only Jesus’ remedy is **experientially relevant**.
3. **The summary.**
 - a. Naturalism can’t account for matter, design or the universe; design points to a designer.
 - b. The Bible alone provides coherent answers to the questions of origin, meaning, morality and destiny in a way that corresponds with reality.
 - c. **Implications** → There is a God, He is the God of the Bible, He came to earth as the man Jesus, He provided the only means of salvation.
 - d. **If you are a believer – be confident in the validity of the Bible.**
4. **If you aren’t a believer – here are the 4 most fundamental biblical principals:**
 - a. God loves you and has an awesome plan for your life. **Jer. 31:3, Jn. 3:16, 10:10.**
 - b. Sin and selfishness result in eternal separation from God. **Rom. 3:23, 6:23.**
 - c. Jesus provides the only means of salvation – **the cross. Jn.14:16.**
 - d. You must personally accept His free gift of salvation. **Jn. 1:12, Eph. 2:8-9.**
 - i. **Not just an emotional experience or intellectual agreement – an act of the will.**

In Rev. 3:20, Jesus says – “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in...” Are you ready to open the door? If so, tell God:
“I need you. Today I place my faith in you and accept your free gift of salvation and eternal life with you, which you provided for me by dying on the cross for my sins. Thank you for being my Savior and Lord.”