

# Can U Trust the Bible

## How to Defend Your Faith-Session 7

### What are the Issues?

1. Bible Reliability
  - Canon (basis for the books in the Bible)
  - When & Who Wrote it (Proximity to Events)
  - Accuracy & Errors (original language manuscripts)
  - Translations (Why so many?)
2. Inerrancy (Contradictions)
3. Old Testament Problems
4. Miracles & Prophecy

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### Canon of Scripture

“canon” from Greek word “kanon,” meaning “reed” or “measurement.” The canon of Scripture refers to the books which are considered to be the authoritative Word of God.

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*the Bible does not offer its own table of contents.”*  
– Jesuit theologian Bernard Sesboüé

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### OT Canon

- Flavius Josephus 22 books (first century Jewish historian)
- Universally by AD250
  - Hebrew Scripture Canon 24 books.
  - Greek Septuagint 24 books.

Hebrew TaNaKh 24 books are same as the Old Testament Canon 39 books just grouped differently.

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### NT Canon

All New Testament books quoted by early Church Fathers and all New Testament books recognized in early Church Councils (4<sup>th</sup> Century)

- Clement of Rome (AD95) 8 books
- Ignatius of Antioch (AD115) 7 Books
- Polycarp of Smyrna (AD108) 15 books
- Irenaeus (AD185) 21 books
- Hippolytus (AD 170-235) 22 books
- Muratorian Canon (AD 170-200) 22 books
- Damasine Council of Rome (AD332) all 27
- Council of Laodicea (AD363) all but Revelation
- Council of Hippo (AD393) all 27
- Council of Carthage (AD397) all 27

### NT Manuscripts

- More than 5,500 ancient manuscripts in Greek
- More than 30,000 ancient manuscripts in other languages
- More than a million early Church father quotations for all NT books

### NT Objections

1. All the mistakes in the New Testament.
2. Scribes changed the Documents.
3. We have no way to know originals.
4. Myths & Legends grew over time.

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### Textual Criticism

- Primary objection is all the errors and changes. 3.5 variations per word in the New Testament
- John loves Mary can be written over two thousand different ways in Greek.
- Variations include things like spelling errors and omissions in the thousands of manuscripts.

Now you are getting an idea of how we get so many variations without any meaningful change to the message.

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### Chain of Custody

- 1<sup>st</sup> gospel accounts within decades of Jesus
- Paul quotes Luke’s gospel as “scripture”
- No mention of Paul, Peter, or James Deaths
- No mention of destruction of Temple
- Continuous overlapping teaching from Apostles to Church Councils

#### Example:

John (6-100AD) taught Polycarp, Ignatius & Papias (35-135AD) who taught Irenaeus (120-202AD) who taught Hippolytus (170-236AD) and so on until the Church Councils

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### Bible Translations

- More than 450 English Translations.
- Translations in ~5,000 Languages of the ~7,000 languages in the world.
- More than half speak one of 23 languages.

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### Translation Complications

Eight Greek words for “love”

- ἔρως (érōs)
- φιλία (philia)
- ἀγάπη (agápē)
- στοργή (storgé)
- μανία (mania)
- πράγμα (prágma)
- φιλαυτία (philautía)
- ludus (from latin)

Eight Hebrew words for “love”

- Ahava - אהבה
- Heseḏ - חֶסֶד
- Chasadim – חסדים
- Re’ut – רעות
- Ohev - אוהב
- Eemunah - אֱמוּנָה
- G’milut Hasadim
- Rachamim

In Philippines if you say Langgam in Capital Manila, people down for an ant, but if you say Langgam in the Visayas region they look up for bird.

In parts of Philippines if you say ibon it means chicken but if you cross the river it might mean egg.

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*“The best translation of the Bible is the one you read.”*

*– Tim Mackie (Bible Project)*

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Horrible chapter breaks and erratic verse lengths & breaks are God’s Anti-Tamper protection.

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### Translations & Translators

- Language to language not word for word.
- Translator’s words, not my words.
- Translation is feel & opinion not science.
- More, fuller meaning and understanding.
- Lexicons (amateur translators).
- Focus on context message not specific words.

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