



take up and read

Why Do I Need The Bible?

January 2, 2022

1. The Bible is a supernatural book.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

A. The Bible is historically accurate.

B. The Bible is prophetically accurate.

- The Bible gives over 2,000 prophecies about the future.
- Daniel 9:24 tells the exact time of Jesus' birth.
- Micah 5:2 tells that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2 (ESV)

- Zechariah 9:9 tells us Jesus would enter Jerusalem on a colt.
- Zechariah 11:12-13 tells us Jesus would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter. Zechariah 11:12–13 (ESV)

- Isaiah 53:9 describes how Jesus would be put to death between two criminals but buried in a rich man's tomb.

C. The Bible is a durable book.

One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible on earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seeker. — Voltaire in 1776.

D. The Bible is a consistent book.

E. The Bible is a miraculous book.

F. The Bible is a transforming book.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

2. The Bible is a trustworthy book.

A. The Bible is true because God's character is true.

But you are near, O Lord, and all your commandments are true.

Psalm 119:151 (ESV)

Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

John 17:17 (NLT)

...it is impossible for God to lie,... Hebrews 6:18 (ESV)

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

Psalm 119:142 (ESV)

...which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began Titus 1:2 (ESV)

B. The Bible is true because Jesus claimed it was true.

For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,...

Matthew 24:37–38 (ESV)

But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you. Matthew 11:24 (ESV)

Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died... John 6:49 (ESV)

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
Matthew 12:40 (ESV)

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Matthew 5:18 (ESV)

C. The Bible is true because as God's Word, that logically means it must be true.

People ask me if you have to read the Bible literally. That hinges on what parts of it you are reading. When you go to Genesis, Adam and Eve, and the Garden of Eden, those are archetypal stories. Those are not the stories of actual ancient people who lived thousands of years ago. They are trying to tell us about ourselves. We don't read those stories literally. We are Adam and Eve. We don't believe they are literally true... Take the story of Jonah being swallowed by a whale. That story is meant to be read prophetically, not literally. Did it really happen? I am ok if it did, but that is not the point of the story.
— Adam Hamilton, from the United Methodist Church website.

Having done this listening, we sometimes conclude either that the writer's culture or personal experience (e.g., subordination of women or keeping of slaves) seems to have prompted his missing what God was saying or doing, or that God now is saying or doing something new. —ELCA web site

3. The Bible is an authoritative book.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (ESV)

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV)

4. The Bible is an essential part of knowing God.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;...

Psalm 19:7–8 (ESV)

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Psalm 19:10–11 (ESV)

5. How do I get the Bible into my life?

- A. Get a grip on the Bible by hearing it taught.

- B. Get a grip on the Bible by reading it regularly.

- C. Get a grip on the Bible by memorizing it.

Life Group Questions

1. What tall tale has been frequently repeated and exaggerated among your family and friends?
2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** What is it about the Bible that is inspired? How does that change the way we read the Bible?
3. Pastor Kurt gave six pieces of evidence for the supernatural character of the Bible. Which one impresses you the most? Why?
4. Why should we believe in the inerrancy of the Bible? How does refusing to believe the Bible is without error end up putting someone in a position of authority over the Bible?
5. **Read Matthew 7:24-29.** What is the difference between the man who builds his house on the rock and the man who builds his house on the sand? Give real-life examples of what happens to someone who builds their life on sand? How can we ensure we are building our life on the rock?
6. When it comes to knowing God, what is the difference between speculation and revelation? Why is trusting in God speculation ridiculous?
7. **Read Psalm 19.** What would you say to someone who thinks that listening to the preacher on Sunday isn't necessary since he can connect with God out in nature in his bass boat?
8. **Read Nehemiah 8:1-8.** What strikes you about the way these people listened to the teaching of God's Word?
9. Did you accept the "Take Up And Read" Bible reading challenge?