



1 Timothy 3:16-17

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Today's Sermon:
**"Is the Bible a reliable guide
 for my life?"**
2 Timothy 3:16-17

5 Questions behind the question

1. Where did our Bible come from?

A. Some History

2. Is it accurate?

B. It's Facts

3. What does the Bible claim about itself?

4. Is it true?

Inerrancy vs Infallibility?

5. How practically, can the Bible change my life?

Gospel Application



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HOPE
LOWERTOWN
ST. PAUL

**HEY!
I HAVE A
QUESTION!**

Summer Sermon Series

BIG



questions

This week's question:

“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”

Focus Passage: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

Five Questions behind the question:

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B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

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2. Is it accurate?

3. What does the Bible claim about itself?

4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

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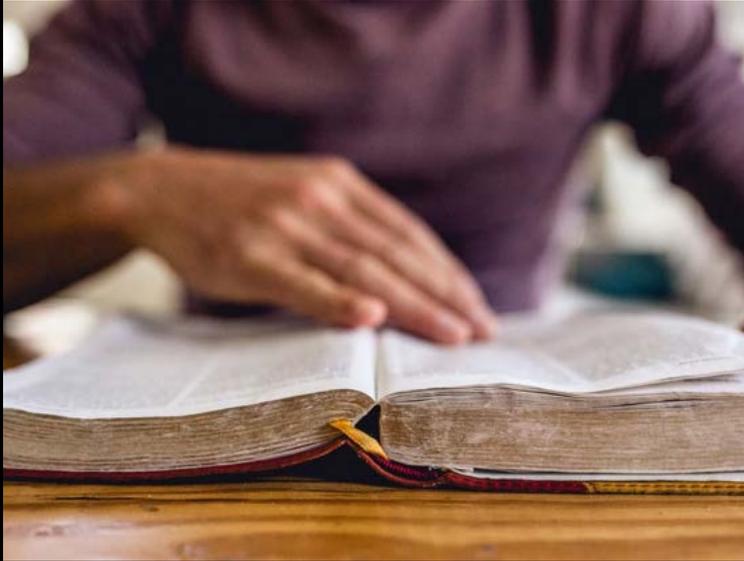
4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

5. How, practically, can the Bible change my life?

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

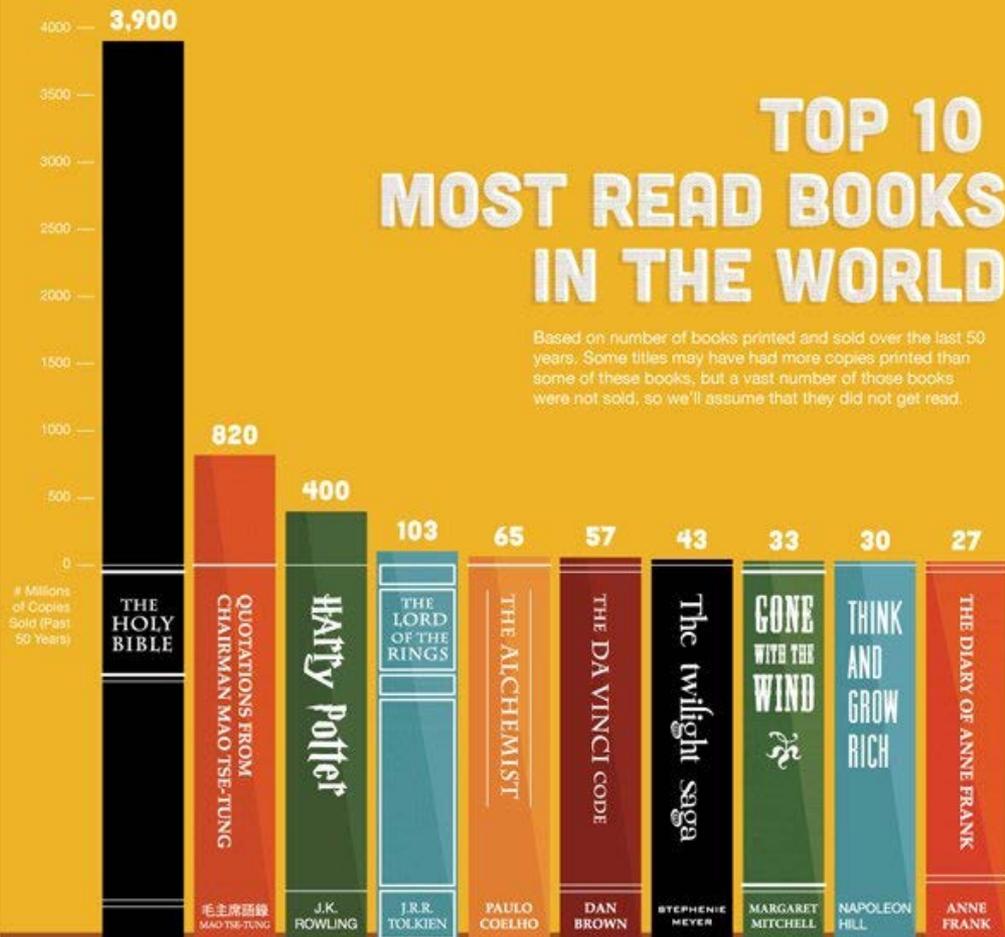
1. Where did our Bible come from?

- 66 Books (39 OT, 27 NT)
- Written by approx. 40 authors
- Diversity of authors (kings, fishermen, a tax collector, tent maker, etc.)
- Written over a period of 1600 yrs
- Best selling book and most read



TOP 10 MOST READ BOOKS IN THE WORLD

Based on number of books printed and sold over the last 50 years. Some titles may have had more copies printed than some of these books, but a vast number of those books were not sold, so we'll assume that they did not get read.



JAREDFANNING.COM

Source: squidoo.com/mostreadbooks

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

2. Is it accurate?

Lord Hubris' Ancient Manuscript Comparison (NT)

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Pliny	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000 yrs	10	----
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400 yrs	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%

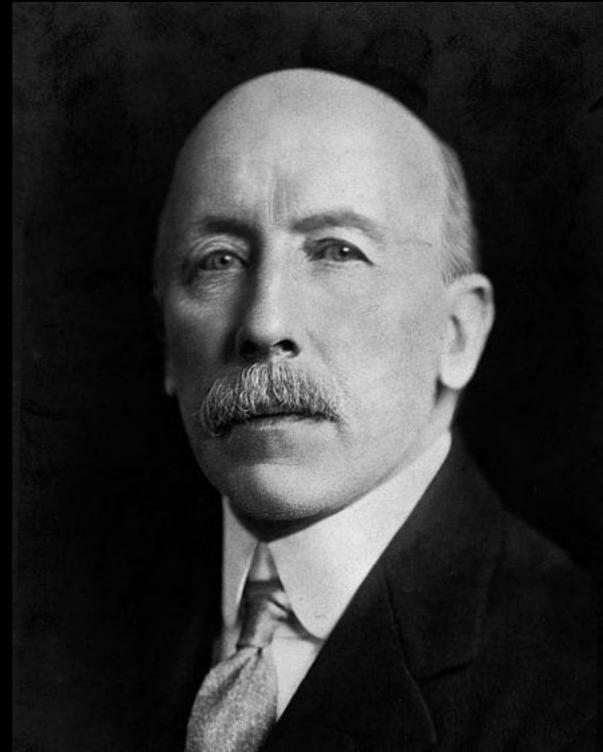
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Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (130 A.D.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

The New Testament text ...is far better attested than that of any other work of ancient literature. It's problems and difficulties arise not from the deficiency of evidence, but from an excess of it. In the case of no work of Greek or Latin literature, do we possess manuscripts so plentiful in number, or so near the date of composition.

- Sir Frederick George Kenyon, Director and Head Librarian of the British Museum and appointed president of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

Quote taken from his book, *The Bible and Archaeology*



B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

3. What does the Bible claim about itself?

God's inspiration of human authors

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God's inspiration of human authors

1 Peter 1:19-21

¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For 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.

Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. ⁵It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalm 19

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalm 19

¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Truthful, life-giving, and reflects God and his ways to us

Psalm 19

¹²But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Effective and Powerful

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Jesus' Source of Truth and Life

John 17:15-19

¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

God's word is for us to be followed

James 1:22-25

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

B.Q.: *“Is the Bible a reliable guide for my life?”*

4. Is it true? (Inerrancy debate)

Inerrancy vs. Infallibility

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What inerrancy does not mean:

1. That the Bible was simply “DICTATED” by God to us. It was inspired.
2. That we can give a scientific precision (21st C) to recorded history (pre-2nd C A.D.)
3. That “contradictions” in accounts are in error. (Rooster crowing once in Matthew, Luke and John, 2x in Mark)
4. That poetry/prophecy must be taken “literally”. (Yes, it should be, as POETRY!)

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5. How, practically, can the Bible change my life?

Gospel Application:

Where are you when it comes to God's Word?