



## Can I Trust the Bible? – Message 2

### Announcements

**Fall Small Group Semester //September 2-December 8 (15 weeks) //** The summer semester ends August 11 and we're looking ahead for the Fall. You will receive an email at the end of July, asking your small group plans for the fall. Pray and discuss with your group what you will do next semester. Go to [cotkleaders.com/curriculum](http://cotkleaders.com/curriculum) for suggestions.

### Warm-up

Name one of your favorite books as a child? Explain why you loved it.

### Word and Application

We are on the second week of the new series, *You Asked For It*, a response to the most common questions you asked. Last week's question was, "How Do I Overcome Depression?" We discussed various steps in overcoming depression. Today we will discuss the second topic in this series, "Can I Trust the Bible?"

#### Background

The Bible is unique in comparison with every other book in existence. Moreover, the Bible covers hundreds of controversial topics with continuity from beginning to end. It was written over 1,500 years, by 40 different authors, from every walk of life. It was written amidst military campaigns and in times of peace. The Word of God was written across three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The Bible is also unique in its survival through persecution. Let's dive deeper so we can know for sure that we can trust God's Word for our lives.

#### 1. Is the Bible reliable?

**Read Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8.** What does the Bible say about the Word of God? What questions have you had about the reliability of the Bible?

A. *Archeology supports Scripture.*

In 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by the Qumran Community. They attested to the exactness of the Old Testament manuscripts. They found the whole copy of Isaiah, which was copied by them in the first century. Scores more discoveries like this have happened in the past hundred years.

B. *Ancient secular authors attest to it.*

Josephus, a first-century, Jewish secular historian, made specific references to John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the Disciples. This is all included in the classic book, *The Works of Josephus*. Also, the Roman historian, Tacitus, clearly mentions Christ and other related Biblical events. This also supports Scripture.

C. *The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.*

All of the prophecies given up to 1,500 years prior to Christ's birth were fulfilled in His coming. Jesus fulfilled all of the 48 major prophecies concerning the Messiah. Peter Stone, a famous historian said, "the likelihood of that happening is 1 in 10 to the power of 157, or the number 10 followed by 156 zeroes." Why do you think God placed prophecy in the Bible?

**Read Micah 5:2 & Matthew 2:1.** Jesus fulfilled every single major prophecy concerning the Messiah. No other document of antiquity begins to approach the reliability of the Bible. How does knowing these facts influence your view of the Bible? How does knowing this deepen your relationship with Christ?

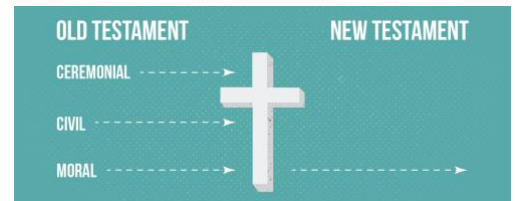
## 2. Is the Bible relevant?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 55:12, Psalm 114:4.** The Bible is not only relevant because it is drawn from people from different walks of life but also because it's God-inspired. The Scriptures represent 100% of God using 100% of man. It isn't man's interpretation. Some authors received God's Word in visions, in dreams, and within their heart. Then they wrote it as they heard it.

The Old Testament and the Old Covenant both point to the New Covenant and the coming Messiah. In reading the Old Testament, we discover the Old Testament Law. Confusion can occur when we don't understand the different components of the Law and how it relates to the New Testament Covenant.

### Three Components of the Law:

1. *The Ceremonial/Sacrificial Law* - found in the book of Leviticus.
2. *The Civil Law* - found in the book of Deuteronomy, better known as the political or jurisdictional law.
3. *The Moral Law* - Also known as the Mosaic Law, found primarily in the Ten Commandments.



**Read Hebrews 9:13-14, Matthew 5:27-28 & 1 John 1:9.**

It is important that we understand that at the cross, two components of the law were either fulfilled or repealed while the Moral Law still applies today. How did Jesus fulfill the Ceremonial and Civil Laws? When Jesus was crucified, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. What is the symbolism of this act concerning the law? How do these scriptures magnify what Christ did on the cross for you?

### Life Challenge

1. If you do not have a reading plan for the Bible, download the YouVersion app and pick out a daily reading plan you can follow.
2. Look up 3 scriptures that address any difficult situations, questions, or challenges you are facing. Begin to meditate and speak those passages over the next 7 days.

### Prayer

Ask the Lord to reveal the meaning of various scriptures you don't understand or that you question. Ask Him to place people in your path for you to share these truths of how you know the Bible is true. Pray for the specific needs of your Small Group.