

The Bible

The Bible consists of 66 books: 39 in the OT and 27 in the new. (Note: $3 \times 9 = 27$).

The OT has 23,214 verses. The NT has 7,959 verses.

The Bible took about 1600 years to write.

It was written in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) by about 40 authors and is internally consistent throughout.

It was written on three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe.

It was written by a variety of people: prophets, priest, cupbearer, a king, judges, fishermen, etc.

The first translation of the English Bible was initiated by John Wycliffe and completed by John Purvey in A.D. 1388.

The first American edition of the Bible was perhaps published sometime before A.D. 1752.

The Bible has been translated in part or in whole as of 1964 in over 1,200 different languages or dialects.

The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton about A.D. 1228.

The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in A.D. 1448 and the New Testament by Robert Stephanus in A.D. 1551.

Old Testament – a total of 39 books and 5 main divisions:

Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy), Historical (Joshua to Esther),

Poetic (Job to Song of Solomon), Major Prophets (Isaiah to Daniel),

Minor Prophets (Hosea to Malachi).

New Testament – a total of 27 books with 4 main divisions:

Gospels (Matthew to John), History (Acts), Epistles (Romans to Jude), Prophetic (Revelation).

Reliability of the biblical documents:

The Bible is 98½ percent textually pure. This means that through all the copying of the Biblical manuscripts of the entire Bible, only 1½% has any question about it. Nothing in all of the ancient writings of the entire world even approaches the accuracy of transmission found in the biblical documents.

The 1½ percent that is in question does not affect doctrine. The areas of interest are called variants, and they consist mainly in variations of wording and spelling.

The OT does not have as many supporting manuscripts as the NT, but it is, nevertheless, remarkably reliable.

The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew OT done around 250 B.C., attests to the reliability and consistency of the OT when it is compared to existing Hebrew manuscripts.

The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 also verify the reliability of the OT manuscripts.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were ancient documents that were hidden in a cave in Israel about 2000 years ago. The scrolls contained many OT books, one of them being Isaiah.

Before the Dead Sea scrolls, the earliest existing manuscript of the OT was dated around A.D. 900 called the Masoretic Text. The Scrolls contained OT documents 1000 years earlier. A comparison between the manuscripts revealed an incredible accuracy of transmission through copying, so much so that critics were silenced.

The NT has over 5000 supporting Greek manuscripts existing today with another 20,000 manuscripts in other languages. Some of the manuscript evidence dates to within 100 years of the original writing. There is less than a 1% textual variation in the NT manuscripts.

Estimated time of writing of the NT documents

Paul's Letters, A.D. 50-66.

Matthew, A.D. 70-80.

Mark, A.D. 50-65.

Luke, early 60's

John, A.D. 80-100.

Revelation A.D. 96.

Some of the supporting manuscripts of the NT are:

John Rylands MS was written around A.D. 130, the oldest existing fragment of the NT

Bodmer Papyrus II (A.D. 150-200)

Chester Beatty Papyri (A.D. 200), contains major portions of the NT

Codex Vaticanus (A.D. 325-350), contains nearly all the Bible.

Codex Sinaiticus (A.D. 350), contains almost all the NT and over half of the OT

No other ancient writing can boast of having copies so close to the original time of writing. With the Bible, the difference is about 50 years. With Plato and Aristotle, for example, the difference is measured in hundreds of years. Prophecy and mathematical odds of fulfillment:

The odds of Jesus fulfilling 48 of the 61 major prophecies concerning Him are 1 in 10,157; that is a one with 157 zeros behind it.

By comparison, the estimated number of electrons in the entire known universe is about 10 to the 79th power; that is a one with 79 zeros behind it.

Inspiration and Inerrancy – The Bible is inspired by God. Inspiration means that God, through the Holy Spirit, caused the writers of the Bible to write the accurate and authoritative revelation of God. It is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16) through the instrumentation of the apostles and prophets (2 Pet. 1:21).

Conclusion

It is without error in the original manuscripts, absolutely reliable and true in all areas it addresses.

Every true Christian Must accept the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

Scientific Accuracies in the Bible:

- The spherical shape of the earth (Isaiah 40:22).
- The earth is suspended in nothing (Job. 26:7).
- The stars are innumerable (Gen. 15:5).
- The existence of valleys in the seas (2 Sam. 22:16).
- The existence of springs and fountains in the sea (Gen. 7:11; 8:2; Prov. 8:28).
- The existence of water paths (ocean currents) in the seas (Psalm 8:8).
- The water cycle (Job. 26:8; 36:27-28; 37:16; 38:25-27; Psalm 135:7; Ecc. 1:6-7).
- The fact that all living things reproduce after their own kind (Gen. 1:21; 6:19).
- The nature of health, sanitation, and sickness (Gen. 17:9-14; Lev. 12-14).
- The concept of entropy – that energy is running down (Psalm 102:26).