

Peaks Bible Church Study Guide

Produced by Truth Perspective Ministry, Jesse M. Jackson

The Reliability of Scripture



Key Text: Hebrews 4:12 | **Theme:** Understanding why we can trust the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

01 The Current Crisis of Confidence

- **The Statistic:** Only **25%** of Christians today believe the Bible is the actual, literal Word of God (down from 40% in the 1980s).
- **The Question:** Do we view the Bible as a "treasury of human insight" or as "Divine Revelation"?
- **The Reality:** The Bible is either 100% trustworthy or it is not. If it contains errors, it loses its authority over our lives.

03 The Christological Argument: What Jesus Says of the Bible

If we follow Jesus, we must adopt His view of Scripture. Jesus affirmed:

- **Total Truth:** "Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17).
- **Verbal Inspiration:** Even the smallest "jot and tittle" (the smallest Hebrew letters/markings) are authoritative (Matthew 5:18).
- **Literal History:** Jesus treated Old Testament accounts (Adam & Eve, Noah, Jonah) as literal historical facts, not myths.
- **The Logical Link:** To say the Bible is wrong is to say Jesus was wrong. If Jesus was wrong about Scripture, His claim to be "The Truth" is falsified.

05 Internal Evidence: Harmony and Prophecy

- **Unity:** 66 books, 40 authors, 1,500 years—yet **one central theme** without contradiction.
- **Fulfilled Prophecy:** Approximately 27% of the Bible is prophecy. Over 2,000 have been fulfilled to the letter. (**The Math:** The probability of one person fulfilling just 8 specific prophecies is **1 in 100 quadrillion**. Jesus fulfilled over 300.)

02 The Internal Claim: What the Bible Says of Itself

- **Hebrews 4:12:** The Word is quick (alive), powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword.
- **The Power to Penetrate:** It exposes the inner heart (conviction) and nourishes the believer (comfort).
- **The Scope of Relevance:** We cannot "cherry-pick" parts of the Bible. If God affirms it, all of it is relevant.

04 External Evidence: Why the Bible is Unique

1. **Preeminence in Circulation:** Translated into over **795 full languages** (portions in over 4,000). Billions of copies distributed annually.
2. **Preeminence in Influence:** Over 11 million book titles have been written about the Bible—roughly 10% of all books ever published.
3. **Unique Preservation:** Despite centuries of attempts to burn, ban, or outlaw it (from Emperor Diocletian to Voltaire), the Bible remains the most read book on earth.
4. **Manuscript Reliability:** We have nearly **25,000 early manuscripts**. (Compare this to Homer's Iliad, which has fewer than 2,000).
5. **Archaeological Verification:** Over **25,000 specific sites** and discoveries verify Biblical accounts.