



BIBLE BASICS **ACADEMY**

104

RELIABILITY

GOD'S WORD

104: RELIABILITY

“Why should I trust a 2,000+ year-old book?” This question has troubled countless people who have considered Christianity’s truth claim that the Bible is the Word of God. Christians do not blindly accept this claim; they have good, solid reasons to believe the Bible is exactly what God revealed to his servants years ago, and is just as relevant for Christians today.

Memory Verses: Isa. 40:8; Mat. 24:35; 2 Tim. 2:11–13

Key Points

- The New Testament has more manuscript evidence than other less criticized historical works.
- There is more historical evidence for Jesus than for Caesar Augustus, a contemporary with Jesus.
- There are several textual variants between NT manuscripts, but even atheists acknowledge that none have any real significance.
- The transmission of the NT letters is like a printing press making multiple copies and not like the game “telephone.”
- We do not have the original autographs of the New Testament letters, but we can accurately recreate them based on textual evidence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do we need the original handwritten letters from the authors to trust the Bible? Why or why not?
2. Why did God not preserve the copies from all errors?
3. How does the origin of the Bible compare to other religious “holy books?”

CHAIN REFERENCE

-2 Peter 1:16

-Luke 1:1-4

-1 John 1:1-4

-Luke 24:13-27

-Acts 2:22-36

-Acts 7:1-53

-Acts 10:34-43

-Acts 13:16-41

-1 Corinthians 15:1-8

-Galatians 1:6-9

