

The Bible Is No Ordinary Book

Open-Book Review

Use the Final ThinkCube to answer the following questions. The purpose isn't to test your memory, but to help you review and reinforce the cumulative case for why the Bible is uniquely trustworthy.

PREMISE 1

The Miracle of Divine Inspiration

Open-Book Review

1. What does the Bible claim about the ultimate source of Scripture?

- A. It originated only from human religious reflection
- B. God is its ultimate source, working through human authors
- C. It was compiled by one unknown author
- D. Its authority comes primarily from church tradition

2. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, Scripture is described as:

- A. God-breathed
- B. Symbolic
- C. Historically interesting
- D. Human philosophy

3. According to 2 Peter 1:20–21, how did the biblical writers speak from God?

- A. By copying neighboring religions
- B. By relying only on memory
- C. As they were carried along by the Holy Spirit
- D. By writing anonymously

4. Why does the use of many different human authors not weaken the Christian claim of inspiration?

- A. God could sovereignly guide their distinct personalities and experiences to communicate what He intended
- B. Every writer used exactly the same vocabulary
- C. None of the writers lived in real historical settings
- D. Inspiration requires mechanical dictation

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "The Bible was written by people, so it cannot be the Word of God." What question could you ask about whether an all-powerful God is capable of communicating through human authors?

2. Put it in your own words: What is meant by saying that Scripture is both genuinely human in expression and divinely inspired?

PREMISE 2

The Miracle of Divine Prophecy

Open-Book Review

1. What makes biblical predictive prophecy significant in the argument for divine authorship?

- A. It contains specific predictions presented as being fulfilled later in history
- B. It avoids real people and places
- C. Its predictions are intentionally impossible to evaluate
- D. It was all written after the New Testament

2. What standard does Deuteronomy 18:21–22 give for a prophet speaking in God's name?

- A. Most predictions should be approximately correct
- B. A prediction claimed to be from God must come true
- C. Predictions should remain symbolic
- D. Prophets may revise failed predictions

3. Which is an example discussed in the ThinkCube of a prophecy concerning Jesus?

- A. His birth in Bethlehem
- B. His birth in Rome
- C. His becoming a military emperor
- D. His writing the book of Isaiah

4. Why are multiple fulfilled prophecies presented as a cumulative argument?

- A. Numerous specific fulfillments are increasingly difficult to explain as mere coincidence
- B. One prophecy automatically proves every historical claim
- C. Prophecy replaces all other evidence
- D. The prophecies have no connection to history

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "Fulfilled prophecy is probably just coincidence." What could you ask about the cumulative effect of numerous specific predictions written before their claimed fulfillments?
2. Put it in your own words: Why would accurate foreknowledge of future events point beyond ordinary human knowledge?

PREMISE 3

The Miracle of Unity Across Time and Authors

Open-Book Review

1. Approximately how many books make up the Bible?

- A. 27
- B. 39
- C. 66
- D. 100

2. What is remarkable about the Bible's authorship according to the ThinkCube?

- A. More than 40 authors wrote across roughly 1,500 years in varied cultures and circumstances
- B. One author wrote every book during one lifetime
- C. All authors lived in Jerusalem at the same time
- D. Every book belongs to the same literary genre

3. What central storyline is presented as unifying Scripture?

- A. God's creation, humanity's fall, and His redemptive plan centered on Christ
- B. The political rise of Rome
- C. The history of one royal family only
- D. A collection of unrelated moral sayings

4. What do the Bible's many cross-references illustrate?

- A. Extensive connections among themes, people, events, and teachings throughout Scripture
- B. That later books never refer to earlier ones
- C. That the Bible has no central theme
- D. That its books were written in alphabetical order

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "The Bible is merely a collection of unrelated ancient writings." What could you ask about its unified storyline across dozens of authors and many centuries?
2. Put it in your own words: Why does the Bible's long-range unity form part of the cumulative case for a guiding divine mind?

PREMISE 4

The Miracle of Divine Preservation

Open-Book Review

1. What discovery dramatically extended the Hebrew manuscript evidence for portions of the Old Testament?

- A. The Dead Sea Scrolls
- B. The Rosetta Stone
- C. The Magna Carta
- D. The Behistun Inscription

2. What did comparison of the Great Isaiah Scroll with much later Hebrew manuscripts demonstrate?

- A. A high degree of textual stability across roughly a thousand years
- B. That Isaiah had disappeared from later Bibles
- C. That the entire theology had been rewritten
- D. That no ancient Hebrew manuscripts survive

3. Why are the large numbers of surviving New Testament manuscripts important?

- A. They provide extensive evidence with which scholars can compare and evaluate the transmitted text
- B. They eliminate the need to study textual variants
- C. They prove every manuscript is physically identical
- D. They show the New Testament was written in modern times

4. What larger point does the ThinkCube draw from the Bible's survival through copying, persecution, suppression, and the passing of empires?

- A. Its extraordinary preservation is consistent with God providentially preserving His Word
- B. Ancient books never disappear
- C. Governments have always promoted the Bible
- D. Scripture was never copied by hand

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "After thousands of years of copying, surely we cannot know what the Bible originally said." What could you ask about the manuscript evidence and the Dead Sea Scrolls?

2. Put it in your own words: How does the Bible's preservation strengthen the cumulative case for its trustworthiness?

PREMISE 5

Jesus Affirmed the Bible as the Supernatural Word of God

Open-Book Review

1. How did Jesus regularly treat the Old Testament Scriptures?

- A. As authoritative and trustworthy
- B. As myths He intended to replace
- C. As writings with no relevance to His mission
- D. As merely political documents

2. Which phrase did Jesus repeatedly use when appealing to Scripture?

- A. "It is written"
- B. "It is rumored"
- C. "It may be true"
- D. "Tradition suggests"

3. According to John 10:35, what did Jesus say about Scripture?

- A. Scripture cannot be broken
- B. Scripture would soon disappear
- C. Scripture applied only to priests
- D. Scripture contained no history

4. Why is Jesus' view of Scripture especially significant for Christians?

- A. If Jesus is who He claimed to be, His affirmation of Scripture carries unique authority
- B. Jesus never quoted the Old Testament
- C. Christians base Scripture's authority only on archaeology
- D. Jesus rejected biblical prophecy

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "I respect Jesus, but I do not trust the Bible." What could you ask about Jesus' own treatment of Scripture as authoritative, historical, and the Word of God?

2. Put it in your own words: Why does the identity of Jesus make His view of Scripture central to the question, "Can I trust the Bible?"