



Is the Bible TRUSTWORTHY?

I notice your church places a lot of emphasis on "the truth as written in the Bible."

How do you know that you are in possession of this "truth"? As a non-SDA member I could ask you: Is the Bible trustworthy?

And is it historically accurate?

And how would you know that?

If you can't demonstrate such an important matter, how would you then accept its inspirational message as the truth?

Question from a non-Adventist.

What I am demonstrating here is the *historical reliability* and *trustworthiness* of Scripture,

not its inspiration.

(That is dealt with in a separate tract.)

♦ If you are an Adventist, you may find this tract useful in helping others, who may not be aware of this **Bible Truth**.

You are under a false impression concerning the folk in Bible times. Your perception is not accurate at all. I would even state that many people in Bible times were intellectually more astute than folk of today. We might have mobile phones and PCs, but that has nothing to do with being intelligent or civilised.

Let me give you a few examples of intellectual and engineering capability that was demonstrated during the time when the Bible was written, over a period of 1 500 years or so before Christ. These show the exceptional abilities of the various groups of humans during that time.

Please understand, in a society that enjoyed a high level of education, the Bible wouldn't last five minutes if it weren't accurate.

They used a base of 60 for their math, as opposed to our base ten - which meant they couldn't cheat by counting on their fingers!

Base 60 math originated with the ancient Sumerians way back in the third millennium BC and was passed down through the ages, explaining why our minutes have 60 seconds, our hours 60 minutes and our circles 360 degrees.

The abacus can calculate figures in excess of 6 billion, and today a proficient user will beat a modern calculator. **Still think the old people were backward?**

pillars in fact slant slightly outwards to appear perfectly to a viewer on the ground, while the base is subtly curved to appear perfectly level. Is that clever, or what?

In the mid-20th century, we began launching satellites into space enabling us to determine the circumference of the Earth precisely: 40 030 km. But nearly 2 200 years earlier the Greek mathematician Eratosthenes came up with nearly the exact same figure, based on measuring a section of the earth's curvature! Without satellites...

The Romans spoke Latin, and even though today it is considered a dead language, it's still taught in schools and universities.

This is because Latin is a very precise language and hence is used extensively for legal and medical terminology. Latin is also the language on which theology, philosophy, logic, grammar, literature, chemistry and many other disciplines base their terminology. Many of our modern languages, like Italian, French and Spanish, are rooted in Latin, while even Germanic languages like English derive a significant part of their vocabulary from Latin.

with laser technology!

On average the core blocks of the Great Pyramid weigh about 1.5 tons each, and the granite blocks used to roof the burial chambers are estimated to weigh up to 80 tons each. Engineers still can't agree over the methods used to shape, lift and accurately position these massive stones. (Few cranes in the world today can handle that weight.) Some of these blocks were quarried in Aswan, nearly 700 km away. How did they transport them?

Yes, the ancients had their little (or rather big) secrets.

Yes, I must agree with you after the examples you have shown me. I just remember now when I was at school, we learnt about the roads that the Romans made when they conquered England in about AD 70. They built them with different layers of drainage so that they wouldn't get pot-holes and many of those roads are still solid today. Perhaps we should get them to build our roads!

I really never thought people in Biblical times were so advanced. In all fairness I think we all need to be more respectful of the folk living at that time. But I have a second difficulty, not so easy to resolve.

Answer this one for me: **I know the Bible wasn't written in English.** So how can I be sure the Bible is accurate? Considering that it is only a translation?

Up until the time of Gutenberg a Bible or any text would have to be written by hand. This type of writing always ran the risk of errors. Accuracy then became vastly improved with the printing press.

Does that partly answer your question on accuracy?

Yes, you've raised a lot of history in that point of yours concerning the translation.

William Tyndale was executed by the Church after he translated the Greek Bible into English, at the time against both Church and State law. Ironically, only a year after his death King Henry VIII opened the door for translating the Bible into English. This led to the classic King James Version, which drew heavily on Tyndale's work.

Before Gutenberg, scribes wrote texts by hand, mostly in monasteries. This was expensive and time-consuming; even the most proficient scribes could produce only a fraction of the copies a press could in a given time. Printing was considerably cheaper, too.

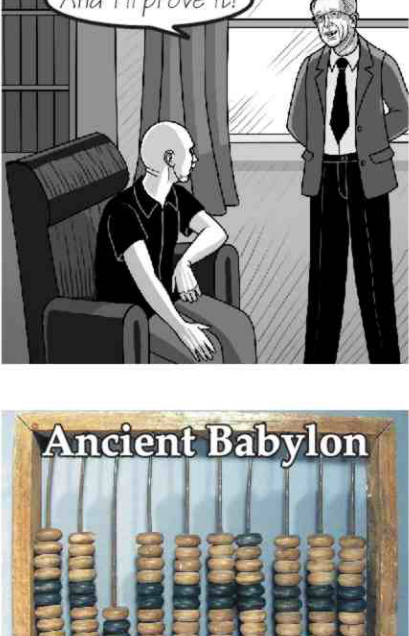
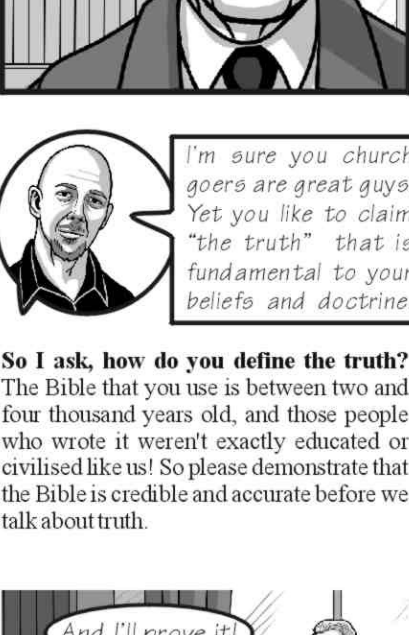
More important, movable type allowed for easy correction, meaning the texts could be edited and vetted by senior, knowledgeable persons, after which a large number of accurate copies could be printed.

There are now more than 5 686 known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. If we include Latin and other versions, we have at least 25 000 manuscript copies! No other document of antiquity even begins to approach such numbers. The importance of the sheer number of manuscript copies cannot be overstated. This abundance of copies makes it possible to reconstruct the original with virtually complete accuracy.

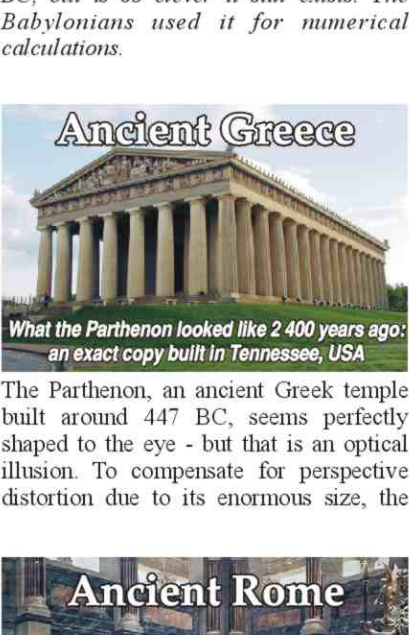
Looking for a reliable translation? I recommend the **King James Version**.

47 scholars participated in its translation; 37 had doctorates. They were organised into six companies, each with a separate section of the Bible assigned to it. They worked at Westminster, Oxford and Cambridge.

Originally published in 1611, the KJV is recognised as the gold standard of Bible translations!



So I ask, how do you define the truth? The Bible that you use is between two and four thousand years old, and those people who wrote it weren't exactly educated or civilised like us! So please demonstrate that the Bible is credible and accurate before we talk about truth.



Ancient Babylon

The abacus was invented in the ancient empire of Mesopotamia some 3000 years BC, but is so clever it still exists! The Babylonians used it for numerical calculations.

Ancient Greece

What the Parthenon looked like 2 400 years ago: an exact copy built in Tennessee, USA

The Parthenon, an ancient Greek temple built around 447 BC, seems perfectly shaped to the eye - but that is an optical illusion. To compensate for perspective distortion due to its enormous size, the

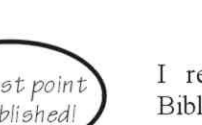
Ancient Rome

The Roman Senate. Most modern states still base their government systems on the Roman model.

Ancient Egypt

I can carry on forever, but let's mention just one more, the ancient Egyptians. Over 4000 years ago they built the pyramids to an angular accuracy of 0.05% - which we would find hard to replicate today, even

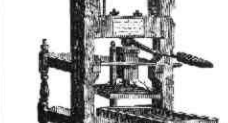
I am sure you'll agree that it's a mistake to underestimate the intellectual capabilities of the ancients. Their engineering, cultural and intellectual capabilities are unsurpassed in many ways even today! That proves they were literate, fully capable of documenting any matter in sophisticated language.



The Via Appia, a Roman road still in use. It runs from Rome to Brindisi - and has done so for over 2 000 years.



Johannes Gutenberg (died 1468)



Gutenberg invented the printing press (above) around 1448 AD

William Tyndale 1494-1536

Two pages from Tyndale's Bible, the first English Bible to be printed. Tyndale was one of the leading Reformers of his time.

OK, I accept that there wouldn't be errors once the type has been set and properly edited.

So then, have I reassured you about the accuracy of the Bibles we have today?

But Gutenberg did his thing only 600 years ago! Till then, all texts were written by hand. Who says these original texts were accurate?

The New Testament was written in Greek, and we have original manuscripts to use for translation.

Translation errors are not a factor. We have original manuscripts in Greek. The highly accurate Hebrew text is confirmed by the numerous cross checks made by the scribes at that time. There are easily 300 quotes from the Old Testament in the New Testament that verify its accuracy.

An example is this complete scroll of the Hebrew Bible manuscript of Isaiah (above), found in the Qumran caves in 1947. This copy, dated to the first century BC, is considered the earliest Old Testament manuscript still in existence.

Just to remind readers, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew with parts in Aramaic, which has similarities with Hebrew. The New Testament was written in Greek.

Moses is thought to have written Genesis and possibly Job, both around 1400 BC, some 3 400 years ago.

The Book of Revelations is the newest book of the Bible, completed around 90 AD.

To summarize the bibliographic test:

The Old and New Testament manuscripts enjoy far greater attestation in terms of quantity, quality and time span than any other ancient documents.

Given the intellectual, engineering and cultural quality of the ancients and the fact that there are far more Bible manuscripts than any other source, I justifiably claim the Bible has to be fully accurate and trustworthy.

Amazing! All those different writers over millennial And they all agree with and complement each other.

However, I would recommend that readers study for themselves the wealth of information available concerning the truth of the Bible.

The first King James Bible in quarto size, published in 1612

Want to know more? Here are some useful contact details

World Cellphone Evangelising, Bible Studies and Sermons

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