



Is the Bible Reliable?

Can We Trust the Bible as a Source of Truth?

The issue we would like to address here is the trustworthiness of the Bible. Can what Christians consider the infallible, inspired Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17 KJV NASB) be trusted as a source of truth about God, man, creation and salvation? This is important, because the extent to which we can consider the Bible trustworthy and reliable is the extent we can hold it as an authority over what we believe about God.

Joseph Smith called the Bible into question as an authoritative source by declaring in his Articles of Faith (#8) that he believed "the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly." In other words, the Bible can only be trusted as authoritative in as much as it is 'translated correctly', and he and the other prophets of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints determine which parts of the Bible are trustworthy (and thus authoritative) and which parts are not. In essence, this teaching makes Joseph Smith and the subsequent prophets an authority over the Bible.

This leaves us with questions and dilemmas, however. First of all, are there indeed translation problems with the Bible so that some parts of it are not the LORD's words? Also, it leaves us in a quandary of the 'chicken and the egg' sort: are Joseph Smith and later prophets an authority over the Bible, or is the Bible an authority of later prophets? How can we know which one governs the other, which is the supreme authority? (This question will be more thoroughly addressed on our Truth page.) Does the Bible itself give an answer to these questions?

Use the list below to navigate to your issue of interest, or simply read straight through by scrolling:

From Where Did the Bible Come?

Coming soon...

How Did the Bible Come to Us and Was that Process Trustworthy?

There are two aspects of the Bible's journey from its original penning to the books we have today - '*transmission*' and '*translation*'. Transmission is the copying of the original document onto another document in the same language, which does not involve translation. Translation, however, is copying the original document and writing it on a second document in a *different language* than that of the original document.

For example, a secretary would be expected to write exactly what her boss would dictate (without any interpretation). However, that same boss, who only spoke English and was meeting with a Spanish client, would expect his Spanish-speaking secretary to interpret his/her words - to try to accurately convey in a second language the originally-intended meaning of what he/she said to the client in the first language.

It is important to understand these two functions, as both of these took place in the handing down our Scripture to us today. One common misconception, however, is that translation is the primary vehicle by which the Bible was brought to us.

This document and information is not © and may be freely distributed for *personal use*. However, please use it to the glory of the eternal Lord!

Light On A Hill Ministries aw WWW.LightOnAHillMinistries.org aw Email LOAH@lightonahillministries.org aw Tel. Coming soon...



Is the Bible Reliable?

What Does the Bible Say about Itself as an Authority?

1 Tim 3:16-4:4

2 Pet 1:16-2:3