

TOP

10

MYTHS

— ABOUT THE —

BIBLE

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Top 10 Myths About the Bible

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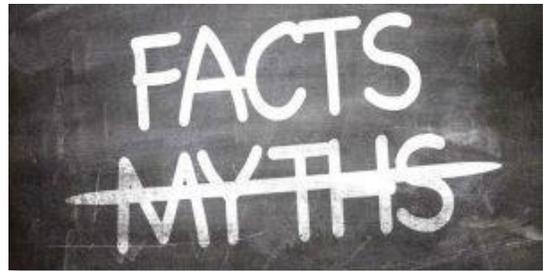
You know what an "urban myth" is, right? It's "a story of obscure origin that has little or no supporting evidence, and yet spreads spontaneously." In other words, it's a popular belief that's not true. That seems like a good description of what many people think about the Bible. How many times have you heard someone say, "Oh, today we know the Bible isn't true because..."?

So, what I'd like to do is respectfully challenge some popular misimpressions about the Bible. But first, let me be upfront about my bias: I believe [the Bible is true](#). Maybe you agree; maybe you don't. Either way, let me share the evidence that led me to my conclusion. Then it will be up to you to make up your own mind. Fair enough? OK, so let's take a look at the *Top 10 Myths about the Bible*.

1. **The Bible was created by church officials to maintain their own power.** "The content is far too counterproductive...to promote [the church] policies, consolidate their power, and build their movement. If this popular view is correct, we would expect to see many places in the gospels where Jesus takes sides in debates that were going on in the early church ...However, we do not find this." Timothy Keller in [The Reason for God](#).
2. **Modern translations of the Bible obscure the original meaning.** "The only kind of sanctity which Scripture can lose (or, at least, New Testament scripture) by being modernized is an accidental kind which it never had for its writers or earliest readers... We ought therefore welcome all new translations (when they are made by sound scholars)." C.S. Lewis in [God in the Dock](#).
3. **The Bible as we know it omits other Gospels that tell a different story about Jesus.** "The vastly exaggerated claims made on behalf of these gospels are more revealing about what contemporary scholars and writers would like to find about the first Christian ages, and how these ideas are communicated, accurately or otherwise, to a mass public. The alternative gospels are thus very important sources ...for what they tell us about the interest groups who seek to use them today; about the mass media, and how religion is packaged as popular culture..." Philip Jenkins in [Hidden Gospels: How the Search for Jesus Lost Its Way](#).

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4. **The Bible was written centuries after the events it describes supposedly happened.** “The great majority of the New Testament books were penned between A.D. 50 and 100.” David F. Payne in [New International Bible Commentary](#).
5. **The Bible's view of God is inconsistent: in the Old Testament he's mean and angry, in the New Testament he's loving and forgiving.** “The wrath of God is His eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. It is the displeasure and indignation of Divine equity against evil... Not that God’s anger is a malignant and malicious retaliation, inflicting injury for the sake of it, or in return for injury received. No; while God will vindicate His dominion as Governor of the universe, He will not be vindictive.” A.W. Pink in [The Attributes of God](#).
6. **The Bible advocates things we know are wrong, like slavery.** “While the Bible does not reject slavery outright, the conclusion that it actually favors slavery is patently wrong. Scripture does reveal that slavery is not ideal, both in Old Testament laws forbidding the enslavement of fellow Israelites, the law of jubilee, and in New Testament applications of Christ. In fact, the Bible teaches that the feeling of superiority in general is sin! The abolition of slavery is thus not only permissible by biblical standards, but demanded by biblical principles.” Ravi Zacharias, “Does the Bible Condone Slavery” in Slice of Infinity (<http://www.rzim.org/a-slice-of-infinity/does-the-bible-condone-slavery/>).
7. **The Bible is against proven science.** “Science and religion ... are friends, not foes, in the common quest for knowledge. Some people may find this surprising, for there’s a feeling throughout our society that religious belief is outmoded, or downright impossible, in a scientific age. I don’t agree. In fact, I’d go so far as to say that if people in this so-called ‘scientific age’ knew a bit more about science than many of them actually do, they’d find it easier to share my view.” Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne in [Quarks, Chaos and Christianity](#)
8. **The Bible has been discredited by modern archaeology.** “Now, however, it is no longer possible to reject the substantial historicity of the Bible, at least as far back as the time of Abraham, because of the remarkable discoveries of archaeology.” Henry Morris as quoted by Roy Mills in [Truth—Not Exactly: A Book for Truth Seekers and Those They Care About](#).



9. **The Bible is full of errors and can't be trusted.** “We can be sure that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament, even back to 225 B.C. At that time there were two or three types of text available for copying. These types differed amongst themselves so little, however, that we can infer that still earlier copyists had also faithfully and carefully transmitted the Old Testament text. Indeed, it would be rash skepticism that would now deny that we have our Old Testament in a form very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the Law to those who had returned from the Babylonian captivity.” From an essay by R. Laird Harris, “How Reliable Is the Old Testament Text?”, in the book, [Can I Trust My Bible?](#)
10. **The Bible may be great literature but it's not "inspired by God.** “The word ‘inspired’ ... refers not to the writers, but to the words that have been written... A further indication that the Bible is the Word of God is in the remarkable number of fulfilled prophecies it contains.” Paul E. Little in [Know Why You Believe](#).

What do you think? Before you answer, there's one more important piece of evidence you need. For the sake of intellectual integrity, you should read the Bible yourself. Then you can make your own decision. So, here's my challenge: find a Bible and read the Gospel of John. No preaching from me or anyone else. Just "pick it up and read it," as a child once challenged St. Augustine. It changed his life and I pray it will change yours.

About the Author



Whitney T. Kuniholm is Founder and President of [Essential Bible Ministries](#), author of several books including, *The Essential 100*, *The Essential Jesus*, *The Essential Question*, *John: An Eyewitness Account of the Son of God*, many booklets including *Confessions of a Guilty Bible Reader*. He is a frequent speaker at churches and Christian conferences, both in the United States and internationally. He is

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