

# stump the pastor

*Q: I read someone describe the Bible as “a bunch of Bronze Age myths.” Can we trust that the Bible is true?*

**A:** The short answer is yes, but it also needs some nuance. Some Biblical events did occur in the Bronze Age, but to call it “a bunch of Bronze Age myths” is clearly meant to dismiss it as unreliable fiction. That is an easy and uninformed insult that does not bear up under scrutiny.

First, skeptics (and many Christians) try to hold the Bible to modern standards of objectivity and factual accuracy. But those standards were unattainable in the ancient world. No ancient history or literature can match them. Moreover, the ancient standards were simply different. They did not value facts and disinterested description above all else. The point of history was to convince the reader of the truth and meaning of the events being described. Historians were not expected to be neutral, but to make a persuasive case. It is important that we allow the Bible to be what it is—ancient history written according to ancient standards.

On the other hand, the implication that the Bible is therefore just fiction is simply untrue. New archaeological evidence is discovered every year that confirms the historicity of people and events in the Bible. Its story is rooted in real people who lived real lives in real places.

The deeper issue here, though, is whether the Bible itself has integrity and can be trusted to reveal God’s Word. That cannot be proven, but only experienced. There is no argument to be made or evidence to be compiled that will independently prove that the Bible is trustworthy. Instead, it must be experienced as it is read, for the main proof that the Bible is God’s Word is that it works in the lives of those who read it. God uses it to do his saving work in His people.

That accounts for another key difference between the Bible and most other ancient literature. Unlike the holy books of the great ancient empires, the scriptures of little Israel survived and have been used consistently ever since they were written. They were not dug up out of archaeological sites or preserved by an elite guild of priests. They were used and treasured because the people who read them knew that they were the vehicle for the living Word of God.

**Coming Soon ~ To A Church Near You:**



# stump the pastor

**Coming Soon ~ To A Church Near You:**

