

God Wrote a Book: The Bible is Reliable

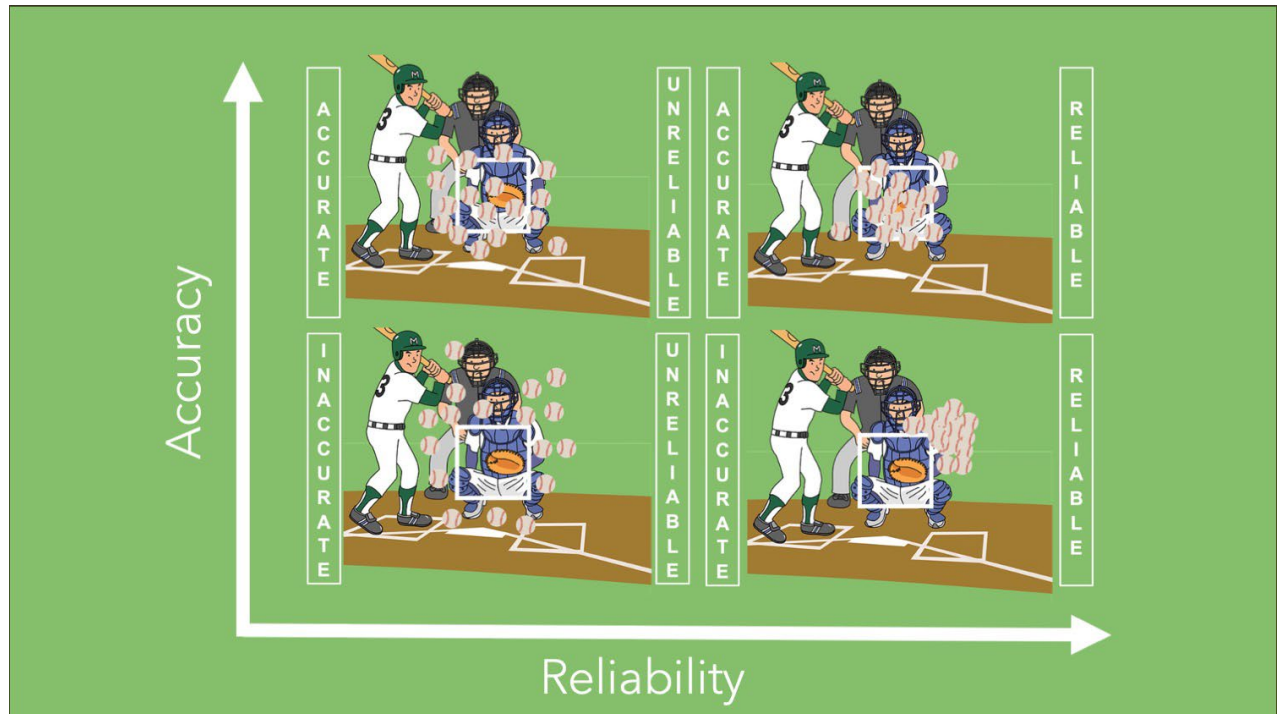
Opening Discussion

1. How does the Bible tell a consistent story from Genesis to Revelation?
2. What have you heard about contradictions in the Bible?
3. How do you respond to those who say the Bible is full of contradictions and can't be trusted?

The message of the Bible is _____ and _____ from Genesis to Revelation.

Definitions:

- Reliable: The Bible's is consistent.
- Accurate: The Bible's message is true.
- Infallible: The Bible is truth without any mixture of error.

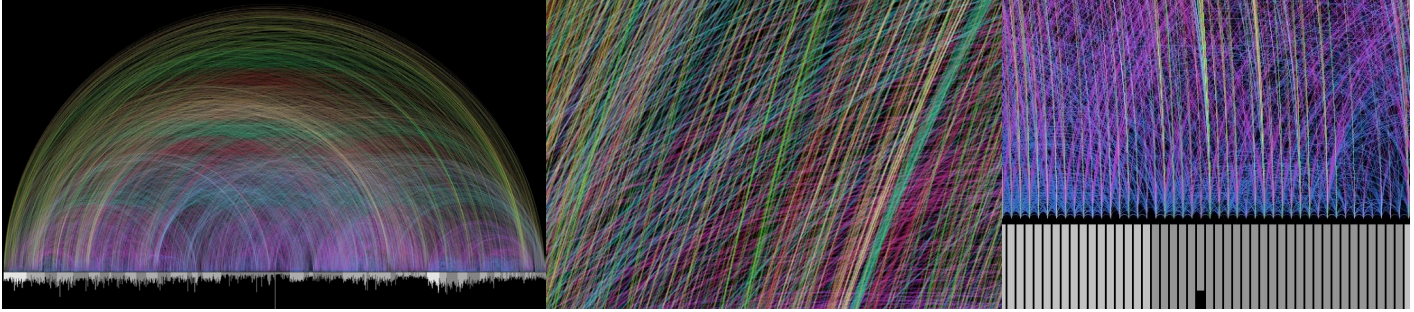


1. Why is reliability important?

“What is incredible about the Bible is not its divine authorship; it's that such a concoction of contradictory nonsense could be believed by anyone to have been written by an omniscient god. To do so, one would first have to not read the book, which is the practice of most Christians; or, if one does read it, dump in the trash can one's rational intelligence — to become a fool for god, in other words.” From “**Biblical Contradictions**” at www.atheists.org

2. Evidence for the reliability of Scripture:

- The Metanarrative
- Cross references
- Consistency in stories



www.chrisharrison.net

3. What about contradictions?

“There are a great number of sources to which we can trace them: errors of copyists in the manuscripts that have been handed down to us; the practice of using multiple names for the same person or place; the practice of using different methods for calculating official years, lengths of regencies and events; the special scope and purpose of individual authors, which sometimes led them to arrange their material topically rather than chronologically; and differences in the position from which an event or object was described and employed by the various writers.” **Walter Kaiser**

Seven assumptions critics make when identifying contradictions in the Bible:

1. Assuming the Bible is guilty until proven innocent.
2. Assuming the context of the passage does not impact the meaning of the passage.
3. Assuming that different accounts are false accounts.
4. Assuming that a partial report is a full report.
5. Assuming all passages use the same level of precision.
6. Assuming perspective does not change description.
7. Assuming what applies to one person at one time always applies to all people.

Sources:

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