

I have been a Christian for a little over a year now and I have some doubts. 1. How is it the business of a Christian to make it illegal for others to have abortions? 2. The Babylonian account of the flood is much older than the Christian account of the flood and somewhat different, so doesn't that mean the Christian account is copied? 3. Realistically, since the Bible was handed down orally for so long, doesn't that mean some changes must have occurred? 4. You guys assert God tests people to prove to them their faith is strong. How is this a favor? 5. Why does God send people through tough times for them to become atheists? Why not just send them to hell now? 6. We think we are right and, say, Buddhists think they're right. How are we to assume we know more than them and try to evangelize them? 7. Is it possible that a few of the books of the Bible were mythological and inserted by accident? 8. Many concepts of a savior being raised from the dead appear before Jesus. How do we know Jesus is the true one? 9. Many divine revelations, such as angels, flood, miracles, only happened during Bible times. How do we know these weren't exaggerated by accident or on purpose? 10. Why would a baby whose both parents are atheists suffer?

Christians are to be salt and light (Mt 5:13-16) in the world. Although the world is darkening (Mt 24:8), the believer is commanded to occupy until Jesus' return (Lk 19:13).

Many cultures throughout the world have flood accounts which support the veracity of scripture. The bible is *the* history book of history books. It has never been creditably disproven though many have tried. M. Swasheck writes:

The primary medium by which information was communicated was through oral transmission. Even once the written medium became relevant, oral transmission was the primary means of replicating information....The reality is that though the primary way of transmitting important information, the written word was still present far back into antiquity. For instance, the Ketef Hinnom Amulet, which dates to 600 BCE, has an inscription of the Aaronic Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26) which played a role in the temple cult of ancient Israel...

...Because of the centrality of oral transmission in the role of life, and worship, this was not just an isolated "game of telephone" that followed one line. There were many, many parallel streams of transmission that coursed through each family, tribe, and the nation.

...[Claims] that this was like a grand game of telephone is a classical case of an anachronistic fallacy. It would be like questioning the validity of The Lord of the Rings because J.R.R. Tolkien used the antiquated medium of writing in whole words and complete sentences, whereas the present form of communication would be in SMS shorthand--*ZOMG Blbo, U gave da ring 2 Frodo?*. The inability of the present generation to accomplish a task does not disqualify previous generation from such a feat - especially when there is a tremendous amount of technology that no longer necessitates such direct recall.¹

¹ Swasheck, M. Stack Exchange.com Hermeneutics: Textual Criticism: Jun, 2012.
<http://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/2031/is-oral-history-like-the-telephone-game>.

God gives believers tests of faith—be they: difficult demands (Gen. 12:1, 2), severe trials (Job 1:6–22), observing the prosperity of the wicked (Ps. 73:1–28) or hardships (2 Cor. 11:21–33).² Some (not all) Christians will receive chronic trials like the apostle Paul’s thorn in the flesh (2 Co 12:7). God is interested in his children being made into Christlikeness. As a sculptor may use: sandpaper, a hammer or a chisel to complete his work of art, God allows the believer to experience pain at time but for the purpose of ultimately creating a thing of beauty (Is 61:3). No believer will be displeased with the results when he arrives with Christ into glory (Ps 73:24, 1 Jn 3:2). The bible says:

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Heb 12:10–11).

Some fall away from Christianity proving that they never had true faith (1 Jn 2:19). The apostle John wrote: Those who do evil prove that they do not know God (3 Jn 1:11, NLT).

The apostle Peter wrote: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance (2 Pe 3:9).

There are many world religions that claim to teach truth (Ga 5:9) but only Jesus rose from the dead (Is. 53:10–12; 1 Cor. 15:4) so one should pay attention to what he has to say (Phil 2:16). He said all other religions are false (Jn 14:6). The prophets prophesied that Jesus would be raised from the dead (Ps. 16:10, 11; Acts 13:34, 35)—and that is exactly what happened.

Paul wrote: Consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth (1 Co 1:26). God had chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Co 1:27A).

The canon of scripture is closed (Jud 3). The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.³ God had given men all that they need to find life (Ro 1:20, 2:15, Ps 19:1, Jas 1:18).

Men did not respond with love when God performed a miracle—in fact, they usually responded with more hatred toward him (Mt 16:4). Some say God does not perform big miracles today but Jesus said that disciples would do greater things than he, himself, did (Jn 14:12). It’s quite a feat to overcome a denying, indifferent or rebellious heart toward the things of God (Jer 17:9). If men do not repent hearing Moses and the prophets, neither will they repent if one were raised from the dead (Lk 16:31). Jesus said: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (Jn 20:29).

Although child grow up in reprobate families, God still gives each child the opportunity to know him personally. It is not God’s will that any person perish (2 Pe 3:9) and he will do all he can to save each person (Ro 10:21, Ac 17:30).

² Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson’s quick reference topical Bible index (p. 612). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

³ How We Got the Bible: pamphlet: Rose Publishing ISBN: 9781628622164