Can we trust the Bible?
Biographies...
1. What does the Bible claim about itself?
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2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man/woman of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
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2 Timothy 3:16
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man/woman of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

1 Peter 1:20-21
“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
2. Can we trust it?
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Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.” -JESUS
2. Can we trust it?

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Biography with an outward focus
Biography with an outward focus

Not a book just exalting the main character but a book where the main character reaches out to have relationship with us and show us how to live.
Biography with an outward focus

Not a book just exalting the main character but a book where the main character reaches out to have relationship with us and show us how to live.

Teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness... so that we are equipped for every good work.
Some of the Bible’s guidance
Some of the Bible’s guidance

- How to speak to God and hear from Him
- How to deal with anger so it does not consume us
- How to build healthy marriages and families
- How to govern with justice
- How to honour God with our bodies
- How to be generous stewards
- How to show love in action to those around us
Complaint #1:
The Bible is full of contradictions
Context and interpretation

He had a wii.

He had a wee?
“Tell your father; MIH” said Peter.
“That’s NAGI,” said Mark.

Q: How do you know he’s coming?
A: He facebooked me.

He had a wii.
He had a wee?

That’s thrown a spanner in the works.

I have not seen you for donkey’s years.
Seeing the bigger picture
Seeing the bigger picture

Job 22:21-30
Seeing the bigger picture

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Eliphaz tells Job to repent of his sin, implying that it is his sin that has caused all the hardship he is facing, and that repentance will restore his relationship with God and his former wealth.
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Knee-jerk interpretation = God lets bad stuff happen to bad people and if you say sorry, good stuff will happen.
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Job 42:7
Seeing the bigger picture

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**Job 42:7**
“(God) said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”

Tuesday, 9 February 16
Seeing the bigger picture

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Job 42:7
“(God) said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

Correct interpretation = bad stuff happens even to good people
Complaint #2:

The Bible has been used to justify all sorts of evil
Sadly it has
Sadly it has

- Racism
- Sexism
- Child abuse
- Oppressing the poor and marginalised
- Violence
- Hatred and exclusion of certain people

Largely due to taking verses/passages out of context
3. What about the bits that I don’t understand?
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- Our knowledge is limited
- Will always have unanswered questions and things we don’t understand
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- Our knowledge is limited
- Will always have unanswered questions and things we don’t understand

I Corinthians 13:12

“Now we see but a poor reflection in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully as I am fully known.”

Tuesday, 9 February 16
To conclude
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Christianity is different from other religions...
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it’s not about having faith in a book (the Bible) but faith in the person of Jesus who is the central character of the book