

Question 5: Is the Bible reliable? (transmission and truth)

Short answer

Yes: the Bible is reliable because God has preserved its message over time, because it was copied with great care, and because what it teaches is true and consistent with what God has done in history—especially in Jesus.

Explanation

When we say “reliable,” we mean two things:

1. It has been transmitted with care.

The Bible did not reach us on a single fragile sheet: for centuries it was copied and recopied with attention. There are many ancient copies (manuscripts), and this helps us compare the texts and know with confidence what the original content is. Even when small copying differences exist (like a spelling mistake), they are usually minor details and do not change the major teachings of the faith.

2. It is true in what it teaches.

The Bible tells God’s story with a clear message: who God is, who we are, what sin is, and how God saves. This message is consistent from beginning to end and finds its center in Jesus.

So, the Bible is reliable because it is not only an ancient book: it is a message that God has brought all the way to us to guide us in the truth.

Reference verses

- **Luke 1:3–4** — “I decided... to write it out for you in an orderly way... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”
- **John 17:17** — “Your word is truth.”
- **Isaiah 40:8** — “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

In simple words

Yes, the Bible is reliable: it was copied carefully for a very long time, and God made sure its message was not lost. And what it teaches is true: it helps us understand who God is, who we are, and why Jesus is so important.