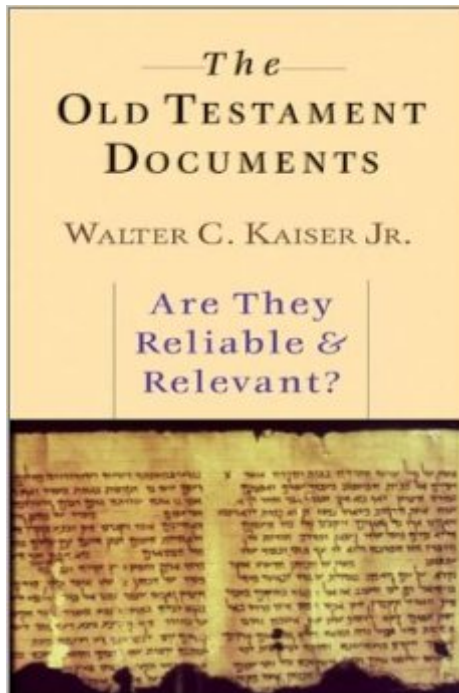


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# The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable & Relevant?



## Synopsis

Can you trust what you read in the Old Testament? Are its documents historically reliable? Are its teachings relevant in the twenty-first century? These are important questions for all who believe that Christianity is a religion founded on events that took place in space-time history, indeed for all who care about truth and meaning in life. In this thought-provoking book Walter C. Kaiser Jr. makes the case that the Old Testament documents are both historically reliable and personally and socially relevant. He begins by looking at the origins of the Old Testament books and how well their texts were preserved. Next he explores Old Testament history, giving close attention to the book of Genesis, the patriarchal narratives, and the chronicles of the kings of Judah and Israel. He then surveys the larger questions of the trustworthiness and authority of the various Old Testament genres: historical narrative, wisdom and prophecy. Lastly, Kaiser probes the relevance of the Old Testament for Christian faith today. And in an epilogue he asks--and answers--the question "What is the Old Testament all about?" Here is a helpful, even essential, book to help you face the challenges of reading and applying the Old Testament in today's world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Walter Kaiser's purpose in "The Old Testament Documents" is to show how the Old Testament (OT) is grounded in actual historical, space and time events. The people and cultures that are presented in the events of the OT are actual people living in real places with real cultures. The outside sources that are contemporary to the times and places presented in the OT further support

the accuracy of the records of the OT authors. The events that are described within its pages were actual historical accounts and are confirmed by a careful study of the biblical and historical context. In Kaiser's book, he presents over and over again evidence that verifies the reliability of the OT documents in the face of many claims to their unreliability. Kaiser begins by dealing with the Documents themselves; what was the source of the documents and how well have they been preserved throughout the ages? Next he deals with the actual content of the Documents: is the content factual or is it borrowed from Babylonian mythologies and modified for the Israelites. This comes in to play specifically in Genesis 1-11, which has been the subject of much debate throughout history. Then, he deals with the message of the OT as a whole: how reliable are the Wisdom writing, the Prophets and the Torah? Finally, Kaiser designates the final section of the book to presenting arguments showing how the OT is not only reliable, but relevant to us today. Kaiser's ultimate goal in writing this book is to show that all 39 Old Testament books are reliable and relevant for us today. Over the years, people have, time after time, tried to disprove the Bible and its claim of being from God.

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