

Trustworthiness: Review

Theological foundation

1. Components of Biblical Faith: Knowledge ☐ Assent ☐ Trust
2. Dependent on God's revelation of himself (Words and Actions)
3. Founded on God's Truth, Accuracy, and Power
4. Confirmed by Jesus' testimony in the Gospels

Practical applications

1. We rely on God's eyewitness of the past (esp. creation)
2. We rely on God's testimony to his own Character
3. We trust God's impossible promises because of how he fulfilled his promises to others

Because of God's reliability, we look at reality through God's eyes:

- All for God's Glory
- Creation, Fall, Redemption
- The progress of the Covenants
- The development of the Kingdom

Amen: Responding to God's Words

אָמֵן → ἀμήν → Amen

- The word "amen" is a transliteration from the Hebrew to the Greek to the English (not a translation)
- Appears 137 times in the OT, 152 times in the NT (sometimes translated, e.g., "verily" in kjv, "truly" in nau)

Common usage in English

- We often think of it as a concluding word, like the Latin *finis*, "the end"
- Or it becomes shorthand for "that was good" or "I agree" or "preach it!"
- Our over-usage obscures the Scriptural meaning

Word Study: Hebrew

"The basic root idea is firmness or certainty. In the Qal it expresses the basic concept of support and is used in the sense of the strong arms of the parent supporting the helpless infant."¹

¹ Jack Scott, "116 אָמֵן," in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody, 1980), 51.

2 Ki 18.16 At that time Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the doorposts which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

Doorposts = "supports"

Causative sense: "to cause to be certain, sure" "cause to be certain about, to be assured" → "to believe"

Gn 15.6 Then he [Abram] **believed** in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Descriptive sense: "one who is confirmed" or "faithful one" or "dependable"

Ps 31.23 O love the LORD, all you His godly ones! The LORD preserves the **faithful** And fully recompenses the proud doer.

Num 12.7 "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is **faithful** in all My household;

Passive sense: "to be established, be made sure"

1 Chr 17.23 "Now, O LORD, let the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house be **established** forever, and do as You have spoken.

On the relationship between belief / being established, see Ahaz: "if you do not Amen, you will not be amended"

Isa 7.9 and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not **believe**, you surely shall **not last**.""

ESV Isa 7:9 And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are **not firm in faith**, you will **not be firm at all**.""

Word Study: Greek

"It is a liturgical acclamation in Christian worship."²

² Heinrich Schlier, "Αμήν," in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964), 336.

1 Cor 14.16 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?

Rev 5.14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

It ends most Christian prayers and doxologies.

Rev 22.20 ¶ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Rm 1.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

It expresses the idea, "so be it," especially seen in proximity to "yes"

Rev 1.7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. **So it is to be. Amen.** [lit., "Yes. Amen."

2 Cor 1.20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are **yes**; therefore also through Him is our **Amen** to the glory of God through US.

Rev 22.20 ¶ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." **Amen.** Come, Lord Jesus.

Special use by Jesus: "this is true" ("verily" KJV)

Jn 5.24 "Truly, **truly**, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Applying the concept:

"All these words communicate the connection between the reliability of the person and the dependability of his words."³

³ Layton Talbert, *The Trustworthiness of God's Words: Why the Reliability of Every Word from God Matters* (Geanies House, UK: Christian Focus, 2022), 238.

Lam 3.23 They are new every morning; Great is Your **faithfulness**.

[noun form, emunah]

Ps 19.7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is **sure**, making wise the simple.

Ps 119.160 The sum of Your word is **truth**, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

“Because God is the Amen, that’s what His words are as well: firm, unshifting, certain, real, reliable, dependable. Amen is, therefore the only right response to God’s words. It is our way of verbalizing and certifying our conviction, our belief, our confidence, our trust that whatever God says is reality. Amen is our ‘Yes’ to the words of God. Amen is a stake that we drive down deep into a statement from God and hang all our weight from it. The words of God are sure, and Amen is my signature that I’m pitching my tent there because I’m sure they are.”⁴

Isa 26.3-4 “The steadfast of mind

You will keep in perfect peace,
Because he **trusts** [bātach] in You.

4 “**Trust** [bātach] in the LORD forever,
For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

⁴ Talbert, 239.