

Apologetic Evangelism



Defending the faith



Sharing the Gospel

Apologetic Method : Step 1

1 Truth is absolute and knowable

2 God exists

3 Miracles are possible

4 **The New Testament is historically reliable**

5 The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God

6 Jesus proved this claim by: 1. Living a sinless miraculous life 2. Fulfilling prophecies 3. Predicting and accomplishing His Resurrection

7 Therefore, Jesus is God

8 Whatever Jesus teaches is true, because He is God

9 Jesus taught the Bible was the Word of God

10 The Bible is the Word of God!

Outline:

I. The Charge of the Critics

II. A Response to the Critics

A. Reliability of the OT

B. Reliability of the NT

III. Conclusion

I. The Charge of the Critics

A. The Jesus Seminar: Doubts Most of the Gospels

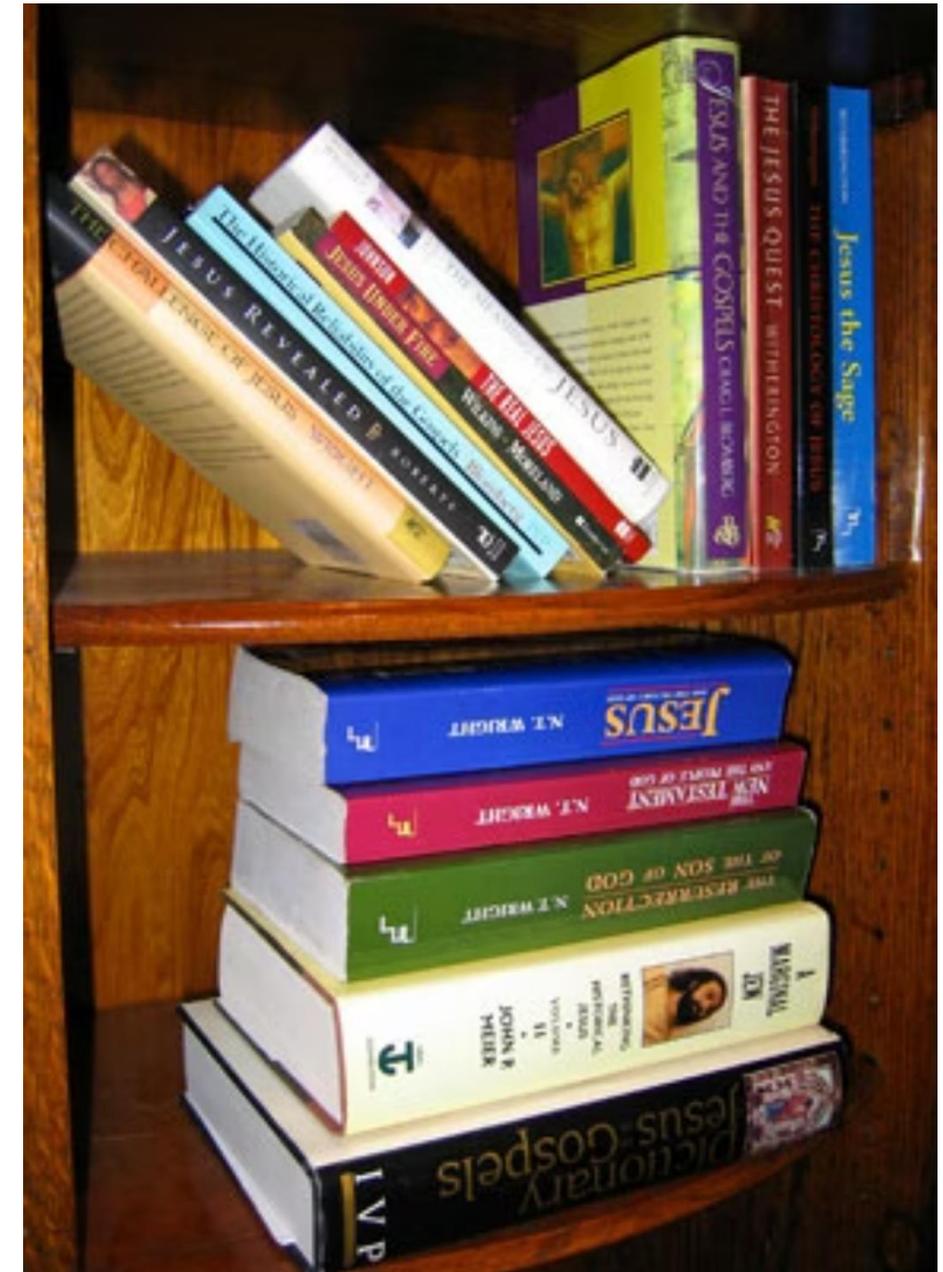
82% is not authentic

16% more is doubtful

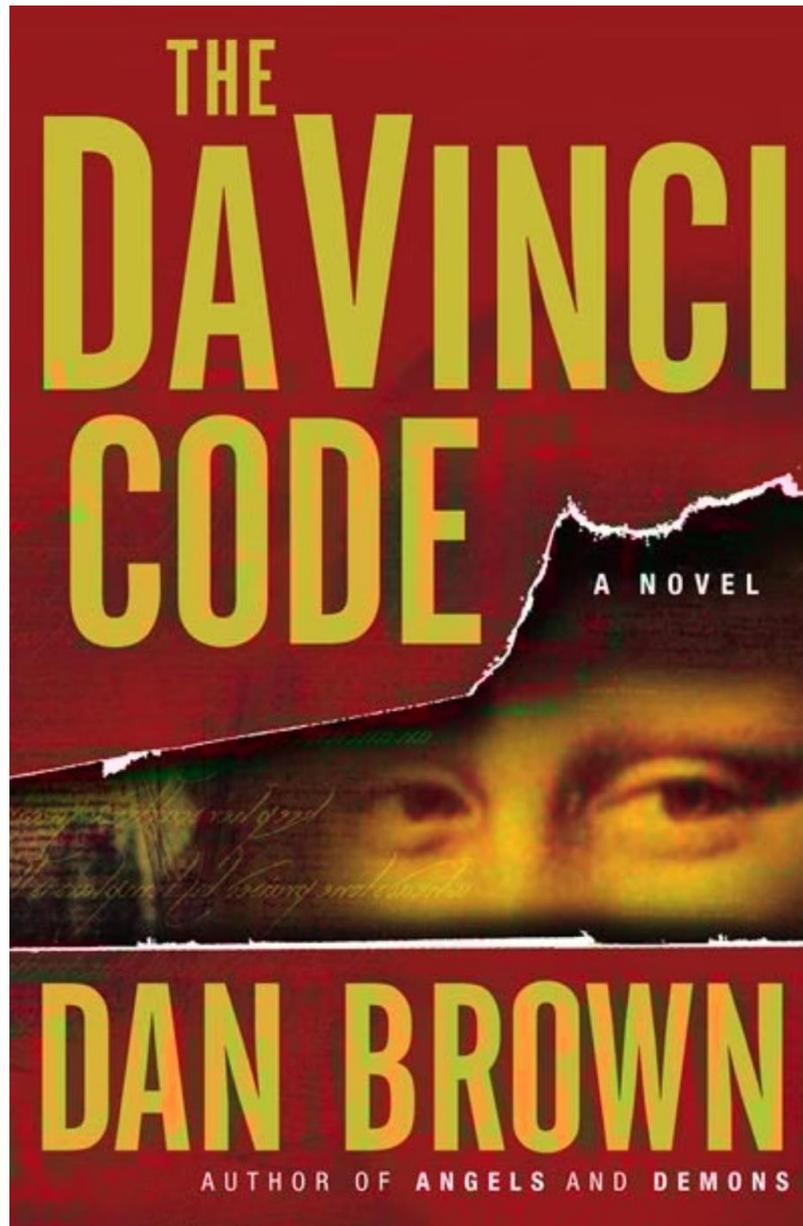
98% total is in doubt

0% of John authentic

1.5% of *The Gospel of Thomas* is authentic

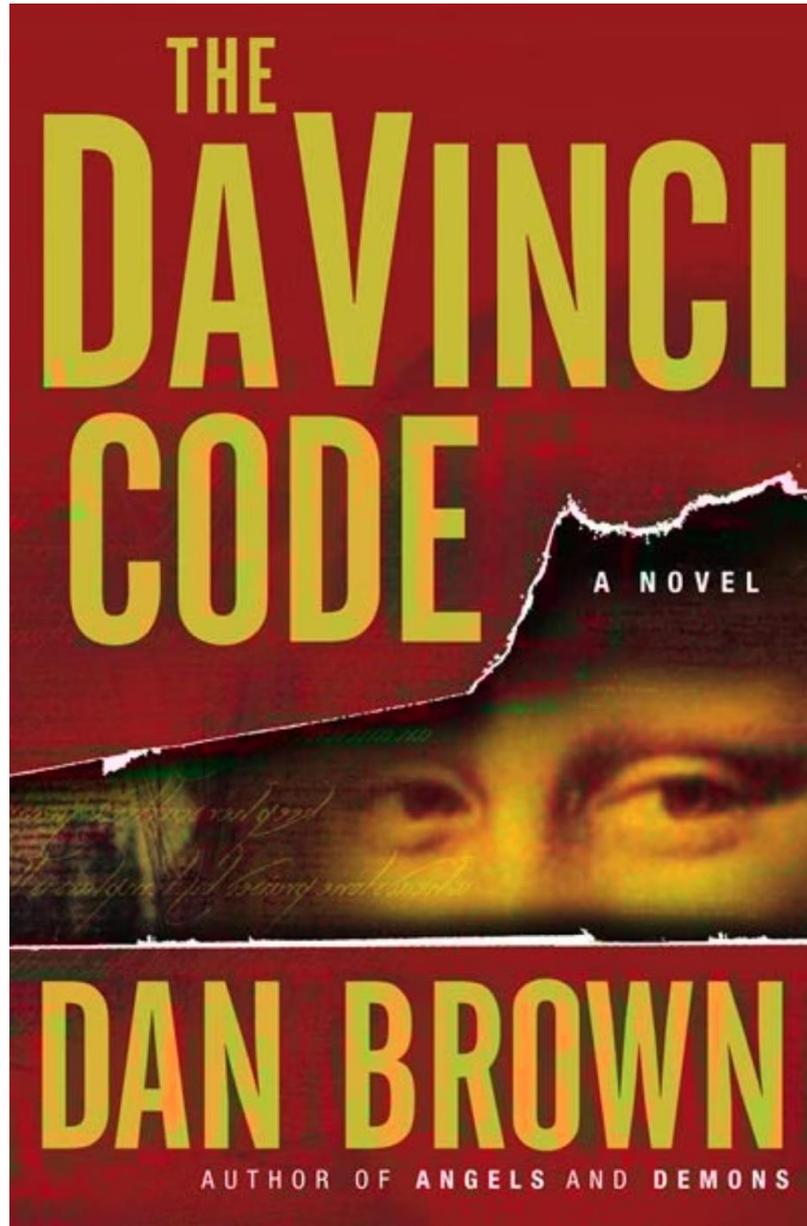


B. DaVinci Code: Purely Human



"The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God.... History has never had a definitive version of the book..." (231).

B. DaVinci Code: False Miracles



"Many have made a trade of delusions and false miracles, deceiving the stupid multitude...."

C. Bart Ehrman: Doubts Manuscripts



"And these [NT Ms.] copies all differ from one another, in many thousands of places.... These copies differ from each other in so many places that we don't even know how many differences there are" (Misquoting Jesus, 10,12).

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B. Reliability of the NT

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The Case for the Bible: New Testament

RWT | R E A L
W O R L D
T H E O L O G Y

Outline:

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Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.
2. There were nine different authors of 27 books.
3. Their works were based on eyewitness testimony.
4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm its message.
5. There was no time for myth to replace basic facts.
6. The nature of the records is authentic.
7. Noted Roman historians have confirmed it.
8. Noted legal experts have vouched for it.
9. Numerous archaeological finds supported it.

Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.

Manuscripts Were Copied Accurately

The New Testament Has:

More manuscripts

Earlier manuscripts

More accurately copied manuscripts--than any other book from the ancient world!

The Testimony of the **Scrolls**

There are **More** Greek Manuscripts

The NT

5700+ manuscripts

Next Closest

Most Other Books

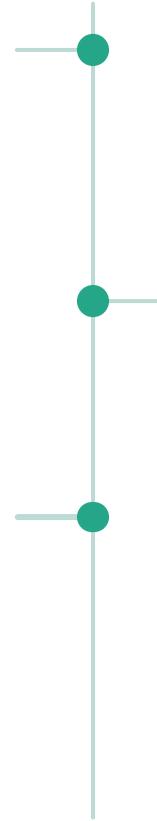
10-20 manuscripts for most

643 Homer's Iliad

There are More Early Translations

There are over **19,000** early translations in Old Syriac, Old Latin, Coptic, Latin Vulgate, and others.

Nothing else in the ancient world comes close to this!



With nearly **6,000 Greek Mss**, this totals some **25,000** copies of the NT (in whole or in part).

The Testimony of the **Scrolls**

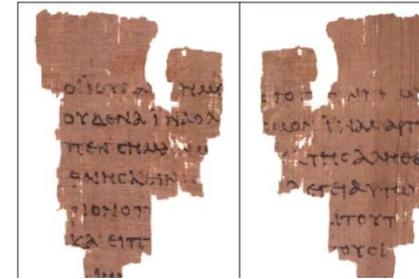
There are **Earlier New Testament Manuscripts**

New Testament
25-150 year gap

Most Other Books
1000 year average gap

John Ryland—117f. A.D.

Five verses from John 18



Bodmer Papyri—c. 200 A.D.

Most of John, 1&2 Peter, & Jude



Chester Beatty—c. 250 A.D.

Nearly all the NT books

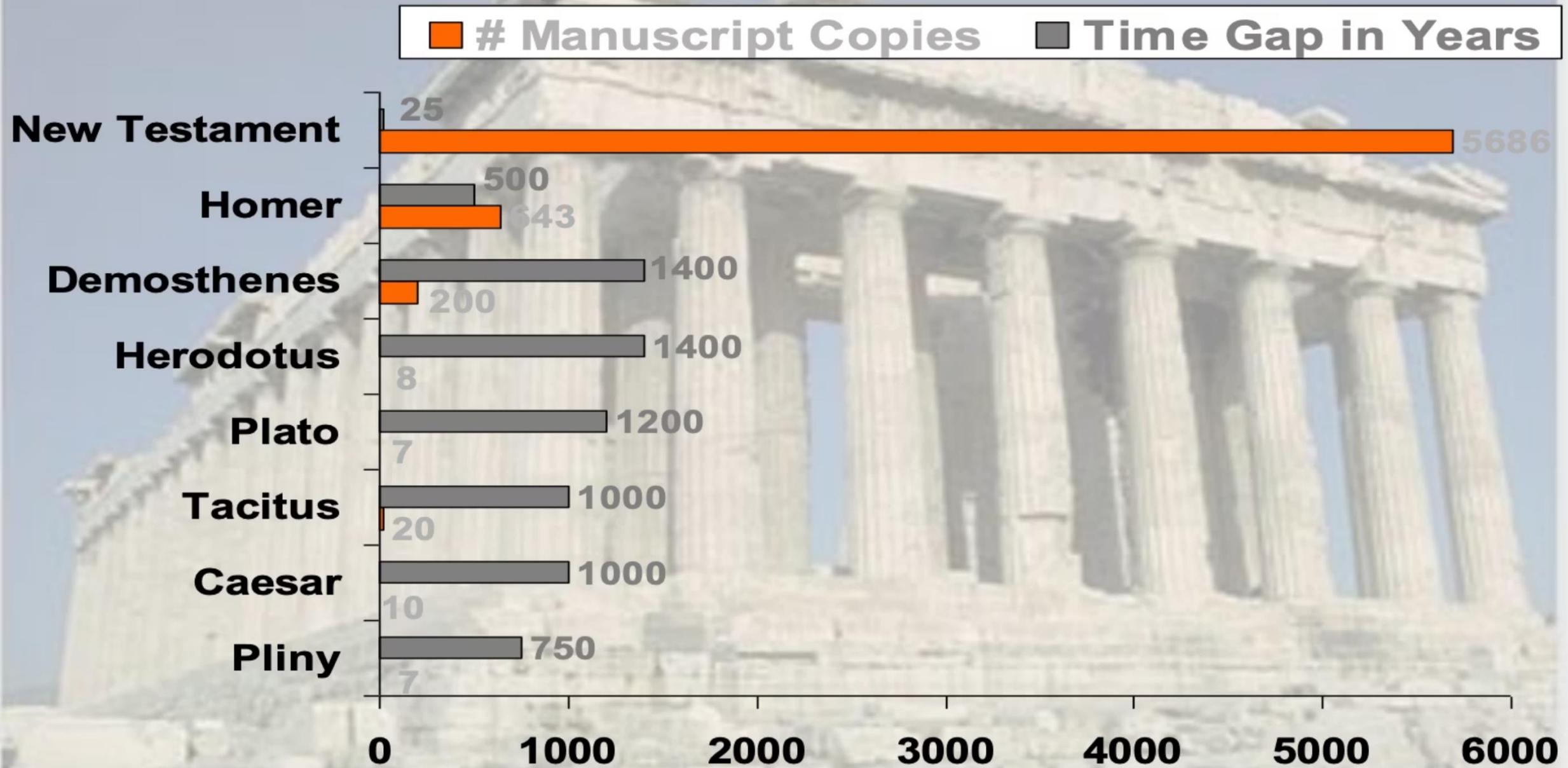


Vaticanus Ms.—c. 325-50 A.D.

most of OT and NT



Reliability of NT Documents



Percent of Accuracy of the NT

Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above "trivialities" and can be called "substantial variations." It is **98.33** percent pure.

Ezra Abbott said about 19/20 (**95** percent) of the readings are "various" rather than "rival" readings, and about 19/20 (**95** percent) of the rest make no real difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is **99.75** percent pure.

A.T. Robertson said the real concern is with about a "thousandth part of the entire text." So, the reconstructed text of the New Testament **99.9** percent free from real concern.

Philip Schaff estimated that of the 150,000 variations known, only 400 affected the sense; and of those only 50 were of real significance; and of these **not one affected "an article of faith."**

The Testimony of the **Scrolls**

There are **Better New Testament Manuscripts**

New Testament

98.33—99.9% accurate copies

Mahabharata

90% accurate copies

Iliad of Homer

95% accurate copies

Why Bart Ehrman's Charge is Misleading



Deceiving calculation of errors



200-400k errors



If there is 1 variant, in 3k mss., it is counted as 3k errors!



25k+ mss, the number can add up quickly!

Why Bart Ehrman's Charge is Misleading



Ehrman's book has 1.6M errors!



16 errors in first copy



100k in first printing



1,600,000 errors in his writing!

Why Bart Ehrman's Charge is Misleading

Is an "error" an error?

Mainly spelling errors, slips of the pen.

They do not change the overall message, doctrine, accuracy.

Matthew – This is Jesus **XXX**, King of The Jews

Mark – **XX X XX X XX**, King of the Jews

Luke – This is **XX X XX**, the King of the Jews

John – **XX X** Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews

Complete Message?

This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews

My name is Michael Ancheta, I am thirty two

I am Mike, I'm thirty too

I am thirty two years old, my name is Michael

I'm Michael, a thirty something year old

The complete message comes through!

Note:

1. Even with mistakes, 100% of the message is known.
2. The more errors, the more sure we are of the message.

Even critic Bart Ehrman admits: *"In fact, **most of the changes** found in early Christian manuscripts have **nothing to do with theology or ideology**"* (*Misquoting Jesus*, 55).

Noted Ms. Expert: Sir Frederick Kenyon



"The *interval* between the dates of *original composition* and the *earliest extant evidence* becomes so small as to be in fact *negligible*, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down substantially as they were written has now been removed. **Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established**" (Kenyon, *Bible and Archaeology*, 288).



The Bottom Line:

- ✓ The NT has **more** manuscripts, **earlier** manuscripts, **better** copied manuscripts, and **more reliably** recorded history than any other book of its time.

If you can't trust the NT, then you would have to **throw out all of ancient history!**

Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

- 1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.**
- 2. There were nine different authors of 27 books.**

Nine writers wrote 27 books of the NT

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, the
Jude, the author of Hebrews

Most other events have one or, at most, two writers

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New Testament Eyewitness

"The man who **saw it** [the crucifixion] has given **testimony**, and his **testimony** is true" (Jn. 19:35).

"This is the disciple who **testifies** to these things and who **wrote them down**. We know that his **testimony** is true" (Jn. 21:24).

"God has raised this Jesus to life, and **we are all witnesses** of the fact" (Acts 2:32).

"For we cannot help speaking about **what we have seen and heard**" (Acts 4:19-20).

"...He **appeared** to more than **five hundred of the brothers** at the same time, most of whom are **still living**, though some have fallen asleep" (1Cor. 15:3-8).

New Testament Eyewitness

"We are **witnesses** of everything he did in the country of the Jews and Jerusalem" (Acts 10:39).

"They were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses** and servants of the word" (Luke 1:1-4).

"This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by **those who heard him**" (Heb. 2:3-4).

"We did not follow cleverly invented stories [myths]..., but we were **eye-witnesses** of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a **witness** of Christ's suffering..." (1 Peter 5:1).

"That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked** at and our hands have **touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life" (1John 1:1).

NT Timeline



Numerous Scholars Hold NT is Based in Eyewitness Testimony

Bauckham, Richard.
Jesus and the Eyewitnesses.

Blomberg, Craig.
The Historical Reliability of the Gospels.
The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel.

Bruce, F. F.
The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?
Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament.

Carson, D. A. and Douglas Moo.
NT Introduction.

Craig, William Lane.
Knowing the Truth About the Resurrection.

Dodd, C. H.
History and the Gospels.

Guthrie, Donald.
NT Introduction.

Habermas, Gary.
The Historical Jesus.

Hemer, Colin.
Acts in the Setting of Hellenic History.

Kenyon, Frederick.
Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts.

Linnemann, Eta.
Is There a Synoptic Problem?

Metzger, Bruce.
The Text of the New Testament.

Wright, N. T. *Can We Trust the Gospels?*

DUIT | R E A L

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- 4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm its message.**

a. Most critics accept 1 & 2 Cor., Romans, & Galatians.

b. Most of Paul's epistles were written between 55-57 A.D.

c. 27 Gospel facts are confirmed in these epistles of Paul.

27 Gospel Teaching in Paul's Epistles (A.D. 55-57)

- (1) Jewish ancestry of Jesus (Gal. 3:16);**
- (2) His Davidic descent (Rom. 1:3);**
- (3) His virgin birth (Gal. 4:4);**
- (4) His life under Jewish law (Gal. 4:4);**
- (5) His brothers (1Cor. 9:5);**
- (6) His twelve disciples (1Cor. 15:7);**
- (7) one of whom was named James (1Cor. 15:7);**
- (8) that some had wives (1Cor. 9:5);**
- (9) that Paul knew Peter and James (Gal. 1: 18-2:16);**
- (10) Jesus' poverty (2 Cor. 8:9);**

27 Gospel Teaching in Paul's Epistles (A.D. 55-57)

(11) His meekness and gentleness (2 Cor. 10:1);

(12) His abuse by others (Rom. 15:3);

(13) His teachings on divorce and remarriage (1Cor. 7:10-11);

(14) His view on paying wages of ministers (1Cor. 9:14);

(15) His view on paying taxes (Rom. 13:6-7);

(16) His command to love one's neighbors (Rom. 13:9);

(17) On Jewish ceremonial uncleanness (Rom. 14:14);

(18) On Jesus' titles of deity (Rom. 1:3-4; 10:9);

(19) His institution of the Lord's Supper (1Cor. 11:23-25);

(20) His sinless life (2 Cor. 5:21);

27 Gospel Teaching in Paul's Epistles (A.D. 55-57)

- (21) His death on the cross (Rom. 4:25; 5:8; Gal. 3:13)**
- (22) To pay for our sins (1Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21);**
- (23) His burial (1Cor. 15:4);**
- (24) His resurrection on the "third day" (1Cor. 15:4);**
- (25) Post-resurrection appearance to apostles (1Cor. 15:5-8);**
- (26) Post-resurrection appearances to others (1Cor. 15:6);**
- (27) His present position at God's right hand (Rom. 8:34).**

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No Time for Myths

"The writings of the Greek historian Herodotus enable us to test the rate at which a legend accumulates; the tests show that even the span of two generations is too short to allow legendary tendencies to wipe out the hard core of historical fact"

(W. Craig, *The Son Rises*, 101)

Does this Sound Like Myth?

"In the fifteenth year of the **reign** of **Tiberius Caesar**—when **Pontius Pilate** was **governor** of **Judea**, **Herod tetrarch** of **Galilee**, his **brother Philip tetrarch** of **Iturea** and **Traconitis**, and **Lysanias tetrarch** of **Abilene**—during the **high priesthood** of **Annas** and **Caiaphas**, the word of God came to **John** son of **Zechariah** in the desert" (Luke 3:1-2).

Note:

1. **Names, titles, relationships, and locations** are all historically accurate.
2. An exact date is given--A. D. 29.
3. All **nine people** are known from history.
4. All were known to live at this exact time.
5. This is not a "once upon a time" story (myth).



A Famous Myth-Writer Speaks Out

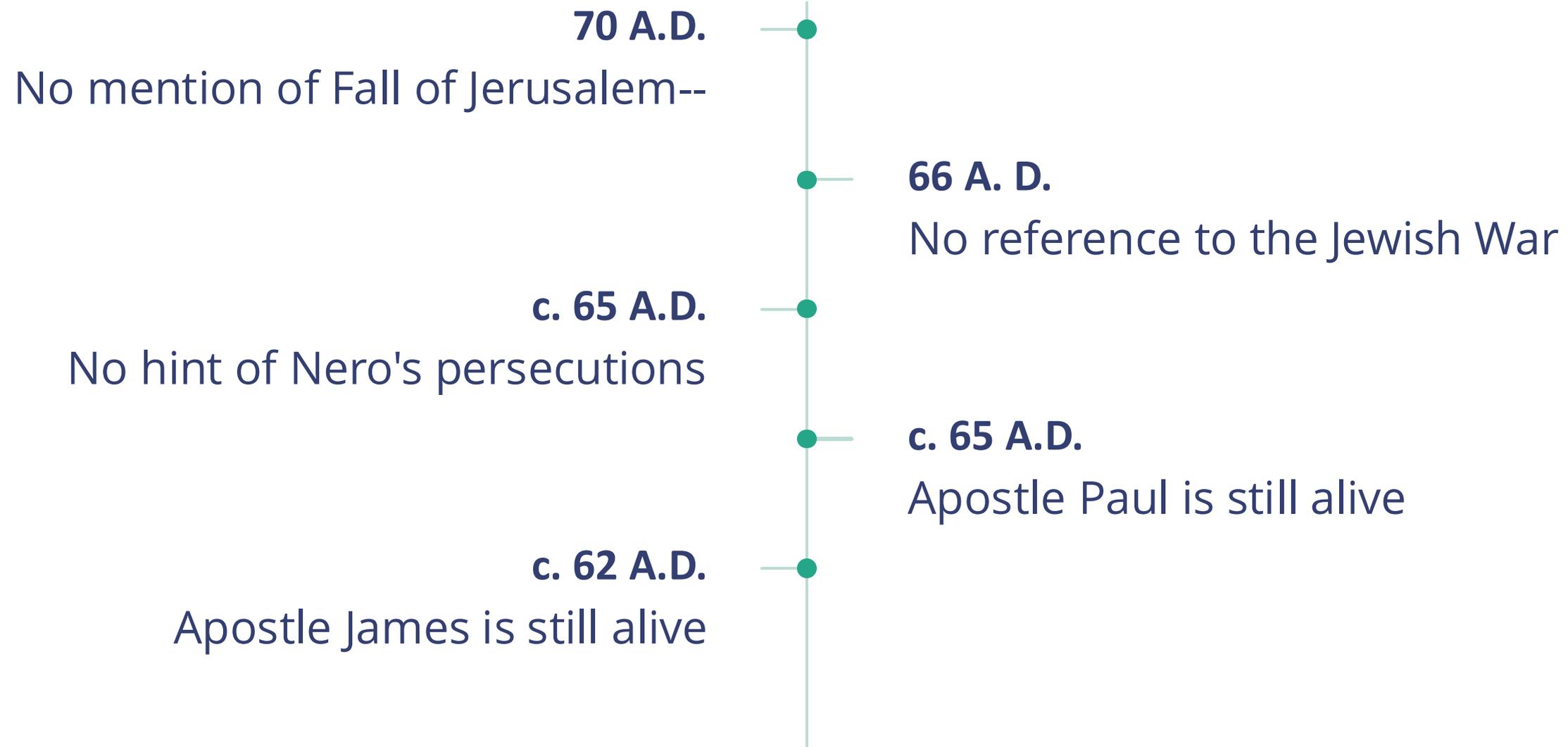
All I am in private life is a literary critic and historian, that's my job. And I am prepared to say on that basis if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legend or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic. I've read a great many novels and I know a fair amount about the legends that grew up among early people, and I know perfectly well the Gospels are not that kind of stuff.

C. S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections*, 209

RWT

REAL
WORLD
THEOLOGY

Acts by A.D. 62: Too Early for Myth



Josephus recorded James' death at 62 A.D. (Antiquities, 20.9.1). It is like writing the life of President Kennedy without mentioning his assassination (in 1963). But Luke was written before Acts (by A.D. 61) Matthew and Mark before Luke (by A. D. 60).

The Confessions of a Critic: *Way to Early for Myth*

"Death of God" Theologian Bishop John Robinson redates the New Testament (*Redating the New Testament*, 352-354)

Matthew--A.D. 40-60+

Mark-----A.D. 45-60+

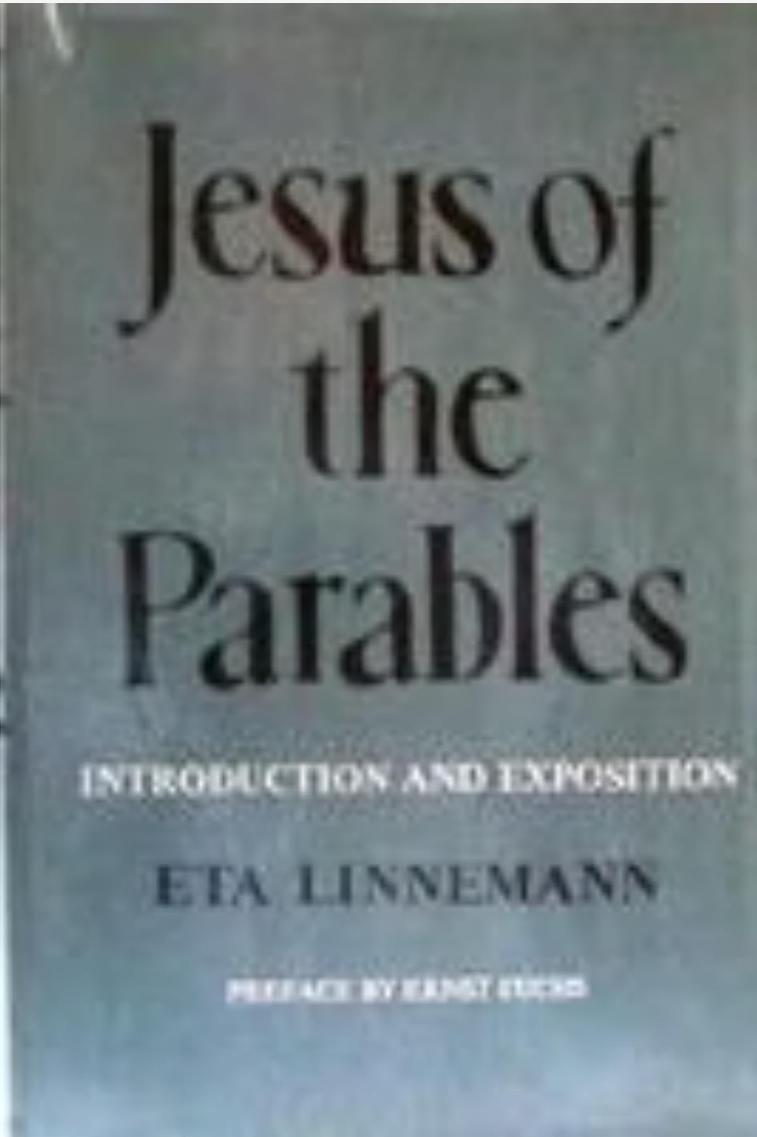
Luke-----A.D. 57-60+

John-----A.D. 40-65+

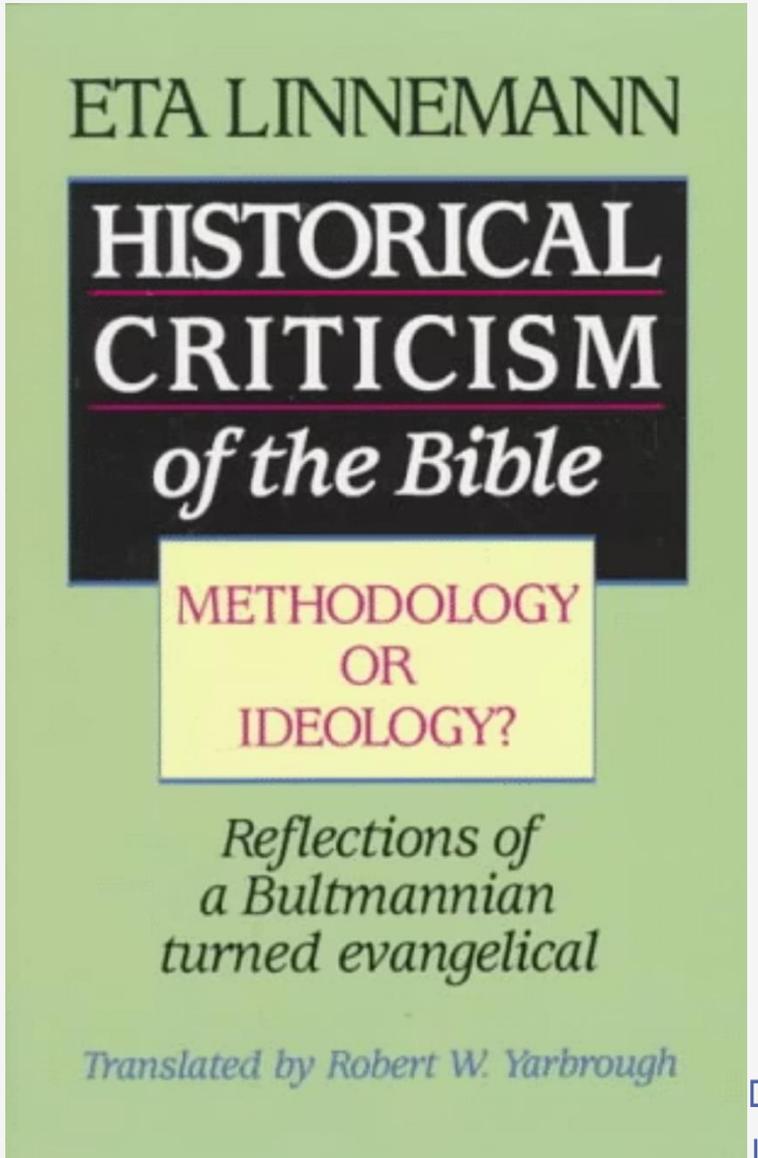
This would be only 7 years after Jesus died!

Conversion of a Former Critic

Before



After





Dean of Archaeology: *Rock-Solid Evidence*

In my opinion, every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the forties and the eighties of the first century A. D. (very probably sometime between about 50 and 75 A. D.)

(W. F. Albright, in *Christianity Today*, 1/18/63)

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6. The nature of the record is authentic.

The Authentic Nature of The Writings

- 1. They made no attempt to harmonize their accounts.**
- 2. They included material that put Jesus in a bad light.**
- 3. They left many difficult passages in their text.**
- 4. They retained many self-incriminating details.**
- 5. They included many demanding sayings of Jesus.**
- 6. They distinguished their words from Jesus' words.**
- 7. They did not deny their testimony under threat of death.**
- 8. They claimed their record was based on eyewitnesses.**
- 9. They had women witnessing the resurrection before men.**
- 10. They challenged readers to check out the facts.**
- 11. They discarded long-held Jewish beliefs overnight.**
- 12. They include more than 30 historical people.**

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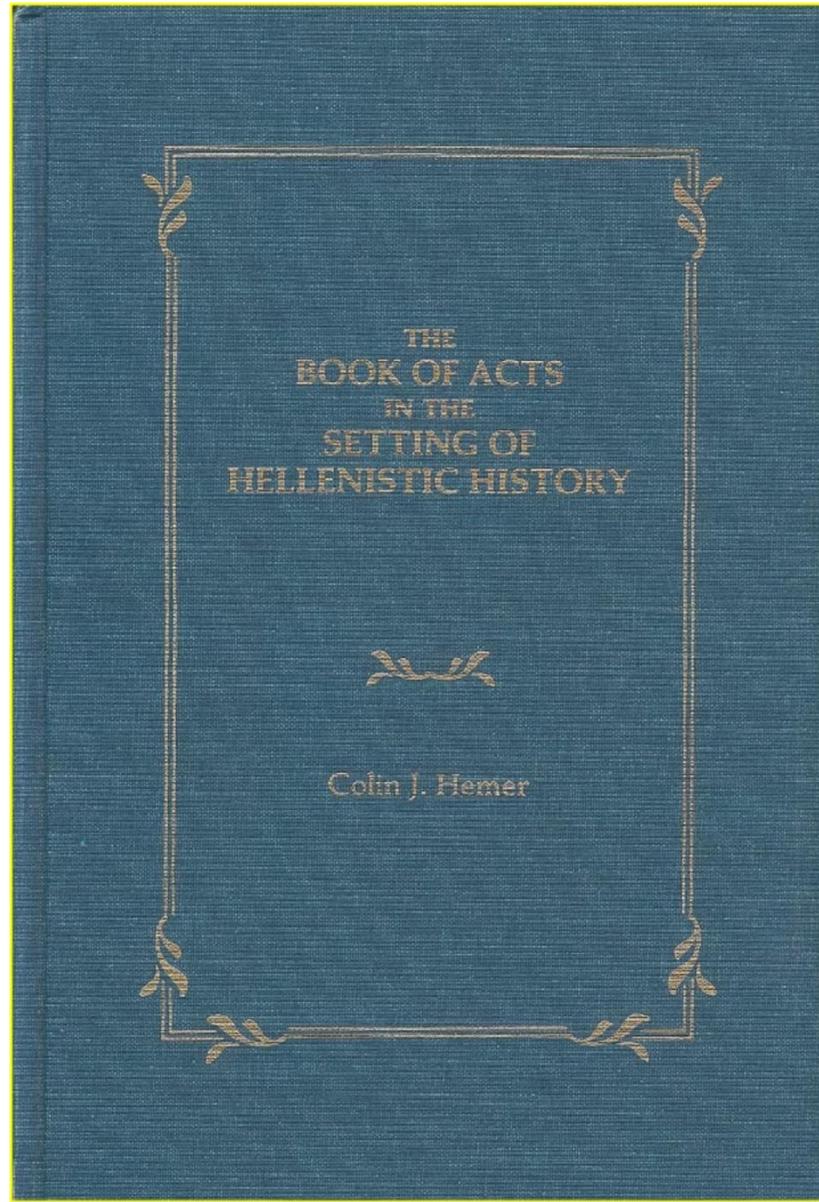


Noted Roman Historian Confirms NT

"So it is astonishing that while Greco-Roman historians have been growing confidence, the twentieth-century study of the gospel narratives, starting from no less promising material, have taken so gloomy a turn in the development of form-criticism...that the historical Christ is unknowable and the history of his mission cannot be written. This seems very curious" (187). He calls the mythological view "unbelievable" (189)

(A. N. Sherwin-White, *Roman Society and Roman Law in the NT*)

Noted Roman Historian Confirms Acts



1. **Nearly a hundred details** of Acts confirmed **by 1st** century scholar.
2. **Not a single error found.**
3. Strong evidence Acts **was written by A.D. 62.**
4. **Same author wrote Gospel of Luke (cf. Acts 1:1 & Lk.1:1).**
5. **Mt. and Mk. were earlier.**
6. Thus, at least 3 Gospels were done by contemporaries of Jesus.

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Noted Legal Expert Confirms Gospels

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

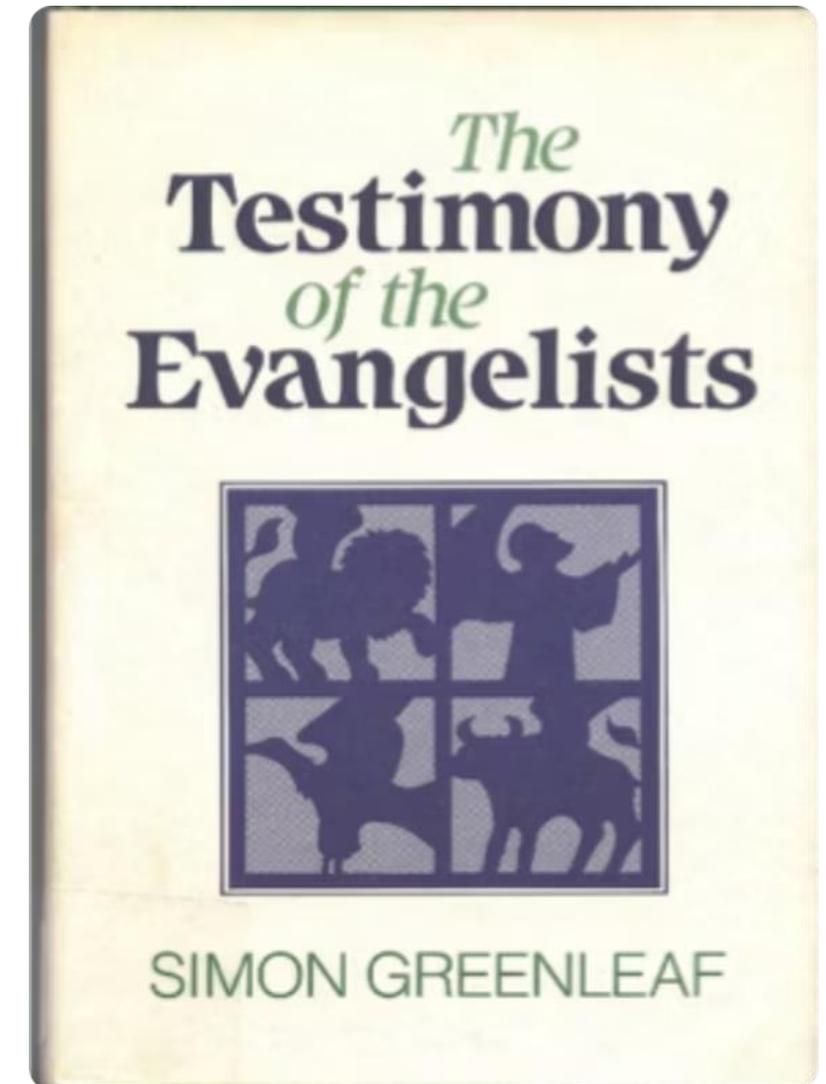
Professor of Law at Harvard University.

He authored *A Treatise on the Law of Evidences* (1853).

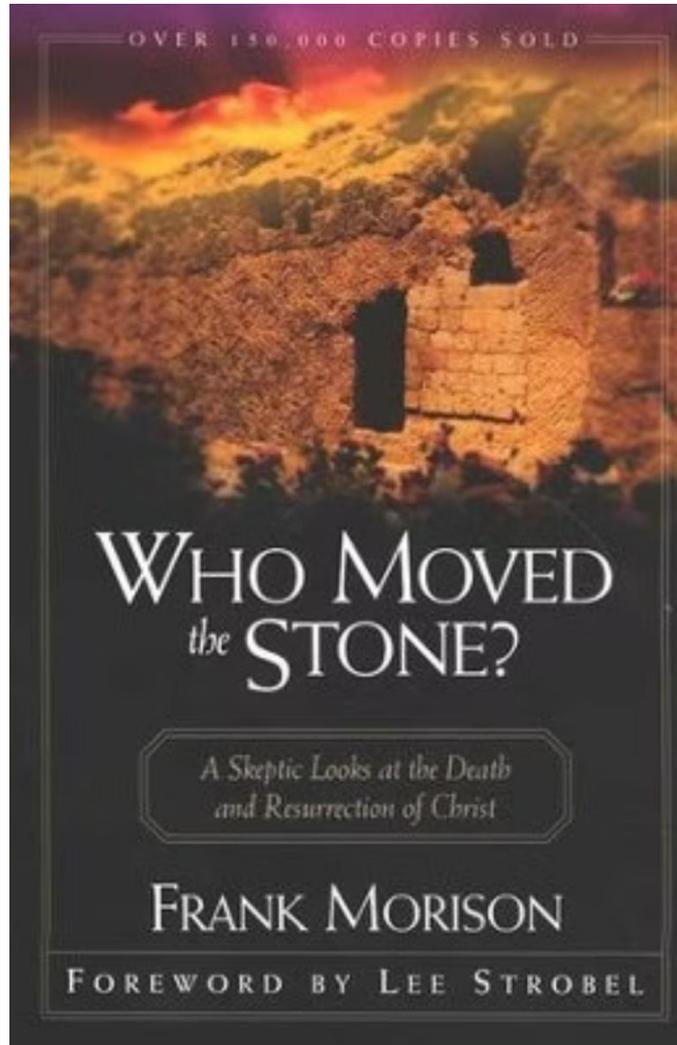
He wrote: *The Testimony of the Evangelists* (1874 edition).

"If they had thus testified on oath, in a court of justice, they would be entitled to credit... If so, then it is believed that every honest and impartial man will act consistently with that result, by receiving their testimony in all the extent of its import" (53-54).

"The result, it is confidently believed, will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth" (46).



Other Attorneys Confirm NT



Frank Morrison, *Who Moved the Stone?*

Thomas Sherlock, *The Tryal of the Witnesses of the Resurrection.*

John Montgomery, *Christianity and History*

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ.*

Irwin Linton, *A Lawyer Examines the Bible.*

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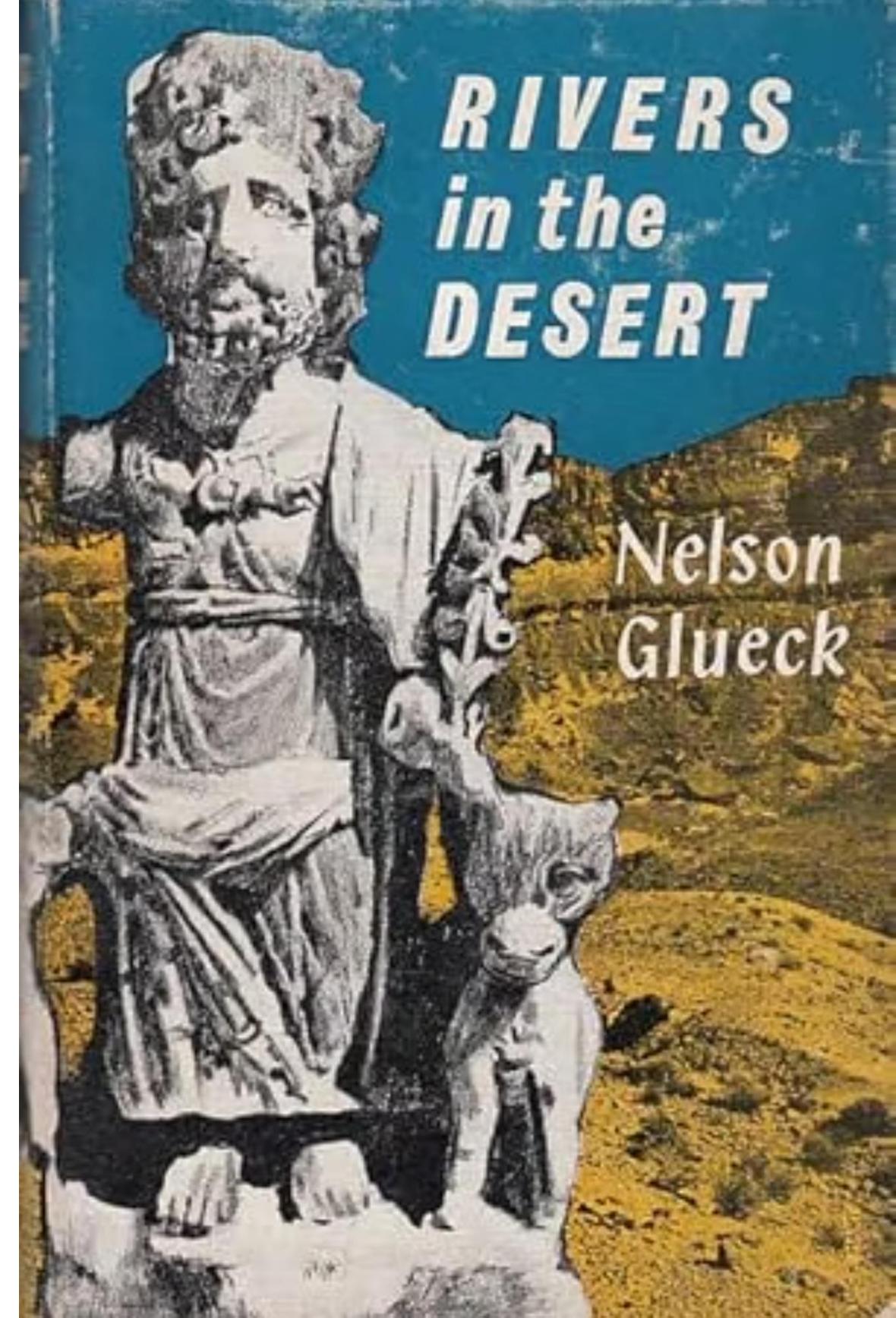
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Archaeological Evidence Supports the Bible

"As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that **no archaeological discovery** has ever controverted a biblical reference.

Scores of archaeological findings have been made which **confirm in clear outline or exact detail** historical statements in the Bible"

Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, 31



IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

How Modern Debates and Discoveries
Affirm the Essence of the Scriptures



JEFFERY L. SHELER

“

"In extraordinary ways, modern archaeology has affirmed the historical core of the Old and New Testaments—corroborating key portions of the stories of...the life and times of Jesus."

”

Jeffery Sheler, *Is the Bible True*, 52

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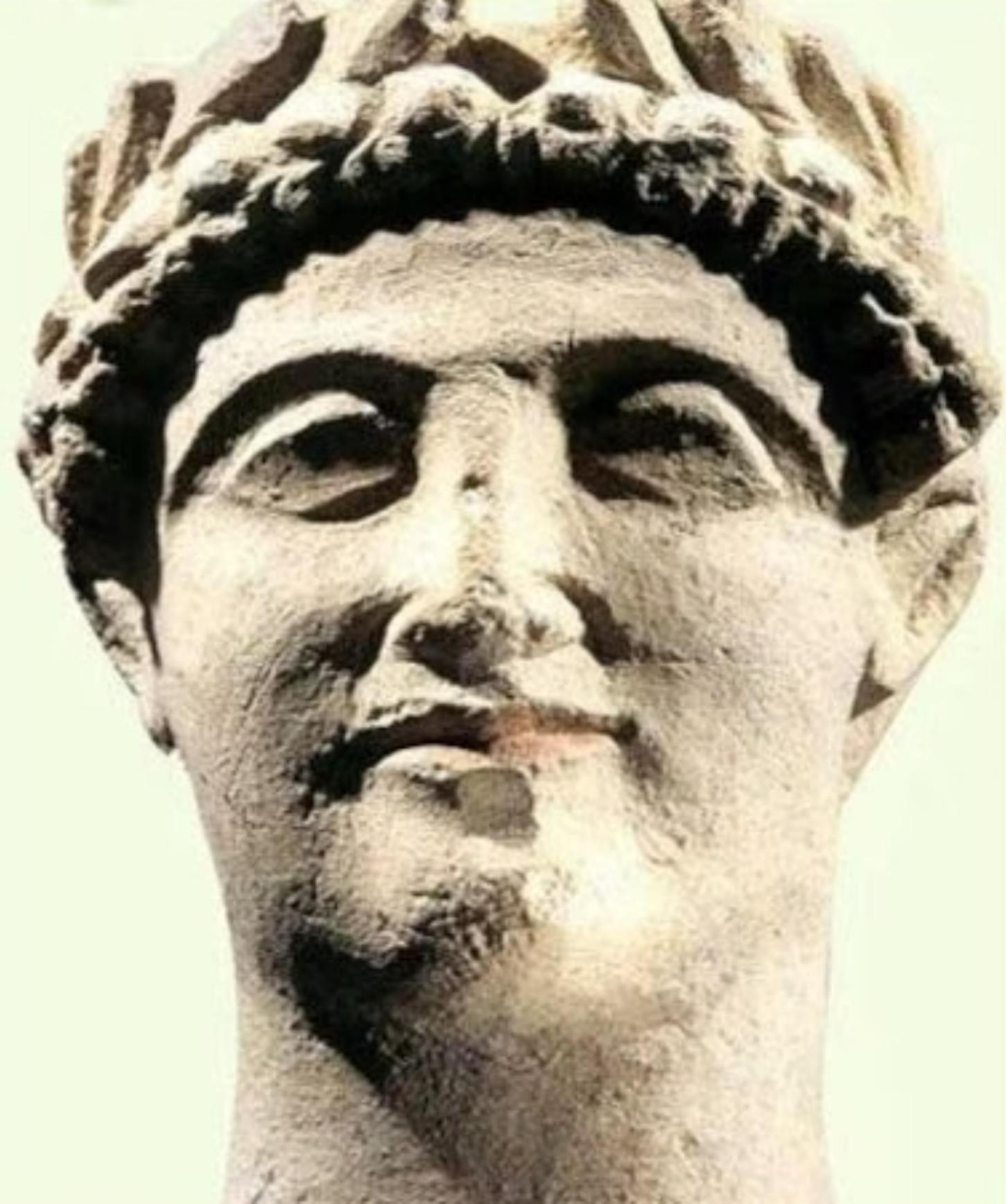
Bethlehem: Jesus' Birth Place



Caesar Augustus: Emperor When Jesus was Born (Lk. 2)



**Herod King When Jesus
Was Born (Matthew 2)**





Jordan River: The Place of Jesus' Baptism (Mt. 3)

Jesus' Home Town of Nazareth (Luke 4)



**The Sea of Galilee:
Galilee: Where
Jesus Taught (Mk.
(Mk. 1)**





Pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5)

**Synagogue at Capernaum
Capernaum Where Jesus
Jesus Taught (Lk. 7)**



**Foundation of
Herod's Temple
Where Jesus
Taught (Lk 2)**

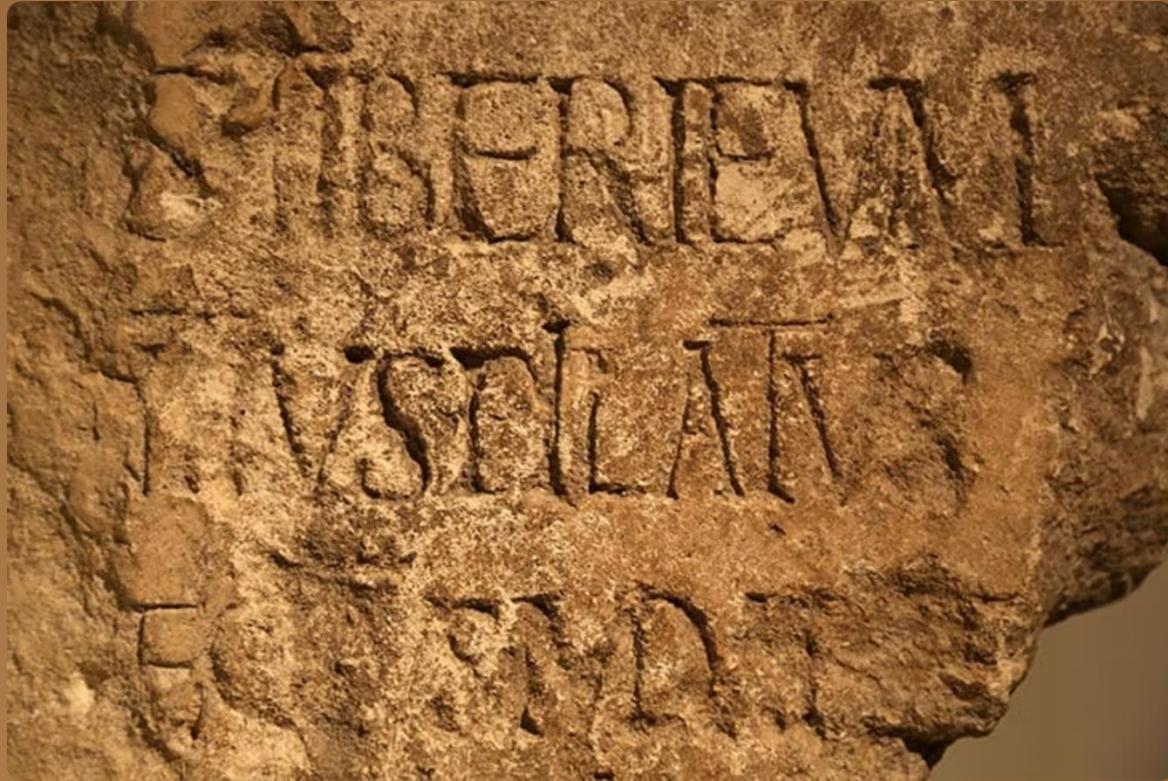




**Jerusalem: Where
Jesus Lived,
Taught, and Died
(Jn. 19)**



**Crucifixion Victim 1st Century A.D.
(Discovered in Jerusalem)**



**"Pontius Pilate
Prefect of Judea"
26-37 A.D. (Mt.
27)**



**Ossuary of Joseph
Caiaphas: High
Priest 18-36 A.D.**



Site of an Empty Tomb like Jesus' Tomb (Mk. 16)

**Arch of Titus Who
Destroyed
Jerusalem in A.D.
70 (Mt. 24)**



Titus Conquering Jerusalem



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9. Numerous archaeological finds supported it.
- 10. Non-Christian Sources supported it.**

Non-Christian sources within 150 years of Jesus

Source	AD	Existed	Virtuous	Worship	Disciples	Teacher	Crucified	Empty Tomb	Disciples' Belief in Resurrection	Spread	Persecution
Tacitus	115	X			X		X	X*		X	X
Suetonius	117-138	X		X	X			X*		X	X
Josephus	90-95	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Thallus	52	X					X*				
Pliny	112	X		X	X	X		X*		X	X
Trajan	112?	X*		X	X					X	X
Hadrian	117-138	X*			X					X	X
Talmud	70-200	X					X				X
Toledoth Jcsu	fifth century	X						X			
Lucian	second century	X		X	X	X	X				X
Mara Bar-Serapion	first through third century	X	X	X		X	X	X*			
Phlegon	80?	X					X	X	X		

*implied

Alexander the Great



Sources Available:

Contemporary: none

100 yrs later: fragments

300--500 years later: several histories

New Testament

25-30 years later: the life, teachings, death, and the resurrection of Christ

The Case for the Bible:

I. The Charge of the Critics

II. A Response to the Critics

A. Reliability of the OT

B. Reliability of the NT

III. Conclusion

Conclusion

The New Testament is Historically Accurate

Therefore, when the NT says:

Jesus said it, then Jesus actually said it;

Jesus did it, then Jesus actually did it.

The life, death and resurrection of Christ is not just a good story; It's good history!

Conclusion

If the NT is reliable, then Jesus lived, claimed to be God, and proved it by miracles.

If Jesus is God, then basic Christianity is true.

If Jesus is God, then He is the only way to God.