

IS THE NEW TESTAMENT TRUE?





Objective: To understand if we have an accurate copy of the original New Testament and discover if the original New Testament is true.

Today's Question:

Is The New Testament true?

Do we have an accurate copy of the original NT documents?
Do the original NT documents tell the truth?



“Bruce Metzger is one of the great scholars of the modern times, and I dedicated the book to him because he was both my inspiration for going into textual criticism and the person who trained me in the field I have nothing but respect and admiration for him And even though we may disagree on important religious questions he is a firmly committed Christian and I am not – we are in complete agreement on a number of very important historical and textual questions. If he and i were put into a room and asked to hammer out a consensus statement on what we think the original text of the New Testament probably looked like there would be very few points of disagreement maybe one or two dozen places out of many thousands. The position I argue for in Misquoting Jesus does not actually stand at odds with Prof, Metzger’s position that the essential Christian beliefs are not affected by the textual variants in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament”

Misquoting Jesus, 252

1. _____

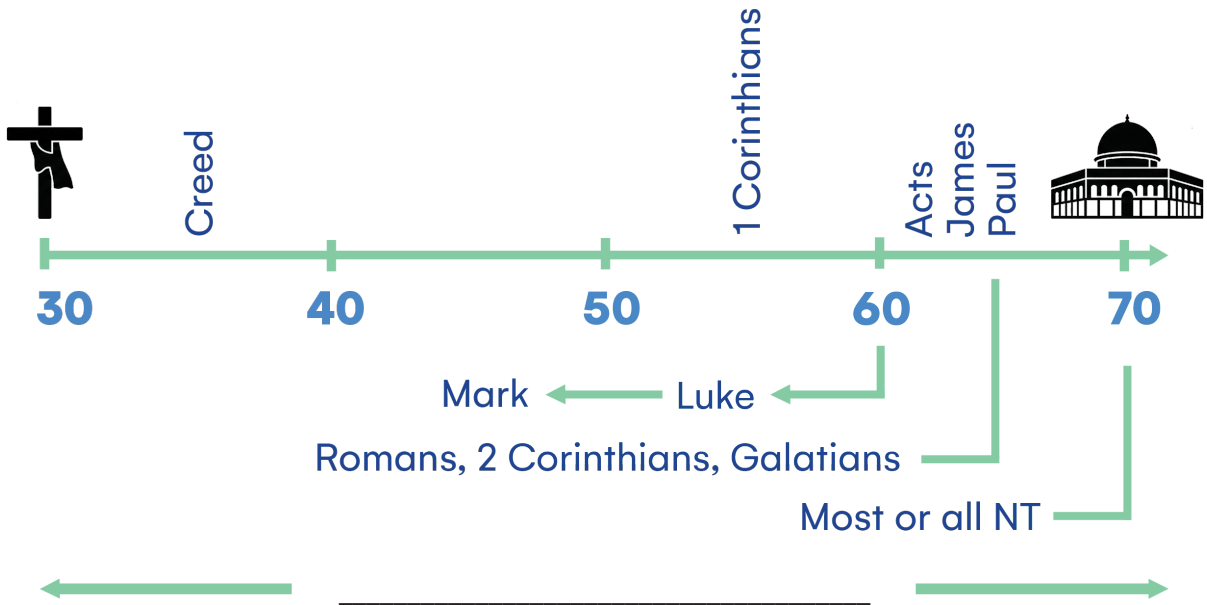
How soon after the life of Jesus did the first manuscripts get written?

All New Testament documents were written between a _____ year period after Jesus' ascension.

Most, if not all of the New Testament was written before _____.

- The _____ was destroyed in 70 AD.
- None of the New Testament _____ mention the destruction of the Temple.
 - » This would be like having a history book of the United States that doesn't mention 9/11. One would assume this history book was written before that event.

Since the New Testament was written so close to the life of _____, the eye witnesses were still _____ to confirm or deny the _____ of the documents.



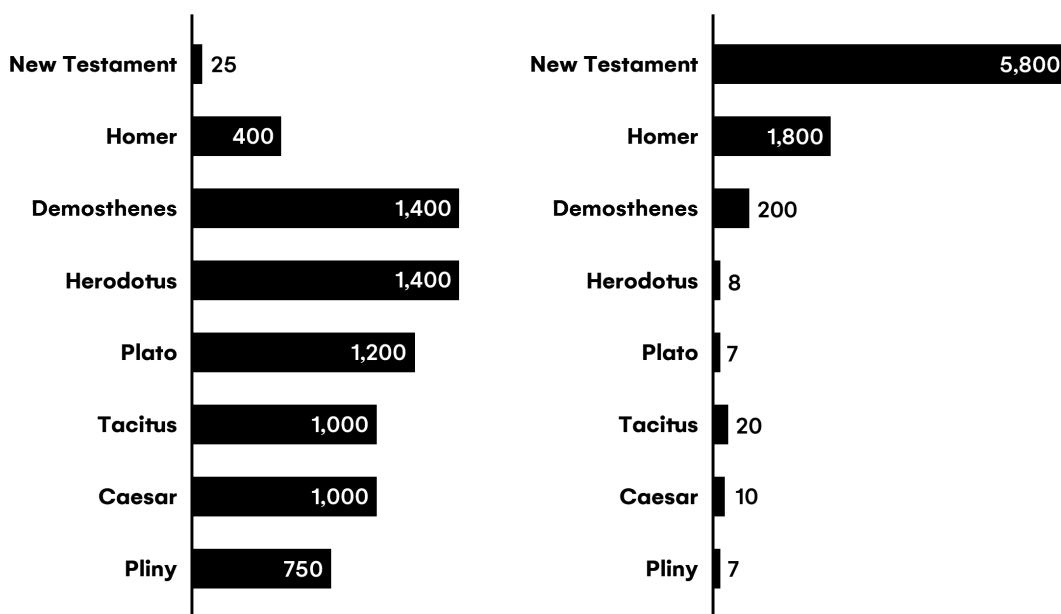


The New Testament not only has the _____ original documents, but also the earliest copies of those _____ documents.

Reliability of the New Testament Compared to Other Ancient Documents

Time gap (in years) between original and first surviving copies

Numer of Manuscript Copies



Why this matters?

The gap between the original and first surviving copy is only **25** years, meaning many eye witnesses were still _____ to _____ the copy.

Some may question that, just like a game of telephone, the more copies we have, the more _____ the message will be. This does not apply to _____ documents. It wasn't one person working on these books, there were multiple people committed to the _____ of this book. All _____ New Testament writers were eye witnesses of Jesus or eye witnesses of the early church, meaning they are writing from _____, not just testimony.



Why more manuscripts matter?

The more manuscripts we have implies that we have a better ability to reconstruct the _____.

EXAMPLE:

- I can do all t#ings through Christ who gives me strength.
- I can do all th#ngs through Christ who gives me strength.
- I can do all thi#gs through Christ who gives me strength.
- I can do all thin#s through Christ who gives me strength.

No other ancient book is so well _____.

New Testament scholar at Princeton Bruce Metzger has estimated that the *Mahabharata* of Hinduism is copied with 90% accuracy. Homer’s Iliad is copied with 95% accuracy. Scholars estimate that the New Testament is copied to _____ accuracy to the original. The .5% in question does not affect our _____. It has more to do with _____ errors than doctrine errors.

2. _____

Luke 3:1–2 NIV

1 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— 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Does it sound like he’s making up a story?

- An exact _____ is given (29 AD).
- All _____ people are known from history.
- All were known to live at this _____ time.
- This is not a “once upon a time” story (myth).



Archaeologist Sir William Ramsay spent twenty years of research in the area Luke wrote about. His conclusion was that Luke references _____ countries, _____ cities, and _____ islands with no mistakes.

Numerous confirmed eyewitness details

- Acts contains _____ historically-confirmed eye witness details
- Luke includes several others in his gospel.
- John contains _____ historically confirmed or historically probable eyewitness details.
- New Testament documents cite more than _____ people confirmed by secular sources or archaeology.

ACTS FACTS:

_____ displays incredible knowledge of local places, names, conditions, customs, and circumstances that only an eye witness can give of the time and of the events.

Luke accurately records:

1. the natural crossing between correctly named ports (Acts 13:4—5).
2. the proper port (Perga) along the direct destination of a ship crossing from Cyprus (Acts 13:13).
3. the proper location of Lycaonia (Acts 14:6).
4. the unusual but correct declension of the name Lystra (Acts 14:6).
5. the correct language spoken in Lystra—Lycaonian (Acts 14:11).
6. two gods known to be so associated—Zeus and Hermes (Acts 14:12).
7. the proper port, Attalia, which returning travelers would use (Acts 14:25).
8. the correct order of approach to Derbe and then Lystra from the Cilician Gates (Acts 16:1; cf. Acts 15:41).
9. the proper form of the name Troas (Acts 16:8).
10. the place of a conspicuous sailors' landmark, Samothrace (Acts 16:11).

Why would Luke include all of these historical cross hairs?



JOHN FACTS:

_____ displays incredible knowledge of local places, names, conditions, customs, and circumstances that only an eye witness can give of the time and of the events.

1. Archaeology confirms the use of stone water jars in New Testament times (John 2:6).
2. Given the early Christian tendency towards asceticism, the wine miracle is an unlikely invention (John 2:8).
3. Archaeology confirms the proper place of Jacob's Well (John 4:6).
4. Josephus (Wars of the Jews 2.232) confirms there was significant hostility between Jews and Samaritans during Jesus' time (John 4:9).
5. "Come down" accurately describes the topography of western Galilee. (There's a significant elevation drop from Cana to Capernaum.) (John 4:46, 49, 51).
6. "Went up" accurately describes the ascent to Jerusalem (John 5:1).
7. Archaeology confirms the proper location and description of the five colonnades at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:2). (Excavations between 1914 and 1938 uncovered that pool and found it to be just as John described it. Since that structure did not exist after the Romans destroyed the city in A.D. 70, it's unlikely any later non-eyewitness could have described it in such vivid detail. Moreover, John says that this structure "is in Jerusalem," implying that he's writing before 70.)
8. Jesus' own testimony being invalid without the Father is an unlikely Christian invention (John 5:31); a later redactor would be eager to highlight Jesus' divinity and would probably make his witness self-authenticating.
9. The crowds wanting to make Jesus king reflects the well-known nationalist fervor of early first-century Israel (John 6:15).
10. Sudden and severe squalls are common on the Sea of Galilee (John 6:18).



← Find a list of
more facts here.



New Testament Figures Cited by Non-Christian Writers And/Or Confirmed Through Archaeology

Person	NT Citation	Non-Christian Source(s)
Jesus	many citations	Josephus, Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, Phlegon, Thallus, Suetonius, Lucian, Celsus, Mara Bar-Serapion, The Jewish Talmud
Agrippa I	Acts 12:1-24	Philo, Josephus
Agrippa II	Acts 25:13-26:32	coins, Josephus
Ananias	Acts 23:2; 24:1	Josephus
Annas	Luke 3:2; John 18:13, 24; Acts 4:6	Josephus
Aretas	2 Cor. 11:32	Josephus
Berenice (wife of Agrippa II)	Acts 23:13	Josephus
Caesar Augustus	Luke 2:1	Josephus and others
Caiaphas	several citations	ossuary, Josephus
Claudius	Acts 11:28; 18:2	Josephus
Drusilla (wife of Felix)	Acts 24:24	Josephus
Egyptian false prophet	Acts 21:38	Josephus
Erastus	Acts 19:22	inscription
Felix	Acts 23:24-25:14	Tacitus, Josephus
Gallio	Acts 18:12-17	inscription
Gamaliel	Acts 5:34; 22:3	Josephus
Herod Antipas	Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 3:1; 23:7-12	Josephus
Herod Archelaus	Matt. 2:22	Josephus
Herod the Great	Matt. 2:1-19; Luke 1:5	Tacitus, Josephus,
Herod Philip I	Matt. 14:3; Mark 6:17	Josephus
Herod Philip II	Luke 3:1	Josephus
Herodias	Matt. 14:3; Mark 6:17	Josephus
Herodias's daughter (Salome)	Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29	Josephus
James	several citations	Josephus
John the Baptist	several citations	Josephus
Judas the Galilean	Acts 5:37	Josephus
Lysanias	Luke 3:1	inscription, Josephus
Pilate	several citations	inscription, coins, Josephus, Philo, Tacitus
Quirinius	Luke 2:2	Josephus
Porcius Festus	Acts 24:27-26:32	Josephus
Sergius Paulus	Acts 13:6-12	inscription
Tiberius Caesar	Luke 3:1	Tacitus, Suetonius, Paternulus, Dio Cassius, Josephus

Note: This is not an exhaustive compilation of non-Christian references. There may be additional citations of these New Testament figures in these and/or other non-Christian sources.

3. _____

- _____

They fail to understand what Jesus is saying (Mark 9:32, Luke 18:34, John 12:16).

- _____

They fall asleep on Jesus twice. They make no effort to give Jesus a proper burial.

- _____

Peter is called “Satan” by Jesus (Mark 8:33). Paul rebukes Peter for being wrong.

- _____

Peter denies Christ three times. The disciples run away. The women are the brave ones.

- _____

Despite being taught several times that Jesus would rise from the dead, the disciples are doubtful when they hear of his resurrection. Some are even doubtful after they see him risen.

5. _____

All the New Testament writers (except Luke) were _____. They had a previous set of beliefs that they abandoned.

Many of the disciples and New Testament believers _____ for what they believed to be true.

People die for a lie, but no one dies for something willingly know is a _____.

What did the New Testament writers have to gain by making up a new religion? They had every motive to say the resurrection did NOT happen? Why would they die for a lie?

Is _____ a test for the validity of a belief?

The Martyrs Of Islam:

- The Islam Martyrs do NOT have the evidence the Christian Martyrs had.
- The New Testament Martyrs were eye-witnesses.
- Mohammad never performed miracles to confirm he was from God when he was challenged.

Did Jesus really rise from the Dead?

Objections to the Resurrection

- _____

The disciples were deceived by _____ that Jesus rose from the dead.

Flaws:

1. Hallucinations are not experienced by groups, but only individuals. They are a lot like a dream. No one wakes up from a dream and says, “that was a great dream WE had.”
2. There were 500+ eye witnesses that would have also had to experience the same hallucination at 12 different times.

• _____

The disciples and witnesses went to the _____ tomb.

Flaws:

1. If the disciples went to the wrong tomb, and preached that Jesus was alive, the Romans and Pharisees would have paraded Jesus' body around to confirm his death.
2. The empty tomb did not convince most of the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. It was his appearances that confirmed his life for the disciples.

• _____

The disciples _____ the body and then preached He had risen from the dead.

Flaws:

1. Why would they fabricate a lie to get themselves beaten, tortured, and killed for what they know is a lie.
2. How did they get passed elite Roman soldiers who were trained to guard the tomb with their lives.
3. Why would the disciples get a sudden burst of courage to take on Roman soldiers when they clearly were cowards hiding in the upper room.

• _____

Somebody took Jesus' _____ on the cross.

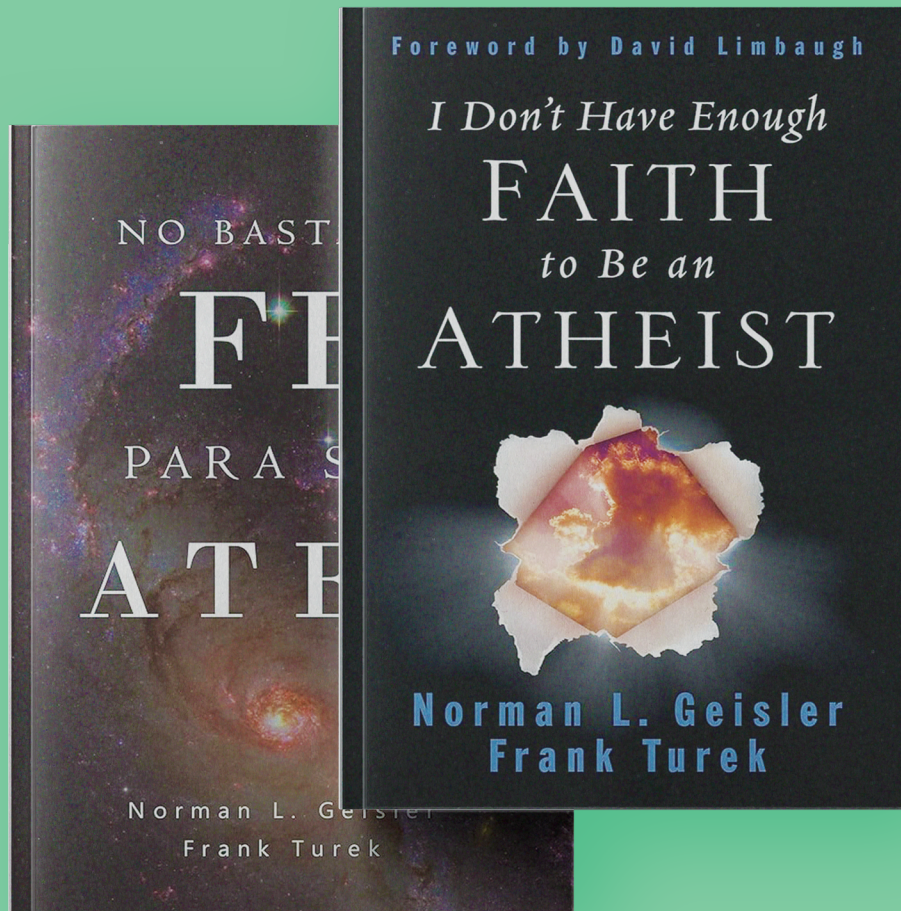
Flaws:

1. There is zero evidence for this theory.
2. There were hundreds of eye witnesses and Roman guards at the cross that would have to all be mistaken about Jesus' identity.
3. If Jesus wasn't killed, then why was the tomb still found empty?
4. Everybody within the first century would have to be wrong about everything regarding Jesus.

**Instead, you must
worship Christ as
Lord of your life.
And if someone
asks about your
hope as a believer,
always be ready to
explain it.**

1 Peter 3:15 NLT

Esta clase está basada en el libro
"No Basta Mi Fe Para Ser Ateo"



This class is based on the book
"I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist"



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