

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

Looking at the number and date of documents and comparing them
for reliability

The New Testament Vs. Homer's Iliad

NEW TESTAMENT

- 5,000+ Greek documents, 24,000+ total
- Earliest documents date only 50-75 years after Christ
- Canon generally agreed on by end of the 2nd century, completed as we know it today by end of 4th century

ILIAD

- Less than 650 Greek documents
- Earliest documents date 1,000 years after original writing

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No one doubts the Iliad was really written and that we have a reliable copy today. So why do they doubt the accuracy of the New Testament?

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“The Bible is just like other religious books.”

THE QURAN

- Exact number of manuscripts difficulty to find, perhaps around 60ish?
- Written down from memory by about 12 people
- Written around 100-150 years after Mohammed's death
- Written to rebut much of the New Testament

THE WRITINGS OF BUDDHA

- Not written down until 300-400 years after his death
- Various factions already existed, so these writings were in some conflict with each other
- Canon completed some 1,500 years after Buddha's death

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There is no comparison between the New Testament and any other work or religious writing of antiquity.

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“Text Lines”

Majority Text

Sometimes called the “Byzantine Text,” generally combines all of the available manuscripts for the broadest, largest body of Scripture. Almost identical to the Received Text. Used for the World English Bible.

Received Text

Sometimes called the “Textus Receptus,” this text is what the church had access to throughout the majority of history. Both the King James Version and the New King James Version used the RT.

Critical Text

Sometimes called the “Alexandrian Text,” uses a smaller number of manuscripts, but many scholars feel these manuscripts better represent the original documents due to their age and geographical diversity. Used for the English Standard Version and most other modern translations.

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So do the different texts teach all sorts of different crazy doctrines? Do they all disagree with each other? Do they make it impossible to trust the Bible?!

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NO.

SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE

What does the Bible say about itself?

“The Bible never claims to be literal.”

I CORINTHIANS 15:12-19

- Paul defends the historical truth of a certain supernatural event. Does this sound like he thought this was just “a generally good myth?”

2 PETER 3:3-7

- Peter defends the historical truth of both intelligent, willful creation and a worldwide flood. What does this tell us about how New Testament believers viewed the Old Testament?

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Does archaeology line up with Biblical history?

“There’s just no proof the Bible is accurate.”

LUKE 3:1

Luke refers to Lysanias as tetrarch of Abilene in around AD 27. For years this was considered “false” because everyone knew Lysanius was the ruler of Chalcis half century earlier. But an inscription was discovered that listed a man name Lysanias as the tetrarch of Abilene - turns out there were two men with the same name, which of course is not uncommon!

ACTS 17:6

For years scholars thought the term “politarch” was exclusive to Luke and not an accurate description, but later an inscription was found on a first-century arch that reads, “in the time of the politarchs.”

JOHN

JOHN 5:1-15 - The Pool of Bethesda was discovered 40 feet below ground.

JOHN 9:7 - The Pool of Siloam has also been excavated

JOHN 4:12 - Jacob’s Well has been excavated

PILATE - Pilate is a verified historical individual. It is even possible we have found some of the exact locations where Christ stood trial.

OTHER FACTS

Be armed to know where the Bible came from and why we trust it so strongly

“It’s just some Bronze age book a guy wrote.”

40+ AUTHORS

Over 40 original authors were used in writing Scripture.

Besides this, thousands of scribes have meticulously copied Scripture throughout history.

1,600+ YEARS

Scripture was written over the course of 1,600 years!

1 MESSAGE

The remarkable fact is that despite all the cultural differences of the authors there is one unified message in Scripture.

“All the authors of the Bible were just after power and fame.”

POVERTY

Followers of Christ in the first and second century were generally “rewarded” with poverty, not wealth. Paul lost his career and money. Many Christians faced persecution where they were robbed of their homes, money, and freedom.

DISREPUTE

Christians were hated in the first and second centuries. Tacitus, a Roman historian from around AD 115, despised Christians. He writes of them, “Nero... inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians... An immense multitude (of Christians) was convicted, not so much for the crime of firing the city (Nero falsely blamed them for a fire he started), as of hatred against mankind.”

DEATH

Paul died for faith in Christ. 10 of the 11 remaining disciples died horribly for faith in Christ. The remaining 1 (John) may have died in excruciating pain. Thousands of first and second century Christians suffered being burned alive, eaten alive, boiled alive, cooked alive, crucified, torn asunder, beaten to death, and stoned.

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Why would anyone die in such excruciating ways for a lie?

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Happy is the person

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Psalm 1:1 (ICB)

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Happy is the person
who doesn't listen to the wicked.

”

Psalm 1:1 (ICB)

“

Happy is the person
who doesn't listen to the wicked.
He doesn't go where sinners go.

”

Psalms 1:1 (ICB)

“

Happy is the person
who doesn't listen to the wicked.
He doesn't go where sinners go.
He doesn't do what bad people do.

”

Psalm 1:1 (ICB)