

FAQ: Is the Bible Reliable?

Textual Criticism:

Author/Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	Number of Copies	Percent Accurate
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	1,300 yrs	8	
Plato	400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	1,300 yrs	7	
Caesar <i>Gallic Wars</i>	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	1,000 yrs	10	
Tacitus <i>Annals</i>	59 B.C.-A.D. 100	c. A.D. 100	1,000 yrs	20	
Homer <i>Iliad</i>	800 B.C.	c. A.D. 400	99+ yrs	643	95
New Testament	A.D. 50- 100	c. A.D. 114 (portion) c. A.D. 200 (books) c. A.D. 250 (most NT) c. A.D. 325 (entire NT)	25-50 yrs 100 yrs 150 yrs 225 yrs	5366	99+

Irenaeus: “Similarly, there was Polycarp, who not only was taught by apostles and associated with many who had seen the Lord, but also was installed by apostles in Asia as bishop in the church in Smyrna. I saw him myself in my early youth...he too always taught what he learnt from the apostles. This is what the Church continues to hand on.” 140-200 AD

Eye Witness Accounts:

Luke 1:1-4

1 John 1:1-3

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Archeological Evidence

“the major result of the many unrelenting scholarly attacks on the historical reliability of the NT has been to frustrate the attackers because again and again scripture has stood up to their challenges. For one thing, the NT provides a very accurate geography, not only of Israel, but of the Roman Empire. Places are

where they are supposed to be. Reported travel times are consistent with the distances involved. The topography is accurately described and extends to tiny details such as the location of wells, streams, springs, gorges, cliffs, city gates, and the like.” (Rodney Stark)

Key Points:

1 - Ancient Manuscripts: Compared to other ancient sources, the Bible has no peer

2 – Early Christian writers (1st – 3rd Century) confirm the existence of the Scriptures

3 – Eye Witness Accounts that were written shortly after the events

4 – Archeological evidence confirms events and places in Scripture

If you dive into the shallow end of the Biblical pool, where there are many controversies over interpretations, you may get scraped up. But if you dive in the center of the Biblical pool, where there is consensus – about the deity of Christ – his death and resurrection – you will be save. It is therefore important to consider the Bible’s core claims about who Jesus is and whether he rose from the dead before you reject it for its less central and more controversial teachings. Tim Keller – Reason for God

John 20:30-31

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.