

UMA VISÃO CRISTOCÊNTRICA

Santidade, sem a qual ninguém verá o Senhor

15 a 21 de Fevereiro de 2012















Informações: (83)3342.4654













www.autocarturismo.com.br contato@autocarturismo.com.br (83) 3321-3521 / 3058-5022 (83) 9103-9495 / 9103-9112









LOUVOR

GRUPO LOGOS - SP

The New Testament: History or Mythology?

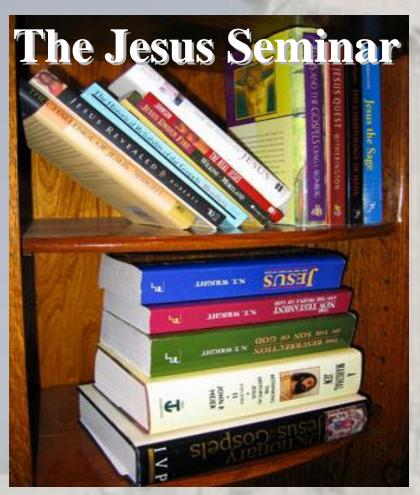
Copyright by Norman L. Geisler 2013

I. What Do the Critics Say?

- I. What Do the Critics Say?
- II. What Does the Evidence Show?

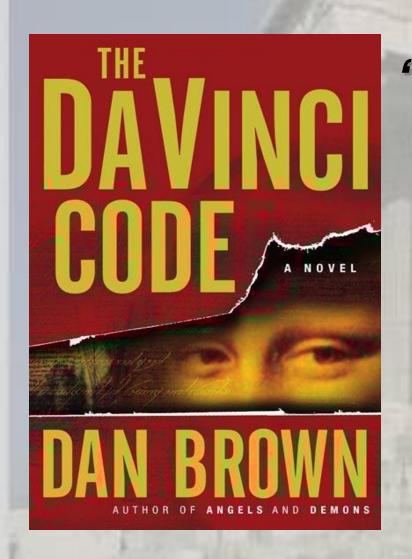
I. What Do the Critics Say?

A. The Jesus Seminar: Doubts Most of the Gospels



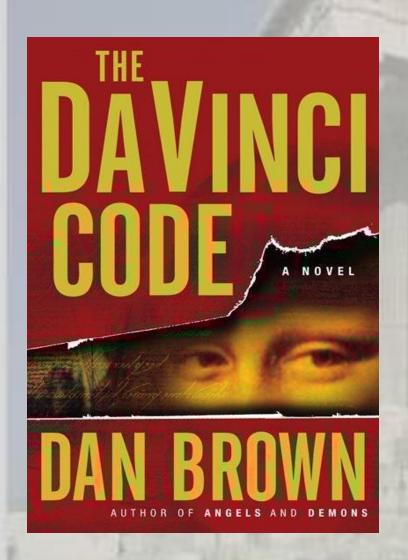
- 82% is not authentic
- 16% more is doubtful
- 98% total is in doubt

B. DaVinci Code: Purely Human



"The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God.... Man created it as a historical record.... 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...."

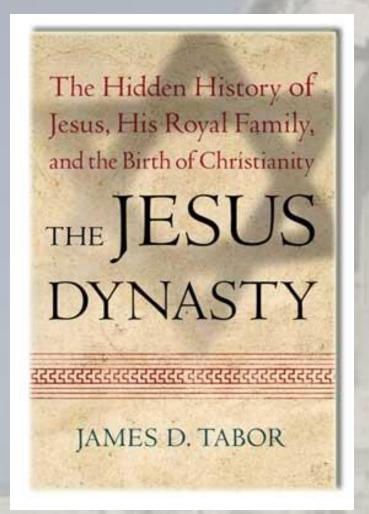
C. Bart Ehrman: Doubts Manuscripts



"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."

"Mark did not say the same thing as Luke. John is different from Matthew—not the same. Paul is different from Acts. And James is different from Paul" (Misquoting Jesus, 10, 12).

D. James Tabor: No Miracles



The Gospels have errors and contradictions (237). Miracle stories are not true including the Virgin Birth and resurrection because "Women do not get pregnant without a male—ever" (233) and "Dead bodies don't rise—not if one is clinically dead—as Jesus surely was after Roman crucifixion and three days in a tomb" (234).

- I. What Do the Critics Say?
- **II. What Does the Evidence Show?**

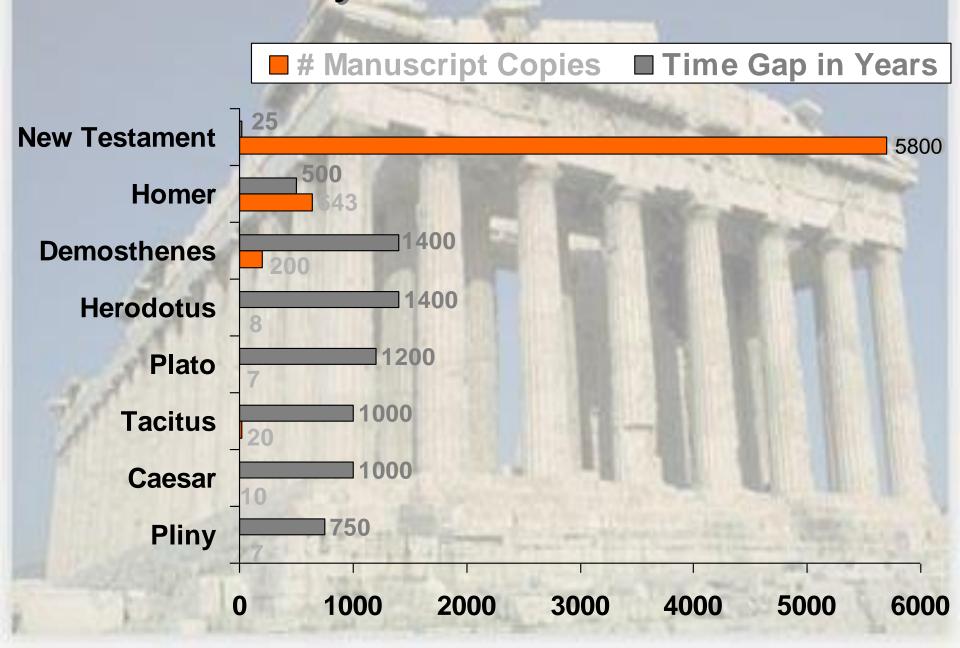
Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.

Documents are Copied Accurately

- The New Testament Has:
 - More manuscripts
 - Earlier manuscripts
 - -More accurately copied manuscripts --than any other book from the ancient world!

Reliability of NT Documents



The Testimony of the Scrolls



There are More Greek Manuscripts

The NT

c. 5800 mss.

Most Other Books

10-20 mss. for most

643 Homer's Iliad next

Total Number of Manuscripts

Greek: 5,800

Latin: 10,000+

Ethiopic 2,000+

Slavic 4,000+

Armenian 2,500+

Others 500+

Total Some 25,000 mss.

Nothing else in the ancient world even comes close to this!

The Testimony of the Fathers

EARLY CITATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Revelat- ion	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3 (266 allusio	330 ns)
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement Alex.	1,017	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Grand Totals	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

This includes every book and nearly every chapter

The Testimony of the Scrolls



There are Earlier NT manuscripts

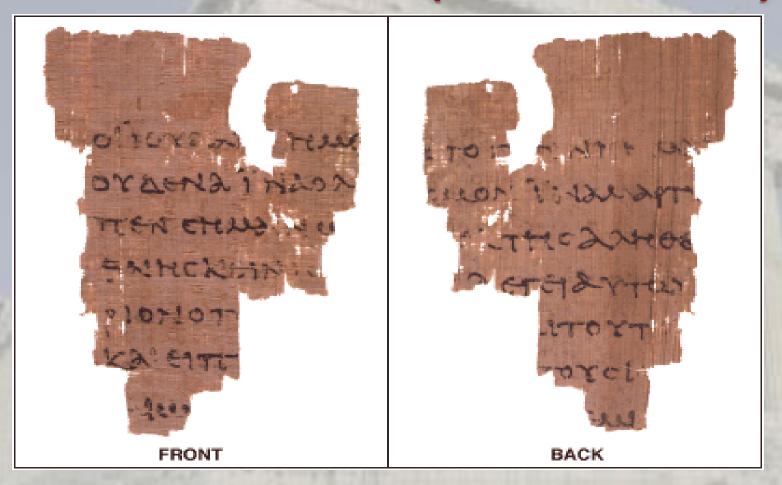
New Testament

c. 25--150 yr. gap

Most Other Books

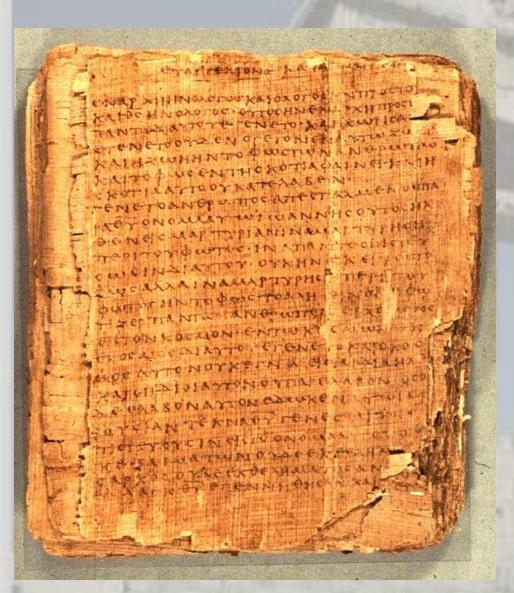
1000 yr. average gap

John Ryland Fragment (P⁵²) *Earliest NT Ms. (A.D. 117-138)*



John 18:31-33, 37-38

Bodmer Papyri



Dated: c. 200 A.D.

Housed: Geneva

Contents: Luke, John (P,⁶⁶P,⁷⁵1 & 2 Peter & Jude P ⁷²)

Value: Earliest copy of an Epistle and a Gospel (only 100+ years from the original Gospel.

Chester Beatty Papyri

- WANTE MANTHEMAN AND A TOPA W HTTWANTA GARGOCKONTHAN KTOONS MATOY OF HET OTH TOHANDAND TOYONO WATER DAYTOY WAS TROUBLEST TIN CEXMOUNTHOISE TWYON AND AMONTO Bregior apianocrapast Apomoverto SSTINGE XZEKNIGOON KANFINDYAP NUM STEWSTITTEOPOSTE IN KHAN'S TEXTOYPHEXTINASE EXOVERTOON MANYTOY KAITOONAMATOUTTOCATTO HEP ALL THONGT TWO NAMED TOWN ALTUNKALHKOYFA DWNKNWOCK יילטריווים בייות אומושל זשו רבונה פינים CHERT WHITE CONTROLLERANTER OWNER KKOTTAWOOWNER KIN SWA KIBAPIZENEWNEHTRUKIER Artun CHADWOIN WHEN KAIN ENWITTON TOY BY ONEY KALLUT DWHIZ TUWNKA TWATT PUNKHOVEHICEOTNATO ME HOWAHN GALLA PASKE Untropaché Nejarro Therte TINOIALKAUTATINAIKA AVNORGANITY TYAPOEN IT PAPYRUS III

REVALATIONS XIII, 16-XIV, 4

Dated: c. A. D. 250

Housed: Dublin

Contents: Most of NT

Value: Earliest copy of most of the NT

Symbols: P45 P46P47

Codex Vaticanus

+ KATE TLA BEION + ELENOCIEMECE WOLLAND CENTONIMPAM ALPANETENHICENT IMPAMACETENNHEET MAIDED OZCIACACCTENHICE CAAKA CETENHHICEH MAGAWINGT TOLORMACCIENHHICE TONTAKOE INKUL NEELEN HHCEH TONAXAZ AXAZAGETENNHCEHT TONIOYAANKAPTOYC TOYANCAGE TENNICE CZEKIAN EZEKILCLEEFENNHCE TONDAPECKALTONZA TONMANACCH MANACCHAEETENNICE PEEKTHICONMAP CALECTERNIHGEN TONLME TONECTUM LMUICA E G T CHINH CEH ECTOM NEETENNINCE! TONIONC IAN DONECHIAMANAMOT ICOC TACAGETENNINCE ATAMACETENNIHCE TO TONIE XONIANKAITOY THEINANARIGICIALAD ALEAD OYCAYTOYEM THEMETOIKECIACKARY MICHALALAGGERMAN CELETONNINACCOMI NONOC ильссюньеё пенин " METALETHNICTOR BEILIGHE YVWON CIANEARYAUHOCIEX. CNAMIDNAGETENNICE MINCLEMNATONCEAL TONBOPORKTHICKANIA BOECKEELENHHEE TERMROPHALETENNATAL I OKHA ERTINCTOYO IT ZOROKAKEA ROBHERECTERINICER ZOPOEKEENAETENNA TOMESCALIN TONALIOYA IECCAIMEETEN MINICE ARIOYAKEELENNHEEN TONALYGIATONEKCIMA TONEXILKEIM ANYELNAGERENNINCE EXIAKBIMAGERGINICE TONCOLOMODIAEKTH TONAZOF TOYOYPHAOY AZOFACCTÉNHICETTE COACHUNAGETINEH EXAMIK CE TONTOBORM SIL отчинственинсен POROMMERTENHICS MISSCAMOT TOWARIANHOMOMONS AXEMAGERENNHEED ARIAACONENHINCENTIN TONENIOYA ENTOYALECTENNINCEN KEAC KEEFENNHCEU TONEAGAZAP ... TONI WOADAT CACAZATACOI CHINHOG HAD TANKET

MATOANAGETENHHOE TONTAKUK AKOLAEETENNHCENT тионфтонанарама BACTOMENOCXE MACAIOYNAITENEAIAM ARTAMECUCALYCIATERS ALLEKATECCATEC KAIL MODAY EILEWICTHOME TOIKECIACEARYAWH .. TENGALAGKATTECCAPE KAIAHOTHEMETOIKE CIACRALYADHOCEDO TOYXYTCHEALACKATIO TOYACXYITHTENECIC бутшениминетеуеп .. CHCTHCMHTTOCAYTTY марыстынаснопр HILLYHEVOEHYLLOL CYLEGHENTACTLIEXY CACKTINCATIOYTOCH ACOANHTAY THEAKAI OCCURRAIMHBEAGINA THNASIFMATICALEROY AHEHAABPAAHOAYCAI тоуснеумнеситос TACYALTEROCKYKATO HATE DANHAY TIDAGE TOTCH STOCKAYEIAMI CORHONCHAPARARON MARIANTHINTYHAIKAC TOTAPENAYTHICHHIM EKHNEGETHATIOYTE SETALLEY IONKAINAN CEICTOONOMARYTOY THEOTHAY TOCTAPED CULTONALONAYILOYA MOTONAHAPTIONS

TOY TOY TO A CONOR

Date: A. D. 325-350 **Contents:** Most of the OT and most of the NT Value: Has NT and **Greek OT (LXX)** Housed: Rome Symbol: B

Codex Sinaiticus

MOGING ICXIOMONOLUTUY DOMETACC TUNTOTTICEYCE DUYCTSPEEN SCOCKARCP CAPKECAIKA MENICKITHO. CHAPTER WILLIAM STAND MERNETTUTRYONENKOCHW CAPTAL CONTROL ON A CONTROL OF THE C CHANNA MUMOVEWEL CLINE MAND OTCHAS POPICATION PHON PAPER hecensories on podexonies TIMEYRALCHIAANOSCHARZAZIAKKA ACTUAL CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY FIOMPT CEINE YXOLOT WIN KERCAYCTHPI YOMEN THUNK THUNK THUCKNEY CHIKONYONI WHITAMEN AND MERCHATISPILL MANTON MONTADOCCKE COMPLET CORRESPONDED TO MAKE LIVER CONCIDENCIAL CONCENSION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Date: A. D. 340

Contents: Half of OT and almost all of NT

Value: One of the oldest and most accurate ms.

Housed: Leipzig, Germany

Symbol: X (Aleph)

The Testimony of the Scrolls



The NT Most Other Books

The Marabharata----90% accuracy of content

Iliad of Homer----95% accuracy of content

The New Testament---98-99+% accuracy of content

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

Westcott and Hort estimated that only about onesixtieth 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 appreciable difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is 99.75 percent pure.

- Westcott and Hort estimated that only about onesixtieth 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 appreciable 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.

- Westcott and Hort estimated that only about onesixtieth 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 appreciable 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.
- B. Philip Schaff said 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...." (Philip Schaff, Companion to the Greek NT and English Version,177)

Ehrman admits that the Manuscript variants don't affect the basic doctrines of the NT

He wrote: "It would be a mistake, however, to assume that the only changes being made were by copyist with a personal stake in the wording of the text. In fact, most of the changes found in our early Christian manuscripts have nothing to do with theology or ideology. Far and away the most changes are results of mistakes, pure and simple—slips of the pen, accidental omissions, inadvertent additions, misspelled words, blunders of one sort or another" (Misquoting Jesus, 55, emphasis added).

Ehrman's 1.6 Million Errors!

- Mariano Grinbank discovered 16 errors in Ehrman's book, Misquoting Jesus. Since the first edition is reported to have sold 100,000 copies in the first three months, this would mean (the way Ehrman counts errors in the Bible mss.) that there are 1.6 million errors in Ehrman's books! Yet no reasonable person would argue that because of this we cannot trust the copies to convey Ehrman's thoughts on the matter.
- See "Bart Ehrman and Millions of Variants," Part 1 of 2 posted Sept. 16, 2010 (www,truefreethinker.com).

What About Significant Differences?

- 1. YOU HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS
- 2. THOU HAST WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS [Notice the King James bias here]
- 3. Y'ALL HAVE WON \$10,000,000 [Notice the Southern bias here!]

What About Significant Differences?

- 1. YOU HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS
- 2. THOU HAST WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS [Notice the King James bias here]
- 3. Y'ALL HAVE WON \$10,000,000 [Notice the Southern bias here!]

Notice that of the 27 letters in line 2, only 5 of them [in bold] are the same in line 3. That is, only about 18.5% are the same. Yet the message is 100 % identical! They are different in form but not in content. So, even with the many differences in the New Testament variants, 100% of the message comes through.

What About Significant Differences?

- 1. YOU HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS
- 2. THOU HAST WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS [Notice the King James bias here]
- 3. Y'ALL HAVE WON \$10,000,000 [Notice the Southern bias here!]

Notice that of the 27 letters in line 2, only 5 of them [in bold] are the same in line 3. That is, only about 18.5% are the same. Yet the message is 100 % identical! They are different in form but not in content. So, even with the many differences in the New Testament variants, 100% of the message comes through.

The Testimony of the Scrolls



Sir Frederick Kenyon's Testimony

"The number of mss. of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or the other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other book in the world" (Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts, 55).

Why Bart Ehrman's Charge About Mss. Errors is Misleading

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

Would you collect your money?

What if you received this message?

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

"YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

would have no doubt! "Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS" "YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS" **"YOU #AVE WON TEN MILLION**

Note: **DOLLARS**"

- 1. Even with mistakes, 100% of the message comes through.
- 2. The more errors, the more sure you 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. Far and away the most changes are the result of mistakes pure and simple—slips of the pen, accidental omissions.

The Testimony of the Scrolls



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).

Summation

- The New Testament Has:
 - More Manuscripts
 - Earlier Manuscripts
 - More Accurately Copied Manuscripts
 - --than any other book from the ancient world!

Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

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

New Testament Has:

- -Nine writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews*).
- -They wrote 27 books (of the NT).
- -Most other events have one or, at most, two writers.
- -It's the Law: "On the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed" (Deut. 19:15).

The Traditional Authors:

- Matthew--an apostle of Jesus
- Mark--an associate of the apostle Peter
- Luke--an associate of the apostle Paul
- John--an apostle of Jesus
- Paul--an apostle of Jesus
- James--the brother of Jesus
- Peter--an apostle of Jesus
- Jude--the brother of James
- Hebrews--an associate of the apostles (2:3;13:23)

The Traditional Authors:

- Matthew--an apostle of Jesus
- Mark--an associate of the apostle Peter
- Luke--an associate of the apostle Paul
- John--an apostle of Jesus
- Paul--an apostle of Jesus
- James—the brother of Jesus
- Peter--an apostle of Jesus
- Jude--the brother of James
- Hebrews--an associate of the apostles (2:3;13:23)
- *It doesn't matter if all these were the authors or not since some were and others were based on eyewitnesses.

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.

John: An Eyewitness

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

John: An 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).

John: An 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).

"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" (1 John 1:1).

Book of Acts

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

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

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen" (Acts 10:39-40).

500 Eyewitnesses of the Resurrection

"...He [Jesus] was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, 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. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also ... " (1Cor. 15:3-8)--written 55-56 A.D.

Luke: Based on Eyewitnesses

"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught" (Luke 1:1-4).

Hebrews: Confirmed by Apostles

"How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will" (Heb. 2:3-4).

"You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon" (13:23).

Note: Timothy was alive, and he was a companion of the apostle Paul.

Peter: An Eyewitness

"We did not follow cleverly invented stories [myths] when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

Peter: An Eyewitness

"We did not follow cleverly invented stories [myths] when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's suffering and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed" (1 Peter 5:1).

Numerous Scholars Hold NT is Based in Eyewitness Testimony

Bauckham, Richard. Jesus and the Eyewitnesses.

Blomberg, Craig. The Historical Reliability of the Gospels.

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

Bruce, F. F. The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?

Bruce, F. F. 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.

Hengel, Martin. The Four Gospels and the One Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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?

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.
 - a. Most critics accept 1 & 2 Cor., Romans, & Galatians.
 - b. These books 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) and that Paul knew Peter and James (Gal. 1: 18-2:16);
- (10) Jesus' poverty (2 Cor. 8:9);
- (11) His meekness and gentleness (2 Cor. 10:1);
- (12) His abuse by others (Rom. 15:3);

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

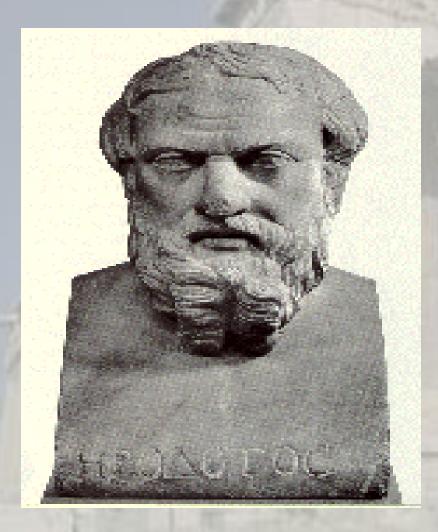
- (13) His teachings on divorce and remarriage (1Cor. 7:10-11);
- (14) His view on paying wages of ministers (1Cor. 9:14);
- (15) His view on paying taxes (Rom. 13:67);
- (16) His command to love one's neighbors (Rom. 13:9);
- (17) On Jewish ceremonial uncleanness (Rom. 14:14);
- (18) On Jesus' titles 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);
- (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 cf. Mk. 10:45)
- (23) His burial (1Cor. 15:4);
- (24) His resurrection on the "third day" (1Cor. 15:4);
- (25) His post-resurrection appearance to the apostles (1Cor. 15:5-8);
- (26) His post-resurrection appearances to others (1Cor. 15:6);
- (27) His present position at God's right hand (Rom. 8:34).

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.

No Time for Myths

Even with late dates of 70-100 A.D.



"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, based on Julius Muller, The Theory of Myths, 1844).

Two Generations

- Two Generations of 40 years = 80 years
- Jesus died 33 A.D.
- Paul wrote 55-61 A.D.
- Luke wrote by 62 A.D.

= 20-30 years

Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.
- 3. No hint of Nero's persecutions--c. 65 A.D.
- 4. Apostle Paul is still alive--c. 65 A.D.
- 5. Apostle James is still alive--c. 62 A.D.
- Note: 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 Liberal Critic

"Death of God" Theologian Bishop John Robinson Redates the New Testament

Matthew--A.D. 40-60+

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

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

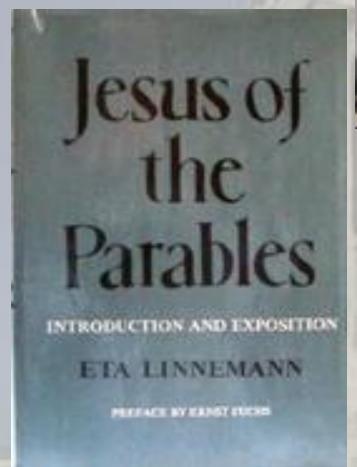
John-----A.D. 40-65+

(Redating the New Testament, 352-354)

This would be only 7 years after Jesus died!

Conversion of a Former Critic

Before





After

ETA LINNEMANN

HISTORICAL CRITICISM of the Bible

> METHODOLOGY OR IDEOLOGY?

Reflections of a Bultmannian turned evangelical

Translated by Robert W. Yarbrough

Dates of Basic NT Books

Most Critics: NT is A. D. A.D. 70-100 A.D.

Early Epist. of Paul are 55-61

One Critic: Gospels are 40-65

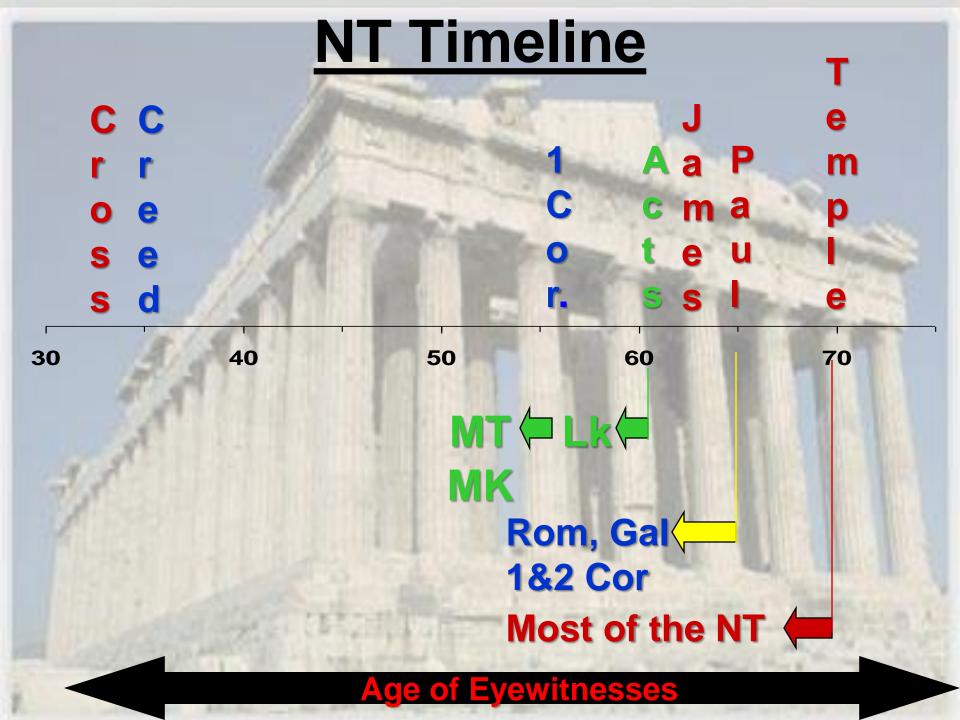
Noted Roman Historian: Acts is A.D. 62 A.D.

Note:

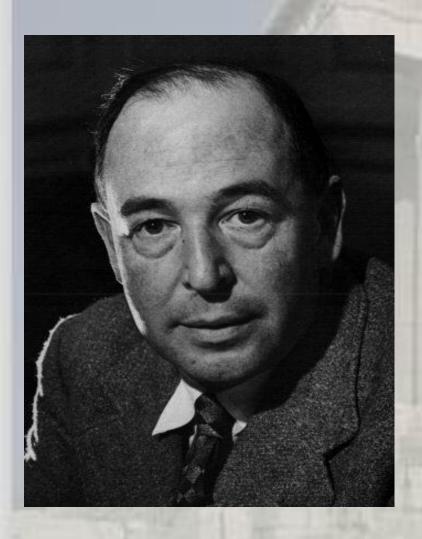
- 1) Even late dates are to early for myth.
- 2) Luke is less than three decade away.
- 3) Paul's dated are only two decades away.
- 4) One critic's date is less than one decade.

Dean of Archaeology Spoke Out

"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, "Toward a More Conservative View" in Christianity Today, 1/18/63).



The Non-Mythological Nature of their Writing 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).

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.

Historical Crosshairs

The Year A. D. 29

"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).

Historical Crosshairs

The Year A. D. 29

"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) An exact date is given--A. D. 29.
- 2) All eight people are known from history.
- 3) All were known to live at this exact time.
- 4) This is not a "once upon a time" story (myth).

The Authentic Nature of The Writings

1. They made no attempt to harmonize their accounts.

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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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 form Jesus' words.

- 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 form Jesus' words.
- 7. They did not deny their testimony under threat of death.

- 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 form Jesus' words.
- 7. They did not deny their testimony under threat of death.
- 8. They claimed their record was based on eyewitnesses.

- 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 form 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.

- 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 form 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.

- 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 form 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.

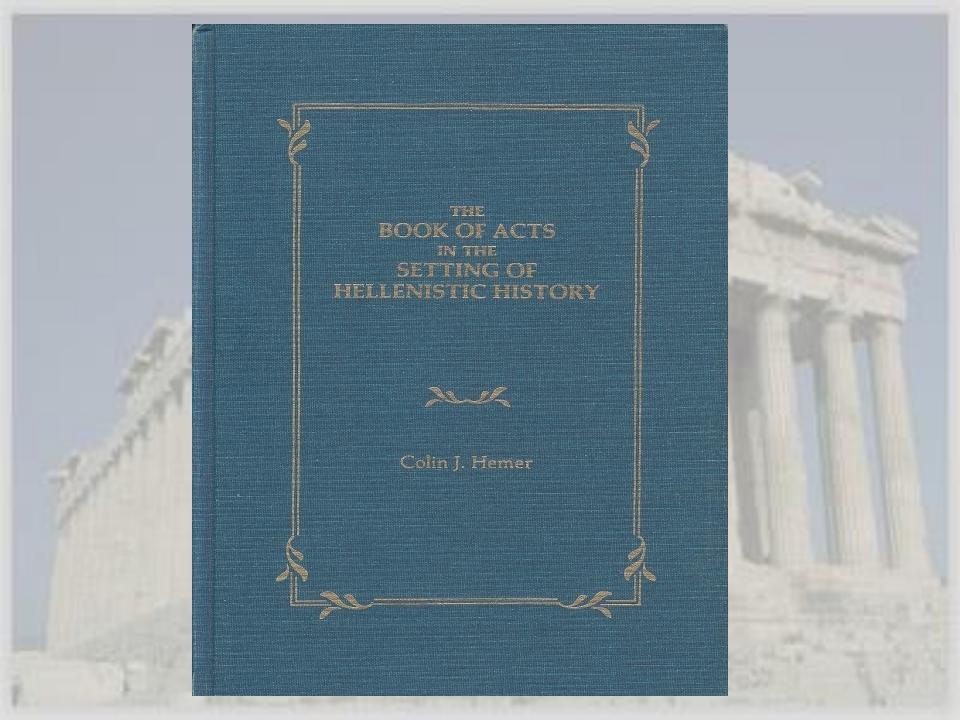
- 1. They made no attempt to harmonize their accounts.
- 2. They included material that put Jesus in a bad light.
- 3. They left many difficult passages in their text.
- 4. They retained many self-incriminating details.
- 5. They included many demanding sayings of Jesus.
- 6. They distinguished their words form 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.

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.

Noted Roman Historian Confirms Numerous Details in Acts

"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 formcriticism...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 Numerous Details in Acts

Colin Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenic History Evidence that Acts is a first-rate history because of its knowledge of:

- 1. Minute geographical details known to the readers.
- 2. Specialized details known only to special groups.
- 3. Specifics of not widely known routes, places, and officials.
- 4. Correlation of dates in Acts with general history.
- 5. Details appropriate to that period but not others.
- 6. Events which reflects a sense of "immediacy."
- 7. Idioms and culture that bespeak of a first-hand awareness.
- 8. Verification of numerous details of times, people, and events of that period best known by contemporaries.

Famous Roman Historian

(Thomas Arnold of Oxford, History of Rome)

"I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of the fair inquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again rose the dead" (Christian Life—Its Hopes, Fears, and Its Close, [London: 1859], 221).

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.

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).

Noted Legal Expert Confirms Gospels Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

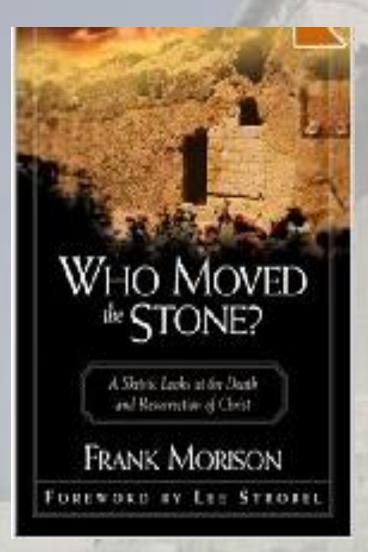
- Professor of Law at Harvard University.
- He authored A Treatise on the Law of Evidences (1853).
- He wrote the Testimony of the Evangelists (1874 edition):
- "The narratives of the evangelists are now submitted to the reader's perusal and examination, upon the principles and by the rules already stated If they had thus testified on oath, in a court of justice, they would be entitled to credit; and whether their narratives, as we now have them, would be received as ancient documents, coming from the proper custody. 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" (pp. 53-54).

Noted Legal Expert Confirms Gospels

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

- Continued...
- "All that Christianity asks of men on this subject, is, that they would be consistent with themselves; that they would treat its evidences as they treat the evidence of other things; and that they would try and judge its actors and witnesses, as they deal with their fellow men, when testifying to human affairs and actions, in human tribunals. Let the witnesses be compared with themselves, with each other, and with surrounding facts and circumstances; and let their testimony be sifted, as if it were given in a court of justice, on the side of the adverse party, the witness being subjected to rigorous cross-examination. The result, it is confidently believed, will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth" (46).

Other Attorneys Confirm NT



- Thomas Sherlock, The Tryal of the Witnesses of the Resurrection.
- Frank Morrison, Who Moved the Stone?
- John Montgomery,
- Christianity and History
- Lee Strobel, The Case for Christ.

Supreme Court Attorney Irwin Linton



"So invariable has been my observation that he who does not accept wholeheartedly the evangelical, conservative belief in Christ and the

Scriptures has never read, has forgotten, or never been able to weigh—and certainly is utterly unable to refute—the irresistible force of the cumulative evidence upon which such faith rests..." (A Lawyer Examines the Bible).

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.

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).

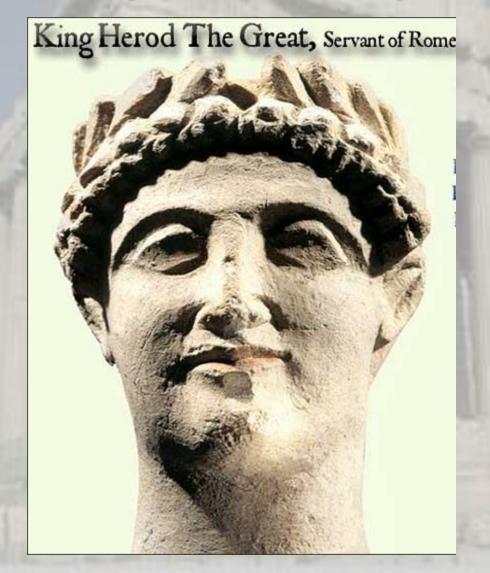
Bethlehem: Jesus' Birth Place



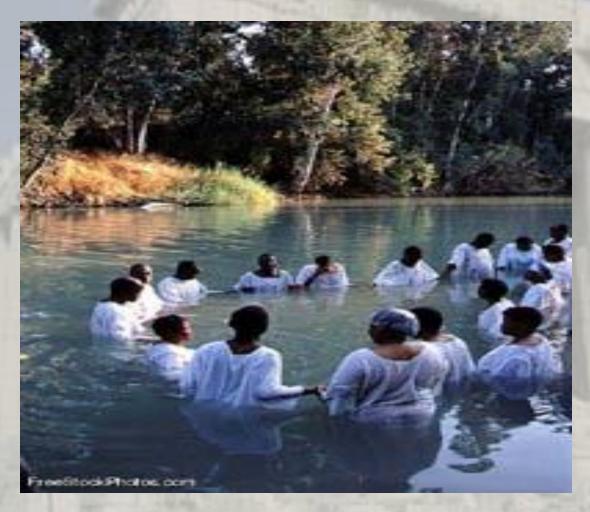
Caesar Augustus: Emperor When Jesus was Born (Lk. 2)



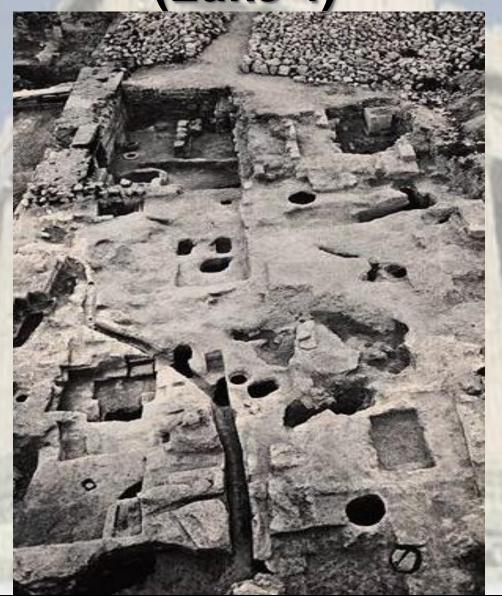
Herod King When Jesus Was Born (Matthew 2)



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



Jesus' Home Town of Nazareth (Luke 4)



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



Pool of Siloam (Jn. 5)



Synagogue at Capernaum Where Jesus Taught (Lk. 7)



Foundation of Herod's Temple court where Jesus Taught (Lk 2)



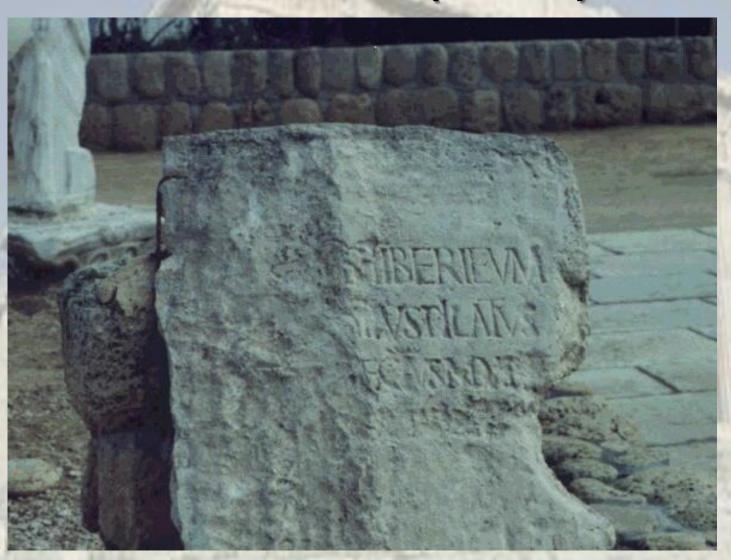
Jerusalem: Where Jesus Lived, Taught, and Died (Jn. 19)



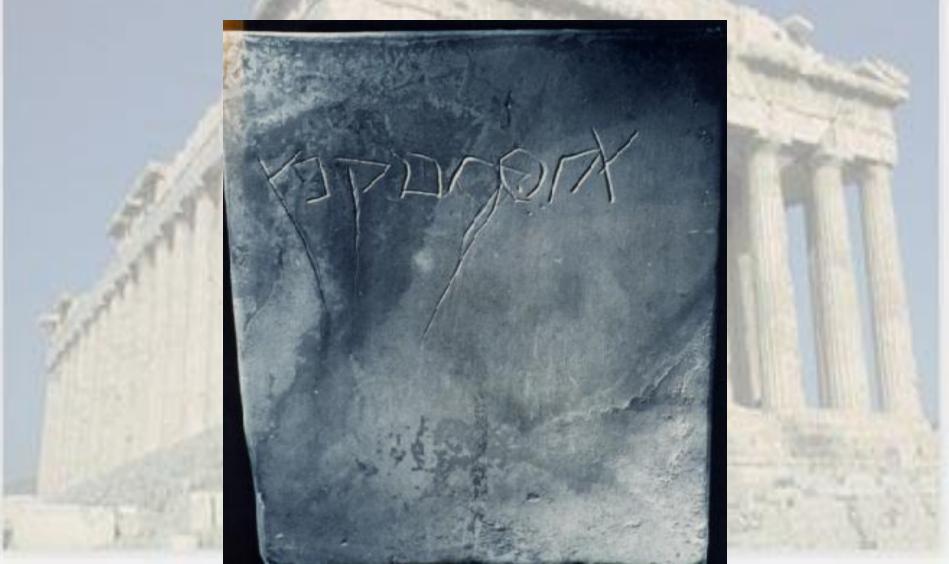
Crucifixion Victim 1st Century A.D. (Discovered in Jerusalem)



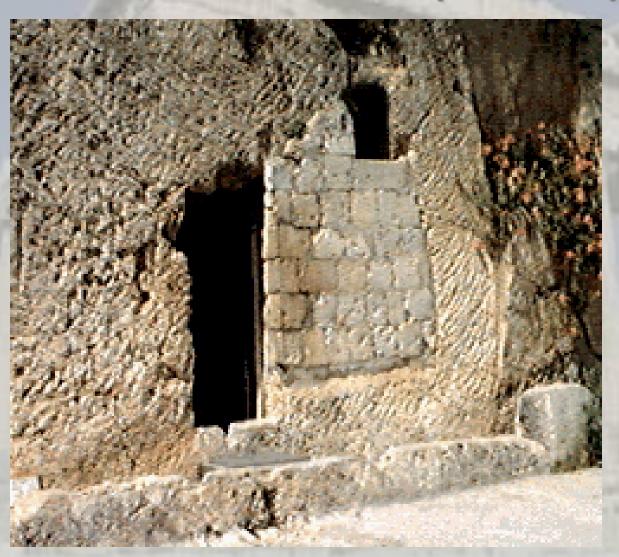
"Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea" 26-37 A.D. (Mt. 27)



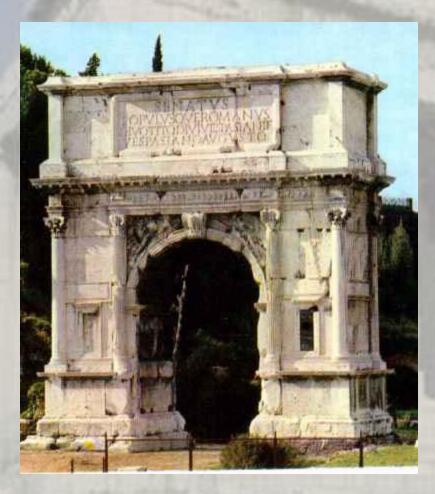
Ossuary of Joseph Caiaphas: High Priest 18-36 A.D.



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



FOREWORD BY DR. WALTER C. KAISER, JR.

THE POPULAR HANDBOOK of ARCHAEOLOGY and the BIBLE

Discoveries That Confirm the Reliability of Scripture

JOSEPH M. HOLDEN NORMAN GEISLER

Archaeology Affirms the Bible

"In extraordinary ways, modern archaeology has affirmed the historical core of the Old and New Testaments—corroborating key portions of the stories of Israel's patriarchs, the Exodus, the Davidic monarchy, and the life and times of Jesus."

(Jeffery Sheler, "Is the Bible True," US News & World Report, October 25, 1999, 52)

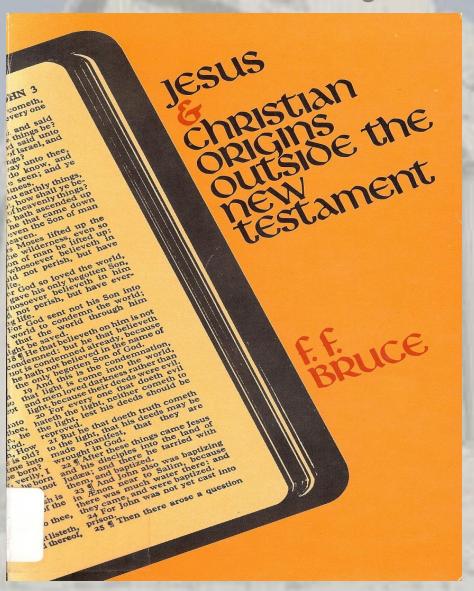
Ten Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

- 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 internal 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.
- 10. Non-Christian sources support their message.

 Nothing like this exists for any other book
 from the ancient world!

Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F.F. Bruce, Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.



Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F.F. Bruce, Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.

The Following NT Events are Affirmed:

- (1) Jesus was from Nazareth.
- (2) He lived a virtuous life.
- (3) He performed unusual feats.
- (4) He introduced new teaching contrary to Judaism.
- (5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
- (6) His disciples believed He rose from the dead.
- (7) His disciples denied polytheism.
- (8) His disciples worshiped Him.
- (9) His teachings and disciples spread rapidly.
- (10) His followers believed they were immortal.
- (11) His followers had contempt for death.
- (12) His followers renounced material goods.

(Gary Habermas, The Historical Jesus -- best explanation view)

Non-Christian sources within 150 years of Jesus

Source	AD	Existed	Virtuous	Worship	Disciples	Teacher	Crucified	Empty Tomb	Disciples' Belief in Resurrec- tion	Spread	Perse-
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			10000	D0	X*			450000	783
Pliny	112	X		X	X	X	10. 15 - 3070a25	X*		X	X
Trajan	112?	X*		X	X					X	X
Hadrian	117-138	X*			X			1111		X	X
Talmud	70–200	X					X				X
Toledoth Jesu	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			il		X	X	X		

*implied

(Geisler and Douglas, Bringing Your Faith to Work, 247)

Ten 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.
- 10. Non-Christian sources support their message.

Nothing like this exists for any other book from the ancient world!

Alexander the Great



- Sources Available
- Contemporary--none
- 100 years later--only fragments
- 300--500 years later-several histories
- N.T.--20-30 years later-whole story of Christ

Conclusion

- The New Testament is Historically Accurate
- Hence, 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 actually happened!

Conclusion

It's Not Just a Movie: It's History!



Some Implications

- 1. If the NT is reliable, then Jesus died and rose again.
- 2. The NT says Jesus claimed to be God and did miracles to prove His claim.
- 3. If so, then Christianity is true.
- 4. If the NT is history, then the critic's view is fantasy.



Objection 1: *History is Unknowable*Response to Objection:

- 1. How can one know it is unknowable?
- 2. We can't know it is *bad* history, unless we know what *good* history is.
- 3. If we can know the *immediate* past (days, weeks, and years ago), then why can't we know the more *remote* past the same way?
- 4. If we can't know the past indirectly through fragmentary records, then how can we know the geological past? (Yet many say macro-evolution is a fact based on only fragment of the past).

Objection 2: Extraordinary events demand extraordinary evidence

- Response:
- 1. If "extraordinary" means miraculous, then it begs the question.
- If it means more than usual, then we have more than usual evidence.
- 3. Other extraordinary events are accepted without extraordinary evidence:

Big Bang Origin of the Universe Spontaneous Generation of First Life

Objection 3: Miracles are contrary to principle of critical history which is based on the principle of analogy (uniformity) that the present is the key to the past. And the present has no such miracles.

Response:

- This begs the question by assuming no such miracles can exist in the present.
- 2. This confuses uniformity (which is a valid principle of science) and uniformitarianism (which is merely a naturalistic philosophical presupposition).
- 3. This would eliminate even some unusual natural events from past history (like Napolean's exploits).
- 4. Uniformity (analogy) informs us that not all causes are natural causes. For example, archaeology, SETI, and Big Bang don't have natural causes.

Objection 4: The NT Witnesses had a religious bias.

Response:

- 1. Some were initially biased against the resurrection (e.g., Thomas, James, Paul).
- 2. Critics of the NT have a bias too.
- 3. Holocaust survivors are biased, but they are the best witnesses of it.
- 4. Question isn't whether they are biased, but whether they told the truth.

Objection 4: There are many apparent contradictions in the NT testimony

Response:

Contradictions have not been proven.

Conflicts supports the truthfulness of their testimony:

- a) It shows they were independent.
- b) It shows they were not in collusion.

Example # 1 of Alleged Error The Inscription on the Cross

Matthew-	THIS IS JESUS	THE KING OF THE JEWS.
Mark -	29	THE KING OF THE JEWS.
Luke -	THIS IS	THE KING OF THE JEWS.
John -	JESUS OF	NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.
omplete:	THIS IS JESUS OF N	IAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Example # 2: Judas' Death

- Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."
- Acts (1:18): "...falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."

Resolution: Sometime after hanging himself, his body was discovered, the rope cut, and the body fell on sharp rocks and it burst open.

Example # 3 of the Critics

Matthew (28:5) said there was one angel at the tomb.

John (20:12) said there were two angels there.

Resolution: Wherever there are two, there is always one. It Never Fails!

Note: Matthew did not say there was only one angel there.

St. Augustine's Dictum:

"If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, The author of this book is mistaken; but either [1] the manuscript is faulty, or [2] the translation is wrong, or [3] you have not understood" (Augustine, Reply to Faustus 11.5).

figmficacone:nec illis qui fos las figuras defendut: repudi ata bistorica veritate.

expliciunt capitula libri x .

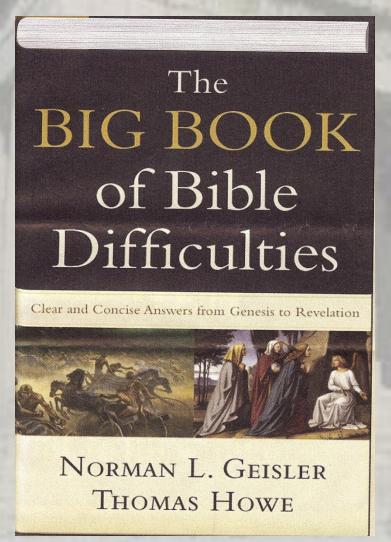
Efelicitate paras piliwite ipo pas adilose de vita

bi pmozū bomi=

nu eorug peccas to atos fumblicio. mula multa lens erunt multa bixerunt. multa litteris mandauerunt. Dos quogs fecundus feripturas facras wl quod meis les gimus. vel quob ex eis intelligere po minus ear congruentes auctoritas tide bijs rebo i fupionbo libris bixis mus. Enucleatius aut fi ifta queran: tur-multiplices atqs multimodas pa riut disputacões q plurib intexece fmt volumibo quá boc opus tepulas terofat. Ruoo no ita largu batemus ut in ommibo que possunt require oci: ofia ferupulofi paracozes admiterro gandu o capacozes ad intelligedu nos opozteat immorari. Arbitroz tam fatis iam fecife magnis a bifficilimif questiombo de imaovel mudi vel afe. velipius geneis buami qu'in buo ge nera biftribuimus vnu eon gleom bomme alteru con qui feom teum vis uut. uas etia miffice appellamus ciurates buas foc eft buas focieras tes bommű-quarű elt vna que pælti nata est in cternu regnare cu teo al= tera eternű fupliciű fubire cű biabo= lo. Bedifte fims eean de quo poft loquendu elt. Dunc aut qui exorum ear fine in angelis quoz numerus ignoratura nobis. fiuem buobs pris

mis bomimbo fatis bictu eft:iam mis

For 800 More Errors of the Critics, See--



Objection 6: We Can't Trust John Because:

- 1. It records different events (Jn. 2-5; 8-17).
- 2. It relates different discourses (Jn. 2-4; 13-17).
- 3. It stresses Christ's deity (Jn. 1:1; 5:23; 8:58;10:30; 12:41; 17:5; 20:29).
- 4. It has different times for events (Mk. 15:25 cf. Jn. 19:4).
- 5. It has no parables as the other Gospels do.
- 6. It has different miracles (Jn. 2, 5, 9, 11).
- 7. It uses different words (e.g., "I am," "verily, verily").
- So, John is creating, not reporting Jesus' words!

Response:

- 1. We don't need John for this apologetic argument. The other Gospels and Epistles are sufficient.
 - 2. John gives the same basic story as the others, including all the major events:
 - 1) Jesus was heralded by John the Baptist (1);
 - 2) Jesus preached the Kingdom of God (3);
 - 3) He did many miracles, even the same ones (6, 20);
 - 4) He made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (12);
 - 5) He was rejected by His people (the Jews);
 - 6) He was crucified under Pilate (19);
 - 7) He rose from the dead (20);
 - 8) He appeared to many (20-31).

3. Difference in John are due to:

- a) Its stress of early and late Judean ministry.
- b) Its stress on private conversations.
- c) Its central purpose (Jn. 20:31).
- d) It's a later date (using Roman time).
- e) Its supplemental in nature.
- f) Jesus' response when his words were rejected.
- g) Its transmission from Aramaic into Greek.
- h) The author's desire to show tone of original.
- i) It may be a paraphrase of His words:
 - a) We may have only the ipsissima vox (same meaning).
 - b) We do not always have the ipsissima verba (same words).

- 4. There are John-like texts in Matt.11:25-27.
- 5. There is almost word-for-word similarity when John has a parallel passage:
 - a. "Take up your bed and walk" (Mk. 2:11 & Jn. 5:8);
 - b. "It is I. Do not be afraid" (Mk. 6:50 & Jn. 6:20);
 - c. "Peace be with you" (Lk. 24:36 & Jn. 20:19).
- 6. There are "I am" passages elsewhere in the Gospels (e.g., Mk. 6:50; 14:62).

- 7. "Very, verily" is unique to John but:
 - a. It may have been doubled for rhetorical effect.
 - b. Repetition may reflect emphasis in the original oral statement.
 - Note: "Very, very" in John (13:38) is used in parallel with one "very" in the synoptics (Mt. 26:34; Mk. 14:30).

Objection 7: Hasn't the "Jesus Seminar" Proven the Gospels are not Reliable? No. They are-

- 1. The Wrong Group.
- 2. The Wrong Motive.
- 3. The Wrong Procedure.
- 4. The Wrong Books.
- 5. The Wrong Assumptions.
- 6. The Wrong Dates.
- 7. The Wrong Conclusions!

Objection 7: Hasn't the "Jesus Seminar" Proven the Gospels are not Reliable? No. They are-

- 1. The Wrong Group.
- 2. The Wrong Motive.
- 3. The Wrong Procedure.
- 4. The Wrong Books.
- 5. The Wrong Assumptions.
- 6. The Wrong Dates.
- 7. The Wrong Conclusions!

Objection 8: Paul invented Christianity, not Jesus; Epistle not same as Gospels

Response:

- 1. This was answered by J. Gresham Machen's classic, The Religion of Paul.
- 2. One Gospel (Luke) was written by Paul's associate.
- 3. Only early first century history of Christianity we have confirms that Paul taught the same as James and the apostles of Jesus (Acts 15).
- 4. Early book by Paul (accepted by the critics) shows that Paul's teaching was same as the apostles of Jesus.
- 5. In Paul's accepted epistles (Rom., 1 and 2 Cor., Gal.) there are 27 teachings that are the same.

Introduction

What Does "Reliable" Mean?

- I. What It Does Not Mean: It Does not Mean--
 - A. -- It is Divinely Inspired or inerrant
 - B. -- It is word-for-word the same
 - 1. Jesus spoke in Aramaic (Mt. 27:46).
 - 2. NT is in Greek
 - C. -- It is necessarily precise in every detail.
- II. What It Does Mean:
 - A. It is history not mythology.
 - B. It is accurate history.
 - 1. If it says Jesus said it, then He said it.
 - 2. If it says Jesus did it, then He did it.



Objection 2: David Hume Proved Miracles are Incredible?

David Hume's Objection:

- 1. Natural Law is by definition a description of a regular occurrence.
- 2. A miracle is by definition a rare occurrence.
- 3. The evidence for the regular is always greater than that for the rare.
- 4. A wise person always bases his belief on the greater evidence.
- 5. Therefore, a wise person should never believe in miracles.



Objection 2: David Hume Proved Miracles are Incredible?

David Hume's Objection:

- 1. Natural Law is by definition a description of a regular occurrence.
- 2. A miracle is by definition a rare occurrence.
- 3. The evidence for the regular is always greater than that for the rare.
- 4. A wise person always bases his belief on the greater evidence.
- 5. Therefore, a wise person should never believe in miracles.



A Response to David Hume's Objection

The evidence for the regular is <u>not</u> always greater than that for the rare.

Examples from a naturalistic world view:

- 1. The Big Bang is not a regular event.
- 2. The origin of life on earth does not occur regularly.
- 3. Macro-evolution is not being repeated.