

I Believe the Bible because it's...

- 1) a **RELIABLE COLLECTION** of **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS**
written down by **EYE WITNESSES**
during the **LIFETIME** of **OTHER EYE WITNESSES**
- 2) *they report* to us of **SUPER NATURAL EVENTS**
that took place in **FULFILLMENT** of **SPECIFIC PROPHECIES**
and *proclaim* that *their* **WRITINGS** are **DEVINE**
rather than **HUMAN** in **ORIGIN**

Problem: *Intellectuals will ask the question about *original writings* –
saying “you don’t have them”

Level I Answer: Text fragments provide Manuscript evidence

Examples: (John Rylands fragment of John or The dead sea scrolls)

Bible: Historical Collection of Reliable Documents

New Testament: There are over **6,000 transcripts** or portions of manuscripts that exist (**written within 120 yrs after Christ death - AD 120**)
some earlier than AD 120

Compare: Other Older Historical Writings

Julius Caesar's - Gallic Wars: How we know about him and his military conquest.

Written by Julius Caesar himself / Part by Alius Paeoo in the first century B.C.

Two of the most important sources for the emperor's life, *Suetonius* and *Plutarch*, wrote in the early second century. That's **more than 100 years after** the time of Caesar.

There are **10 manuscripts** in existence for determining Caesar's account. The earliest and oldest manuscript is from the ninth century—a **full 900 years after** the actual events.

Aristotle's – Poetics: The earliest surviving work of dramatic theory written in the fourth century B.C.

There are only **5 manuscripts** in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied **1,400 years after** the original.

Herodotus – The Histories: a Greek historian often referred to as "The Father of History" it is now considered the founding work of history in Western literature from the fifth century B.C.

There are **8 manuscripts** in existence and the earliest is **1,300 years after** he wrote.

Homer's – Iliad: The second most common ancient document in the manuscript world next to the New Testament. Other than the NT there are more manuscripts of the **Iliad** than any other piece of ancient literature.

There are **643 manuscripts** of it. The earliest and oldest one is from the 13th century A.D. and Homer actually wrote in the 8th century B.C.

That's **400 years after**. Who really knows whether Homer ever said any of that?

If the critics want to disregard the **New Testament**, then they must also disregard other ancient writings by Plato, Aristotle, and Homer. Because the **New Testament documents** are *better-preserved and more numerous than any other ancient writings*.

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	----
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

There are *thousands more New Testament Greek manuscripts* than any other ancient writing. In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. That makes the total New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000.

Archeologist found a *fragment of the gospel of John that dates back to A.D. 125* that's *29 years from the original writing A.D. 96* (John Rylands Discovery A.D. 125). This is extremely close to the original writing date. This is simply unheard of in any other ancient writing, and it demonstrates that the Gospel of John is a First Century document.

Level I Answer: continued manuscript evidence...

- The **Bible** speaks to its **own authenticity**... **Peter's testimony**

2 Peter 1:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty

- 1) **Reliable Documents** v.16 “**we have not followed cunningly devised fables**”
- 2) **Eyewitnesses** v.16 “**were eyewitnesses of his majesty**”

2a) In the Lifetime of other Witnesses

1 John 1:1-3:10 (NKJV)

That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen** with our eyes, which **we have looked upon**, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

² the life was manifested, and **we have seen**, and **bear witness**, and **declare to you** that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

³ that which **we have seen** and **heard we declare to you**, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

- The **Bible** has an **eyewitness who documented**... **Paul's testimony**

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 (KJV)

⁵ And that **He was seen** of **Cephas**, then of **the twelve**:

⁶ After that, he **was seen** of above **five hundred brethren at once**; of whom **(the greater part remain unto this present)**, but some are fallen asleep.

⁷ After that, he **was seen** of **James**; then of **all the apostles**.

⁸ And last of all he **was seen** of **me also**, as of one born out of due time.

v.6 Points out that...Hundreds who were still alive at the time of this history

Note: Paul's first letter to the congregation in Corinth can be dated to around 25 years after Jesus' resurrection.

Level II Answer: Different **Translations** / Languages **Validate Manuscripts**

What? (Many people groups / many languages cause need for more Translations)

Bible: Reliable Documents

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰**Teaching them to observe all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of **ALL Nations**" (every people group)

What does this mean?

In order **to Teach ALL these people groups** who **speak different languages**

So in the first few centuries the **Bible** was **translated from the Greek** into

Syriac – Coptic – Latin

Note: these translations writings; also **match the 6000 manuscripts** and thus **give more evidence** to the **validity to the Documents**

Level III Answer: Early Christian Fathers Loved to Write **Commentaries** on the **New Testament...**

We're told that their **Quotations** and **Citations** would/could reproduce over **95%** of the **New Testament**

***A RELIABLE COLLECTION OF WRITTEN DOCUMENTS**

1) These **Eyewitnesses** - *Reported* about **Super Natural Events...**

2 Peter 1:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory **when such a voice came to Him** from the Excellent (Majestic) Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

¹⁸ And **we heard this voice** which **came from heaven when we were with Him** on the holy mountain.

*You have **Super Natural events** taking place NOT **Super Human events**

- **Amazing Physical Healings** – Woman with an issue of blood, (healed instantly) **Healed** the **Blind** from birth, **Mute, Deaf, Man** with the **Withered Hand**, and made the **Lame Man Walk** etc.
- Jesus **Walks on the Water, Raised the Dead**
- *On the Third Day* **His Resurrection**

So What ? What does all this mean...

We have a **reliable collection** of **historical documents** that were written by **eyewitnesses** who wrote down **events they saw** during the **lifetime of other eyewitnesses** and these events told us of **Miraculous Things (Super Natural Events)** that took place.

2) Those **Events** took place in **Specific Fulfillment of Prophecies**

Written **1000 years before** Jesus was even Born and **definitely before** Crucifixion

One of these is **Psalm 22** – Let's break it down

Psalm 22 (NKJV)

Written by David *before Jesus even born*

¹My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? ***What Jesus said on the cross***

⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,

⁸ “He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”
What’s being said to Jesus while being crucified

¹² Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me.

¹³ They gape at Me *with* their mouths, *Like* a raging and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am ***poured out like water, (pierced in the side)*** And all My bones are out of joint;
My ***heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. (it punctured the pericardium)***

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws;

(They offered Jesus vinegar because he said “I thirst”)

You have brought Me to the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; ***(Gentiles)***

The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. ***(thief on each side)***

They pierced My hands and My feet; ***(to hang Him on the cross)***

¹⁷ I can count all My bones. ***(no one broke His legs to speed up His death)***

They look *and* stare at Me.

¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, ***(they stripped Him of His clothes)***

And for My clothing they cast lots. ***(Roman soldiers)***

Note: The one who wrote the ***Prophecy*** in the **Old Testament - Psalms 22** had never **seen**, never **heard of** or **experienced** a Crucifixion.

(Crucifixion ***didn’t exist in that century*** – came later with the Romans)

3) The *Eyewitnesses* claim their writings were *Devine* rather than *human in origin*

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ knowing this first, that ***no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation***,

²¹ for ***prophecy never came by the will of man, (but) holy men of God-spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

That’s why these ***Prophecies came True*** ... because they were ***Gods Words***

That’s why they say like ***“Thus says the Lord” or “God spoke to Moses”***

Problem: Even with all the **Historical Documented Evidence**, and the **Specific Prophecies being Fulfilled** 1000 years later -

Some **don't want to believe**, because *men wrote* the **Bible**

*(We say it's **the Word of God** – They say no it's the Word of men)*

Sceptics say: “*you can't trust things that were written by men*”

Point:

Have you studied Math, Science, or even History books that were written by Men

Point:

*Do students and teachers/professors **Trust** them / **use** them to **Teach***

Point:

Just because men took pen to paper doesn't mean you can't trust what's written

What we need to ask is...

- Is what's written **Reliable** ?
- Is it **Consistent** ?
- Is it **Cooperated** ? **What's Cooperation** ?

Maybe it's...

3 Languages Greek - Hebrew – Aramaic

3 Continents Asia – African – Europe

Over **40 Authors** (most of whom never met each other)

Who wrote over a period **of some 1500 years**

Came up with.... *One / Singularly Woven together Story*

Problem: Prove it to me **Scientifically**

You don't use the **Scientific method** on **Historical Events**

This **method** says something has to be... **Observable - Measureable - Repeatable**

Point: You don't use this **Scientific method** on **Historical Events**

Because **Historical Events** are **NOT... Observable – Measureable – Repeatable**

Example:

You can't use this **method** to prove George Washington was the First President,

- it's not **measureable**,
- it's not **observable**
- it's not **repeatable**

Point: you have to use an **Evidentiary Method**

Like in a court case **Judge will ask...**

- Do we have any **eyewitnesses**?
- Do the **witnesses** tell **the same story**?

The Bible: Using these Evidentiary Questions

Eyewitnesses? Same Story?

Answer: Yes! and **they say... Friday Dead - Sunday Risen**

Writers? Same Story Validated?

Answer: **They say** somethings **going to happen** and it **happens exactly** like **they said**

There is NO external evidence to argue against the Bibles Claim to be the Word of God

The Bible answers every Question

