

Attitudes and Consequences

Lesson 4 - Are the Scriptures Reliable?

The Purpose of Scripture

**The Character
of God**

Creator

**The Origin
of Evil**



**Mankind's
Destiny**

**Mankind's
Origin**

Man

Mankind's Purpose

The Organization of Scripture

Old Testament



Purpose:

- Displayed God's faithfulness
Ps 119:137-138
- Prepared for a new covenant
Jer 31:31-34
- Showed the promise of Christ *Luke 24:27*

New Testament



Purpose:

- Demands man's faithfulness
Rom 1:16
- Validated the old covenant *Rom 3:31*
- Showed the fulfillment of Christ
Matt 5:17-18

2 Timothy 3:15-17 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Inspired By God

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Isaiah names Cyrus as the king who would free Judah from captivity, 150 years in before it happened.

Isaiah 44:28

"It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' And of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"



2 Chronicles 36:23

"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

David records details of Christ's death 1,000 years before he died

Psalms 22:16, 18

For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots



John 19:24

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.



Isaiah records details of Christ's death 700 years before he died.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; Surely our griefs; He Himself bore, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death.



Matthew 27:30; 57, 60

They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus....and laid it in his own new tomb.



Inspired By God

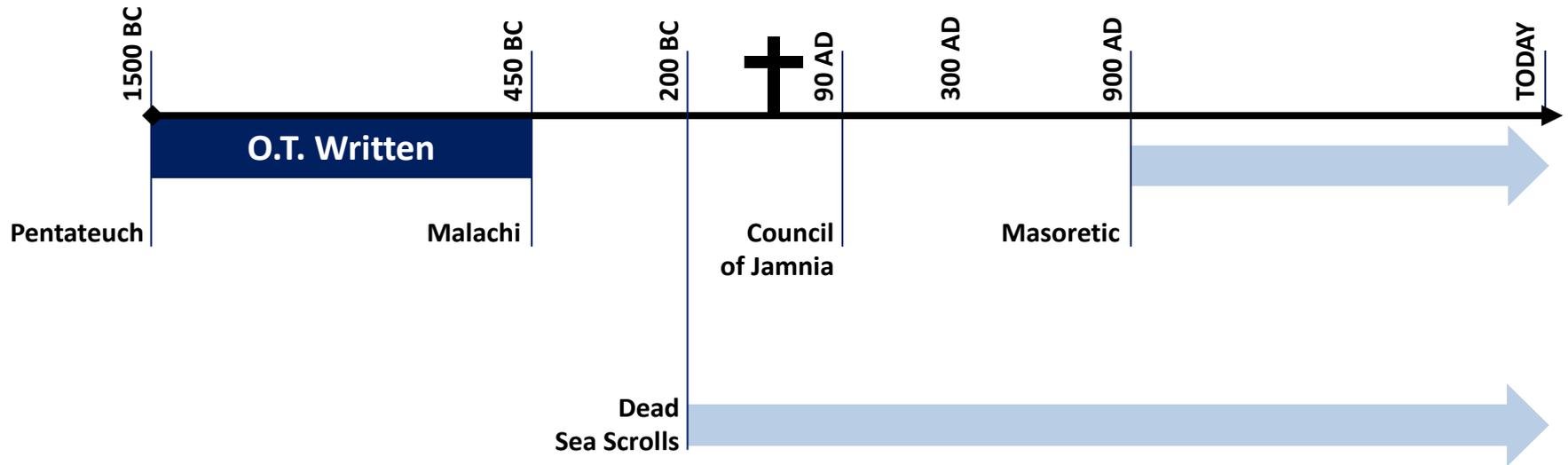
PROPHECY	SOURCE	FULFILLED
The Messiah will be a prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Acts 3:22,23
The Messiah will be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35
The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7
The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18,21
The Messiah will be rejected by his own	Isaiah 53:3	John 19:14-15; Matthew 23:37
The Messiah will be sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12,13	Matthew 26:15 with Matthew 27:3-10
The Messiah will be given vinegar and gall to drink	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:29,30

Attitudes & Consequences

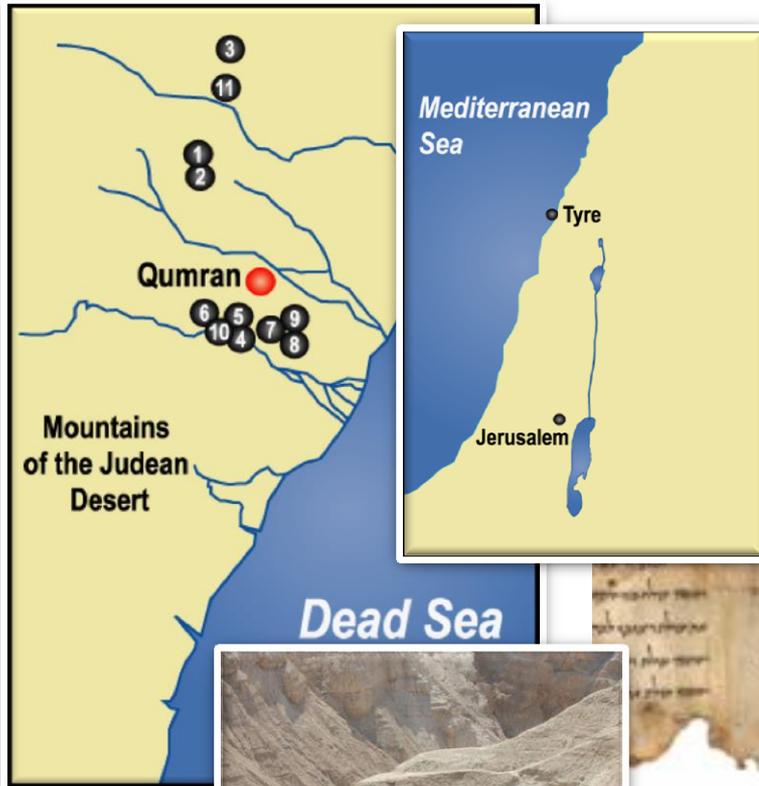
Review

- **The Challenges to Biblical Authority:** Critics claim it incorrectly records history, atheists seek to fit their own theories into supposed gaps and even the religious create creeds as extensions of what the Bible says. These are critical matters in defending Scripture.
- **The Purpose of Scripture:** The way the Creator explained His character, established evil's and man's origin and explained man's purpose and his destiny.
- **The Organization of Scripture:** The OT and NT fit together seamlessly because a single source inspired 40 men to record law, history and prophecy over a period of 1600 years.
- **The Role of Prophecy:** The way man could tell he was dealing with a prophet of God was by through eye-witness testimony of the prophecy's fulfillment, even hundreds of years later. These were the men to hear and read.

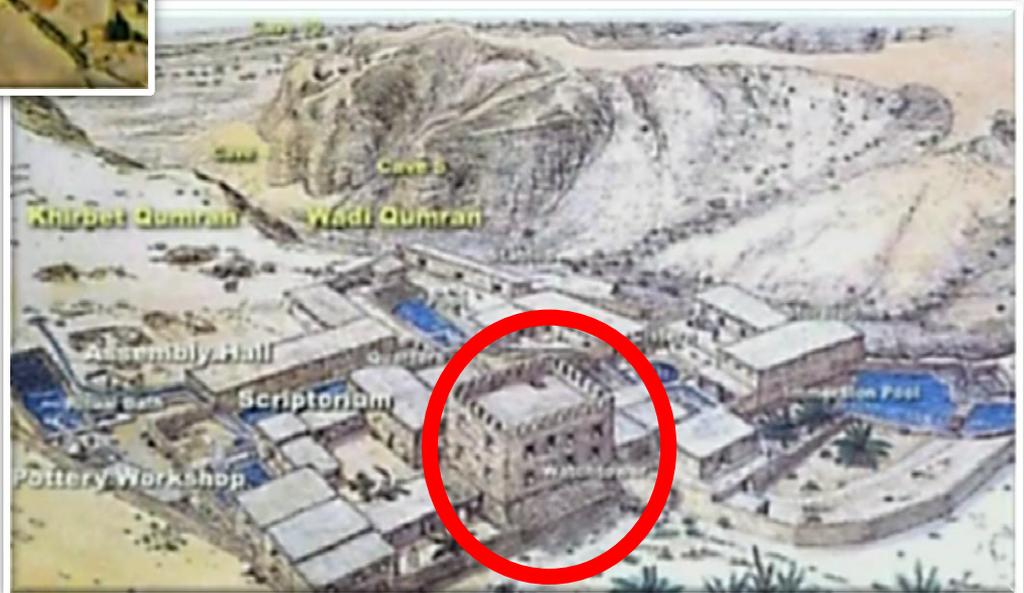
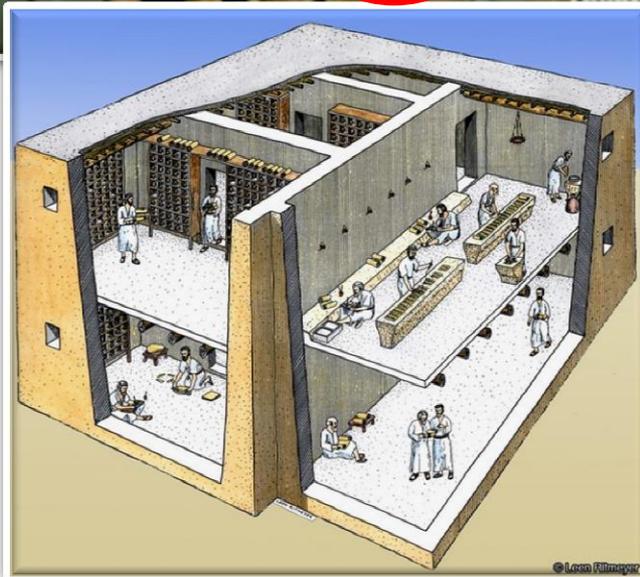
Evidence Regarding OT Scripture



Dead Sea Scrolls



Dead Sea Scrolls



Dead Sea Scrolls



Dead Sea Scrolls

Isaiah Scroll

- The entire book of Isaiah with a few, small damaged portions. The most complete scroll found.
- 54 columns on 17 sheets of parchment, covering 24' x 11"
- Pieces have been carbon-14 dated at least four times, (335 - 107 BC).
- Prophecies of Christ...200 years before Christ was born.

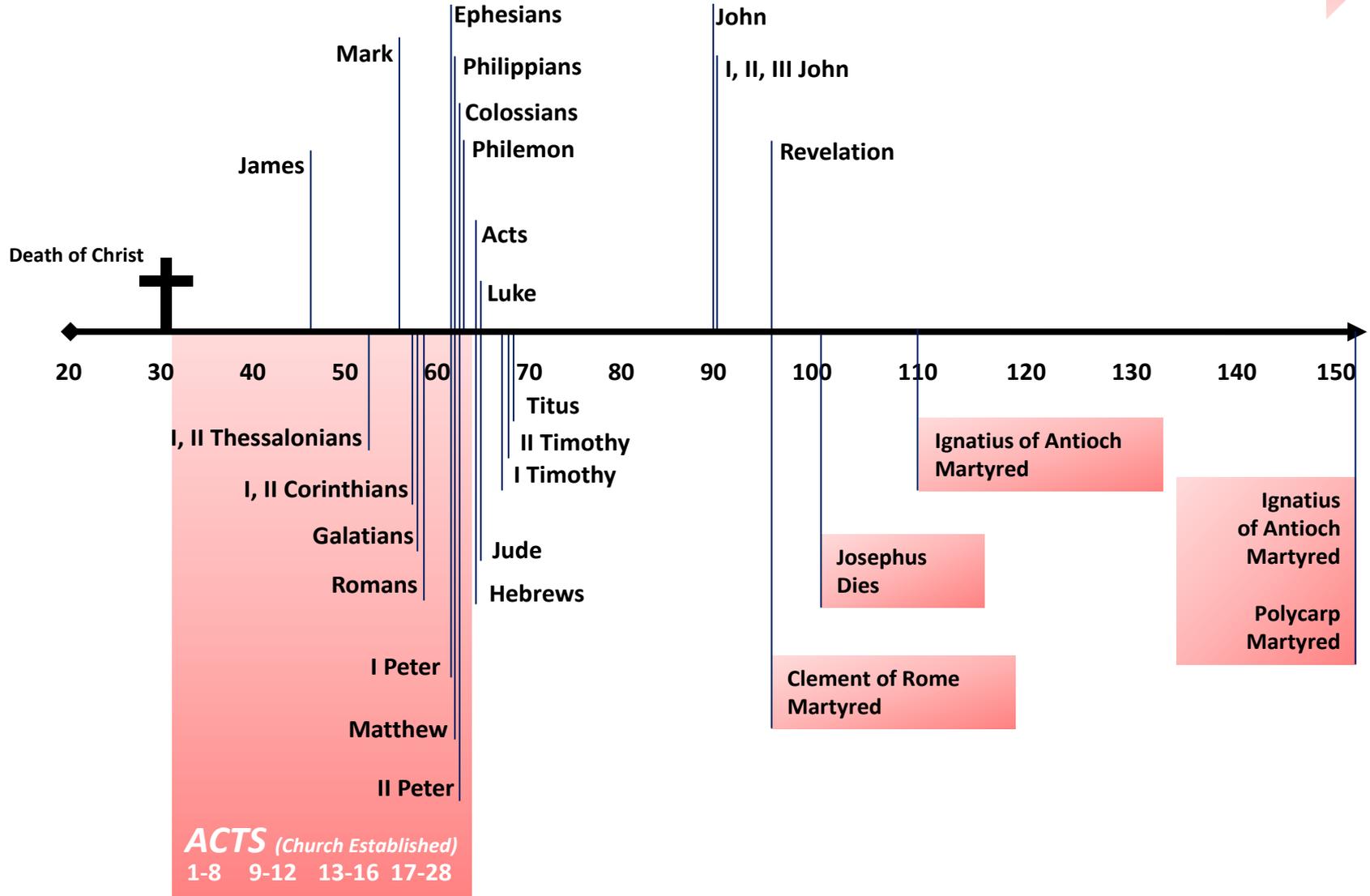


Significance

- **Transmission Practices:** A testament to the transmission practices of those copying the text over the years. Comparing the DSS and the MT reveals amazing consistency and assurance that God was protecting His Word through thousands of years of copying.
- **Conservative View:** Other non-inspired documents found with the DSS reflect a conservative view of Scripture. The Essenes saw this as God's holy word. Perhaps by NT times, the nation grew impatient and began expecting their view of a different Savior. Not the one that was pierced (*Is 52*), suffered and died.
- **Time of the Writings:** Some critics suggest the Bible was written thousands of years later, bearing numerous errors and distorted facts. Others, that the OT was rewritten after the events of the NT to make them fit. But the dating of the scrolls, repeating the prophecy of Christ shows they were written before the events occurred.

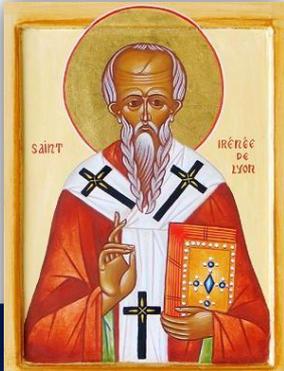
Evidence Regarding NT Scripture

ROMAN EMPIRE (27 BC to 476 AD)



Three NT Tests For Validity

The External Test - Do other historical materials confirm or deny the internal testimony provided by the documents themselves? What sources are there apart from the NT that substantiate its accuracy, reliability and authenticity? These men quoted and alluded to NT extensively as external sources of evidence showing the NT to be an accurate account of the life and work of Jesus.



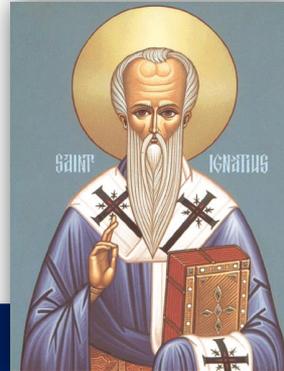
Irenaeus of Lyons

- A student of Polycarp
- A Christian for 86 years and a disciple of John
- *"So firm is the ground upon which these Gospels rest, that the very heretics themselves bear witness to them, and, starting from these documents, each one of them endeavors to establish his own particular doctrine."*
- Martyred in AD 156



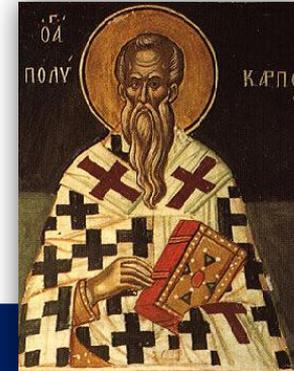
Clement of Rome

- A disciple of Paul; spoken of in Phil. 4:3?
- Saw scripture as reliable and authentic
- Wrote uninspired epistle to the Corinthians often cited by Catholic church as portions that shed light on the history of papal authority, worship
- Exhorts the readers to love after the pattern of Christ and apostles
- Martyred AD 95



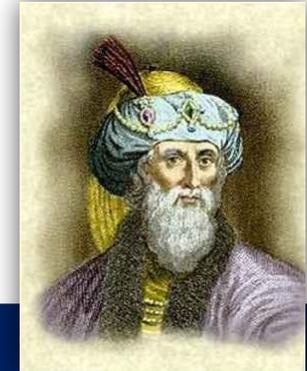
Ignatius of Antioch

- Knew all the apostles and was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of John.
- Known as the author of seven letters written to the early church.
- Anxious to counter the teachings of those not accepting the authority of the NT and those that held Christ's sufferings in light regard
- Martyred AD 110



Polycarp

- A disciple of John
- Regarded as a saint in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches
- When asked to recant his faith and live, he said, *"Eighty-six years have I served Him, and he hath done me no wrong. How can I speak evil of my King who saved me?"*
- Martyred in AD 156 when burned at stake



Flavius Josephus

- His accounts of the events of the gospels confirm that of the gospels to a great extent. *(FF Bruce)*
- Special emphasis on the 1st century AD and the First Jewish–Roman War, including the Siege of Masada
- Fought against Rome, but defected and was granted Roman citizenship. An advisor and friend of Titus
- Died in AD 100

Three NT Tests For Validity

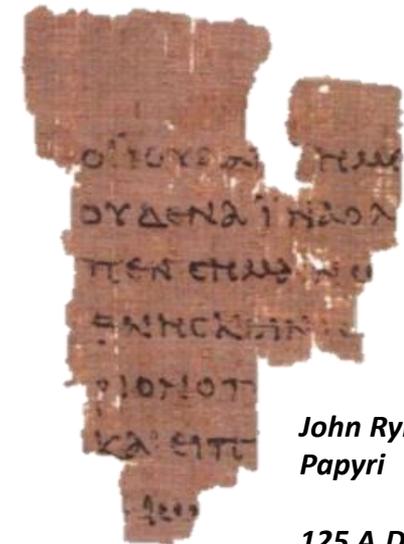
The Bibliographical Test - Since we don't have the original do we know we have good copies of the original documents? This important fact can be determined most accurately if there are a number of different copies to compare.

The NT is the most frequently copied and widely circulated books of antiquity. There are now more than 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the NT in existence today. The Iliad by Homer is second with only 643 manuscripts that still survive.

AUTHOR	WHEN WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	GAP <i>From writing to earliest copy</i>	COPIES
Tacitus (Minor works)	100 AD	1000 AD	900	1
Catullus	54 BC	1550 AD	1600	3
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 BC	900 AD	1200	7
Pliny the younger (History)	61-113 AD	850 AD	750	7
Herodotus (history)	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
Suetonius (De Vita Caesarum)	75-160 AD	950 AD	800	8
Thucydides (history)	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300	8
Euripides	480-406 BC	1100 AD	1500	9
Aristophanes	450-385 BC	900 AD	1200	10
Caesar	100-144 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Tacitus (Annals)	100 AD	1100 AD	1000	20
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1400	49
Sophocles	496-406 BC	1000 AD	1400	193
Demosthenes	383-322 BC	1100 AD	1300	200
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
Varied (New Testament)	40-100 AD	125 AD	25	24,000

Significance of the Gap

- Less time for textual corruption
- More time for witnesses to refute
- Writings of celebrated authors and philosophers don't face same scrutiny



John Rylands Papyrus

125 A.D

Three NT Tests For Validity

The Internal Test - How do we decide if the writer is accurate or not? Was he there? Does he appear competent to record what was said and done? Is there any evidence to contradict what he wrote? The answer is to let the book testify about itself.

John 20:30

...many other signs not written in this book

Heb 11:1, 6

...without faith, it is impossible to please Him

I John 1:3

- The apostles proclaimed what they saw and heard to create fellowship

Rom 10:17

- Faith comes from listening (reading) to God's word

Luke 1:1-4

- Luke investigated the things he'd seen and heard, and carefully recorded them

John 19:35

- John watched as Christ was crucified and wrote it down, so man could believe

Based On Eyewitnesses

Acts 2:22

- Jesus was declared genuine (attested) by miracles performed in their front of the Jews

II Peter 1:16

- The apostles weren't naive or deceived because they saw his majesty

Acts 26:24-26

- The miracles and the teaching was done in public

Archaeological Discoveries

Archaeology - The study of ancient peoples and civilizations as learned by what they left behind. Archeologists dig up old towns, etc. to study the people who used to live there. Biblical archaeology are such studies taking place in Bible lands.

Wm. F. Albright, often called the dean of Biblical archaeologists, said of the Bible *"Thanks to modern research we now recognize its substantial historicity."*

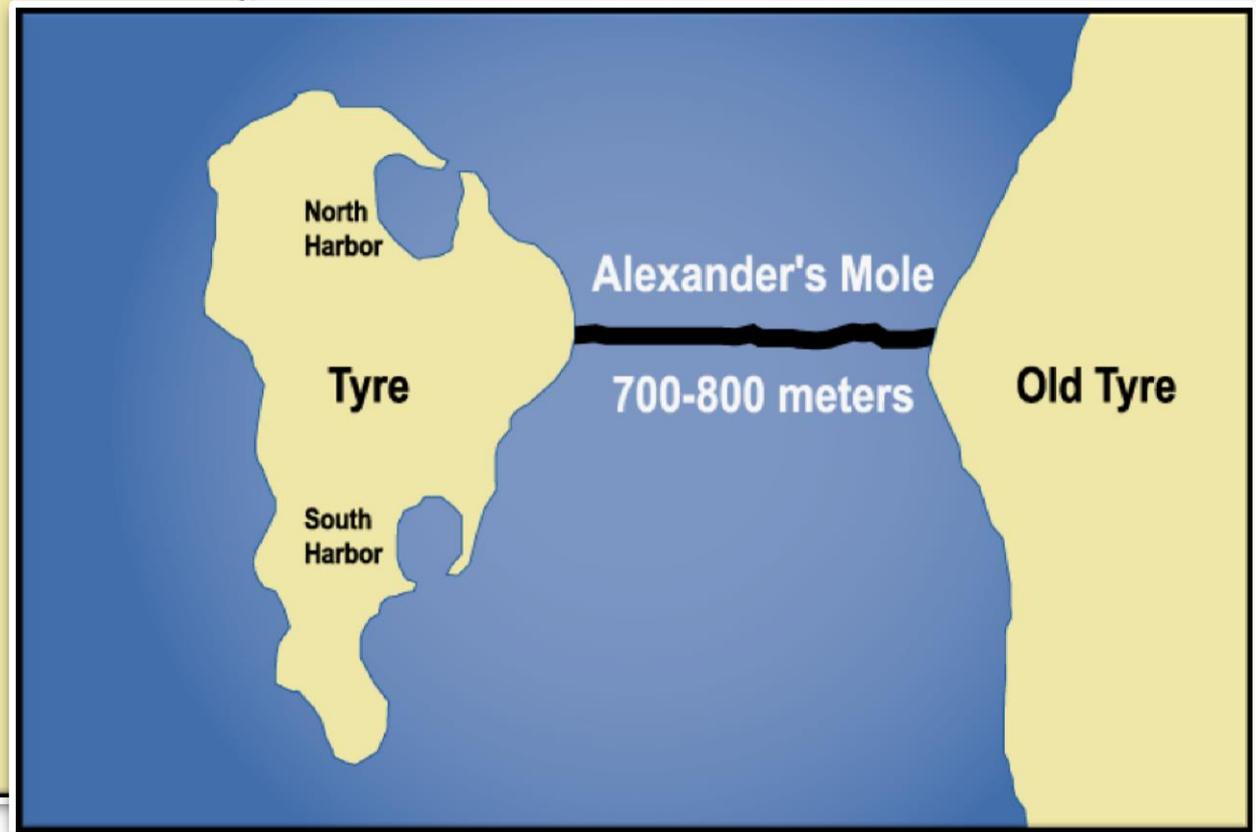
Jewish archaeologist **Nelson Glueck** affirmed: *"As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference."*

Gleason L. Archer speaking on this point concluded *"Nowhere has archaeological discovery refuted the Bible as history"*

Recent discoveries have not changed the validity of these men's conclusions. Modern liberal archaeologists often try to put a different interpretation on the evidence but their interpretations do not disprove interpretations that agree with the biblical record.

Luke especially has shown to be a historian of the first rank. His historical references, places, names, political titles, geographic locations have been shown to be incredibly accurate.

Archaeological Discoveries



Archaeological Discoveries



Archaeological Discoveries - Tyre

The following is a selection of Bible prophecies that involve Tyre, a Phoenician city on the Mediterranean Sea that had great animosity with the people of Israel.

MANY WILL ATTACK

- **Prophecy written:**
About 587-586 BC
- **Prophecy fulfilled:**
586 BC
- **Ezekiel 26:4, 7:** *I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. I will bring from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and a great army..."*
- About the time Ezekiel delivered this prophecy, Babylon began a 13-year attack on the mainland.

TYRE'S FORTRESSES

- **Prophecy written:**
About 750 BC
- **Prophecy fulfilled:**
332 BC
- **Amos 1:9-10:** *This is what the Lord says: "For three sins of Tyre, even for four, I will not turn back [my wrath]...I will send fire upon the walls of Tyre that will consume her fortresses."*
- 241 years after Babylon's attack, Alexander the Great brought down the island where the city fled during the first invasion.

SOIL THROWN IN SEA

- **Prophecy written:**
About 587-586 BC
- **Prophecy fulfilled:**
332 BC
- **Ezekiel 26:4, 12:** *and I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock...they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea.*
- This scraping of the debris was the foundational content for Alexander's mole used to reach the island.

LOSE SEA POWER

- **Prophecy written:**
520 to 518 BC
- **Prophecy fulfilled:**
Since 332 BC
- **Zechariah 9:3-4:** *Tyre has built a stronghold...But the Lord will take away her possessions and destroy her power on the sea.*
- **Ezekiel 26:14:** *I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishnets...*
- Modern-day Tyre is a small, fishing city in Lebanon. Not the powerful nation it was.

TYRE WOULD BE GONE

- **Prophecy written:**
About 587-586 BC
- **Prophecy fulfilled:**
After 332 BC
- **Ezekiel 26:21:** *I will bring you to a horrible end and you will be no more. You will be sought, but you will never again be found, declares the Sovereign Lord."*
- After Alexander destroyed Tyre's mainland, it has been torn down and built upon by a succession of foreign powers.
- The visible ruins of the city today are Greco-Roman.

Archaeological Discoveries

Critics of the Bible often question its historical accuracy. Time after time, the Scriptures have been supported by archaeological discovery. People and events, known before only in Biblical accounts, have been brought to light by the findings of ancient cities.

THE BRICKS OF PITHOM

- Exodus 1:11 tells us the children of Israel built Pithom and Raamses for Pharaoh.
- In Exodus 5:7-16, we are informed the Israelites made bricks first using straw, and then using stubble, because straw was no longer furnished them for that purpose.
- In 1883, Naville, and in 1908, Kyle, found pyramids at Pithom, one of the cities built by Israel.
- The lower courses were built of bricks filled with good, chopped straw. The middle courses have less straw including stubble. The upper courses were made of pure clay and no straw.



SERGIUS PAULUS

- In Acts 13:7, Sergius Paulus, the proconsul of Cyprus is described as*"a man of intelligence that "summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God."*
- For a long time, skeptics contended that Luke should have called him *"Propraetor"* instead of *"Proconsul"* since this was the usual title.
- However, in 1877 coins discovered on Cyprus, bearing inscriptions dating from 54-55 AD. The inscription read, *"Paulus the Proconsul."*
- This confirmed Governors were Proconsuls, as Luke correctly titled him.



JERICO

- Joshua 6, tells how Israel took the walled city of Jericho. For six days they marched once around the city; the seventh, seven times. The priests blew trumpets, the people shouted, and *"the wall fell down flat."* The people rushed the city and burned it, saving only Rahab's household
- In 1929, Dr. John Garstang, excavated the ruins of ancient Jericho. He found a retaining wall and the rubble of a great wall. The great wall was destroyed as the Bible described – falling flat and outward. Not inward, as if destroyed by battering rams.
- The city was burned.



Takeaways

- **Fulfilled Prophecies:** The detail of the Messianic Prophecies, shared among men from different time periods speak to a consistent source of inspiration.
- **Anchored to History:** That Scripture has been woven into world events, recorded even by non-believing historians, confirms it makes an accurate account of history.
- **Supported By Archaeological Discovery:** We can say without fear of successful contradiction that we have the words of the eyewitnesses of the life of Christ. They have never been disproven by any artifact discovered from centuries past.
- **The Sufficiency of Scripture:** While the physical evidence is of great benefit to the Christian, the doubters of Luke 16:19-31 would only need to “hear” Moses and the Prophets in order to be saved. Faith comes by hearing (Rom 10:17).