



# Apologetics

1<sup>ST</sup> HALF REVIEW

Lesson 1: Apologetic Methods

Lesson 2: Faith & Evidence

Lesson 3: Common Approaches to the Existence of God

Lesson 4: Understanding Evolution

Lesson 5: Evidence of a Designer in Creation

Lesson 6: The Problem of Evil

Lesson 7: Review

Lesson 8 & 9: Can We Trust the Biblical Documents?

Lesson 10: The Canon

Lesson 11: Inspiration & Inerrancy of Scripture

Lesson 12: Supposed Contradictions of the Bible

Lesson 13: Evidence of Fulfilled Prophecy/Resurrection

# FAITH & EVIDENCE

- How do YOU define FAITH?
- Why is it important to link FAITH & EVIDENCE?

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **EVIDENCE** of things not seen.”

## *FAITH IS EVIDENCE*

*John 20:24-28 – Thomas “saw and touched”*

*Matt 11:2-6 – John’s Disciples “heard and saw”*

*John 20:30-31 – “written so you can believe”*

*Luke 1:4 – “so that you may have certainty in the things you were taught”*

# FAITH & EVIDENCE

*Hebrews 11:6*

And **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

*We must have faith in order to be pleasing to God!*

*This is the basis for our hope in the unseen.*



## FAITH & EVIDENCE

*If we have faith, it produces good works!*

**Titus 3:8-** The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.

*What should FAITH produce in us?*

- *“zealous for good works” Titus 2.14*
- *“stir up one another to love and good works” Hebrews 10.24*
- *“be rich in good works” 1 Timothy 6.18*
- *Obedience – Hebrews 3:12-19*

## FAITH & EVIDENCE

*Ephesians 2.8 – “For by GRACE you have been saved through FAITH.”*

***THERE IS AN UNDENIABLE CONNECTION  
BETWEEN EVIDENCE, FAITH, HOPE,  
OBEDIENCE, AND GRACE***

**GRACE**

**OBEDIENCE**

**HOPE**

**FAITH**

**EVIDENCE**

# Worldview

## Presuppositions

CREATOR GOD

NO GOD

- Intelligent Design
- Creation Spoken Into Existence
- Biblical Record
- Reasoning with Evidence
- Supernatural
- Moral Standard
- Understand the true origin of Evil
- Leads to Jesus = Life, Hope, Heaven

- Random Chance
- Evolution From Nothing
- Unproven Scientific Hypotheses
- Reasoning with Philosophy
- No place for miracles or resurrection
- Moral Relativism
- Remove God Because of Evil
- Deny the Deity of Jesus = Emptiness & Uncertainty

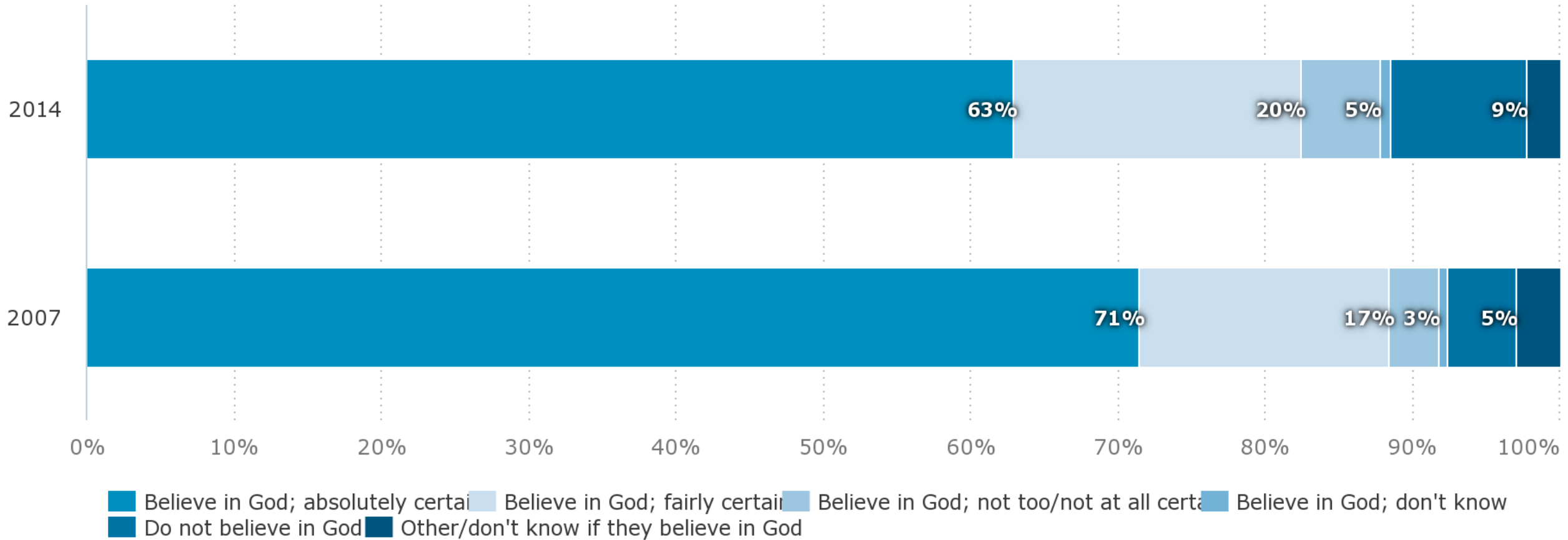


# What factors influence our Worldview?

- What we've been taught (*in school, at home, at church, by others*)
- Our life experience (*time and chance happenings, circumstance, socio-economic status, how we were raised*)
- What we've absorbed from media (*books, podcasts, music, YouTube, TV, radio*)
- What we think other people of influence believe (*peer influence*)
- Philosophies we adopt to explain events in our life

# Belief in God

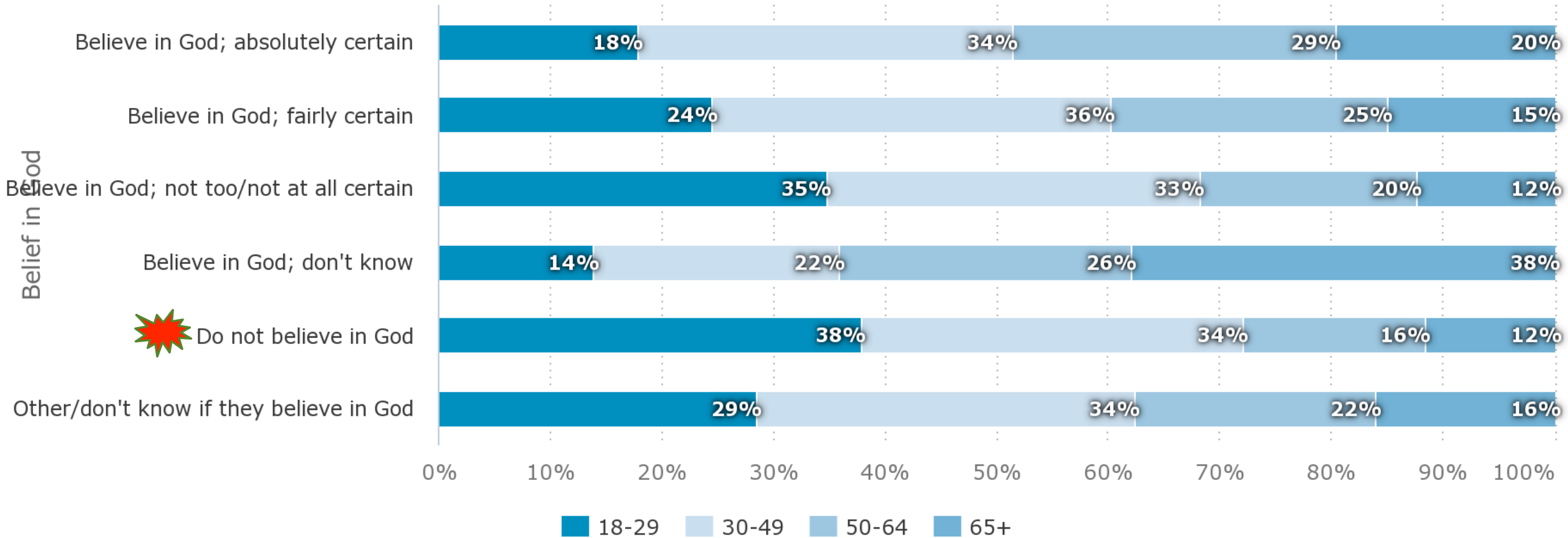
% of adults who say they...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Age distribution by belief in God

% of adults who are ages...

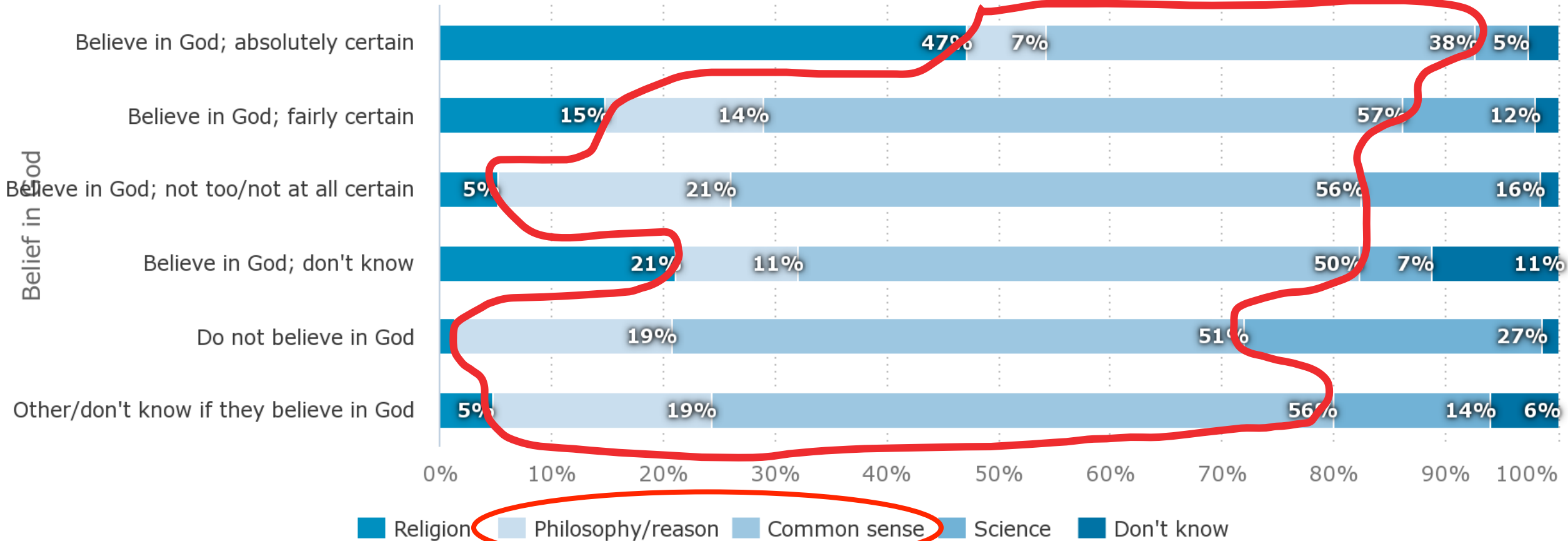


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<http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/belief-in-god/#demographic-information>

# Sources of guidance on right and wrong by belief in God

% of adults who say they look to...most for guidance on right and wrong



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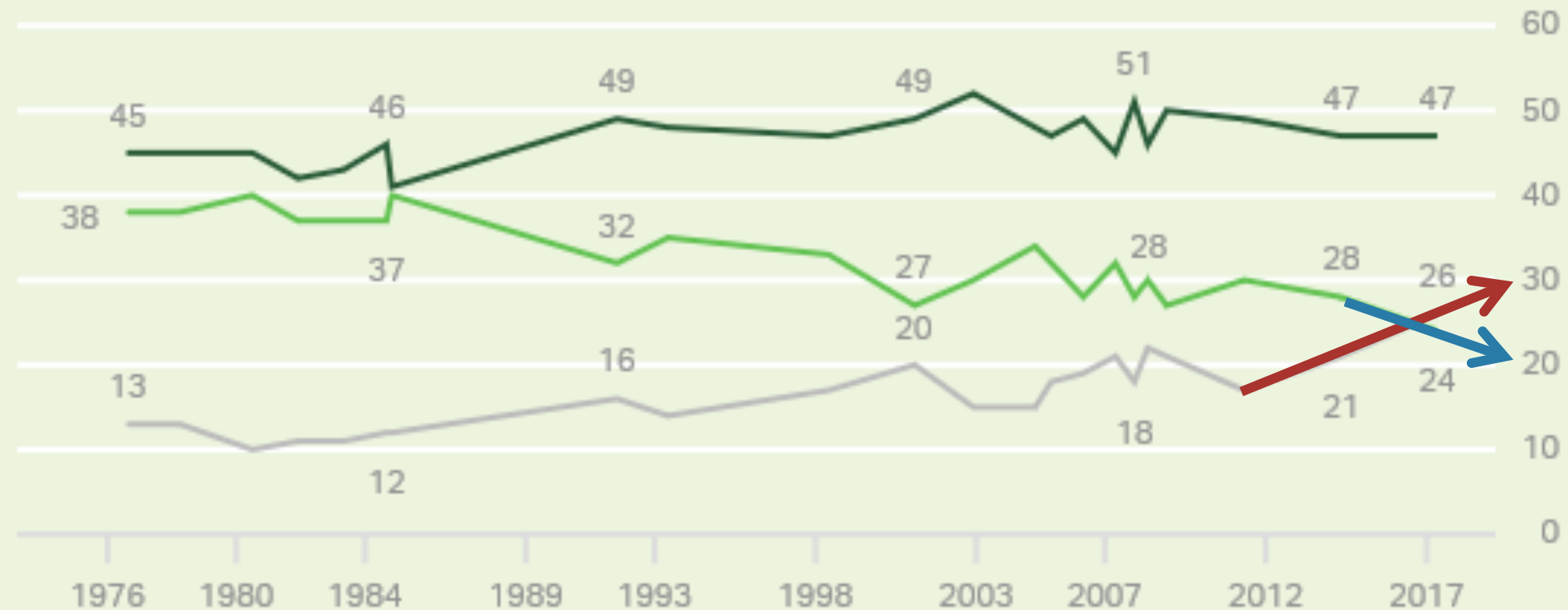
<http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/belief-in-god/#demographic-information>



# Americans' Views of the Bible

Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your views about the Bible?

■ % Actual word of God to be taken literally ■ % Inspired by God, not all to be taken literally  
■ % Fables, history, moral precepts recorded by man

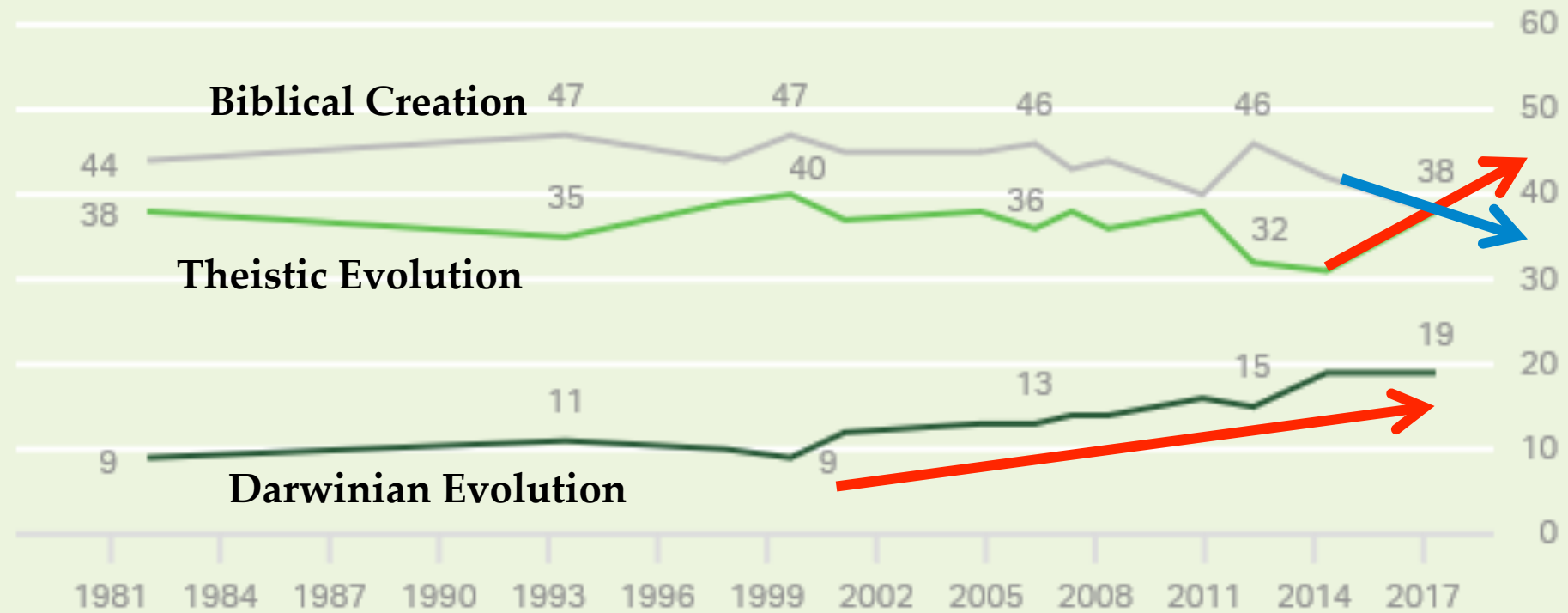


GALLUP

# Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings?

1) Human beings developed over millions of years, but God guided this process; 2) Human beings developed over millions of years, but God had no part in this process; 3) God created man in present form

■ % Man developed, with God guiding   ■ % Man developed, but God had no part in process  
■ % God created man in present form



GALLUP

# Why Apologetics?

## 1 Peter 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

## Why Apologetics?

- 1) **To strengthen our own faith** - *“sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts” (1 Peter 3:15)*
- 2) **To defend the faith** - *“always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15)*
- 3) **To be able to persuade others** – *(Acts 17, I Cor 9.22, evangelism)*



# How Do We Prove That God Exists?

- **Scientific Approach**

- Appeal to Nature. Romans 1:20
- Produce Evidence that debunks Evolutionary ideology.

- **Philosophical Approach**

- Appeal to the Moral Argument. How do we establish right and wrong?
- Problem of Evil & Suffering

- **Historical Approach**

- Produce Historical Evidence that confirms the Biblical account
- Produce Evidence to verify the authenticity of the Biblical documents.

# Evidence in Nature

*Romans 1.20*

<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

**Cosmological Argument** – what we see had to have a cause

**Teleological Argument** – what we see is so intricate, it had to have a designer

# Scientific Evidence

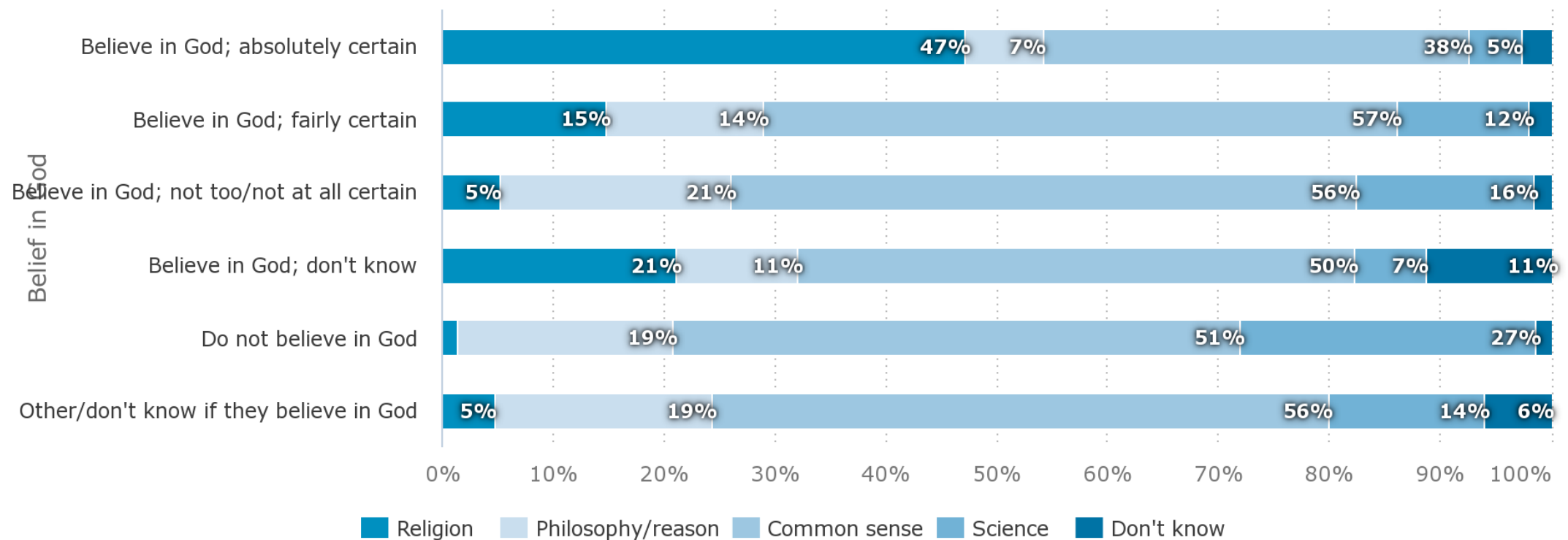
- **Theory of Evolution** = the universe evolved over billions of years from nothing
  - *Macro Evolution* = we went from one cell to human beings
  - *Micro Evolution* = adaptations can be seen within species
- We only find evidence of adaptations within the same species
  - There is no evidence to support the general theory or macro theory of evolution
  - Example: Giraffe, many features would have had to evolve at the same time
  - Explosions of evolution exist in the fossil record, they did not happen over time
- *Law of Biogenesis* – Miller-Urey Experiment could not create new life from nothing (flawed assumptions, scientific errors)

# The Moral Argument

- Without the recognition of a moral standard, how does one determine what's right and what's wrong?*

## Sources of guidance on right and wrong by belief in God

% of adults who say they look to...most for guidance on right and wrong





# The Moral Argument

- The Problem of Evil

- *God is Good + God is All Powerful  $\Leftrightarrow$  Yet, Evil Exists*
- *How can a loving God who is Good, and who has the power to prevent evil, allow it to exist?*
- **Nature of Man** = a free-will agent that can choose to obey God
  - The ultimate sign of love toward God in recognition of His love for us
  - Example of Job
- **Jesus is the ultimate answer** to evil and suffering in this world!

# Historical Evidence

- Can we confirm the facts of the Biblical account with external, historical sources?
- Can we trust what the Bible says?

# Biblical Evidence

- Does the Bible we have today contain the same words that were written down by the inspired writers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century?
- Does our Bible today contain the same books with the same authors as the original text?
- Can we trust the Bible?

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- **Historical Approach**

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# Can We Trust the Biblical Documents?

*Mind Your Faith, Moyer, Chapter 7*

“Focusing particularly upon Jesus and the Gospels here, the general skeptical assumption today is that the Gospels are accounts made up by later Christians who paint a portrait about Jesus as divine, but do not give a real picture of the true Jesus of history. We are told that we cannot learn much at all about the real Jesus by looking at the Gospels. They might have some historical nuggets in them, but they are not reliable sources for the historical Jesus.”

**HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

# Context of the Skeptical View

- Presuppositions / Worldview
  - Assumptions about what can and cannot be true in history
    - If you don't believe that miracles are possible
    - If you don't believe that the resurrection of the dead is possible
    - Then you don't believe that Jesus did these things
    - Therefore, you don't believe in the Jesus of the Bible
    - Therefore, you don't believe in the accuracy of the Gospel accounts



# Evidence For the Reliability of Scripture

*How did we get the Bible?*

# Possible Old Testament Original Manuscript Dates

1440-1400 BC	1400-1000 BC	1000-931 BC	931-686 BC	686-586 BC	516-400 BC
Genesis	Joshua	Psalms	Isaiah	Nahum	Ezra
Exodus	Judges	Ruth	Hosea	Habakkuk	Nehemiah
Leviticus		1st Samuel	Joel	Zephaniah	Esther
Numbers		2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel	Amos	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings	Haggai
Deuteronomy		Job	Obadiah	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chronicles	Zechariah
		Proverbs	Jonah	Jeremiah	Malachi
		Ecclesiastes	Micah	Lamentations	
		Song of Solomon		Ezekiel	
				Daniel	



# Possible New Testament Original Manuscript Dates

50-55 AD	56-60 AD	61-65 AD	66-70 AD	90-100 AD
James	Romans	Philippians	2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy	John
Galatians	1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians	Colossians	Mark	Revelation
1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians	2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians	Philemon	Matthew	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians		Ephesians	Hebrews	
		Luke	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter	
		Acts	Jude	
		1 <sup>st</sup> Timothy		
		Titus		

# The Uniqueness of the Bible

- **Diversity of Authorship**
  - Written by 40 or more men
  - Backgrounds
    - philosophers, fishermen, military leaders, poets, kings, tax collectors, legal scholars, prophets
  - Locations
    - 3 Continents (Africa, Asia, Europe)
    - From Prison Cells, Palaces, Wilderness, Islands
  - Circumstances
    - Written over a 1500 year period
    - Times of war, Times of peace, In joy, In despair
  - Written in 3 Languages
    - Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek

## *Foundations of Our Faith* by J.D. Tant (Lesson 10)

“Consider the unlikely scene the Bible presents. Here is one man in a certain nation, using his own language, writing from the perspective of his own culture, and then we have another man from another nation, another culture, and another century, writing about the same subject, and the two men do not know one another. And yet, with this diversity of background, when the two men’s writings are brought together, there is absolute harmony from beginning to end. This, in itself, does not prove that the Bible is true, but it does give a foundation for any intelligent person to recognize that this is a book unlike any other, and therefore worthy of consideration.”

# The Bible Has Survived Time

## What is a manuscript?

- Handwritten copy

## What were Bible manuscripts written on?

- Stone, Wax, Animal hides
  - most of the O.T. was written on leather scrolls
- Egyptian Papyrus
  - “Biblos” = Greek word for papyrus plant
  - John 18 manuscript from 125 AD
- Parchment Paper (sheep and goat skins)
  - Started around 320 AD



# Efforts to Preserve the Text

- **Constantine (around 330 AD)**
  - Commissioned Eusebius to create 50 true copies of the Bible
- **Pope Innocent I (405 AD)**
  - Commissioned Jerome to make a full translation into Latin (Vulgate)
- **Monasteries (Middle Ages)**
  - Primary duty of many monks was to copy the scriptures
  - Thousands of copies were made
- **John Wycliffe (1382-1385)**
  - Commissioned the first translation into English
  - We have over 250 manuscripts
- **Church of England (1604-1611)**
  - Commissioned the King James Version

# How do the surviving manuscripts of the Bible compare to other secular writings?

Ancient Document	Number of Surviving Manuscripts
Plato's Tetralogies	7
Caesar and the Gallic Wars	10
Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i>	49
Various Writings of Sophocles	193
Letters of Pliny the Younger	247
Homer's Iliad	643
The New Testament	24,633

There are 38 times more New Testament manuscripts than the next closest ancient document!

# How do the surviving manuscripts of the Bible compare to other secular writings?

Ancient Document	Time Gap of Manuscripts from Original Writing
Plato's Tetralogies	1,100 Years
Caesar and the Gallic Wars	1,000 Years
Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i>	1,400 Years
Various Writings of Sophocles	700 Years
Homer's Iliad	1,800 Years
Letters of Pliny the Younger	750 Years
The New Testament	Within 100 Years

# The Bible Survived Intense Persecution

- **Diocletian (303 AD)**
  - Ordered the destruction of all Bibles in the world
  - 25 years later, Constantine commissioned Eusebius to create 50 true copies of the Bible to be kept in the royal libraries
- **Roman Church (Middle Ages)**
  - Bible were chained to church pews, common people forbidden to possess them
  - Spanish Inquisition – thousands put to death for owning a Bible
- **Voltaire (1778)**
  - Predicted that within 100 years, the Bible would become extinct and Christianity would pass off the face of the earth
- **Communist Regimes Around the World (since 1844)**
  - Banned the Bible and it's teaching



# Culture of the Ancient Near East

- **An Oral Culture**
  - No Printing Press or mass-produced media
  - The only way they had to pass down information
- **Can Facts About History be Passed Down Orally?**
  - If something isn't written down, does that make it less accurate?
  - Studies have shown that it worked AND was Reliable!
- **Signs of an oral culture in the Bible**
  - Writers used different language styles and vocabulary
  - Writers recorded different aspects of the same event
  - The facts remain the same!

# How Do You Test the Historicity of Ancient Documents?

- Boyd and Eddy's: *Lord or Legend?*
  - "When evaluated by the same criteria critical historians typically use to evaluate ancient documents, the Gospels give us many reasons to conclude that the image of Jesus they present is historically reliable."
- 10 Questions that reflect what historians want to know when they evaluate ancient documents

# Do We Possess Copies That Are Reasonably Close to the Originals?

- Gospel of John, Chapter 18 – fragment that dates within 50 years of the original (125 AD)
- New Testament
  - Fragments and Copies within 50-1,500 years of original
  - Complete Copies from within 300 years of the original
- Dead Sea Scrolls (*discovered in the 1940's*)
  - Date back to as early as 162 BC – complete Book of Isaiah
- Work of Dr. Robert Wilson
- “The Bible is the best attested ancient work ever. Period.”

# The Process of Making a Manuscript

- **Jewish Scribes**

- Professionals trained to copy the scriptures
- Talmudic Scribes (100-400 AD)
- Masoretic Scribes (500-900 AD)

- ***Foundations of Our Faith* by J.D. Tant** – Lesson 10, Pages 52-54
- **Age of the manuscript didn't matter!**
- **Why are these manuscripts so scarce?**



# Did the Authors Intend To Convey Reliable History To the Readers?

Luke 1:1-4

“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us,<sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,<sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,<sup>4</sup> that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.”

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# Were the Authors In a Position to Know What They Were Talking About?

- **Direct Eyewitnesses of Jesus**
  - Matthew & John
- **Contact with Direct Eyewitnesses of Jesus**
  - Luke & Mark
  - Mark wrote what he received from Peter, a direct eyewitness
- The writers of the New Testament wrote down within 50 years what they witnessed or what others directly witnessed Jesus do.
- Before they wrote it down, there were the oral traditions that were maintained about the life of Jesus that were reliable sources of information.

**The Gospel writers knew what they were talking about!**

# They Knew What They Were Talking About!

*2 Peter 1:16*

**“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”**



# Did the Author's Bias Distort Their Historical Reporting?

- Did the authors have motive in writing about the life of Jesus?
- Did that motive prevent them from telling the truth about Him?
- Is there such a thing as an unbiased position on something?
  - Does passion negate truth?
  - If so, all history is in jeopardy!
- Why would the writers tell a history that wasn't popular and could likely get them killed if the story they were telling wasn't true?
- What did they stand to personally gain from telling the story of Jesus?

# Are the Reports Consistent With What We Know About Eyewitness Testimony?

- What kinds of information would you expect to find in an eyewitness account?
  - Incidental details & casual information
- “What is interesting about the Gospels, however, is that they do include incidental detail while giving us every reason to believe they were intended to pass on historically rooted tradition of actual events of the past. Not only this, but some of this detail has been independently confirmed as reflecting the situation of first-century Palestine—a point that can bolster our estimation of the reliability of these works.” – *Boyd & Eddy p. 102*

# Aramaisms & Personal Names

- **Aramaisms** - words and expressions that indicate Aramaic origin
  - Matt 27:46 – “Eli, Eli, lema sabachtani?” – an Aramaic expression used in a Greek text
  - 250 verses in the Bible with Aramaic words or expressions
- **Personal Names**
  - Luke 24:18 – “Cleopus” – Luke used a name even when it wasn’t necessary
    - One of the men on the Road to Emmaus
    - Possibly used because Cleopus would become a prominent teacher in the church



# Is there “Self-Damaging” Material in the Documents?

- What is “self-damaging” material?
  - *Details within the text that demonstrate that an author’s purpose was to be truthful; not just to sugar-coat the facts*
- If you were telling the story of Jesus, what would you include to paint Jesus in the best possible light?
- “Self-Damaging” Details
  - Jesus’ own family did not believe in him – Mark 3:20-21; John 7:1-5
  - People in Jesus’ hometown rejected him – Mark 6:2-5
  - His disciples were unable to exorcise demons – Mark 9:14-18
  - The Disciples were sometimes painted in a bad light – Mark 9:33-35
  - Jesus was betrayed by a close disciple and another denied Him – Mark 14
  - Women were the first to testify about the risen Savior – Mark 16:9-11, Matthew 28:8-10



# Are the Documents Reasonably “Self-Consistent” and Consistent with Other Documents that Tell About the Same Events?

- More Consistency = More Credibility
- Critics focus on the Gospels
  - Similar stories but not exactly the same details
  - Oral Cultural Context
  - Examples cited by critics
- “No mutually exclusive statements in the Gospels that cannot be reconciled by the cultural context of the documents”

The same Story, with the same People, In the same Location, At the same Time...  
with a few Different Details

# Are the Recorded Events Believable?

- What makes something believable?
- *Mind Your Faith* (Moyer), Chapter 21, Question #8
  - Is it believable ...that there is a God who created humankind?
  - ...that a God who created us in His image would want to communicate with us?
  - ...that He would have the power to influence and impact events in this world?
  - ...that He is sovereign and can intervene in creation at His will?
- If not, what are the alternatives?
- Acts 26:8 – Paul to Agrippa, “Why is it considered incredible among you if God does raise the dead?”

# Is there other literary evidence that helps to establish the reality of the events recorded in the examined documents?

- Things to remember about ancient history
  - There is not a lot of literary evidence to support anything from ancient history
  - The Gospels are independent, autonomous writings.
  - We do have sources that corroborate some of the events recorded in the Bible
    - They confirm that Jesus existed, and that He had a brother named James
    - Jesus was considered divine by His followers
    - Jesus was crucified, and that something happened that caused His disciples to flourish.
  - They confirm the core elements of the Gospel message



# Does archaeology help to shed any light on the recorded events?

- **Absolutely!**
  - **Presentation by Barry Britnell**
    - Bone Box with the name Caiaphas on it
    - Ankle Bone with a nail driven thru it
  - Stone containing the name of Pilate, showing his power in Palestine
  - Hittite civilization – once thought to be a myth
- **Archaeology doesn't provide us with hard facts – its provides us with corroborating evidence for the facts presented in the Bible**
- **Foundations of Our Faith (J.D. Tant) – Lesson 11, Page 69-70**
  - Sir William Ramsay – attests to the trustworthiness of Acts as a historical guide
  - Gallio – proconsul of Achaia inscription found – dated to 52 AD – ties to Acts 18:12
  - Lysanias of Abilene – tetrarch – inscription on a temple dated to 14-29 AD
  - Birth of Christ – record of the Romans census found in Egypt – Antioch inscription stating Quirinius was governor





Dr. William F. Albright

**“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition. The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries - certain phases of which still appear periodically – has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.”**

# Summary: Can We Trust the Biblical Documents?

- A Truly Unique Document
  - 2 Testaments, 66 stand-alone books, 1189 chapters, 31,000 verses, 800,000+ words
  - Authorship – 40 authors from all backgrounds, who were not all contemporaries
  - Timeline – written over 1500 years and covers 4000+ years of history
  - Location – written from 3 continents in all sorts of circumstances
  - Language – written in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)
  - Common Theme – the redemption of man
- New Testament has 24,633 surviving manuscripts that date as early as 125 AD
- The Bible has survived intense persecution since the time of Jesus
- The Gospels contain verifiable history written by direct and indirect eyewitnesses
- The Bible is being proven true over and over again by archaeological discoveries
- The Bible exceeds every standard for measuring a document of antiquity

**WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE!**

# The Inspiration of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**“All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”**

- **“inspired” – ‘theopneustos’ (Gk.) = “God-breathed”**



# The Inspiration of Scripture

- Other Bible references for God's Inspiration of the Word
  - **2 Peter 1:21** - <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
  - **Hebrews 1:1** - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
  - **1 Cor. 2:10-13** - <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.



# The Inspiration of Scripture

- **Verbal Inspiration**
  - The idea that God guarantees that the words of Scripture convey exactly what He desires.
- **Does this imply that God dictated the words of the Bible to the men who wrote them down?**
  - Scripture contains the personalities and vocabularies of the men who wrote it down, yet accurately tells us what God wants us to know.
  - These words are “sound words” (1 Tim 1:13), “words of faith” and “sound doctrine” (1 Tim 4:6)
  - So, we should pay attention to the words!

# The Inspiration of Scripture

- **Plenary Inspiration**
  - The idea that “ALL” scripture is inspired by God, not just portions of it
- Includes the following:
  - Direct sayings of God (thru the prophets)
  - What the Devil said (Genesis 3)
  - What Others said and did
- It's all in scripture because God thought we needed to know it!

# The Inspiration of Scripture

- **Inerrancy**

- Means “free from error”
- “When God inspires something, it is right!”
- If it is from God, it can be trusted as true and accurate

- **Confluent**

- Means “flowing or running together into one”
- Scripture is both human and divine (1 Cor. 2:10-13)
- God’s mind written by men

# Evidence for the Inspiration of Scripture

## Uniqueness of the Bible

- Written over 1500 years by 40+ human authors from diverse backgrounds
- Written in 3 languages in extreme circumstances on 3 continents
- One Central Theme: The Salvation of Mankind
  - “a thematic unity that defies naturalistic explanations”
  - “can’t be explained with a naturalistic worldview”



# Evidence for the Inspiration of Scripture

## Prophecy

- There are over 400 prophecies in the Old Testament that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ
- Isaiah 44:6-8
  - Many claim to be able to tell the future
  - Only the One, True God can foretell what events will take place
  - He has proved it!

# Evidence for the Inspiration of Scripture

## Accuracy

- The Bible is an accurate historical document
- What continually proves this argument?

## Validation of Jesus Christ

- Jesus himself validates the Scriptures
  - He verifies it's historical accuracy by recounting details of events and the people involved (Adam & Eve, Noah, Lot, Jonah, etc.)
  - He used Scripture authoritatively for doctrine by quoting passages ("have you not heard...")
  - He used Scripture to overcome temptation – Matt 4

# Inspiration of the Scriptures - Recap

- The Bible Claims that it is Inspired – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 4 Characteristics of Inspiration in the Bible
  - Verbal Inspiration – “God-Breathed”
  - Plenary Inspiration – All of Scripture is inspired, not just part of it
  - Inerrancy – free from error
  - Confluent – human & divine elements converging to tell the story
- Evidence for the Inspiration of the Bible
  - Uniqueness of the Document
  - Fulfilled Prophecy
  - Historical Accuracy
  - Validation by Jesus Christ

# How Did God Inspire the Scriptures?

*From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible (Geisler & Nix)*

## 3 Theories of Inspiration

1. The Bible IS the Word of God
  1. Dictation Theory
  2. Ideas Only Theory
2. The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God
  1. Illumination Theory
  2. Intuition Theory
3. The Bible BECOMES the Word of God
  1. Personal Encounter Theory
  2. Mythology Theory



# What Does Inspiration Look Like?

- It looks like the text!
  - Since we don't exactly know how the Bible was inspired, we also shouldn't speculate about what Inspiration looks like!
- What are the implications for us?

# Implications For Us

- 1) We need to let the text speak for itself!
- 2) Any doctrine about inspiration of Scripture must be derived from the text
- 3) We must accept the variety and difficulties that are present in the text
- 4) We must recognize that what the Bible teaches is inspired, but not every statement was inspired by God
- 5) Inspiration involved the author's use of other sources at times
- 6) The Scriptures look like documents that belong in the ancient historical context
- 7) The Scriptures show diversity, not contradiction
- 8) The Word of God functions through translations

# The Inspiration of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**“All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”**

# The Inerrancy of Scripture

- Can We Trust What The Bible Says?
  - Implications are eternal!
    - 1 Corinthians 15:17-19
    - Romans 2:5-11
- Inerrancy is all about Truthfulness!
  - Where the writers truthful and trustworthy?
  - Is God truthful and trustworthy?



# The Inerrancy of Scripture

- **What Evidence Does the Bible Offer?**
  1. The Bible is an Accurate Historical Record
    - A. What the Bible Says About Jesus Must Be Taken Seriously
      - i. His Resurrection
    - B. If Jesus Rose From the Dead, He is Lord!
      - i. Shown to be historically true by the Scriptures
    - C. If Jesus is Lord, He has Absolute Authority
      - i. Jesus claims the Scripture is Truth
      - ii. The Scriptures Have Authority

# The Inerrancy of Scripture

- What did Jesus Say about Scripture?
  - Jesus treated the Scriptures as teaching historical truth
    - Adam & Eve (Matt 19:4-5), Cain & Abel (Luke 11:50-51), Noah (Matt 24:37-39), Sodom & Gomorrah (Luke 10:12), Lot & his wife (Luke 17:28-32), Jonah (Matt 12: 39-41)
    - David eating the showbread (Matt 12:3-4), the wilderness serpent (John 3:14), Elijah going to the Sidonian widow (Luke 4:25-26), Elisha healing Naaman (Luke 4:27)
  - Jesus used the Old Testament Scripture historically – never questioning their truth

# The Inerrancy of Scripture

- What did Jesus Say about Scripture?
  - Jesus Used the Scriptures Authoritatively for Doctrine & Ethics
    - Continually appealed to them as a standard for action and faith
      - Rebuke of the Sadducees in Matt 22:29-32
  - Jesus Used the Scriptures to Overcome Temptation
    - Both Jesus and Satan appeal to Scripture as authoritative
  - Jesus taught that Scripture Cannot Be Broken
    - Matt 5:17-20; Luke 24:44

# The Inerrancy of Scripture - Conclusions

1. Presuppositions play a role
2. Eyewitness testimony should be given the benefit of the doubt
3. Copies and translations are not the original documents
4. The Bible was written 2000 years ago
5. Jesus is the key to a proper view of Scripture

*“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.” – John 6:68-69*

*Do we accept God as Trustworthy and Jesus as Lord?*



# Fulfilled Prophecy – 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son,<sup>[i]</sup> with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

# Fulfilled Prophecy

Criteria laid forth by scholars:

1. Proper interpretation of the text containing the prophecy and its fulfillment
2. Prophecy must be made before the event that fulfills the prophecy
3. Prophecy must be made far enough in advance that it can't be a lucky guess
4. The event that allegedly fulfilled the prophecy did in fact happen.

# Basis for Determining Deity

**“One who is God must be capable of knowing what will come.”**

**Isaiah 41:21-29**

- **God thru Isaiah challenges idol worshipers**

**Isaiah 44:6-8**

- **God's claim to know the future**
- **Israel is His witness**

# Cyrus, King of Persia

- Isaiah 44:24-28
  - God declares that Cyrus, King of Persia, will be the one who rebuilds Jerusalem
- Isaiah 45:1-13
  - God calls out Cyrus by name and says He has grasped his right hand so that he may do His bidding
  - Why did God name Cyrus?
    - So that when all of these things took place, all would know that he is God!
  - Cyrus Would:
    - “build My city” – v13
    - “set My exiles free” – v13
    - He would get nothing for it – v13





# The Cyrus Cylinder

"He scanned and looked through all the countries, searching for a righteous ruler willing to lead Marduk in the annual procession. Then he pronounced the name of Cyrus, king of Anshan [i.e., Persia], declared to become the ruler of all the world. He made the Gutti country and all the Manda-hordes [i.e., the Medians] bow in submission to Cyrus' feet. And Cyrus did always endeavor to treat according to justice the people whom Marduk has made him conquer. Marduk, the great lord, a protector of his people, beheld with pleasure Cyrus' good deeds and his upright mind and therefore ordered him to march against his city Babylon. He made him set out on the road to Babylon going at his side like a real friend. Cyrus' widespread troops -their number, like that of the water of a river, could not be established- strolled along, their weapons packed away. Without any battle, he made him enter his own town Babylon, sparing Babylon any calamity. He delivered into Cyrus' hands Nabonidus, the king who did not worship him. All the inhabitants of Babylon as well as of the entire country of Sumer and Akkad [i.e., the surrounding provinces], princes and governors included, bowed to Cyrus and kissed his feet, jubilant that he had received the kingship, and with shining faces. Happily they greeted him as a master through whose help they had come again to life from death and had all been spared damage and disaster, and they worshipped his very name."

# The Cyrus Cylinder

“All the kings of the entire world from the Upper to the Lower Sea [i.e., from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf], those who are seated in throne rooms, those who live in other types of buildings as well as all the kings of the West land living in tents, brought their heavy tributes and kissed my feet in Babylon. As to the region from [lacuna] as far as Aššur and Susa, Agade, Eshnunna, the towns of Zamban, Me-Turnu, Der as well as the region of the Gutians, I returned to these sanctuaries on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which had been ruins for a long time, the images which used to live therein and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations. Furthermore, I resettled upon the command of Marduk, the great lord, all the gods of Sumer and Akkad whom Nabonidus had brought into Babylon to the anger of the lord of the gods, unharmed, in their former chapels, the places which make them happy.”



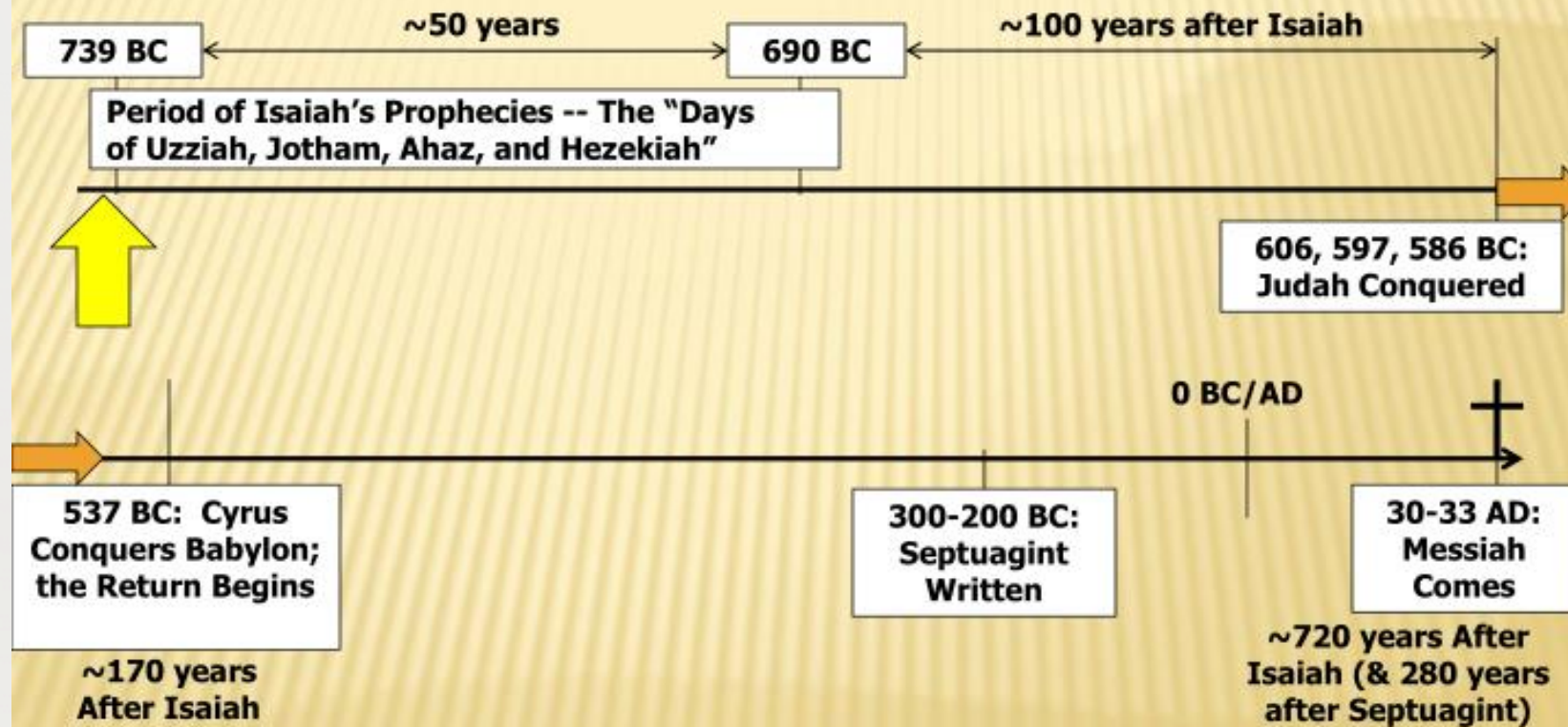


# Dating the Book of Isaiah

- **Oldest confirmed copy of the Book of Isaiah is the “Isaiah A’ manuscript**
  - Found in the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran
  - Dates to approx. 100 B.C.
- **Isaiah lived and prophesied in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC.**
  - *“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.” Isa 1:1*
- **Isaiah died in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Hezekiah (698 BC)**



# TIMELINE FOR ISAIAH



# Fulfilled Prophecy

Criteria laid forth by scholars:

1. Proper interpretation of the text containing the prophecy and its fulfillment
2. Prophecy must be made before the event that fulfills the prophecy
3. Prophecy must be made far enough in advance that it can't be a lucky guess
4. The event that allegedly fulfilled the prophecy did in fact happen.

# Is What Isaiah Wrote Truly Prophecy?

- 1) Scholars have determined the exact events about which Cyrus wrote on his cylinder, and the words of Isaiah are very clear in naming Cyrus as the man who would fulfill God's purpose and how he would do it.
  - 2) Isaiah wrote his words 170 years before Cyrus conquered Babylon, set the Israelites free, and began rebuilding the temple
  - 3) 170 years is quite a long time and not in any way subject to guesswork
  - 4) The events that fulfilled the prophecy are historically recorded in detail for us by the man who actually did these things.
- Isaiah also records prophecies about Babylon (Ch 13) & the Messiah (Ch 53)
    - These events are foretold well in advance of their known dates in history.



# What Josephus said...

- **Josephus, *Antiquities*, Book 11, Chapter 1**
  - "...he stirred up the mind of Cyrus, and made him write this throughout all Asia: 'Thus saith Cyrus the king: Since God Almighty hath appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that He is that God which the nation of the Israelites worship; for indeed he foretold my name by the prophets, and that I should build Him a house at Jerusalem, in the country of Judea.'"
  - **How did Cyrus know this?**
    - "Isaiah had left behind a copy of his book which said: 'My will is, that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple.'"
    - "This was foretold by Isaiah 140 years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this, and admired the Divine Power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was so written;..."



# The Resurrection

**What are the known facts?**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

# The Resurrection - What are the known facts?

- Jesus was crucified
- Jesus was buried in a new tomb
- Jesus' tomb was empty on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day
- Jesus' disciples believe that saw Him alive again
- This transformed their lives, and they were willing to die for their beliefs
- The story of the resurrection became the centerpiece of their preaching
- The church started in Jerusalem and spread quickly throughout the known world
- James, the skeptical brother of Jesus, was converted and became a pillar of the church in Jerusalem
- Paul, a skeptic, was also converted, and believed that he also saw the risen Christ

# The Resurrection – Historical Account

Tacitus, the Roman Historian, writes:

*“Christus was executed in the Principate of Tiberius by the governor Pontius Pilate; the deadly superstitio was checked for a time, but broke out again, not only in Judea, the origin of the evil, but even in the capital, where all hideous and shameful practices collect from every quarter and are extremely popular.”*

# The Disciples Believed

- The disciples' belief in the resurrection was so intense that they were willing to die for that claim

*Contra Celsum*, a 3<sup>rd</sup> century work by Origen:

“But a clear and unmistakable proof of the fact I hold to be the undertaking of His disciples, who devoted themselves to the teaching of a doctrine which was attended with danger of human life – a doctrine which they would not have taught with such courage had they invented the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; and who also, at the same time, not only prepared others to despise death, but were themselves the first to manifest their disregard for its terrors.”



# The Apostle Paul's Testimony

## **1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

## **2 Corinthians 11:21-28 – What Paul endured to preach this message**

# The Empty Tomb

**Matthew 27:57-60**

- It was new tomb – no mistaking Jesus' body for another

**Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47**

- The tomb was observed – they knew where Jesus was buried

**Matthew 26:62-66**

- The tomb was sealed and guarded – no tampering, no theft of the body

# Alternative Explanations

- **Stolen Body Theory**
  - Matthew 28:11-15
- **Wrong Tomb Theory**
  - Mark 15:47
- **Hallucination Theory**
  - John 20:24-29
- **Swoon Theory**
  - John 19:31-37

# The Risen Jesus Appeared to Many

- Mary Magdalene – John 20:11-18, Mark 16:9-11
- The Disciples – John 20:19-22, Luke 24:36-49
- The Disciples & Thomas – John 20:24-29
- The men on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-35, Mark 16:12-13
- The Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus – Acts 9:1-19



# What Does it Mean for Us?

- **It is the Basis of Our Faith**
  - 1 Corinthians 15:12-28
- **It Provides a Living Hope**
  - 1 Peter 1:3-5
- **It is the Key to Accepting the Lordship of Jesus**
  - Romans 1:4

*<sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*

**GRACE**

**OBEDIENCE**

**HOPE**

**FAITH**

**EVIDENCE**