

HOW CAN THE BIBLE BE HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

"God questions" are those hard questions & objections people have with Christianity—believers and skeptics alike. As the second message in this series, I will address the question, "How can anyone believe the Bible is historically reliable?" If your friend or neighbor asked you this question, how would you respond?

IS THE TEXT OF THE BIBLE HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

There are several questions you ask to assess the reliability and authenticity of any historical document including the Bible.

⇒ How many copies do we have?

⇒ How much time elapsed between the time when the original was written and the first manuscript evidence?

⇒ How accurate are the copies?

- 10,400
- 400
- 40
- 2

ARE THE FACTS OF THE BIBLE (NT) HISTORICALLY RELIABLE?

⇒ Were the authors of the text in a position to know what they were talking about?

⇒ Did the authors intend to accurately record the historical account of what actually happened?

⇒ Does archeology verify the facts?

SHOULD THE BIBLE BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITATIVE?

⇒ Jesus believed the scriptures were the ultimate source of authority.

⇒ Jesus believed Scripture was simultaneously God's words and man's words.

⇒ Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would give us the NT through them.

AUTHOR	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000 yrs.	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200 yrs.	7
Tacitus (Annals)	A.D.100	A.D. 1100	1,000 yrs.	20
Pliny the Younger (History)	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7
Thucydides (History)	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300 yrs	8
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8
Herodotus (History)	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,300 yrs.	8
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1,400 yrs	193
Catullus	54 B.C.	A.D. 1550	1,600 yrs	3
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1,500 yrs.	9
Demosthenes	383-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1,300 yrs.	200
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1,400 yrs	49
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200 yrs.	10
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs.	643
New Testament	A.D. 40-100	A.D. 125	25 yrs.	Over 24,000