

Can I Trust The Bible?

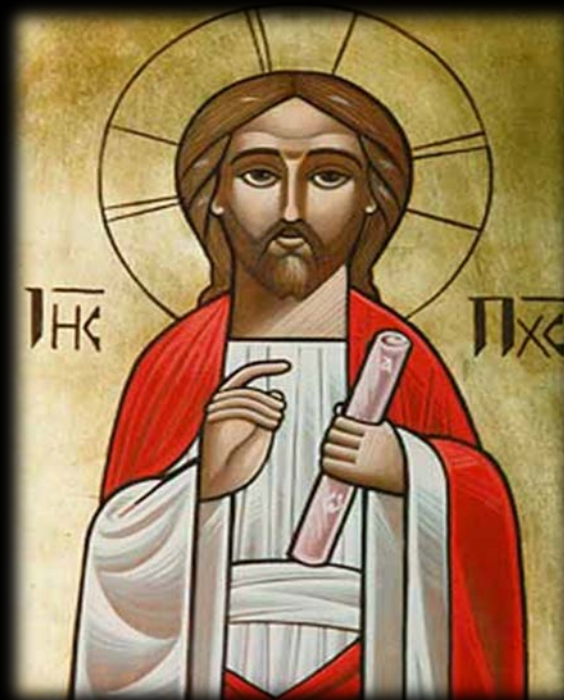
Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States
Evangelism & Apologetics Conference

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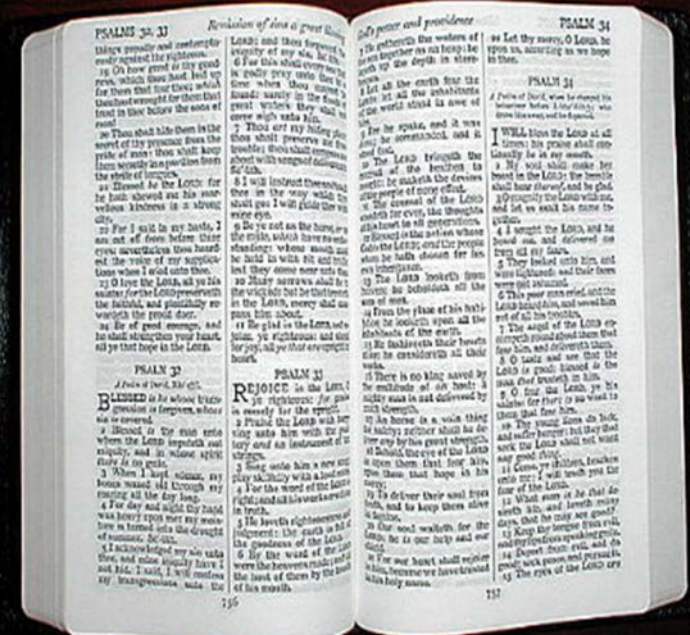
Outline

- Recent Attacks
 - Internal Evidence
 - External Evidence
 - The verdict
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Most attacks on our Christian faith are usually aimed at:



The Incarnate Word



The Written Word

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

Evidence found within the Bible itself
It tests for consistency and coherence

1. Self Proclamation

- 2 Tim 3:16 "All scripture is inspired by God."
 - 2 Pet 1:21 "No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
 - 1 Thess. 2:13 "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."
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2. Unity Within Diversity

DIVERSITY

- Written in 2 major languages
 - By 40 authors
 - Who held varied occupations
 - Who lived on 3 different continents
 - Who wrote 66 different books
 - On hundreds of topics
 - Spanning over 1500 years.
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UNITY

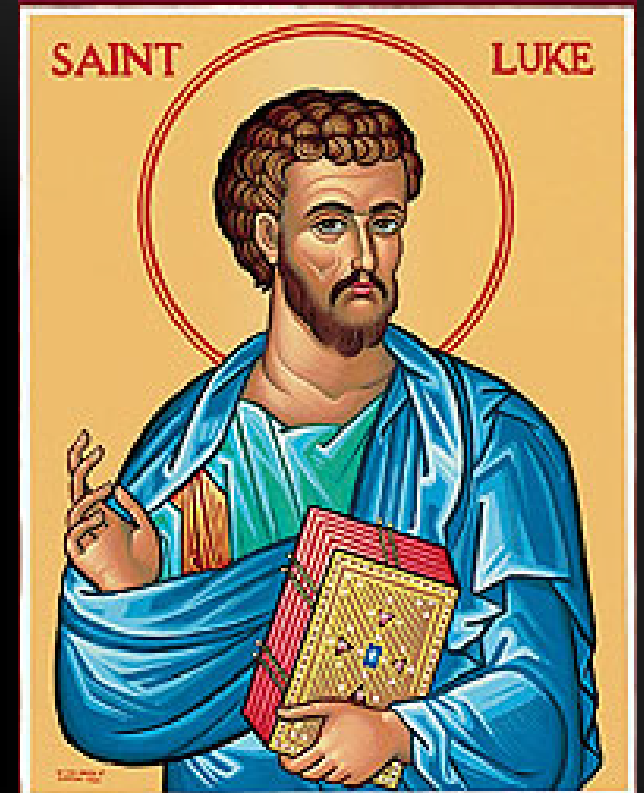
- One problem → Sin (Gen 3:14-17)
 - One theme → salvation (2Tim. 3:15)
 - One person → Christ (Luke 24:27)
 - One goal → to glorify God (1Cor. 10:31)
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3. Eyewitness Accounts

- 2 Pet. 1:16 "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty."
- 1 John 1:3 "What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also.
- John 19: 35 "And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true."

- Acts 2:32 "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact"
 - Acts 4:19-20 "Peter and John replied.... For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard"
 - Acts 10:39-40 "We are witnesses of everything"
-

Luke 1:1-4 "Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you...



In 1 Cor. 15, Paul mentions there were **500** people who saw Christ after the Resurrection.

4. Unfavorable Accounts

- Disciples arguing about positions of honor in heaven.
(Luke 9:46, Mat 18)
 - Peter not eating with those who were uncircumcised
(Galatians 2)
 - Women found the tomb empty first (Mar 16)
 - Jesus calling Peter Satan (Mat 16:23)
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5. Transforming Ability

- The Bible has changed the lives of many. No other book can make such a claim.
- "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit." Heb 4:12

SUMMARY

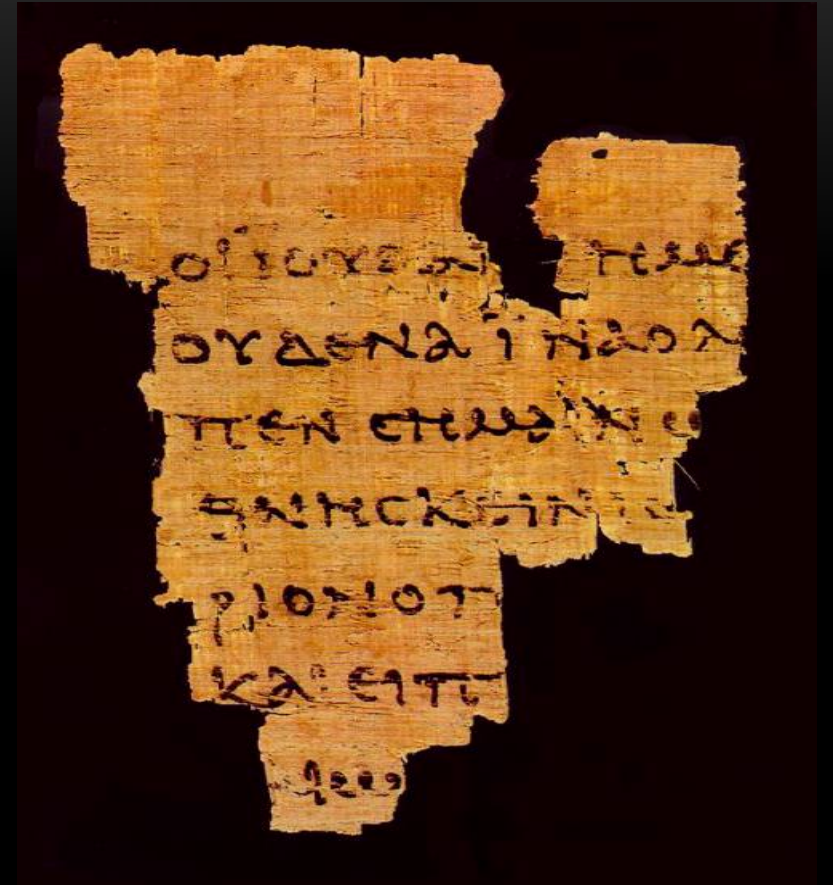
1. Self Proclamation
 2. Unity in Diversity
 3. Eyewitness Accounts
 4. Unfavorable Accounts
 5. Transforming Ability
-

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

Evidence that is found outside the Bible, such as archaeology, science, and ancient manuscripts.

1. Manuscripts

- Rylands Papyri found in Egypt Dated - AD 125.
- It contains verses of the Gospel of John.
- Currently at the John Rylands Library in Manchester, England



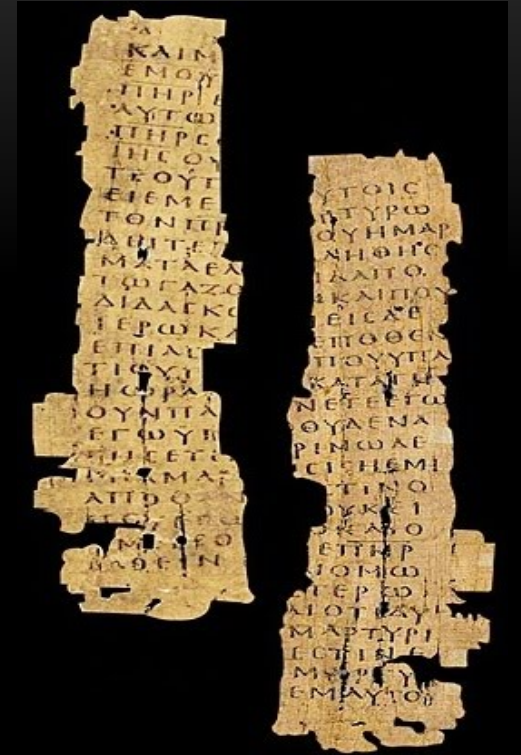
- The Chester Beatty Papyrus
- Dated 200-250
- Made public in 1931
- Contains the Gospels, Acts, Paul's Epistles & Revelation



- Codex Sinaiticus
- Dated 340 AD
- Contains half of the Old Testament books and all the N.T.



- 5,686 hand written Greek N.T. manuscripts
- 10,000 Latin Vulgate
- 9,300 Old Latin, Coptic and Anglo Saxon
- A total of 24,970 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament exist today



COMPARING ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Author	Book	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Gap-yrs	# of copies
Homer	Iliad	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	400	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,350	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300	8
Plato		400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300	7
Demosthenes		300 B.C.	1100 AD.	1,400	200
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000	10
Livy	Hist. Rome	59 B.C.-17AD	4th cent.	400	1 partial
Tacitus	Annals	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000	20
Pliny Secundus	Natural History	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750	7
New Testament		50-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	50+	5,686

2. Early Testimony

Christ's death
and resurrection

Mark's
gospel



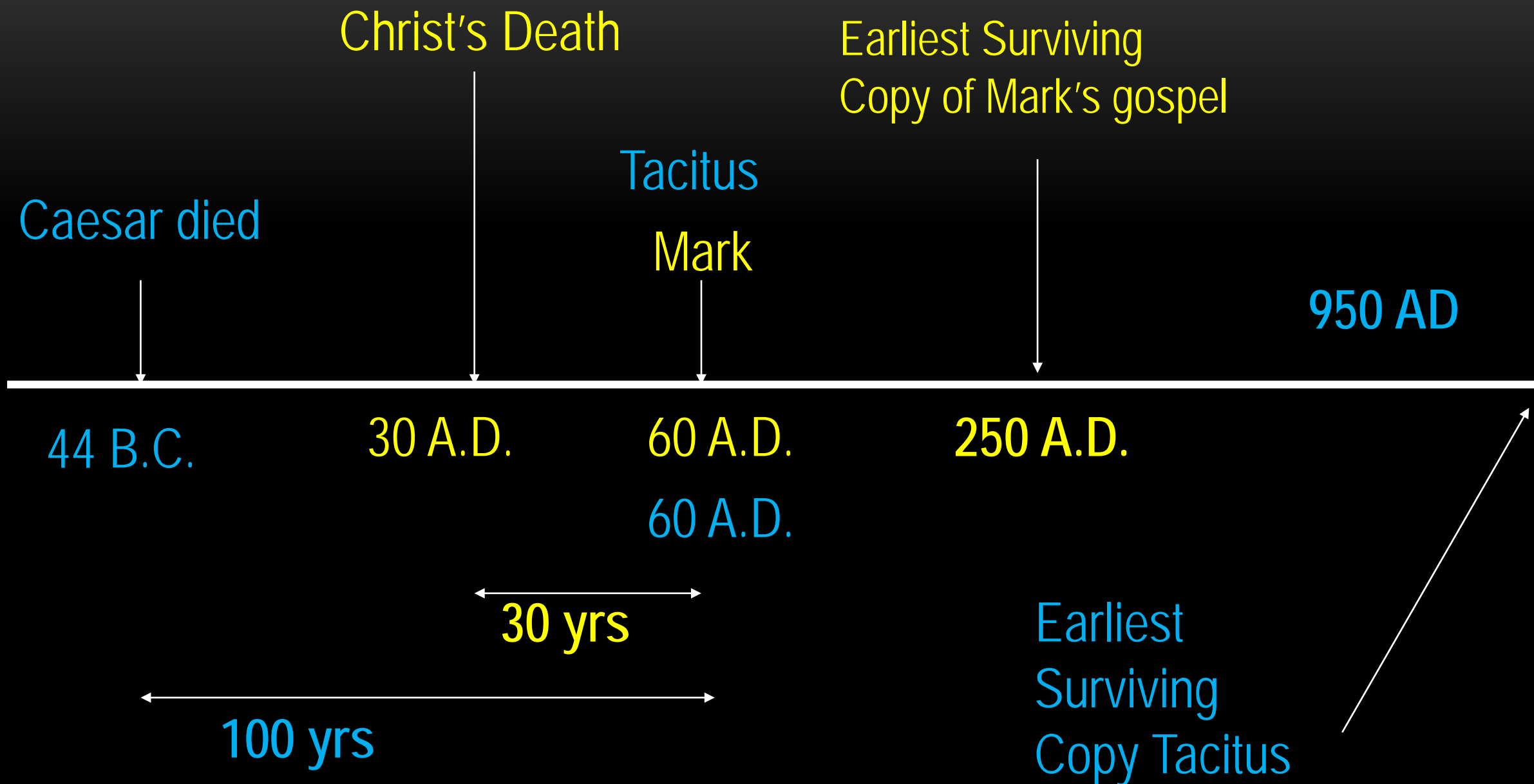
30-33 A.D.

60 A.D.



40 years

There are still people ALIVE in 60 A.D. who were alive in 30 A.D.



Quotations from early Church Fathers concerning the NT

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline	General	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement (Alex)	1,107	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,992
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

The entire New Testament can be reconstructed from quotations in the writings of the Church Fathers (AD 95 – 400) except for 11 verses.

3. Testimony of Science

- Universe had a beginning (Gen. 1:1)
 - Universe has expanded (Isa. 42:5)
 - Earth is round (Isa. 40:22)
 - Earth is hung in space (Job. 26:7)
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4. Testimony of History

ROMAN SOURCE: JOSEPHUS

“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly He was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”

JEWISH SOURCE: TALMUD

"On the eve of Passover Yeshua was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'he is going to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover."

The Talmud, Sanhedrin, 43a (cf. John 11:8, 16)

5. Fulfilled Prophecies

Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

Ethnic Group

Abraham, Gen 12:1

Tribe

Judah, Gen 49:10

Dynasty

David, 2 Sam 7:12

How

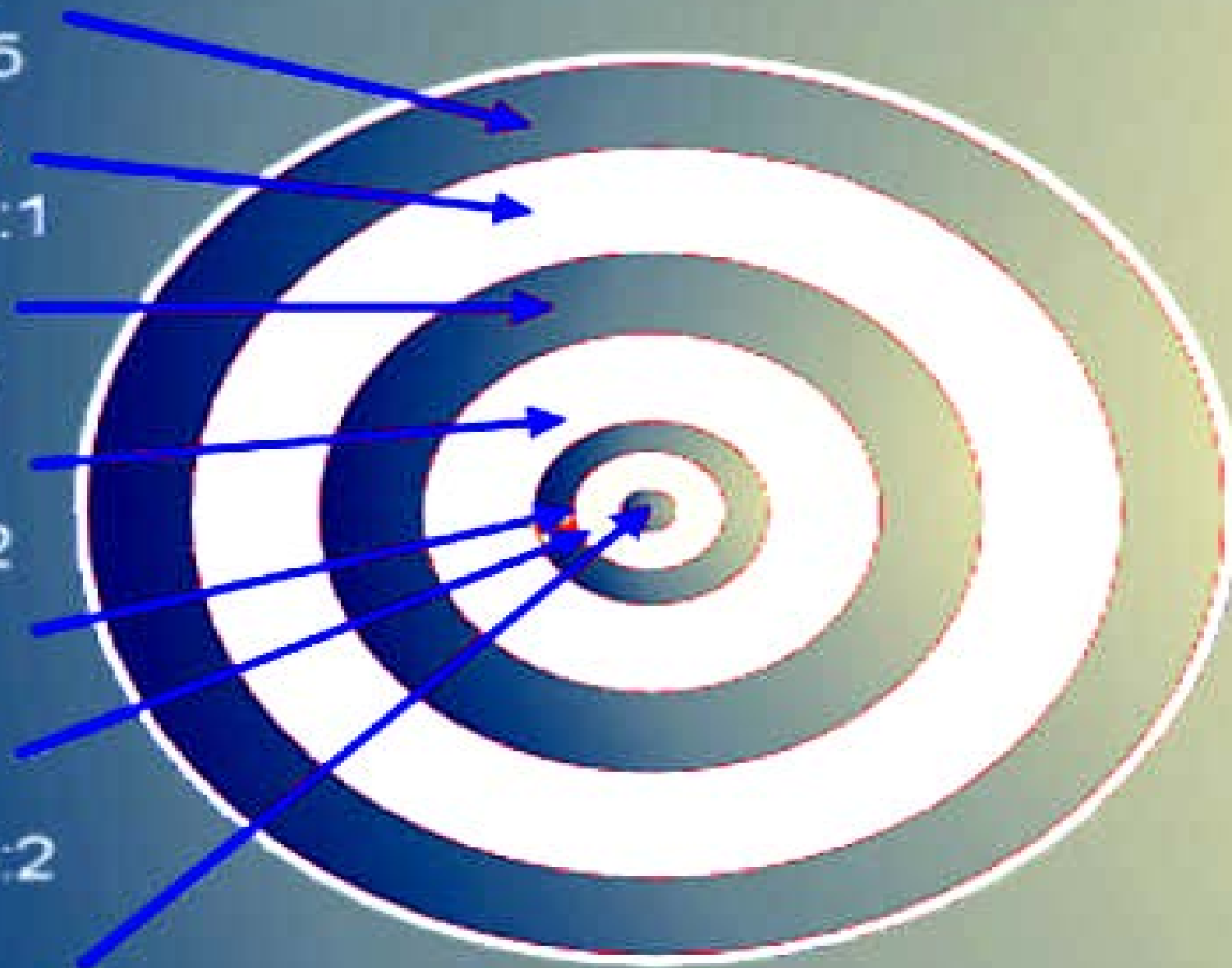
Virgin, Isa 7:14

Where

Bethlehem, Mic 5:2

When

33 A.D., Dan 9:24



STATISTICAL PROBABILITY

- Mathematician, Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, claims the odds of being fulfilled only 60 of them by one person are astronomical!...
- 1 out of ten to the 895th power. (*That is a one over a one followed by 895 zeros.*)



6. Testimony of Archeology

**“PONTIUS PILATE
PREFECT OF JUDEA”
26-37 A.D.
(DISCOVERED 1961)**



BibleTeacher.com

GBennett

- Dead sea scrolls (1947)
- All scrolls were produced prior to 67-73 AD
- Scrolls contain samples of all OT books except Esther



POLITARCHS (ACTS 17:6)

- Since the term is not found in classical Greek literature, it was assumed that Luke was wrong to refer to such an office.
- HOWEVER... 19 inscriptions have now been found that make use of this title.



"A series of crucial discoveries suggest that some of the Bible's more ancient tales are also based firmly on real people and events."
(Time Magazine, Dec 18, 1995, Page 45)



Sir William Ramsey in the late 19th set out to prove that the Bible was a fairy tale. After 30 years of in-depth archaeology in Asia Minor and the Middle East, he came to the exact opposite.

The academic world was shocked! Expecting historical proof against the Bible, it was confronted with strong confirmation of the Bible's accuracy!

Sir William Ramsey called Luke a historian of the first rank and converted to Christianity based on his findings.



EVIDENCE THAT DEMAND A VERDICT

- Testimony of Science - demonstrates it
- Testimony of the eyewitness - confirms it
- Testimony of the manuscripts - preserves it
- Testimony of Christ - verifies it
- Testimony of Stones - supports it
- Testimony of the Spirit - speaks through it
- Testimony of the believer - transformed by it

CONCLUSION

- To reject it as God's Word is more likely due to personal bias than the evidence.
- People do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them

**I believe in the Scriptures as
inspired by The Holy Spirit,
canonized by the Church,
interpreted by the Fathers and
lived by the saints.**

SUGGESTED READING

