

Can we Trust the Gospels?

1 Thessalonians 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.

"The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book" (231).

"The Bible, as we know it today, was collated the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great" (231).

I. The Uniqueness of the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

The Bible was written over a _____-year span by _____ different authors on _____ different continents with _____ unified message.

A. The Bible is supported by _____

1. There have been over _____ archeological discoveries that have validated the accuracy of scripture in what _____ it reports.

2. Renowned Jewish archeologist Nelson Gluck says, "It may be _____ said categorically that no archeological discovery has ever _____ a Biblical reference."

B. The Bible is supported by _____ evidence

1. We have over _____ copies of the New Testament, and the earliest copy we have is less than _____ years after the originals were written.

C. The Bible is supported by prophetic evidence

1. Over 3,000 fulfilled prophecies found in scripture – you can make a case just from prophecy alone on the inspiration of scripture.

2. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies in his birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection.
(very specific: Bethlehem, crucifixion, 30 pieces of silver)

The Acceptance of the Gospels

"More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John among them" (231).

(DVC: product of Nicea, only books that focused on the Divinity of Jesus and diminished women, 80 others to choose from)

1. (Rise of competing faiths, lets put our writings together.

Persecution in Rome, burned or banned.)

2. (apostle were dying.) (apostolic roots)

3. (wide spread us of the N.T. already)

(Ireneus: disciple of Polycarp, discipled by John "Against Heresies" 4 pillars of the faith: Matthew, Mark Luke, John)

4. (Wanted Bible accuracy to be maintained)

(How can we be sure that it is accurate?)

Canon: accumulated writings that had to measure up to an objective standard or rule

A. They are tied to apostles

(Luke companion of Paul)

(Mark: companion of Peter)

B. They are cohesive

(Woven together, Adam sacrificial system)

C. They have wide-spread influence

"We can already say emphatically that there is no longer any solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after 80 a.d." William Foxwell Albright

"And the late Dr. John A.T. Robinson shocked the scholarly world when he announced his strong conviction that the whole of the New Testament was written before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70" (Redating the New Testament).

(O.T. by 400 b.c in greek by 200 b.c.)

(Had to be accepted: Nicea didn't change anything - it only ratified what was already accepted.)

(If they would have changed anything history would have recorded.)

D. They have the power of God upon them

(does it change lives.)

(supernatural sense that god is speaking)

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

(Craig Sheddon, haven't met a person unchanged by Bible, gideons)

The Unreliability of the Gnostic Gospels

(Why Gnostic gospels are not present: (Davinci code states that there are over 80 gospels but only 4 were chosen.)

(Gospel of Thomas, gospel of Mary, Judas

A. They have no specific historical data

(Philosophical talk void of historical setting.)

(Quirneas gov of syria, Caesera, here is what we find, a coin quineras gov of Syria.)

B. They were not written by the names on the book

(Cannon would not accept pseduonym writers , needed to be first century eyewitness account)

C. They are all 2nd and 3rd Century documents

(earliest 150 a.d.)

D. They lack continuity

“ Women are not worthy of life, every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven. Simon Peter: “Let Mary go forth from among us, for women are not worthy of the life. Jesus said: “behold, I shall lead her, that I shall make her male, that she also may become a living spirit like you males for every woman who makes herself male shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.” - Gospel of Thomas 114

INV:

The Bible is unique

In Da Vinci Code Jesus is relegated as a good man not a divine man

The Jesus of the Gospels is a unique. Not to abolish the law but to fulfill it

The righteous will live by faith.

Abraham: promise through your seed

Reinterpret, Reinvent, or Repent

You can trust it for your life
and you can trust it in death.

“Heaven and earth will pass away but my word will stand.” Matthew 24:25

Your standing for eternity depends on your obedience to this word.

2. "The Bible compared with other _____

_____ has more manuscript
classical literature combined." – Josh McDowell

evidence than any ten pieces of

C. The Bible is supported by
_____ evidence

1. Over _____ fulfilled prophecies found in
a case just from prophecy alone on the inspiration of scripture.

scripture – you can make

2. Jesus fulfilled over _____ prophecies in his birth, life,
resurrection.

ministry, death, and

II. The Acceptance of the Gospels

"More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John among them" (231).

Canon: accumulated writings that had to measure up to an objective _____ or _____

- A. They are tied to _____
- B. They are _____
- C. They have wide-spread _____

"We can already say emphatically that there is no longer any solid basis _____ for dating any book of the New Testament after 80 a.d." - William Foxwell Albright

"And the late Dr. John A.T. Robinson shocked the scholarly world when he announced his strong conviction that the whole of the New Testament _____ was written before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70" (Redating the New Testament).

- D. They have the _____ of _____ upon them

(Why Gnostic gospels are not present: (Davinci code states that there are over 80 gospels but only 4 were chosen.)

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III. The Unreliability of the Gnostic Gospels

- A. They have no specific historical _____
- B. They were not written by the _____ on the _____ book
- C. They are all _____ and _____
_____ documents
- D. They lack _____

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Decoding The Da Vinci Code

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Brown, Dan. The Da Vinci Code. New York: DoubleDay, 2003.