

Revelation
James Titus Philemon
Thessalonians
1 Peter
Acts
1 Corinthians
Exodus
Deuteronomy
Zechariah
Ephesians
Timothy
Ruth
1 Kings
John
Genesis
Chronicles
Haggai
Habakkuk
Daniel

Jude
Hebrews
Joshua
Chronicles
Esther
Matthew
Zephaniah
Remiah
Proverbs
1 John
Leviticus
1 John
Obadiah
Hosea
Jude
Philemon
Titus
Peter

1 Samuel
Ezra
Luke
Joel
Colossians
Lamentations
1 Corinthians
Philippian
2 Timothy
2 John
Philippian
Jonah
2 Peter
Amos
Lamentations
Galatians
Songs
Timothy
Zechariah
Numbers
1 Corinthians
Judges
2 Kings
Nahum
Ecclesiastes
2 John
Hebrews
Micah
John
2 Samuel
Numbers
Zechariah
Mark
3 John
Psalm
Timothy
Joel
Ruth
Daniel
Luke
Ephesians
Amos
Roman
Galatians
NEW TESTAMENT

Samuel
Ruth
3 John
Genesis
Remiah
Daniel
Obadiah
Habakkuk
Job
Exodus
Zechariah
Timothy
Haggai
Proverbs
Kings
Acts
Amos
Genesis
Chronicles
Haggai
Habakkuk
Lamentations
Revelation
Deuteronomy
Ruth
2 Timothy
Chronicles
Isaiah
Titus
Ezekiel
Zechariah
Acts
Jude
John
1 Kings
Amos
Genesis
Chronicles
Haggai
Habakkuk
Lamentations
1 John
Titus
Philemon
Colossians
1 Peter
Chronicles
Esther
Matthew
Remiah
1 Kings
Proverbs
2 Corinthians
Ruth
Thessalonians
Genesis
Hebrews
Leviticus

1 Samuel
Hebrews
1 Thessalonians
Joshua
Nahum
Chronicles
Proverbs
Micah
Matthew
James
Peter
Philippian
Philemon
Leviticus
Jonah
1 Peter
Obadiah
Malachi
Songs of Songs
John

1 Corinthians
Numbers
Nahum
Ecclesiastes
Judges
Zechariah
Mark
3 John
Thessalonians
Zephaniah
Leviticus
1 John
Job
Songs of Songs
Jonah
Esther
Jude
Philemon
Titus
Peter
Nahum
1 Kings
Lamentations
1 John
NEW TESTAMENT

2 Kings
Exodus
Deuteronomy
Isaiah
Hosea
Hebrews
Ezra
Lamentations
1 Corinthians
Philippian
Luke
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Matthew
1 John
Luke
Lamentations
2 John
Lamentations

*¹ Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.*

*² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.*

Psalm 1:1-3

How do we know if the Bible is
historically reliable?

The Word (part 1)

Bibliographical Evidence

Author	When written	Earliest copy	Time span	# of copies
Thucydides (history)	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300 yrs.	8
Herodotus	480-425 BC	1100 AD	1400 yrs.	8
Aristotle (poetics)	384-322 BC	1100AD	1400 yrs.	49
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	100-44BC	900AD	1000 yrs.	10
Tacitus (Annals of Imperial Rome)	100 AD	1100 AD	1000 yrs.	20
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 BC	900 AD	1200 yrs.	7
Pliny the Younger (History)	460-400BC	900AD	1300 yrs.	8
Homer (Iliad)	900BC	400BC	500 yrs.	643
New Testament	40-100AD	*Fragment: 130 AD; full copies 3 rd & 4 th century	Fragment: 40 yrs; Full copies: 200-300 yrs.	24,000 (5600 of them are Greek manuscripts)

* John Rylands Manuscript (130 AD)

Internal Evidence

- Eyewitness Accounts

Internal Evidence

- Eyewitness Accounts

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know..." - Acts 2:22

Internal Evidence

- Eyewitness Accounts

²⁴ At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

²⁵ "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?...."

Internal Evidence

- Eyewitness Accounts

“It was not only to friendly witnesses that the early preachers had to reckon with; there were others who were less well disposed who were also conversant with the main facts of the ministry and death of Jesus. The disciples could not afford to risk inaccuracies (not to speak of willful manipulation of the facts), which would at once be exposed by those who would only be glad to do so. On the contrary, one of the strong points in the original apostolic preaching is the confident appeal to the knowledge of the hearers; they not only said, ‘We are witnesses of these things,’ but also, ‘As you yourselves also know’ (Acts 2:22). Had there been any tendency to depart from the facts in any material respect, the possible presence of hostile witnesses in the audience would have served as a further corrective.” (F. F. Bruce)

Internal Evidence

- Eyewitness Accounts
- What about contradictions?
 - Bible Difficulties (Gleason Archer)

Internal Evidence

- Eyewitness Accounts
- What about contradictions?
 - Bible Difficulties (Gleason Archer)
- What about miracles?

External Evidence

- Non-biblical sources

“Hence to suppress the rumor, he falsely charged with the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also.” (Tacitus, *Annals XV. 44*, writing around 100 A.D.)

External Evidence

- Non-biblical sources

“They affirmed, however, that the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternative verse a hymn to Christ as to a god, and bound themselves to a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft, adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up.” (Pliny, Governor of Bithynia, *Epistles X.96*, writing to the emperor Trajan, explaining what the Christians he arrested said to him)

External Evidence

- Non-biblical sources
- Archaeology

Conclusion

- When one looks at the bibliographical, internal & external evidence, the Bible shows concrete characteristics of a historically reliable document