

The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture

- **2 Tim 3:16** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."
- **2 Pet 1:20-21** "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

1. **Its Content** (What's in it?)
2. **Its Composition** (How is it structured?)
3. **Its Canonization** (How it was put together?)
4. **Its Conservation** (Do we have what was originally written? Proof: Abundance, age and accuracy of manuscripts)
5. **Its Credibility** (Is what was written true and reliable? Internal/external evidence: Archaeology and historical literature)
6. **Its Claim** (plenary, verbal inspiration)
7. **Its Corroboration**

Evidences of its divine inspiration:

- *Unity* (despite 40 authors over 1,600 yrs)
- *Sublimity* (self-authentication)
- *Accuracy* (Scientifically and Medically)
- *Prophecy* (100% predictive accuracy)
- *Efficacy* (Ability to totally change lives)

8. Its Character

As Scripture, the Bible has certain characteristics:

a. *Infallibility and Inerrancy*

True theologically, scientifically and historically

b. *Authority and Supremacy*

c. *Eternality and Indestructibility*

d. *Uniqueness and Depth*

View it doctrinally, practically, devotionally, prophetically and typically

e. *Sufficiency and Completeness*

All we need for life: help, instruction and guidance

9. Its "Contradictions"

The Bible has no errors or real contradictions.

Difficulties can be studied and explained.

RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCUMENTS

Author/Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	No. of Copies	Percent Accuracy
Hindu <i>Mahabharata</i>	13th cent. B.C.				90
Homer, <i>Iliad</i>	800 B.C.			643	95
Herodotus, <i>History</i>	480-425 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,350 yrs.	8	7
Thucydides, <i>History</i>	460-400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300 yrs.	8	?
Plato	400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300 yrs.	7	?
Demosthenes	300 B.C.	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,400 yrs.	200	7
Caesar, <i>Gaulic Wars</i>	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,000 yrs.	10	?
Livy, <i>History of Rome</i>	59 B.C.-A.D. 17	4th cent. (partial) mostly 10th cent.	c. 400 yrs. c. 1,000 yrs.	1 partial 19 copies	?
Tacitus, <i>Annals</i>	A.D. 100	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,000 yrs.	20	?
Pliny (Secundus) <i>Natural History</i>	A.D. 61-113	c. 850	c. 750 yrs.	7	?
New Testament	A.D. 50-100	c. 114 (fragment) c. 200 (books) c. 250 (most of N.T.) c. 325 (complete N.T.)	± 50 yrs. 100 yrs. 150 yrs. 225 yrs.	5366	99+

THE NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscript	Date	Content	Present Location
<i>John Rylands Fragment</i>	c. A.D. 125	John's gospel 18:31-33, 37-38	John Rylands Library Manchester, England
<i>Bodmer Papyri</i>	c. A.D. 200	Fragments: 40 pages of John, Jude, Luke, 1 & 2 Peter	Peter Bodmer Library, Cologny, Switzerland (near Geneva)
<i>Chester Beatty Papyri</i>	c. A.D. 250	Major portions of Matthew, John, Mark, Luke, Acts	C. Beatty Museum, Dublin, Ireland
<i>Codex Vaticanus</i>	c. A.D. 325	Most of the Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT)	Vatican Library, Rome
<i>Codex Sinaiticus</i>	c. A.D. 340	Half of OT, most of NT	British Museum, London
<i>Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus</i>	c. A.D. 350	All of NT except 2 John and 2 Thessalonians	National Library, Paris
<i>Codex Bezae (D) Codex Cantabrigiensis</i>	c. A.D. 500	Four Gospels, Acts, 3 John 11-15	Cambridge University Library, England
<i>Codex Claromontanus</i>	c. A.D. 550	Pauline Epistles, Hebrews	National Library, Paris
<i>Codex Coislinianus</i>	c. 6th cent.	Pauline Epistles	Various Libraries (Paris, Moscow, Kiev)