

INTERNAL –

Despite many efforts to cite inaccuracies or disprove certain claims, no factual error in the documents has ever been found.

Note: The writers of the New Testament couldn't afford to be in error concerning the major facts of Jesus, His teachings, etc. There were too many enemies of Christianity that were conversant with the facts who would quickly expose and exploit any discrepancy.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL –

Historians do not consider the absence of the original document a serious obstacle. For example, we don't have the original of any ancient classic Latin or Greek text. Our ancient history books are all written on the basis of copies. No one today has ever seen an original copy of *Romeo and Juliet*, or Plato's *Republic*, yet the bibliographical tests can enable us to determine the existing manuscripts to be accurate copies of the original.

The Bibliographical Test Involves 3 Factors:

- 1- What is the time interval between the original and the earliest copy?
- 2- How many copies of the original exist?
- 3- Do the copies agree in content with each other?

1. Time Interval:	<u>Written</u>	<u>Earliest Copy</u>	<u>Gap</u>
Thucydides / Herodotus	400 b.c.	900 a.d.	1300 yrs.
Caesar's "Commentaries"	50 b.c.	900 a.d.	950 yrs.
Tacitus' "Histories"	100 a.d.	900 a.d.	800 yrs.
Gospels	60 – 100 a.d.	400 a.d.	340 yrs.

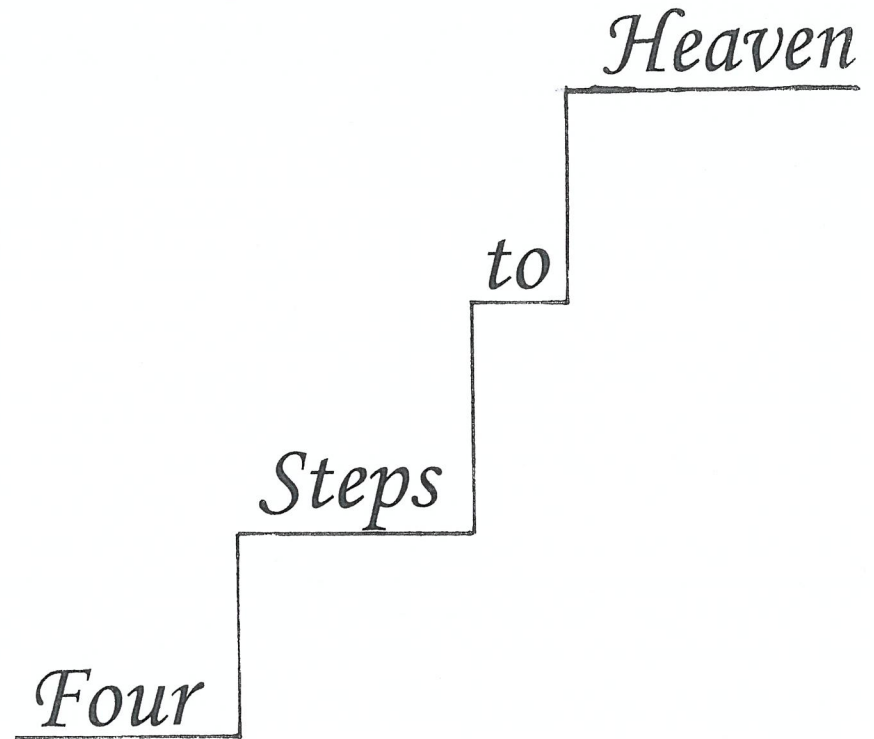
2. Number of Copies

Thucydides / Herodotus	8 copies
Caesar's "Commentaries"	9 or 10 copies
Tacitus' "Histories" (14 vols.)	4 ½ vols.
Tacitus' "Annals" (16 vols.)	10 full, 2 partial vols.
New Testament manuscripts	over 5000 copies

Note: If I will accept the 8 copies of Thucydides / Herodotus with their 1300 year gap, I have no literary basis to reject the New Testament.

3. Do the Copies Agree With Each Other?

Yes...why not study further and discover for yourself?



Introduction

Name _____

Belief in God

Four Solutions to the World's Origin:

- 1) It is an Illusion
- 2) It spontaneously came from nothing
- 3) It had no origin, but has always existed
- 4) It was created by a superior power

Necessary Conclusions if Solutions are True:

- 1) If #1 is correct, then there is no such thing as law, good / evil, justice, responsibility, etc. We cannot be held responsible for our actions, because we in fact do not exist!
- 2, 3) Matter has the capacity to change it's molecular structure and to reproduce or procreate itself, however, matter does not have the ability to create itself from nothing. Nothing comes from nothing.
- 4) The universe demonstrates order and design...this necessarily implies a **designer**. The existence of order demands an intelligent force. The form, function and design of nature all require a creative intelligence and power. The Bible says this creative power is God (**Genesis 1:1**).

Consider this:

Any of these conclusions will demand faith (belief in something not seen or witnessed). If man is an accident, then there is no real meaning or purpose in life. If true, how can a parent convince their child that "getting high", stealing, murder or suicide is wrong? If there is no God, then there is no absolute moral truth. The definition of right / wrong will change with each person and generation.

Is The Bible True?

Some 40 different men wrote 66 books in a period of about 1600 years in different places, at different times, and with virtually little or no knowledge of each other. It was written on 3 different continents and in 3 different languages...yet with no real contradictions. One theme (God's plan of redemption for man) runs harmoniously through the entire collection of these books that is called the Bible. How could this book (with statements of facts unknown to men living at the time of its writing) come from man? Consider the following areas of study...

HISTORY -

The battle of the Kings and the 5 cities of the plain recorded in **Genesis 14:2** were long declared by critics to be a legend. These were later confirmed by the discovery of the Ebla tablets (1964).

PROPHECY -

In **Isaiah 13:19-22; 14:23** the destruction of Babylon was prophesied in 710 B.C. Records of history confirm the destruction in 538 B.C.

ARCHAEOLOGY -

The only known reference to the *Pool of Bethesda* is in the Bible (**John 5:2**). Because it hadn't been found, critics claimed this to be proof the Bible was fraudulent. The pool was later uncovered in 1888.

BIOLOGY -

Leviticus 17:11 says life is in the blood. From 350 B.C. to 1800 A.D. blood-letting was a common practice. Doctors thought blood was the carrier of disease and not life. Until the discovery of plasma in 1900 by Karl Landsteiner, doctors thought there were 5 separate races, each with a distinct nature of blood. Read: **Acts 17:26**

OCEANOGRAPHY -

The water vapor cycle was proposed by Aristotle, considered by Benjamin Franklin and finally proved in 1841. Read: **Job 36:27,28**
Ocean currents were discovered in 1855. Read: **Psalms 8:8**

TESTS FOR ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Every ancient manuscript of literature must pass certain tests before the academic world will accept them as authentic. These tests are:

External - Is there any corroborating evidence that confirms the claims?

Internal - Are there any contradictions or known factual inaccuracies?

Bibliographical - Are the documents faithful reproductions of original?

EXTERNAL -

* *Literary sources* - Tacitus, Suetonius, Lucian, Plinius Secundus, et.al. record the events of Jesus' life & death in agreement w/ the gospels. No historian of that age ever denied the events recorded in the gospels.

* *Archaeology* - Excavated remains of ancient landmarks and victims of Roman crucifixion were found in Palestine as described in gospels.