

# Can I Trust The Bible?

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Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate  
Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

St. Paul Theological Seminary

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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

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# 1. Self Proclamation

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- 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.”

\* God-breathed

\*\* Carried along

## **2. Unity Within Diversity**

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# 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.

# 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)



# 3. Eyewitness Accounts

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- **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.”
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- 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”
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**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

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- 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

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- The Bible has changed the lives of many. No other book can make such a claim.

[http://www.prisonministry.org/testimony\\_inmates.htm](http://www.prisonministry.org/testimony_inmates.htm)

- "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
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# SUMMARY

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

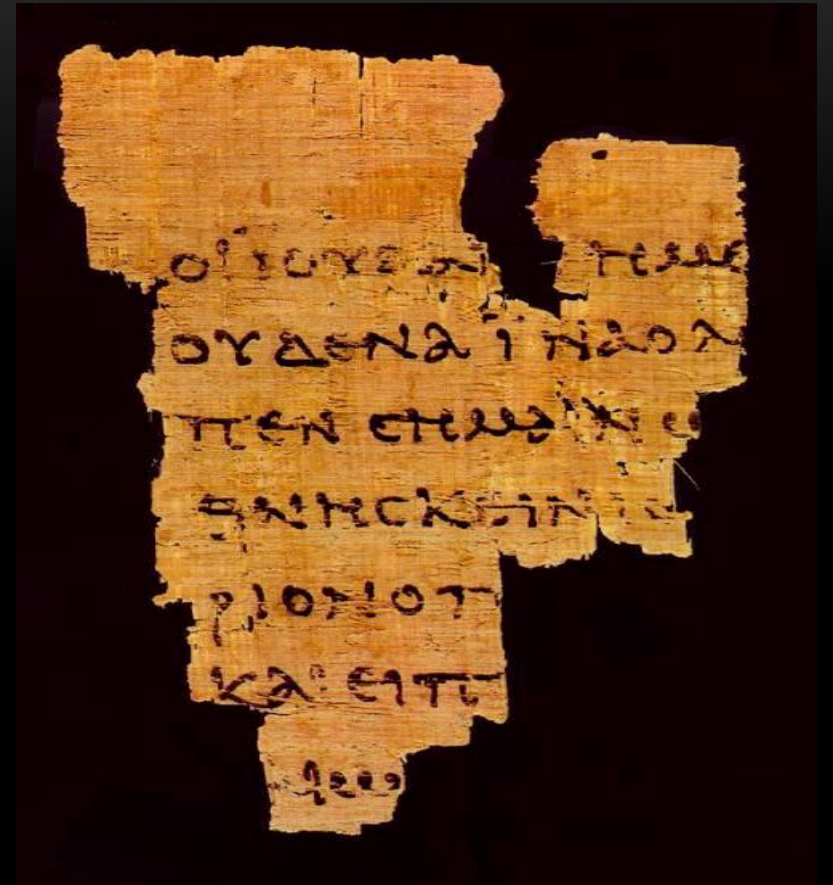
Evidence that is found outside the Bible, such as archaeology, science, and ancient manuscripts.

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# 1. Manuscripts

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- 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



## 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.

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

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- 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

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# 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.”

# 5. Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

## Ethnic Group

Abraham, Gen 12:1

## Tribe

Judah, Gen 49:10

## Dynasty

David, 2 Sam 7:12

## How

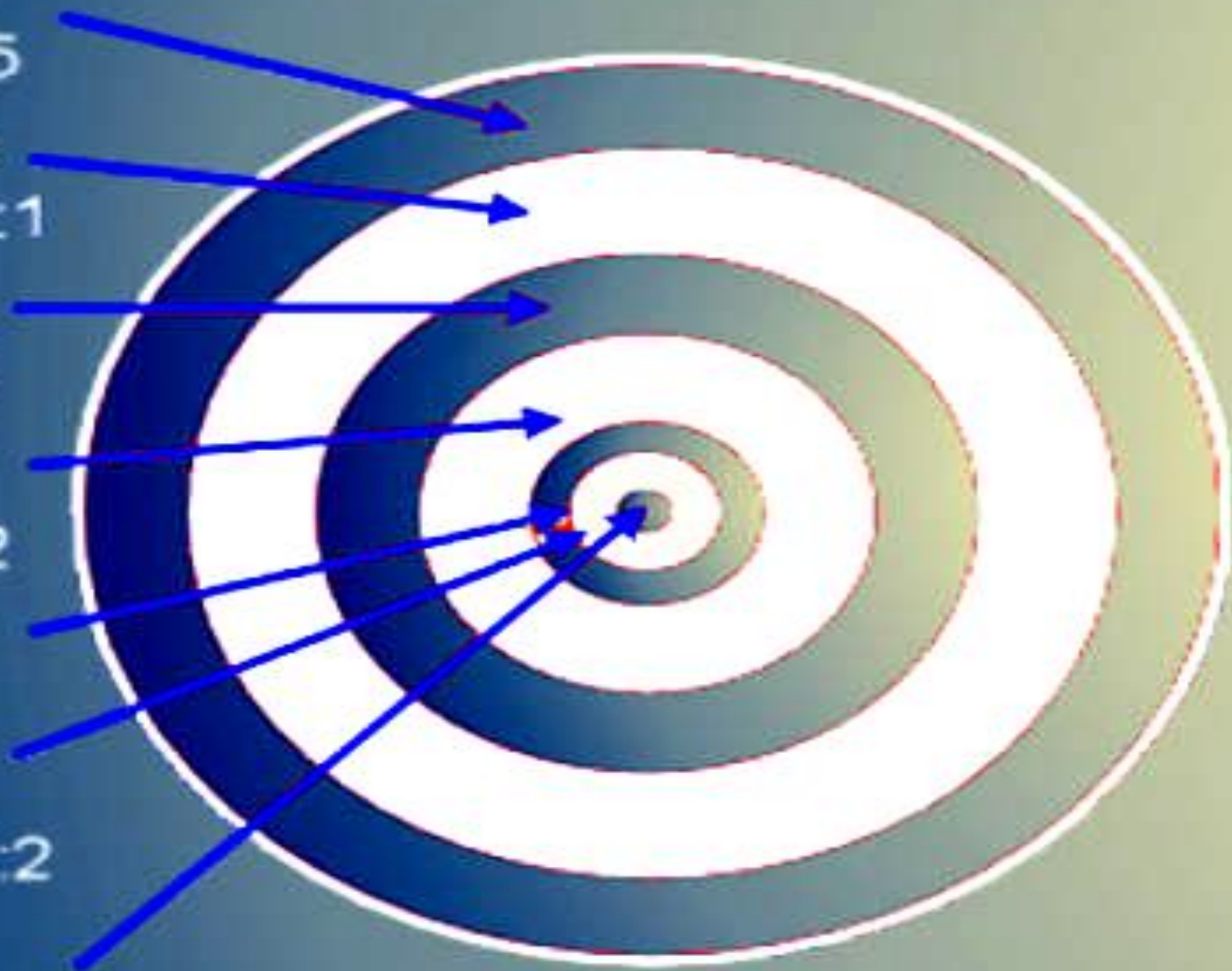
Virgin, Isa 7:14

## 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

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



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



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.



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

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