

## 2 Peter 1:16

3756 [e]	1063 [e]	4679 [e]	3454 [e]	1811 [e]	1107 [e]
Ou	gar	sesophismenois	mythois	exakolouthésantes	egnōrisamen
16 Οὐ	γὰρ	σεσοφισμένοις	μύθοις	ἔξακολουθήσαντες	, ἔγνωρίσαμεν
Not	for	cleverly devised	fables	having followed out	we have made known
Adv	Conj	V-RPM/P-DMP	N-DMP	V-APA-NMP	V-AIA-1P

**μυθοις = mythois**

Greek definition:  
a speech, a story,  
a fable, a myth.

Meaning:

- a myth or false account that poses to be the truth.
- a fabrication or fable which subverts or replaces what is actually true.

4771 [e]	3588 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]	1473 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]	1411 [e]	2532 [e]
hymn	tēn	tou	Kyriou	hēmōn	Iēsou	Christou	dynamin	kai
ὕμνῳ	τὴν	τοῦ	Κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	δύναμιν	καὶ
to you	the	of the	Lord	of us	Jesus	Christ	power	and
PPro-D2P	Art-AFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P	N-GMS	N-GMS	N-AFS	Conj

3952 [e]	235 [e]	2030 [e]	1096 [e]	3588 [e]	1565 [e]	3168 [e]
parousian	all'	epoptai	genēthentes	tēs	ekainou	megaleiōtōtos
παρουσίαν	, ἀλλ'	ἐπόπται	γενηθέντες	τῆς	ἐκείνου	μεγαλειότητος
coming	but	eyewitnesses	having been	-	of His	majesty
N-AFS	Conj	N-NMP	V-APP-NMP	Art-GFS	DPro-GMS	N-GFS

### New International Version

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

### New Living Translation

For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes

### English Standard Version

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

### Berean Study Bible

For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

### Eyewitnesses of His Majesty

15 And I will make every effort to ensure that after my departure, you will be able to recall these things at all times. 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ...

**μυθοις (mythois)** "myths" is also used in:

### 1 Timothy 1:4 -

"As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths h promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith"

### 1 Timothy 4:7 -

"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness"

### 2 Timothy 4:4 -

"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound[a] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

### Titus 1:14 -

"This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth."

## Solid Faith

There is no such thing as blind faith, at least not in the good or useful sense of the phrase. God has always provided enough evidence for you to put your faith in something: his actions, his existence, his word, Jesus' miracles, etc.

An unexamined faith is not worth keeping. When opposition comes, an unexamined belief system or blind faith will quickly collapse and be replaced by something that seems more defensible.

Evidence of the truth will produce faith. Romans 10:17 says:

"Faith comes from hearing the message."

A rational person needs evidence that God exists before he will believe that God exists.

Romans 1:19-20 says:

“Since what may be known about God is plain to them because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse.”

In Matthew 22:37, Jesus says:

“Love the Lord you God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

**Point:** The heart cannot truly believe what the mind rejects.  
The Christian faith goes beyond reason but never against it.

2 Timothy 1:12 says:

“I know whom I have believed.”

## Some Misconceptions Concerning Faith

### Blind Faith

False Statement: Christianity is blind faith or intellectual suicide.

Truth: The Christian faith is based on evidence, and God has always intended it to be that way.  
Consider: creation, the parting of the Red Sea, Jesus’ miracles, etc.

### Objective Faith

False Statement: If you believe something then it is true to you. That is your faith.

Truth: It is not how great you believe something that makes it true, but believing something that is true that makes your faith great. The value of the Christian faith is not in the one believing, but in the one who is believed in. Jesus is the object of our faith.

### Ancient Myths

False Statement: There is virtually no difference between Greek mythology and Christian stories.

Truth: All ancient myths have been exposed long ago, but it is common to see the secular world still trying to undermine Christianity even today. After all the ancient religions have fallen to skeptics, Christianity is still alive and under attack. Myths never claim to have eyewitnesses as Christianity does in 2 Peter 1:16, 1 John 1:1-3, Luke 1:1-3, Acts 1:3, and 1 Corinthians 15:5,6. The Apostles did not try to convince the public of Jesus’ life and death but appealed to them by asking them to recall what they themselves had seen (as in Acts 2:22 and Acts 26:24-28).

### Philosophical Presuppositions

- One of our challenges today is that the modern approach to history is rooted in the philosophical presupposition that there is no God.
- A presupposition is what a person believes before the evidence is looked at.
- Often a person’s presupposition does not allow him to accept the clear evidence or the truth he is being presented.

- This applies not only to non-believers but is an issue for all people including Christians who have presuppositions concerning the interpretation of Scripture.
- Modern historians who presume there is no God consider the gospel account of Jesus and his life as inaccurate because of the miracles and supernatural events.
- The modern philosophical presupposition is that we live in a closed system in which nothing supernatural exists.
- So the modern world begins its “fair and open-minded” investigation of biblical history by rejecting any reference to God or the supernatural.
- The result is that many times modern skeptics are not debating the Christian faith from a position of knowledge or evidence but from presupposed assumptions they refuse to give up. Much of the time this is a reflection of their hearts and not their minds.

### Faith and Reason

Reason moves the will from the outside.

Faith is when a heart gives assent to the evidence.

Faith then moves the will from the inside.

This is why demons can see the evidence but will not be moved by it (James 2:19).

They are against the evidence.

Reason can prove that God exists but cannot convince the unbeliever to believe in God.

Reason allows us to confront the unbeliever with the evidence of truth.

Reason is like describing the sun to a blind man.

He feels the warmth, eats the crops, but can't see the sun.

Faith (or revelation) is like the blind man receiving sight and seeing the sun for himself.

<b>Skeptics' False Philosophical Assumptions with Corrections</b>	
<b>The Skeptics Say:</b>	<b>The Correction:</b>
<b>Cosmologists</b> can explain the origins of the universe without a God.	Science has explained the origins of the universe with one of the following theories: Big Bang, Oscillation, and Static Universe. All three theories conflict with each other, and they all require the existence of material and a First Cause before they pick up. In other words, even <b>cosmologists</b> demand the existence of a “God” before their theories can take over explanations.
<b>Archaeologists</b> have shown the Bible to be a legend at best.	<b>Archaeologists</b> have repeatedly proven the Bible to be accurate in regard to location, cultures, language, events and geography.
The Bible is too primitive for <b>modern society</b> to use.	<b>Western society</b> is based on the Bible. Our advanced culture which includes science, education, industry, technology, medicine and much more developed in a society based on Biblical principles.
People in the past have used God to explain the unexplainable. Today we have science to replace the <b>myths</b> .	<b>Myths</b> were part of the ancient world. Indeed, urban myths develop even in our own time. The existence of myth does not mean that history is not occurring and being recorded accurately at the same time.
<b>Philosophically</b> , the concept of God is unthinkable. The existence of God cannot be proved in any arena.	Actually, <b>philosophically</b> , the concept of God is an absolute necessity.

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made.”

<b>The Universe Appears As:</b>	<b>First Cause (God) Must Be:</b>
Limitless Space	Infinite
Unending Time	Eternal
Perpetual Motion	Omnipotent
Unbordered Variety	Omnipresent
Infinitely Complex	Omniscience
<b>People Have:</b>	<b>First Cause (God) Must Be:</b>
Personality	Personal
Feelings	Emotional
Will	Volitional
Ethics	Moral
System of Right and Wrong	Holy
System of Justice	Just
Love	Loving
Life	Living

The above descriptions of the creation and human creatures reflect a First Cause, or a God that exactly matches the God described in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures. Whoever God is, his character and his qualities must be seen in creation itself. If what a person describes as “god” is not compatible with the created world then that “god” is not the True God.

No other ancient writings have been so accurately handed down with such an abundance of textual evidence.

<b>Refuting Higher Criticism’s Claims Against the Old Testament</b>	
<b>Higher criticism is full of high-sounding technical discussions that are based on these false presuppositions:</b>	<b>Archaeology, Linguistics, Anthropology, etc. confirm the Old Testament’s accuracy and refute the false presuppositions of higher criticism:</b>
Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because <b>writing</b> was unknown in his day (1400 BC).	Archaeological discoveries have confirmed that <b>writing</b> was very common even among housewives before Abraham (2000 BC). Excavation in Abraham’s hometown of Ur has uncovered thousands of clay volumes and a library.
The evolution of man’s cultural development does not agree with the Bible’s account of Israel’s high <b>civilization</b> and literary abilities at such an early period (writing, religious, social, monarch, family structure, etc.).	Evidence is uncovered daily revealing the advanced state of ancient <b>civilizations</b> and technology not only in Bible lands but around the world.
The <b>miracle</b> stories of Genesis, Exodus, Kings, Jonah, etc. were derived from ancient myths copied into the Bible.	The Old Testament is a historical narrative. The <b>miracles</b> are part of recorded history. A bias against miracles is NOT a sign of intellect or intelligence, but rather a presupposition against God. If God exists, then miracles are not only possible, they are probable.
Fulfilled <b>prophecy</b> is also a miracle, and therefore impossible. Any miracle or prophecy in the Scripture is a fabricated legend and destroys the validity of the scriptural account.	Fulfilled <b>prophecy</b> does not have to be limited to events in the Bible. We see prophecies given in Scripture being fulfilled in our own day and age: the Jews, the church, etc. These give credence to the prophecies made and fulfilled in the past.

### JEPD

Higher criticism says there were four different writers of the book of Genesis. They are referred to as J, E, P and D. The writers are believed (by the critics) to have written at different times during the years of 900–600 BC. This false theory was developed between 1806–1878.

**Proving the Authenticity of the New Testament Documents**

**A. Effects Must Have a Cause**

Something significant must have happened around 30 AD because:

- a. 2,000 years of church history resulted
- b. Christianity has had a huge impact on world history
- c. There are millions of personal testimonies of changed lives

**POINT:** All history, every bit that we now know of, came from written records. The effect we see today and throughout 2,000 years of history tells us that around 30 AD there was a powerful cause that began this powerful effect.

**B. Quality and Quantity of Available Manuscripts**

**What is a Manuscript?**  
 A manuscript (abbreviation—ms. or plural mss.) is a handwritten copy of an ancient document. Before there were printing presses or copy machines all documents were written by hand. New Testament manuscripts, or New Testament mss., are copies of the New Testament books that were first made in the first century and continued to be made until the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450 AD.

No other document from antiquity even begins to approach the number of available manuscripts for the New Testament. For example:

- 1. Homer's "Illiad".
  - a. There are 643 remaining manuscripts of Homer's "Illiad".
  - b. The "Illiad" has the second most existing manuscripts. The New Testament is first.
- 2. In comparison, there are a total of 48,600 manuscripts of the New Testament.
  - a. 5,686 are Greek manuscripts
  - b. 10,000 are Latin Vulgate manuscripts
  - c. 9,300 are other earlier versions
  - d. 24,000 are manuscript portions of the New Testament

**Available Manuscripts of Other Writings from Antiquity**

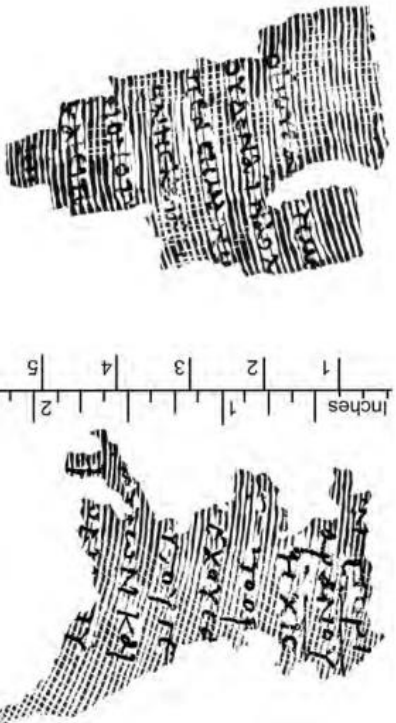
Title of Document	Number of Available Manuscripts
Tactius "History"	5
Plato "Tetralogies"	7
Thucydides "History"	8
Herodotus "History"	8
Caesar "Gallic Wars"	10
Aristotle	49
Homer "Illiad"	643
New Testament	5,686 Greek plus 40,000 others

**C. Time Lapse**

- 1. Time lapse is the amount of time between when something was originally written and the time of the oldest written copy, or manuscript, of the original.
- 2. Time lapse between original document and earliest existing New Testament manuscript is amazing when compared to the time lapse of other ancient documents.

3. For example, the time lapse for the book of John is about 30 years (85–115 AD).

Author	Document	Date of Writing	Name of MS	MS Date of Writing	Time Lapse
Caesar	Gallic Wars	58-50 BC	58-50 BC	oldest MS Date	Time Lapse
Tactius	Historiae	100 AD	85 AD	85 AD	170 years
Thucydides	History	480-400 BC	480-400 BC	900 AD	1,300 years
Herodotus	History	488-428 BC	488-428 BC	850 AD	1,300 years
Plato	Tetralogies	427-347 BC	427-347 BC	900 AD	1,250 years
Aristotle		384-322	384-322	1100 AD	1,400 years
<b>Time Lapse Comparison of Some New Testament Books</b>					
NT Book	Date of Writing	Name of MS	MS Date of Writing	Time Lapse	
John	85 AD	John Ryland's MS	115 AD	30 years	
John	85 AD	Bodmer Papyrus II	150-200 AD	65-115 years	
Most of NT	45-95 AD	Chester Beatty Papyri	150-200 AD	55-115 years	
Bible w/ NT	45-95 AD	Codex Vaticanus	325 AD	250-280 years	
Bible w/ NT	45-95 AD	Codex Sinaiticus	350 AD	275-305 years	



John 18:31-33 and 37-38 from 115 AD / Fragment of Revelation from Oxyrhynchos

**Some Important New Testament Manuscripts**

- John Ryland's Manuscript
- Bodmer Papyrus
- Chester Beatty Papyri
- Diatessaron
- Codex Vaticanus
- Codex Sinaiticus
- Codex Alexandrinus
- Ephraemi Rescriptus
- Oxyrhynchos Papyri

<p><b>What is Papyrus?</b> Papyrus is a plant that grows along the Nile Delta in Egypt. The long stems of the plant were used to make a paper-like material to write on. Many of the ancient manuscripts we have discovered were written on papyrus.</p>
<p><b>What is Parchment?</b> Parchment is a writing material made from the skins of animals like sheep, goats or calves. When pieces of parchment were made into pages and attached like a book, it was called a codex.</p>

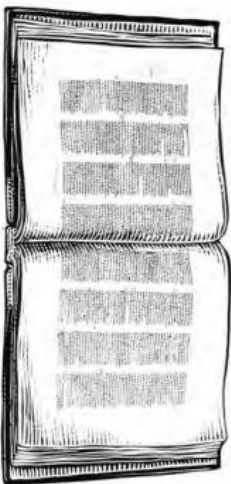
**D. Early Translations**

1. Ancient literature was rarely translated into other languages.
2. The Syrian and Latin translations of the New Testament were made about 150 AD.

**E. Early Church Fathers**

1. We have letters and writings from men who knew and heard the apostles.
2. These men quoted the New Testament documents in their writings during the years 70–150 AD.

3. The quotes in their writings testify to what was in the New Testament documents in the first century.
4. These men would not have:
  - a. Tolerated a change in the apostles' writings or teachings
  - b. Quoted from a book that was written by an imposter who wasn't an apostle
  - c. Altered or added to the teachings or the words



Codex Sinaiticus from 325 AD

**Internal Confirmation to New Testament Authenticity**

1. Paul always begins his epistles with his name and claims authorship.
2. Coincidences that run throughout the New Testament books prove Paul was the author. Many references to people, places, and situations in the book of Acts match with those from Paul's epistles.
3. Linguistic evidence is consistent with the authors:
  - a. Paul's style and vocabulary remains the same in all his books.
  - b. This is clearly true of John as well in his use of words like "light" and "word."
4. Archaeology and anthropology confirm the places and customs recorded in the Bible.
5. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek and not Classical Greek.
  - a. Stories, poems and legends were written in Classical Greek.
  - b. Letters, notes, bills, etc. were written in Koine Greek, which was the language of common life. This was discovered and proven in the 1800s.