

Is the Bible Trustworthy?

Compare the New Testament to the *Iliad* by Homer.

- 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of New Testament, more than any other ancient book. The *Iliad* is second with only 630 surviving manuscripts.
- The earliest portions of New Testament were written within 30 years of the events. The *Iliad* was written after a gap of 500 years.
- The New Testament has about 20,000 lines, with only 40 lines in question (0.5%). The *Iliad* has about 15,600 lines with 764 lines in question (5%).
 - A careful study of the few questioned passages in the New Testament reveals that none of them affect a single doctrine of Scripture.
- If we question the accuracy of the New Testament, we must question the accuracy of every other ancient book.

The accuracy of the Bible.

- Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest complete Hebrew manuscripts were dated 900 AD.
- In the Dead Sea Scrolls was a complete text of the book of Isaiah, dated approximately 125 B.C., over one thousand years older.
- Comparing the two, there is only one word (3 letters) in question after 1000 years.
- Even though the Old Testament texts were copied by hand for hundreds of years, they have survived with almost complete accuracy.

How reliable were the authors writing the books?

- They wrote as eyewitnesses or from first-hand information. (See Luke 1:1-3; II Peter 1:16; I John 1:3; Acts 2:22, and others).
- The people they were preaching to, both enemies and friends, also were witnesses and knew they were telling the truth.
- Many other ancient historians, both Christian and non-Christian, agree with the writings of the New Testament. If the disciples had been writing inaccuracies, many people would have been quick to discredit them.

These notes were extracted from *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell, published by Here's Life Publishers, Inc., San Bernadino, CA.