

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* (Power 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. Uniqueness and Depth

Can be viewed doctrinally, practically, devotionally, prophetically and typically

d. Sufficiency and Completeness

All we need for life: help, instruction and guidance

a. Eternality and Indestructibility

9. Its “Contradictions”

The Bible has no errors or real contradictions.

Difficulties can be studied and explained. Read

Alleged Discrepancies by John Haley or *When*

Critics Ask by Norman Geisler

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	?
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	?
Caesar, <i>Galic 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)