

Bible Series #4: reliability of the Bible.

Evidence alone will never be enough to convince someone that God's Word is authoritative.

Internal Evidence- Bible authors cared that they wrote _____.

Lk 1.1-4, Jn 21.24, Acts 1.3

Example: During 3 years of ministry in the midst of political turmoil, Luke managed to get all the official's names and titles correct.

Archaeological evidence

Has never _____ the Bible, though it has forced us to reconsider our interpretations. (ie. how do we translate numbers in the Exodus)

Other sources

Josephus: wrote a _____ for the Roman government.

Included Jesus, his brother James, John the Baptist, and Herod's Death.

Mishnah: Jewish law book, described Jesus as one who leads good Jews astray.

Problems with Paper

Doesn't _____

Any copy of an ancient document is significant.

Documents with more copies today had _____ more copies originally.

Sanctity of God's word

Scribes knew that what they wrote mattered. They weren't copying newspapers.

Which scribal rule sticks out to you the most?

Some Facts about Biblical Manuscripts (MSS)

Number of Gk MSS for the New Testament _____

Number of Latin MSS for the New Testament _____

A comparison of ancient literature:

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# of copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900	1000	_____
Tacitus	_____	1100	1000	20
Pliny (history)	61-113 AD	850	_____	7
Herodotus	480-425 BC	_____	1300	8
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100	1400	_____
New Test.	49-95 AD	125	30-100	14000