

The Bible is Myth, Not History (Luke 1:1-4; page 855)

“...that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught” (Lk 1:4)

1. The Bibliographical Test

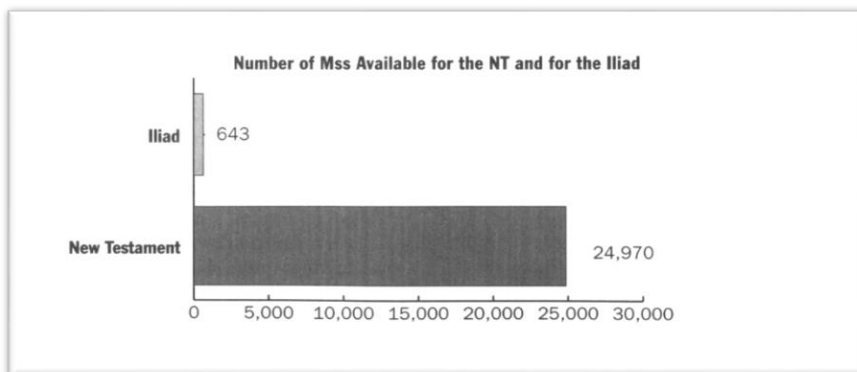
Extant Greek Manuscripts:

Uncials	307
Minuscules	2,860
Lectionaries	2,410
Papyri	109
SUBTOTAL	5,686

Manuscripts in Other Languages:

Latin Vulgate	10,000+
Ethiopic	2,000+
Slavic	4,101
Armenian	2,587
Syriac Pashetta	350+
Bohairic	100
Arabic	75
Old Latin	50
Anglo Saxon	7
Gothic	6
Sogdian	3
Old Syriac	2
Persian	2
Frankish	1

SUBTOTAL 19,284+
TOTAL ALL MSS 24,970+



AUTHOR	BOOK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	NO. OF COPIES
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 yrs.	643
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>Gallic 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. A.D. 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

2. The External Evidence Test

- Documentary Evidence
 - Seutonius confirms the expulsion of the Jews from Rome (Acts 18)
 - Pliny the Younger writes the Emperor Trajan about Christianity's expansion and persecution in Bythinia (see 1 Peter 1:1)
 - Tacitus writes about Nero conveniently blaming the fire of Rome on Christians
- Archaeological Artifacts
 - Luke 3:1-3: Pilate Inscription discovered in 1961. Lysanius Inscription.
 - Acts 21:27-35: Gentile in the temple? Temple Inscriptions.
 - EM Blaiklock: "Luke is a consummate historian to be ranked in his own right with the great writers of the Greeks"
 - Sir William Ramsey: "Luke is a historian of the first rank. Not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy. This author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

3. The Internal Evidence Test

- They know the difference between truth & error, history & fable
 - Luke 1:1-4
 - 2 Pet 1:16
 - John 21:24
- In a belief system wholly opposed to falsehood, they claim to write truth
 - Exodus 20:16 (9th commandment); Ephesians 4:25
 - John 19:35
- The Gospels are written by early eyewitnesses or associates
- The timing is too early for the Gospels to be legend
- The literary form of the Gospels is too detailed to be legend
- The minor variations in the Gospels are not contradictions but indications of authentic selective reporting
- The Gospels omit too many important subjects to be fabricated
- The Gospels contain too many counterproductive features to be fabricated

"I write these things that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name" – John 20:31