

# The Reliability of the New Testament

<https://carm.org/manuscript-evidence>

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
<b>Lucretius</b>	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	----
<b>Pliny</b>	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	----
<b>Plato</b>	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	----
<b>Demosthenes</b>	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	----
<b>Herodotus</b>	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
<b>Suetonius</b>	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	----
<b>Thucydides</b>	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
<b>Euripides</b>	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	----
<b>Aristophanes</b>	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	----
<b>Caesar</b>	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	----
<b>Livy</b>	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	---
<b>Tacitus</b>	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	----
<b>Aristotle</b>	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	----
<b>Sophocles</b>	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	----
<b>Homer (Iliad)</b>	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
<b>New Testament</b>	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

## **Can the Bible Be Trusted? Isn't it full of errors?**

### ① *the reliability of the Bible: looking at the Bible*

1. considering the Bible as an ancient book (bibliographic test)
  - a. quantity of manuscripts
  - b. quality of manuscripts
  - c. time span of manuscripts
2. considering what the Bible says about itself (internal test)  
(Jn. 19:35; 1 Jn. 1, 3; 2 Pet. 1:16)
3. considering how others authenticate the Bible (external test)
4. considering the Bible's uniqueness

