

Question #5 Can you close your Bible and prove to me that Jesus really existed?

Many people falsely believe that Jesus is not identified in ancient records other than the Bible.

Actually the life of Jesus is recorded in whole or in part in different segments in over (17) _____ different non-Christian sources; archaeological or historical that are outside of the New Testament.

But you put them all together and there are approximately (18) _____ facts concerning the life, death, resurrection, teaching of Jesus and the early church. You can get an outline of his life and never touch the New Testament.

NO OTHER BOOK

No book can be rightfully compared to the Bible. No book has changed so many lives, so many cultures, so many nations!



“The New Testament is the best book the world has ever known or will know.”

-Charles Dickens



There is a small book: one can put it in one’s pocket, and yet all the libraries of America, numerous as they are, would hardly be large enough to hold all the books which have been inspired by this one little volume. The reader will know what I am speaking of; it is the Bible, as we are used to call it – The Book, the book of mankind, as has properly been called.”

- Ernst von Dobschutz,

“The Influence of the Bible on Civilization”

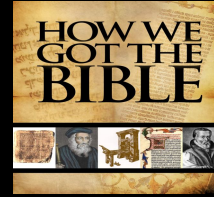


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Pastors Jerry and Jeremy Johnston’s Sermon
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
“Doubters, Skeptics, & Cynics: Answering the 5 Greatest Objections of the Bible”
Message #4 in the series, “How We Got the Bible”
Bible Text: I Peter 3:15

Bible Text: 1 Peter 3:15, p. 2122 in the Nelson Study Bible

Bible Text: 1 Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

- Current research indicates that up to (1) _____ percent of Christian kids lose their faith in college.
- The word apologetics does not mean, “to apologize,” but to give a (2) _____ of what one believes to be true.

Question #1 What if the Bible had never been written?

The impact of the Bible on our culture, on our nation, on world history has been enormous.

“Our civilization is founded upon the Bible. More of our ideas, our wisdom, our philosophy, our literature, our art, our ideals come from the Bible than from all other books combined.” -William Lyons, Author and former Yale Professor

- The Bible has (3) _____ people from all walks of life!



“The Bible is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by God on the children of men. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture for its matter. It is all pure, all sincere; nothing too much; nothing wanting.”

-John Locke

- The Bible has held back (4) _____ and anarchy in our societies.
- The Bible has shaped the institution of (5) _____.
- The Bible has impacted the greatest (6) _____ of the world.

- The Bible has impacted (7) _____ and some of the greatest authors of all time!
- The Bible has impacted (8) _____ things we take for granted!

Question #2 Isn't the Bible full of errors and contradictions?



“There is more evidence for the reliability of the text of the New Testament as an accurate reflection of what was initially written [the autographs] than there is for any ten pieces of classical literature put together”
-Apologist Josh McDowell

- Alleged bible mistakes usually result from violating a principle of how to (9) _____ literature.

Question #3 Why Should We Reject Religious Writings Other Than the Bible?

ARE OTHER RELIGIOUS WRITINGS EQUAL OR SUPERIOR TO THE BIBLE?

One of the common denominators of non-Christian religions is that the Bible is not God's final revelation. Many groups teach that their particular prophets have been inspired by God to write new revelation that supersedes Scripture.

The Christian response to this claim takes four steps:

- Define the (10) _____ of a prophet.
- Determine the (11) _____ of a prophet's revelation.
- Examine what the Bible says about “new” (12) _____.
- Compare the Jesus of (13) _____ with the Jesus promoted by other prophets.

Question #4 Were the stories about Jesus from the New Testament written from eyewitness accounts?

EYEWITNESS — one who bears witness by giving a (14) _____ of what he has seen (2 Pet. 1:16). The apostles did not receive the gospel second-hand but “were eyewitnesses of the word” (Luke 1:2) that they received personally from Jesus Christ.

αὐτόπτης [*autoptes* /ow-top-tace/] - translates as “eyewitness” once. 1 seeing with one's own eye, an eye-witness. In a medical term: (15) _____, a detailed examination. One who has seen with his own eyes, an eyewitness (Luke 1:2).

- There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament written by 8 different authors, all eyewitnesses or (16) _____ of the events they recorded.
- When threatened by the authorities the apostles said, “We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).
- Peter claimed to be a witness of Jesus (1 Peter 5:1).
- *In 2 Peter 1:16 he wrote, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (KJV).*
- The author of the Fourth Gospel said, “*And he that saw [it] bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe” (John 19:35 KJV).*
- He adds, “*This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true” (John 21:24 KJV).*
- Indeed, John claimed about Christ: “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life. . . . That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you . . .” (1 John 1:1, 3 KJV).*
- And Luke said, “*Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word” (Luke 1:1–2 KJV).*



“If he [the biblical critic] tells me that something in a Gospel is legend or romance, I want to know how many legends and romances he has read, how well his palate is trained in detecting them by the flavour; not how many years he has spent on that Gospel...I have been reading poems, romances, vision-literature, legends, myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know that not one of them is like this [a gospel].”
-C.S. Lewis