



The Rock of Scripture

The Enlightenment (1685-1815)

(also known as “the age of reason”)

Part 1: How it undermined truth

Part 2: How it undermined belief in God as Creator

Part 3: How it undermined belief in God as Designer

Part 4: How it undermined belief in the Bible as the Word of God

Question 1: Do we have what was originally written?

3 tests for ancient manuscripts:

Proximity – How close are they to the original?

Frequency – How many ancient hand-written copies are there?

Accuracy – How significant are the differences?

How do other ancient books compare to the Bible?

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
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	4 th Cent. (partial) mostly 10th cent.	c. 400 yrs c. 1000 yrs	1 partial 19 copies
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	A.D. 100	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,000 yrs	20
Pliny the Younger	<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 NT) c. 325 (complete NT)	+50 yrs 100 yrs 150 yrs. 225 yrs.	5366

Codex Sinaiticus – Complete NT

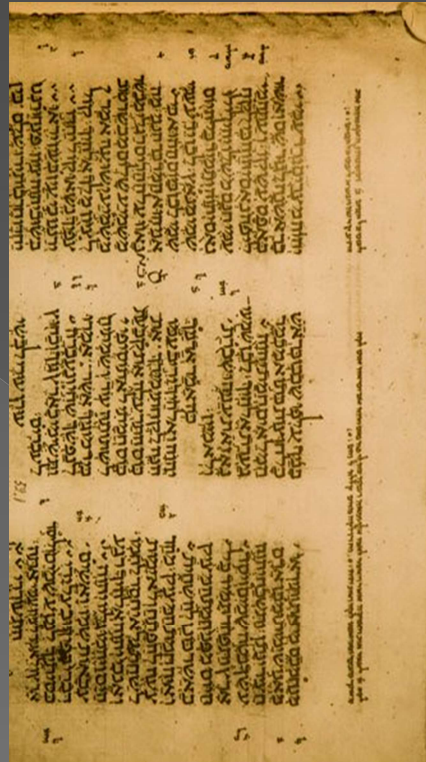
The British Library (Dated 325AD)



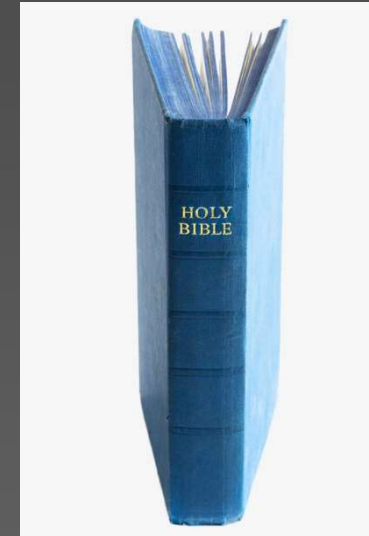
125BC



900AD



2019AD



Do we have what Isaiah wrote?



Question 2: Is it trustworthy?

1. Internal evidence

2. External evidence

i. Archaeology

ii. Contemporary literature

Tacitus (1st Century's most important Roman historian)

Writing in AD 115 (Annals 15.44)

“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus.”

Is the Bible the Word of God?

- 1. The Bible's self-attestation**
- 2. The Bible's self-authentication**
 - i. Beauty and excellency
 - ii. Power and efficacy
 - iii. Unity and Harmony
 - iv. Predictive accuracy