

- ii. How consistent are the manuscripts?
 - 1. Though there are many textual variants, most are of minor importance
 - a. Could be the spelling of a name
 - b. Doesn't mean there's errors in autographs, just variants in copies
 - 2. Major variants
 - a. Example: Matt 5:22, Eph 1:1, Jhn 7:53 – 8:11
 - b. If we completely remove (or accept all of) the variant texts, the essential doctrines of the NT go unchanged
- iii. 3rd Question – What's the time interval between Autograph & the extant copies?
- d. Ancient examples of documents transmitted
 - i. Plato wrote Tetralogies circa 427-347 B.C.
 - 1. Earliest copy is from 900 A.D. (1200 yr gap)
 - 2. We have a total of 7 manuscripts
 - ii. Aristotle wrote his Poetics circa 343 B.C.

1. Earliest copy is from 1100 A.D. (1400 yr gap)
2. We have a total of 5 manuscripts
- iii. Caesar's History of the Gallic Wars circa 55 B.C.
 1. Earliest copy is from 900 A.D. (1000 yrs gap)
 2. We have a total of 10 manuscripts
- iv. Tacitus' Annals of Imperial Rome circa 116 A.D.
 1. Earliest copy is from 850 A.D. (700 yr gap)
 2. We have a total of 20 manuscripts
- e. What about the N. T.'s Bibliography?
 - i. Written between 55 – 95 A.D., earliest copies are from 130 A.D. (35-75 yr gap)
 - ii. We have a total of 5600 manuscripts
 - iii. 2nd most manuscripts of any document from Antiquity is Homer's Iliad with 643 copies
- f. If someone chooses not to accept the New Testament bibliographically, they are forced to discard *every ancient document known to man*