

May 4 & 5, 2019

REASONS to BELIEVE

New Testament Formation

1. Actual events went down.
2. Oral stories were passed around.
3. Authors eventually wrote them down.
4. Documents were then copied down.
5. Church leaders organized and bound.

Luke 1:1-4 *...just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you...*

How close is our New Testament to that of the original document?

Three Criteria that Affect Confidence

1. Age – older preferred over younger
2. Amount – more preferred over less
3. Errors – less preferred over more

AGE – time span between the original and oldest copy

Homer:

Plato:

New Testament:

What does the age of these documents tell us?

The NT copies are more reliable than their ancient counterparts since they are closer to the original author.

AMOUNT – The number of copies older than the 1500s
Homer:

Plato:

New Testament:

What do the vast amount of these documents tell us?

Something incredibly important took place.

There are more documents to cross check for any errors that may exist.

ERRORS – Differences between copies

Linear percentage of success:

Parallel percentage of success:

What do these errors tell us?

There are no errors that have theological significance.

The errors that do exist can be cross checked with vast amount of manuscripts and resolved using common sense.

CONCLUSIONS

We can have supreme confidence that the New Testament has been preserved.

Our greatest confidence as Christians is in an event that really happened.

