

What are the Challenges? Understanding How We Got Our Bible

Wednesday Night, December 27th, 2023

Rebuttals to the Christian Scriptures:

1. Poor verbal transmission
2. Alteration of the Original Wording
3. Questionable authorship
4. Errors
5. Miracles

Luke 1:1-4

Poor Verbal Transmission:

What is the claim from critical scholars?

Bart Erhman: Essentially, before the gospels were written, there was an oral tradition in which the gospel message was passed down by word-of-mouth, and underwent change over time...

Poor Verbal Transmission:

What is the claim from critical scholars?

Bart Erhman: . . . Thus, when we get the gospel accounts in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John their message is “accurate” to the degree that the story has changed so much that it is no longer trustworthy.

Poor Verbal Transmission:

What is the claim from critical scholars?

Bart Erhman: In other words, before the Gospel authors wrote their accounts, the message was like the phone game that made Jesus far more than he actually was (so Bart claims)

Poor Verbal Transmission:

What is the claim from critical scholars?

The claim goes further!

Not only are the verbal recollections untrustworthy, but the eyewitness accounts then became exaggerated — Jesus' miracles, resurrection, and such alike were blown out of proportion

Poor Verbal Transmission:

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Scripture, itself, tells us about attempts to
change the story of Jesus:

Matthew 28:11-15

The question must be asked:

Is it possible to have an accurate account of what happened in the life of Jesus and are the resources gathered telling the truth?

Gary Habbermas, Ph.D,
Prof at Liberty University

Lecture in 2020 at New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary about the early Creeds

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=gisWsQGiV5c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gisWsQGiV5c)

Poor Verbal Transmission:

Is there verbal transmission of Christian teaching that made its way into scripture?

- Acts 3:13-15, 13:28-31
- 1 Corinthians 8:6, 11:23, 15:3-4
- Philippians 2:5-8
- Romans 1:2-4

In essence, here's what we know:

- (Some of) These early creeds come within the same month/year of Jesus' crucifixion
- Some of these creeds are prior to Paul's journey on the Damascus road
- These creeds were in circulation well before the Epistles were written and the earliest Epistle which is around AD 49

Why does this conversation matter?

1. Knowing this information strengthens our own faith because we know even smaller elements about the faith are present and are early and are accurate
2. Such knowledge arms us to be firm against unbelievers either in witnessing or in defending the faith we hold dear!

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