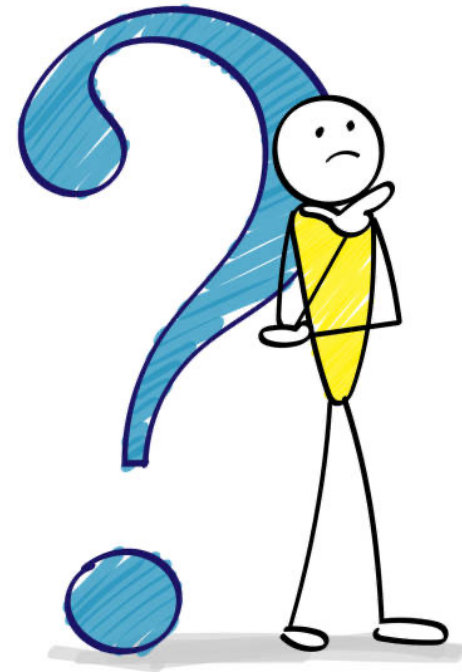




Contend for  
the Faith: Is  
the Bible  
Reliable?

# Why Does it Matter?

- ▶ Apologetics, why are they important?
  - ▶ We aren't going to "intellectually fact someone into being saved." (Eph. 2:8 – 10)
  - ▶ Give an answer (1 Pet. 3:15)
- ▶ Shore up our own faith
  - ▶ Be Bereans! (Acts 17:11)
  - ▶ Examine yourselves (2 Cor. 13:5)
  - ▶ Are you in the Faith? Are you staying in the Faith? Running the race? (Heb. 12:1 – 3)
- ▶ **DO NOT LOSE HEART AND FALL AWAY!!** (1 Tim. 4:1 – 5)





# Bibliology: What is the Bible?



- ▶ God's Special Revelation to Mankind (Psalm 19; Heb. 1:1 – 2)
- ▶ A collection of 66 books
  - ▶ 39 Old Testament
    - ▶ Written from about 1400 – 400 BC
  - ▶ 27 New Testament
    - ▶ Written from about AD 45 – AD 100
  - ▶ Non-Inspired Books (NOT part of the Bible)
    - ▶ Apocrypha and various “pseudo-gospels”
- ▶ It contains many genres
  - ▶ narrative, poetry, proverb, song, census data, genealogical record, legal documents, letters
- ▶ It spans all human history
  - ▶ Our time takes place in the middle of this story. “Biblical times” is all times!

# What is the Bible's Purpose?

- ▶ To Reveal God to Man in a specific way
  - ▶ Creation
  - ▶ Fall
  - ▶ A People Called
  - ▶ A Messiah Given
  - ▶ The End to Come
- ▶ 2 Tim 3:15 "Able to make you wise unto salvation"
- ▶ Romans 15:4 "was written for our instruction... that we might have hope"



# Bibliology: Where did the Bible come from?

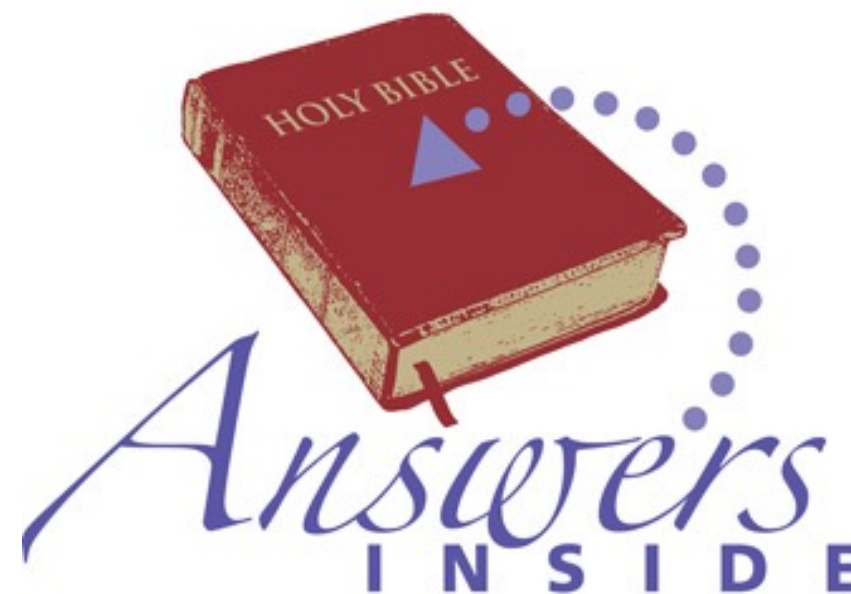


- ▶ Came from God, through man (Inspiration)
- ▶ Canonicity
  - ▶ This is the right of any literature to be considered the Word of God
  - ▶ Old Testament Canon
    - ▶ Considered Canon as they were being written; immediately seen as inspired by God
  - ▶ New Testament Canon
    - ▶ Was “Canon before the ink dried since it is inspired by God”
    - ▶ More difficult to collect and assemble due to their varied locations
    - ▶ Officially recognized in the Synods of Hippo (AD 393) and Carthage (AD 397)



# Internal Evidence for Reliability

- ▶ Scriptures
  - ▶ 2 Timothy 3:13-17 (Purpose, ability, and source of Scripture)
  - ▶ John 10:34-35; Matt 5:17-18 (Enduring Authority of Scripture)
  - ▶ 2 Peter 3:15-16 (New Testament Authority as Scripture)
  - ▶ John 5:37-47; Luke 24:13-27 (The Testimony of Scripture)
- ▶ Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy



# External Evidence for Reliability

- ▶ Cumulative uniqueness suggests divine authorship
- ▶ Unique in Continuity
  - ▶ Written over 1,500 years, by 40+ authors, on 3 continents, in 3 languages, in a variety of genres, with 1 continuous story
- ▶ Unique in Circulation
- ▶ Unique in Translation
  - ▶ Translated into 2,200 languages/dialects
- ▶ Unique in Survival



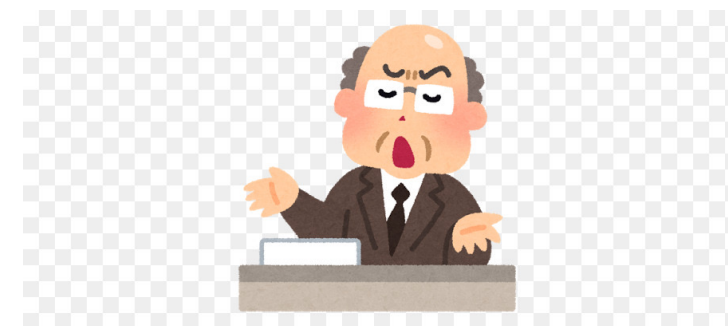
<b>Author</b>	<b>Date Written</b>	<b>Earliest Copy</b>	<b>Approximate Time Span between original &amp; copy</b>	<b>Number of Copies</b>	<b>Accuracy of Copies</b>
<b>Plato</b>	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	----
<b>Aristophanes</b>	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	----
<b>Caesar</b>	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	----
<b>Aristotle</b>	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	----
<b>Sophocles</b>	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	----
<b>Homer (Iliad)</b>	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
<b>New Testament</b>					



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<b>Homer (Iliad)</b>	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
<b>New Testament</b>	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

# What are the Critics Saying?

- ▶ Common Criticisms
  - ▶ The Bible is full of miracles.
    - ▶ Miracles vs. naturalism
  - ▶ The Bible isn't historically accurate.
    - ▶ There is virtually no archaeological evidence which directly refutes the Bible's account of history. At best an argument from silence.
  - ▶ The Bible has little to no archaeological support.
    - ▶ Archaeological Study Bible; Patterns of Evidence Series
  - ▶ There are two different Gods in the Bible. Wrathful OT; Loving NT.
    - ▶ Ex 33:19; Revelation 5-20.

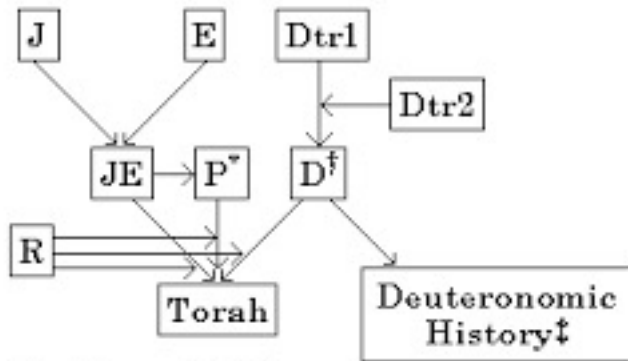


# What are the Critics Saying? (cont.)

## ► Liberal Textual Criticism

### ► Documentary Hypothesis

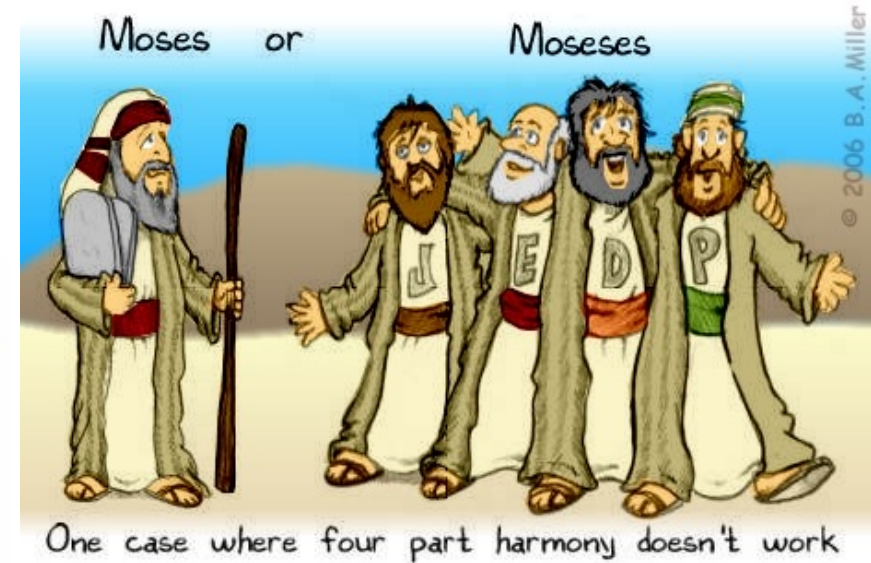
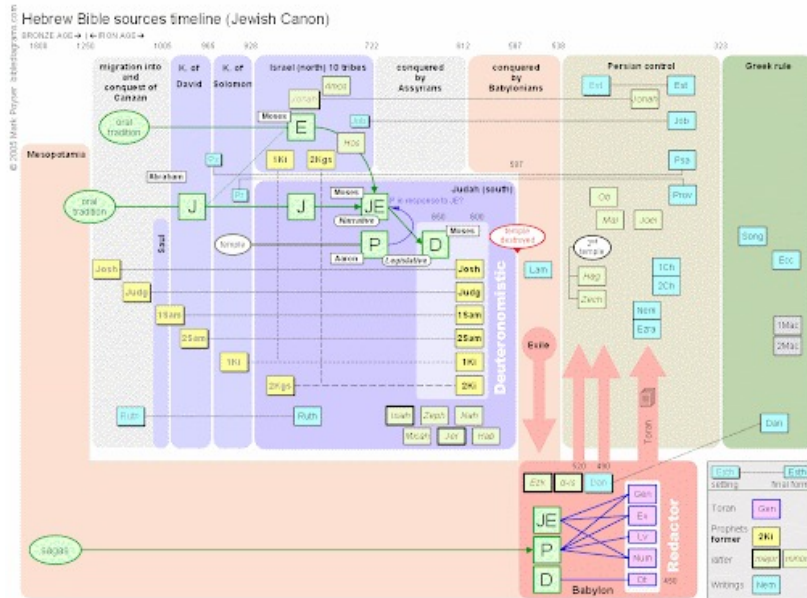
- Moses didn't write the Pentateuch; what written language would he have used?



\* Includes most of Leviticus

† Includes most of Deuteronomy

‡ Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings







# So what?

- ▶ Why is it important for the Christian?
- ▶ Why is it important for the non-Believer?



# Sources

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