

Did God Really Say ____?
Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25, 1 John 1:1-3, John 14:1-11
Al Gascon | May 14, 2023

Deconstruction Recap

1. Deconstruction is the process of taking apart and examining an idea, tradition, practice, or belief to determine its truthfulness, usefulness, and impact.
2. Deconstruction (in the most negative sense) typically is a critical dismantling of a person's understanding of what it means to be an evangelical Christian.

- ⇒ If anything in scripture is seen as a reality to Jesus it should be seen as a reality by us.
- ⇒ In the deconstruction movement, the Bible is mainly seen as a mythological book containing some truth; they see the Bible as written by man and propagated by man to hold power over the masses.

"The Bible is not a book like any other. It makes a claim that God spoke and speaks through its message. It argues that as his creatures, we are accountable to him for what he has revealed. The trustworthiness of Scripture points to its authority as well. Scripture is far more than a history book, as good and trustworthy as that history is. It is a book that calls us to examine our lives and relationship to God. Beyond the fascinating history, it contains vital and life-transforming truths about God and us." — Dr. Darrell Bock

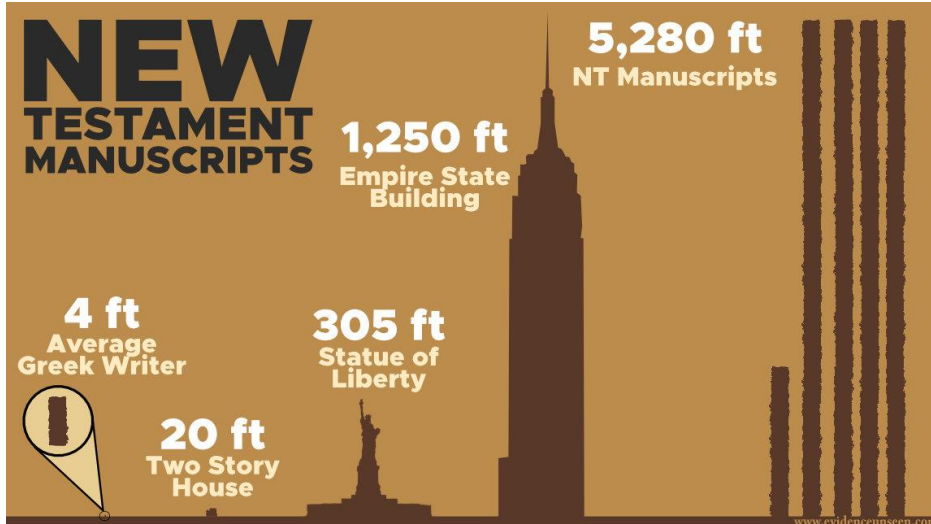
What We Believe

- i. The Creator of the planet and humanity determines our purpose and moral standard.
- ii. God reveals physical, ethical, and eternal truths through the Bible.
- iii. The Bible, though penned by men, was authored and inspired by God.
- iv. Objective truth is available to everyone and found in the Bible.
- v. Jesus is the only way, the ultimate truth, and the eternal life; he is the only way to enter heaven's gates.

"The New Testament is, by far, the best-preserved book written in the ancient Greco-Roman world. There is not even a close second." — Dr. Michael Brown

"The evidence for our New Testament writings is ever so much greater than the evidence for many writings of classical authors, the authenticity of which no one dreams of questioning. And if the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt." — F.F. Bruce

- ⇒ The Israelites believed God spoke to them and they witnessed miracles in their midst.
- ⇒ The New Testament authors believed God spoke through Jesus, and they witnessed miracles in their midst.
- ⇒ Jesus himself proclaimed himself to be God, worked miracles among the people, and was raised from the dead.
- ⇒ Jesus doesn't merely represent the father, he presents him and showcases him to the world through his life, teachings, and miracles.



COMPARING ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

ANCIENT WORK	EARLIEST MANUSCRIPT	GAP OF TIME	TOTAL MANUSCRIPTS
TACITUS' ANNALS (110 AD)	850 AD - 1050 AD	750 YEARS	36
HERODOTUS HISTORY (400'S BC)	150-50 BC	250 YEARS	106
THUCYDIDES' HISTORY (400'S BC)	3RD CENTURY BC	150 YEARS	188
SOPHOCLES' PLAYS (400'S BC)	3RD CENTURY BC	150 YEARS	226
PLATO'S TETRALOGIES (400'S BC)	3RD CENTURY BC	200 YEARS	238
CAESAR'S GALLIC WARS (50 BC)	9TH CENTURY AD	850 YEARS	251
PLINY NATURAL HISTORY (79 AD)	5TH CENTURY AD	400 YEARS	200+
DEMOSTHENES (300'S BC)	1ST CENTURY BC	300 YEARS	444
LIVY'S HISTORY OF ROME (17 AD)	4TH CENTURY AD	300 YEARS	473
HOMER'S ILIAD (~800 BC)	415 BC	400 YEARS	1,900
NEW TESTAMENT	125 AD	30 YEARS	5,856

SOURCE: Institute for New Testament Textual Research (INTTR) Münster, Germany. Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (Updated 2017).

