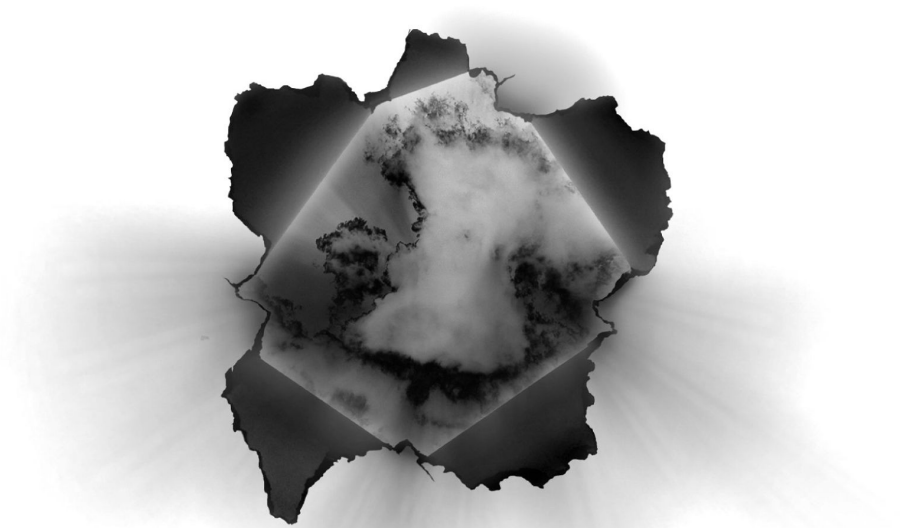


Why Christianity?

Why should I believe the Bible?

I Don't Have Enough
FAITH
to Be an
ATHEIST



Norman L. Geisler
Frank Turek





Why do people believe what they believe?

Social	Emotional	Religious	Logical
Parents Friends Society Culture Location	Comfort Peace of Mind Meaning Purpose Hope Identity	Scripture Pastor/Priest Guru Rabbi Imam Church	Logically consistent Matches evidence Best explains all the evidence

Was Jesus a Legend?

Before 183 AD (within 150 years of Jesus' life on earth):

- 43 different writers mention Jesus.
10 of those are Non-Christian writers.
- 10 different writers mention Tiberius Caesar (Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus).
9 of those are Non-Christian writers

What did Non-Christian writers say about Jesus?

1. Lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar.
2. Lived a virtuous life.
3. Was a wonder-worker.
4. Had a brother named James.
5. Was acclaimed to be the Messiah.
6. Was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
7. Crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
8. Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.
9. His disciples believed he rose from the dead.
10. His disciples were willing to die for their belief.
11. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome.
12. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.

Were Biblical writers reliable sources?

Paul: He appeared to Peter...he appeared to more than 500...he appeared to James...he appeared to me also.

Peter: God has raised this Jesus...we are all witnesses
God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses
We are witnesses of everything he did...

John: We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.
We have heard...we have seen with our eyes...looked at and our hands have touched...we have seen it.

Was Luke a reliable historian?

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 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, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. [Luke 1:1-4](#)

Was Luke a reliable historian?

“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.” [Luke 3:1-2](#)

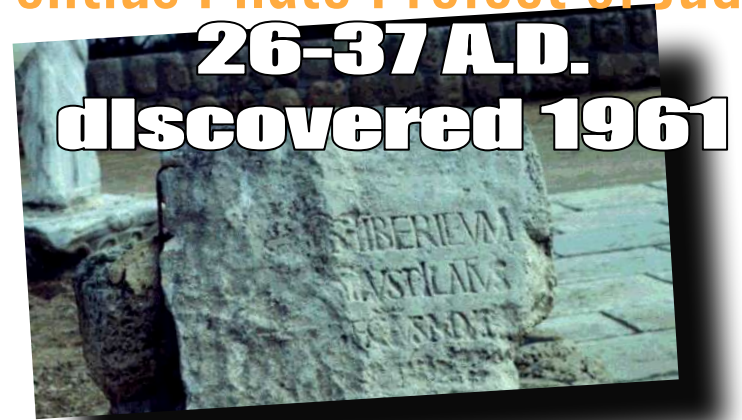
Does it sound like he's making up a story?

1. An exact date is given--A.D. 29.
2. All eight people are known from history.
3. All were known to live at this exact time.
4. This is not a “Once Upon A Time” story (myth).

Tiberius Caesar denarius



“Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea”



26-37 A.D.

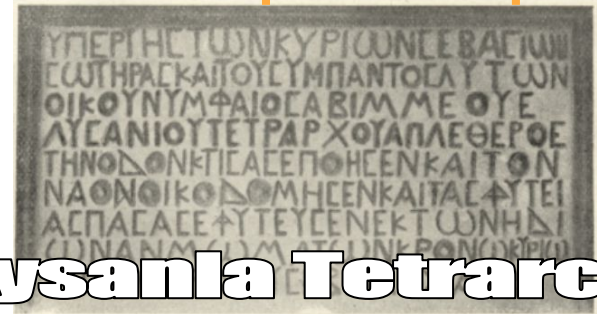
discovered 1961

Ossuary of Joseph Caiaphas



High Priest 18-36 A.D.
discovered 1990

Abila Temple Inscription



Lysania Tetrarch
of Abilene

Were they telling the truth? Embarrassing Details

They Are Dim-witted

They fail to understand what Jesus is saying. Mk 9:32, Jn 12:16

They Are Uncaring *Mt 26:45, Lk 9:53*

*They fall asleep on Jesus twice.
Don't give Jesus a proper burial.
Want to call down fire on others.*

They Are Rebuked *Mk 8:33, Gal 2:11*

*Peter is called "Satan" by Jesus.
Paul rebukes Peter for being wrong about a theological issue.*

They Are Cowards *Mk 14, Mt 26, Lk 23*

*The disciples run away!
Peter denies Christ three times.
The women are the brave ones.*

They Are Doubters

*Taught several times that Jesus would rise from the dead
Jn 2:18, 3:14-18; Mt 12:39-41; 17:9, 22-23
the disciples are doubtful when they hear of his resurrection.
Some are even doubtful after they see Him risen! *Mt 28:17**

Were they telling the truth? Embarrassing Details

- *His family who came to take Him home said “He’s out of His mind” Mk 3:21*
- *Is not believed by His own brothers Jn 7:5*
- *Deserted by many of His followers Jn 6:66*
- *Offends Jewish believers to the point that they want to stone Him Jn 8:30-59*
- *Is thought to be a deceiver Jn 7:12*
- *Is called a “madman” Jn 10:20*
- *Is called a “drunkard” Mt 11:19*
- *Is called “demon-possessed” Mk 3:22, Jn 7:20, 8:48*
- *A prostitute wipes His feet with her hair Lk 7:36-39*
- *Is crucified despite the fact that “anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse” Deut 21:23*

Were they telling the truth?

- Describing many verifiable facts
- Events you wouldn't make up
- Carefully distinguishing Jesus' words
- Jesus' difficult sayings
- Varied details of the same event
- Unembellished miracles
- Extreme cost to them

Can we trust the New Testament?

Is the New Testament Story a Legend?

- It was written by eyewitnesses within 2 generations of the events.
- More than 30 people confirmed by non-Christian sources.
- Many verifiable historical details and facts from that time.

Is the New Testament Story a Lie or Embellishment?

- Divergent and embarrassing details, difficult sayings, reliable events, and distinguished Jesus' words from their own.
- Suffered persecution, torture and death without denying it's truth.

What do you believe?

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.