

Sermon Notes

Fall Apologetics Series - Answering Bart Ehrman Week 2 - “No, the Bible Isn’t Corrupt - Part 1”

Week 1: **Jesus** is a **historical** person, which is important because **God** coming in the **flesh** is **central** to the message of **salvation**.

Week 2 - External Evidence of the Bible

Ehrman’s Problem: We **do not** have the **original** copies of the New Testament **manuscripts**.

NT Documents:

Crucifixion	= 33AD
James	= 40-45AD
Paul Begins Writing	= Mid 40s AD
Synoptic Gospels	= 60-90AD
Peter’s Letters	= Before 65AD
Other NT Writings	=Between 60-100AD
John’s Writings	= After 70-100AD

Oldest Fragment = **P52**, Gospel of **John**, **125AD**
Muratorian Canon = **180AD**, lists **22** of **27** books.
Complete NT = Codex **Sinaiticus**, **325-360AD**.

Scholars can **trace** the **NT** to **within** the **life** times of the **original** authors, pre-**100AD**

NT Compared to Other Historical Documents:

Homer’s Iliad:	Life = 900BC ; Copy = 400sBC
Plato	Life = 428-437BC ; Copy = 900sAD
Thucydides	Life = 460-400BC ; Copy = 900sAD
Aristotle	Life = 384-322BC ; Copy= 1100AD
Caesar	Life = 100-44BC ; Copy = 900sAD
Livy	Life = 59BC-17AD ; Copy = 300sAD
Josephus	Life = 37-100AD ; Copy = 900sAD
Tacitus	Life = 55-120AD ; Copy = 900sAD

The **earliest** surviving **copies** are still roughly **18** years **later** than their **NT counterparts**.

Number of Copies:

Plato	= 7
Thucydides	= 8
Caesar	= 10
Livy	= 20
Tacitus	= 20
Aristotle	= 49
Josephus	= 120
Homer’s Iliad	= 643
NT	= 5,500 (and this is just in Greek)

We can be **assured** that what we **have** is what the **original** writers **wrote**.

Challenge:

This week, appreciate that if God can preserve his word, then he can preserve you.