

## **Believing the Bible**

2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

But can we believe it? Is it Blind Faith?

How about Healthy Skepticism!

Acts 17:11b – Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

1 John 4:1 – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 – Do not despise prophecies, **but test everything**; hold fast what is good.

\*\*\*So I was reading Genesis\*\*\*

Methuselah lived too long! What about the flood?!

Turns out, it's perfect. (Shocker)

But making this timeline revealed MORE! Look how they overlap!

Noah's FATHER could have talked to ADAM!!

Abraham could have talked to NOAH!!

So the purity of the oral history (before writing) can be trusted.

**Then there's the ACTUAL books.**

There are 14,000 fragmentary manuscripts of the O.T. and 24,000 of the N.T. These are all copies, not originals.

1st Century “Early Church Fathers” wrote TONS of letters, books, commentaries, etc. All compiled, these thousands of writings quote all but 11 verses of the entire N.T.

\*\*\*Dead sea scrolls – 1947-1956 Thousands of scrolls and fragments. Contains all of the OT minus Esther and Nehemiah. Copies range from 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD

\*\*\*Gospel of Mark fragment – The oldest known fragment of a NT book, dated to 90 AD.

**But YOU can't actually read these manuscripts.**

Even if you could read Hebrew, it makes no sense to us.

We have many translations. Test them! Cross reference. Try out as many as you can get your hands on.

**But, but... [That] didn't really happen.**

For centuries, skeptics have insisted that the Bible is not true.

“David didn’t exist. He was just a mythical hero.” In 1993, the Tel Dan inscription was discovered. Carved in the 9th century BC, it tells of the victory of Assyrian King Hazael defeating “the House of David.” (2 Kings 10:32–33).

“Pontius Pilot didn’t exist. There’s no real historical record of him.” In 1961, The Pilate Stone was discovered in Caesarea. It notes that a temple was dedicated by “Pontius Pilatus, Prefect of Judea”.

**And there's more all the time!**

Hezekiah’s royal seal found in 2009

**College students TODAY can dig in Israel!**