

AOBC Apologetics

Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible: Authenticity & Agreement

Quick Review: Does God Exist?

I. Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible

- A. _____ of the Text
(Is the text the same today as when it was written?)
- B. _____ of the Text
(Are there disagreements between the human authors of the text?)
- C. _____ of the Text
(Are there any geographical, historical, or other errors in the text?)
- D. _____ of the Text
(When and by whom was the Text received as true?)

II. Authenticity of the O.T. Documents

A. Hebrew Manuscripts of the Masoretic Text

- 1. _____: Hand written copies before the printing press
- 2. _____: Masoretes (Scribes @700 AD)
Took the Hebrew text and added vowel points. (To preserve tradition of how words were pronounced)
- 3. There are @ 1000 _____ Masoretic Manuscripts as far back as 1000 A.D

B. Support of the Hebrew Text

- 1. Jeremiah Seal, Nash Papyrus, Hinnom Valley Amulets
- 2. _____ of the Scribes
- 3. _____ Pentateuch (Revised Jewish Pentateuch - Nehemiah 2 & 4)
- 4. _____ (Aramaic Paraphrases - Nehemiah 8:7-8)
- 5. _____ (LXX) (Greek Translation of OT @ 280 BC)
- 6. Early _____ Translations
- 7. _____ (Civil and Ceremonial Laws...Mishnah and Gemarah – Quote Scripture)
- 8. _____ (Midrasheem) (Jewish commentaries – Quote Scripture)

C. Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) (Found in 1947 by a Bedouin Shepherd)

1. Entire scroll of _____ - 1st Cave of Qumran, Scroll A.
2. Every Book of the OT (except _____) has been found.
3. The DSS also have ... _____.
4. Three _____ were found...which requires the original goes much further back...
5. @ 200 _____ manuscripts dated @ 200 BC.
6. The text today is the _____ as it was when it was written

III. **AUTHENTICITY of the NT**

(Is the text the same today as when it was written?)

A. _____ Manuscripts of the NT Documents

1. How _____ are the manuscripts?
 - a. _____ Sinaiticus @ 350 AD
 - b. Codex _____ @ 325 AD
 - c. Chester Beatty _____ @ 250 AD
 - d. _____ Papyrus @ 175 AD
 - e. _____ Papyrus @ 125 AD

2. How _____ manuscripts do we have?
 - a. Over 20,000 manuscripts, 5000 Greek, 15000 other languages, 86,000 patristic citations.
 - b. _____ Manuscripts
 - i. _____ - @ 90
(early paper, from papyrus plant, _____ style)
 - ii. _____ - @ 300
(all capital letters, no punctuation, no spaces between words, on _____)
 - iii. _____ - @ 2800
(used a cursive Greek style with punctuation)
 - iv. _____ - @ 2200
(church service books, which contain scriptural passages)

3. How widely _____ are the manuscripts?
4. How well do the manuscripts _____?
 - a. Many _____ ...BUT 98.3% in agreement.
 - b. The variations do not affect _____
(i.e. Mark 16:9-20; John 7:53-8:11)
5. _____ ...WE are in 98.3% agreement with the original text.
6. 98.3% agreement is a modern _____.

C. _____ Writings

If we lost every other manuscript already discussed...we could rewrite the entire New Testament using only the Patristic Writings.

D. "Manuscript _____"

1. Scribal _____ do exist.
2. Scribal Mistakes do _____ affect doctrine or the purity of the text.
 - a. 1 Samuel 6:19
 - b. 1 John 5:6-7

IV. AGREEMENT of the Text

(Are there any disagreements between human authors of the text?)

A. Why is Agreement Important?

B. Casual Reading shows _____ Agreement
(66 books, ≥ 1500 yrs, ≥ 40 authors from all walks of life)

C. There do exist _____ disagreements
(Note: These _____ disagreements are _____ ...it shows there was no collaboration/collusion between the authors)

D. Clearing up Apparent Disagreements

1. More _____ Account (i.e. Gen 1:26-27; Gen 2:5-25)
2. _____ Record of Lie (i.e. I Sam 31:3-6; II Sam 1:5-10)
3. _____ Chronology
4. _____ of Reigns
5. Scribal _____ (i.e. I Kings 4:26; 2 Chron 9:25)
6. _____ Events
(i.e. Mt 21:12-17, Mk 11:15-19, Lk 19:45-48 vs Jn 2:13-16 or Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-45 vs Mt 15:32-38, Mk 8:1-9)
7. Author _____ (i.e. Mt 20:29-34, Mk 10:46-52, Lk 18:35-43)
8. _____ (i.e. Mt 14:22-33, Mk 6:46-56, Jn 6:15-21)

E. Positive Conclusion

1. _____ will find disagreements in factual, ethical, theological areas.
2. Upon closer examination, these _____ disagreements can easily be harmonized.
3. These _____ disagreements are actually strong _____ for reliability of scripture because it demonstrates the authors were not collaborating or in collusion with one another.