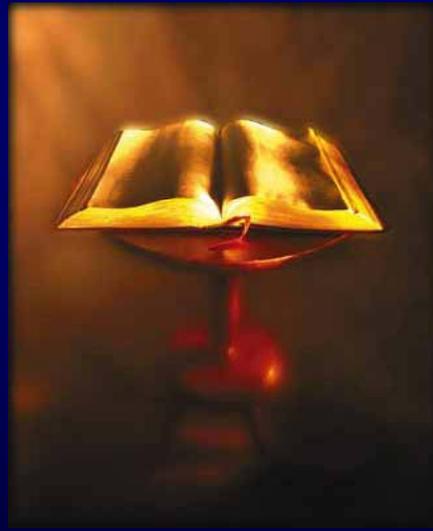


How We Got the Bible
And It's Authenticity
Part 3



Manuscript Evidence

Historical Reliability

The historical reliability of the Scriptures should be tested by the same criteria that all historical documents are tested.

- The Bibliographical Test
- The Internal Test
- The External Test

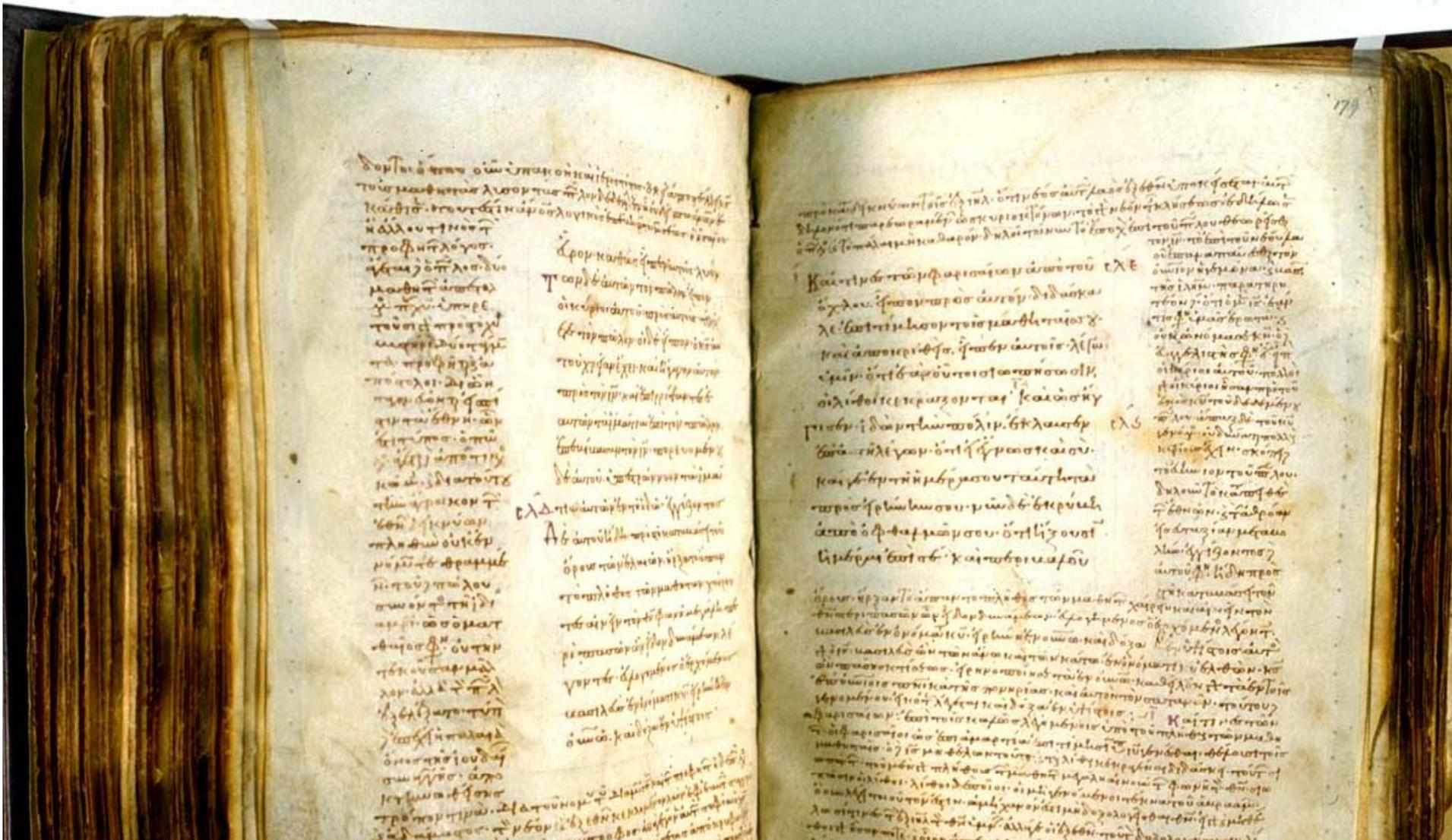
What is a manuscript?

A manuscript is a handwritten copy of an ancient document that predates the invention of the printing press in 1455.





**Johannes Gutenberg's
printing press: 1455**



Before the printing press Bible's were carefully copied by hand.

Today there survives some **24,000** partial and complete ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the New Testament.



Chap. 1, 1-14



Manuscript Evidence

Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# of Copies
Plato	400 BC	900 AD	1,300 yrs.	7
Caesar	100 BC	900 AD	1,000 yrs.	10
Aristotle	300 BC	1100 AD	1,400 yrs.	5
Tacitus	100 AD	1100 AD	1,000 yrs.	20
Herodotus	400 BC	900 AD	1,300 yrs.	8
Thucydides	400 BC	900 AD	1,300 yrs.	8
Livy	30 AD	900 AD	900 yrs.	20
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs.	643
New Testament	100 AD	125 AD	25 yrs.	24,000 +



These manuscripts have allowed Biblical scholars and textual critics to go back and verify that the Bible that we have today is the same Bible that the early church had 2,000 years ago.



In 1947 a shepherd boy tending his father's sheep in Qumran, north and to the west of the Dead Sea in Israel, made an amazing discovery while looking for a lost sheep.

Map of Israel





There in Qumran, in a hillside cave that had laid untouched for nearly two thousand years, he discovered an ancient collection of hand written copies of the Old Testament.



These scrolls had been hidden in caves by the Essenes, a Jewish sect living in Qumran, 2,000 years ago.



The Dead Sea

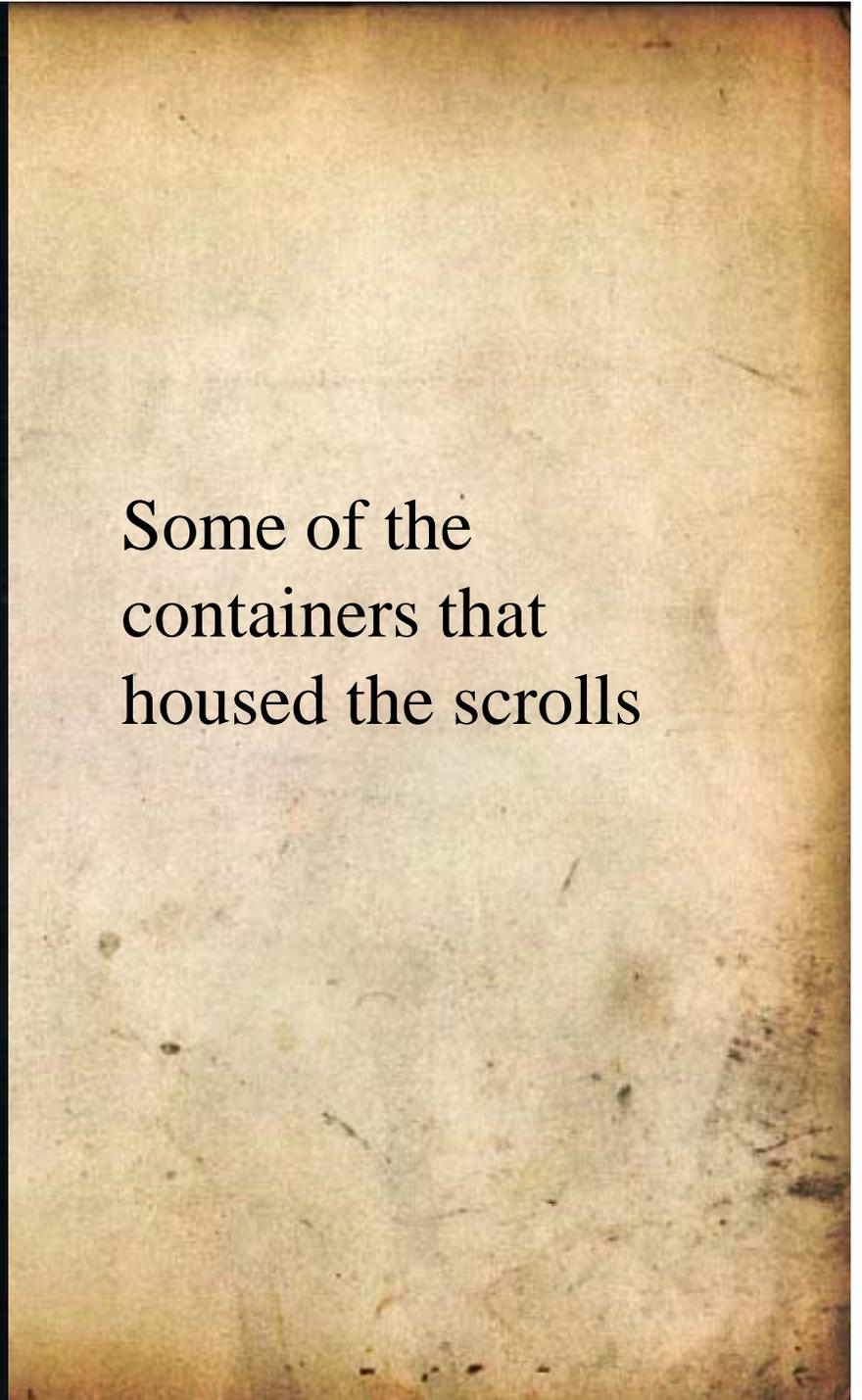
**The view looking east out of
one of the Qumran caves**

These scrolls and writings (now known as the *Dead Sea Scrolls*) represented every book of the Old Testament except the Book of Esther. They are considered one of the greatest discoveries in modern times.



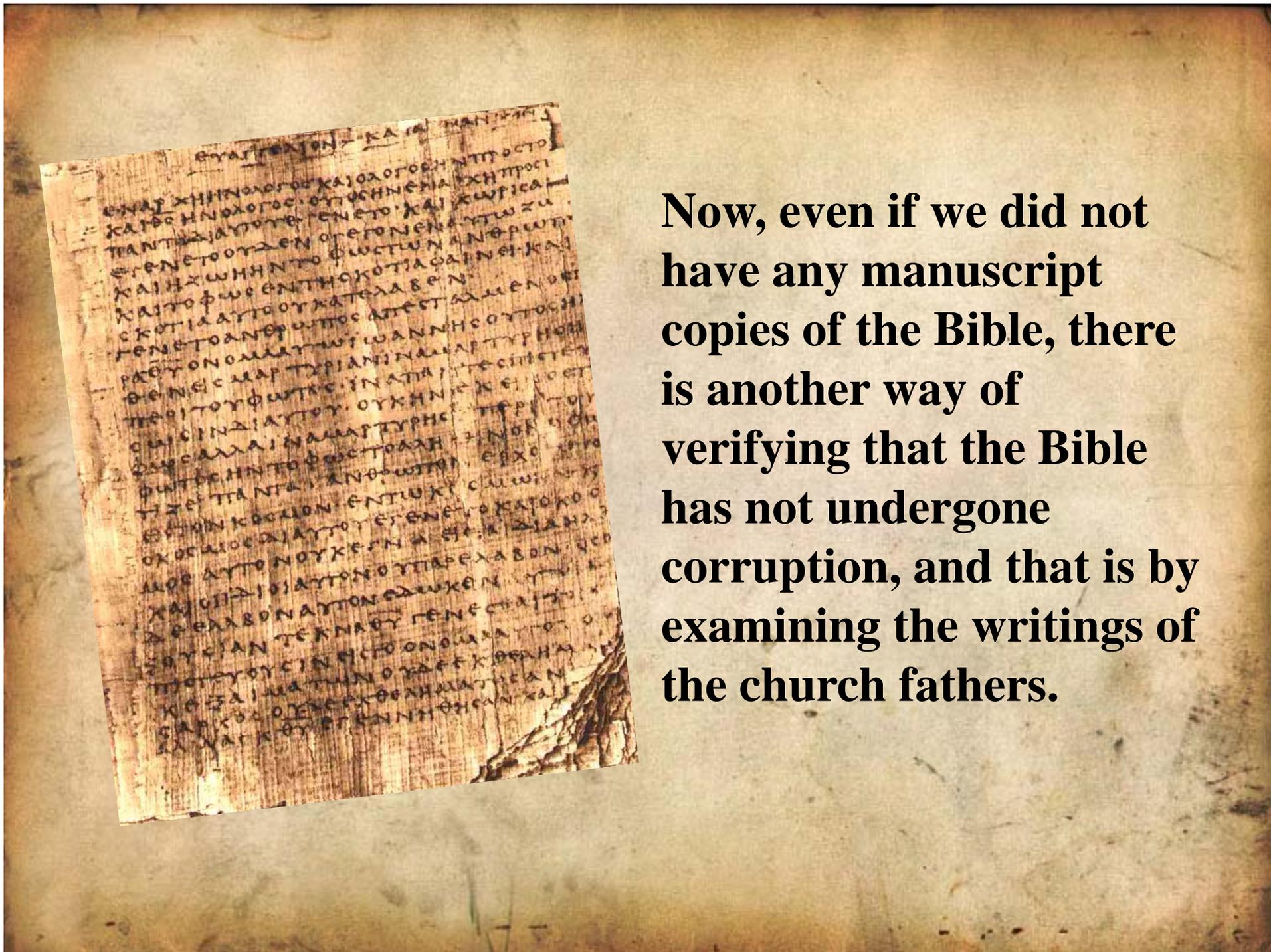


Some of the
containers that
housed the scrolls

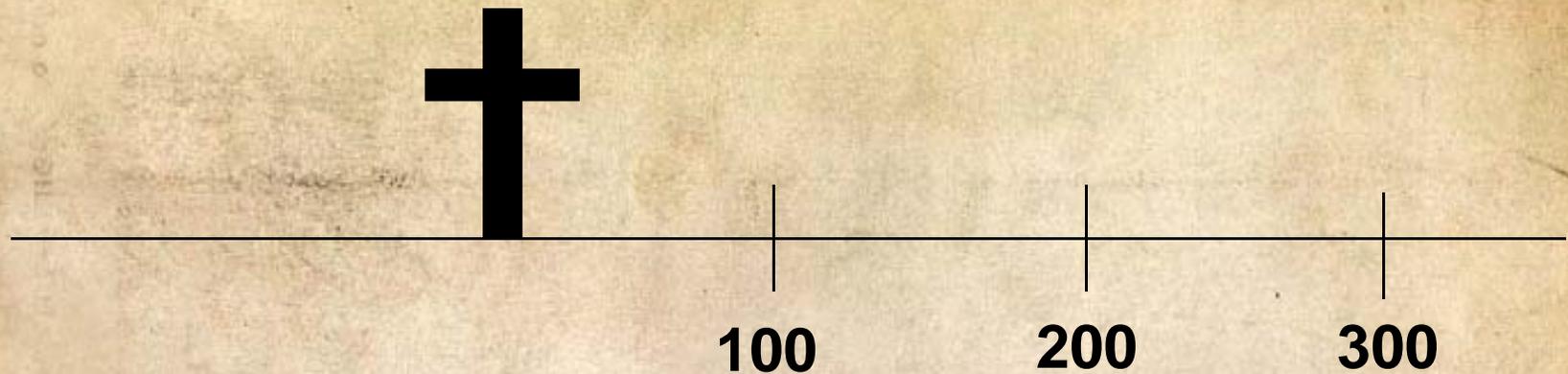




This is a scroll of the Book of Isaiah, found in Qumran. Dated to around 100 B.C.



Now, even if we did not have any manuscript copies of the Bible, there is another way of verifying that the Bible has not undergone corruption, and that is by examining the writings of the church fathers.



By church fathers we are referring to those leaders in the church of the first three centuries A.D. following the original disciples.



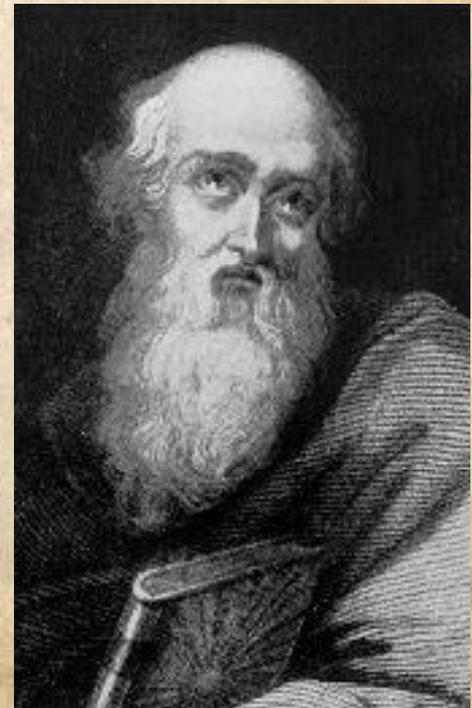
Justin Martyr



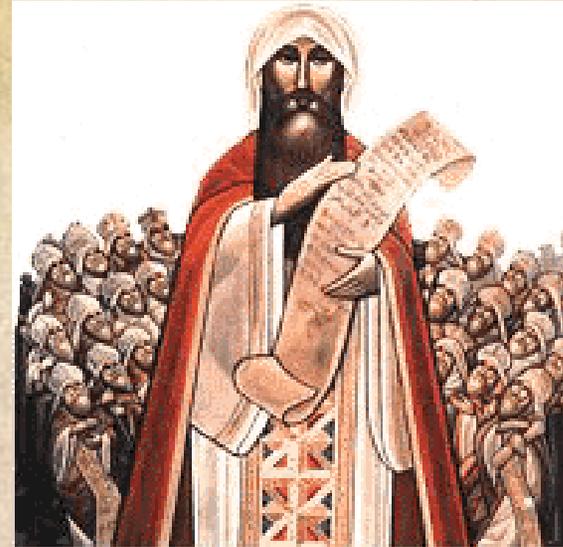
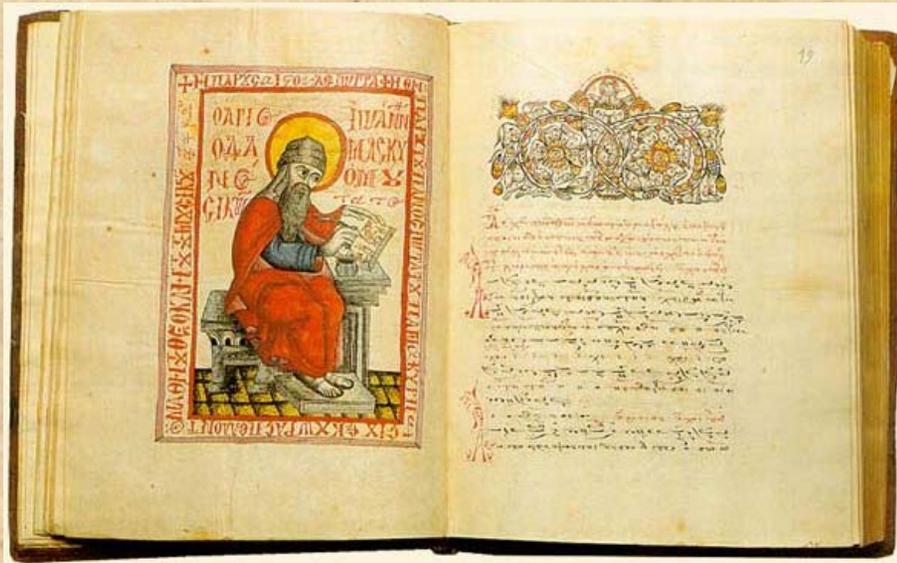
Eusebius



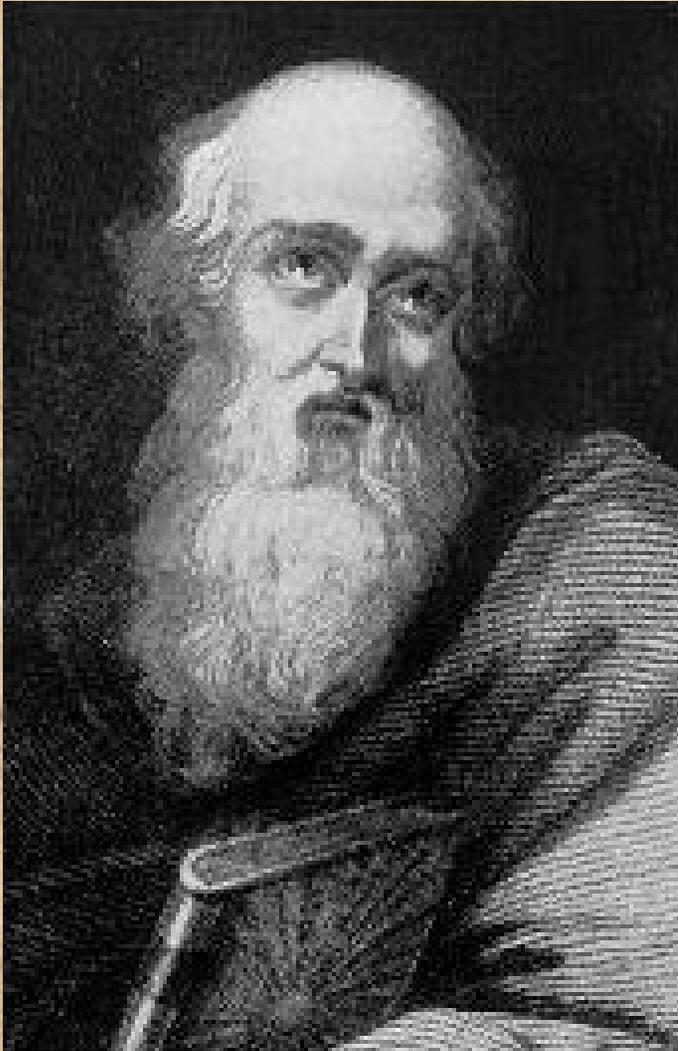
Tertullian



Polycarp



These men and others, in their commentaries on the Bible, in their letters to one another, and their letters to different churches, quoted the New Testament Scriptures alone more than **86,000** times.



There are enough quotations from the early church fathers that even if we did not have a single manuscript copy of the Bible, scholars could still **reconstruct 99.86%** of the New Testament we have today.

Internal Evidence

Luke 1:1-3

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,

Internal Evidence

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

1 John 1:3

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Internal Evidence

Acts 2:22

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

John 19:35

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

Internal Evidence

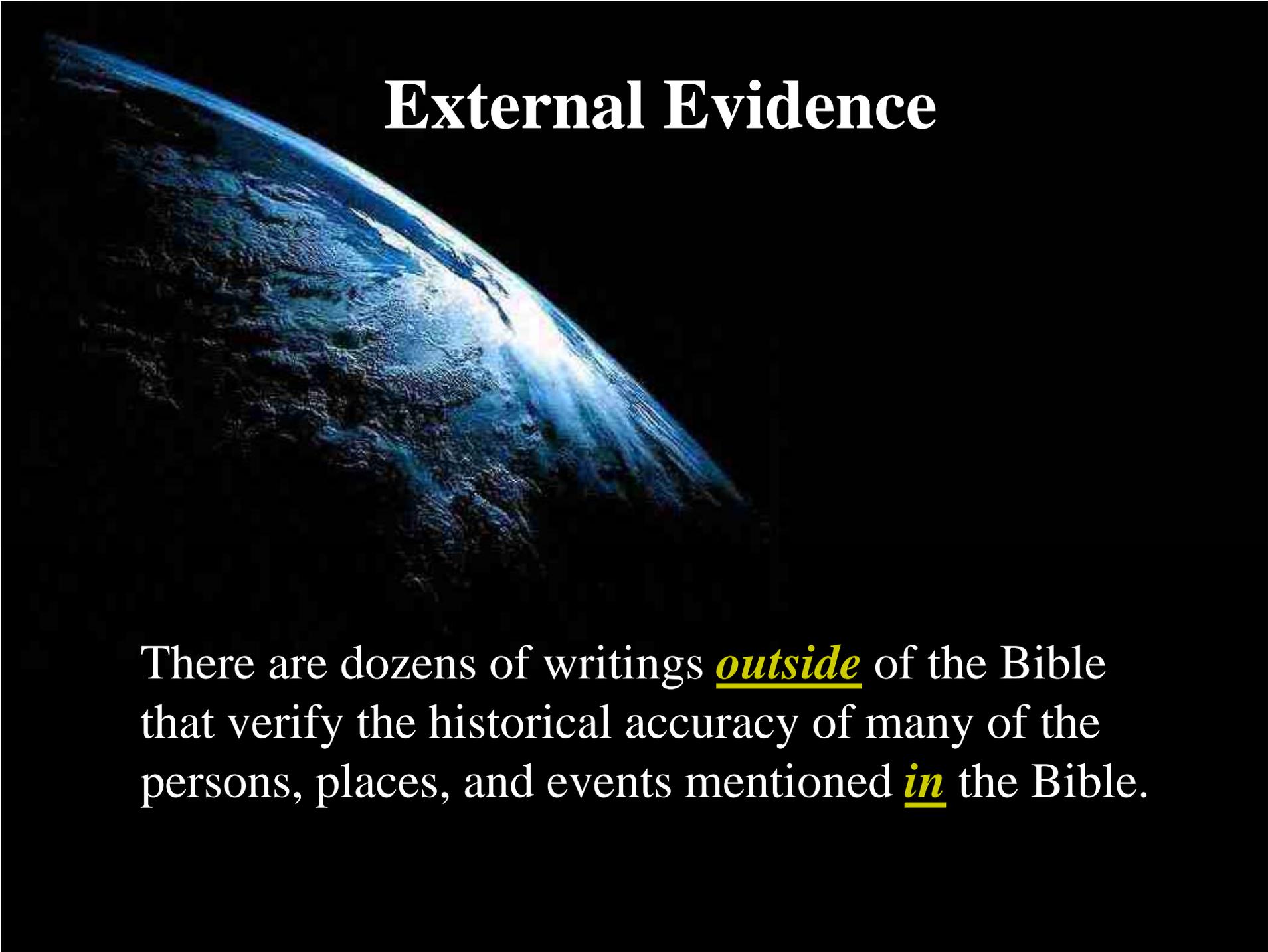
Luke 3:1

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

Internal Evidence

Acts 26:24-26

Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.



External Evidence

There are dozens of writings outside of the Bible that verify the historical accuracy of many of the persons, places, and events mentioned in the Bible.

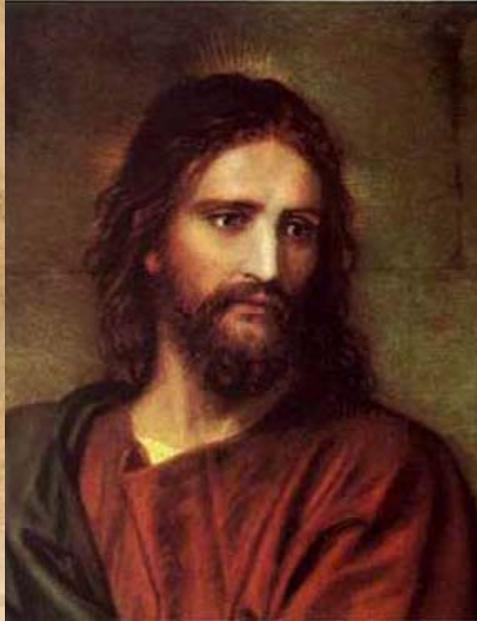


External Evidence

External sources verify that at least 80 persons mentioned in the Bible were actual historical figures.

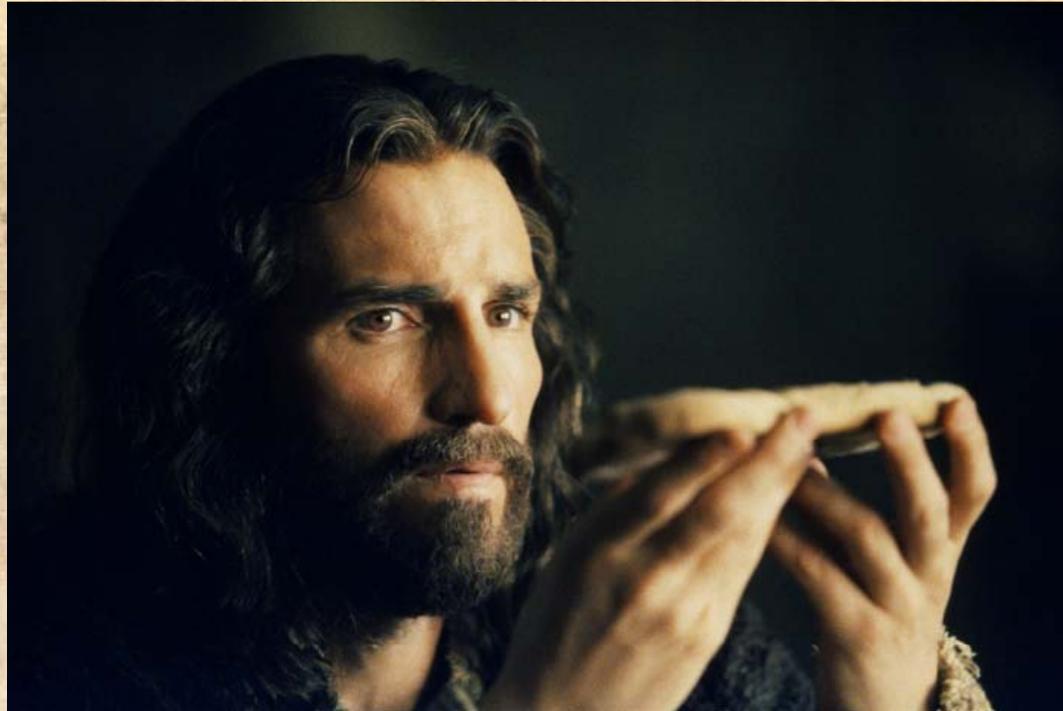
Old Testament: 50 people

New Testament: 30 people



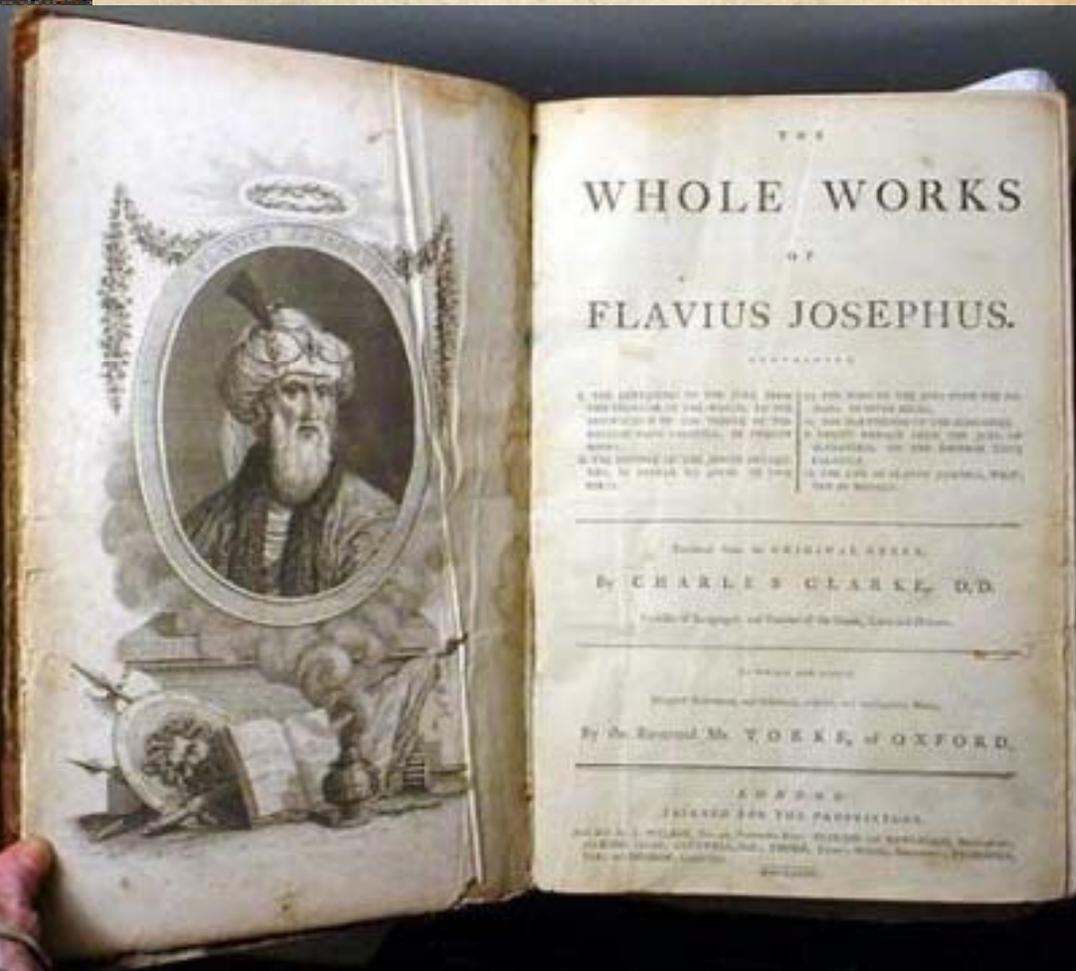
External verification of what the Bible says has led to a radical change of view among liberal scholars regarding the person of Jesus. Some had at one time put forth the false idea that Jesus never even existed; that He was merely a mythological character!

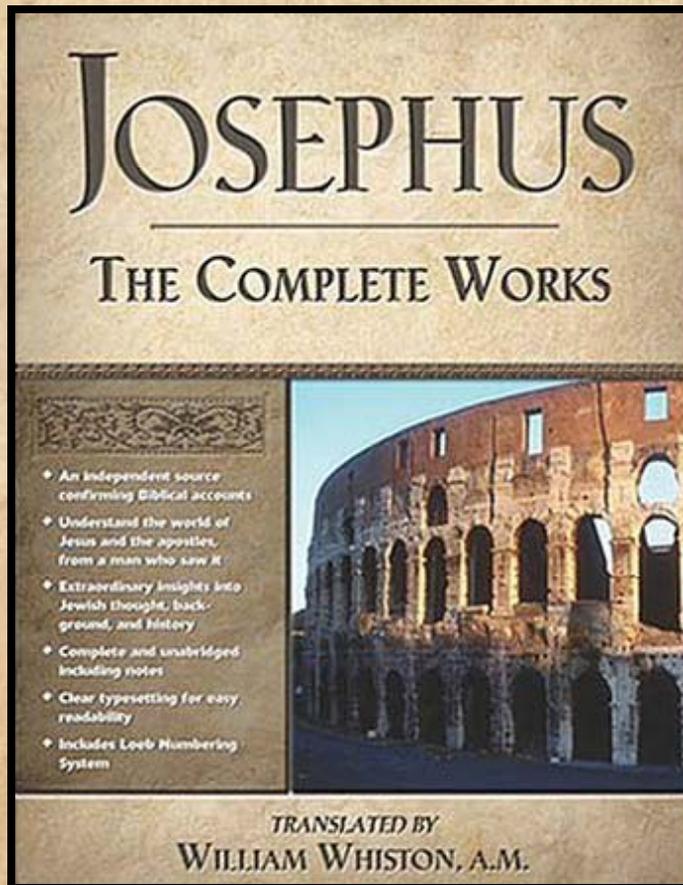
Well today the existence of Jesus is hardly even debated within informed scholarly circles. The reason why?



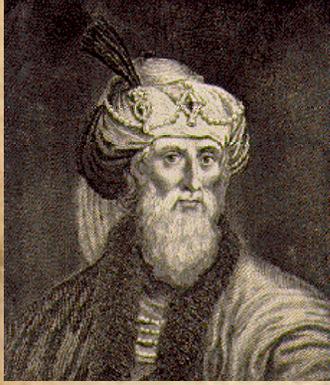
There are at least 39 sources *outside* of the Bible that attest to more than 100 facts regarding Jesus' life, teachings, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Flavius Josephus





Herod the Great
Herod Antipas
Caiaphas
Pontius Pilate
John the Baptist
James,
 the brother of Jesus
Felix
Festus
Jesus



“At this time there was a wise man who was called **Jesus**. And his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”

Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities* 18:63-64

Isaiah 40:8

**“The grass withers, the flower fades, but
the word of our God stands forever.”**

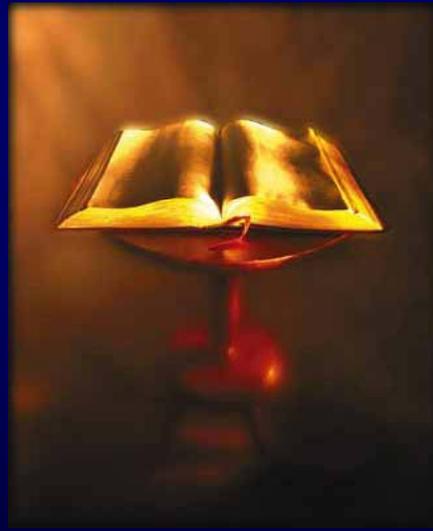




Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

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