

# WHAT IS TRUTH?

John 18:19-40

# John 18:37-38

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” **“What is truth?”** Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

# Is The Bible Accurate?

- How would answer the questions
  - “prove to me that the bible is true”
  - “prove to me that the bible is accurate”
  - “prove to me that the bible is historically accurate”
- In today’s world we need to have answers to these questions
- “Cold Case Christianity” by Jim Warner Wallace

# Is The Bible Accurate?

- How do we know that early / late list of books were / are accurate in their content
- How do we know they weren't corrupted intentionally or unintentionally
- We don't have the original gospels
- We don't even have 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> copies of the original gospel manuscripts
- The earliest copies of New Testament manuscripts date at least 100 years after the originals were written

# Time Line Of Events

- AD 1-33 - Life of Jesus
- AD 45-50 - Mark writes his gospel (AD 55-70) records eyewitnesses
- AD 50-53 - Luke writes his gospel (AD 63) records eyewitnesses
- AD 53-57 - Luke writes book of Acts (AD 55-63)
- AD 50-70 - Disciple Matthew writes his gospel / eyewitness
- Pre AD 70 - Disciple John writes his gospel (AD 90) / eyewitness
- AD 61-65 - Death of James [Jesus], Peter, Paul (Stephen, James [John])
- AD 67-70 - Siege of Jerusalem
- AD 70 - Temple destroyed

# Council of Laodicea 363 – 364AD

- ❑ One of the first attempts of church leaders to bring together all the different biblical books and manuscripts that were in circulation that were believed to be authentic and true
- ❑ Council produced 60 canons or rulings
- ❑ Canon 59 forbade the reading of non-approved books
- ❑ Canon 60 listed the books that were approved (one of the first Bibles)
- ❑ Very close to the bible we have today

# How Do We Know They Got It Right?

- What proof do we have that the Council of Laodicea had accurate copies of the New Testament books
- What proof do we have that they selected the correct books, letters, manuscripts
- Is there a chain of evidence or custody of evidence

# Time Line Of Events

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- AD 50-53 - Luke writes his gospel (AD 63)
- AD 53-57 - Luke writes book of Acts (AD 55-63)
- AD 50-70 - Disciple Matthew writes his gospel / eyewitness
- Pre AD 70 - Disciple John writes his gospel (AD 90) / eyewitness
- AD 61-65 - Death of James [Jesus], Peter, Paul (Stephen, James [John])
- AD 67-70 - Siege of Jerusalem
- AD 70 - Temple destroyed
- AD 363 -364 - Council of Laodicea

# John

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Ignatius: 110AD

Bishop of Antioch

- ❑ 7 letters survive in which he quotes or alludes to Matthew, John, Luke, and several letters of Paul

**John** - Ignatius: 110AD

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**Papias: 110AD**

**Bishop of Hierapolis**

# John - Ignatius: 110AD

Papias: 110AD

Polycarp: 110AD

Bishop Smyrna

- ❑ 1 letter survives in which he quotes or alludes to Matthew, Luke, John, Acts, and 10 epistles

**John** - Ignatius: 110AD  
Papias: 110AD  
Polycarp: 110AD } Irenaeus 185AD

Ignatius and Polycarp taught Irenaeus

Irenaeus: 185AD

Bishop Lugdunum

- ❑ wrote a lot and much of his writings survives in which he includes a list 24 New Testament Books he identified as scripture

**John** - Ignatius: 110AD  
Papias: 110AD  
Polycarp: 110AD } Irenaeus: 185AD — Hippolytus 220AD

Irenaeus taught Hippolytus

Hippolytus: 220AD

- ❑ Hippolytus repeats most of what Irenaeus says and also lists 24 New Testament Books as scripture
- ❑ Died in exile in mines of Italy because he got into trouble with the church in Rome

**John** - Ignatius: 110AD      Irenaeus: 185AD  
Papias: 110AD      Hippolytus: 220AD  
Polycarp: 110AD

**Paul** —

- Linus 70AD
- Clement 95AD
- Evaristus 100AD
- Alexander 110AD
- Sixtus 120AD
- Telesphorus 130AD
- Hyginus 135AD
- Pius 150AD
- Justin Martyr 160AD
- Tatian 175AD

**John** - Ignatius: 110AD  
Papias: 110AD  
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## **Paul** -

Linus 70AD

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Sixtus 120AD

Telesphorus 130AD

Hyginus 135AD

Pius 150AD

Justin Martyr 160AD

Tatian 175AD

## **Peter** - Mark 55AD

Anianus 75AD

Avilius 90AD

Kedron 100AD

Primus 115AD

Justus 130AD

Pantaenus 195AD

Clement 210AD

Origen 250AD

Pamphilus 300AD

Eusebius 335AD

# Disciples of John, Peter, Paul

## Christ

- ❑ Born of a virgin
- ❑ Performed miracles
- ❑ Preached sermons
- ❑ Claimed to be God
- ❑ Worshipped as God
- ❑ Crucified and buried
- ❑ Rose from the grave
- ❑ Ascended to heaven
- ❑ Seated at the right hand of the Father

# Could there be collusion?

- All this occurred in 3 different regions of the world
  - ▣ Rome
  - ▣ Asia Minor
  - ▣ Africa

# Could This Be Coincidence?

- There are over 5700 Greek manuscripts
- 34 complete New Testaments dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century
- A near complete New Testament copy exists dating to within 100 to 150 years of when the original would have been written

# Ancient Secular Writings

- By comparison, the largest amount of manuscripts or writings from a secular author come from Homer whose most famous works include “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey” and are believed to be composed around 700BC
- Of the over 1000 manuscripts and fragments that exist the earliest dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and about 300 date from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century
- That’s a much smaller sampling spread over a much greater time span than that of the New Testament
- Even the history of Alexander The Great does not have the same “chain of custody of evidence” that the New Testament has

# Belief / Unbelief

- Why is it easy for some people to believe ancient history about secular characters but not believe in Jesus Christ even with all the evidence available
- Whether true or not the life of people like Alexander The Great or Homer have no effect on people today
- If however, the story of Jesus is true then people have to decide what do I do with this truth / what do I do with Jesus
- If the New Testament is true then by extension we have to believe the Old Testament is true because Jesus quotes from it and New Testament scriptures attest to the prophecy that Jesus fulfilled from the Old Testament

# Why Is This Important To Know?

- Internet is full of information and misinformation
- People are bold to give their opinions and philosophies
- If we are not prepared to give an account of what we believe in the language of today, we will miss an opportunity to witness to a growing segment of society
- If we can't answer our children's, sibling's, co-worker's questions or accusations then who will
- We need to have a fully equipped tool belt to be effective Christian workers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# Variations

- It has been said that there are more variations in the New Testament than there are words
- John 18:24 “ **Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.**”
- John 18:24 “**Then Annas had him sent, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.**”
- John 7:53 to John 8:11

# Variations

- What does this mean for the accuracy of the bible?
- Of the approximately 150,000 variants known in the New Testament 98% of them in no way change the meaning or intended teaching
  - They are spelling, punctuation, or grammatical in nature
- For the remaining few that have the potential to change the meaning there are thousands of copies to compare to use to decide which variant is accurate and which should be discarded

# Hidden Scientific Gems

- Although the bible is not a scientific text book it is scientifically accurate
- Luke 22:44 “ **And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.**”
- Psychogenic Hematidrosis
  
- John 19:34 “ **Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.**”
- Pleural Effusion

# Conclusions

- Is it possible the bible is not true?
- Is it reasonable given the evidence we have that the bible is true?
- If the bible is true then what do we do with Jesus?