

Week 6: Reliability of the New Testament

Writings of Antiquity

Non-Christian sources – _____ mention Jesus

Josephus; Tacitus, the Roman historian; Pliny the Younger, a Roman politician; Phlegon, a freed slave who wrote histories; Thallus, a first-century historian; Seutonius, a Roman historian; Lucian, a Greek satirist; Celsus, a Roman philosopher; Mara Bar-Serapion, a private citizen who wrote to his son; and the Jewish Talmud.

Tiberius Caesar – only _____ sources mention him

These non-Christian sources contain 12 facts that help confirm the NT

2 Questions:

1 - Do we have accurate copies of the NT from the 1st century?

2 - Are they true?

*I'm not arguing for the inspiration of scripture at this point,
just it's reliability as a historical document*

Accurate Copies:

Not conveyed by playing _____

The NT is _____ documents, written by _____ authors

We use the science of _____: recipe illustration

We have _____ Greek manuscripts

& _____ other copies in Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic

Originals all written before _____ AD – before the apostles died!

What does the NT say/claim?

Luke: accurate record, _____ kings, _____ historical facts, it's _____!

Criteria of _____: the writers include embarrassing details about themselves & about Jesus.

The writers include: the words of Jesus, his hard sayings, & teachings

But what about the Variants?

A variant is _____

Bart Ehrman: His conclusion proves his own thesis _____!