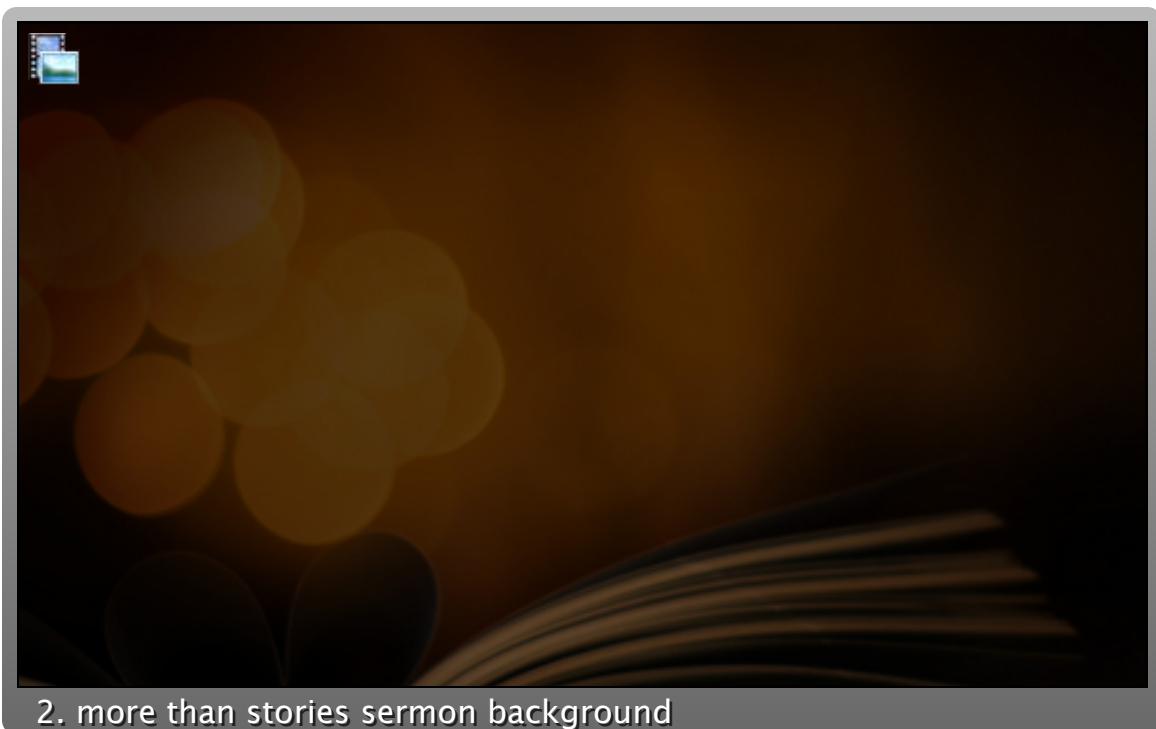




1. more than stories nik



2. more than stories sermon background



The Bible:

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and was written without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in faith and life in every age.

3. more than stories sermon background

Historiography:

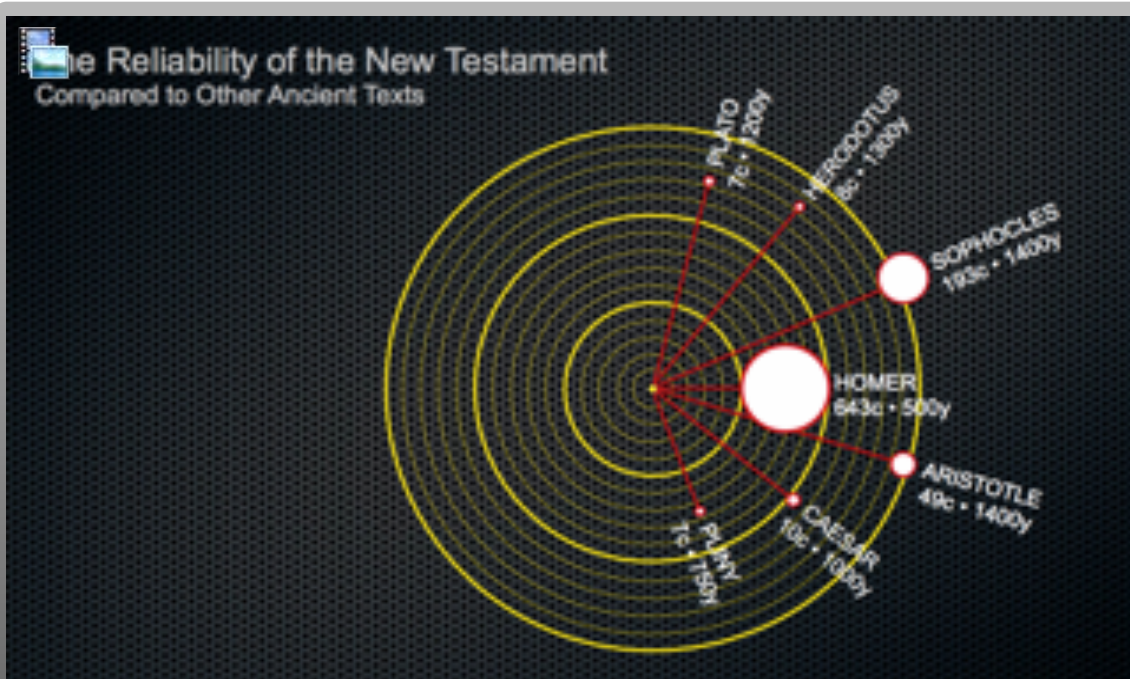
The study of historical writing. To determine the historical accuracy, reliability, and authenticity of any writing of antiquity, three historiographic tests can be performed: the bibliographic test, the internal evidence test, and the external evidence test.

4.

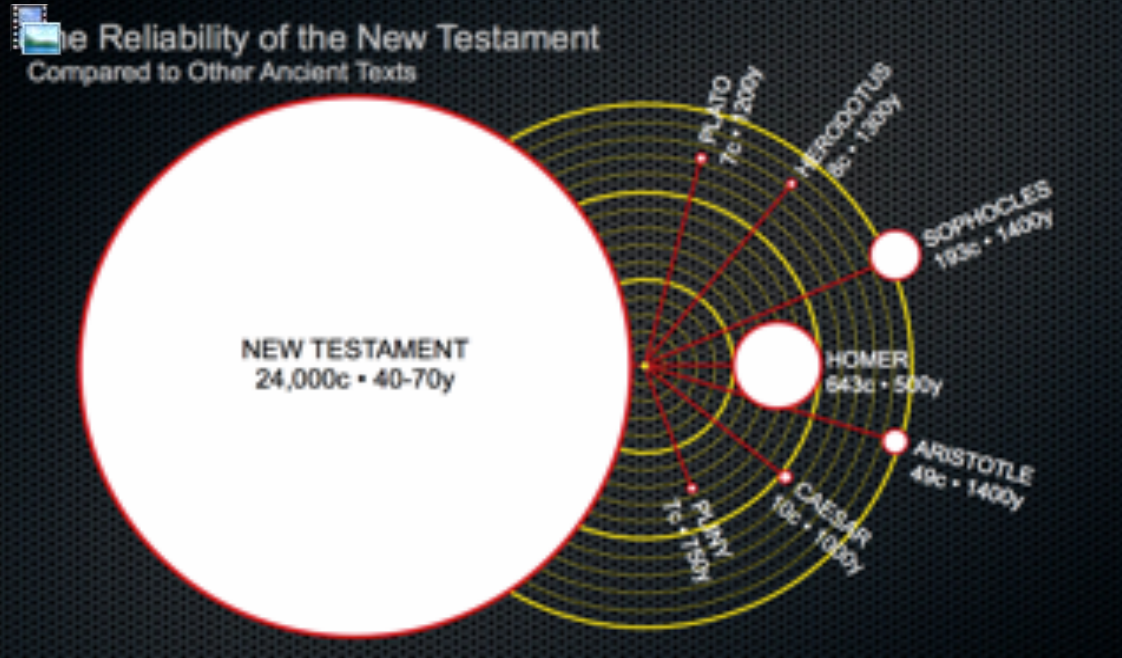
Bibliographic Test:

Examination of the textual transmission by which documents reach us.

5.



6.



7.

<u>Author</u>	<u>Works</u>	<u>When Written</u>	<u>Earliest Copy</u>	<u>Time Span</u>	<u># of Copies</u>
Aristotle	-/-	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1400 yrs	49
Thucydides	History	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300 yrs	8
Plato	Teratologies	427-347 BC	900 AD	1200 yrs	7
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000 yrs	10
Livy	Roman History	59BC - 17AD	-/-	-/-	20
Tacitus	Annals	100 AD	1100 AD	1000 yrs	20
Pliny the Younger	History	61-113 AD	850 AD	750 yrs	7
Homer	Iliad	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament		40-100 AD	125 AD	25 yrs	24000

8.



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9.



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10.



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Homer	Iliad	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament		40-100 AD	125 AD	25 yrs	5000

11.



Internal Evidence Test:

Is the written record credible and to what extent? Does it tell the truth?

12. more than stories sermon background

Luke 1:1-4 (NLT)

¹ Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

13.

2 Peter 1:16 (NLT)

For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes...

1 John 1:3 (NLT)

We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

14.

John 19:35 (NLT)

This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.

Luke 3:1 (NLT)

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene.

15.

The New Testament accounts of Jesus' life were being circulated within the lifetimes of those alive at the time of his life. People could have either confirmed or denied the accuracy of the accounts. The writers of the New Testament spoke of the events of Jesus' life as common knowledge and even appealed to the people's experience of Jesus' life.

16.

Acts 26:25-26 (NLT)

²⁵ But Paul replied, “I am not insane, Most Excellent Festus. What I am saying is the sober truth. ²⁶ And King Agrippa knows about these things. I speak boldly, for I am sure these events are all familiar to him, for they were not done in a corner!”

17.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NLT)

³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

18.

External Evidence Test:

Other historical material that either confirms or denies the internal testimony of the documents themselves.

19.

Josephus (37-100 AD): *a Jewish historian*

“the brother of Jesus, the so-called Christ, whose name was James” (Antiquities XX 9:1)

“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus...Pilate condemned him to be condemned and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders”
(Antiquities XVIII.33, Arabic text)

20.

Cornelius Tacitus (55-117 AD): *Roman historian wrote of Nero and his attempt to relieve himself of the guilt of burning Rome:*

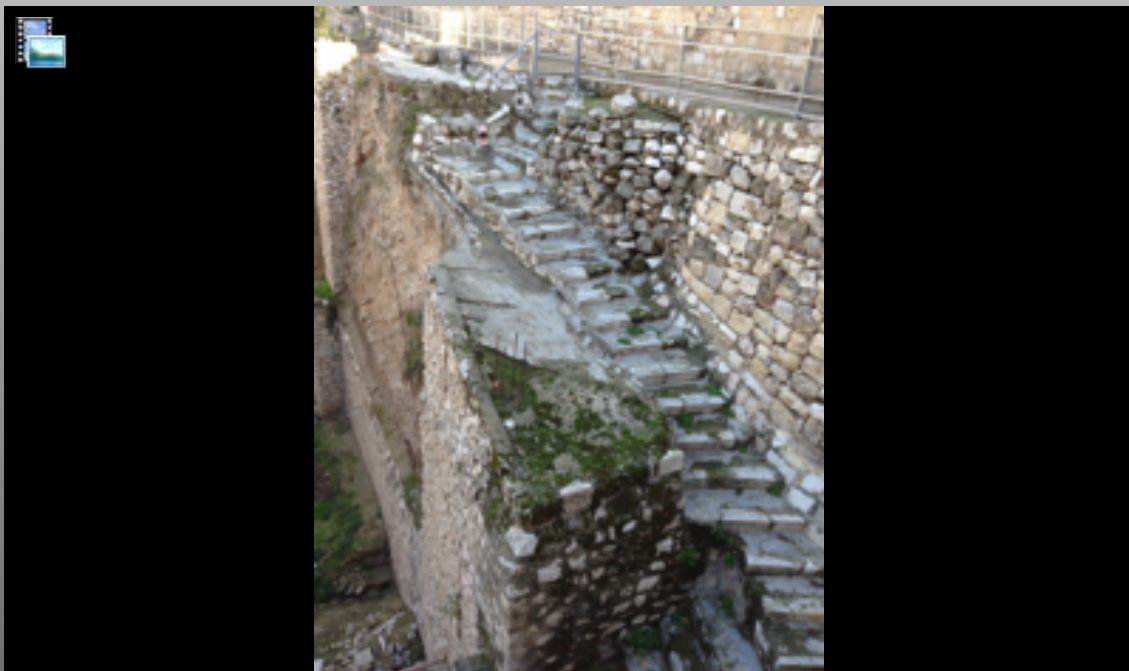
“Hence to suppress the rumor he falsely charged with guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also. (Annals XV.44)

21.

John 5:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.

22.



23.



24.



25.



26.



“Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea, has presented the Tiberium to the Caesareans”.

This was the first archeological discovery of a historical reference to the existence of Pontius Pilate.

27. more than stories sermon background

“The Bible is often surprisingly accurate in historical particulars, more so than earlier generations of scholars suspected... After more than two centuries of facing the heaviest scientific guns that could be brought to bear, the Bible has survived—and is perhaps the better for the siege.”

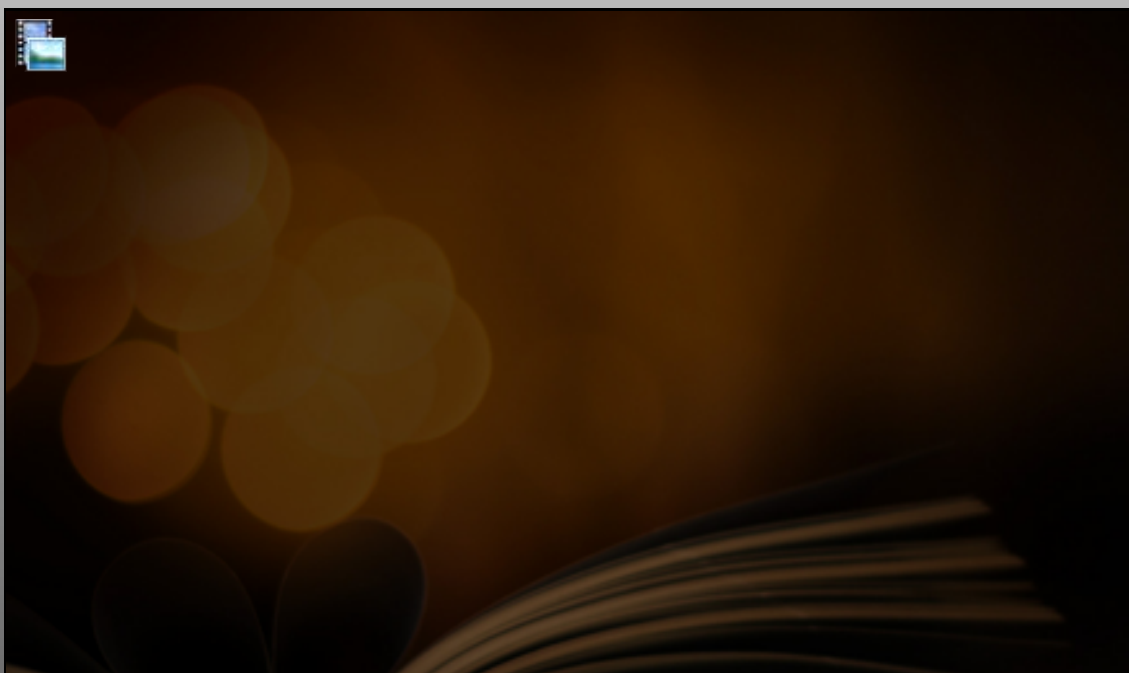
~Time Magazine (December 30, 1974)

28.

“From Genesis to Revelation we find the common unifying theme of God’s loving pursuit of humanity and humanity’s resistance to Him. Amidst the incredible diversity of authors, perspectives, cultures, circumstances, times, worldviews, and literary genres, the Bible constitutes a unified song about redemption. In the same way that the diversity of Scripture testifies to its diverse human authorship, doesn’t the overarching unity of Scripture testify to an encompassing, divine authorship?”

~ Gregory Boyd, *Letters from a Skeptic*

29.



30. more than stories sermon background