

TIMELESS ANSWERS FOR
TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRIST

EVIDENCE FOR JESUS



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A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

THOMAS NELSON

Evidence for Jesus

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CHAPTER 4

IS THE NEW TESTAMENT RELIABLE?

NUMBER OF BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Language*	Earliest MS (old)	Earliest MS (new)	Number of MSS (old)	Number of MSS (new)
Armenian	AD 887	AD 862	2,000+	2,000+
Coptic	Late 3rd c. AD	Late 3rd c. AD	Around 975	Around 975
Gothic	5th or 6th c. AD	5th or 6th c. AD	6	6
Ethiopian	10th c. AD	6th c. AD	600+	600+
Total Latin translations	N/A	N/A	50	110
Old Latin	4th c. AD	4th c. AD	10,000+	10,000+
Vulgate	4th c. AD	4th c. AD		
Syriac	5th c. AD	Late 4th or Early 5th c. AD	350+	350+
Georgian	Late 9th c. AD	5th c. AD	43+	89

(continued)

Language*	Earliest MS (old)	Earliest MS (new)	Number of MSS (old)	Number of MSS (new)
Slavic	10th c. AD	10th c. AD	4,000+	4,000+
Total non-Greek manuscripts				18,130+
Greek	AD 130 (or earlier)	AD 130 (or earlier)	5,838	5,856
TOTAL GREEK AND NON-GREEK MANUSCRIPTS				23,986
Biblical Manuscripts, Scrolls, and Translations				
New Testament Greek manuscripts				5,856
New Testament early translations				18,130
Old Testament scrolls, codices				42,300**
TOTAL BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCES				66,286

Chart adapted from Cowe, AVNT, 256.

*Many of these languages are not cataloged regularly.

**25,000 are relatively recent, dated to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

SUMMARY CHART OF SELECTED SURVIVING MSS OF MAJOR CLASSICAL WORKS

Work	Earliest MS (old)	Earliest MS (new)	Number of MSS (old)	Number of MSS (new)
Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	About 400 BC	About 415 BC	1,800+	1,900+
Herodotus's <i>Histories</i>	1st c. AD	150–50 BC	109	About 106
Sophocles's plays	3rd c. BC	3rd c. BC	193	About 226
Plato's tetralogies	AD 895	3rd c. BC	210	238
Caesar's <i>Gallic Wars</i>	9th c. AD	9th c. AD	251	251
Livy's <i>History of Rome</i>	Early 5th c. AD	4th c. AD	150	About 473
Tacitus's <i>Annals</i>	1st half: AD 850 2nd half: AD 1050	1st half: AD 850 2nd half: AD 1050	33	36
Pliny the Elder's <i>Natural History</i>	One 5th c. AD fragment. Others in 14th and 15th c.	5th c. AD	200	200+
Thucydides's <i>History</i>	3rd c. BC	3rd c. BC	96	188
Demosthenes's speeches	Fragments from 1st c. BC	1st c. BC, possibly earlier	340	444
TOTAL				4,062+



CHAPTER 7

IS THERE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS GOD?

JESUS IS DECLARED TO BE JEHOVAH GOD*

Said of Jehovah	Mutual Title or Act	Said of Jesus
Gen. 1:1–3; Ps. 102:25; Isa. 44:24	Creator	John 1:3; Heb. 1:2
Isa. 45:15, 21–22; 43:11	Savior	John 4:42
Deut. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6	Raising the Dead	John 5:28, 29
Ps. 62:12; Joel 3:12	Judge	Matt. 25:31–46; John 5:22
Isa. 60:19–20	Light	John 8:12
Ex. 3:14	I Am	John 8:58
Ps. 23:1	Shepherd	John 10:11
Isa. 42:8; cf. 48:11	Glory of God	John 17:1, 5
Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12	First and Last	Rev. 1:7–8, 17–18; 2:8; 22:12–13

(continued)

Said of Jehovah	Mutual Title or Act	Said of Jesus
Hos. 13:14	Redeemer	Rev. 5:9
Isa. 62:5; Hos. 2:16	Bridegroom	Rev. 21:2
Ps. 18:2	Rock	1 Cor. 10:4
Ex. 34:6–7; Jer. 31:34	Forgiver of Sins	Mark 2:7–10; Acts 5:31
Ps. 97:7; 148:2	Worshiped by Angels	Heb. 1:6
Joel 2:32; throughout OT	Addressed in Prayer	Acts 7:59–60; Rom. 10:12–13
Ps. 148:2–5	Creator of Angels	Col. 1:16
Isa. 45:23	Confessed as Lord (Jehovah)	Phil. 2:9–11

*This chart originally appeared in Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1999), 148.

CHAPTER 18

DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT FORESHADOW JESUS?

MESSIANIC PREDICTIVE PROPHECIES

FACT	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Pre-existent and divine	Isa. 9:6	Col. 1:17; John 8:58; Rev. 1:17; 22:13
A prophet	Deut. 18:18	Matt. 21:11; Luke 7:16; John 4:19; 6:14; 7:40
Of the line of Jesse and the house of David	Isa. 11:1–3	Rom. 1:1–3
Judge	Ezek. 34:20–24	2 Tim. 4:1
King	Ps. 2:6; see also Jer. 23:5; Zech. 9:9	Matt. 21:5; 27:37; John 18:33–38
Special presence of the Holy Spirit	Isa. 11:2	Matt. 3:16–17; 12:17–21; Mark 1:10; Luke 4:15–21, 43; John 1:32

(continued)

FACT	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Preceded by messenger	Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1	Mark 1:1–3
Ministry to begin in Galilee	Isa. 9:1	Matt. 4:12–17
Ministry of miracles	Isa. 35:5–6	Matt. 9:35
He was to enter the temple	Mal. 3:1	Matt. 21:12
He was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zech. 9:9	Luke 19:35–37
A “light” to the gentiles	Isa. 42:6; 49:5–6	Acts 13:47–48; 26:23; 28:28