

## **WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?**

- 1. Jericho's evidence of existence & destruction**
- 2. Solomon 2nd most noted historical figure**
- 3. Augustus' deeds written on his temple wall, site the census of Luke 2:1**
- 4. Stone mentioning Pontius Pilate**
- 5. Ossuary of Caiaphas, the High Priest**
- 6. Nazareth Stone penalties for grave disturbers.**

**Bible 1. Continuity--written over 1500 years by over 40 authors with 1 message (we're sinners & God has a Savior)**

- 2. Delivery--books added through time - Prophet seen as God's messenger; words written down, collected, & used (Da 9:2)**
- 3. Reliability of OT--Dead Sea Scrolls (oldest Hebrew version--100 BC) - Isaiah 95% same as modern Hebrew OT; 5% is pen slips & misspelling**
- 4. Reliability of NT--compared to ancient literature (others accepted as trustworthy) - More copies (24,633 vs. 643 of The Iliad, Homer the Trojan war)**
- 5. Inerrancy (w/o contradiction) - Variations in manuscripts are spelling or word changes - Variations in manuscripts have no doctrine change or contradiction**
- 6. Consistency--Jesus' OT was same as NT (351 Prophecies fulfilled)**

**Geography 1. 92% of OT, 98% of NT sites found 2. Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed a blind man 3. Jacob's Well, where Jesus met a Samaritan woman 4. Calvary 5. Jesus' tomb**

**Historical records 1. An indictment appears in the Talmud for Yeshu Hannotzri, or "Jesus the Nazarene." It says, "He shall be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and lured Israel into apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf. Anyone who knows where he is, let him declare it to the Great Sanhedrin in Jerusalem." (The Mishnah tractate, Sanhedrin 43a)**

**2. "At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But 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**

reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day." (Josephus, Jewish Antiquities 18:63)

3. Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour to the ninth--manifestly that one of which we speak." (Julius Africanus, Chronography, 18.1)

4. "Christus, the founder of the name (Christians), 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." (Tacitus, Annals XV, 44)

5. "The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day--the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites and was crucified on that account... and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property." (Lucian, The Death of Peregrine, 11-13)

6. "As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Christus, he expelled them from Rome." (Suetonius, Life of Claudius 25.4)

7. "Punishment by Nero was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition." (Suetonius, Lives of the Caesars, 26.2)

8. Pliny the Younger wrote that he had found some people falsely accused of being Christian. Upon investigation, they summarily "cursed Christ--none of which those who "They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so." (Pliny the Younger, Epistles X, 96)

9. Miami University history professor Edwin Yamauchi summarizes these non-Christian sources from the first and second centuries. (Josh McDowell, The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), p. 136.)