

Sermon: Why should we  
trust the bible?

# Jesus's View of Scripture

## 5 Evidences

# **Scripture points to Jesus**

**Luke 24:25** He said to them, “How foolish and slow you are to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Wasn’t it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

**Luke 24:44-47** He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

46 He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, 47 and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

# Isaiah 52-53

**Scripture is the Word of God / God Breathed**

**Matthew 22:31** Haven't you read what was spoken to you by God?"

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



## **Scripture contains true history**

**Matthew 19:4-5** Haven't you read," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female," 5 and he also said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?"

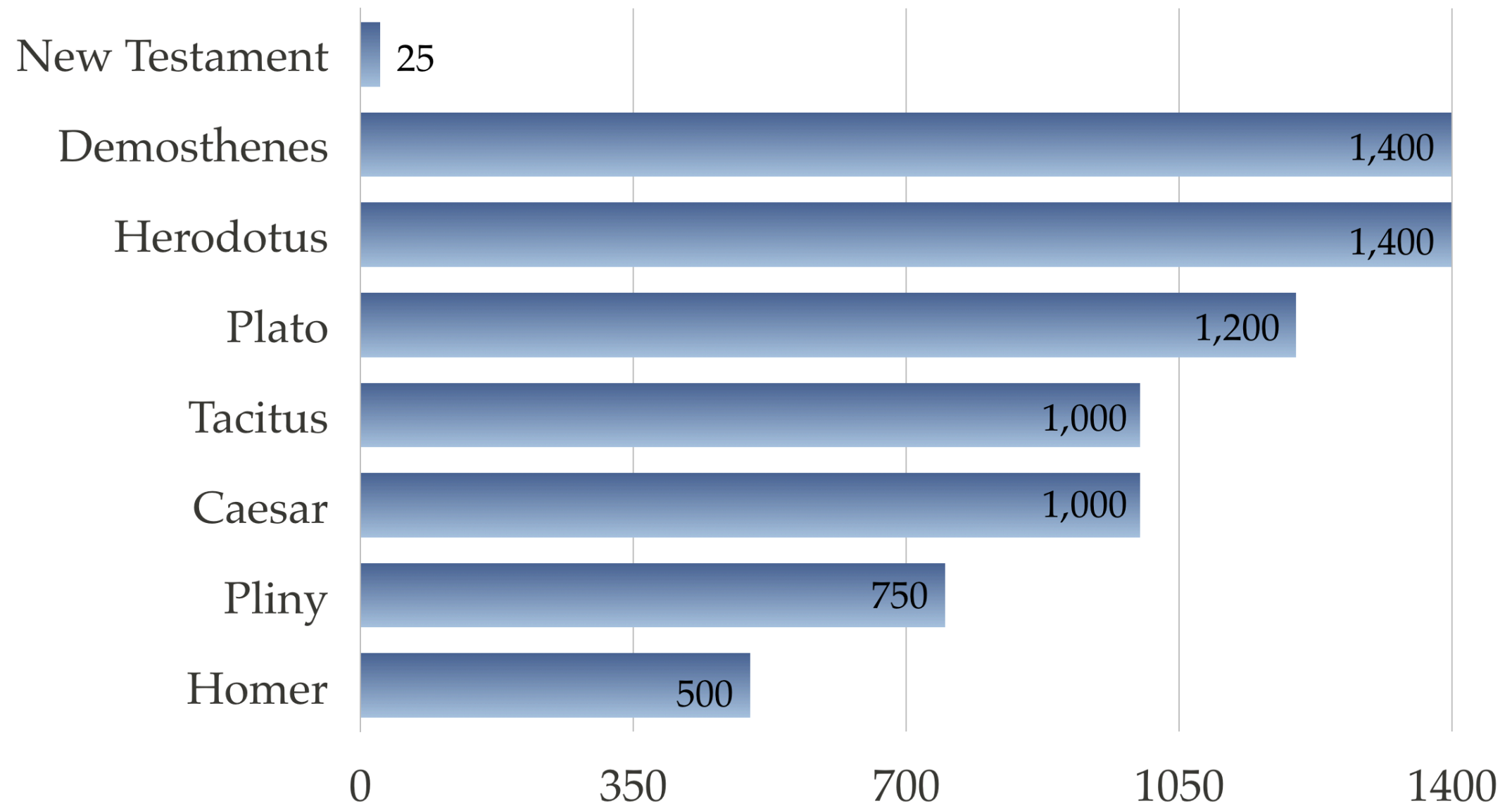
# The Five E's

- Early testimony
- Eyewitness testimony
- Extra-Biblical testimony
- Embarrassing testimony
- Excruciating testimony

# 1. Early testimony

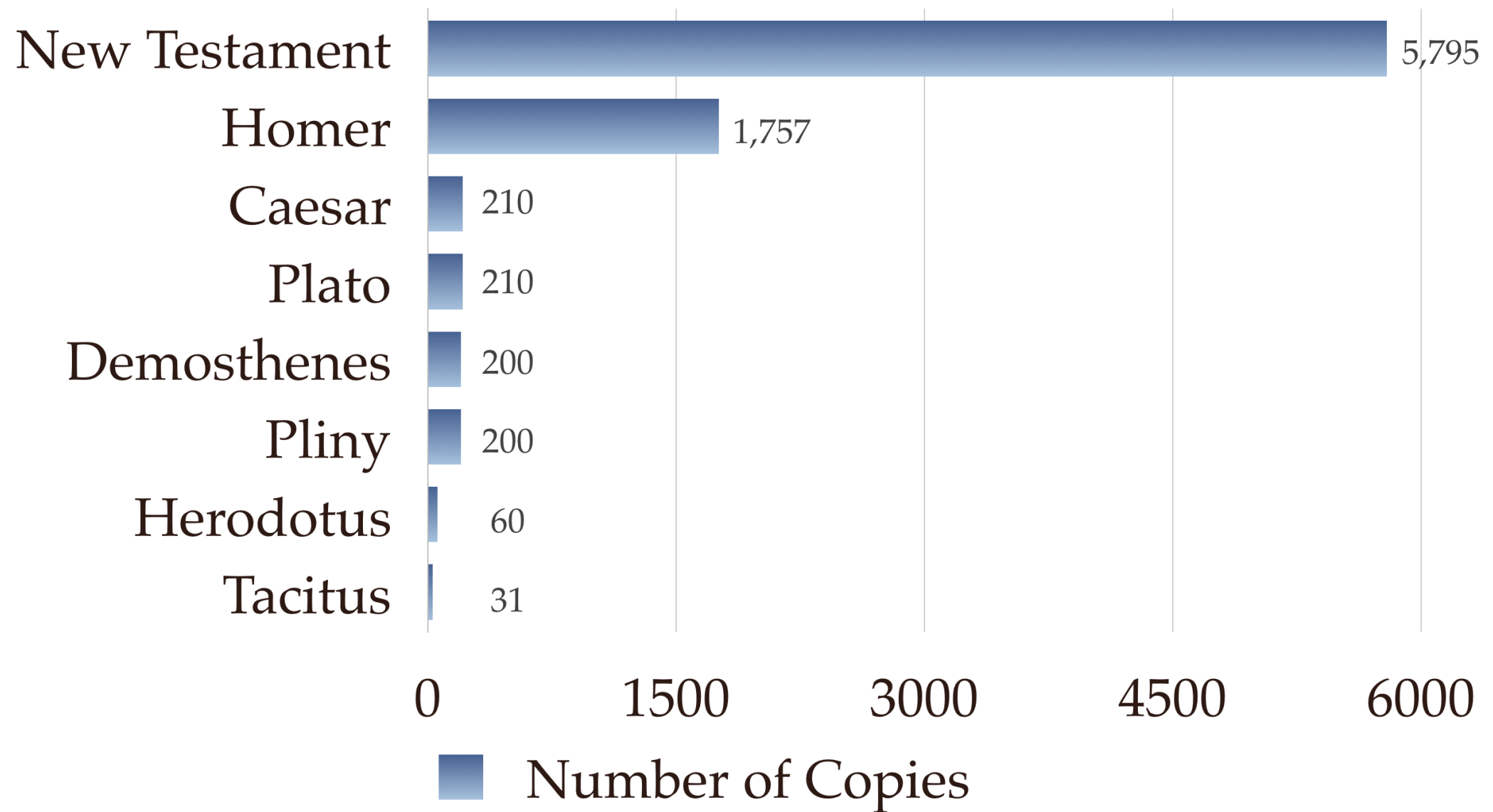
- 5,800 handwritten Greek manuscripts of the New Testament
- Parts of Mark, Acts, Romans, 1 Timothy, 2 Peter, and James which may date to A.D. 50 to 70
- Within 20-40 years of Jesus' death.
- Copies of John that date to within 25 years of its writing

# Copy Time Gap



(Copy time gap Graph)

# Number of Manuscripts



(Number of manuscripts graph)

## 2. Eyewitness testimony

- “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word” Luke 1:1-2
- “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact” Acts 2:32
- “We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty” 2 Pet. 1:16

- Why should we believe them as eyewitnesses?
  - They correctly cite locations, dialects, authorities and officials, current events
- Colin Hemer - 84 facts just in the last 16 chapters of acts

“A writer who thus relates his story to the wider context of world history is courting trouble if he is not careful; he affords his critical readers so many opportunities for testing his accuracy. Luke takes this risk, and stands the test admirably.”

-- F. F. Bruce



### **3. Extra-Biblical testimony**

- Flavius Josephus (ca. 37--ca. 100)
- Greatest Jewish historian of his time
- Antiquities of the Jews, which he finished ca. A.D. 93
- Mentions Jesus multiple times

## **Antiquities of the Jews**

“At this time [the time of Pilate] there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from 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 recounted wonders”

- 10 known non-Christian writers mention Jesus within 150 years of his life.
- 9 sources mention Tiberius Caesar.
- If you include christian sources, there are 43!

- We know Jesus
  - lived during time of Tiberius Caesar.
  - lived a virtuous life.
  - was a wonder-worker.
  - had a brother named James.
  - was acclaimed to be the Messiah.
  - was crucified under Pontius Pilate on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
  - Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.

- Jesus'
  - disciples believed he rose from the dead.
  - disciples were willing to die for their belief.
  - disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.

## 4. Embarrassing testimony

- The principle of embarrassment:
- “Any details embarrassing to the author are probably true.”
- The authors are dim-witted—numerous times they fail to understand what Jesus is saying.
- They are uncaring—they fall asleep on Jesus twice when he asks them to pray.
- They are rebuked—Peter is called “Satan” by Jesus.

- They are cowards.
- They are doubters.



## **Embarrassing Evidence About Jesus**

- is considered “out of his mind” by his mother and brothers
- is not believed by his own brothers
- is called a “drunkard”

# Jesus

- has his feet wiped with the hair of a prostitute (an event that had the potential to be perceived as a sexual advance)
- is crucified by the Jews and Romans, despite the fact that “anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse”
- Buried by a member of the group that sentenced Jesus to death.
- First appears to women

## **5. Excruciating testimony**

- NT Believers abandoned long-held sacred beliefs, adopt new ones
- They don't deny their testimony under threat of death!
- Some of the Gospel writers and apostles were martyred and/or tortured for their faith!
- All were willing to suffer and die.

Many will die for something  
they believe is True, but no  
one dies for something they  
know is a lie!