



We live in a paradoxical age. Never have we had so much access to information... and yet never has it been so common to doubt everything. Especially when it comes to faith. Many people ask: *is the New Testament a collection of late legends... or a reliable testimony of real events?*

The answer, when examined with rigor, is striking: **the New Testament is one of the best-attested documents in all of antiquity**. And not only from the standpoint of faith, but according to strict historical criteria.

This article aims to guide you through a clear, deep, and honest journey: **the evidence for the reliability of the New Testament**, not only to convince the mind... but to illuminate the heart.

1. What does “truthfulness” mean in historical terms?

Before we begin, it is important to clarify something:

Historians cannot “prove” a miracle the way one proves a mathematical formula. But they can evaluate whether a text is:

- Ancient and close to the events
- Well transmitted (without major alterations)
- Confirmed by multiple sources
- Coherent within its historical context

And this is precisely where the New Testament does not merely pass the test... **it surpasses it**.

2. The bibliographical test: how much time separates the events from the manuscripts?

This is one of the most important criteria.

The **shorter the gap between the event and the manuscript that records it**, the greater the reliability.



□ In the case of the New Testament:

- The events (the life of Jesus Christ) take place approximately between 30 and 33 A.D.
- The earliest writings (the letters of St. Paul) date from around 50 A.D.
- The Gospels are written between 60 and 90 A.D.

□ That is, **within the same generation as the eyewitnesses.**

But even more impressive is this:

□ Key manuscripts:

- **Rylands Papyrus (P52)** → dated around 125 A.D.
Contains a fragment of the Gospel of John.
□ Barely **90 years after the death of Christ.**
- **Bodmer Papyri (P66 and P75)** → 2nd–3rd centuries
Extensive portions of the Gospels of John and Luke.
- **Codex Sinaiticus** (4th century)
- **Codex Vaticanus** (4th century)

□ These contain almost **the entire New Testament.**

⚖ Comparison with other ancient authors:

- Homer → ~500 years between the original and the manuscripts
- Julius Caesar → ~1,000 years
- Tacitus → ~1,000 years

□ And yet, no one doubts their authenticity.

The New Testament has a far shorter gap.

3. The number of manuscripts: overwhelming evidence

Here we encounter a fact that breaks all comparisons.



□ Number of New Testament manuscripts:

- More than **5,800 manuscripts in Greek**
- More than **10,000 in Latin**
- More than **9,000 in other ancient languages (Coptic, Syriac, etc.)**

□ Total: **more than 25,000 manuscripts**

⚖ Comparison:

- Plato → ~7 manuscripts
- Aristotle → ~49 manuscripts
- Herodotus → ~8 manuscripts

□ No ancient work even comes close.

□ Why does this matter?

Because the more manuscripts we have:

- The easier it is to detect copying errors
- The greater the precision in reconstructing the original text
- The less room there is for manipulation

Conclusion:

The New Testament text we have today is, with very high probability, **virtually identical to the original.**

4. Internal coherence: a unified message

The New Testament was written by multiple authors:

- Fishermen (Peter)



- A physician (Luke)
- A learned Pharisee (Paul)
- Eyewitnesses (John)

And yet, it conveys a coherent message:

- The identity of Jesus Christ
- His death and resurrection
- The call to conversion

As Scripture says:

“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you” (1 John 1:3)

These are not distant myths.

They are testimonies.

5. The criterion of embarrassing testimony

A detail highly valued by historians:

- If a text invents a story, it avoids what is embarrassing.
- If it tells the truth, it includes even what reflects poorly on its protagonists.

Examples from the New Testament:

- Peter denies Christ
- The disciples doubt
- Women (whose testimony had little social value at the time) are the first to witness the Resurrection

This is not propaganda. It is honest memory.



6. External confirmations: not everything comes from the Bible

Even non-Christian authors mention Jesus and the early Christians:

- Tacitus → speaks of Christ's execution
- Pliny the Younger → describes Christians worshipping Christ as God
- Flavius Josephus → mentions Jesus

□ This confirms that **we are not dealing with an internal invention.**

7. The theological dimension: more than history

Up to this point, we could remain at an academic level.
But the New Testament is not just a reliable document...

It is **the living Word**.

For the Church, it is inspired by the Holy Spirit.
It does not merely transmit data... **it transmits salvation.**

As St. Paul writes:

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching” (2 Timothy 3:16)



8. Practical application: what changes in your life?

Knowing that the New Testament is reliable is not a cold fact.
It has concrete consequences:

1. You can trust Christ

You are not following a myth, but a real Person.

2. Your faith is not irrational

It is reasonable, historical, and solid.

3. The Word of God has authority

It is not opinion. It is truth that challenges you.

4. You are called to respond

It is not enough to know. You must live it.

9. A challenge for our time

Today, everything is questioned:

- Truth
- History
- Morality

But the problem is not a lack of evidence...

it is resistance to accepting what that evidence implies.

Because if the New Testament is true...

- Then Christ is who He says He is
- Then His message is not optional
- Then our lives must change



Conclusion: from evidence to faith

We can say it without fear:

No work of antiquity has the documentary support of the New Testament.

Not in temporal proximity

Not in number of manuscripts

Not in coherence

Not in historical impact

And yet, the Christian faith is not based on evidence alone...

It is based on an encounter.

□ For reflection

Christ does not ask whether you have read enough manuscripts.

He asks:

| *“But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15)*

Final pastoral guide

- Read the Gospel every day (even if only 5 minutes)
- Do not fear questions: faith and reason do not oppose each other
- Go deeper: study, investigate, be formed
- Live what you discover

Because in the end, the greatest proof of the truth of the Gospel...



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is a transformed life.