

Chapter 3: HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Seriously. How much is enough? How much evidence is needed to establish validity?

Is the same standard of validity applied consistently- or do questions invalidate documented, verified, factual information when facing fundamental matters of existence and the objective analysis of information confirming the way things are?

Do conflicts with GOD'S STANDARD and emotional discomfort provide a reasonable justification for suspending objectivity in this case?

What is more important than Origin and establishing a fundamental basis for how we perceive the World?

Is a physical encounter with a Divine Being necessary when overwhelming evidence exists to make THE FOUNDATION of REALITY known?

What requires more Faith?

Believing all things came from nothing to establish everything in a highly complex and measurable order **OR** that GOD Created everything and influenced the accumulation of documented, verified, factual evidence to make THE REALITY of GOD known?

GOD IS or everything came from nothing.

I am convinced that even if GOD appeared to some *rejecters* in person, with all TRUTH and proof, they would find a way to discount and discard the authenticity of what they experienced, because evidence isn't **really** the issue- justifying a standard of their own is. Some *rejecters* are simply unaware and have not fully considered the evidence or consequences of their position. Most *rejecters* attempt to avoid awareness and accountability because they enjoy things GOD'S STANDARD opposes, fear the process of change, harbor hurt, and desperately desire to avoid conscious reminders of their living in opposition to GOD'S STANDARD.

Not one person on Earth has seen Pluto with the naked eye. Most haven't even seen Pluto through a telescope- they simply take the presentation of evidence at face value and trust the authenticity of the source, because a purpose for lying isn't easily identified, the significance of Pluto has a minimal impact on existence, and the consequences for believing incorrectly about the existence of Pluto are too insignificant to warrant relevance.

However, when it comes to belief in GOD and the legitimacy of JESUS CHRIST, the expected impact of conscious awareness influences many to use uncertainty as an excuse for rejecting the unprecedented volumes of documented, verified, factual,

figurative, and philosophical evidence confirming GOD and the legitimacy of JESUS CHRIST.

Allowing unanswerable questions to delegitimize known answers and volumes of indicative evidence, produces a destructive and delusional state of existence that negatively impacts unmeasurable levels of society. A non-believer may be very kind and never directly harm another person, but their influence will pull or push others away from THE FOUNDATION of REALITY- and eventually influence someone who's state of relative reality results in the direct harm of others or themselves.

The influence of these individuals is best minimized when information confirming Reality (the way things are) is made readily available and relevant to The People, so the majority is motivated to strive for adherence to GOD'S STANDARD.

Many navigate life perceiving Christianity and other systems of fundamental belief as being the same, because they're labeled as 'religion' but not all systems of belief are the same. In fact, no other system of belief is accompanied by anywhere near the volumes of evidence which validate the legitimacy of Christianity.

The comparison is not even close!

History provides a window into the past and perspective for the present and future. Inadequate knowledge of History leads to a distorted perception of present Reality and an increased likelihood of future errors. When people lack awareness of Historic happenings and the unfolding of History, their perception of Reality becomes heavily dependent upon (near-sighted) personal experiences and contemporary influences.

People literally lose sight of their place in time and space!

When this happens on a large scale and Society loses sight of THE FOUNDATION of REALITY, populations move toward an unsustainable state of collective delusion. Collective delusion leads a Society to ruin unless it is corrected, because catastrophic errors in judgement are inevitable when a collective population has an inaccurate and grossly distorted perception of Reality.

Using History and the scope of known time to guide one toward grasping their place in space and time increases the conscious awareness needed to objectively analyze the events that have shaped the World. When recognizing the limited scope of Human History and the limit of a lifetime, compared to the vastness of space and the inconceivable Reality of Eternity, then **acknowledging and accepting the impact and legitimacy of JESUS CHRIST becomes a necessity for all who seek an accurate perception of Reality.**

“History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.”

-Napoleon Bonaparte

“History is a people’s memory, and without a memory, man is demoted to the lower animals.”

-Malcolm X

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.”

-Marcus Garvey

“A generation which ignores history has no past and no future.”

-Robert Heinlein

“Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of Humanity.”

-Hermann Hesse

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.”

-Theodore Roosevelt

This chapter is primarily dedicated to Historical happenings, but other evidence, perspectives, commentary, and questions are incorporated to influence a more thoughtful analysis of the events and discoveries which have played such a significant role in shaping our present Reality.

Information regarding Human activity prior to 3500 BC primarily comes through written accounts, composed from ancient oral traditions, and from assumptions based on the theory of Evolution.

Knowledge of Human activity before 3500 BC is AT BEST, THEORETICAL from a secular or non-religious point of view.

Explaining the events following Origin vary widely throughout the scientific community, but Creation Science is largely disregarded from consideration in the mainstream, because Creation Science and the Theory of Evolution are not compatible at Origin. Many secular scientists believe early Human ancestors first appeared around 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 years ago. Some report the first Human Beings as emerging around 2,000,000 years ago, while other influential, secular scientist report the emergence of Homo Sapiens as occurring between 400,000 and 100,000 years ago. (1)

The variance between dates indicate serious credibility issues, but the Theory of Evolution has been presented as fact for so long, that most people do not think to question and investigate the theory's validity- or its influence on Society's collective perception of Reality.

Evolutionists primarily support their date ranges using radiocarbon dating- a method developed in the late 1940's by American chemist Willard Libby (2). Many scientist agree, radiocarbon dating is unreliable beyond 20,000 to 30,000 (3) years **AT MOST**, yet these same dating methods are used to provide a basis for theorizing when Homo Sapiens emerged, as well as in supporting the theory that Earth is nearly 4,500,000,000 (BILLION) years old! (4) Creation Scientists, also using radiocarbon dating, have noted varied rates of carbon-14 in the environment and claim these variations support their theory that Earth is less than 10,000 years old (5).

Since there is no way to confirm the true reliability of these dating methods, neither theory of Origin can be confirmed using them.

RADIOCARBON DATING

The radiocarbon dating method is based on the rate scientist believe radiocarbon decays and turns into nitrogen. Scientists report this rate of decay as occurring in a uniform manner and have calculated radiocarbon to decay by half, every 5,730 years. At 11,460 years 1/4 of the radiocarbon exists, then at 17,190 years 1/8 of the radiocarbon exists, 1/16 at 22,920 years, and so on. (2)

Traditionally, radiation counters would detect the number of electrons (part of an atom [basic unit of matter containing a proton, neutron, and electrons]) (6) given off and converted into carbon dioxide gas when a piece of the object to be dated was burned. The radiation counter would detect the electrons released by the radiocarbon atoms when they became nitrogen atoms. The number of electrons released indicated the amount of radiocarbon contained within the object and was then used to formulate a date range for that object.

Today, charged carbon atoms from the object to be dated are fired through a particle accelerator into a magnetic field, where the carbon atoms are deflected and separated by weight, then counted by a carbon detector to determine the objects radiocarbon content- which is then used to calculate a date range. (2)

TRUST IS PLACED

The scientific assumptions used to support the Theory of Evolution (beyond the Historical Record) are unreliable, because there are **no first-hand accounts of variables or the effects of variables on the environment**- which could have been very different than environmental conditions recorded and observed in modern times.

Accepting the accuracy and integrity of radiocarbon dating, requires placing a significant amount of trust in Man's ability to create a reliable tool for measuring the materials that are analyzed to determine if those materials support an assumption, which cannot be verified- so much could go wrong or be misinterpreted.

History, on the other hand, simply requires trusting Man's ability to accurately record events and maintain that record.

Judeo-Christian accounts of events before 3500 B.C. have earned the standing to be accepted as factual events, based on a logical, reasoned, and rational assessment of the documented, verified, factual evidence accumulated since then- which provides Humanity with an unmatched record of validation, witnessed by all who objectively take notice of the Historical events which have shaped the World.

The best source of information concerning the Origin of Humanity comes through an analysis of the Historical Record, which began around 3500 B.C. with the invention of writing and the emergence of civilizations in the Mesopotamian region. (1)

Great Flood stories with many similarities are a dominate theme across many cultures throughout the World. (7) There are no ancient stories reporting that Humans wandered the Earth for millions or hundreds-of thousands-of-years, evolving, until rapidly discovering how to write and build civilizations around 3500 B.C. - **the only account of this nature** is found in the Theory of Evolution, which originated in the early 1800's and found traction for popularization through the work of Charles Darwin in 1859. (8)

What is the best evidence of Origin?

The Theory of Evolution?

The Theory of Evolution is used to explain Origin and existence independent of The Creation account found in The Book of Genesis- which has dominated the arena of explanation for many millennia. The Theory of Evolution excuses primal behaviors as 'natural' and has been instrumental in justifying genocide and the horrendous treatment of peoples across the World.

The Theory of Evolution relies on surface level observations and the commonality within Creation, to support the belief that **everything came from nothing in nothingness to establish an order, which allowed for a single cell to form and spontaneously come to life, then self-replicate, reproduce, adapt, and evolve from one life form to another, to eventually produce all forms of life over the span of millions and billions of years.**

There has never been an observable change of kinds (one species changing into another) to provide validity for this theory. Proponents are forced to rely on observable adaptations, nearsighted evaluations, and unverifiable dating methods for evidence. The lack of sound, documented, verifiable, factual information needed to provide validity for this theory, would lead it to be shamed from the arena of credible thought, if not for nefarious factions using it to distort people's perception of Reality.

Those who believe the assumptions of this theory do so from a place of naïve ignorance and/or a desire to disprove The Creation Account found in The Bible.

In desperation, modern proponents of this theory have even lobbied to change the definition of the word 'theory' as it applies to scientific guesses.

The Theory of Evolution IS NOT compatible with The Bible.

For The Bible and the Theory of Evolution to be compatible, the sequence of events reported in The Biblical Account would need to provide evidence of death and destruction before the first sin was committed- and this is not how The Account is reported.

**TRUTH IS EVIDENCED WITH DOCUMENTED, VERIFIED,
FACTUAL INFORMATION**

EVERY civilization has a religion... (9)

“The belief in a superhuman controlling power; especially in a personal GOD or gods entitled to obedience and worship.” (10)

...but not every religion has validation!

EVIDENCE is information that tends to prove or disprove a fact in question (11).

The Oxford Dictionary defines *evidence* as:

The available facts, circumstances, etc., indicating whether or not a thing is true or valid. Information tending to prove a fact or proposition.

The volume of evidence proving THE REALITY of GOD and the legitimacy of JESUS CHRIST meets the burden of proof in such a substantial way, as to make all doubt unreasonable and invalid.

LET US REASON!

(Let us make a sound decision based on the evidence)

THE DATE (12; 13; 14; 15; 16)

In the year 1582, Pope Gregory the XIII replaced the Julian calendar (established in 46 BC by Julius Caesar) with a more accurate *Gregorian* calendar- which was established through the work of a monk named Dionysius Exiguus (~AD 470 to ~544) in 532 and popularized in Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (731).

The Gregorian calendar is the standard World calendar in use today. The basis for the Gregorian calendar is The Birth of JESUS CHRIST and The Creation account found in the book of Genesis.

Think about the significance and merits of the World standard calendar being established on The Birth of Jesus Christ. This is an unprecedented and unequalled feat of Historical significance that many take for granted but shouldn’t.

What are the odds?

*The Jewish calendar is the oldest in use today and dates the year as 5782 in 2022 A.D.

BEDE (15)

Bede was an English Historian and Theologian who was born in Northeastern England. He entered the monastery at the age of 7 to begin his education and lived his entire adult life as a monk. Bede wrote on a range of subjects- including grammar, spelling, astronomy, and The Bible. His position in time provided an unparalleled view of History after the ministry of JESUS CHRIST- not too close or too far away.

The *Western Experience 9th Edition* (A History textbook composed by heads of departments at major universities) says of Bede:

“The finest English scholar was Bede the Venerable (ca. 673-735), whose *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, an account of the conversion of the English and the growth of their Church, established his fame even until today. His high sense of scholarship is evident in his excellent Latin and in the careful way he cites his sources: oral interviews with knowledgeable eyewitnesses, documents from local archives, and accounts written at his request. His book is the product of a medieval writer, not a modern one; Bede recounted miracles, and **the principal theme of History as the story of Salvation**. But **his belief that History is the unfolding of GOD’S Plan did not lead him to distort the material in his sources**. He is a man who in any age would be recognized as a scholar.”

Islam, The Quran, & CHRIST (17; 18; 19; 20; 21)

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all trace their heritage to a man named Abraham and the Origin account which precedes him in The Book of Genesis. These believers are the dominate cultures in the region of the World where civilization first emerges (~3500 BC) and comprise well over half the World’s total population- although they have Historically been at odds with one another for most of coexistence.

Jewish religious texts comprising The Hebrew Bible (Torah, Prophets, and Writings) are found in The Old Testament of The Christian Bible. These accounts tell the History of Humanity and The Jewish people, from Origin until a 400-year period preceding CHRIST’S Arrival, known as the ‘*Silent time*’- when no inspired Prophet arose from the Jewish people.

Muslims believe The Quran to be the word of God, revealed to the Prophet Muhammed following a vision first occurring in 610 AD, while he meditated in a cave on Mount Hira in Saudi Arabia. Followers of Islam believe the angel Gabriel revealed the information in The Quran to Muhammed in accord with an Eternal book kept in Heaven and continued doing so periodically until his death in 632.

The Quran, Torah, and Bible share many similarities- including The Origin account, important Historical figures, such as JESUS, Adam, Abraham, Moses, Job, David, Aaron, Elisha, Enoch, Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Michael, and others, a Day of Judgement, and many other concepts related to religious matters.

Muhammed's father died before he was born and his mother died when he was a young child. He assisted his grandpa and uncle in tending to sheep and camels on journeys throughout Arabia, Northern Africa, and as far north as Syria. At the age of 25, he married a wealthy widow (Khadijah), who was 15 years his senior. They had 6 children- 2 sons who died young, and four daughters- of which, only one lived to the age of 30. After Khadija died in 619, Muhammed would marry 11 more women (mostly widows) and have one more son who died in infancy.

With his financial needs no longer being a concern after marrying Khadija, Muhammed began pursuing a greater understanding of spiritual things. The results which followed led him to believe he was the last Prophet of Allah (Arabic for God) and he dedicated the rest of his life to the mission he felt compelled to carry out.

By 630 Muhammed had organized a Muslim society in Mecca. He abolished the worshipping of idols and banned the killing of unwanted baby girls. He sought to limit divorce, worked to restructure inheritance laws, regulated slavery, assisted the poor, and banned violence- except in cases of self-defense and for the cause of Islam.

The following verses come from the Quran:

Allah created the Heavens and Earth in 6 days (Surah 10:3)

Adam was created from dust- said to "Be" and was. (Surah 3:59)

Allah guides all who seek His good pleasure to ways of peace and safety...Allah leads people out of darkness by His Will to the Light and guides them to the Straight Path (Surah 5:16)

The Hebrews worshiped a calf, even after Allah provided Clear Signs and gave proof of authority to Moses (Surah 4:153)

Allah made a Covenant with the Children of Israel and appointed leaders of 12 Tribes (Surah 5:12)

Allah sent The Law of Moses and The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST (Surah 2:87; 3:3)

Angels came to Mary and told her she was chosen by Allah above all women...that she would have a SON named CHRIST JESUS, who would be held in honor in this World and after...she is told JESUS will speak maturely as a child...Mary says, "How, when no man has touched me?" The angel responds saying, "Allah creates what Allah Wills"...the angels tell Mary, "Allah will teach JESUS The Book and Wisdom, The

Law and The Gospel' and that "JESUS will be a Messenger to the Children of Israel with Signs from THE LORD to believe" (Surah 3:42-50)

JESUS, SON of Mary, was empowered by THE HOLY SPIRIT (Surah 2:87)

CHRIST THE SON of Mary (Surah 9:31)

Christians and Jews are referred to as "The People of the Book" (Surah 9:29)

GOD sent inspiration to Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, the Tribes, JESUS, Job, Jonah, Aaron, Solomon, and David. (Surah 4:163)

The Truth has been revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, the Tribes, Moses, JESUS, and the Prophets (Surah 3:84)

The Children of Israel were cursed by rejecting Faith in The Words of JESUS (Surah 5:78)

If The People of The Book would have followed The Law, The Gospel, and all that was revealed to them by THE LORD, they would be fulfilled- some are on right course, but many are on a path to Evil (Surah 5:66)

JESUS made a bird of clay and made it come to life; healed lepers and the blind; raised people from the dead (Surah 3:49)

"So Peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life again! Such was JESUS THE SON of Mary: it is a statement of truth, about which they vainly dispute (Surah 19:33-34)

In total, The Quran mentions JESUS directly or indirectly over 187 times!

Where and Why Muhammed Missed the Mark

Muhammed grew up traveling through regions influenced by Western culture. He writes of his travels and makes known his observations of Western lands, manners, thought, and learning. By the time he was an adult, much had happened in Christendom- both good and bad. He was able to recognize the significance of JESUS and the impact of Judeo-Christian efforts, but his perception of a Christian culture influenced by Paganism, understandably led him to perceive error.

Thankfully, the Dead Sea Scrolls provide significant additional evidence of textual integrity to further confirm the legitimacy of Biblical Accounts. Through all the struggles of early Christians and Christian institutions, there were always people bound to a sense of honor and duty, which led them to protect and preserve THE WORD establishing THE FOUNDATION of REALITY. The unfolding of History

bears witness to the feat of their efforts and the preservation of THE WORD allows The People of the World to observe The Merit of THE STANDARD for themselves.

Disdain for Pagans

JESUS is The Messenger of Allah sent to confirm The Law and glad Tidings of a Messenger to come after, whose name shall be “Ahmad (Meaning highly praised or one who constantly thanks God)” Allah has sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, so it may be proclaimed all over, even though the Pagans detest it (Surah 61:6 & 9)

...Ignorant Pagans (Surah 3:75)

...The strongest hatred toward believers is the Jews and Pagans (Surah 5:82)

Major Differences

Muslims have two primary beliefs regarding the crucifixion of JESUS:

- Some Muslims believe GOD confused everyone and the Authorities crucified a JESUS look-alike instead of the real JESUS.
- Some Muslims believe JESUS did not die on The Cross, but was nursed back to health after nearly dying- then healing and Ascending into Heaven afterward.

Muslims believe Christianity is a belief in more than ONE GOD.

Many Muslims have a difficult time grasping how ONE GOD can be manifested in 3 Forms (GOD, SON, HOLY SPIRIT) while maintaining ONENESS. The best explanation is found in the most common substance on Earth- water, which covers more than 70% of the Earth’s surface and is essential for life.

Water is the only substance on Earth which can appear in three forms within the normal range of temperatures while maintaining its three-part elemental makeup.
(22)

Solid- Ice

Liquid- Water

Gas- Vapor

The Jews said, “We killed JESUS” the Messenger of Allah, but they didn’t kill or crucify HIM- It was just made to look that way- Allah raised HIM up to Himself and is exalted (Surah 4:157-158)

Allah said, “JESUS, I will take THEE and raise THEE to Myself and clear THEE of the falsehoods of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow THEE superior to those who reject Faith, to the Day of Resurrection: then shall YE all return unto Me, and I will judge between YOU to the matters wherein YE dispute.” (Surah 3:55)

It's blasphemy to say Allah is CHRIST- SON of Mary...if Allah has the power to destroy CHRIST then who has power against Allah...Jews and Christians say they are sons of Allah and His beloved, so why are they still punished for their sins? – Because they are just men from men Allah created...Allah forgives and punishes as He pleases and has dominion over everything (Surah 5:17-18)

...those who call themselves Christians did make a Covenant with GOD, but they forgot a good part of The Message sent to them...they were estranged with enmity and hatred between one another until The Day of Judgement. (Surah 5:14)

What is the significance of so much commonality- religious & Historical?

Lee Strobel's Case for CHRIST (23)

Journalist Lee Strobel (an Atheist at the time) investigated the legitimacy of Christianity and sought insight from philosopher J.P. Moreland, as part of his investigation. Strobel asked Moreland for five solid pieces of evidence to confirm that JESUS CHRIST legitimately rose from the dead.

Moreland provided the following: (All of which is verified in the Historical Record).

- 1) Skeptics like Paul/Saul and many others became Christians after JESUS was crucified.

In 2000, Paula Fredriksen (a non-Christian Historian & Professor) was interviewed as part of an ABC documentary. She said: **“I know in their own terms what they saw was the raised JESUS. That's what they say, and then all the Historic evidence we have afterwards attest to their conviction that that's what they saw. I'm not saying that they really did see the raised JESUS. I wasn't there. I don't know what they saw. But I do know that as a Historian that they must have seen something.”** (24)

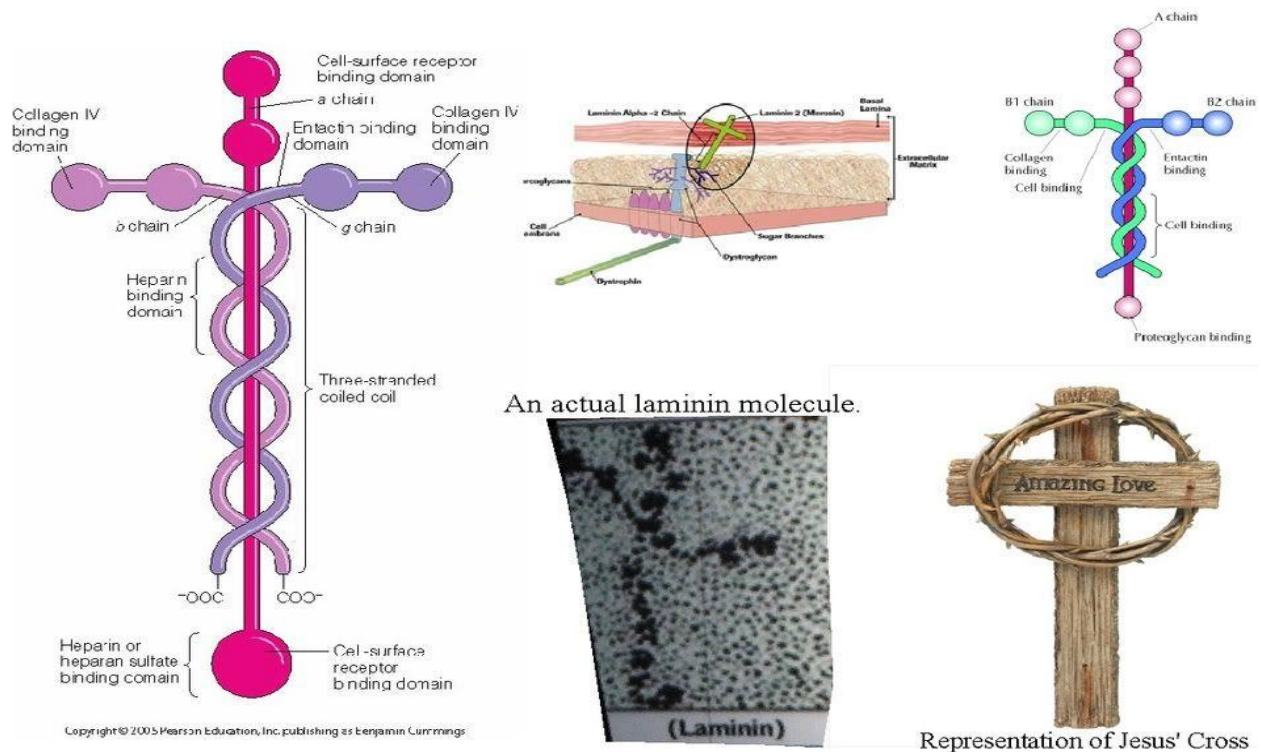
“Virtually every Bible scholar across the Western World, regardless of religious background, agrees that JESUS' earliest followers believed HE appeared to them alive.” (25)

- 2) Shortly after the crucifixion of JESUS, large numbers of The Jewish population significantly altered or completely abandoned traditional religious rituals that were a major part of their cultural identity.
- 3) New religious rituals began in mass- Communion, Baptism in THE NAME of THE FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT- these rituals did not exist before JESUS CHRIST.
- 4) Churches grew and spread rapidly across the Roman Empire.
- 5) Every one of JESUS' Disciples believed through death. They were beaten, mocked, tortured, imprisoned, and dealt with great hardship throughout their lives as missionaries- yet they never stopped attesting to what they witnessed.

LAMININ (27)

Speaking of odds- what are the odds of a cross literally holding life together? Because life is literally held together by a cell adhesion molecule named Laminin- its structure forms a perfect, asymmetrical cross.

Here's some pictures of the structure of laminin:



Laminin is essentially the glue holding cells together- life couldn't exist without it. Of the more than 100,000 different types of proteins in the Human body, the one literally holding our cells together is shaped like the symbol synonymous with Salvation. Of all the shapes, all the functions, and all the symbols- what are the odds?

COLOSSIANS 1:15-18

HE IS The Image of The Invisible GOD, The Firstborn of All Creation: for by HIM all things were created, *both* in the Heavens and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or Authorities —**all things have been created through HIM and for Him. HE IS before all things, and IN HIM all things hold together.** HE IS also The Head of The Body, The Church; and HE IS The Beginning, The Firstborn from the dead, so that HE HIMSELF will come to have first place in everything.

HEBREWS 11:3

By Faith we understand that the World has been created by THE WORD of GOD so that what is seen has not been made out of things that are visible.

From the U.S. National Library of Medicine- National Institutes of Health:

Over the past 30 years the knowledge on laminins has expanded tremendously. The cell adhesion-promoting activity of laminin isoforms is now well characterized, also at the structural level.

In 1979, a large molecular weight (about 850 kDa) non-collagenous glycoprotein was isolated from both a basement membrane-rich tumor transplantable to mouse [the Engelbreth-Holm-Swarm (EHS) sarcoma] and basement membrane-producing cells. This new glycoprotein was purified in quantities sufficient for biochemical, structural and immunological characterization and it was given the name laminin.

Observation of purified laminin molecules by electron microscopy after rotary shadowing indicated that **the three chains assemble to form an asymmetrical cross-shaped structure**, with a long arm of about 77 nm carrying a large globule at its end, and three short arms, two of 34 nm and one of 48 nm, each being terminated by a globular domain. Between the center of the cross and the ends of the 34 and 48 nm-short arms, there are one and two additional globules, respectively.

Although laminin chains differ at the level of the amino acid sequences, the polypeptide chains fold into several kind of unique or multiple copies of independent structural domains whose overall arrangement in a cross-shaped pattern is conserved among laminin isoforms. The laminin short arms of the cross are contributed by the separately folded N-terminal regions of every α , β and γ chains, while all three chains form the stem of the long arm.

Several of the structurally related laminin domains have nearly identical or similar functions in every laminin isoform. As a general rule, the C-terminal ends of laminins interact with proteins anchored in the plasma membranes of cells or microorganisms, thereby relaying biochemical and mechanical signals between intracellular and extracellular molecular networks. The N-terminal ends of laminins are involved in interactions mainly with other extracellular matrix molecules present in basement membranes. Thereby, they are an integral part of the complex extracellular molecular networks important for the architecture and physiology of basement membranes. Some not yet well-defined parts of laminins are thought to interact with small molecules such as growth factors and cytokines. This function is thought to be important for sequestration and storage of these small molecules and for regulating their distribution, activation, and presentation to cells.

Very early on multiple biological activities were described for laminin isolated from the EHS sarcoma, in particular it was shown to be a cell adhesion molecule.

Enzymatic dissection of laminin 111 from the EHS sarcoma into fragments identified several cell binding sites. The first fragment identified having cell adhesion-promoting activity is fragment P1 obtained by pepsin treatment of EHS laminin, and it originates from the center of the cross.

The major task of laminins' short arms is to participate in basement membrane assembly and organization by interacting with other components of the basement membranes, including laminins themselves. As it should be anticipated from the differences and similarities in size, number and layout of structural domains in the laminin short arms, both highly divergent and common interactions have been recognized for the diverse isoforms of laminins.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS (28)

No one knows exactly who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls, but most believe the Essenes to be the group from which these scrolls came. The Essenes were a group of devout Jews, who were tired of the corruption in Jerusalem, so they left the city for the Judean desert, where they lived like monks, beginning around the 3rd century BC.

The Essenes believed the return of THE MESSIAH was near and needed- to purify worship and restore The Nation of Israel. They spent significant time studying and copying texts important to their way of life- Scripture included. Noticing the tumultuous social climate in Jerusalem, the Essenes began hiding writings in caves along the Dead Sea to protect them, 'until they could be discovered and used to restore the glory of Israel'. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Essenes community was overrun and the inhabitants spread throughout the World.

The first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, when a teenage, Bedouin shepherd, looking for a lost goat, tossed a stone into a cave and heard pottery shatter. The curious young man lowered himself into the cave and found multiple sealed jars, containing leather scrolls. He collected the seven best scrolls and took them to an antiquities dealer in Bethlehem, who guided the scrolls to John Trever at the American School of Oriental Research (Jerusalem), and to World renowned archeologist, Dr. William Albright.

The initial find sparked a wider search for artifacts, which led to the discovery of nearly 1,100 similar ancient documents and over 100,000 fragments of documents, from 10 more caves between 1952 and 1956. These discoveries produced a complete copy of The Book of Isaiah, fragments from every Book of The Hebrew Bible (Torah, Prophets, Writings) except The Book of Esther, a temple scroll summarizing The Law from The Pentateuch, a Qumran community rules manual, a text titled *The War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness*, as well as writings of prayers, hymns, commentaries, legends, and more, that was previously unknown to the modern World.

The various age ranges of these documents were determined to range from the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD, using archeological, paleographic, and radiocarbon

dating analysis to reach a dating consensus. Prior to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest Biblical manuscripts available were from between 950 AD to 1000 AD.

Bible scholar and Theologian, Gleason Archer, who examined the Isaiah scrolls found in Cave 1 wrote:

“Even though the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were a thousand years earlier than the oldest dated manuscript previously known (A.D. 980), **they proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text.** The five percent of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling.”

The Dead Sea Scrolls add significant weight to the volumes of documented, verified, factual, information, which provides Historical validation for the legitimacy of GOD’S STANDARD and attests to the genuine sense of honor and duty possessed by faithful Believers, who felt compelled to preserve the integrity of THE WORD throughout the ages.

Consistency verified by the Dead Sea Scrolls

Prophecies from Isaiah (Predating CHRIST)

9:1-7

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times HE treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on HE will make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

2 The people who walk in darkness will see a Great Light; those who live in a dark land, The Light will shine on them.

3 YOU will multiply The Nation, YOU will increase their joy; they will rejoice in YOUR Presence as with the joy of harvest, as people rejoice when they divide the spoils.

4 For YOU will break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

5 For every boot of the marching warrior in the roar of battle, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

6 For a CHILD will be born to us, a SON will be given to us; and the Government will rest on HIS Shoulders; and HIS NAME will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty GOD, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.

7 There will be no end to the increase of HIS Government or of peace on the throne of David and over HIS Kingdom, to establish IT and to uphold IT with justice and Righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of THE LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

52:13-15

Behold, MY SERVANT will prosper, HE will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

14 Just as many were appalled at you, MY People, so HIS appearance was marred beyond that of a man, And HIS form beyond the sons of mankind.

15 So HE will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of HIM; For what they had not been told, they will see, And what they had not heard, they will understand.

53

Who has believed our report? And to whom has The Arm of THE LORD been revealed?

2 For HE grew up before HIM like a tender shoot, And like a root out of dry ground;

HE has no stately form or majesty that we would look at HIM, nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in HIM.

3 HE was despised and abandoned by men, A MAN of great pain and familiar with sickness; and like one from whom people hide their faces, HE was despised, and we had no regard for HIM.

4 However, it was our sicknesses that HE HIMSELF bore, and our pains that HE carried; yet we ourselves assumed that HE had been afflicted, struck down by GOD, and humiliated.

5 But HE was pierced for our offenses, HE was crushed for our wrongdoings; the punishment for our well-being was laid upon HIM, and by HIS wounds we are healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But THE LORD has caused the wrongdoing of us all to fall on HIM.

7 HE was oppressed and afflicted, Yet HE did not open HIS Mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So HE did not open HIS Mouth.

8 By oppression and judgement HE was taken away; and as for HIS generation, who considered that HE was cut off from the land of the living for the wrongdoing of MY People, to whom the blow was due?

9 And HIS grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet HE was with a rich man in HIS Death, Because HE had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in HIS Mouth.

10 But THE LORD desired to crush HIM, causing HIM grief; If HE renders HIMSELF as a Guilt Offering, HE will see HIS Offspring, HE will prolong HIS days, and the Good Pleasure of THE LORD will prosper in HIS Hand.

11 As a result of the anguish of HIS Soul, HE will see IT and be satisfied; By HIS Knowledge THE RIGHTEOUS ONE, MY SERVANT, will justify the many, For HE will bear their wrongdoings.

12 Therefore, I will allot HIM a portion with The Great, And HE will divide the plunder with the strong, Because HE poured out HIS Life unto death, And was counted with wrongdoers; Yet HE HIMSELF bore the sin of many, And interceded for the wrongdoers.

55:4-5

Behold, I have made HIM a witness to The Peoples, a leader and commander for The Peoples.

5 Behold, YOU will call a Nation YOU do not know, and a Nation which does not know YOU will run to YOU, Because of THE LORD your GOD, THE HOLY ONE of Israel; For HE has glorified YOU.”

6 Seek THE LORD while HE may be found; Call upon HIM while HE is near.

7 Let the wicked abandon his way, and the unrighteous person his thoughts; and let him return to THE LORD, And HE will have compassion on him, And to our GOD, For HE will abundantly pardon.

65:1-7

“I permitted MYSELF to be sought by those who did not ask for ME; I permitted MYSELF to be found by those who did not seek ME. I said, ‘Here AM I, here AM I,’ to a Nation which did not call on MY NAME.

2 I have spread out MY Hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,

3 A people who continually provoke ME to MY Face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks;

4 Who sit among graves and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and the broth of unclean meat is in their pots.

5 Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than YOU!' These are smoke in MY Nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

6 Behold, it is written before ME: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will even repay into their laps,

7 Both your own wrongdoings and the wrongdoings of your fathers together," says THE LORD. "Because they have burned incense on the mountains and scorned ME on the hills, therefore I will measure their former work into their laps."

DETAILS, CONTEXT, & HISTORICAL ANALYSIS MATTERS

The information in this section requires its own outline.

- **History** According to The World Book Encyclopedia
- Ronald Syme on Ancient Historians
 - *One of the World's most respected scholars on classical Rome
- Notable Accounts of JESUS CHRIST
 - Flavius Josephus
 - Publius Cornelius Tacitus
 - Luke 23: 6-12
- Early Christians
 - Pliny the Younger & Emperor Trajan
 - Constantine & The Council of Nicaea
- **The Bible IS History**
 - According to World Book Encyclopedia
 - According to Modern Scholars

HISTORY...

According to the 2010 World Book Encyclopedia... (29)

History is a branch of knowledge concerned with the study of past events. Historians study records of events and prepare new accounts based on their research. These written accounts attempt to explain the causes and effects of events and offer interpretations of them.

The study and writing of History make the past meaningful by preserving structure, values and continuity for present society.

History is more than memory and different from myth. Unlike memory, History is constructed from evidence. Unlike myth, History is subject to critical examination and correction. Historians are committed to telling a verifiable account of the past and offering rational explanations for the course of events. Historians are required to offer evidence in support of assertions, create balanced and well-informed accounts, and make an honest, good-faith attempt to overcome personal bias.

Historians use evidence in a great variety of forms, distinguishing broadly between primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are those that originate from the same period of time the Historian is investigating. Secondary sources are works of History written about an earlier time. A well-trained Historian studies the work of other Historians- that is, secondary sources- **to learn basic information and the state of current knowledge**. But an original interpretation that advances knowledge depends on the examination of primary sources. **Most primary sources are written documents.**

Historians read documents in their original languages, and routinely master skills from other disciplines, ranging from art History and archaeology to statistics and economics.

In Historical writing, unlike fictional writing, the writer has an implied commitment to depict events that are verifiably true and based on reliable information.

ANCIENT HISTORIANS

*Ancient Historians did not cover events the way modern media outlets do.

Ronald Syme, an Oxford Historian, regarded as one of the World's most respected scholars on classical Rome, said, **"Of the Roman annalists in the long interval between Livy (59 BC- 17 AD) and Tacitus, (~55 AD - ~120) the record is sparse and casual. For the most part, little more than names."** (30)

HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS of CHRIST OUTSIDE THE BIBLE

Flavius Josephus was a Jewish Historian who wrote a Historical account of the war between the Jews and Romans (*The Jewish War*) and the History of the Jewish people (*Jewish Antiquities*). Josephus was born near 37 AD and died close to the year 100. He was an aristocratic Pharisee (strict follower of Jewish laws) and priest who commanded Jewish forces in a revolt against Roman rule in 66 AD. (31)

Flavius Josephus on CHRIST & Christians

3. (63) Now, there was about this time JESUS, a wise man, if it be lawful to call HIM a man, for HE was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] CHRIST; (64) and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned HIM to The Cross, those that loved HIM at the first did not forsake HIM, for HE appeared to them alive again the third day, as the Divine Prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning HIM; and the tribe of Christians, so named from HIM, are not extinct at this day.

The Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3

The Works of Josephus

Translated by William Whiston- Hendrickson Publishers, 1987(32)

Tacitus, The Herod's & Pontius Pilate

Publius Cornelius Tacitus was a Roman Historian, widely regarded as one of the greatest Historians of all time. According to *The Western Experience 9th Edition*: “The leading Roman Historian in intellectual stature was Publius Cornelius Tacitus.” The World Book Encyclopedia says he, “...was one of the World’s greatest Historians.”

Tacitus’ most important works were *The Annals*, which covered Roman History from the death of Augustus in 14 AD to the death of Nero in 68 AD, *The Histories*, which documented the reigns of emperors from Galba (68 AD) to Domitian (96 AD), and *Germania*, which is one of the first written accounts documenting the life and culture of Germanic peoples.

Tacitus was born around 55 AD and died some time near 120. Tacitus was more than just a Historian- he also served in various official roles, ranging from an appointment as quaestor (Roman financial administrator) in 81, to praetor (civil magistrate) in 88,

a tribune of the plebeians (representative), a suffect consul (chief magistrate) in 97 and proconsul of Asia (highest civilian governorship) from 112 to 113. (33)

The Western Experience 9th Edition says of Tacitus:

“At his best, **Tacitus sets a high standard of accuracy**, but **his wish for accuracy was sometimes at war with his desire to send a moral message** about the failings of this or that regime.”

The Herod's were a family lineage of rulers who ruled over parts of modern Israel and Palestine during the 100's BC and 100's AD (34)

Herod the Great was born near the year 73 BC and ruled as King of Judea from 37 BC until his death in 4 BC. He is noted for ruthlessly putting down plots to overthrow his rule- having reportedly executed three of his sons, several family members, and anyone he deemed a threat to his power.

Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great. He ruled in a manner similar to his father while governor of Galilee and Perea- which he ruled from 4 BC until he was removed in 39 AD. Antipas died in 40 AD at an undetermined age- his birth year is lost in History.

Herod Agrippa I was the grandson of Herod the Great. He was born near 10 BC and assumed a position of rule by 37 AD, where he served the Roman Empire until his death in 44. Another ruler known for the harsh treatment of dissenters, Agrippa's persecution of Christians and efforts to assist the Roman Empire gained approval from Roman emperors and his Jewish subjects.

Herod Agrippa II was the son of Herod Agrippa I. Born in 27 AD Agrippa II first came to rule in 50 AD. Agrippa II tried to prevent a Jewish uprising and sided with the Romans when war broke out with Jews in 66 AD. He died without an heir around 100 AD- the seventh and final king from the Herod ruling family.

Pontius Pilate was a Roman governor of Judea from 26 AD to 36 AD.

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, *“Information about Pilate comes from two sources, The New Testament and Jewish writers from Pilate's time to about AD 100.”*

Both sources note Pilate as being unfairly harsh to The Jewish people. Outside of the available sources, little is known of Pilate's life- including the year he was born and the year he died. Some traditions hold that Pilate and his wife (Procla) converted to

Christianity (both are considered Saints in Orthodox churches) – other accounts report Pilate to have died in 39 AD on orders from Roman emperor Caligula.

An additional source of information to strengthen the credibility of existing accounts, came during a 1961 archeological dig in Caesarea Maritime, where Dr. Antonio Frova unearthed an engraved piece of limestone bearing Pontius Pilate's name and information linking him to the reign of Emperor Tiberius. (35)

Tacitus on Christians (36)

“But all Human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor (Nero) and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration (burning of Rome in 64 AD) was the result of an order (given by Nero). Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called “Chrestians” by the populace. CHRISTUS, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the World find their center and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all (Christians) who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.”

Tacitus, *Annals*, 15.44

Luke 23:6-12

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if THE MAN were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that HE belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent HIM to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw JESUS, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see HIM, because he had heard many things about HIM, and he hoped to see some miracle done by HIM. Then he questioned HIM with many words, but HE answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused HIM. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated HIM with contempt and mocked HIM, arrayed HIM in a gorgeous robe, and sent HIM back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Things to consider:

Tacitus is obviously not a supporter of Christians. His descriptions bear witness “...**on a class hated for their abominations...**” “...**a most mischievous superstition...**” “...**not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.**”

Early Christians knew the consequences for their beliefs (in the Roman Empire) would be severe, yet multitudes refused to yield their belief and carried The Good News forward.

“Nero...**inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations...**” and that “**Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.**”

What compelled an “**immense multitude**” to be arrested, plead guilty, and be convicted for what Tacitus describes as “**hatred against mankind**”?

What did early Christians witness first-hand?

Is it logical to assume, early Christians willfully violated Roman orders (knowing they faced extreme torture) so they could die in a horrendous manner for believing in a meritless lie that influenced future generations of their people to also endure the same treatment for nearly 300 years?

Pliny the Younger & Emperor Trajan

Roman Emperor Trajan was born to the name Marcus Ulpius Traianus near the year 53 AD and died in 117. He is noted as being a successful military commander who expanded the Empire through battle and his investments into essential infrastructure projects (roads, dams, bridges). (37)

Pliny the Younger was born to the name Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus in 61 AD and died ~113. The nephew of another accomplished writer, the Younger is noted for his 10 book collection *Letters* which gives account of Roman culture and his lifestyle. Pliny the Younger served the Roman Empire in an official capacity as Governor and is noted as being of great intelligence. (38)

The letters written between Pliny and Trajan from 111 AD to 113 are noted as being the Pagan’s earliest written accounts of Christianity. (37; 38)

Pliny, Letters 10.96-97 (39)

Pliny to the Emperor Trajan

It is my practice, my lord, to refer to you all matters concerning which I am in doubt. For who can better give guidance to my hesitation or inform my ignorance? I have never participated in trials of Christians. I therefore do not know what offenses it is the practice to punish or investigate, and to what extent. And I have been not a little hesitant as to whether there should be any distinction on account of age or no difference between the very young and the more mature; whether pardon is to be granted for repentance, or, if a man has once been a Christian, it does him no good to have ceased to be one; whether the name itself, even without offenses, or only the offenses associated with the name are to be punished.

Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished. There were others possessed of the same folly; but because they were Roman citizens, I signed an order for them to be transferred to Rome.

Soon accusations spread, as usually happens, because of the proceedings going on, and several incidents occurred. An anonymous document was published containing the names of many persons. Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed CHRIST--none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do--these I thought should be discharged. Others named by the informer declared that they were Christians, but then denied it, asserting that they had been but had ceased to be, some three years before, others many years, some as much as twenty-five years. They all worshipped your image and the statues of the gods, and cursed CHRIST.

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. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food. Even this, they affirmed, they had ceased to do after my edict by which, in accordance with your instructions, I had forbidden political associations. Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called Deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition.

I therefore postponed the investigation and hastened to consult you. For the matter seemed to me to warrant consulting you, especially because of the number

involved. For many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms. But it seems possible to check and cure it. It is certainly quite clear that the temples, which had been almost deserted, have begun to be frequented, that the established religious rites, long neglected, are being resumed, and that from everywhere sacrificial animals are coming, for which until now very few purchasers could be found. Hence it is easy to imagine what a multitude of people can be reformed if an opportunity for repentance is afforded.

Trajan to Pliny

You observed proper procedure, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those who had been denounced to you as Christians. For it is not possible to lay down any general rule to serve as a kind of fixed standard. They are not to be sought out; if they are denounced and proved guilty, they are to be punished, with this reservation, that whoever denies that he is a Christians and really proves it--that is, by worshiping our gods--even though he was under suspicion in the past, shall obtain pardon through repentance. But anonymously posted accusations ought to have no place in any prosecution. For this is both a dangerous kind of precedent and out of keeping with the spirit of our age.

Things to consider:

- Efforts to eradicate Christians in the Roman Empire failed to this point, but continued intermittently into the 300's, when Constantine converted, embraced, and promoted Christianity.
- What would motivate ruling Authorities to execute people who:
 - “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.** When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food.”
- Notice, the behaviors are consistently in accord with THE STANDARD.
- Are these behaviors beneficial or detrimental to a society?

Historians will say Roman Emperors feared the stubbornness would grow and influence others to rise in rebellion- potentially leading to attempted overthrow, but the issue is deeper than that. Until Constantine, Roman emperors were Pagan. They were ruled to varying degrees by their primal, sin nature, and the *works of the flesh*.

Truth be told, they subconsciously feared THE SPIRIT of GOD, which manifested in those who followed JESUS CHRIST- The Conqueror of sin. Some emperors, by The

Grace of GOD (which radiates from THE FOUNDATION of REALITY), were influenced to show greater mercy than others, but until Constantine, Roman emperors were largely dominated by the works and desires of their flesh- they hated conscious reminders of their error, as do many in the current day.

Constantine The Great (40)

Constantine the Great (also known as Constantine I) was born Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus near modern day Serbia around 275 AD and died on May 22, 337. In 306, his father Constantius (a member of the Tetrarchy [rule of four] died and Constantine was proclaimed successor by his father's army.

After the Tetrarchy fell apart in 306, it would take nearly 18 years of Civil War for Constantine to become sole emperor of the Roman Empire.

According to *The Western Experience 9th Edition*:

“One of the most amazing changes of face in Roman History is the radical shift in the policy of the Government toward the Christians initiated in 313 by the emperor Constantine.”

It is traditionally reported that on the evening before Constantine was to fight his rival (Maxentius) for control of Italy in 312, he had a dream where he was instructed to inscribe the Greek letters (and recognized symbols of Christianity) **Chi** and **Rho** on the shields of his soldiers- in the dream Constantine was told, “**In this sign you shall conquer.**” And he did.

Constantine was the first Roman emperor to become a Christian. During his rule, Christians experienced great freedom to worship and attained unprecedented legal rights. Constantine recognized the Christian Church as a legal body with the right to hold property, and although he was a Christian convert, Constantine is noted for allowing equal rights and freedom to worship for all religious groups.

Constantine rebuilt Byzantium and established Constantinople as the capitol of The Empire. He built the first great Christian cathedral and renowned churches across the northern Mediterranean region from Rome to Constantinople and Jerusalem.

In 325, Constantine oversaw the first great ecumenical council of the Christian Church. The Council of Nicaea was called to convene and settle various disputes among Christians. Through this council, the Nicene Creed was written to reconfirm and reiterate essential Christian beliefs.

Constantine was the first ruler after CHRIST to intertwine THE POWER of GOD'S ENERGY & ESSEENCE with the power of Government. The impact led to remarkable progress, but as with all good things, eventually power-hungry people would find a way to seize power and abuse it.

The Council of Nicaea (41)

In 325 AD disputes regarding THE UNIFIED ESSENCE of CHRIST and GOD led Constantine to call more than 300 Bishops from all regions of the Roman Empire to convene in Nicaea (now Iznik in northwest Turkey).

At the end of the council, GOD and CHRIST as GOD were recognized as being of THE SAME ESSENCE, a fixed time for observing Easter was set, and the Nicene Creed was established to summarize the main tenets of The Christian Faith.

NICENE CREED

We believe in ONE GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER of all things, both visible and invisible; and in ONE LORD, JESUS CHRIST, THE SON of GOD, Only begotten of THE FATHER, GOD of GOD and LIGHT of LIGHT, very GOD of very GOD, begotten, not made, being of ONE SUBSTANCE with THE FATHER, by whom all things were made, both things in Heaven and things on Earth; who, for us men and for Our Salvation, came down and was made flesh, was made man, suffered, and rose again on the third day, went up into The Heavens, and is to come again to judge both the quick and the dead; and in THE HOLY GHOST.

The Apostles' Creed (42)

The Apostles' Creed states primary Christian beliefs. The earliest version of the Apostles' Creed can be traced to the late 100's AD. Whether or not this statement of belief is directly from The Original Apostles is impossible to prove, but The Apostles Creed pre-dates the Nicene Creed, and the similarities testify to a consistent energy & essence within the message.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR of Heaven and Earth; and in JESUS CHRIST, HIS only SON, Our LORD; who was conceived by THE HOLY SPIRIT, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. HE descended into hell; the third day HE rose again from the dead; HE Ascended into Heaven; sits at The Right Hand of GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; from thence HE shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in THE HOLY SPIRIT, The Holy Christian Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of The Body, and Life Everlasting. Amen.

THE BIBLE IS HISTORY

According to World Book Encyclopedia... (43)

The second part of The Christian Bible, The New Testament, was written in Greek. It covers nearly 100 years of History, from The Birth of JESUS CHRIST to about AD 125.

HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE...

Scholars have been able to confirm many of the statements of The Bible through archaeology and the study of documents written by other people of the ancient Near East. For example, scholars have discovered the decree of Cyrus, king of Persia, permitting the peoples exiled by his Babylonian predecessors to return to their ancestral lands and to reclaim their sacred shrines and holy objects. For this reason, The Biblical story of Cyrus's permitting the Jews to return to Israel with the utensils from the Jerusalem Temple and to rebuild the Temple may be taken as Historically verified.

THE BIBLE AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE...

The authors of The Bible **did not intend only to record the facts of History.** They interpreted the facts and events to teach their philosophy of History and their beliefs about GOD and GOD'S role in History. However, **The Bible is the best source of information about many Historical periods and events.** In other cases, **The Bible can add to what is already known from other sources.** Whichever the case, it is The Bible's interpretation of it. **The Historian must reconstruct History using facts from The Bible and those obtained from non-Biblical sources.**

According to Modern Scholars... (44)

Among scholars of The New Testament of The Christian Bible, though, **there is little disagreement that HE (JESUS CHRIST) actually lived.** Lawrence Mykytiuk, an associate professor of library science at Purdue University and author of a 2015 Biblical Archaeology Review article on the extra-biblical evidence of JESUS, notes that **there was no debate about the issue in ancient times either.** "Jewish rabbis who did not like JESUS or HIS followers accused HIM of being a magician and leading people astray," he says, "but **they never said HE didn't exist.**"

There is no definitive **physical or archaeological evidence** of the existence of JESUS. "There's nothing conclusive, nor would I expect there to be," Mykytiuk says. "**Peasants don't normally leave an archaeological trail.**"

"The reality is that **we don't have archaeological records for virtually anyone who lived in JESUS' time and place,**" says University of North Carolina

religious studies Professor Bart D. Ehrman (An Agnostic-Atheist), author of *Did JESUS Exist? The Historical Argument for JESUS of Nazareth*. **“The lack of evidence does not mean a person at the time didn’t exist.** It means that she or he, like 99.99% of the rest of the World at the time, made **no impact on the archaeological record.**”

Archaeologists, though, have been able to corroborate elements of the New Testament story of JESUS. While some disputed the existence of ancient Nazareth, HIS Biblical childhood home town, archaeologists have unearthed a rock-hewn courtyard house along with tombs and a cistern. They have also found physical evidence of Roman crucifixions such as that of JESUS described in The New Testament.

The most detailed record of the life and death of JESUS comes from The Four Gospels and other New Testament writings. “These are all Christian and are obviously and understandably biased in what they report, and have to be evaluated very critically indeed to establish any Historically reliable information,” Ehrman says. **“But their central claims about JESUS as a Historical figure—a Jew, with followers, executed on orders of the Roman governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, during the reign of the Emperor Tiberius—are borne out by later sources** with a completely different set of biases.”

Within a few decades of his lifetime, JESUS was mentioned by Jewish and Roman Historians in passages that corroborate portions of The New Testament that describe the life and death of JESUS.

The first-century Jewish Historian **Flavius Josephus**, who according to Ehrman **“is far and away our best source of information about first-century Palestine,”** twice mentions JESUS in *Jewish Antiquities*, his massive 20-volume History of The Jewish people that was written around 93 AD.

Thought to have been born a few years after the crucifixion of JESUS around 37 AD, **Josephus was a well-connected aristocrat and military leader in Palestine** who served as a commander in Galilee during the first Jewish Revolt against Rome between 66 and 70 AD. Although **Josephus was not a follower of JESUS, “he was around when the early church was getting started, so he knew people who had seen and heard JESUS,”** Mykytiuk says.

In one passage of *Jewish Antiquities* that recounts an unlawful execution, Josephus identifies the victim, James, as the **“brother of JESUS-who-is-called-MESSIAH.”** While few scholars doubt the short account’s authenticity, says Mykytiuk, more debate surrounds Josephus’s lengthier passage about JESUS, known as the “Testimonium Flavianum,” which describes a man “who did surprising deeds” and was condemned to be crucified by Pilate. **Mykytiuk agrees with most scholars that Christian scribes modified portions of the passage but did not insert it wholesale into the text.**

Another account of JESUS appears in *Annals of Imperial Rome*, a first-century History of the Roman Empire written around 116 AD by the Roman senator and Historian Tacitus. In chronicling the burning of Rome in 64 AD, Tacitus mentions that Emperor Nero falsely blamed “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.”

As a Roman historian, **Tacitus did not have any Christian biases in his discussion of the persecution of Christians** by Nero, says Ehrman. **“Just about everything he says coincides—from a completely different point of view, by a Roman author disdainful of Christians and their superstition—with what The New Testament itself says: JESUS was executed by the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, for crimes against the state, and a religious movement of his followers sprang up in his wake.”**

“When Tacitus wrote History, if he considered the information not entirely reliable, he normally wrote some indication of that for his readers,” Mykytiuk says in vouching for the Historical value of the passage. **“There is no such indication of potential error in the passage that mentions CHRISTUS.”**

Shortly before Tacitus penned his account of JESUS, Roman governor Pliny the Younger wrote to Emperor Trajan that early Christians would “sing hymns to CHRIST as to a GOD.” Some scholars also believe Roman Historian Suetonius references JESUS in noting that Emperor Claudius had expelled Jews from Rome who “were making constant disturbances at the instigation of CHRESTUS.”

Ehrman says this collection of snippets from non-Christian sources may not impart much information about the life of JESUS, **“but it is useful for realizing that JESUS was known by Historians who had reason to look into the matter. No one thought HE was made up.”**

Thoughts & Questions to Consider

If we are to believe no honorable men existed to record the events of History or that ruling Authorities suppressed the recording of information unfavorable to their legacy, then why are there unfavorable accounts of ruling Authorities and powerful institutions throughout the Historical Record?

If honor (a trait requiring honesty and purposed, successful effort) exists, then on what basis are we to believe the desire to be honored through duty was absent from those who established the Historical Record?

If History cannot be trusted, a person can only trust firsthand experiences and their perception of the events they have personally experienced.

If The Bible is just a means of Government control:

Why did the Roman Government persecute Christians until the reign of Constantine?

Why would the Roman Government persecute Christians for carrying out behaviors established to control them?

Why did the Roman Government facilitate the execution of JESUS, when HE instructed the people to pay taxes to Caesar and never instructed people to rebel against the Roman Government?

Does it make sense to believe early Christians would fervently endure ruthless persecution and martyrdom for centuries to successfully promote a meritless lie?

Why was it illegal to possess a Bible throughout the Dark Ages (~600 to ~1500)?

Why did the Catholic Church limit people's grasp of THE STANDARD by mandating church service (mass) be exclusively conducted in Latin until 1963?
(45)

Why did those who directed the Crusades, stray from THE STANDARD to accomplish their goals while never changing THE STANDARD?

Why is THE STANDARD so frequently judged by the merits of man, rather than THE MERIT of THE STANDARD?

Were Roman Authorities legitimately afraid that a 'superstitious' group of poor and non-violent citizens would overthrow the Government- or were they more concerned with eliminating conscious reminders of their sin?

If the Romans established Christianity to control people- Why would THE STANDARD for behavior in The Bible conflict with Roman behavior standards?

Why did the ruling Authorities (Governments & The Catholic church) keep The Bible from the common man until the invention of the printing press made that impossible?

Why are Western Governments, (where Human rights, liberty, and self-governance first flourished) now promoting behaviors directly opposing THE BIBLICAL STANDARD for behavior- when the ideals of Human rights, liberty, and self-governance, did not gain significant traction until the 200 years following the invention of the printing press and the Protestant Reformation?

In what way is an individual harmed by adhering to THE BIBLICAL STANDARDS for behavior? (Hold your preconceptions and read **Chapter 4: THE STANDARD'S MERIT**)

What would motivate a despised minority within a Roman occupied Jewish majority to make up JESUS or fabricate HIS significance, so they and their descendants could endure intense persecution for nearly 300 years after HIS Crucifixion?

Is it logical to assume Governments would want to use Christian Virtues for controlling The People, while also persecuting those promoting Christian Virtues?

Is it logical to assume those who sacrificed their life for their Faith would violate THE STANDARD and bear false witness to die for a lie?

Are objections to the legitimacy of The Bible based on judgements of people rather than THE STANDARD? (See **Chapter 4: THE STANDARD'S MERIT**)

Do conflicts with THE STANDARD benefit an overall state of being?

Is adherence to THE STANDARD beneficial for individuals and Society?

Miscellaneous Information

Why did it take so long for The Disciples to record their testimonies?

It didn't really take that long- they kept record as they went- the compilation happened later. Instead of taking the time to stop preaching and teaching, so they could record The New Testament immediately after the crucifixion, resurrection, and Ascension of CHRIST- The Disciples immediately took The Good News to the World, because they had literally just experienced THE ENERGY & ESSENCE of ALMIGHTY GOD in the flesh.

Most people couldn't read anyway.

It's hard to argue with the fruit of their efforts, all things considered- especially considering everyone knows THE NAME of JESUS- just ask around.

Pages of information related to each topic in the World Book Encyclopedia

***All 66 books of The Bible are (individually) described briefly and not included on this list.**

GOD- 1/2 a page **JESUS CHRIST- 8** **Bible- 9** **Christianity- ~7.5** **Religion- 11**

Judaism- 3.5 Pentateuch (Torah) - 1/6 of a page Talmud- ~1/6 of a page
 Muhammed- ~1 Islam- ~3.5 Quran- 1/2 of a page Atheism- 1/5 of a page
 Pali Canon- 0 Buddhism- ~2 Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) – 3/4 of a page
 Hinduism- 1 3/4 pages Brahman- ~1/7 of a page The Vedas- 1/5 of a page
 Ethics- 2 **Philosophy- 8.5** **Theory of Evolution- 8.5** Creationism- 3/4 of a page

Religious Percentages World Wide as of 2006 (46)

Christianity- 33% Islam- 20.3% Hinduism- 13.4%
 Nonreligious & Atheist- 14.2% (Liars- **EVERYONE** wonders and has a set of beliefs)
 Chinese Folk Religion (Confucianism & Taoism) 6.3% Buddhism- 5.9%
 Other Religions (Judaism, Shinto, Sikhism, and others) - 6.9%

MORE BIBLE FACTS: (47)

- * The New Testament was written between A.D. 48 & 125
- * There are approximately 5,300 Early Greek Manuscripts of The NT
- * There are at least 24,633 ancient NT texts containing essentially the exact same message in multiple languages- including Syriac, Latin, Coptic, Aramaic, and Greek
- No other ancient texts come close by comparison.
- * The 66 Books of Bible were written over 1,600 years by 40 different authors on 3 continents.
- * The Bible was the first book ever printed and is the most widely distributed book in all of Human History
- * The Bible has been translated into over 1,400 languages
- * **More people have dedicated their lives to disproving The Bible than any other book in all of History and all of them have failed.**

A most miraculous feat in all of History is the preservation of THE WORD, containing THE STANDARD which establishes THE FOUNDATION of REALITY.

Through all the struggles- from the beginning, when a despised, poor minority within a Roman occupied Jewish nation, endured persecution and prevailed to find stability and legitimacy during the reign of Constantine- **then surviving the power struggle** between The Church, warring tribes, and the ambitious rulers of the Middle and Dark Ages (**as THE WORD was suppressed**), **to then see** the common person finally gain access to THE WORD in the 1500's, so the potential for upward mobility could be better realized in Enlightenment to produce unprecedented Human achievement:

THE ENERGY, ESSENCE, & MEANING of THE WORD WAS & IS MAINTAINED.

It is reasonable for a skeptic to cautiously proceed through evidence when seeking understanding, but when volumes of evidence are presented as validation and still rejected, the skeptic becomes a fool.

ROMANS 1:22

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible GOD for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

What are the odds of so much evidence pointing in a specific direction?

INCALCULABLE.