



**H.A.B.I.T.S**  
**BIBLE**

---

**CAN WE TRUST IT?**

# What does the Bible claim about itself?

## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# **Divine Inspiration**

God divinely influenced the human authors of the Scriptures in such a way that what they wrote was the very Word of God.

# **4 Reasons To Trust the Bible**

**1) Historically Reliable**





# Customs of Abraham

Ancient Nuzi  
Modern Iraq  
1920s-1940s



*It is now becoming increasingly clear that the traditions of the patriarchal age preserved in the book of Genesis reflect with remarkable accuracy the actual conditions of the ancient near east in the middle bronze age.*

-William F. Albright

# Hittites

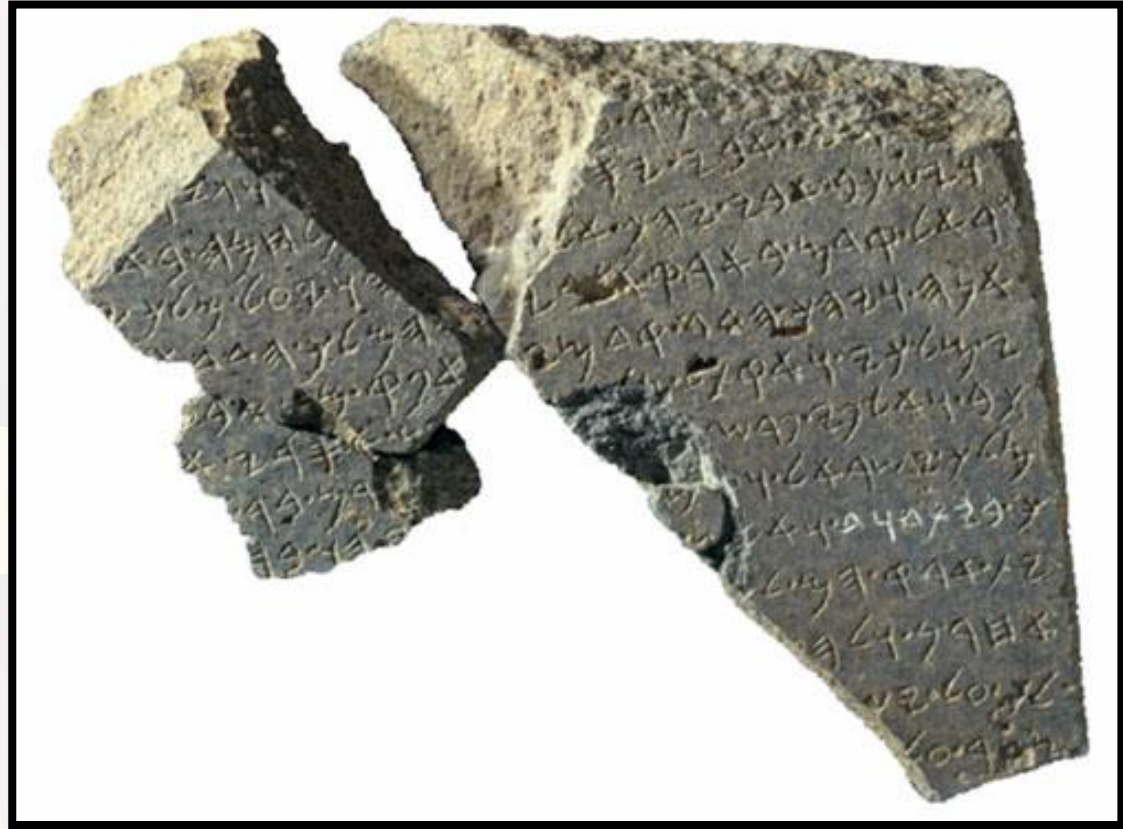
Ancient Bogazkale  
Modern Turkey  
1912





# King David

Tel Dan Stele  
Northern Israel  
1993



# Pontius Pilot

Caesarea  
1961





# High Priest, Caiaphas

Bone Box  
Israel Tomb  
1990



# Roman Crucifixion Practices

1<sup>st</sup> Century  
Israel Tomb  
1967





*The more you dig out of the ground  
the more the Bible proves to be  
right!*

-Lon Solomon

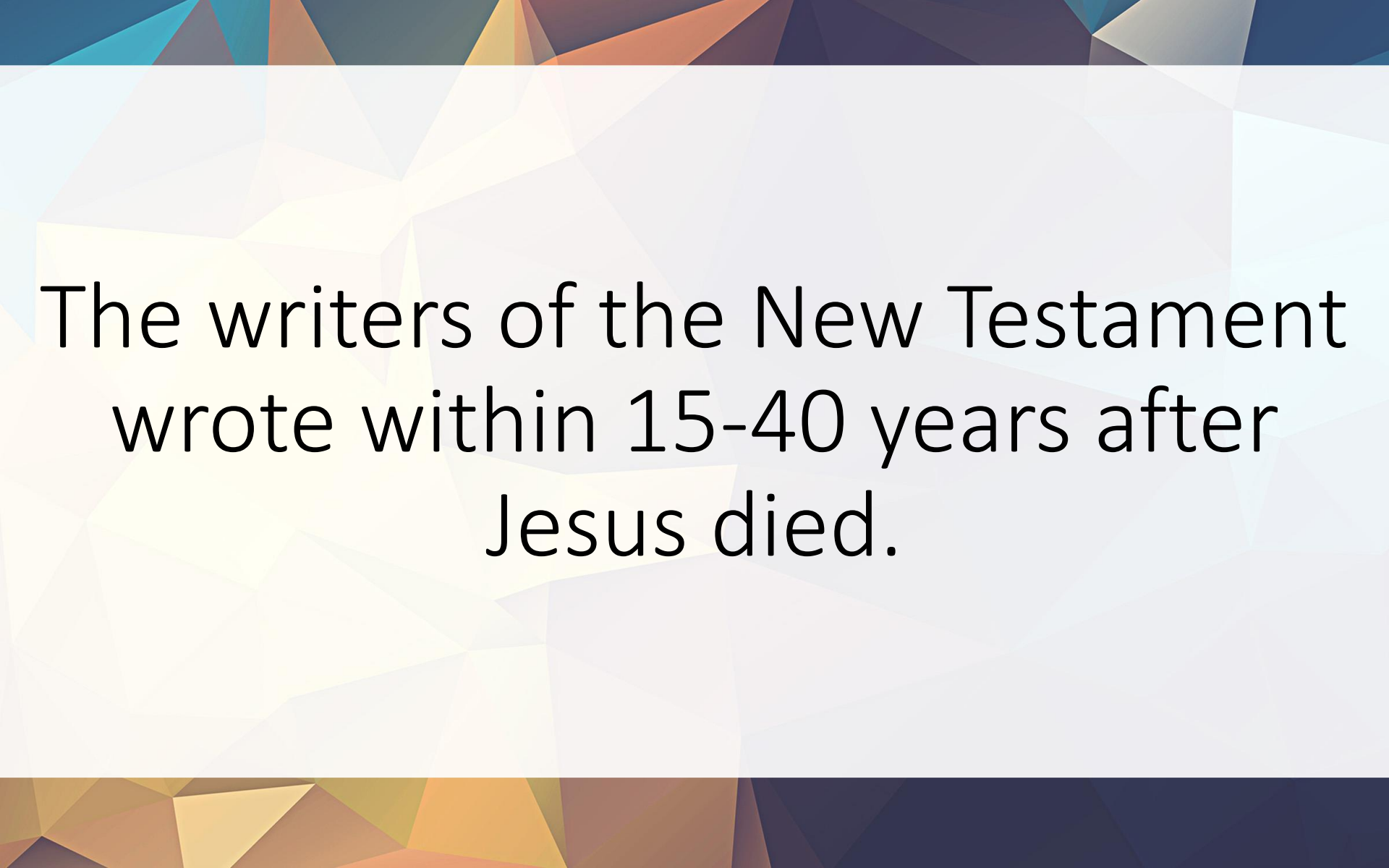
# **4 Reasons To Trust the Bible**

**1) Historically Reliable**

**2) Early Writings**

# **Test of Ancient Reliability**

How close in time were the writings to the actual events?



The writers of the New Testament  
wrote within 15-40 years after  
Jesus died.



# **4 Reasons To Trust the Bible**

**1) Historically Reliable**

**2) Early Writings**

**3) The Abundance and Accuracy of  
Ancient Manuscripts**

# Old Testament



Dead Sea Scrolls, 1947

# Dead Sea Scrolls



40,000 Fragments/Scrolls



# Isaiah Scroll, Israel Museum





# **New Testament**

24,000 Ancient Copies

5,800 Greek Copies

AUTHOR	BOOK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	NO. OF COPIES
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 yrs.	643
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	480-425 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,350 yrs.	8
Thucydides	<i>History</i>	460-400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300 yrs	8
Plato		400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300 yrs	7
Caesar	<i>Gallic Wars</i>	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,000 yrs	10
Livy	<i>History of Rome</i>	59 B.C. – A.D. 17	4 <sup>th</sup> Cent. (partial) mostly 10th cent.	c. 400 yrs c. 1000 yrs	1 partial 19 copies
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	A.D. 100	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,000 yrs	20
Pliny the Younger	<i>Natural History</i>	A.D. 61-113	c. A.D. 850	c. 750 yrs	7
New Testament		A.D. 50-100	c. 114 (fragment) c. 200 (books) c. 250 (most of NT) c. 325 (complete NT)	+50 yrs 100 yrs 150 yrs. 225 yrs.	5366



**What about the errors?**

# Textual Variants

99% of them fall into these categories:

- 1) Spelling errors
- 2) Word order changes
- 3) Article “The”



# Textual Variants

What about the 1%?  
Change the meaning of a text

# 1 Thessalonians 2:7

**Variant #1** *But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.*

**Variant #2** *But we were **infants** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.*

# **Where are the big ones?**

None of the differences affect one belief of Christians.

# 4 Reasons To Trust the Bible

1) Historically Reliable

2) Early Writings

3) The Abundance and Accuracy of Ancient Manuscripts

**4) Fulfilled Prophecy**

Odds that someone could have actually fulfilled even 8 of the 60 major prophecies about the Messiah:

1 in  $1 \times 10^{17}$

1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 chance

-Mathematician, Peter Stoner



# 4 Reasons To Trust the Bible

- 1) Historically Reliable
- 2) Early Writings
- 3) The Abundance and Accuracy of Ancient Manuscripts
- 4) Fulfilled Prophecy

101

---

EXPLORING THE BASICS  
OF CHRISTIANITY

BEGINS APRIL 8

[BrandywineOnline.org/Christianity101](http://BrandywineOnline.org/Christianity101)



**H.A.B.I.T.S**  
**BIBLE**

---

**CAN WE TRUST IT?**