

Two Questions

- 1. Is the NT today the same as when it was written?**
- 2. Is the Gospel story true?**

Is the NT today the same as when it was written?

"written so that ... believe" Jn 20:31

NOT ...feelings, family, per. exper., mythology, culture, etc.

Our copy reliable? Common views ...

Changed every time printed

Language different - altered, edited

Like telling a story to someone...

Changed over time

Own opinions put in

Not sure - not born back then

Every religion - own version

Is the NT today the same as when it was written?

Sources, Accuracy of our text

- **MSS** - 5,000+
- **Versions** - 10,000+
- **Quotations** - 19,000+ just of the gospels
& 30,000+ of all NT before 325 AD
- **Lectionaries** - 2000+

Is the NT today the same as when it was written?

Authoritative testimony

“the amount of what can in any sense be called substantial variation is but a small fraction of the whole residuary variation, and **can hardly form more than a thousandth part of the entire text.**”

Fenton John Anthony Hort, 1828-1892 AD

No other ancient text like it!

Homer, Plato, Caesar, Tacitus, Pliny ...schools, unit., scholarly pub.!

Interlinear...article ("the") in MSS?!

Is the Gospel story True?

Historical question ... Historical evidence

Lk 1:3-4 ; Jn 20:30-31; 21:25

Not exhaustive, but sufficient

Is the Gospel story True?

Testimony from eyewitnesses

Number?... Only 2,3...?

Logical? ...

Diversity? ... Gender, religion, social status

Consistency? ... E.g., miracles; resurrec.

Prejudice? ... For...against

Commitment? ... threats, loss, suff., death.

Evidence? ... Pers. exper.; eyewit,
info from eyewit.; research

Hostile opposition?...
Anyone there to refute...?

Varied! Unfiltered!

- Insane **Mk 3:21**; deceiver **Jn 7:12**; demon poss. **Jn 7:20**
- Messiah, Son of God, King of Is. **Jn 1:41,45,49**; **Mt 16:16**

You the jury ... verdict affects YOU!

Is the Gospel story True?

Miracles

- **35+ (specific) in 3+ years**
- **MANY others Jn 11:47; 21:25**
- **Wide variety** (no requisite settings)
Kind ... Place ... Means ... Circumstances
- **Witnesses...**

<i>Number?...</i>	<i>Logical? ...</i>
<i>Diversity? ...</i>	<i>Consistency? ...</i>
<i>Prejudice? ...</i>	<i>Commitment? ...</i>
<i>Evidence? ...</i>	<i>Hostile opposition?...</i>

Is the Gospel story True?

Miracles

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- MANY others **Jn 11:47; 21:25**
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Kind ... Place ... Means ... Circumstances

Truly, "the works which no one else did"!

Jn 15:24

Is the Gospel story True?

Prophecy

Over 300?! (Many he would have no control over.)

Jn 5:39,45-46 - challenge!

Ac 17:2-3 - used as argument with those who knew prophecy!

Is the Gospel story True?

Resurrection

- Empty tomb **Mk 16:6** STILL empty!
- Eyewitnesses **Mk 16:14; Ac 1:3,8**
- Collateral proofs

Conversion of skeptics - James, brother of the Lord, Paul

Early, widespread, universal, strong belief in churches

First day of week

Transformation in the apostles

Miracles for next 30 years

Rom 1:4; Ac 17:30-31!