

BIBLE FACTS

The Bible was written over 1,500 years, spanning 40 generations, by 40 different authors on three different continents. These authors were peasants, kings, farmers, statesmen, city folks, and country folks. Yet, the Bible has a common thread and continuity that can only be attributed to the work of God.

There are some 5,366 complete manuscripts of the New Testament. To put that in perspective, when you go back to the most famous writing of ancient Greece in secular literature, Homer's writing of the Iliad, there are only 643 ancient manuscripts available in the entire world. To have that many copies of the New Testament within 70 years of its writing is amazing! In fact, if you were to put together all of the manuscripts (partial and complete) we have of the Old and New Testaments, you'd end up with a stack of evidence over 2 miles tall.

There have been over 25,000 archeological discoveries that substantiate the validity of scripture. One of the world's greatest archeologists, the late William F. Albright, states, "There can be no doubt that archeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament tradition."

There are over 330 prophecies made concerning the first coming of Christ. Those prophecies included many things like where He would be born. They even detailed how Jesus would die in crucifixion long before crucifixion had ever been invented as a method of execution. No other faith, no other world religion can point to prophecies made hundreds of years in advance about its spiritual leader.

Peter Stoner, in his book *Science Speaks*, talks about the mathematical probability of just eight of those prophecies being fulfilled in the life of one individual in human history. He says the probability is 1 in 10 to the 17th power (that's a 10 with 17 zeroes).

Eyewitnesses wrote the majority of the Bible. The fact that these witnesses wrote down what they saw during the same generation that they lived gives significant credibility to their stories and adds to the historical validity of the Bible.