



Today's News - Tomorrow's Evidence

1. Take some time to think about the Bible. How old do you think it is? Do you think that it has been changed much over time?

2. If you were to put together a time capsule, what type of things would you like to place in it as a record of who you were and the times in which you lived?

3. In what ways might the bible be like a time capsule?

Evidence for the originals

How and why were copies made reporting certain events?



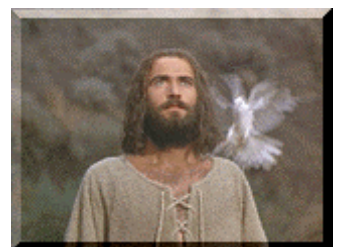
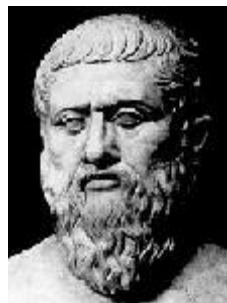
An Event of
great importance



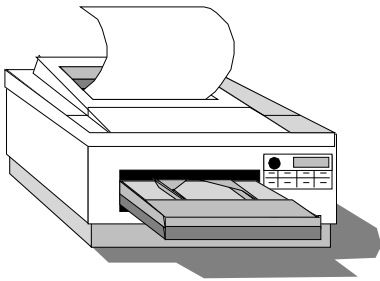
Over time some copies are _____
other copies _____
so, we work with _____

When examining a text we are looking for

1. How many copies do we have?
2. What is the time gap between the oldest existing copy and the date of the original?



Care in copying



How long do you think it would take to write out the bible by hand?

How long do you think it would take to photocopy?

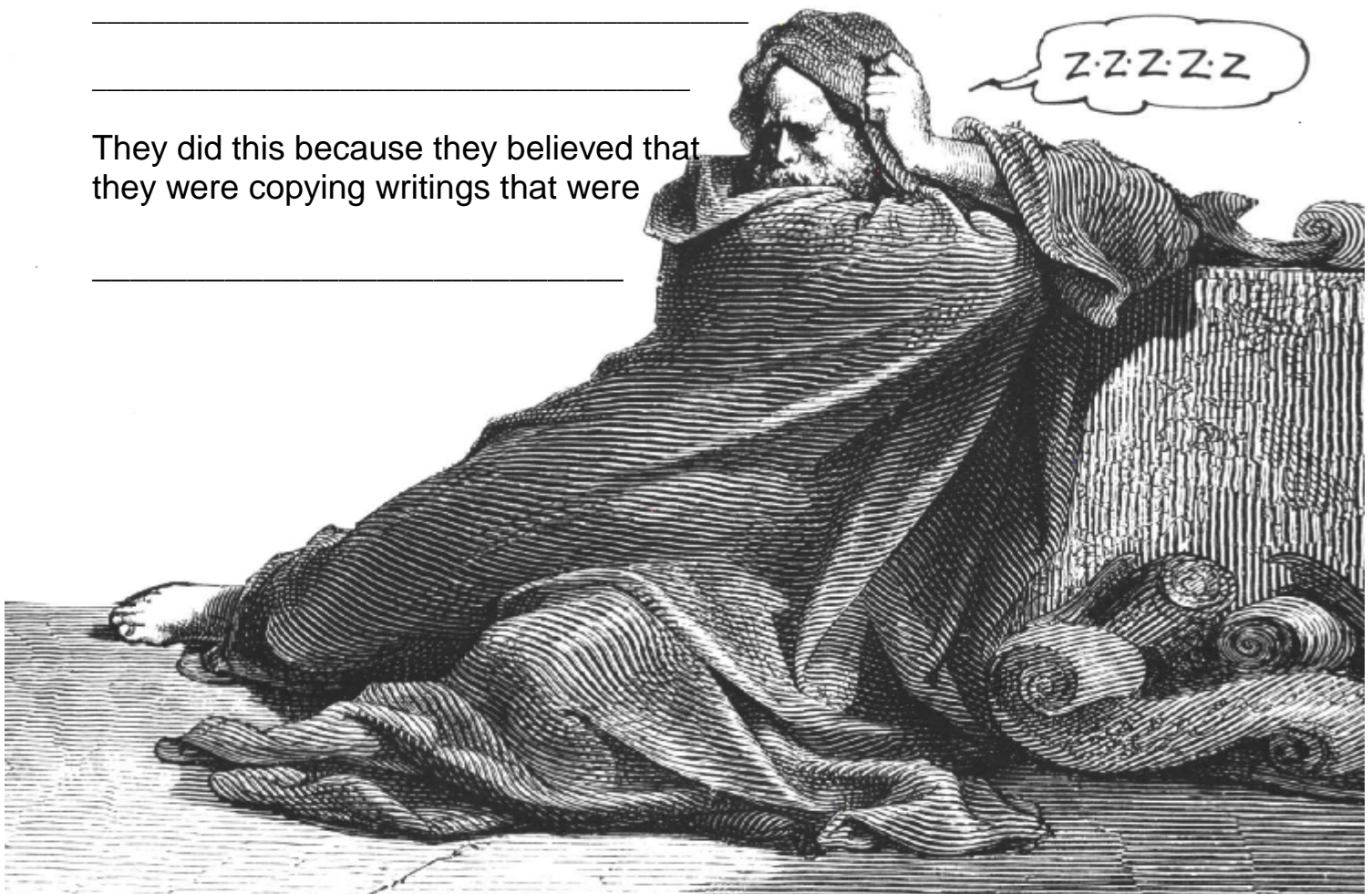
If a scribe made a mistake in copying out the Old Testament, he would . . .

But if that mistake was an error writing the name of God, he would have to .

Because the bible must be copied without mistake or blemish, scribes would. .

Involving procedures such as . . .

They did this because they believed that they were copying writings that were



How do we know that all these copies are not just made from one another?

1. Tracing back the family tree

2. Working out where each copy comes from

And we know that

Beth	_____	-	_____
Beth	_____	-	_____
Beth	_____	-	_____

These differences

No other ancient book has anything like such early and plentiful testimony to its text, and no unbiased scholar would deny that the text that has come down to us is substantially sound.

Sir Fredrick Kenyan
Director, British Museum

By which he means;

How do we work out the age of the documents?

1. _____
2. _____

In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd boy was searching for a lost goat near the Dead Sea. During his search he tossed a stone into a cave and heard the sound of breaking pottery. Upon investigation he found several large sealed jars containing leather scrolls wrapped in linen. Because the jars were carefully sealed, the scrolls had remained in excellent condition for nearly 1900 years. It is widely thought that they were hidden in the cave in AD 68 by members of the Jewish sect hiding from the advancing Roman army.

The result of this was



What about before things were written down?

The World Record for memory



The lack of writing meant that people

So, we can say from our investigations that

Investigating Documents =

Why it Happened =

God's Part =



Science does not rule out the possibility that the bible is inspired by God and passed onto us, in all important respects, as they originally existed



1. What is meant when we say that someone (or thing) is telling us the truth?

2. How do different types of truth come together?

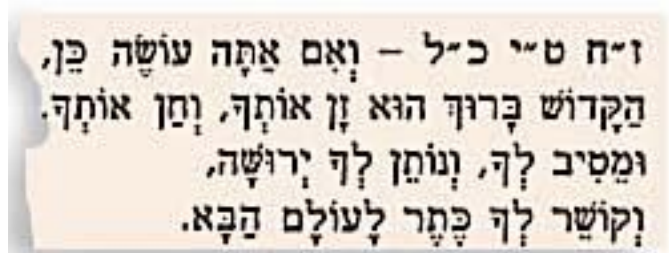
3. How do we know if reporting is accurate and truthful?

What are some of our other sources of information?

1. The Talmud

They tell us about

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____



2. Josephus

He tells us about

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____



So, we have 2 sources who were

but were

3. Our sources for the Old Testament are

Examples of Early Christian Symbols

χ _____

ρ _____



Ι ι _____

χ Ch _____

θ Th _____

Υ υ _____

Σ σ _____

From the early Christians we have secret symbols they created because

We can track various historical records that show the expansion of Christianity

AD 49

AD 64

AD 79

AD 112



The importance of eyewitnesses

We know that much of the New Testament was in circulation while many eyewitnesses were still alive. So when we writes;

For what I recieved I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Paul is saying that

If the Bible has been passed down to us accurately, and we can rely on its writers to report truthfully, then . . .



Telling it
like it is!

So far we have examined

1. How much of the Bible has reached us intact.
2. Were the writers telling the truth in the first place.

This session we will examine

3. Why was the Bible written the way it was.

1. The bible is

A contrast between the Biographical information of Jesus and John Lennon

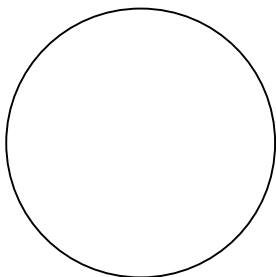


The distribution of Biographical information

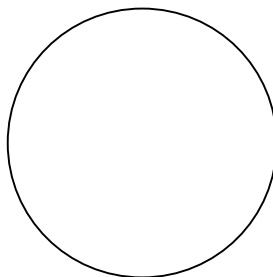


Percentage examining the Last Few Days

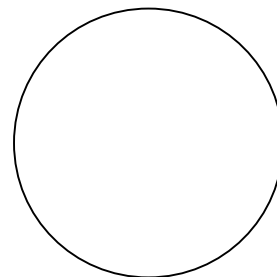
John Lennon



Luke

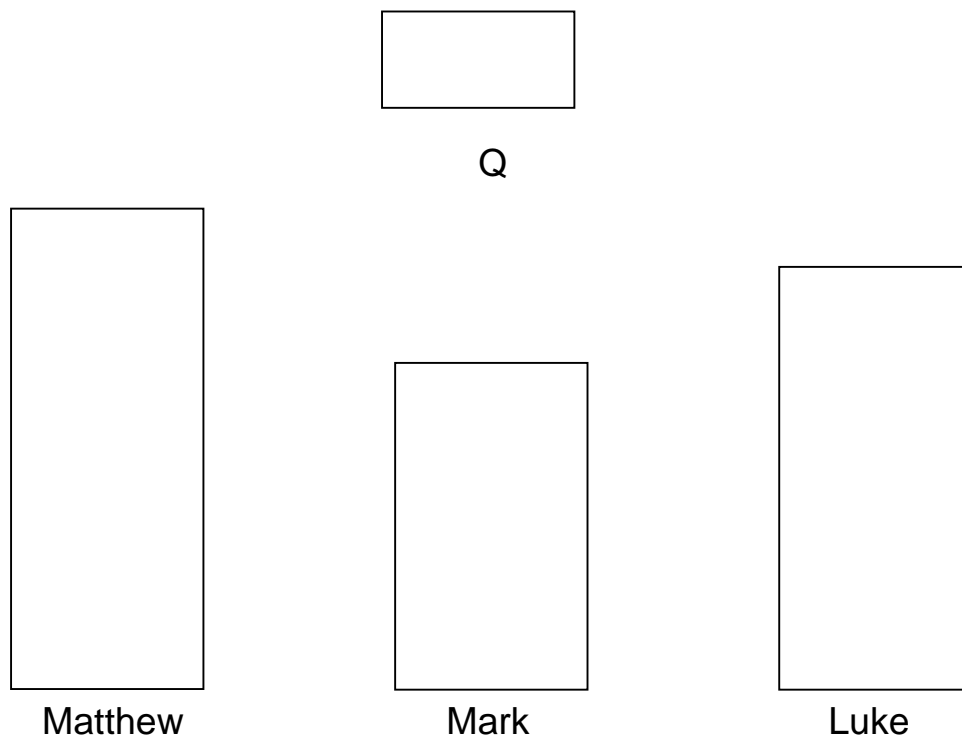


Mark



Why are bits of the Gospels different?

Why are there bits that are the same?



These three Books are known as the

Why did they select to record the events they did?

Luke _____

Matthew _____

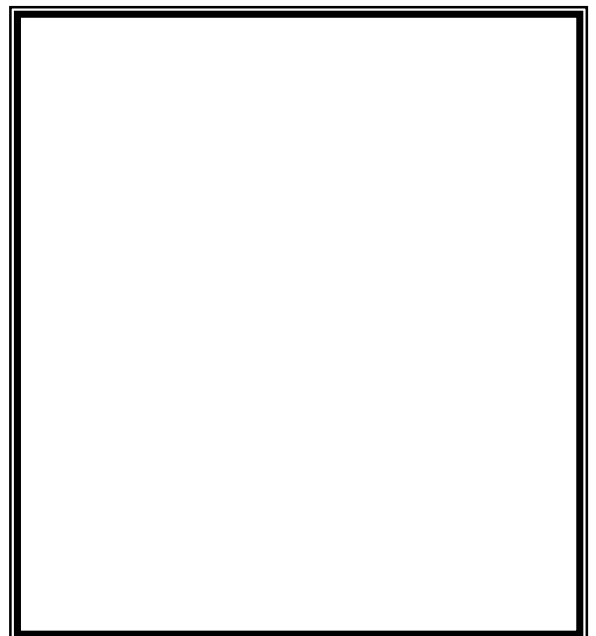
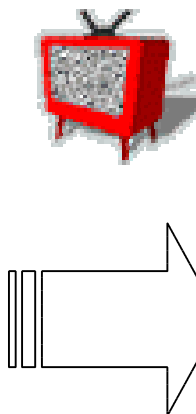
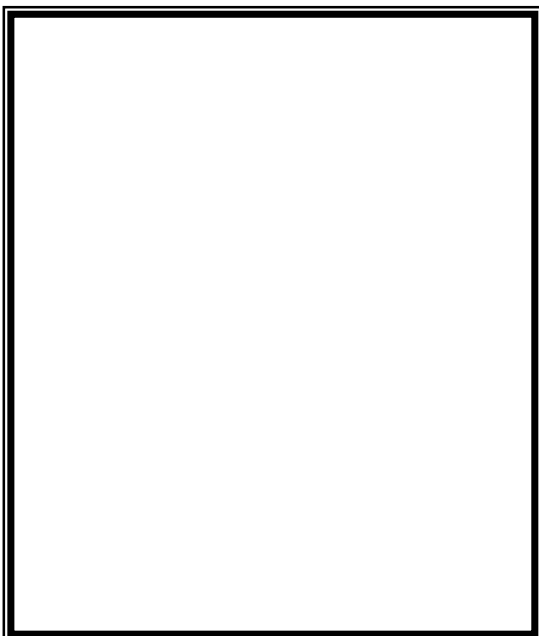
John _____



We can probably learn a lot



How does interpretation fit with honest reporting?



Where does God fit in all this?

What is God saying?



Why is God saying it?

What should it mean to us?

