

Lesson 10: Is The New Testament True? (Continued)

TWO QUESTIONS for investigating the reliability of the New Testament:

1. **Do we have an accurate copy of the original NT documents?**
2. **Do the original NT documents tell the truth? (Part 2)**

The Six E's – Evidence That The NT Is True

1. **E**arly Testimony
2. **E**yewitness Testimony
3. **E**mbarrassing Testimony
4. **E**xcruciating Testimony
5. **E**xpected Testimony
6. **E**xtra-Biblical Testimony

4. EXCRUCIATING TESTIMONY

The eyewitnesses died excruciating deaths, when they could have saved themselves by denying the Christian message.

APOSTLES BELIEFS & PRACTICES Before And After The Resurrection

BEFORE

**Animal Sacrifice
Binding Law Of Moses
Strict Monotheism
The Sabbath
Conquering Messiah
Circumcision**

AFTER

**Christ's Sacrifice
Christ's Life
Trinity
Sunday Worship
Sacrificial Messiah
Baptism & Communion**

What would cause pious Jews to abandon everything on the left for everything on right, virtually overnight?

**Impact Event – Like JFK Assassination, 9-11
(Perhaps the resurrection?)**

What did the NT authors have to gain by making up a new religion and abandoning Judaism?

They were excommunicated from the synagogue, beaten, and killed!

They had every motive to say the resurrection did NOT happen, and no motive to say it did – unless it actually happened!

Why would they die for a KNOWN lie?

5. EXPECTED TESTIMONY

We Should Expect Testimony About A Messiah

1. Through reason and science, we know that God exists and created us for a purpose.
(Points 1-3 about Truth, god and Miracles)
2. Since the Old Testament teaches the same, it could be reliable.
3. The Old Testament predicts the Messiah would come.

Predictions about Messiah:

- Would come from the seed of a woman (Gen 3:15)
- Would come from the line of David (Jer 23:5, 33:15)
- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- Would be both God and Man (Isa 9:6)
- Would visit the Temple (Mal 3:1) (Therefore Messiah had to come before 70AD)
- Would die in 33AD (Dan 9:24)
- Would be a sacrifice (Isa 53)

6. EXTRA-BIBLICAL TESTIMONY

The basic NT story-line is confirmed by non-christian sources (Often hostile sources)

- *** 10 ancient non-christian sources including:
- >>> Historians: Josephus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Thallus, Phlegon
 - >>> Government Officials: Pliny the Younger, Emperor Trajan, Emperor Hadrian
 - >>> Other Sources including the Jewish Talmud and Greek writer Lucian

*** Compiling their references, we get a story congruent with the New Testament....

1. Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar
2. He lived a virtuous life
3. He was a wonder-worker
4. He has a brother named James
5. He was acclaimed to be the Messiah
6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
7. An eclipse and earthquake occurred when He died
8. He was crucified on the eve of Passover
9. His disciples believed He rose from the dead
10. His disciples were willing to die for their beliefs
11. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome
12. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God

This Is Exactly What The New Testament Says!

CONCLUSION: The New Testament Is Historically Reliable

***** It is fact, not fiction.**

***** If it says Jesus said it, then Jesus really said it.**

***** If it says Jesus did it, then Jesus really did it.**