

The Reason for Our Hope: An Introduction to Apologetics

A Teaching Ministry of First Baptist Church of Brandenburg

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Lesson Four: The Reliability of the New Testament

1. What is our claim?
2. How do we know?
3. What do I mean by manuscripts?
4. The amount of manuscripts
5. Manuscript variations
6. The date of the manuscripts

Source	Earliest Manuscripts	Time Difference	Amount of Manuscripts
Tacitus 36-170 A.D. Roman Historian who wrote about 1 st and 2 nd century Rome. Wrote about Nero blaming the Christians for a fire that damaged Rome.	A.D. 850	800 years after he wrote	33
New Testament Various Authors.	A.D. 100-150	Decades later	5,700+ Greek Manuscripts

“I believe the New Testament is reliable because we have a large amount of copies at our disposal. These manuscripts are early and there are no significant disagreements between them. Furthermore, the New Testament not only meets the standards by which ancient documents are judged; it exceeds them even more than its contemporaries.”