

(1) YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE _____

1. NT accounts of Jesus are written too _____ to be _____

A. Gospels (Lk 1:1-4)

B. Pauline letters (1Cor 15:1-6; Phil 2:6-11)

C. *"[Dan Brown says] that the Emperor Constantine imposed a whole new interpretation on Christianity at the Council of Nicea in 325. That is, he decreed the belief in Jesus' divinity and suppressed all evidence of his humanity. This would mean Christianity won the religious competition in the Roman Empire by an exercise of power rather than by any attraction it exerted. In actual historical fact, the Church had won that competition long before that time, before it had any power, when it was still under sporadic persecution. If a historian were cynical, you would say Constantine chose Christianity because it had already won and he wanted to back a winner." – C. John Sommerville, The Decline of the Secular University, pp. 105-106.*

2. The documents are too _____ in their content to be legends

A. (1) Weakness of Jesus (Mt 26:39; 27:46)

B. (2) Women as first eyewitnesses (Lk 24:24)

3. The documents are too _____ in their form

A. *"I have been reading poems, romances, vision-literature, legends, myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know that not one of them is like this. Of this [gospel] there are only two possible views. Either this is reportage ... Or else, some unknown [ancient] writer... without known predecessors or successors, suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern, novelistic, realistic narrative... The reader who doesn't see this has simply not learned to read." – C.S. Lewis, Christian Reflections, Walter Hooper, ed. (Eerdmans, 1967), p.155.*

(2) YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE _____

1. Consider, it may not teach what you _____ it teaches
 - A. Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*
 - Polygamy
 - Primogeniture

2. You may be misunderstanding the Bible because of your cultural _____
 - A. (Eph 6:5; 1Tim 1:9-11; Deut 24:7) Does the Bible condone slavery?
 - B. Murray Harris, *Slaves of Christ: A NT Metaphor for Total Devotion to Christ* (IVP, 1999), pp.44, 70
 - (1) Slaves were not distinguishable from others by race, speech, or clothing
 - (2) They looked & lived like most everyone else,
 - (3) and were not segregated from the rest of society in any way.
 - (4) Slaves made the same wages as free laborers, and therefor were not usually poor.
 - (5) Also, slaves could accrue enough personal capital to buy themselves out.
 - (6) Very few slaves were slaves for life. Most could reasonably hope to be manumitted within ten or fifteen years or by their late thirties at the latest.

3. You may be getting offended by certain biblical texts because of an unexamined assumption of the _____ of your cultural _____
 - A. Biblical sexual ethics vs. forgiveness

(3) YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE _____

1. What Jesus believed

A. (Lk 24:44; Jn 10:35)

2. How He lived and died

A. (Mt 4:1-10) When tempted, Jesus _____ to it

B. (Mt 22:29) When religious opponents tried to catch him out, Jesus _____ on it

C. (Ps 22:1; Mk 15:34) When experiencing the most excruciating pain, he _____ it.

D. (Mt 5:17-18) When he spoke to the crowds, Jesus _____ it

JESUS _____ THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Jesus saw it as the _____ word of God

A. (Ps 110:1; Mk 12:36)

B. (Mt 19:4-6; Gen 2:24)

2. Jesus affirmed _____ books of the Old Testament

A. (Lk 24:44)

B. (Lk 11:51; Gen 4:8; 2Chron. 24:20-21)

3. What about the Apocrypha?

A. Jesus

c. Teaching

B. Jews

D. Church fathers

Hebrew Bible
Torah (5)
Prophets (8)
Former: Joshua-Kings
Latter: Isaiah-Twelve
Writings (11)
Ps, Pr, Songs...
... Chronicles

JESUS _____ THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. NT writings claim to be just as _____ as the Old Testament

A. Paul

- (1Cor 14:37; 1Thess 2:13)
- (1Tim 5:18) → (Dt 25:4; Lk 10:7)

B. Peter

- (2Pet 3:16)
- (2Pet 1:16-21)

C. John

- (Rev 1:2, 11-19)
- (1Jn 4:6)

2. How can they make such bold assertions?

A. (Jn 14:26)

B. (Jn 15:26-27)

C. (Jn 16:13)