



Tried and True

Try it. Test it. And find it to be just so. Water always expands (rather than shrinking) when it freezes. The flame of a match will always go upward (and never downward), regardless of which way you hold the match. Like the Pythagorean Theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$), some things are proven to be true and should be believed.

Dishonest people are afraid that others will fact-check their stories; liars will often be vague about where they have been, who they were with, and what they were doing. In contrast to manipulative liars, Bible writers did not avoid serious scrutiny by being vague about people, places, and events. In fact, the opposite is true: Throughout Scripture, the writers noted specific people in specific cities at specific times doing specific things.

From Jericho being “down” in elevation from Jerusalem by 3,500 feet (Luke 10:30) to the 95 individuals, 54 cities, and 32 countries mentioned by name in Acts, the New Testament writers’ ancient accuracy is uncanny. From the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, who delivered Jesus to be crucified (Matthew 27; John 18–19) to Paul, reasoning before first-century rulers such as Felix, Festus, and Herod Agrippa (Acts 24–26), the New Testament penmen were specific—and spot on!

The Bible writers’ diverse backgrounds and occupations (from fisherman to physician to tax collector) did not impede their accuracy. They did not even let the future get in their way (as they quoted Jesus predicting the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24:1–34). Indeed, the New Testament has been tried and tested repeatedly (for 2,000 years) and found to be true—to be accurate. —Eric Lyons



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