

JESUS WAS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Why We Can Trust the Gospels:

1) They are books of _____, not _____.

Luke 1:1-4; 3:1-2; John 20:30-31; 21:24; 1 John 1:1-3

2) They speak in _____.

Hans Stier: "Agreements over the basic facts coupled with divergence of detail present for the historian ... a criterion of extraordinary credibility... Every historian is especially skeptical at that moment when an extraordinary happening is only reported in accounts which are completely free of contradictions."

3) They were written _____.

*Matthew: c. AD 65
Mark: c. AD 55
Luke: c. AD 60
John: c. AD 90*

4) People don't die for a _____.

5) Other ancient writings _____.

Edwin Yamauchi: "In spite of what some modern scholars claim, the extrabiblical evidence will not sustain their eccentric pictures of Jesus.... In contrast to these idiosyncratic ... revisions, the orthodox view of Jesus still stands as the most credible portrait when all the evidence is considered, including the corroboration offered by ancient sources outside the New Testament."

6) _____ copies don't lie.

<u>Work</u>	<u>When Written</u>	<u>Earliest Copy</u>	<u>Time Gap</u>	<u>Copies</u>
New Testament	50-95 AD	130 AD	40 years	5,664
Homer's Iliad	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Plato	400 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	7

1. Do you believe the Gospels are completely, mostly, somewhat or rarely accurate in presenting the real Jesus? Why?
2. Which of the evidences Greg presented for the historic reliability of the gospels do you find most compelling? Why?
3. Which of his arguments seem the weakest to you? Why?
4. If the Gospels are historically accurate, what are the spiritual implications for you?
5. What questions do you still have about the historical accuracy of the Gospels? How can you find trustworthy answers to your questions?