

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE FOR THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

When compared to other ancient works of literature, the existing manuscripts of the New Testament documents in today's museums date back further, are of higher quality, and exist in much greater numbers as the following chart demonstrates.

<i>Author & Work</i>	<i>Date of Composition</i>	<i>Earliest Manuscript Copy</i>	<i>Years From Original</i>	<i>Copies</i>
Julius Caesar, <i>The Gallic Wars</i>	50 B.C.	A.D. 900	950	10
Tacitus, <i>The Annals</i>	A.D. 100	A.D. 850	750	20
Josephus, <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>	A.D. 95	A.D. 1050	1000	Less than 30
Josephus, <i>The Jewish War</i>	A.D. 80	A.D. 950	870	Less than 30
Pliny the Younger, <i>History</i>	A.D. 110	A.D. 850	740	7
Seutonius, <i>The Lives of the Caesars</i>	A.D. 120	A.D. 850	730	8
Herodotus, <i>History</i>	485-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300	8
Thucydides, <i>History</i>	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300	20
Plato, <i>Tetralogies</i>	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	7
Aristotle, <i>Ode to Poetics</i>	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49
Homer, <i>The Illiad</i>	800 B.C.	A.D. 100	900	643
New Testament	A.D. 50-95	A.D. 125	About 50	5,000+ (in Greek)

Note: Though these dates are approximate, the vast majority of historians accept them.