

New Testament: Truth Or Lie?

Many dismiss Bible because of miracles & resurrection

Much of Bible confirmed, but these have no remaining evidence

Is NT truth, or a carefully orchestrated lie by its eight writers!

Why There Are Only Two Alternatives

The writers of the New Testament leave us no other alternative!

Paul explained, either Jesus rose from the dead, or he and other "eyewitnesses" are in fact "false witnesses" **1Corinthians 15:14-15**

Peter, states either events (transfiguration) occurred as described by the "eyewitnesses", or they are "cunningly devised fables"! **2Peter 1:16-18**

We cannot say they might have been sincerely deceived!

Especially in reference to the resurrection of Jesus

They claim they ate and drank with Him afterwards **Acts 10:39-41**

They claim they saw and touched Him **1John 1:1-4**

They leave us no room for saying they were but mistaken or deceived!

Some skeptics suggest that perhaps in their grief & loss over the crucifixion they hallucinated or saw grief-inspired visions of Jesus

But "hallucinations"/"visions" highly individualistic experiences

Several or many people don't see same vision at same time!

Appearances witnessed by many at once (>500!) **1Corinthians 15:4-8**

The Implications If New Testament Is Not True

The New Testament is a carefully orchestrated lie!

We have seen the great accuracy they used in describing events, places, and people (as confirmed by archaeology) **Luke 2:1-5**

If record of miracles and resurrection is false, they very carefully intertwined fact and fiction! -- is it reasonable to believe that?

The authors suffered extreme hardship for what they knew was a lie!

Many people lie if get something out of it (such as money, power)

But what did the apostles get out of it? **1Corinthians 4:9-13**

What did Paul get for holding to his testimony? **2Corinthians 11:24-29**

How do we know they really suffered this hardship?

The fact that the letters of the New Testament were even saved!

For example, consider the letters **1 & 2 Corinthians...**

These letters are filled with rebuke of the Corinthians

They had every reason to destroy these letters exposing their faults

Corinthians had firsthand knowledge as to whether apostles and Paul really suffered the hardship spoken of in their letters

If they knew the accounts of hardship were false, they would have quickly destroyed these letters written by a liar who embarrassingly wrote about their problems!

Especially the author of half the books of the NT (Paul) suffered extreme hardship for a lie, if the NT is not true -- is it logical to believe that?

The authors who were martyred knew they were dying for a lie!

History and tradition record that James was stoned to death, Paul was beheaded, Peter was crucified

If the New Testament is a lie, they went to their deaths knowing they were dying for a lie! -- is it rational to believe that?

In suffering and dying for a lie, they went against everything Jesus and they themselves taught!

Matthew 5:37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No';

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor...

1Peter 2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

Does it make sense to believe that?

In fact, the book with the world's highest standard and loftiest goals was composed by liars, frauds, and deceivers!

What book presents higher standard of love and morality than NT?

"Sermon On The Mount" **Matthew 5-7** "Discourse On Love" **1Corinthians 13**

If you do not believe NT when it speaks of miracles & Christ's resurrection

It is a carefully orchestrated lie!

Authors suffered extreme hardship for what they knew was a lie!

Those authors who were martyred knew they were dying for a lie!

In doing so, went against everything Jesus and they themselves taught!

Somehow, these liars, frauds, and deceivers came up with book containing world's highest standard morality and loftiest goals!

I am convinced those who do not believe NT are those who:

Have never read the New Testament carefully

Are not aware of evidence supporting it as a historical document

Have not considered the logical implications of simply regarding it as a mixture of fact and fiction!

But to those who will read it, I believe that they will find...

That it has "the ring of truth" to it

That it will produce faith necessary to believe in Jesus **Romans 10:17**, and through such faith find eternal life **John 20:30-31**!

MarkCopeland EO