

What we will do in this guide is cover the ten most common objections against the Bible in our culture.

This list of ten objections is in no way exhaustive of all the objections people might have about the Bible, but they are the ones you will most frequently encounter.

#### OBJECTION I



### The Old Testament God Was A Wicked Tyrant Who Commanded Horrible Things

- First we need to determine if God really commanded some allegedly immoral act or not. In a lot of cases, objectors will point out a passage where someone in the Old Testament is acting immorally, but when you look at the passage you see God didn't actually command it. The passage is just being descriptive of what the person is doing. So if God didn't actually command some allegedly immoral action, He can hardly be accused of being immoral.
- Secondly, if God really did command the act, we need to ask if it was truly immoral for Him to do so. Theologians like St. Thomas Aquinas have pointed out that injustice can only occur when something is taken away from a rightful owner. But since God is the owner of all things, it's impossible for God to unjustly take away anything.

#### OBJECTION 2

### All That Jesus Stuff Was A Myth Based On Pagan Mythology

- This Objection is Based On An Exaggeration:
   The similarities between the Jesus narratives and pagan myths are greatly exaggerated. When you read the primary sources, the alleged similarities are not that similar at all.
- This Objection Also Ignores The Ancient Palestinian Context In Which The Gospels Were Written:
   It is highly improbable that devout monotheistic Jews would be prone to rashly adopting pagan beliefs.



• The Third Problem With This Objection Is That Key Details In The Gospels Have Been Historically Verified: Key elements in the Jesus narrative can be shown to be historical! Many of the specific events concerning the life of Jesus can be historically verified such as the Last Supper, the death by crucifixion, and the discovery of the empty tomb. Also, the Gospels refer to real people like Caiaphas, John the Baptist, Pontius Pilate, and Jesus. All of this tells us that the genre of the Gospels is historical, not myth.



# We Don't Even Know Who Wrote The Gospels

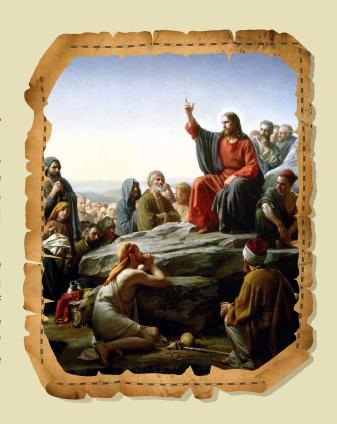
- This is Simply Not True: There is a very strong case that can be made for the traditional authorship of the Gospels (Mark wrote Mark, Matthew wrote Matthew, etc.) This is confirmed by both internal and external evidence.
- Even If This Objection Were True, The Point Would Be Irrelevant: What really matters is HISTORICAL ACCURACY NOT AUTHORSHIP.

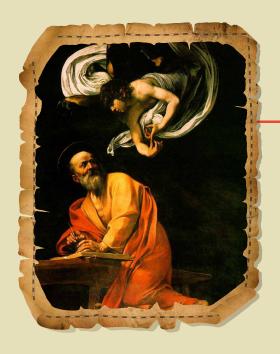
We have methods in place for determining historical accuracy, & many important Gospel details meet those standards.

#### OBJECTION 4

### The Gospels Are Not Reliable History

- This is nothing but an assertion that goes against the evidence. All of the evidence suggests that the Gospel writers were able to write accurate history, intending to do so, and actually did do so, as far as we can tell.
- Once established as a generally reliable document, a historically favorable presumption should prevail at that point and the burden of proof then falls on those who assert they are unhistorical. This is all one can reasonably expect from history and this is the situation we have with the Gospels.





# The Gospels Weren't Even Written By Eyewitnesses

- On the contrary, there is strong evidence showing that two of the Gospels (Matthew and John) were written by eyewitnesses.
- Nevertheless, the objection is irrelevant because you don' have to be an eyewitness to write accurate history. All you need to have is reliable sources. That's the way most history books are written anyway.

#### OBJECTION 6

## The Gospels are Full of Contradictions and Can't Be Trusted

First, it is not at all clear that there are true contradictions in the Gospels. Yes, there are several apparent discrepancies, but scholars have given many plausible harmonizations for these discrepancies which would show that there is no contradiction there after all.

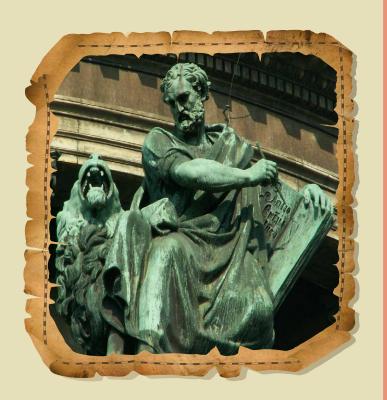


Secondly, the discrepancies are about minor details in the story. (This is precisely what we would expect if the same story were told by multiple witnesses!) The "core" or "gist" of the main story remains the same in all four Gospel accounts.

#### The Gospel Writers Were Biased And Can't Be Trusted

Just like Romans can give reliable Roman history or Greeks can give reliable Greek history, so too Christians can give reliable Christian history. There is no incompatibility between believing in Jesus and giving an accurate report about him.

"Bias" doesn't mean "untrustworthy". All a bias means is that someone cares about the topic at hand; it doesn't necessarily mean they are falsifying information.



#### OBJECTION 8

## There Are No Non-Christian Sources That Even Mention Jesus

First, this objection is false because there are in fact non-Christian sources that mention Jesus. The ancient Jewish historian Josephus is just one example.



Secondly, this objection is misguided because it presupposes that only non-Christian testimony "counts" since it seems to assume that the Christian sources are unreliable. But this is a false assumption (see objection 7).

# The Gospels Were Written Late and Have Been Corrupted.

"Late" is a relative term. When someone says "late" ask them what they mean. What the average person on the street usually means by "late" is a few centuries. This is simply not at all true about the Gospels. The Gospels are not "late" in that sense.



In fact, there are strong arguments for a relatively early composition of the Gospels (showing that the entire New Testament was written before 70 A.D.!) But even the commonly accepted dates are "early enough" to pass on reliable historical testimony.

As far as any textual "corruption" goes that is just naïve.

Textual criticism shows that we can be virtually certain that our copy of the NT accurately matches the original.

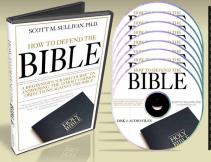
#### OBJECTION 10

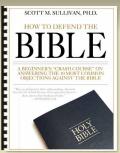
## There Is No Evidence That Jesus Ever Existed

- If that were true, then there's no evidence that anyone else from ancient history ever existed either, since the evidence for Jesus is far greater than nearly all other figures from ancient history.
- The truth is we have more evidence for Jesus than we have for anybody else in his time period.



Want to make an even stronger defense of the Bible? Check out our video course entitled the How To Defend The Bible! Made for beginners, this course will give you everything you need to know about this topic in a little over an hour.





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