

Manuscript Evidence Comparison Chart

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, former director and principal librarian of the British Museum, stated about the New Testament, "The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."

Ancient Writing	Approximate Date	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Ancient Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius (Roman poet/philosopher)	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	----
Pliny the Younger (Roman author/philosopher)	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7	----
Plato (Greek Philosopher)	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	----
Demosthenes (Greek statesman/orator)	4th Cent. B.C.	1100 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Herodotus (Ionian traveler/storyteller)	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius (Roman Historian)	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides (Greek Historian)	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides (Athenian Playwright)	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes (Greek Playwright)	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200	10	----
Julius Caesar (Roman Emperor)	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000	10	----
Livy (Roman Historian)	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus (Roman Historian)	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle (Greek Philosopher)	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400	49	----
Sophocles (Greek Playwright)	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad) (Greek Poet)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. 130 A.D. f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

Chart adapted from Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry (<http://www.carm.org/evidence/textualevidence.htm>)