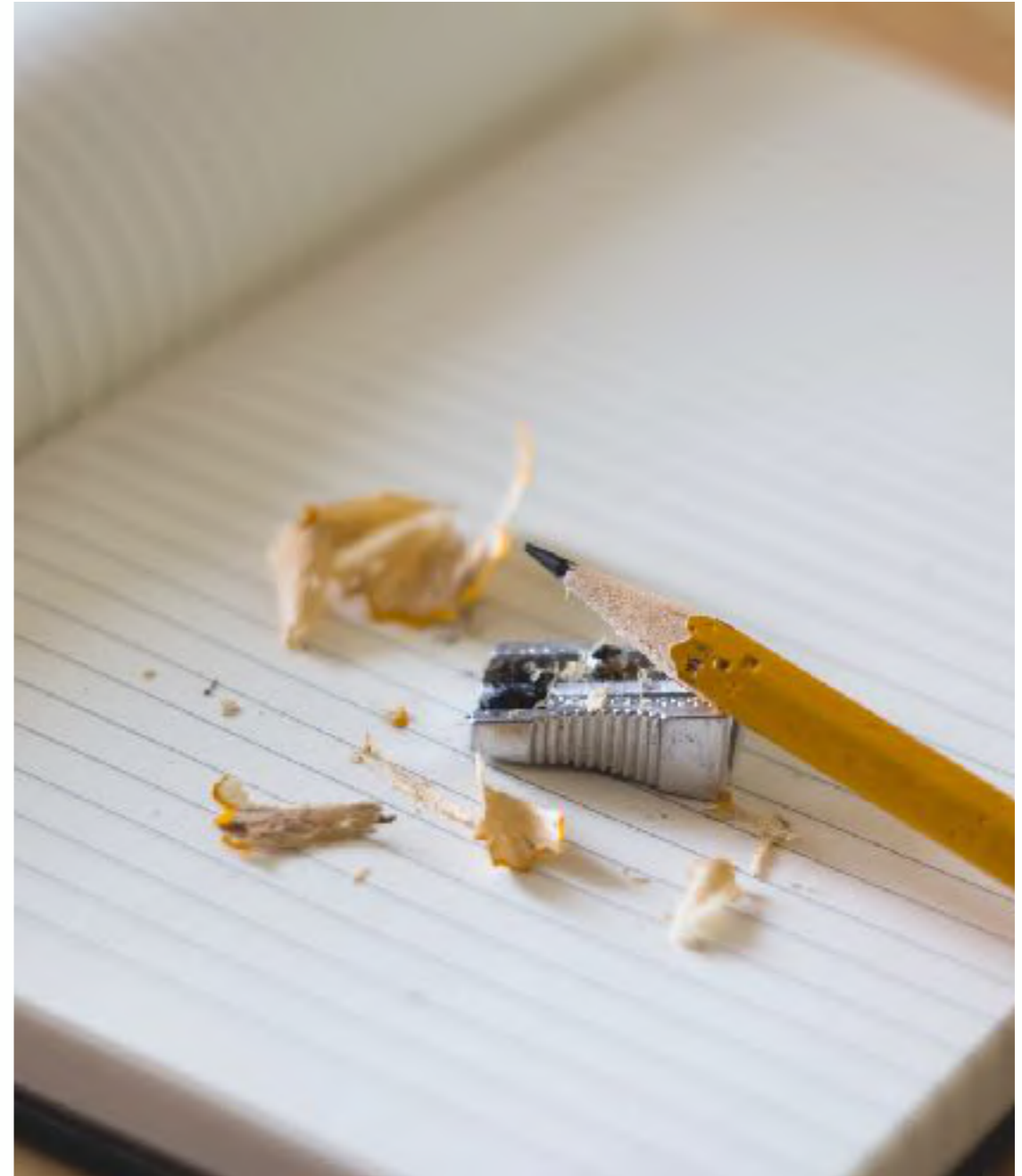




Investigating the Gospels

Test Your Witnesses

1. Were they present?
2. Have they been honest and accurate?
3. Can they be verified?
4. Do they have an ulterior motive?



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The Bible is open to the book of Jeremiah, with the left page showing chapter 15 and the right page showing chapter 16. The text is in English. The background is a solid blue color. A large white text box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

Test # 3 - Have They Been Honest and Accurate?

A Mountain of Manuscripts

Work	Date Written	Earliest Manuscript	Time Gap	# of Manuscripts
Homer - Iliad	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400	1,800
Tacitus - Annals	100 AD	1st half - 850 AD	750-900	2, plus 31 copies 15th century
Bible	Finished by 90 AD	c. 130 AD	50	5,838

P52 papyrus found at Oxyrhynchus

οἱ υἱοὶ τοῦ
δυνατοῦ ἰσχυροῦ
πνεύματος
ἐκκλῆσιαν
ἐποίησαν
καὶ ἴτε
ἐν

τοῦ οὐρανοῦ
ἐκκλῆσιαν
ἐποίησαν
καὶ ἴτε
ἐν
τοῦ οὐρανοῦ
ἐκκλῆσιαν
ἐποίησαν

“There is not a body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the New Testament.”

-F. F. Bruce

Separate Artifacts from Evidence



Woman Accused of Adultery - John 8:1-11



“An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

-Luke 22:43-44 KJV

**“Three that bear record in heaven, the
Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost:
and these three are one.”**

-1 John 5:7 KJV

Can We Trust the Biblical Evidence?

- Recognize differences in character
- Look for an explanation
- See what happens if you include it



“The New Testament, then, has not only survived in more manuscripts than any other book from antiquity, but it has survived in a purer form than any other great book - a form that is 99.5% pure.”

-Norman Geisler and William Nix

