

15. "Wasn't the New Testament written down hundreds of years after Jesus lived? Wouldn't that make it unreliable?"

"There is actually good evidence that most of the New Testament was completed before AD 70. For example, the New Testament Scriptures are absolutely silent regarding the destruction of the Jewish temple by the Romans in AD 70. This was one of the most significant events in all of Jewish history, and Jesus prophesied it would happen (Mark 13:1-2). The silence of the New Testament authors implies that their writings were completed prior to this event.

Second, the New Testament authors mentioned the names of rulers like Herod, Caiaphas, and Pontius Pilate, but they are completely silent regarding Caesar Nero and the incredible persecution he unleashed on the church in AD 64.

Third, the martyrdoms of Paul (AD 64) and Peter (AD 65) are not mentioned anywhere in the New Testament. The apostle Paul was still alive at the end of Luke's second writing, the book of Acts (see Acts 28). This implies that Luke must have written his Gospel sometime prior.

Fourth, the pool of Bethesda, which was destroyed in AD 70, was still in existence when John wrote his Gospel (John 5:2). I could go on, but it is safe to say that the New Testament was completed before the close of the first century, within the lifetimes of the eyewitnesses and contemporaries of the events.

Great Quotes On the Bible:

"Holy Scripture could never lie or err.. its decrees are of absolute and in avoidable truth."

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), Italian physicist, astronomer, and philosopher, in a letter to Benedetto Castelli in 1613.

"Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them."

E. Paul Hovey