



Session Two: Why we don't read the Bible

Part of a four week group study to understand and enjoy the Word of God.

find this and other resources at redeemermcr.com/bible-course

Last session we talked about what it is, but none of that really matters if we don't read it. Why don't we read the Bible?

Issues with the text

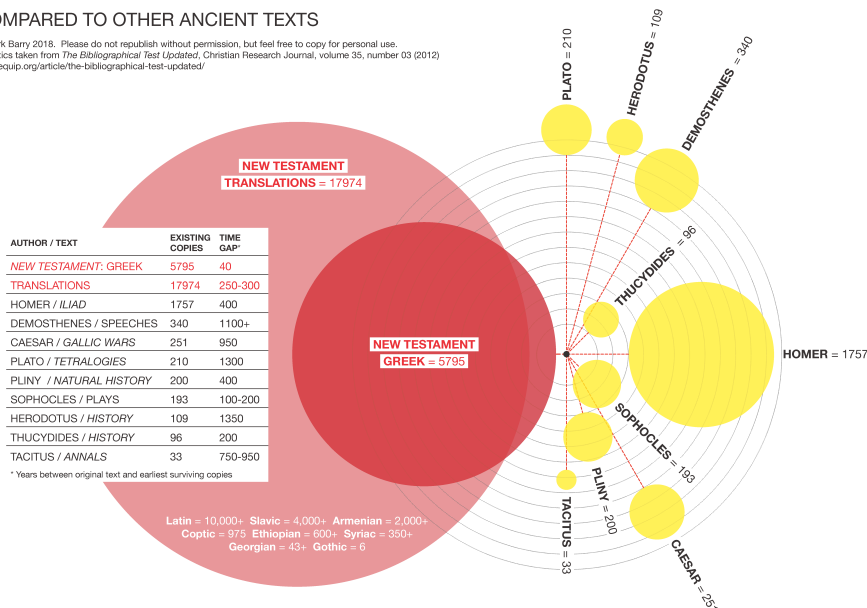
We might think that because the Bible was written over many different centuries by different authors in different places and cultures, that there are errors. What does the evidence say?

Important questions: When were the New Testament documents written? Was Christianity invented for political reasons? Aren't the Bible stories more like myth or legend?

Historicity (aka the historical authenticity)

THE TRANSMISSIONAL RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPARED TO OTHER ANCIENT TEXTS

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Compared to other ancient documents we have, the Bible has the shortest time gap between the events and the writing. The Bible also has more copies than any other ancient document.

Intertextuality (aka how connected the Bible is within itself)

The Bible has over 63,000 cross references, even as it was written by about 40 different people, in different places, with different languages and cultures, across thousands of years.

Issues with our culture

Issues within ourselves

Questions

Did you learn anything new?

What are reasons you don't read the Bible?

What are the difficult cultural issues for you? For those you know who aren't believers?

How could those hangups, and others, cause you to miss what God has to say?

What might be some small steps forward for you?

Pray together about some of the topics that came up in the teaching and discussion.