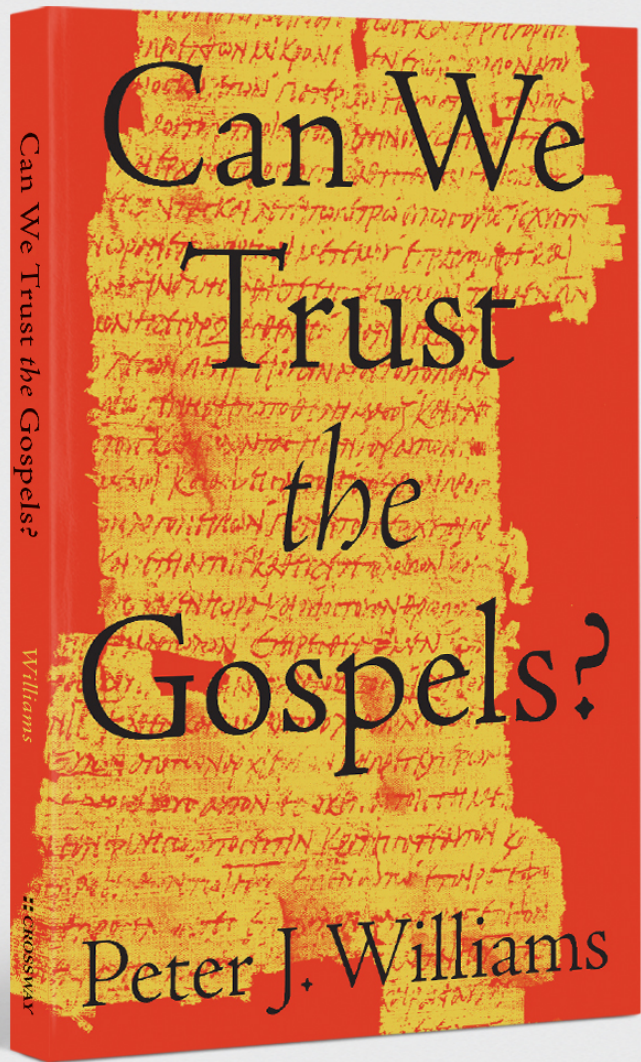




CAN WE TRUST THE GOSPELS?

DR PETER J. WILLIAMS @DRPJWILLIAMS



MAIN SOURCES ABOUT EMPEROR TIBERIUS

Author and work	Words	Earliest copy	Date written	Language
Velleius Paterculus, <i>Roman History</i> 2.94-131	6,489	16 th century	AD 30	Latin
Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> 1-6	48,200	9 th century	After AD 110*	Latin
Suetonius, <i>Tiberius</i>	9,310	9 th century	After AD 120	Latin
Cassius Dio, <i>Roman History</i> 57-58	14,293	9 th century	After AD 200	Greek

MAIN SOURCES ABOUT JESUS

Gospel	Words	Earliest complete copy	Earliest incomplete copy	Language
Matthew	18,347	4 th century	2 nd /3 rd century	Greek
Mark	11,103	4 th century	3 rd century	Greek
Luke	19,463	4 th century	3 rd century	Greek
John	15,445	4 th century	2 nd century	Greek

PROPOSED DATES OF GOSPEL COMPOSITION

	<i>The Jewish Annotated New Testament*</i>	Shaye Cohen	Bart Ehrman
Matthew	80-90	80s	80-85
Mark	64-72	ca. 70	65-70
Luke	“toward the end of the first century”	80s	80-85
John	70-130	ca. 90-100	95

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO TOWNS

Towns	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Aenon				✓
Arimathea	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bethany	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bethlehem	✓		✓	✓
Bethphage	✓	✓	✓	
Bethsaida	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caesarea Philippi	✓	✓		

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO TOWNS

Towns	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Cana				✓
Capernaum	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chorazin	✓		✓	
Dalmanutha		✓		
Emmaus			✓	
Ephraim				✓

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO TOWNS

Towns	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Gennesaret	✓	✓	✓	
Jericho	✓	✓	✓	
Jerusalem (or Zion)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magadan	✓			
Nain			✓	
Nazareth	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rama	✓			

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO TOWNS

Towns	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Salim				✓
Sidon	✓	✓	✓	
Sychar				✓
Tiberias				✓
Tyre	✓	✓	✓	
Zarephath			✓	

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO REGIONS

Region	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Abilene			✓	
Decapolis	✓	✓		
Egypt	✓			
Galilee	✓	✓	✓	✓
Idumaea		✓		
Ituraea			✓	
Judaea	✓	✓	✓	✓

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO REGIONS

Region	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Natphtali	✓			
Samaria			✓	✓
Sidonia			✓	
Syria	✓		✓	
Trachonitis			✓	
Zebulun	✓			

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO BODIES OF WATER

Body of water	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Bethesda				✓
Kidron				✓
river Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sea of Galilee	✓	✓		✓
Siloam			✓	✓

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO OTHER PLACES

Other places	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
field of Blood	✓			
Gabbatha				✓
Gethsemane	✓	✓		
Golgotha (Place of the Skull)	✓	✓	✓	✓

GOSPEL WRITERS' REFERENCES TO OTHER PLACES

Other places	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Mount of Olives	✓	✓	✓	
Sheep Gate				✓
Solomon's Colonnade				✓

FREQUENCY OF GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Total Greek words	18,347	11,103	19,463	15,445
Total places (towns, regions, bodies of water, and other places)	90	60	99	76
Locations mentioned per 1,000 words	4.905	5.404	5.087	4.921

EXACT SPEECH: DRAWING FROM A WELL

Prayer in garden:

“My Father, if it be possible, let this **cup** pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39)

Arrest in garden (to Peter): “shall I not drink the **cup** that the Father has given me?” (John 18:11)

EXACT SPEECH: DRAWING FROM A WELL

Prayer in garden:

“My Father, if it be possible, let this **cup** pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”
(Matthew 26:39)

Arrest in garden:

To Peter: “Shall I not drink the **cup** that the Father has given me?”
(John 18:11)

EXACT SPEECH: DRAWING FROM A WELL

Jesus met them and said,
“Rejoice” And they came and
took hold of his feet and
worshiped him. Then Jesus
said to them, “Do not be
afraid; go and tell my brothers
to go to Galilee, and there
they will see me.”
(Matthew 26:39)

Jesus said to her, “Do not
cling onto me, for I have not
yet ascended to the father;
but go to my brothers and say
to them, ‘I am ascending to my
father and your father, to my
God and your God.’”
(John 20:17)

IDENTICAL FOR FIRST 14 VERSES OF JOHN

1516

Erasmus's edition from 1516, based on two twelfth-century manuscripts;

2005

The 2005 edition by Maurice Robinson (Byzantine text);

2017

The 2017 edition made at Tyndale House, Cambridge.

Editions of the German Bible Society (Nestle-Aland)

1979

The 2010 Society of Biblical Literature edition;

2010