

Name _____

Defending the Christmas Story

1. 3 lines of evidence can be taken to show that Jesus' birth story is trustworthy. What are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. How would you respond to the following objections?
 - a. How can I trust a book written 2000 years ago?

 - b. Show me evidence outside of the bible about Jesus!

 - c. The gospels were written by biased authors. How do you expect me to trust them?

4. Archaeological evidence

- a. "If an ancient historian's incidental details check out to be accurate time after time, this increases our confidence in other material that the historian wrote but that cannot be as readily cross-checked."
- b. **Luke 3:1 NKJV** - Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,
- c. **Acts 17:6 NKJV** - But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.
- d. Existence of Nazareth
- e. Slaughter at Bethlehem
- f. "Archaeology has not produced anything that is unequivocally a contradiction to the Bible. On the contrary, as we've seen, there have been many opinions of skeptical scholars that have become codified into 'fact' over the years but that archaeology has shown to be wrong." – John McRay

- g. "... for Acts the confirmation of historicity is overwhelming. ... any attempt to reject its basic historicity even in matter of detail must now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted." – A.N. Sherwin-White
 - h. "All in all, Luke names 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 islands without making a single error."
5. Messianic prophecy
- a. Verses to become familiar with
 - i. Galatians 4:4
 - ii. Luke 24:27
 - iii. John 5:46
 - iv. Acts 3:18
 - v. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - vi. Isaiah 53:2
 - vii. Isaiah 7:14
 - viii. Micah 5:2
 - ix. Genesis 3:15
 - x. Jeremiah 23:5
 - b. Coincidence theory
 - c. Fabrication theory
 - d. Intentional theory