

Welcome

We're glad you're here!



The Antelope Valley
-Our Mission-

What We're Passionate About

God – The all-loving, all-just, perfect, almighty creator of the universe

Jesus – God's son who rescued humanity from its sin through his sinless life, death, and resurrection

The Bible – The inspired Word of God

These are Truths Want to Tell Others

In obedience to the great commandment and great commission

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. [40] On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:37–40

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

And in the way we are instructed

“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Colossians 4:5-6

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

1 Peter 3:15

Why..?

The PROBLEM of SIN is REAL

JESUS is REAL

JESUS LOVES US

JESUS PAID for our SIN

JESUS LIVES

Why..?

The PROBLEM of SIN is REAL

Clement, Ignatius of Antioch,
Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Papius
Didache Manuscript 50-70 AD
Phelegon 140 AD
Thallus 55 AD
Celsus 175 AD
Lucian of Samosata 166 AD
Mara Bar Serapion 73 AD
Pliny the Younger 112 AD
Suetonius 120 AD
Josephus 93 AD
Tacitus 116 AD

JESUS is REAL

JESUS LOVES US

JESUS PAID for our SIN

1 John 3:4-6, Gal 2:20
1 Peter 2:22, 1 Tim 2:5
Isaiah 1:18, Eph 5:2
John 14:6, 1 John 3:16
Rom 10:9, John 6:50
Acts 2:38, Eph 5:25
Rom 5:8, Eph 2:4-5
John 3:16, Acts 4:12
John 10:10, 1 John 4:10

Acts 4:10
1 Cor 15:3-4
Rom 10:9
Matt 28:6
1 Cor 15:20
Rev 1:5
Hebrews 1:3

JESUS LIVES

Heb 1:2-3, Isaiah 53:1-12, Matt 12:40, Mark 8:31, Col 3:1,
1 Cor 2:1-16, Acts 1:9, John 2:19, Jonah 1:17, Hosea 6:2,
Rev 19:16, Heb 13:20, 1 Cor 15:42, Eph 1:20

Matt 1:18
Matt 2:1
Matt 28:18
Luke 2:7
John 1:29
John 8:58

Deut 7:9, Jonah 4:2
Zeph 3:17, Isaiah 43:4
Psalm 86:15, Psalm 109:5
Psalm 63:3, Deut 7:7
Jer 31:3, Hosea 2:19
1 John 4:19, Exodus 34:6
John 13:34, Psalm 138:2
Rom 5:5, Psalm 100:5
John 15:12, Nehemiah 1:5
1 John 4:7-8, Psalm 22:1-31
John 14:21, Micah 7:20
Eph 3:9, 2 Cor 5:14-15
Jer 29:11, Rom 13:8

Rom 3:23
Rom 6:23
Gen 3:6
Gal 5:19-21
James 1:14-15
Rom 3:9-12
Isaiah 59:2

John 1:1
Mark 16:9
1 Peter 1:3
Matt 28:6
John 20:18
John 21:14
Acts 1:3

So we can conclude:

GOD is MERCIFUL & GRACIOUS

GOD is JUST

GOD is LOVING

GOD is GOOD

[31] What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** [32] He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31–32

with that in mind...

Let's look at some apologetic examples...

- How can a good and loving God condemn someone to hell who has never heard of Him?
- Reliability of the Gospels
Example: Greg Koukl and Deepak Chopra
- Reliability of OT
Critical Critics: Psalm 22

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 1 – The unsaved have an excuse. Scripture is clear this is not the case:

[18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.** [19] For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:18–20

[25] The LORD is **good** to those who wait for him, **to the soul who seeks him.**

Lamentations 3:25

[4] In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

Psalm 10:4

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 2 - Presupposes the fairness/goodness of God is in question. Scripture is clear:

1. God has perfect knowledge – past, present, future

[6] Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And **not one of them is forgotten before God.** [7] Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.** Luke 12:6–7

[33] Oh, the depth of the riches and **wisdom** and **knowledge** of God! How **unsearchable** are his judgments and how **inscrutable** his ways! Romans 11:33

2. God is patient with us

[11] For I know the **plans I have for you**, declares the LORD, **plans for welfare and not for evil**, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon me and come and **pray to me, and I will hear you.** [13] **You will seek me and find me**, when you seek me **with all your heart.** Jeremiah 29:11–13

[9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, **but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish**, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 2 - Presupposes the fairness/goodness of God is in question. Scripture is clear:

3. God alone, knows the condition of the heart

[2] Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.

Proverbs 21:2

[21] would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

Psalm 44:21

[7] But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7



Watch for Snakes!



Wait, God's word says:

[11] For I know the **plans I have for you**, declares the LORD, **plans for welfare and not for evil**, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon me and come and **pray to me, and I will hear you**. [13] **You will seek me and find me**, when you seek me **with all your heart**.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

But also says:

[28] Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

Proverbs 1:28



Watch for Snakes!



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[11] For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. [13] You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

But also says:

[28] Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

Proverbs 1:28

within context:

[29] Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

Proverbs 1:29

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 2 - Presupposes the fairness/goodness of God is in question. Scripture is clear:

4. God is good

[16] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16–17

[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

[11] Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 33:11

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 3 – Implies that humans are somehow the moral judge and not an all-knowing, omnipresent, omnipotent, good, patient, merciful, graceful, loving and just God

Scripture is clear, Jesus is the ultimate Judge:

[10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5:10

[27] And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. John 5:27

[10] Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.” Psalm 96:10

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 4 – Implies we deserve something other than eternal separation from God for our sinfulness. Scripture is clear, God is deeply grieved by sin and takes it extremely seriously

It is only by His outpouring of love by which we receive mercy and grace and are saved:

[14] But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. [15] Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

James 1:14–15

[31] Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Nehemiah 9:31

[8] The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalms 103:8

What about those that never hear?

Assumption 5 – Implies God doesn't have foreknowledge or sovereignty over how His created respond to Him

Scripture is clear that God has perfect foreknowledge of who responds and who doesn't, and it is God in His goodness, that brings about positive response:

[43] Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. [44] **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day. John 6:43–44

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] **he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,**
Ephesians 1:3–5

[8] **Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord,** nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, [9] **who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace,** which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 2 Timothy 1:8–9

What about those that never hear?

Ultimately, the truths presented in God's Word best answer this question:

[26] And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

Acts 17:26–27

[28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:28–30

What about those that never hear?

God's Word is clear and authoritative on this matter

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

We may rest in His Goodness, Justice, Mercy, and Grace

- **There is no one more loving** (1 John 4:48)
- **He is a perfect judge, He has perfect knowledge** (Rom 2:6-8)
- **He is clear about those that seek Him** (Proverbs 8:17, Matt 6:33, Psalm 14:2, Jeremiah 29:13, Psalm 9:10, Psalm 10:4, Matt 7:7, Deuteronomy 4:29, Psalm 34:10, Psalm 40:16)
- **He does not wish any to perish** (2 Peter 3:9, Isaiah 30:18, John 3:16-17,)
- **He is holy and just** (Isaiah 6:3, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Revelation 15:4, Deuteronomy 32:4, Dan 4:35)
- **His divine nature/eternal power are clearly perceived** (Rom 1:19-20)

What about those that never hear?

Wycliffe has made some astounding progress towards unreached people groups in the last 25 years

**2025 Total Global Population:
8.232 billion**

36.8 million people unreached

4,457 languages in-work

**1,712 languages – no verses
translated yet..**

[16] For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
1 Corinthians 9:16

Global Scripture Access

LANGUAGES

Full Bible: 776
+ New Testament: 1,798
+ Portions: 1,433

**= 4,007 languages with at
least some Scripture**

7.7 billion (up to 99% of all people)

PEOPLE

6.2 billion
887 million
508 million



August 2025

wycliffe.net/resources/statistics

Reliability of the Scripture - Gospels

Greg Koukl and Deepak Chopra



https://youtu.be/n-_mLT0OZ8E?si=Lj17iK2PXMuIKG3X

Quotes:

1. ***“I disagree with Mr. Koukl that the 4 gospels were written at the time of Jesus’ existence...”***
2. ***“According to “all scholarly research” [the gospels were written] from 60 AD to 100 AD”***
3. ***“I read the recent news week issue which differed quite a bit [from what Mr. Koukl was saying]”***
4. ***“King Jame Bible was the 18th or 19th iteration of the Bible...”***
5. ***“You really believe Christ’s version of the truth is the only version?”***

Reliability of the Scripture - Gospels

Examining the discussion:

1. *"I disagree with Mr. Koukl that the 4 gospels were written at the time of Jesus' existence..."*
2. *"According to all scholarly research [the gospels were written] anywhere from 60 AD to 100 AD"*

Scholarly research consists of 4 main positions when dating the gospels

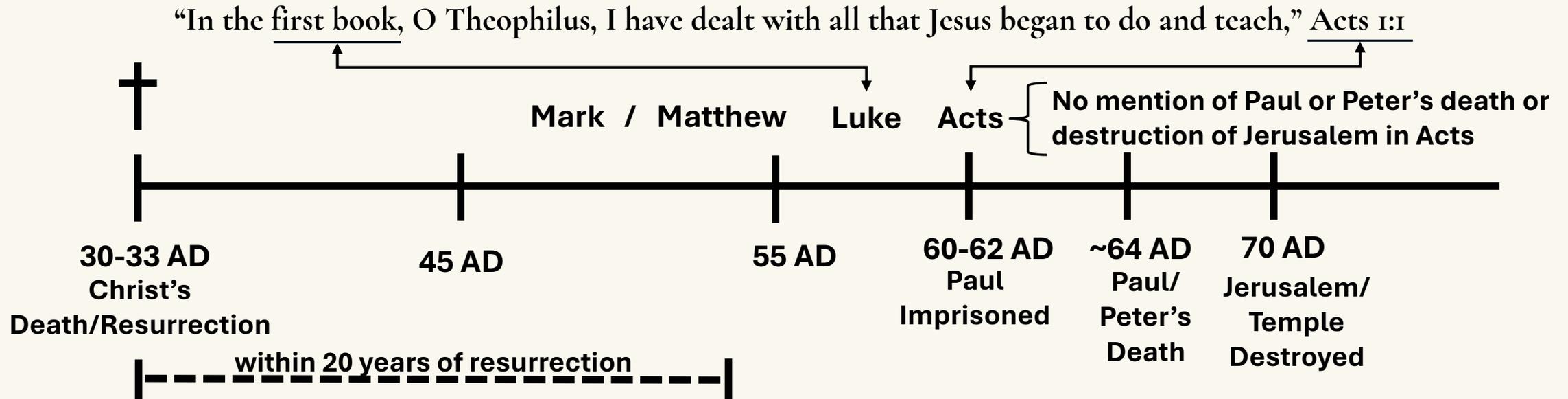
- General consensus Luke came after Mark and/or Matthew
(Austin Farrer, Michael Goulder, Mark Goodacre, Francis Watson)
- **Some scholars argue that Luke was written approx. 57-60 AD** (John A. T. Robinson)
 - Acts contains no mention of Peter or Paul's death approx. 64 AD
 - Acts contains no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem 70 AD
 - Acts ends with Paul alive under house arrest in Rome (60-62 AD)
 - **The Gospel of Luke was written before Acts (Theophilus ref. Acts 1)**
(John A. T. Robinson, Colin J. Hemer, Wesley Huff)
- Matthew and/or Mark could then have been written 45-60 AD

Reliability of the Scripture - Gospels

Examining the discussion:

1. *"I disagree with Mr. Koukl that the 4 gospels were written at the time of Jesus' existence..."*
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Early Dating Rationale (J. A. T. Robinson, Colin j. Hemer, John Wenham, Eta Linnemann, Wesley Huff)



Reliability of the Scripture - Gospels

Examining the discussion:

3. *“I read the recent news week issue which differed quite a bit [from what Mr. Koukl was saying]”*



4. *“King Jame Bible was the 18th or 19th iteration of the Bible...”*

1. Wycliffe Bible (1380) – Source: Latin Vulgate (AD 400) (Wycliffe persecuted, branded heretic after death)
2. John Purvey Revision (1388) – Source: Wycliffe Bible
3. Tyndale Bible (1526) – Source Greek NT (Erasmus NT), partial OT (Tyndale martyred)
4. Miles Coverdale Bible (1535)
5. Matthew Bible (1537) – by John Rogers, completed Tyndale’s work (Rogers martyred)
6. Great Bible (1539) – Revised Matthew Bible, by Coverdale
7. Geneva Bible (1560) – Complete Revision William Whittingham in Geneva – highest quality translation at the time
8. Bishop’s Bible (1568) – Revision of the Great Bible, by Matthew Parker
9. Douai-Rheims Bible (1593) – Produced by Roman Catholic Church, close adherence to Latin Vulgate
10. King James Version (1611) – Commissioned by King James in 1604 – translated from Greek/Hebrew source texts at the time

Crusades 1095 – 1291
Gutenberg Printing Press 1450
Reformation early 1500s

“Scholars today are able to translate from a Greek text that draws on almost 6000 NT manuscripts, some dating back to the second century” – Scott Duvall, Grasping God’s Word, 4th Ed.

Reliability of the Scripture - Gospels

Examining the discussion:

5. *“You really believe Christ’s version of the truth is the only version?”*

Evidence:

1. Christ lived (0-33 AD)
2. Christ claimed to be God and have power to forgive sins
3. Christ was clear, the only way to God was through Him
4. Christ was crucified for His claims
5. Christ resurrected from the dead
6. Christ appeared to many after His death
7. The apostles witnessed these things and believed them so strongly they were willing to die in order to proclaim them

In light of the evidence, it is not illogical to take Christ at His word

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

Critical Critics: Psalm 22

Critic Claims:

1. “It was not written by king David and it does not line up, at all, with what happened to Jesus on the cross...”
2. “... but again, they are presupposing the traditional ascription of authorship, which is entirely rejected by the overwhelming majority of scholars.”
3. REGARDING WHAT WE FIND IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: “... and that also doesn’t mean anything...”
4. REGARDING verse 16: “pierce my hands and feet”: “...not a valid reading of the text..”
5. “..this has nothing to do with Jesus.”

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

Critical Claim:

1. **“It was not written by king David and it does not line up, at all, with what happened to Jesus on the cross...”**
-

Going to let you decide, let's review Psalm 22

[7] All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; [8] “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!” Psalm 22:7–8

(Matthew 27:39, 43, Mark 15:29-32)

(Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34)

[14] I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; [15] my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. Psalm 22:14–15

(John 19:28)

(John 19:23-24, Matthew 27:35)

[16] For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— [17] I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; [18] they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:16–18

(Mark 15:24, Luke 23:34)

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

Critical Claim:

2. “... but again, they are presupposing the traditional ascription of [Davidic] authorship, which is entirely rejected by the overwhelming majority of scholars.”
-

On a cursory glance:

It is not rejected by the majority of scholars, but rather the overwhelming majority of form-critical or historical critical scholars, who repeat Gunkel

Form Criticism was founded by Hermann Gunkel (1862-1932) in Germany in 1926

- **Form Critical - Analyzes the structure, pattern, genre, oral traditions, and social form of ancient texts**
- **Regarded as speculative and subjective in its nature**
- **Emphasizes rigid assumptions over eye witnessed historical context**
- **Ignores the supernatural aspects of God** ([The Case against Form Criticism - Christianity Today July 16, 1965 Issue](#))

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

In casually reviewing scholars who affirm/reject Davidic authorship:

Andrew Bonar	<i>Christ and His Church in the Book of Psalms</i>	1859	Affirming
Carl F. Keil	<i>Commentary on Psalms</i>	1866	Affirming
Franz Delitzsch	<i>Commentary on Psalms</i>	1866	Affirming
Alexander Maclaren	<i>Expositions: Psalms</i>	1886	Affirming
A. R. Fausset	<i>The Pulpit Commentary</i>	1919	Affirming
H. D. M. Spence	<i>The Pulpit Commentary</i>	1919	Affirming
Joseph S. Excell	<i>The Pulpit Commentary</i>	1919	Affirming
H. C. Leupold	<i>Exposition of the Psalms</i>	1959	Affirming
E. J. Young	<i>An Introduction to the Old Testament</i>	1964	Affirming
Derek Kidner	<i>Psalms 1-72</i>	1973	Affirming
John H. Eaton	<i>Kingship and the Psalms</i>	1976	Affirming
Peter C. Craigie	<i>Psalms 1-50 (WBC)</i>	1983	Affirming
Allen P. Ross	<i>Reformation Commentary on Psalms</i>	1991	Affirming
Willem A. VanGemeren	<i>Psalms (NICOT)</i>	1991	Affirming
J. Alec Motyer	<i>Look to the Rock</i>	1996	Affirming
James Montgomery Boice	<i>Psalms</i>	1997	Affirming
J. Scott Duvall	<i>Grasping God's Word</i>	2001	Affirming
Bruce K. Waltke	<i>The Book of Psalms</i>	2002	Affirming
Christopher J. H. Wright	<i>The Message of the Psalms</i>	2002	Affirming
Jose S. Esposito	<i>The Authorship of Psalm 22</i>	2003	Affirming
Mark Futato	<i>Psalms (Bible Knowledge Comm.)</i>	2005	Affirming
James M. Hamilton	<i>God's Glory in Salvation through Judgement</i>	2010	Affirming
Richard D. Patterson	<i>Psalms (Cornerstone Commentary)</i>	2012	Affirming
Temper Longman III	<i>Psalms (IVPNTC)</i>	2014	Affirming
Jerome L. Skinner	<i>The Historical Superscriptions of Davidic Psalms: An Exegetical, Intertextual, and Methodological Analysis</i>	2016	Affirming
Aubrey Maria Sequeira	<i>Psalm 22: Messianic Exposition</i>	2017	Affirming
Bernhard Duhm	<i>Die Psalmen</i>	1892	Rejecting
Hermann Gunkel	<i>Die Psalmen</i>	1926	Rejecting
Joachim Begrich	<i>Einleitung in die Psalmen</i>	1933	Rejecting
Artur Weiser	<i>The Psalms</i>	1962	Rejecting
Sigmund Mowinckel	<i>The Psalms in Israel's Worship</i>	1962	Rejecting
Rudolf Smend	<i>The Psalms as Religious Poetry</i>	1980	Rejecting
Robert P. Carroll	<i>Commentary on the Psalms</i>	1986	Rejecting
Hans-Joachim Kraus	<i>Psalms 1-59</i>	1988	Rejecting
Niels Peter Lemche	<i>Israelites in History & Tradition</i>	1988	Rejecting
Hermann Spieckermann	<i>Heilsgeschehen: Eine Theologie der Psalmen</i>	1989	Rejecting
Philip R. Davies	<i>In Search of Ancient Israel</i>	1992	Rejecting
Keith W. Whitelam	<i>The Bible & Ancient Near East</i>	1996	Rejecting
Thomas L. Thompson	<i>The Mythic Past</i>	1999	Rejecting
Israel Finkelstein	<i>The Bible Unearthed</i>	2001	Rejecting
Neil A. Silberman	<i>The Bible Unearthed</i>	2001	Rejecting
James L. Kugel	<i>How to Read the Bible</i>	2008	Rejecting
Richard J. Clifford	<i>The Psalms: An Introduction</i>	2013	Rejecting
Robert Alter	<i>The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary</i>	2018	Rejecting

Gunkel's seminal work *Die Psalmen*, was published in 1926.

Relied primarily on the Masoretic Text (Jewish OT Canon) finalized between the 7th & 10th century

Could not have accounted for Hebrew manuscripts discovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls dated to the 50 BC – 60s AD (Herodian) period

Specific manuscripts of Psalms in Hebrew were found in the Qumran (1946-1956) and Nahal Hever (1960s) caves

← We note some trends, rejection of Davidic authorship begins 1892 to 1926 with Gunkel/Durham

New archeological evidence raises serious and significant questions as to how comprehensive Gunkel's form critical analysis could have been in 1926

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

Critic Claim:

2. “... but again, they are presupposing the traditional ascription of [Davidic] authorship, which is entirely rejected by the overwhelming majority of scholars.”
-

Let’s examine what Jesus has to say on the matter:

[41] Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, [42] saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” [43] He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

[44] “The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

Matthew 22:41–44

A Psalm Of David.

110 ¹The LORD says to my Lord:
¹“Sit at my right hand,
²until I make your enemies your ¹footstool.”

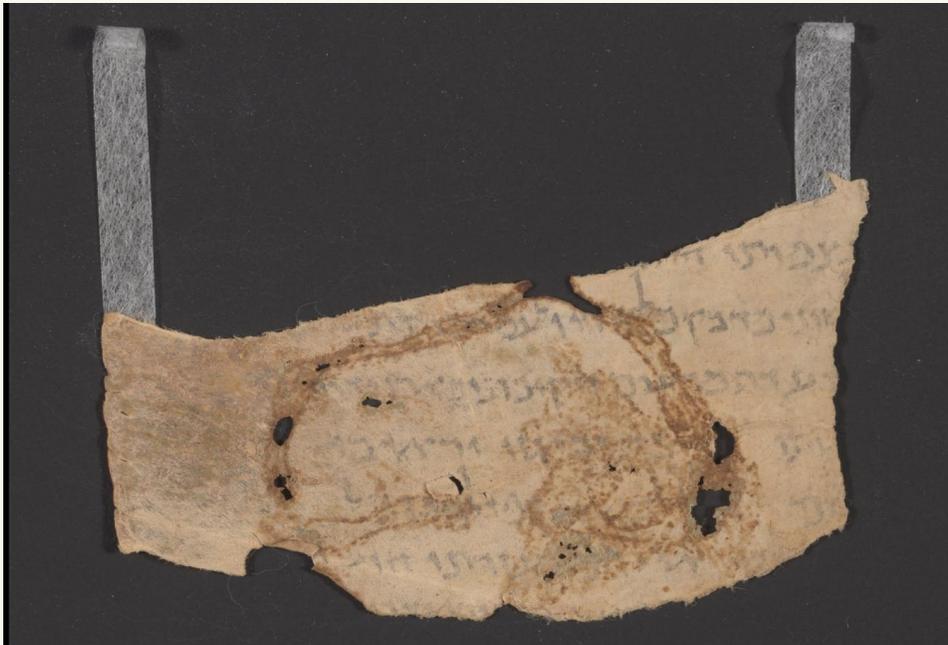
² The LORD sends forth ²from Zion
²your mighty scepter.
³Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Jesus affirms David wrote Psalm 110 in the Spirit, it is then logical and reasonable to conclude that David wrote Psalm 22 during his lifetime 1040-970 BC

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

Critical Claim:

3. REGARDING WHAT WE FIND IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: “... and that also doesn't mean anything...”
 4. REGARDING verse 16: “pierce my hands and feet”: “...not a valid reading of the text..”
-



World Renowned Dead Sea Scrolls Scholar
Peter W. Flint on this matter:

← Psalm 22 verse 16, Plate 891, Frag 6 (Image taken 2012)

“Among the Dead Sea Scrolls, the reading in question is not preserved at Qumran, but in the Psalms scroll from Nahal Hever (5/ 6HevPs), which is textually very close to the Masoretic Text. In line 12 of column 10 we read: **“They have pierced my hands and feet”**”

“form is grammatically difficult; but it is clearly a verb, not a noun, and **means they have bored or they have dug or they have pierced**”

(Vanderkam, James C, Peter W. Flint The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance For Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity (p. 239))

Reliability of the Scripture - Psalm 22

Critic Claims:

5. “..this has nothing to do with Jesus.”

Psalm 22 from its beginning to its end, has everything to do with Jesus, was written by David (1040-970 BC) roughly a thousand years before the time of Jesus, is referenced directly by Christ while on the cross, and is a messianic prophecy of Christ's redeeming work on the cross.

[1] **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Psalm 22:1

[30] Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; [31] **they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

Psalm 22:30-31

[34] And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**”

Mark 15:34

Q & A

more on Wycliffe and Tyndale

On Wycliffe:

*Wycliffe fully expected to die a martyr's death. "Why do you talk of seeking the crown of martyrdom afar?" he said. **"Preach the gospel of Christ to haughty prelates, and martyrdom will not fail you. What! Should I live and be silent? ... Never! Let the blow fall, I await its coming."** But despite his waiting, the blow never fell and he died peacefully in his parish at Lutterworth. – (<https://lineagejourney.com>)*

On Tyndale:

He was taken to the castle of Vilvorde, condemned as a fanatic, strangled and then burned in 1536. His last words were "Lord! open the King of England's eyes. ". So powerful was his witness that he converted his keeper and others in his household before his death. – (<https://lineagejourney.com>)

Analytical Defense of the Resurrection

- **Richard Swinburne, *The Resurrection of God Incarnate* (Oxford University Press, 2003).**
- Uses Bayes' theorem and background arguments for God's existence to evaluate the evidence for Jesus' life, death, empty tomb, and post-mortem appearances.
- Swinburne concludes that, on his numbers, the probability that Jesus was God incarnate who rose from the dead is about **0.97**. [Internet Archive+3Real Seeker Ministries+3Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews+3](#)

Defense of the Resurrection

- **Gary R. Habermas, “Resurrection Research from 1975 to the Present” (2005).**

Habermas surveyed over **1,400 scholarly publications** on Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (German, French, English). garyhabermas.com+1

- **Gary R. Habermas, large ongoing project *On the Resurrection* (B&H Academic, 2021–).**

Volume 1 (*Evidences*) and Volume 2 (*Refutations*) synthesize and defend the historical case for the resurrection and interact with alternative theories. [Amazon](#)+1

- **M. J. Alter, “Dataset Analysis of English Texts Written on the Topic of Jesus’ Resurrection: A Statistical Critique of Minimal Facts Apologetics” (ResearchGate preprint).**

Even as a *critique* of Habermas’s method, Alter’s dataset shows **680 pro-resurrection books by 601 authors** in English alone. [ResearchGate](#)

- **Habermas’s own estimate of scholarly trends.**

Based on thousands of sources, he reports that roughly a **3:1 ratio of scholars** in his dataset accept the empty tomb and that many accept other “minimal facts” underpinning a resurrection conclusion. [Southern Equip](#)+1