

Chapter X – The New Testament as an Historical Record

Name:

1. To prove that any history book is reliable, you answer four questions concerning it. What are they?

2. The bitter opponents of the early Church could have pulverised in one blow the arguments given in her favour by the Fathers, if they could have shown that the New Testament was unhistorical. Did they ever adopt this line of argument? Why not?

3. What do you know about St. Jerome? What is his translation of the Bible called?

4. Who was Eusebius? Why is he called The Founder of Church History?

5. Who was Irenaeus? Why is his testimony of the utmost value?

6. What were the following, and why are they important? The Muratorian Canon; Tatian's Harmony of the Four Gospels.

7. Who was Origen? Why was he a reliable authority on the Scriptures?

8. Give two discoveries that have proved the Gospels correct.

9. Give two prophecies that have been fulfilled. Why could the Gospel writers not have invented these?

10. What has Harnack been forced to admit?

1. To prove that any history book is reliable, you answer four questions concerning it. What are they?

1. **Was it written by the man to whom it is attributed?**
2. **Was he a reliable person, and in a position to know the truth?**
3. **Did he tell the truth?**
4. **Has his book come down to us without any substantial alteration?**

2. The bitter opponents of the early Church could have pulverised in one blow the arguments given in her favour by the Fathers, if they could have shown that the New Testament was unhistorical. Did they ever adopt this line of argument? Why not?

The evidence was too much for them. They would have been laughed to scorn.

3. What do you know about St. Jerome? What is his translation of the Bible called?

St Jerome was a hermit and very highly educated. He was chosen to update the Old Vulgate version of the Bible. His translation is usually just called the Latin Vulgate.

4. Who was Eusebius? Why is he called The Founder of Church History?

Eusebius was a bishop in the 4th century. He wrote much, especially history.

5. Who was Irenaeus? Why is his testimony of the utmost value?

Born 115, a friend of Polycarp who was a disciple of St John the Evangelist and Beloved Disciple.

6. What were the following, and why are they important? The Muratorian Canon; Tatian's Harmony of the Four Gospels.

Muratorian Canon a list of the sacred books drawn up about the year 170; Tatian's Harmony of the Four Gospels composed about the same time. They show the Gospels were well known very soon after they were written.

7. Who was Origen? Why was he a reliable authority on the Scriptures?

Born in 185, he became head of the great Catechetical School at Alexandria. Eusebius describes him as a man of exceptional mental and moral gifts, studious, austere, ardent and zealous almost to indiscretion. He travelled much in Italy, Arabia, Palestine and Greece. In 231 he set up a School in Palestine, and there carried on the work he had done at Alexandria. He gave himself wholly to study, especially that of the Scriptures.

8. Give two discoveries that have proved the Gospels correct.

(1) We now possess some of actual census returns sent in from Egypt by Roman subjects there; and (2) it has also been proved that Quirinus was twice Governor of Syria, and that his first term of office corresponded with the birth of Christ. Many other examples could be given.

9. Give two prophecies that have been fulfilled. Why could the Gospel writers not have invented these?

Our Lady's words: All generations shall call me blessed. Or Our Lord's promise to His Church: Behold, I am with you all days, even to the end of the world.

10. What has Harnack been forced to admit?

That in them we are, for all essentials, face to face with primitive tradition, is incontestable.