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Apologetics (Bibliology)

Apologetics can be understood as the philosophical, theological and historical demonstration of the *truthfulness* of Christian theological claims.

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Another of the three general tests for historicity is if the document itself claims to be written by eyewitnesses.

- Fifty-eight verses from Old and New Testaments reflect the phrase “until now,” implying the presence of a temporal witness.
- The pronoun “I” is used nearly 6,000 times in the Old and New Testaments.
- Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, “³For I delivered to you as of first importance **what I also received**, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, **He appeared to me also**” (1Co 15:3-8 NASB).
- The phrase “to me” appears over 800 times in the Old and New Testaments, implying a witness.
- The introductions of Luke and Acts allude to the collection of eyewitness accounts. Acts continues as the biography of an eyewitness.

In contrast to our predilection for “unbiased observers,” ancient historians considered the ideal witness as one who “had been closest to the events and whose direct experience enabled him to understand and interpret the significance of what he had seen” (Bauckham, 9). The more actively the witness was involved in the event, the more credible the witness. Involvement was considered essential to understanding what truly occurred.

The third of the three general tests for historicity is the external test, which queries if external elements, the writings of the early church fathers for example, confirm the reliability of the original document.

Clement I (A.D. 95-97) allusions:

- Titus 3:1
- Deut. 32:15
- Isa. 3:5
- Gen. 4:3-8
- Exod. 2:14
- Gen. 2:23
- Isa. 1:16-20
- Gen. 12:1-3
- Gen. 13:14-16
- Gen. 15:5-6
- Gen. 19
- Josh. 2
- Also Job, Proverbs, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Matthew, 1 Timothy, 1 Peter

Ignatius (Prior to ~A.D. 117) allusions to:

- Matthew
- 1 Corinthians
- Ephesians
- Romans
- Galatians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians

Some scholars suggest Mark was written first around A.D. 64-65, followed by Luke before A.D. 70, and Matthew shortly thereafter. Others suggest Matthew was written, first in Aramaic or Hebrew, around A.D. 37, Mark was written about A.D. 44, Luke in the early 50s, and John around A.D. 60.