

The Eclectic Manuscripts Comparison Chart: Bibliographical Test

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." – John 8:32 (KJV) | *"It's better to be divided in truth, than united in heresy."* – Anonymous
 Note: Assume all dates as close approximations.

This extended version, as with many of the Page Briefings (PBs), are taken directly from the supplemental lecture notes (additional information can be found there). The following was extracted from pages 34-36 within the free supplemental lecture notes for ***“THE TORCHBEARER SERIES: Suppressed Bible Manuscript History – Core Course B501: Session 2 of 3”***. Please note, that all blue references are clickable hyperlinks.

- Since it is often helpful to see how other ancient manuscripts stack up against each other as far as accepted evidence is concerned, we will briefly look at *‘The Eclectic Manuscripts Comparison Chart: Bibliographical Test’*. Each area of the chart has been researched, updated, and has references added corresponding to the latest information per the date listed at the top of the chart. The manuscript totals in the chart will continue to change as a result of new manuscripts being discovered that are held within private collections, and unidentified manuscripts stored in universities and museums. Therefore, the chart should only represent a best effort. Having covered the importance of B-RAID and the Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody (UM-CoC) in the previous session, you should be familiar with the crucial role B-RAID and UM-CoC play in obtaining 100% accuracy.

| The Eclectic Manuscripts Comparison Chart: Bibliographical Test | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| © 2018 Peter D. Arvo (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) Last updated: 7/15/2019 TheTorchbearerSeries.com | | | | | |
| Author / Work | Claimed Date Written (Begin-End) | Earliest Surviving MSS | Approx. time: Original to Surviving MS | Number of MMS | Accuracy of MMS to Each Other |
| Christian: New Testament ¹ | c.27~30AD ² – c.66~96AD ^{3, 4, 5} | c.60AD ^{6, 7} – c.200AD ^{8, 9} | Less than 100 years | 5,856+ ¹⁰ (18,130+) ^{11, 12} | 99.5% ¹³ (100% with B-RAID & UM-CoC) |
| Jewish: Old Testament ¹⁴ | c.1350BC ^{15, 16} – c.450BC ^{17, 18} | c.1208BC ¹⁹ – c.587BC ^{20, 21} | Less than 150 years | 17,000+ ^{22, 23} | 99.99996% ²⁴ (100% with B-RAID & UM-CoC) |
| Islamic: Quran ²⁵ | c.610AD ²⁶ – c.653AD ^{27, 28} | c.568?AD ²⁹ – c.750AD ³⁰ | Less than 150 years ^{31, 32, 33} | 96+ ^{34, 35?} | N/A ³⁶ |
| Hindu: Upanishad ³⁷ | c.1700BC ³⁸ – c.1600AD ³⁹ | c.1040AD ⁴⁰ – c.1464AD ^{41, 42} | 2700+ years | 1 ^{43, 44, 45?} | N/A ⁴⁶ |
| Buddhist: Sutras ⁴⁷ | c.600BC – c.500BC ⁴⁸ | c.1AD ⁴⁹ – c.99AD ⁵⁰ | 500+ years | 267 ^{51?} | Insufficient Data |
| Homer: Iliad ⁵² | c.800BC – c.700BC ⁵³ | c.493AD ⁵⁴ – c.508AD ⁵⁵ | 1,193 years | 2,000+ ^{56, 57, 58} | 95%? ⁵⁹ |
| Aristotle: Writings ⁶⁰ | c.384BC – c.322BC ⁶¹ | c.900AD ⁶² | 1,222 years | 1,000 ⁶³ | Insufficient Data |
| Plato: Tetralogies ⁶⁴ | c.427BC – c.347BC ⁶⁵ | c.869AD ^{66, 67} | 1216 years | 238 ⁶⁸ | Insufficient Data |
| Manuscripts must date before 1455 AD (time of the first printing press book) in order to be counted above. ? = Incomplete data. Circa (abbreviated c.) is widely used in historical writing to signify ‘approximately’ when exact dates are not accurately known. Manuscript (abbreviated MS) and Manuscripts (abbreviated MSS). † = MSS in non-native languages dating to same time period. Christ’s ministry start date is estimated, since we don’t know his exact Birth 4BC-1BC / Death 30BC-33BC (see refs). ^{69, 70, 71} | | | | | |

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- Christianity began when Jesus started his ministry at around 30 years old, but there has been much scholarly debate on what exact year he started his ministry. However, there is sufficient evidence to reasonably conclude that he started his ministry in 27 A.D., or within three years of that date, and continued for only a few short years. The official start of the Christian Church was on Pentecost, which occurred a few weeks after Christ's death and resurrection.⁷² The end of new Scripture would have occurred when John wrote Revelation between 66 A.D. ~ 96 A.D. According to WorldAtlas.com, *Christianity has 2.22 billion* followers as of September 10th 2018.⁷³
- The Jewish sacred text is also the Christian Old Testament text, which the Christian should hold in equally high esteem as the New Testament text. According to WorldAtlas.com, *Judaism has 13.9 million* followers as of September 10th 2018.⁷⁴
- All of Islam's various original Quran versions (from 634 A.D. – 663 A.D.) were collected and destroyed by Uthman ibn Affan (second cousin and son-in-law to Muhammad) in the year 653 A.D. and was rewritten. This newly re-written and standardized version was distributed in 653 A.D. and is called the Uthmanic Codex. Therefore, there is no way to verify the accuracy of the new Uthmanic Codex versions compared to the originals, and thus logically there is also no way for a Quran manuscript to ever date older than the year 653 A.D., since that would be before Uthman collected and burned all original versions.⁷⁵ According to WorldAtlas.com, *Islam has 1.605 billion* followers as of September 10th 2018.⁷⁶
- Hinduism has no single belief system and instead comprises of several varied and changing systems of philosophy, belief, and ritual.⁷⁷ Hindu texts fall into one of two categories: *Sruti* (heard) or *Smriti* (remembered) texts. *Sruti* (heard) scriptures are considered divinely inspired and fully authoritative for belief and practice, with the only text falling into this category is the *Vedas*. The *Smriti* (remembered) texts are generally considered the most recent, and are recognized as the products of the minds of the sages. Despite the *Smriti*'s lesser authority, they are the most representative of actual Hindu beliefs and practices.⁷⁸ Since the collection of the Hindu text, called the *Upanishad*, is considered sacred scripture by most Hindu traditions, this is what was counted in the manuscript chart.⁷⁹ The manuscripts were said to be composed from 1700 B.C.,⁸⁰ and continued to be composed throughout the early modern era of 1600 A.D.,⁸¹ thus the religious texts have been ever-changing. Many of the older texts have undoubtedly not survived as a result of being written on short-lived palm leaves and birch bark.⁸² According to WorldAtlas.com, *Hinduism has 1.05 billion* followers as of September 10th 2018.⁸³
- Buddhism originated in ancient India between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C. and was founded by a Hindu teacher, Siddhartha Gautama, otherwise known as Buddha. Buddha means 'Awakened One' or 'Teacher'.⁸⁴ Siddhartha never claimed to be a god or a prophet.⁸⁵ The Buddhist's main dominant text is the *Sutras*, but there is some overlap between the text used by Hindus and Buddhists. Most people believe that the Dalai Lama is the leader of the Buddhists, but this is far from true. The Dalai Lama is the head of the newest school of Tibetan Buddhism⁸⁶ that was founded between 1357 A.D. – 1419 A.D., which doesn't show up on many historical Buddhism timelines.⁸⁷ This type of Buddhism is called *Gelug*,⁸⁸ also known as the *Yellow Hat* school. The Dalai Lama has an extremely large office palace located in India, in contrast to their perceived humble lifestyle.⁸⁹ Buddhism is the only religion of these top five religions that do not believe in an intelligent creator God,⁹⁰ which is refutable by two firm realities: '*Irreducible complexity*'⁹¹ and the '*Law of Entropy*'.⁹² According to WorldAtlas.com, *Buddhism has 488 million* followers as of September 10th 2018.⁹³
- Also included in the chart are some classical works: Homer's *Iliad*, writings by Aristotle, and Plato's *Tetralogies*. This is just to give you a feel for how some non-religious texts compare.

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Note: Whenever possible, the Wayback Machine (<https://web.archive.org>) was used to permanently archive and preserve the integrity of the web based reference, at the time it was used as a reference. Since the Wayback Machine appends the original website onto the end of the Wayback Machine link, you need to manually copy and paste the entire link into a web browser for the archive.org links to work correctly. Also, a large number of old and/or out of print books are available for free to download from the world's largest library and university repository at <http://www.archive.org>, and can also be located at <https://books.google.com>.

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The Eclectic Manuscripts Comparison Chart: Bibliographical Test

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." – John 8:32 (KJV) | "It's better to be divided in truth, than united in heresy." – Anonymous

Note: Assume all dates as close approximations.

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