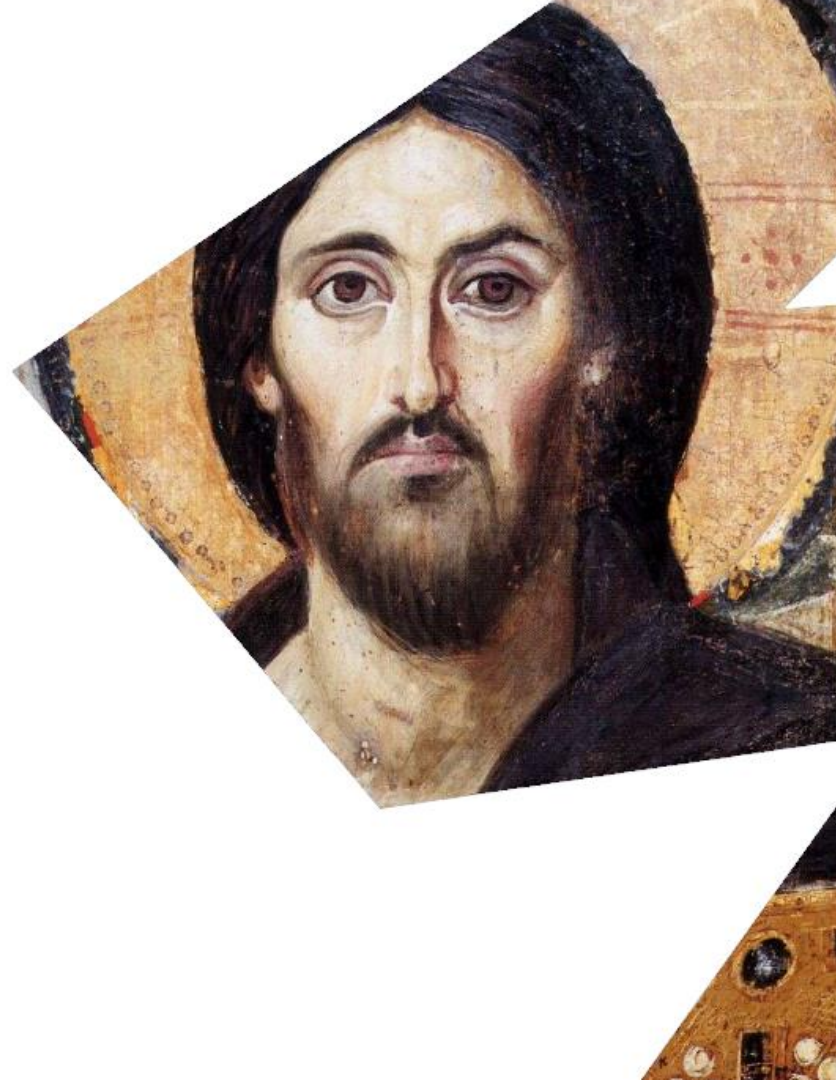


THE

EVIDENCE FOR EASTER

SERIES



Who am I?

- Sam
- 26 Years Old
- BA & MTh in Theology
- Ex-Atheist Agnostic
- I have a love for Apologetics

“Apologia”

-

**To make a defence,
give a reason for
something**

WHAT IS EVIDENCE FOR EASTER?



Explore the evidence for essential Christian claims



To bolster our witnessing



Use the gifts that God given to us

**DOES CHRISTIANITY
HAVE ANY**

EVIDENCE?

27/03

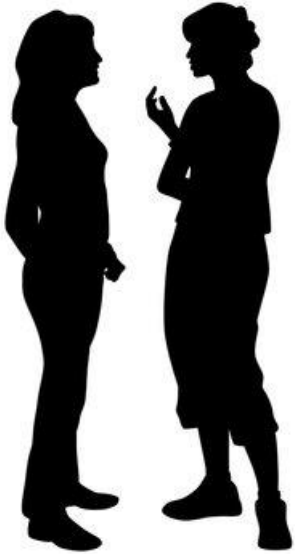
**CAN WE
PROVE THE**

RESURRECTION?

03/04



What we're covering tonight



How Do We Use
Evidence to Witness?



Was Jesus a
Historical Figure?



Can we trust the
Bible?

Reasons for Faith in a Post-Truth World?

**“It’s arrogant to
say your religion is
the only correct
one”**

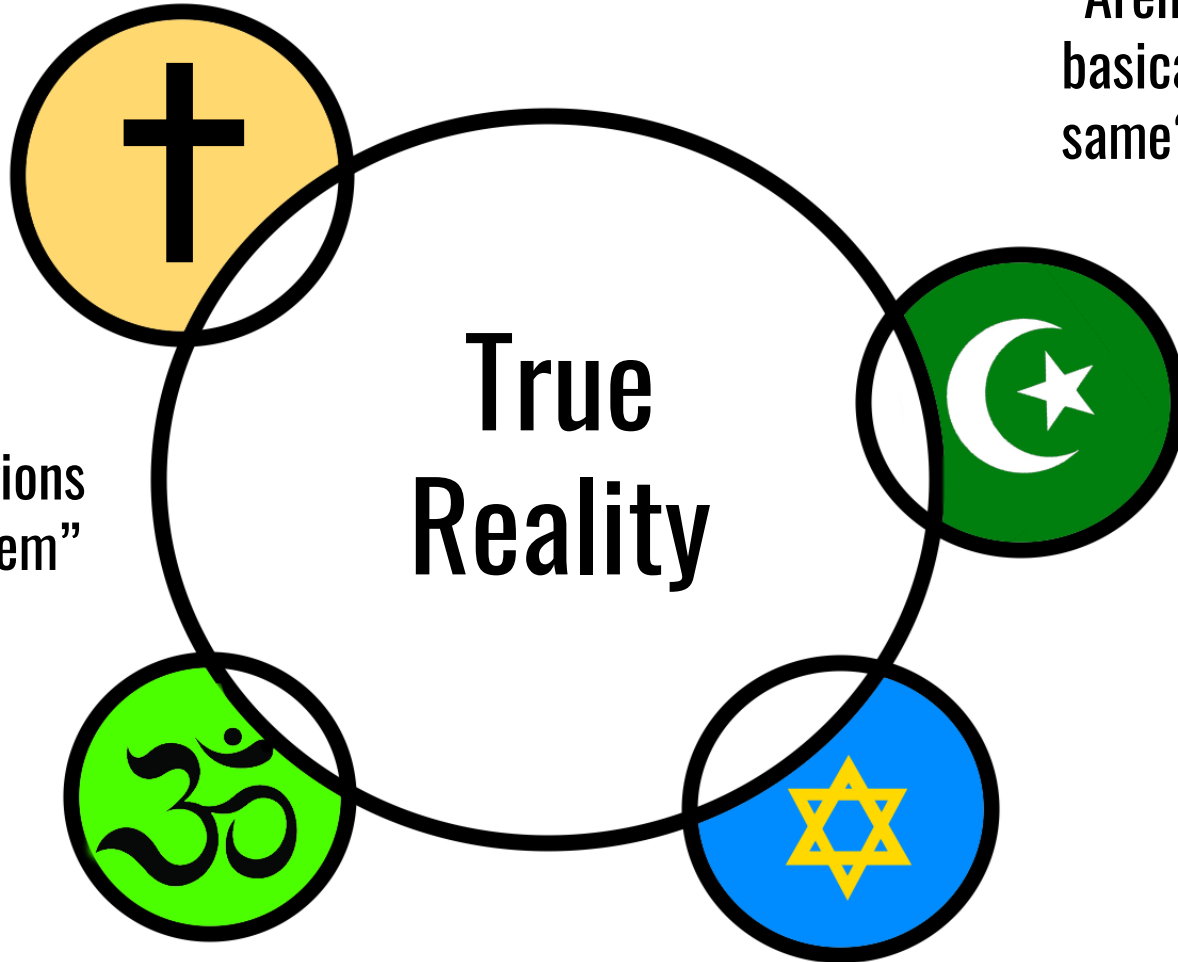




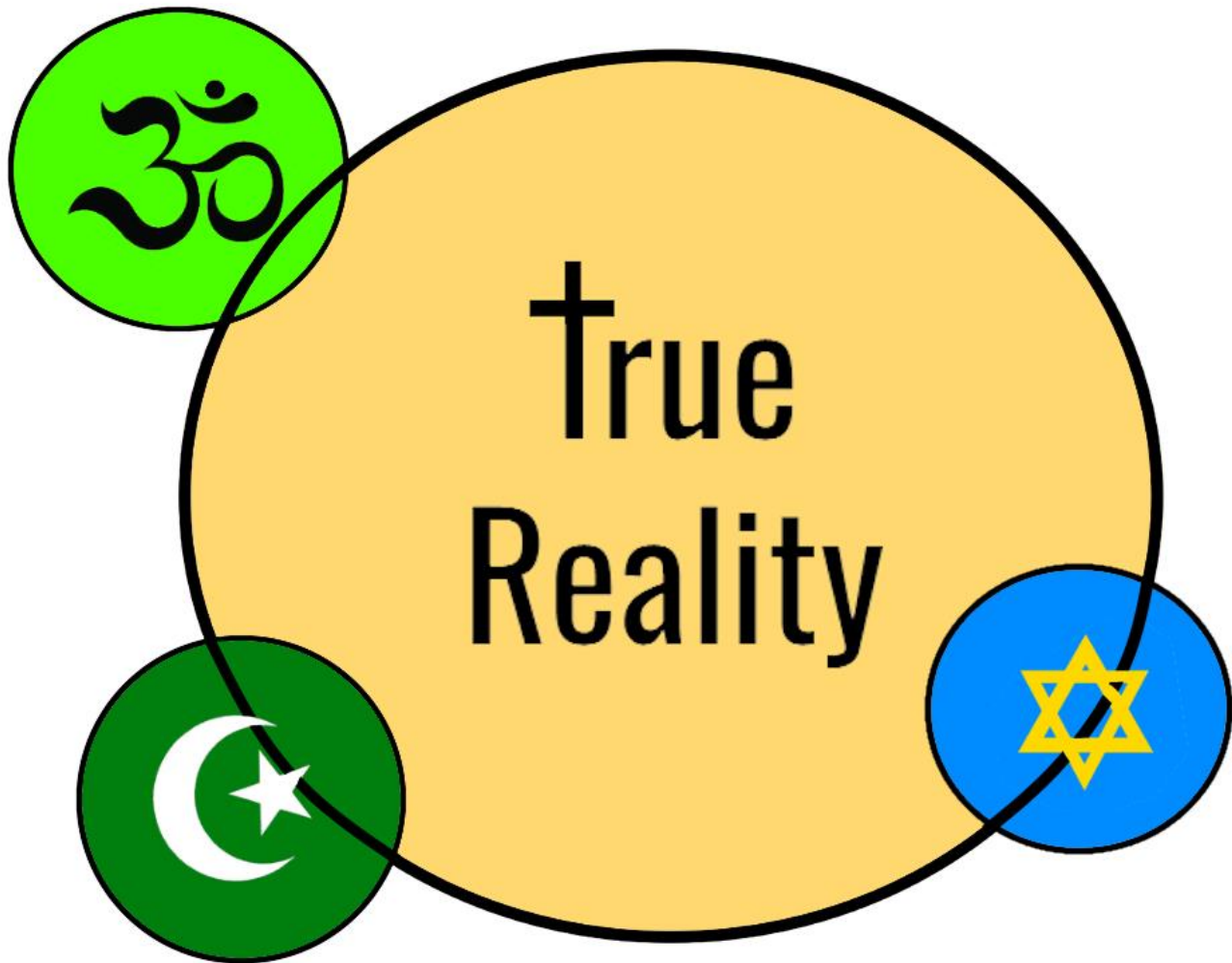
**True
Reality**

“That’s nice for
you”

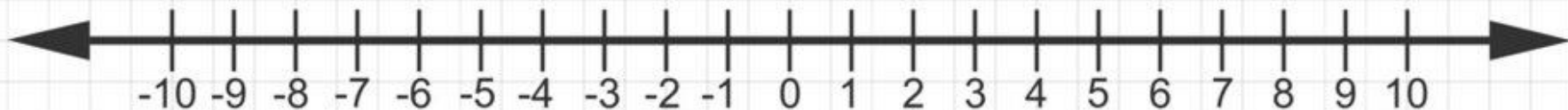
“Aren’t they all
basically the
same?”



“I think all religions
have truth in them”



Is it arrogant to say that the **only** answer to $2+2$ is 4?





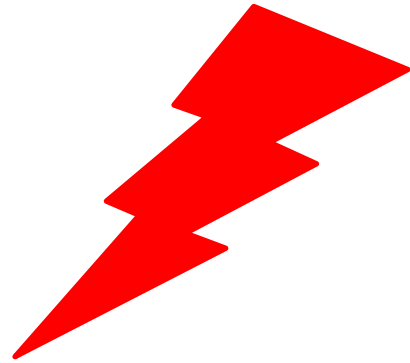
“I guess we’ll never know the answer. Maybe there’s no objective right and wrong. Us humans probably aren’t clever enough to figure it out”

“I guess we’ll never know the answer. Maybe there’s no objective right and wrong.”

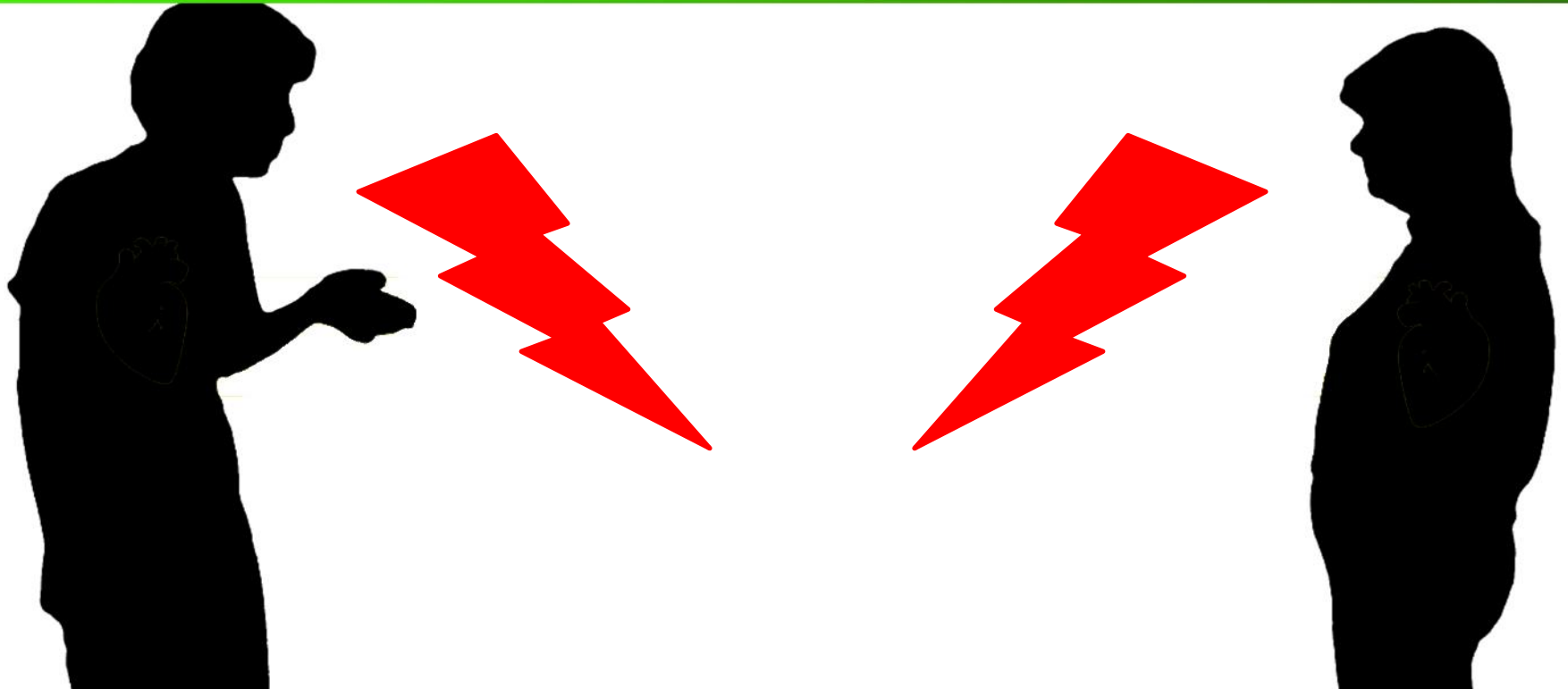


How Do We Use Apologetics Today?

DISCERN THE SEASON



DISCERN THE SEASON





In your hearts *revere* Christ as Lord.

ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER
TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE
REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE.

But do this with *gentleness & respect*.

📖 1 PETER 3:15

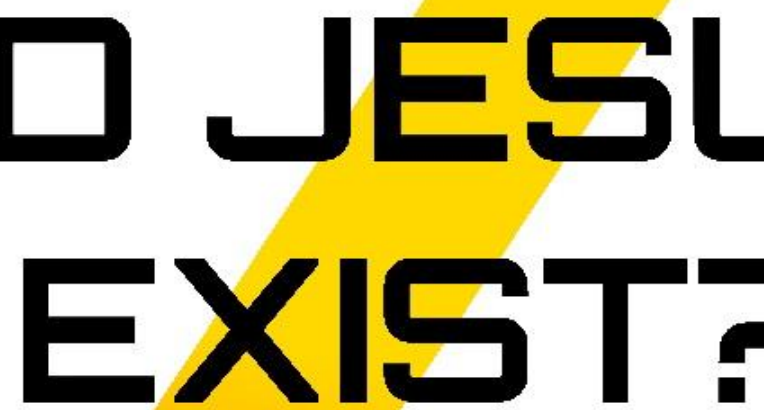


TESTIMONY



EVIDENCE

TESTIMONY



**DID JESUS
EXIST?**





“Where’s your proof that Jesus even existed? All we have are biased fairy-tales about a man in the desert”

**Lectures
and Sermons**



Commentaries



**Academic books
and Journals**



WHAT DO WE HAVE OUTSIDE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?



PAGAN SOURCES

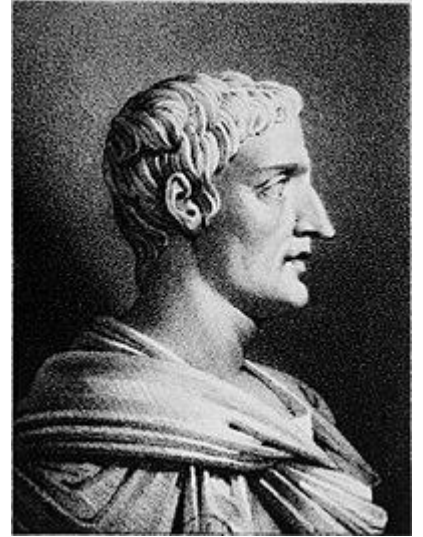
From 100 years after Jesus' death (30 AD)



Pliny the Younger
(82 years after)



Suetonius
(91 years after)

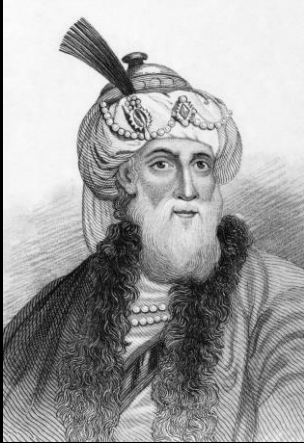


Tacitus
(85 years after)

JEWISH SOURCES



JOSEPHUS



**Jewish Army
Leader/Roman Historian**

**“Antiquities of the Jews” -
94AD**

**Documenting Jewish
History**

**2 passages referring
to Jesus**

**64 years
after †**

Book 20, Chapter 9

“But this younger Ananus, who, as we told you already, took the high priesthood, was a bold man in his temper, and very insolent. . . . *He assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus the so-called Messiah-Christ, whose name was James, and some others.* When he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them over to be stoned.”

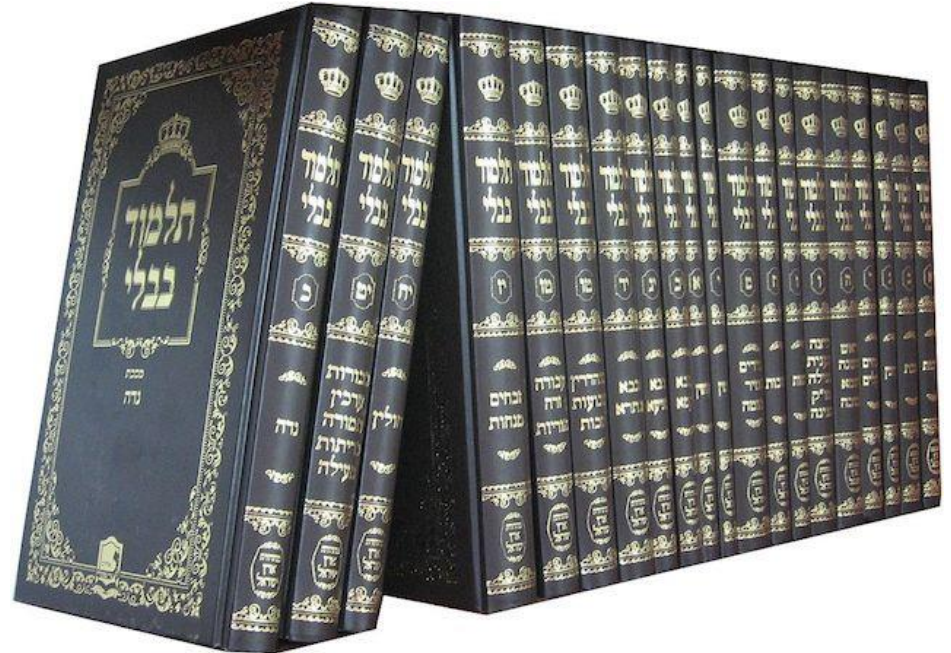
“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of startling deeds, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. And he gained a following both among many Jews and many of Greek origin. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”

THE TALMUD



Commentary on Jewish
Law

4th Century AD onwards

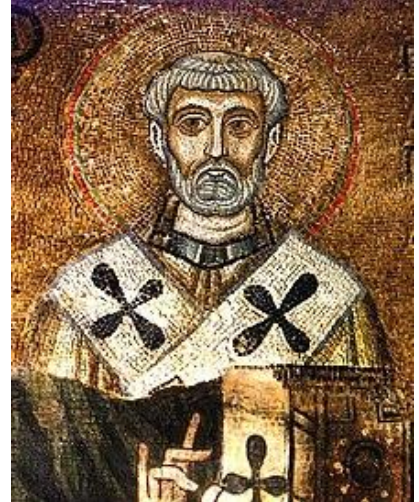
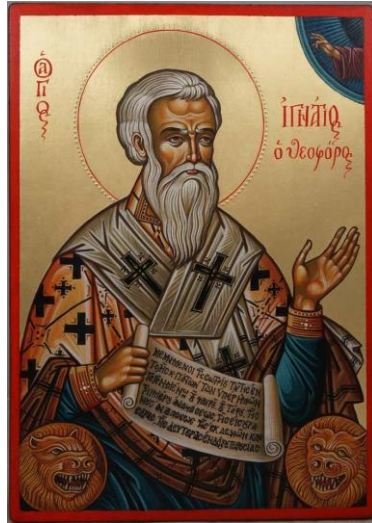
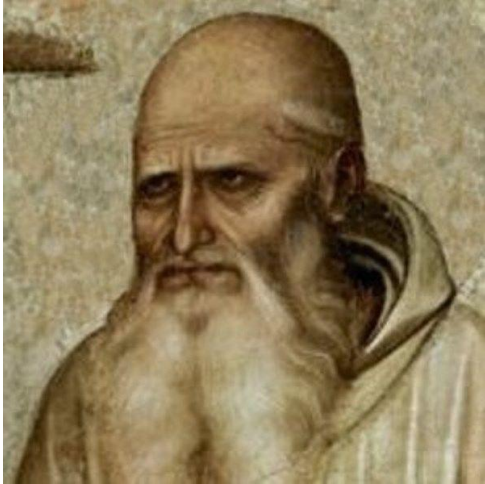


Some of what the Talmud says about Jesus:

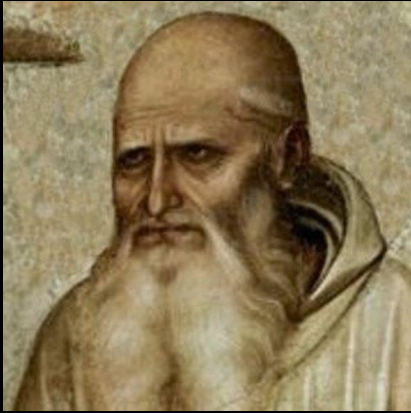
- He did mighty miracles via sorcery - Babylonian Sanhedrin 107b
- He was 'hanged' on the eve of Passover - Babylonian Sanhedrin 43a-b
- He was a teacher - Babylonian Abodah Zarah 17a
- A disciple who turned out badly - Babylonian Berakoth 17b

Consequence - A religious Jew can never say that Jesus didn't exist

CHRISTIAN SOURCES



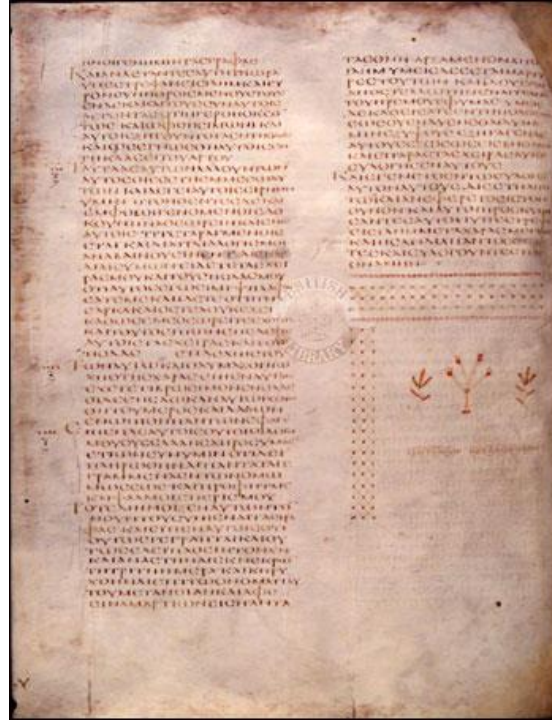
PAPIAS



Lived 60-130AD

Recorded conversations
with early disciples

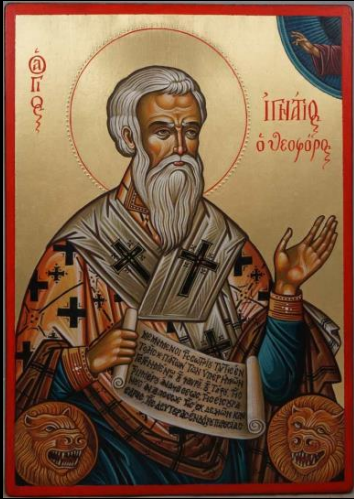
Known as the “hearer of
the Apostle John”



Wrote 5 books which have been lost but
fragments are preserved through Eusebius and
Irenaeus of Lyons

~90 years
after †

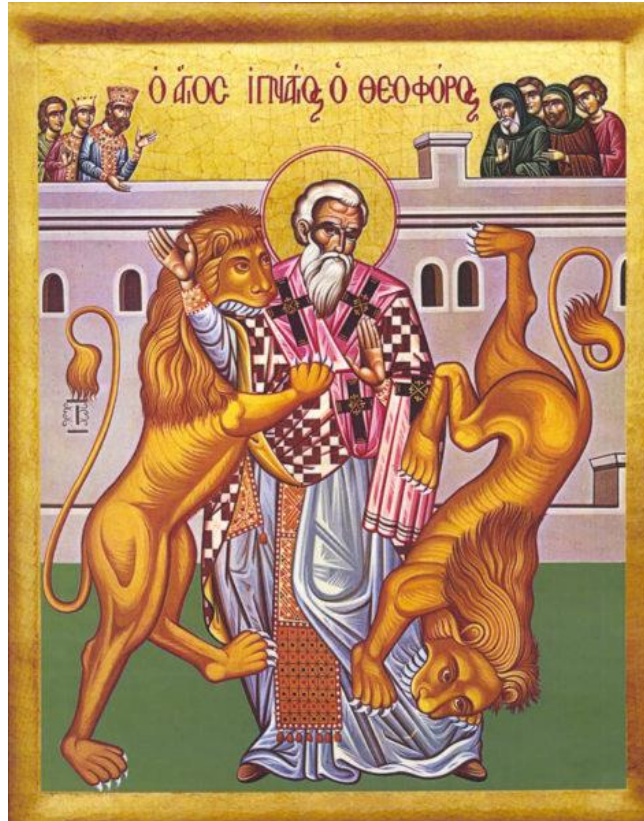
IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH



Lived 50+/- to 130s+/-

Student of the Apostle
John

Wrote 7 letters



Ignatius was thrown to the lions because of
his faith - Eusebius + Jerome

**80 years
after †**

CLEMENT



An Elder of churches in Rome

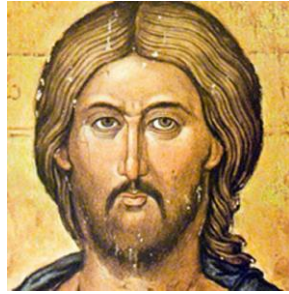
Wrote a letter in 90sAD to the Corinthian Church

- Records the martyrdom of Paul
- References to the martyrdom of Peter
- One of the earliest Christian documents outside of the New Testament



61 years
after †

Jesus' death and Resurrection 30AD



Recorded
Jewish Tradition
300AD

Suetonius
121AD

Tacitus
115AD

Clement
91AD

Josephus
94AD

Ignatius
130s AD~

Papias
130AD

Pliny the
Younger
112AD

NEW
Didache
90AD~

NEW
Polycarp
69-
155AD~

Is it still not enough?

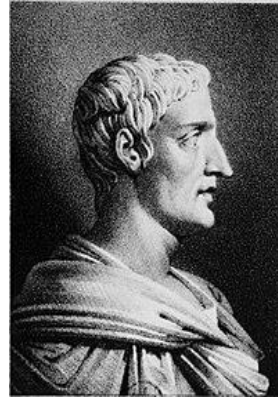
What do we have for the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate?



Josephus
74AD - Jewish Wars
90AD - Antiquities



Philo
41AD - Embassy to Gaius



Tacitus
Annals - 115AD



The Pilate Stone
made 26~37AD



Several coins
29-31AD

This is all we have for the most important person in Judea at that time

**How many sources do we
have so far?**

10

WHAT DO WE HAVE IN OUR NEW TESTAMENT?



**Hold on, you can't use the
Bible to prove the Bible!
It's a biased source**



There are **10** independent authors of our New Testament

1 — Matthew

2 — Mark

3 { Luke
Acts

4 { John's Gospel
1+2+3 John

5 { Romans
1+2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1+2 Thessalonians
1+2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

6 — Hebrews

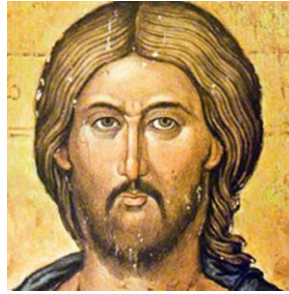
7 — James

8 — 1+2 Peter

9 — Jude

10 — Revelation

Jesus' existence as a man



1 Didache - 90 AD

2 Josephus - 94 AD

3 Clement - 96 AD

4 Ignatius - 110 AD

5 Pliny - 112 AD

6 Tacitus - 115 AD

7 Suetonius - 121 AD

8 Papias - 125 AD

9 Polycarp - 135 AD

10 The Talmud - 300 AD+

11 James the brother of Jesus - Before 62 AD

12 Jude the brother of Jesus - Around 80 AD

13 Peter - before 68 AD

14 Paul - 50 AD+

15 Mark - 70 AD

16 Matthew - 80 AD

17 Luke - 80 AD

18 The Q source - Around 40 AD

19 Hebrews author - before 70 AD

20 John the Revelator - 90AD

20 SOURCES

**DID JESUS
EXIST?**

**Jesus mythicism was created using
methods so hyper-skeptical that
would have to discount most of what
we know about history**

“The reality is that whatever else you may think about Jesus, he certainly did exist”



Bart D. Ehrman *Ph.D.*

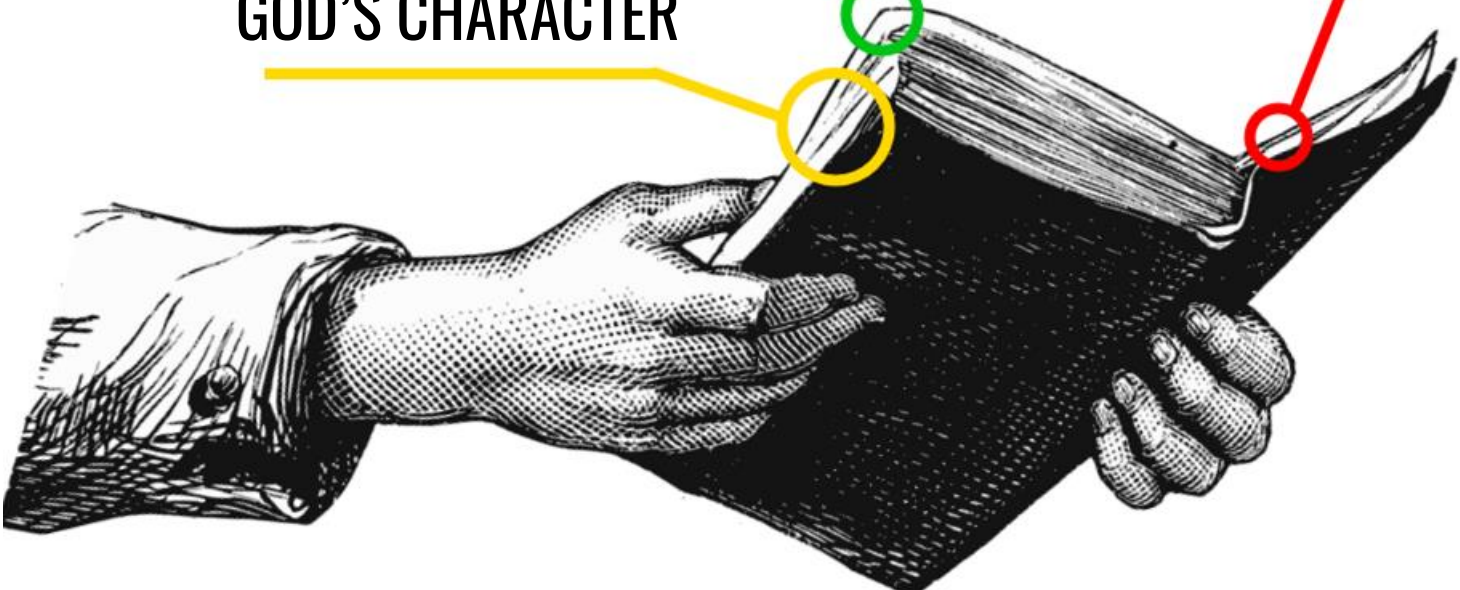
“Did Jesus
Exist?” - 2012

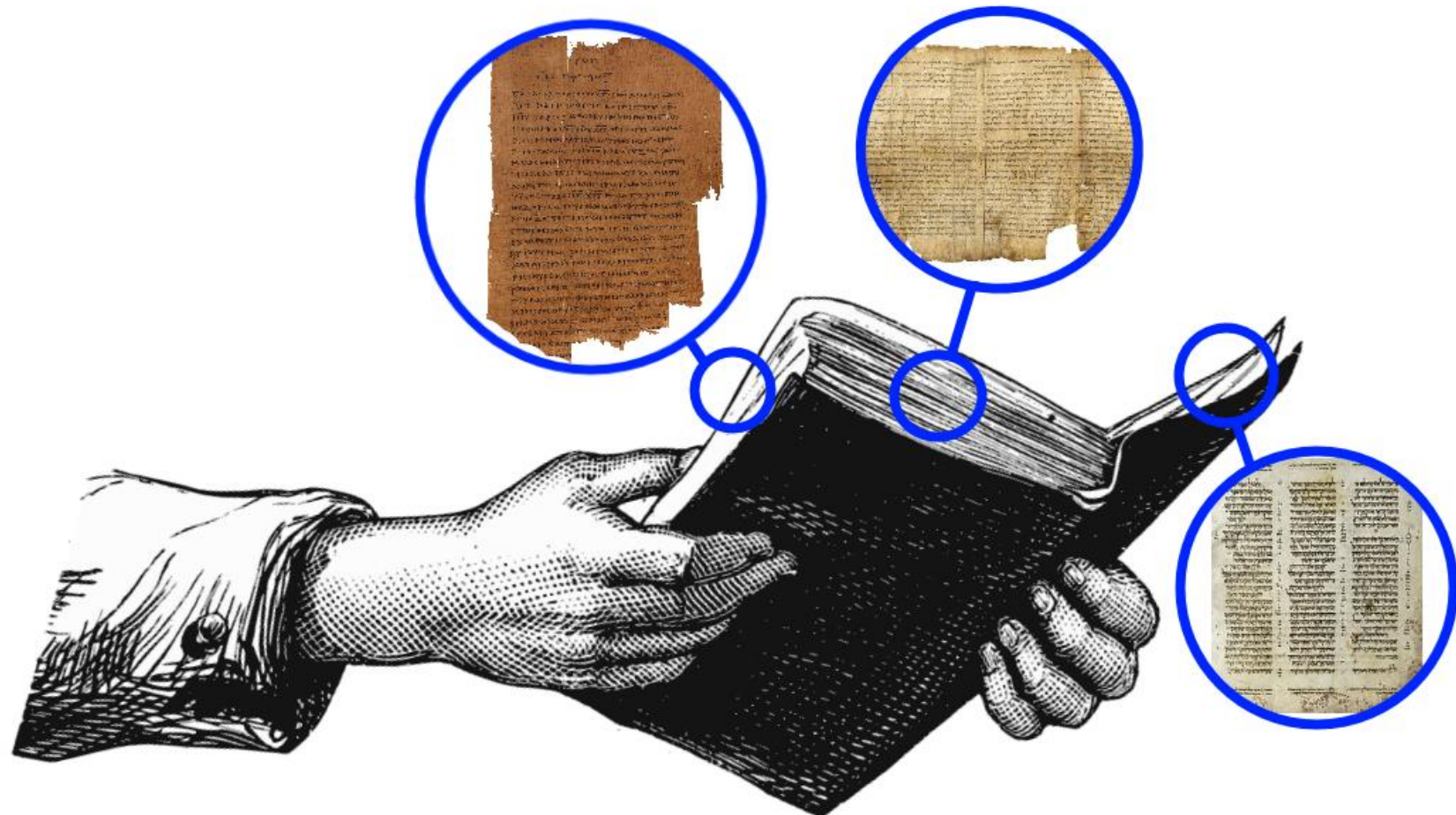
**CAN WE TRUST THE NEW
TESTAMENT?**

SALVATION

GOD'S CHARACTER

SIN THEOLOGY



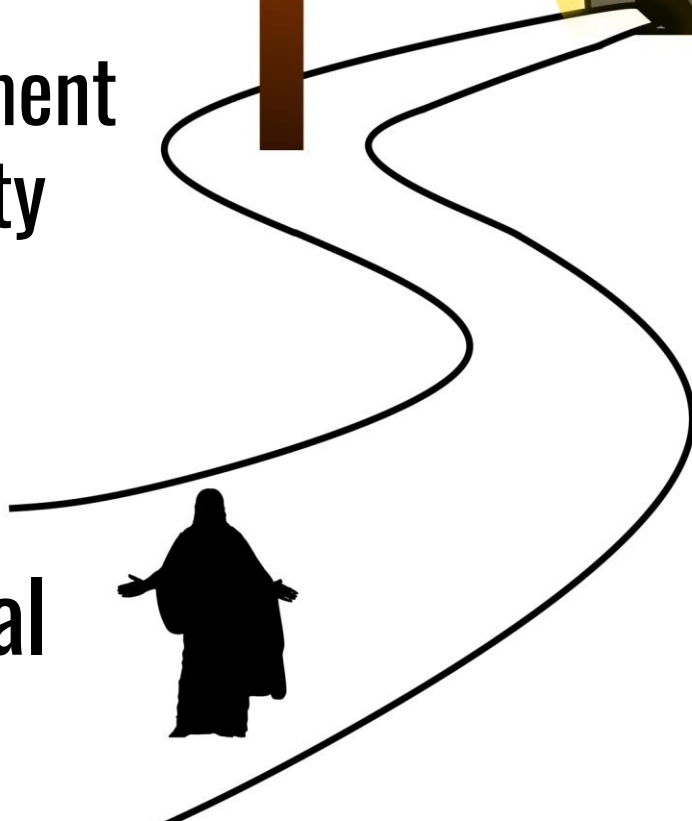


**New Testament
Reliability**



**The
Resurrection**

**Historical
Jesus**



Why is this important?



“How do you know if the Bible was accurately transmitted? It has been translated from language to language for 2000 years. Do you expect me to believe in a book like that?”

Looketh up:

Mark 16:9-20

1 John 5:7

John 7:53 - 8:11





27 books

10 authors

- ❖ Letters
- ❖ Biographies
- ❖ Prophecies

1 — Matthew

2 — Mark

3 { Luke
Acts

4 { John's Gospel
1+2+3 John

5 { Romans
1+2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1+2 Thessalonians
1+2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

6 — Hebrews

7 — James

8 — 1+2 Peter

9 — Jude

10 — Revelation

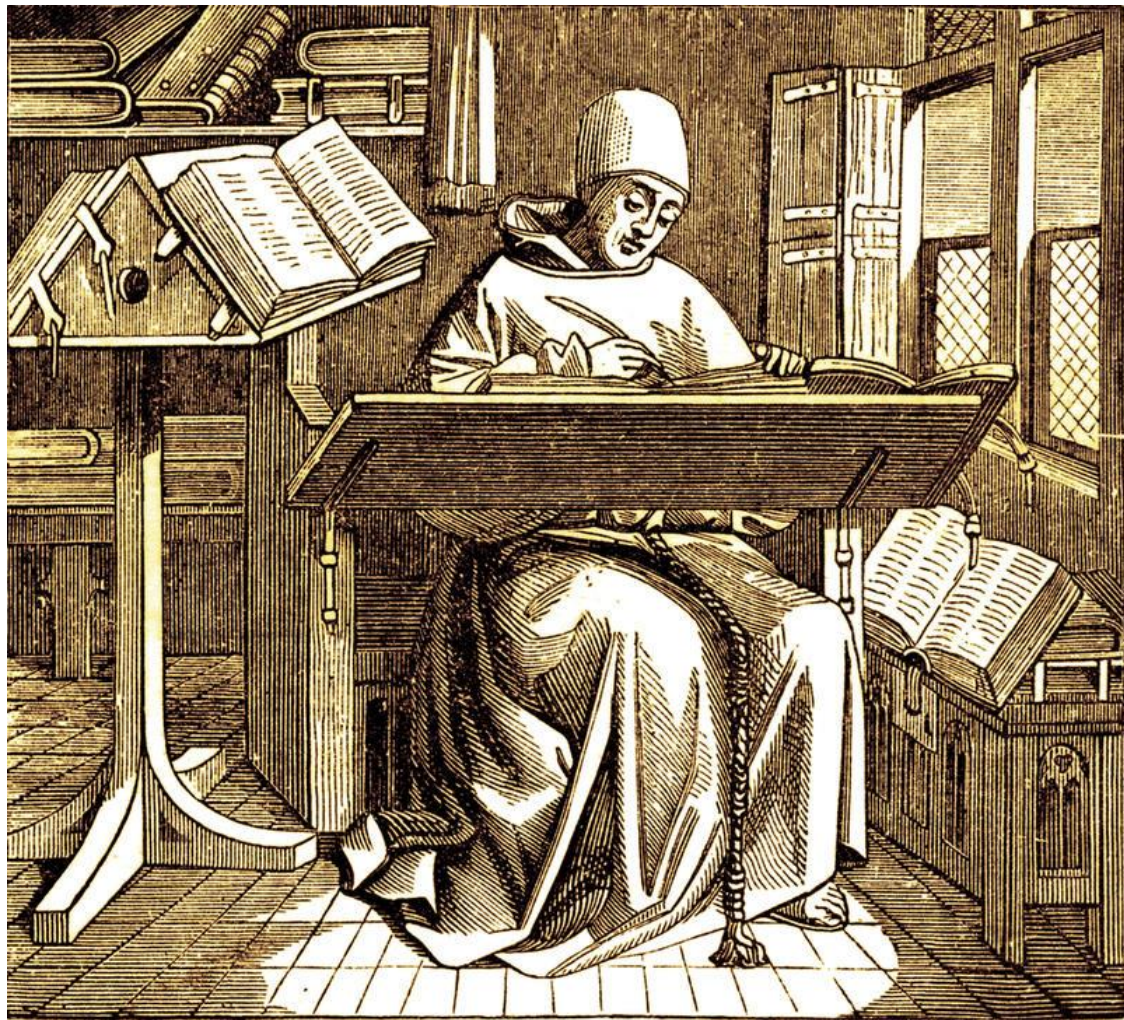
**How were
things
recorded?**

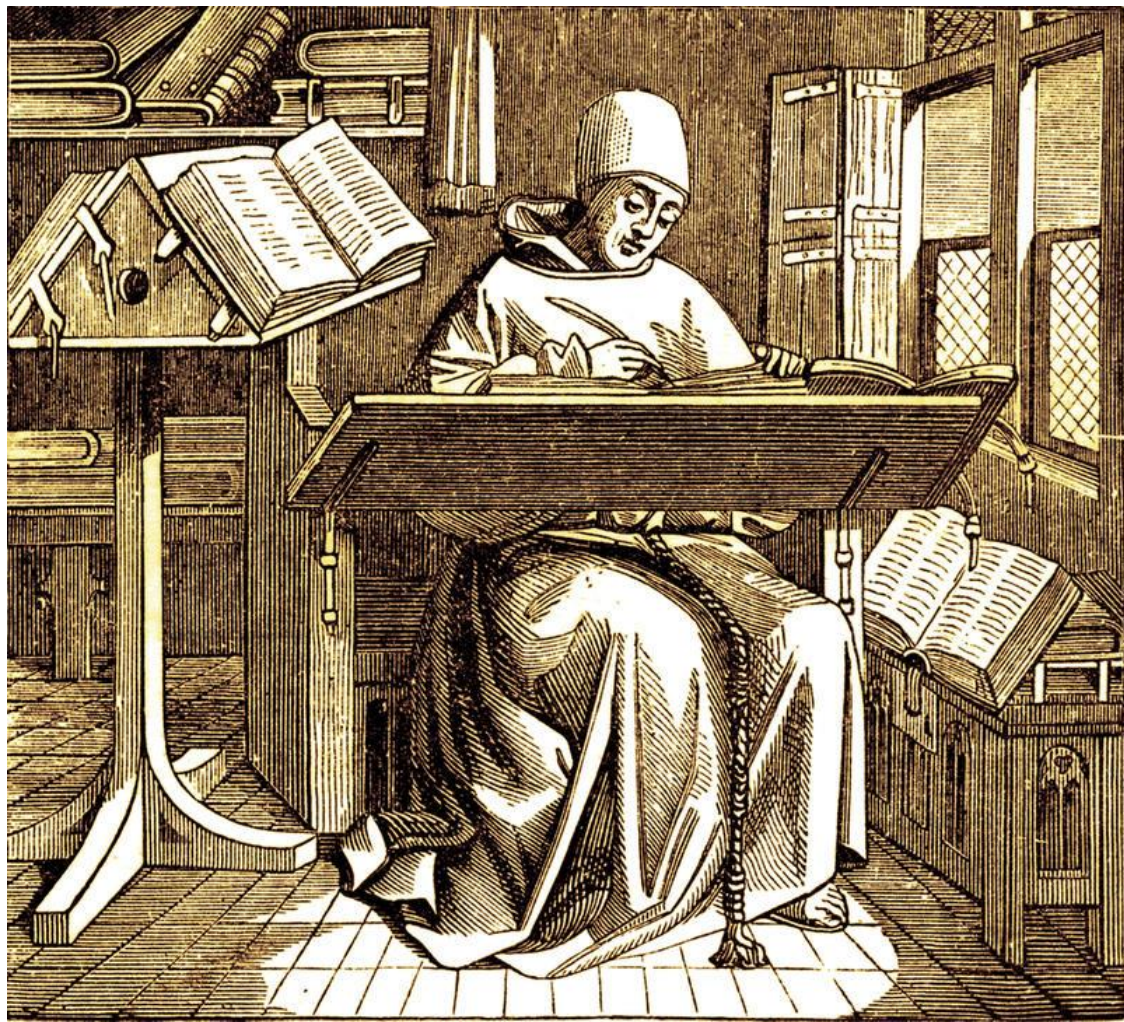






**NOT AVAILABLE
UNTIL UNTIL THE
15TH CENTURY**





Mistakes

**Leaving
text out**

**Poor
handwriting**

**Original
Copy
perishes**

**Unintentional
additions**

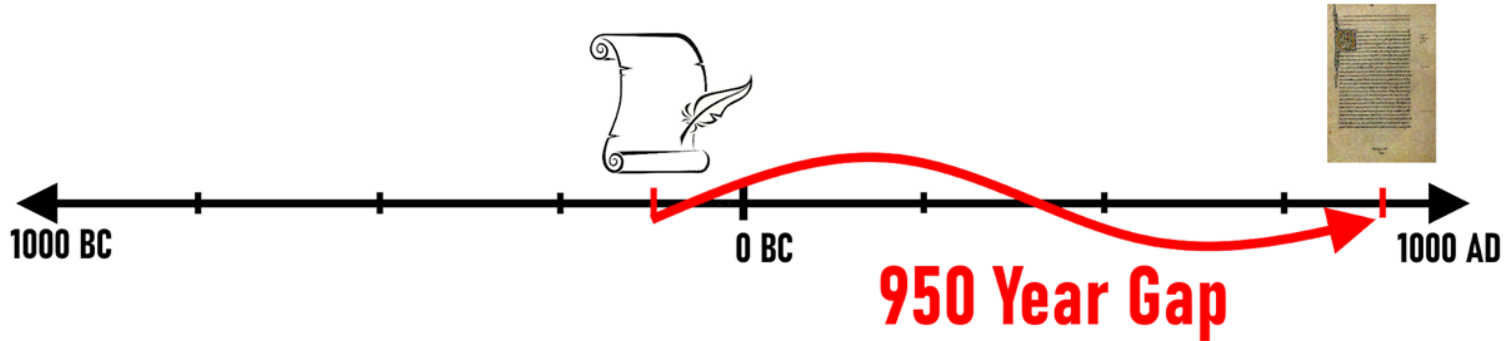
**This is how all ancient
documents were
distributed, including
our New Testament**

Author	Work	Date written by or between	Earliest manuscript	Time gap in years	Manuscript copies
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400	1800+
Herodotus	<i>Histories</i>	480-425 BC	AD 900	1,350	109
Plato	Tetralogies	400 BC	AD 895	1,300	210
Caesar	<i>Gallic Wars</i>	58-44 BC	AD 900	950	250+
Livy	<i>History of Rome</i>	59 BC - AD 17	early 5th century	400+	90 partial 60 full
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	AD 100	AD 850	750	31
Thucydides	<i>History of Peloponnesian War</i>	460-400 BC	3rd century BC	200	96
	New Testament	AD 50-100	AD 130	50	5,838

Caesar's Gallic Wars (58-49 BC)

250 Manuscripts

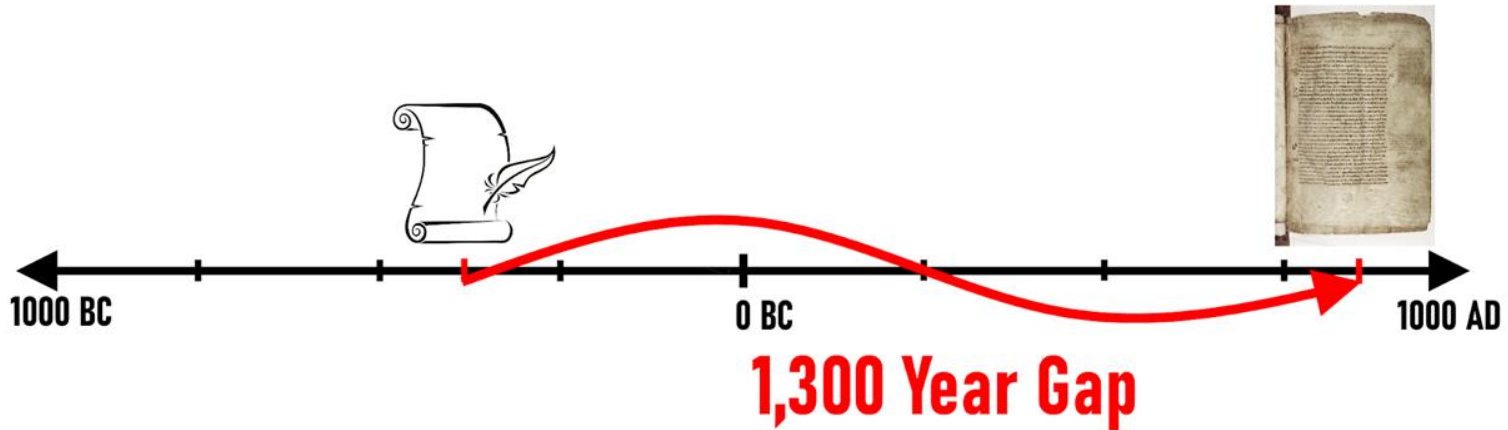
Earliest copy 900 AD



Plato - The Republic (375 BC)

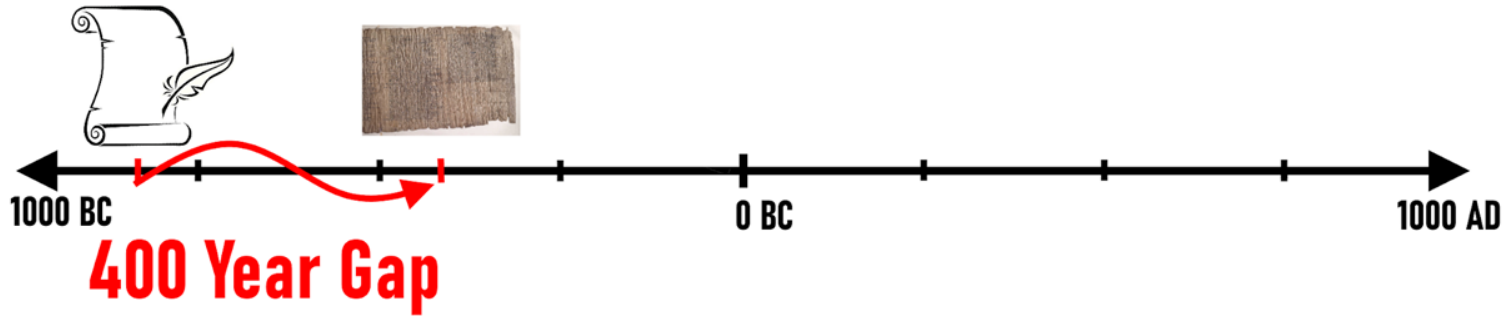
210 Total manuscripts

Earliest full copy 900 AD



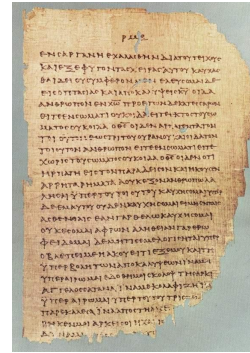
Homer - Iliad (800 BC)

1800+ Manuscripts 400 BC earliest manuscript



**What does the
New Testament
have?**

5,800+ Greek



10,000+ Latin

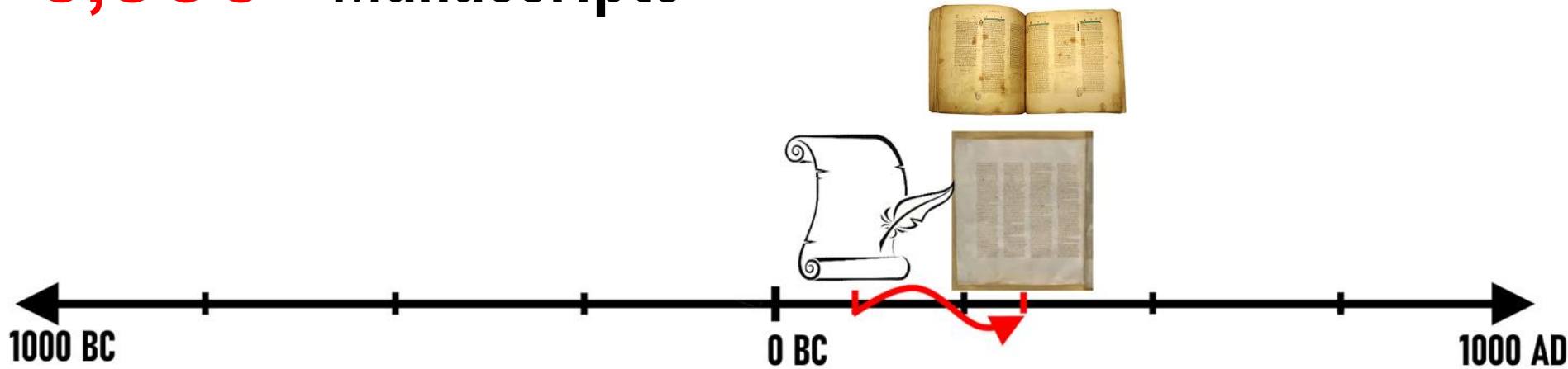


10,000 Other



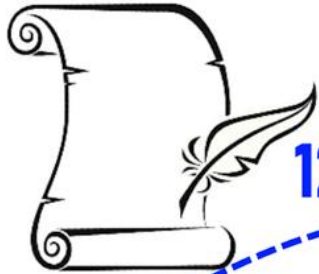
The New Testament (40 to 90 AD)

5,800+ Manuscripts



~250 Year Gap for full text

100 MANUSCRIPTS IN GREEK ALONE



12 MANUSCRIPTS

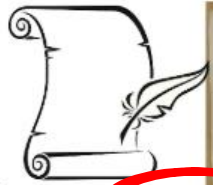


90AD

200 AD

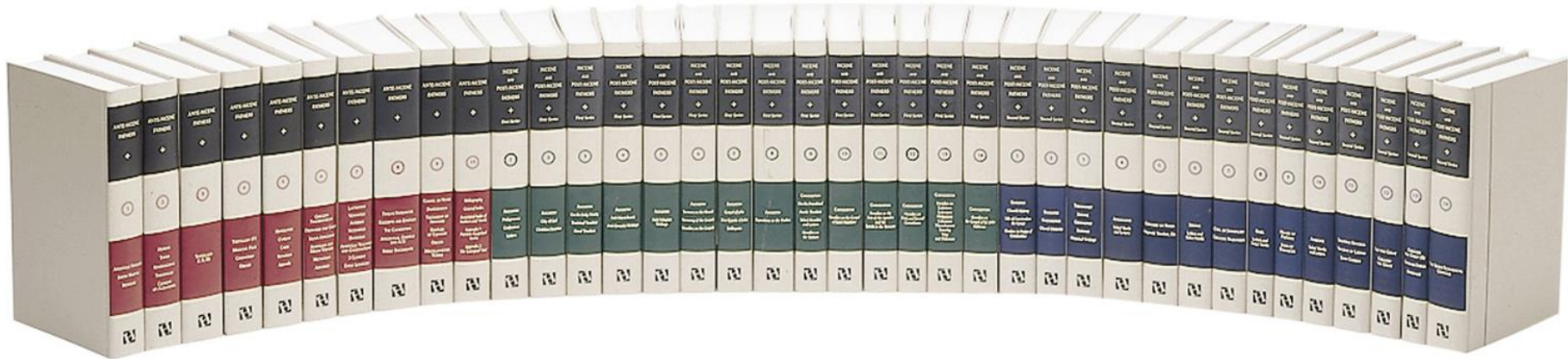
360 AD

**43% OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
WITHIN 110 YEARS
IN OUR POSSESSION**





1,000,000 quotes from the Church Fathers



100-800 AD

“In comparison with the average ancient Greek author, the New Testament copies are **well over a thousand times more plentiful**. If the average-sized manuscript were two and one-half inches thick, all the copies of the works of an average Greek author would stack up four feet high, while the copies of the New Testament would stack up to over a mile high! This is indeed an embarrassment of riches.”

Page 82 - “Reinventing Jesus: How Contemporary Skeptics Miss the Real Jesus and Mislead Popular Culture”

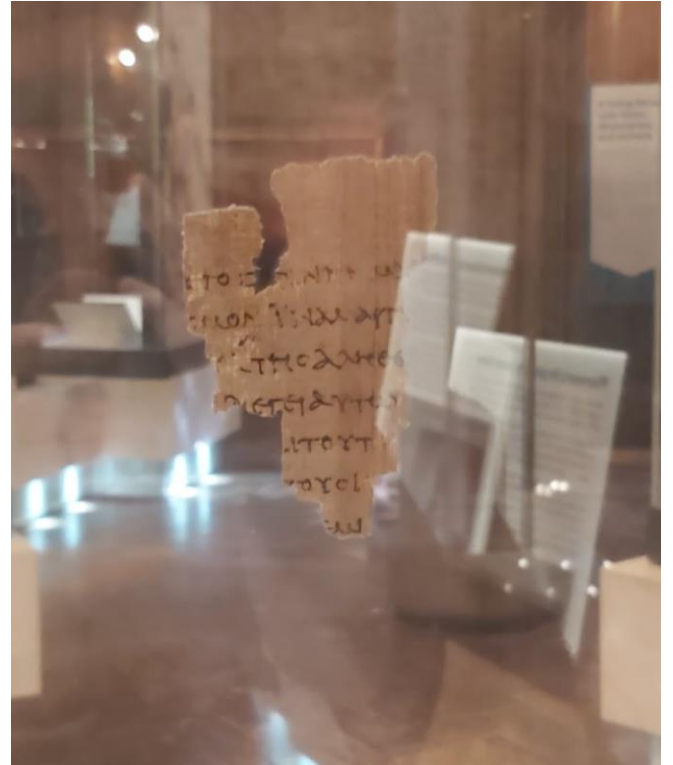


Daniel Wallace *PhD*
Professor of New
Testament Studies at
Dallas Theological
Seminary

Some Early Manuscripts

Papyrus 52 (P52)

- Dated between 100-150 AD
- The earliest fragment of the New Testament
- About the size of a credit card



Contains John 18:31-33
on one side and John
18:37-38 on the other

Papyrus 46 (P46)

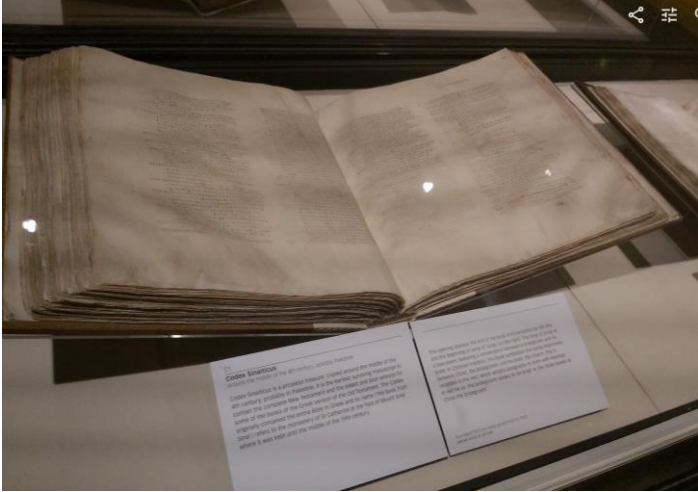
- Dated between 175-225 AD

Pages:	Contents:
1-41	Romans
41-64	Hebrews
64-117	1 Corinthians
118-145	2 Corinthians
146-158	Ephesians
158-168	Galatians
168-176	Philippians
176-184	Colossians
184-191	1 Thessalonians
191-195 (?)	2 Thessalonians (?)
195-205 (?)	Uncertain



P46 contains multiple pages of Paul's epistles

Codex Sinaiticus



330-360 AD

Codex Vaticanus



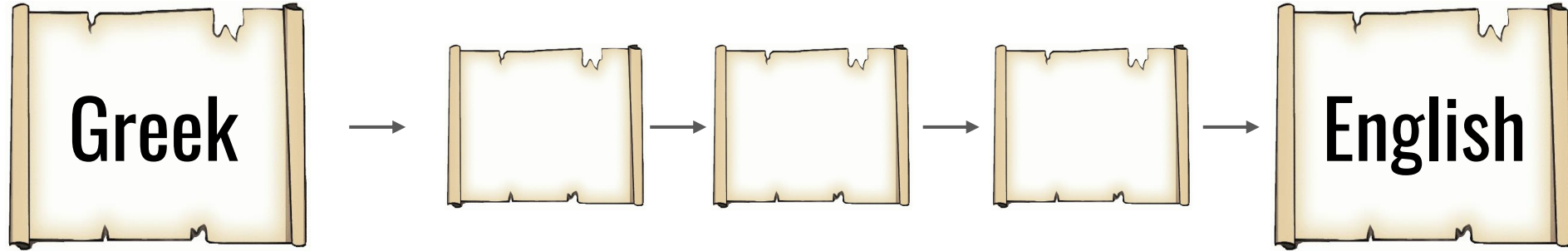
300-325 AD

Most of Old & New Testaments in Greek

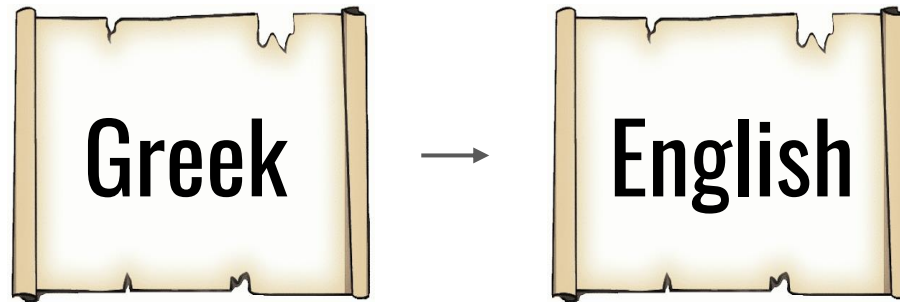


“How do you know what the Bible really says? It has been translated from language to language for 2000 years. Do you expect me to believe in a book like that?”

Popular belief



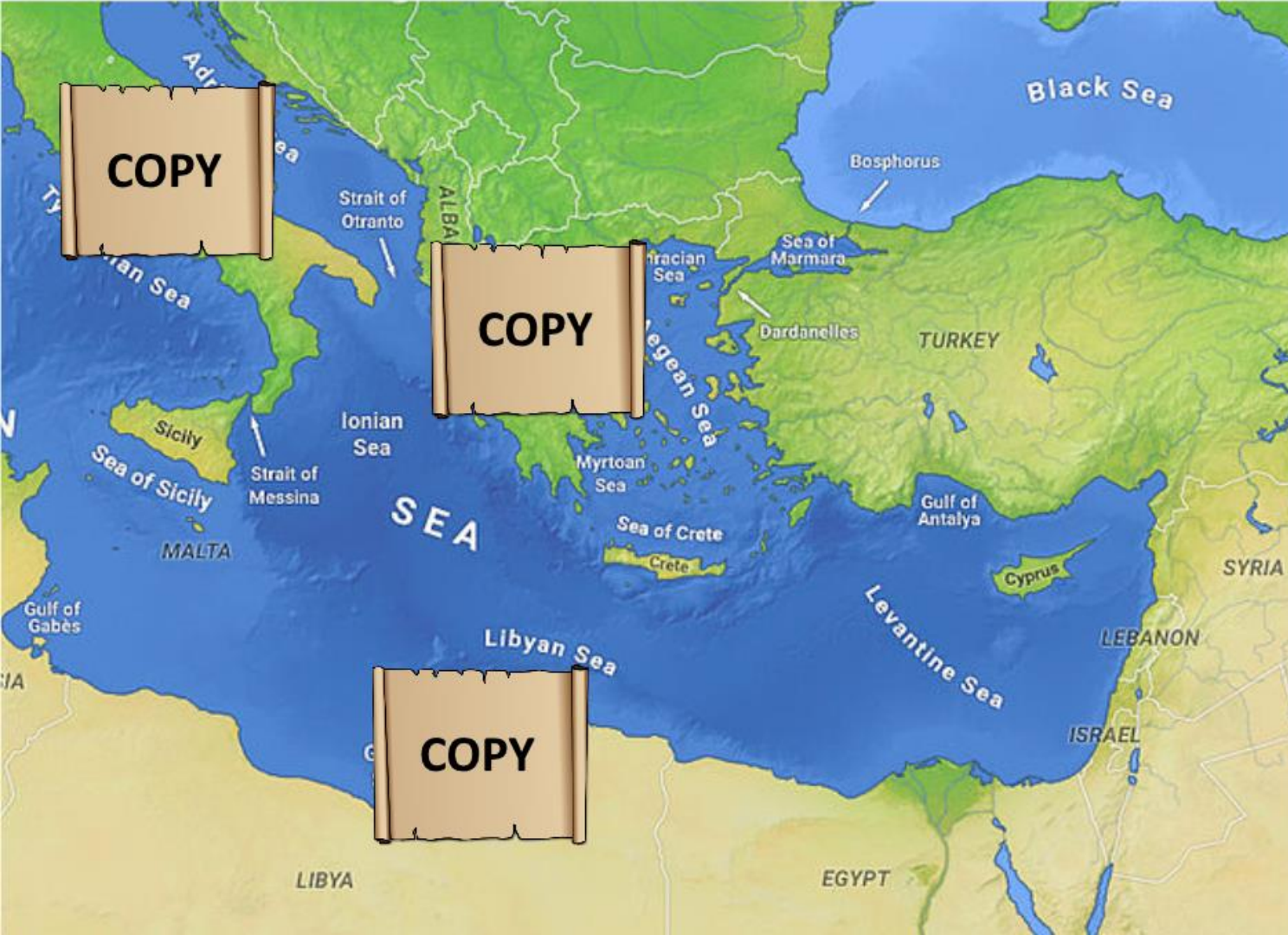
Reality



**How was it
transmitted?**



**NT
BOOK**



COPY

COPY

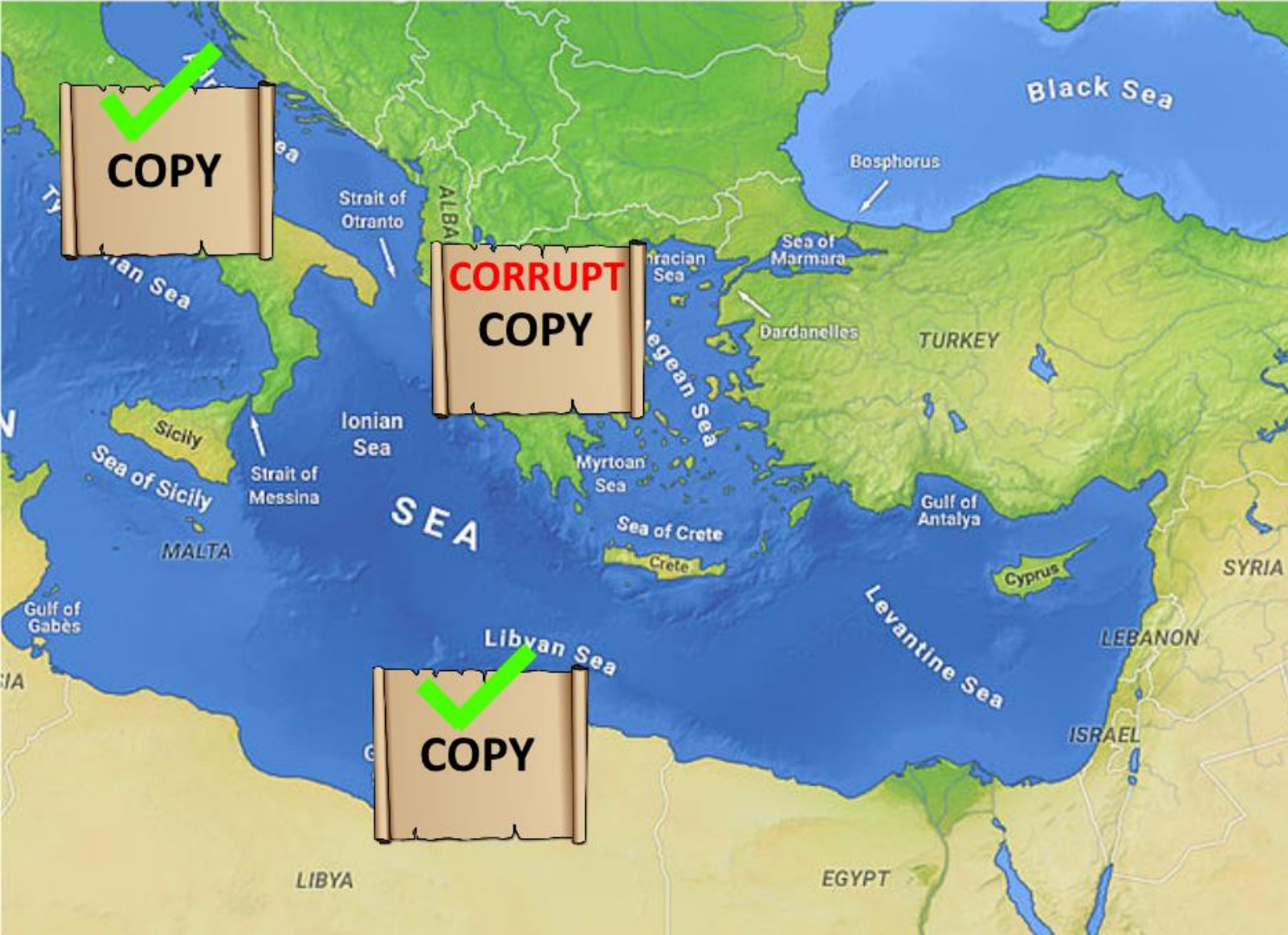
COPY



COPY

**CORRUPT
COPY**

COPY



COPY

**CORRUPT
COPY**

COPY

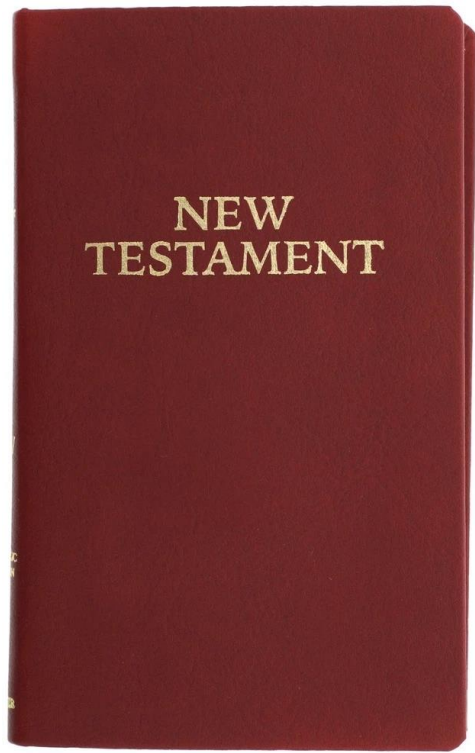
“There is no evidence of any kind for a controlling authority that could have engaged in purposeful textual editing. Add this to the text’s distribution over a massive geographical area, and not even modern technology could possibly locate, identify, and alter such a wide variety and early distribution of the New Testament text”

- page 84 The King James Only Controversy

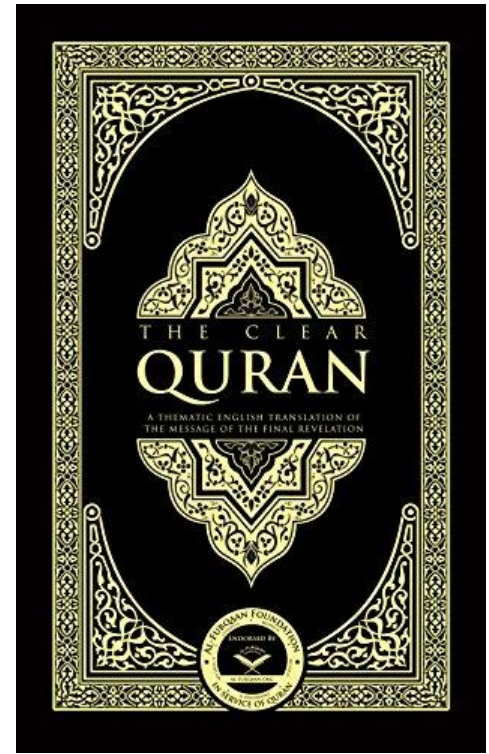


James White MA
Director of Alpha &
Omega Ministries,
Author of more than
20 books

**THIS MEANS THAT
CONSPIRACIES TO EDIT
THE NEW TESTAMENT
TEXT WERE
IMPOSSIBLE**



FREE



CONTROLLED

Free Transmission

- **Benefit:** Allows no single authority to edit its text
- **Cost:** Variation between manuscripts

Controlled Transmission

- **Benefit:** Little variation between manuscripts
- **Cost:** Vulnerable to agenda

**How bad are the
variations between our
New Testament
manuscripts?**

“There are more differences among our manuscripts than there are words in the New Testament.”

Page 10 - Misquoting Jesus



Bart D. Ehrman *Ph.D.*

Professor of Religious
Studies, University of
North Carolina Chapel
Hill

“Because the original manuscripts disappeared, and because **no two copies agree with each other completely**, we must do textual criticism. We can't just rely on one manuscript, because it's imperfect. Scholars reconstruct the text on that basis.”

Interview with ZA Blog 3/4/2019



Daniel Wallace *PhD*
Professor of New
Testament Studies at
Dallas Theological
Seminary



Daniel Wallace *PhD*
Professor of New
Testament Studies at
Dallas Theological
Seminary

There are 400,000
variants in the New
Testament Manuscripts



Bart D. Ehrman *Ph.D.*
Professor of Religious
Studies, University of North
Carolina Chapel Hill

400,000 Textual Variants?

That's **3 mistakes per word!**
How on earth can we trust the NT?

What is a textual variant?

Any difference between manuscripts

Including:

- Added words
- Missing words
- Misspelling



75% Misspellings

15% Grammar mistakes that cannot even be translated

9% Small variants from late manuscripts

1% meaningful variants 1 variation per 3 pages

Romans 5:1

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we **have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Some manuscripts: “... **let us** have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Mark 1:40-42

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus was **indignant**. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.”

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus was **filled with compassion** . He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.”

John 2:13-22



Matthew 14:13-21



“The position I argue for in ‘Misquoting Jesus’ does not actually stand at odds with Professor Metzger’s position that **the essential Christian beliefs are not affected by textual variants** in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament”

Page 252 - Misquoting Jesus



Bart D. Ehrman *Ph.D.*

Professor of Religious
Studies, University of
North Carolina Chapel
Hill

Have we lost any reading that was in the originals?

“The Christian Scribes were tenacious in their preservation of the New Testament text. If they were unsure of a reading, they would put it in the margin.”

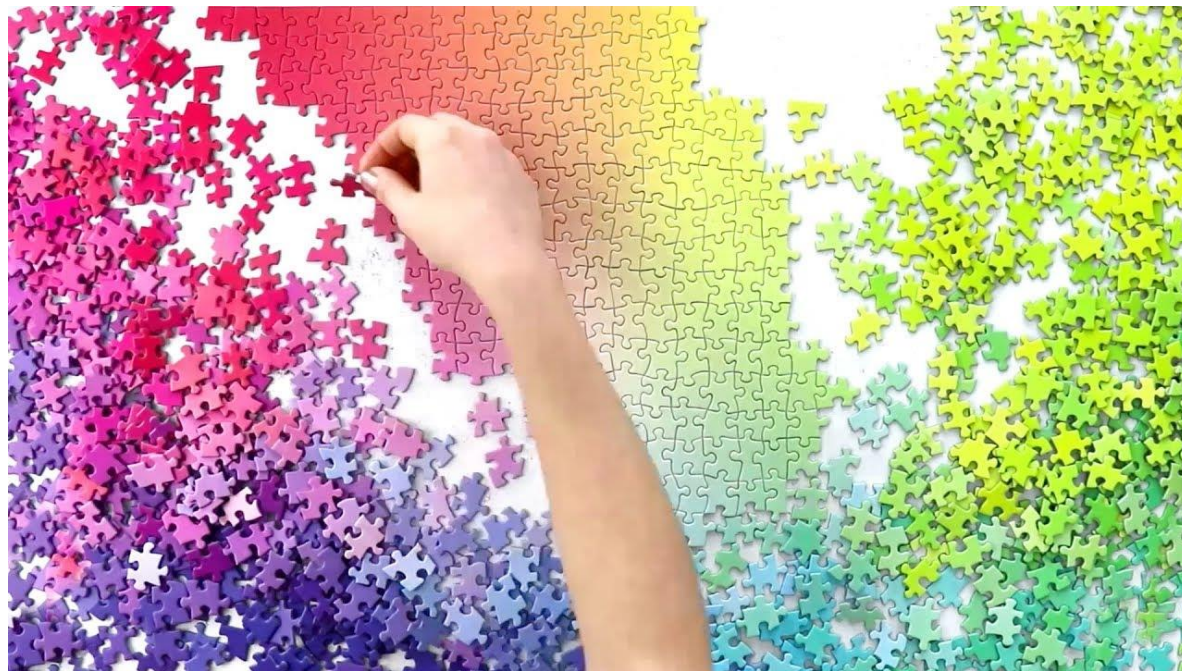


James White MA

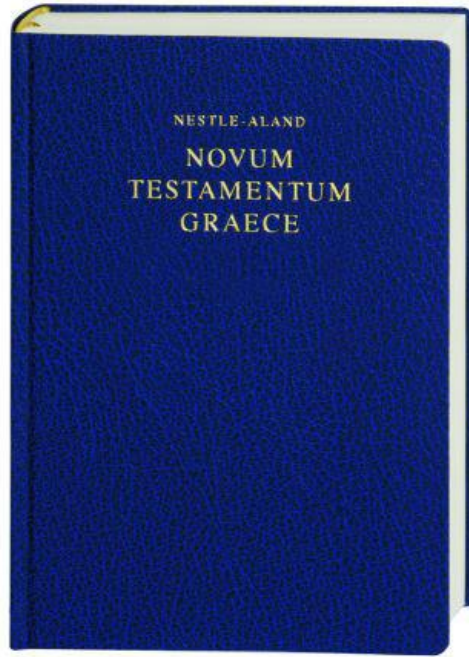
Director of Alpha & Omega Ministries,
Author of more than 20 books

1000 piece Jigsaw Puzzle

990?



1,010?



Critical Edition New Testament

**Can we trust
the Gospels as
history?**

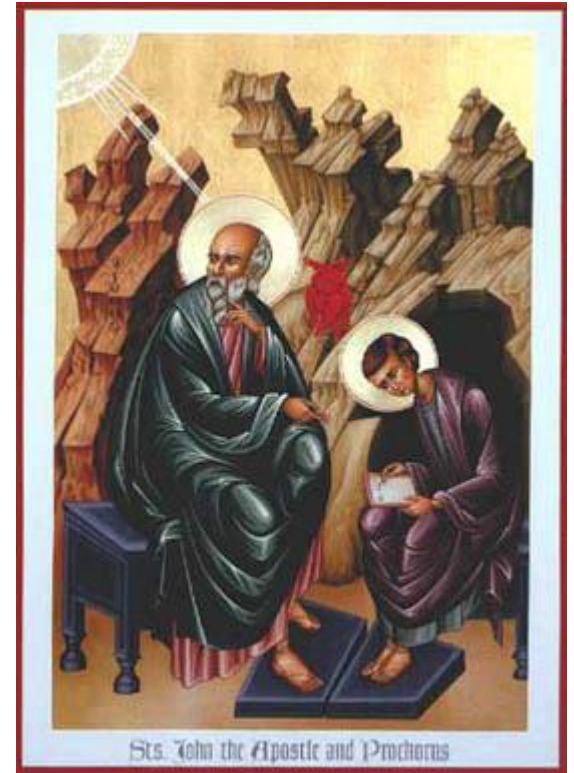
Named Eyewitness Testimony

Mark 15:21 - Simon of Cyrene

John 18:10 - Malchus the Slave

Mark 5:22 - Jairus the synagogue ruler

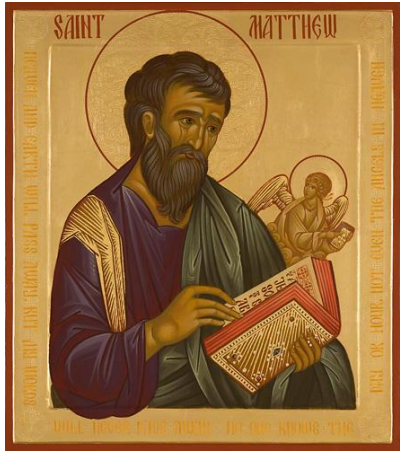
John 3:1 - Nicodemus the Pharisee



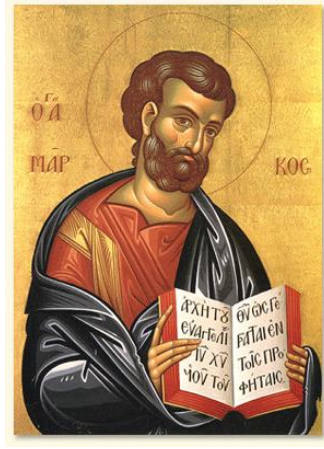


Luke's Gospel - Chapter 1, Verses 1 to 4,
New International Version

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”



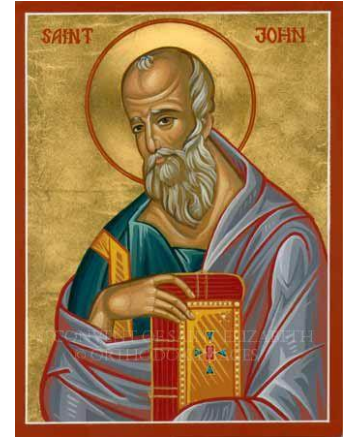
Matthew
Apostle



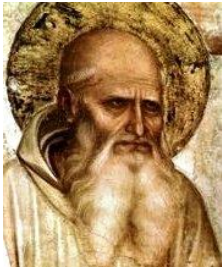
Mark
Scribe for Peter



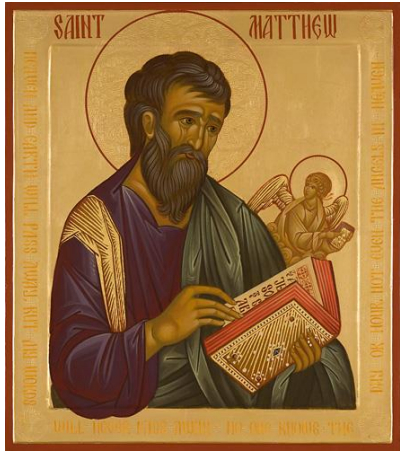
Luke
Accompanied Paul



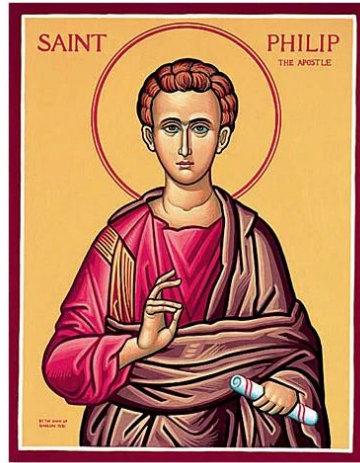
John
Apostle



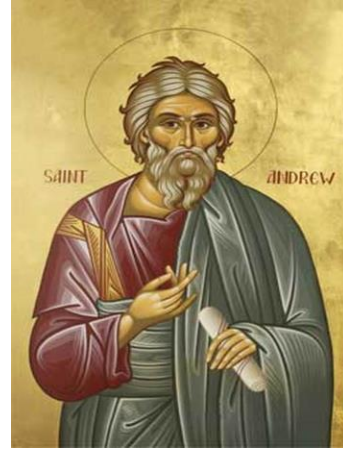
Works dated to 95-120 AD



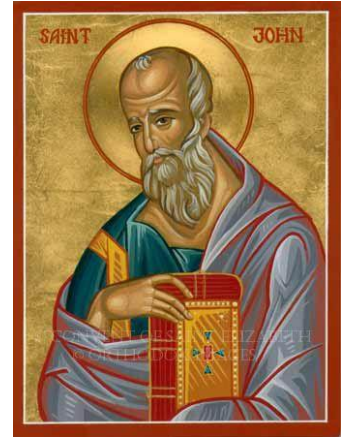
Matthew
Apostle



Philip
Apostle



Andrew
Apostle



John
Apostle

Why not four Apostles?

Aramaic roots

John 5:2 - 'Bethzatha'

John 19:13 - 'Gabbatha'

John 19:17 - 'Golgotha'

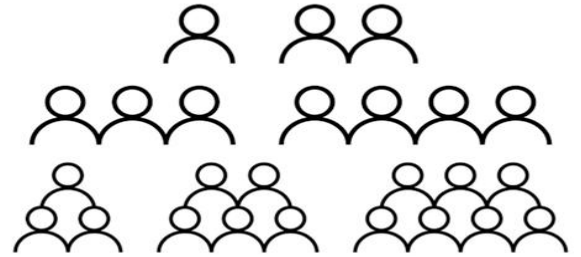
John 20:16 - 'Rabboni'

Matthew 23:8 - 'Rabbi'

Acts 9:36 - 'Tabitha'

Mark 5:41 - 'Talitha Koum'

Mark 15:34 - 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani'



**Have modern
translations
removed parts
of the Bible?**

Mark

16:9-20

The Longer ending of Mark



5th Century addition

John

7:53-8:11

The Woman Caught in Adultery



Also found

- After Luke 21:38
- After Luke 24:53
- After the Gospels

1 John

5:7

Three Witnesses



15th Century Addition

“The position I argue for in ‘Misquoting Jesus’ does not actually stand at odds with Professor Metzger’s position that **the essential Christian beliefs are not affected by textual variants** in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament”

Page 252 - Misquoting Jesus



Bart D. Ehrman *Ph.D.*

Professor of Religious
Studies, University of
North Carolina Chapel
Hill

**DOES CHRISTIANITY
HAVE ANY**

EVIDENCE?

27/03

**CAN WE
PROVE THE**

RESURRECTION?

03/04