



**ARE YOU READY?**



*Daniel Janosik, PhD  
Faith Bible College  
Apologetics Conference  
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Lecture 3  
Can we trust our  
Scriptures?

**THE ACCURACY  
OF THE BIBLE**



**HOW ACCURATE IS  
THE BIBLE?**

The Authenticity of the  
Scriptures; Historicity,  
etc. The Eyewitness  
Evidence

**Often-Asked Questions**

- Isn't the Bible full of contradictions and errors?
- The Bible has been copied and translated so many times - hasn't this process led to errors?
- How can you be sure that the Bible is the same now as when it was written?

**Often-Asked Questions**

- Didn't the church arbitrarily decide which books should be included in the Bible and which books should be rejected?
- So many people have different interpretations of the Bible - what makes you think that yours is correct?

**Often-Asked Questions**

- How can you place your faith in a book that condones genocide and slavery?
- Doesn't the Bible make a number of claims that are scientifically inaccurate?
- Is God worthy of worship if He kills innocent children?

### The Real Question:

- **Can we trust the Bible?**

### Is the Bible Inspired?

- "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

### Charles Templeton

- **It is no longer possible for an informed man or woman to believe that ... the Bible is either a reliable document ... or, as the Christian church insists, the infallible Word of God.**

### Bart Ehrman: *Misquoting Jesus*

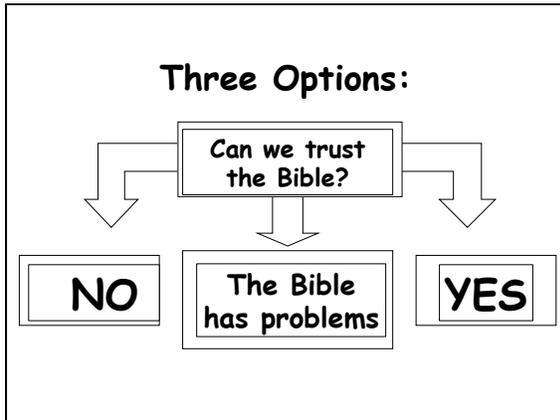
- "As we learned at Moody [Bible Institute] in one of the first courses in the curriculum, we don't actually have the original writings of the New Testament. What we have are copies of these writings, made years later—in most cases, many years later. Moreover, none of these copies is completely accurate, since the scribes who produced them inadvertently and/or intentionally changed them in places." (5)

### Bart Ehrman: *Misquoting Jesus*

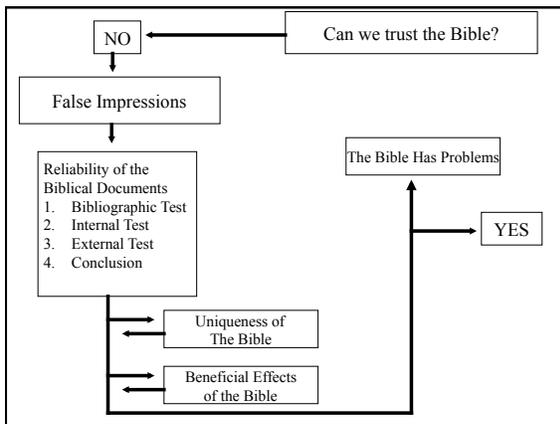
- "If one wants to insist that God inspired the very words of scripture, what would be the point if we don't *have* the very words of scripture? In some places, as we will see, we simply cannot be sure that we have constructed the original text accurately. . . . The fact that we don't have the words surely must show, I reasoned, that [God] did not preserve them for us. And if he didn't perform that miracle, there seemed to be no reason to think that he performed the earlier miracle of inspiring those words." (p. 11)

### There are three responses to this question:

- (1) **the Bible is not reliable,**
- (2) **there are certain problems with the Bible, and**
- (3) **the Bible is reliable.**



1. THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUSTWORTHY:



**A. Second and third hand information about the Bible leads to false impressions.**

**False Impressions**

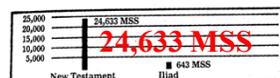
- God helps those who help themselves
- Cleanliness is next to godliness
- The two contradictory creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2

**B. The Old Testament and New Testament documents pass three crucial tests:**

### (1) The bibliographic test:

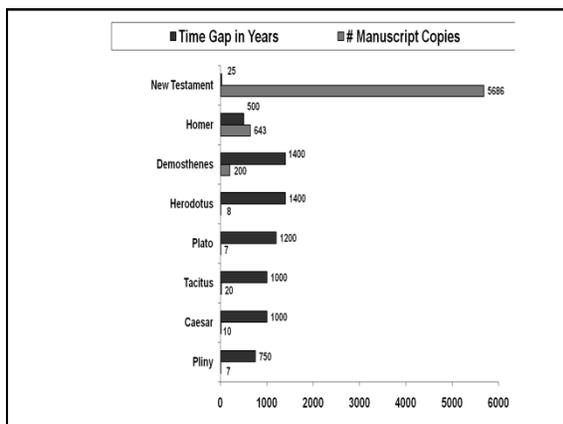
- (a) **Manuscript quantity:** there are over 24,000 New Testament manuscripts.
- (b) **Manuscript quality:** Old Testament, excellent; New Testament, very good.
- (c) **Manuscript time span:** Old Testament, helped by Dead Sea Scrolls; New Testament, exceptionally short (about 100 years).

### Manuscript quantity



The following is a breakdown of the numbers of surviving manuscripts for the New Testament:

Greek	
Uncials	267
Minuscules	2,764
Lectionaries	2,143
Papyri	48
Recent finds	47
TOTAL	5,369
Extant Greek MSS	
Latin Vulgate	10,000 plus
Ethiopic	2,000 plus
Slavic	4,101
Armenian	2,567
Syriac Peshetta	350 plus
Bohairic	100
Arabic	75
Old Latin	50
Anglo Saxon	7
Gothic	6
Sogdian	3
Old Syriac	2
Persian	2
Frankish	1



### Manuscript quality

Work	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 AD	125 AD	25 yrs	Over 24,000

- Homer s Illiad: 95% accurate
- New Testament: 99.5% accurate

Textual criticism helps us to determine the original text

**THE LONGER ENDING OF MARK**  
The Appearance to Mary Magdalene (Mt 28:16; Jn 20:11-18)

[[9<sup>a</sup> Ἀναστάς δὲ πρῶτῃ σαββάτῳ ἔφαιε πρῶτῃ Μαρίᾳ τῇ Μαγδαληνῇ, καὶ ἦε δευτερείας ἐντὶ δαυμάνα. 10 ἔπειτα παρεβίβησεν ἀπὸ τῆς μετ' αὐτῆς γενομένης πενθάου καὶ ἀλάσσοις 11 κἀκεῖνοι ἀκούσαντες ὅτι ἕξ καὶ ἑβδομῆ ἡμέρ' ἀπέχεθ' ἡμεῖς ἀλλήλων.]

[[The Appearance to Two Disciples (Jn 20:10-18)]]

18 Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα θύσται ἐξ ἀπορίας παρακαρασθῶν ἄφρασις ἐν ἑτέρῃ κορυφῇ παρατηρηθείσας ἐπὶ ἄγρῳ 19 κἀκεῖνοι ἀπεβήσαντες ἀπὸ τῆς μετ' αὐτῆς γενομένης.

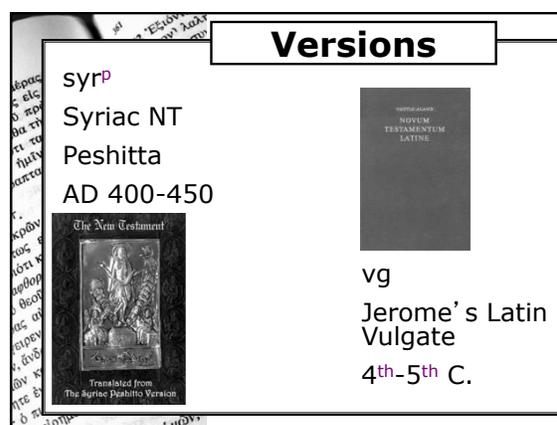
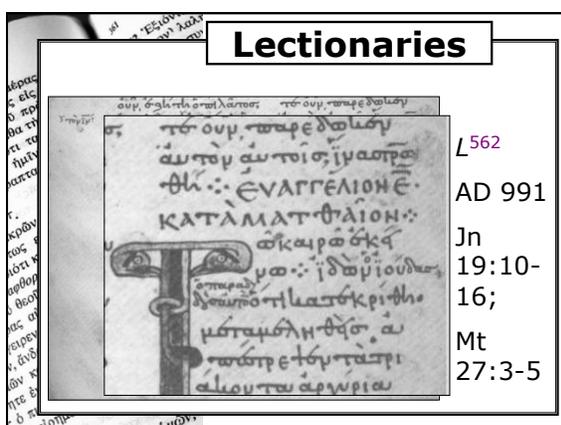
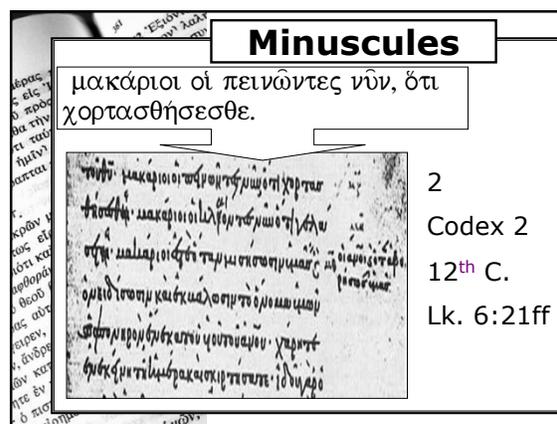
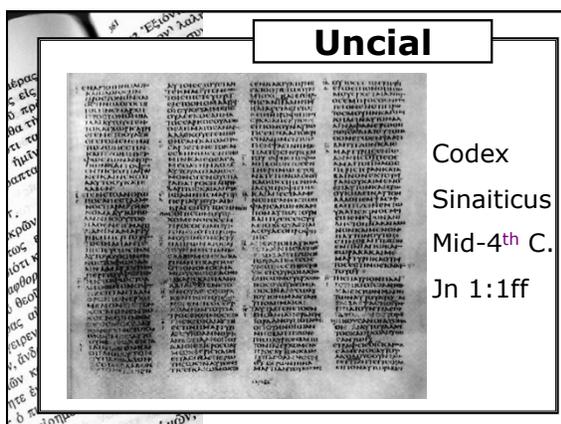
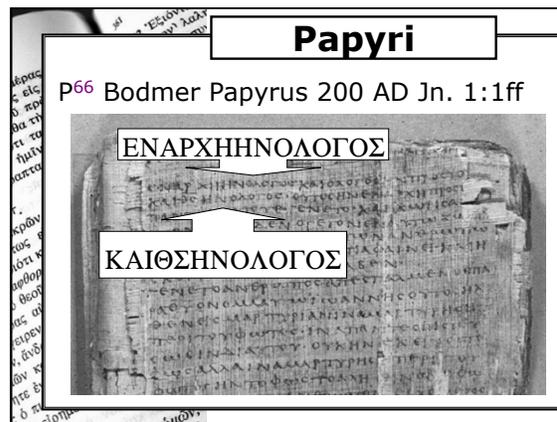
19 1A] add in 2-89 28 B 388 (Leif) Latin ends with verse 9] 200<sup>a</sup> 200<sup>b</sup> 200<sup>c</sup> 200<sup>d</sup> 200<sup>e</sup> 200<sup>f</sup> 200<sup>g</sup> 200<sup>h</sup> 200<sup>i</sup> 200<sup>j</sup> 200<sup>k</sup> 200<sup>l</sup> 200<sup>m</sup> 200<sup>n</sup> 200<sup>o</sup> 200<sup>p</sup> 200<sup>q</sup> 200<sup>r</sup> 200<sup>s</sup> 200<sup>t</sup> 200<sup>u</sup> 200<sup>v</sup> 200<sup>w</sup> 200<sup>x</sup> 200<sup>y</sup> 200<sup>z</sup> 200<sup>aa</sup> 200<sup>ab</sup> 200<sup>ac</sup> 200<sup>ad</sup> 200<sup>ae</sup> 200<sup>af</sup> 200<sup>ag</sup> 200<sup>ah</sup> 200<sup>ai</sup> 200<sup>aj</sup> 200<sup>ak</sup> 200<sup>al</sup> 200<sup>am</sup> 200<sup>an</sup> 200<sup>ao</sup> 200<sup>ap</sup> 200<sup>aq</sup> 200<sup>ar</sup> 200<sup>as</sup> 200<sup>at</sup> 200<sup>au</sup> 200<sup>av</sup> 200<sup>aw</sup> 200<sup>ax</sup> 200<sup>ay</sup> 200<sup>az</sup> 200<sup>ba</sup> 200<sup>bb</sup> 200<sup>bc</sup> 200<sup>bd</sup> 200<sup>be</sup> 200<sup>bf</sup> 200<sup>bg</sup> 200<sup>bh</sup> 200<sup>bi</sup> 200<sup>bj</sup> 200<sup>bk</sup> 200<sup>bl</sup> 200<sup>bm</sup> 200<sup>bn</sup> 200<sup>bo</sup> 200<sup>bp</sup> 200<sup>bq</sup> 200<sup>br</sup> 200<sup>bs</sup> 200<sup>bt</sup> 200<sup>bu</sup> 200<sup>bv</sup> 200<sup>bw</sup> 200<sup>bx</sup> 200<sup>by</sup> 200<sup>bz</sup> 200<sup>ca</sup> 200<sup>cb</sup> 200<sup>cc</sup> 200<sup>cd</sup> 200<sup>ce</sup> 200<sup>cf</sup> 200<sup>cg</sup> 200<sup>ch</sup> 200<sup>ci</sup> 200<sup>cj</sup> 200<sup>ck</sup> 200<sup>cl</sup> 200<sup>cm</sup> 200<sup>cn</sup> 200<sup>co</sup> 200<sup>cp</sup> 200<sup>cq</sup> 200<sup>cr</sup> 200<sup>cs</sup> 200<sup>ct</sup> 200<sup>cu</sup> 200<sup>cv</sup> 200<sup>cw</sup> 200<sup>cx</sup> 200<sup>cy</sup> 200<sup>cz</sup> 200<sup>da</sup> 200<sup>db</sup> 200<sup>dc</sup> 200<sup>dd</sup> 200<sup>de</sup> 200<sup>df</sup> 200<sup>dg</sup> 200<sup>dh</sup> 200<sup>di</sup> 200<sup>dj</sup> 200<sup>dk</sup> 200<sup>dl</sup> 200<sup>dm</sup> 200<sup>dn</sup> 200<sup>do</sup> 200<sup>dp</sup> 200<sup>dq</sup> 200<sup>dr</sup> 200<sup>ds</sup> 200<sup>dt</sup> 200<sup>du</sup> 200<sup>dv</sup> 200<sup>dw</sup> 200<sup>dx</sup> 200<sup>dy</sup> 200<sup>dz</sup> 200<sup>ea</sup> 200<sup>eb</sup> 200<sup>ec</sup> 200<sup>ed</sup> 200<sup>ee</sup> 200<sup>ef</sup> 200<sup>eg</sup> 200<sup>eh</sup> 200<sup>ei</sup> 200<sup>ej</sup> 200<sup>ek</sup> 200<sup>el</sup> 200<sup>em</sup> 200<sup>en</sup> 200<sup>eo</sup> 200<sup>ep</sup> 200<sup>eq</sup> 200<sup>er</sup> 200<sup>es</sup> 200<sup>et</sup> 200<sup>eu</sup> 200<sup>ev</sup> 200<sup>ew</sup> 200<sup>ex</sup> 200<sup>ey</sup> 200<sup>ez</sup> 200<sup>fa</sup> 200<sup>fb</sup> 200<sup>fc</sup> 200<sup>fd</sup> 200<sup>fe</sup> 200<sup>ff</sup> 200<sup>fg</sup> 200<sup>fh</sup> 200<sup>fi</sup> 200<sup>fj</sup> 200<sup>fk</sup> 200<sup>fl</sup> 200<sup>fm</sup> 200<sup>fn</sup> 200<sup>fo</sup> 200<sup>fp</sup> 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200<sup>kf</sup> 200<sup>kg</sup> 200<sup>kh</sup> 200<sup>ki</sup> 200<sup>kj</sup> 200<sup>kl</sup> 200<sup>km</sup> 200<sup>kn</sup> 200<sup>ko</sup> 200<sup>kp</sup> 200<sup>kq</sup> 200<sup>kr</sup> 200<sup>ks</sup> 200<sup>kt</sup> 200<sup>ku</sup> 200<sup>kv</sup> 200<sup>kw</sup> 200<sup>kx</sup> 200<sup>ky</sup> 200<sup>kz</sup> 200<sup>la</sup> 200<sup>lb</sup> 200<sup>lc</sup> 200<sup>ld</sup> 200<sup>le</sup> 200<sup>lf</sup> 200<sup>lg</sup> 200<sup>lh</sup> 200<sup>li</sup> 200<sup>lj</sup> 200<sup>lk</sup> 200<sup>lm</sup> 200<sup>ln</sup> 200<sup>lo</sup> 200<sup>lp</sup> 200<sup>lq</sup> 200<sup>lr</sup> 200<sup>ls</sup> 200<sup>lt</sup> 200<sup>lu</sup> 200<sup>lv</sup> 200<sup>lw</sup> 200<sup>lx</sup> 200<sup>ly</sup> 200<sup>lz</sup> 200<sup>ma</sup> 200<sup>mb</sup> 200<sup>mc</sup> 200<sup>md</sup> 200<sup>me</sup> 200<sup>mf</sup> 200<sup>mg</sup> 200<sup>mh</sup> 200<sup>mi</sup> 200<sup>mj</sup> 200<sup>mk</sup> 200<sup>ml</sup> 200<sup>mm</sup> 200<sup>mn</sup> 200<sup>mo</sup> 200<sup>mp</sup> 200<sup>mq</sup> 200<sup>mr</sup> 200<sup>ms</sup> 200<sup>mt</sup> 200<sup>mu</sup> 200<sup>mv</sup> 200<sup>mw</sup> 200<sup>mx</sup> 200<sup>my</sup> 200<sup>mz</sup> 200<sup>na</sup> 200<sup>nb</sup> 200<sup>nc</sup> 200<sup>nd</sup> 200<sup>ne</sup> 200<sup>nf</sup> 200<sup>ng</sup> 200<sup>nh</sup> 200<sup>ni</sup> 200<sup>nj</sup> 200<sup>nk</sup> 200<sup>nl</sup> 200<sup>nm</sup> 200<sup>nn</sup> 200<sup>no</sup> 200<sup>np</sup> 200<sup>nq</sup> 200<sup>nr</sup> 200<sup>ns</sup> 200<sup>nt</sup> 200<sup>nu</sup> 200<sup>nv</sup> 200<sup>nw</sup> 200<sup>nx</sup> 200<sup>ny</sup> 200<sup>nz</sup> 200<sup>oa</sup> 200<sup>ob</sup> 200<sup>oc</sup> 200<sup>od</sup> 200<sup>oe</sup> 200<sup>of</sup> 200<sup>og</sup> 200<sup>oh</sup> 200<sup>oi</sup> 200<sup>oj</sup> 200<sup>ok</sup> 200<sup>ol</sup> 200<sup>om</sup> 200<sup>on</sup> 200<sup>oo</sup> 200<sup>op</sup> 200<sup>oq</sup> 200<sup>or</sup> 200<sup>os</sup> 200<sup>ot</sup> 200<sup>ou</sup> 200<sup>ov</sup> 200<sup>ow</sup> 200<sup>ox</sup> 200<sup>oy</sup> 200<sup>oz</sup> 200<sup>pa</sup> 200<sup>pb</sup> 200<sup>pc</sup> 200<sup>pd</sup> 200<sup>pe</sup> 200<sup>pf</sup> 200<sup>pg</sup> 200<sup>ph</sup> 200<sup>pi</sup> 200<sup>pj</sup> 200<sup>pk</sup> 200<sup>pl</sup> 200<sup>pm</sup> 200<sup>pn</sup> 200<sup>po</sup> 200<sup>pp</sup> 200<sup>pq</sup> 200<sup>pr</sup> 200<sup>ps</sup> 200<sup>pt</sup> 200<sup>pu</sup> 200<sup>pv</sup> 200<sup>pw</sup> 200<sup>px</sup> 200<sup>py</sup> 200<sup>pz</sup> 200<sup>qa</sup> 200<sup>qb</sup> 200<sup>qc</sup> 200<sup>qd</sup> 200<sup>qe</sup> 200<sup>qf</sup> 200<sup>qg</sup> 200<sup>qh</sup> 200<sup>qi</sup> 200<sup>qj</sup> 200<sup>qk</sup> 200<sup>ql</sup> 200<sup>qm</sup> 200<sup>qn</sup> 200<sup>qo</sup> 200<sup>qp</sup> 200<sup>qq</sup> 200<sup>qr</sup> 200<sup>qs</sup> 200<sup>qt</sup> 200<sup>qu</sup> 200<sup>qv</sup> 200<sup>qw</sup> 200<sup>qx</sup> 200<sup>qy</sup> 200<sup>qz</sup> 200<sup>ra</sup> 200<sup>rb</sup> 200<sup>rc</sup> 200<sup>rd</sup> 200<sup>re</sup> 200<sup>rf</sup> 200<sup>rg</sup> 200<sup>rh</sup> 200<sup>ri</sup> 200<sup>rj</sup> 200<sup>rk</sup> 200<sup>rl</sup> 200<sup>rm</sup> 200<sup>rn</sup> 200<sup>ro</sup> 200<sup>rp</sup> 200<sup>rq</sup> 200<sup>rr</sup> 200<sup>rs</sup> 200<sup>rt</sup> 200<sup>ru</sup> 200<sup>rv</sup> 200<sup>rw</sup> 200<sup>rx</sup> 200<sup>ry</sup> 200<sup>rz</sup> 200<sup>sa</sup> 200<sup>sb</sup> 200<sup>sc</sup> 200<sup>sd</sup> 200<sup>se</sup> 200<sup>sf</sup> 200<sup>sg</sup> 200<sup>sh</sup> 200<sup>si</sup> 200<sup>sj</sup> 200<sup>sk</sup> 200<sup>sl</sup> 200<sup>sm</sup> 200<sup>sn</sup> 200<sup>so</sup> 200<sup>sp</sup> 200<sup>sq</sup> 200<sup>sr</sup> 200<sup>ss</sup> 200<sup>st</sup> 200<sup>su</sup> 200<sup>sv</sup> 200<sup>sw</sup> 200<sup>sx</sup> 200<sup>sy</sup> 200<sup>sz</sup> 200<sup>ta</sup> 200<sup>tb</sup> 200<sup>tc</sup> 200<sup>td</sup> 200<sup>te</sup> 200<sup>tf</sup> 200<sup>tg</sup> 200<sup>th</sup> 200<sup>ti</sup> 200<sup>tj</sup> 200<sup>tk</sup> 200<sup>tl</sup> 200<sup>tm</sup> 200<sup>tn</sup> 200<sup>to</sup> 200<sup>tp</sup> 200<sup>tq</sup> 200<sup>tr</sup> 200<sup>ts</sup> 200<sup>tt</sup> 200<sup>tu</sup> 200<sup>tv</sup> 200<sup>tw</sup> 200<sup>tx</sup> 200<sup>ty</sup> 200<sup>tz</sup> 200<sup>ua</sup> 200<sup>ub</sup> 200<sup>uc</sup> 200<sup>ud</sup> 200<sup>ue</sup> 200<sup>uf</sup> 200<sup>ug</sup> 200<sup>uh</sup> 200<sup>ui</sup> 200<sup>uj</sup> 200<sup>uk</sup> 200<sup>ul</sup> 200<sup>um</sup> 200<sup>un</sup> 200<sup>uo</sup> 200<sup>up</sup> 200<sup>uq</sup> 200<sup>ur</sup> 200<sup>us</sup> 200<sup>ut</sup> 200<sup>uu</sup> 200<sup>uv</sup> 200<sup>uw</sup> 200<sup>ux</sup> 200<sup>uy</sup> 200<sup>uz</sup> 200<sup>va</sup> 200<sup>vb</sup> 200<sup>vc</sup> 200<sup>vd</sup> 200<sup>ve</sup> 200<sup>vf</sup> 200<sup>vg</sup> 200<sup>vh</sup> 200<sup>vi</sup> 200<sup>vj</sup> 200<sup>vk</sup> 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200<sup>xr</sup> 200<sup>xs</sup> 200<sup>xt</sup> 200<sup>xu</sup> 200<sup>xv</sup> 200<sup>xw</sup> 200<sup>xx</sup> 200<sup>xy</sup> 200<sup>xz</sup> 200<sup>ya</sup> 200<sup>yb</sup> 200<sup>yc</sup> 200<sup>yd</sup> 200<sup>ye</sup> 200<sup>yf</sup> 200<sup>yg</sup> 200<sup>yh</sup> 200<sup>yi</sup> 200<sup>yj</sup> 200<sup>yk</sup> 200<sup>yl</sup> 200<sup>ym</sup> 200<sup>yn</sup> 200<sup>yo</sup> 200<sup>yp</sup> 200<sup>yq</sup> 200<sup>yr</sup> 200<sup>ys</sup> 200<sup>yt</sup> 200<sup>yu</sup> 200<sup>yv</sup> 200<sup>yw</sup> 200<sup>yx</sup> 200<sup>yy</sup> 200<sup>yz</sup> 200<sup>za</sup> 200<sup>zb</sup> 200<sup>zc</sup> 200<sup>zd</sup> 200<sup>ze</sup> 200<sup>zf</sup> 200<sup>zg</sup> 200<sup>zh</sup> 200<sup>zi</sup> 200<sup>zj</sup> 200<sup>zk</sup> 200<sup>zl</sup> 200<sup>zm</sup> 200<sup>zn</sup> 200<sup>zo</sup> 200<sup>zp</sup> 200<sup>zq</sup> 200<sup>zr</sup> 200<sup>zs</sup> 200<sup>zt</sup> 200<sup>zu</sup> 200<sup>zv</sup> 200<sup>zw</sup> 200<sup>zx</sup> 200<sup>zy</sup> 200<sup>zz</sup>

The following letter uncials, selected because of their value in determining the text, have been cited from previous editions of the Greek New Testament. They have been checked chiefly where the printed evidence was contradictory or incomplete.

Manuscript	Content <sup>1</sup>	Location	Date
N 01	eap	London: Sinaiticus	IV
A 02	eap	London: Alexandrianus	V
B 03	eap	Rome: Vaticanus	IV
C 04	eap	Paris: Ephraemi Rescriptus	V
D 05	ea	Cambridge: Bezae Cantabrigiensis	V/VI
D 06	p	Paris: Claromontanus	VI
D <sup>ab</sup>	p	(Abschrift, i.e. copy of 06) Leningrad	IX
E 07	e	Basel	VIII

### The Evidence

Type	Symbol	Amt.	Date
Papyri	ⲉ-	97	2 <sup>nd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> C.
Uncials	Caps, 0_	300	4 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> C.
Minusc' l	numbers	2760	9 <sup>th</sup> C.→
Lect' rie s	L-	2140	3 <sup>rd</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> C.
Vers' ns	Abbrev.	mult.	2 <sup>nd</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> C.→
Fathers	Name	mult.	2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> C.



## Fathers



Athanasius



Clement of  
Alexandria



Justin  
Martyr

## Production

*Historical Factors in Transmission and Corruption . . .*

- Copyist Errors
- Orthography
- Local Texts
- Printing

### Bart Ehrman on Variations in the Bible

- "With this abundance of evidence, what can we say about the total number of variants known today? Scholars differ significantly in their estimates—some say there are 200,000 variants known, some say 300,000, some say 400,000 or more! We do not know for sure because, despite impressive developments in computer technology, no one has yet been able to count them all. Perhaps, as I indicated earlier, it is best simply to leave the matter in comparative terms. There are more variations among our manuscripts than there are words in the New Testament" (pp. 89-90).

### The problem of apparent errors:

- **Careful examination of the most apparent discrepancies shows that they can be harmonized. Other errors crept into the text through scribal mistakes, but these are of a minor nature.**

### Variant Readings

- **#1: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole world**
- **#2: Christ Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.**
- **#3: Jesus Christ s the Savior of the whole worl.**
- **#4: Jesus Christ is th Savior of the whle world.**
- **#5: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole wrld.**

### Variant Readings

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## Variant Readings

- Visual errors in copying
- Auditory errors when a group of scribes copied manuscripts that were read aloud
- Errors resulted from faulty writing, memory, and judgment
- Well-meaning scribes who thought they were correcting the text.

## Variant Readings

- I Kings 4:26
- Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots
- 2 Chronicles 9:25
- Only 4,000 stalls
- Archaeology supports the passage in 2 Chronicles

## Variant Readings

- NO variant readings are significant enough to call into question any of the doctrines of the New Testament
- The New Testament can be regarded as 99.5% pure
- The remaining 0.5% can often be ascertained through textual criticism

## Copyist Errors

### □ Unintentional Errors

*sight*—2 Pt. 2:13

ΑΠΑΤΑΙΣ, p<sup>72</sup>) A\*

ΑΓΑΠΑΙΣ, A<sup>c</sup> B vg

*sound*—Rom. 5:1

EXOMEN, )<sup>1</sup> B<sup>2</sup> cop<sup>sa</sup>

EXΩMEN, )\* B\* cop<sup>bo</sup>

## Copyist Errors

### □ Intentional Errors

*smooth style*—Phil. 2:5

τουτο γαρ, p<sup>46</sup>)<sup>2</sup> D

τουτο, )\* A B cop<sup>sa</sup>

*doctrinal concerns*—Jn. 7:8 (cf. v. 10)

ουκ, ) D cop<sup>bo</sup>

ουπω p<sup>66, 75</sup> B cop<sup>sa</sup>

## Orthography

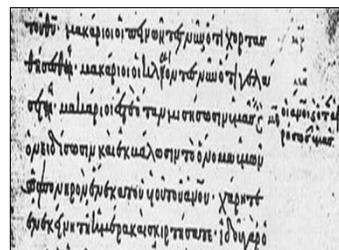
*Lower Case Cursive from 9<sup>th</sup> C. onward . . .*

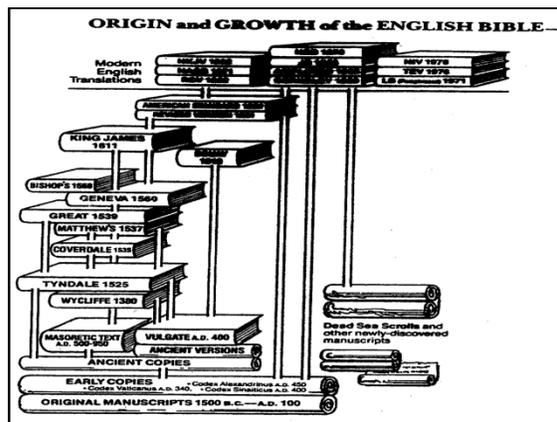
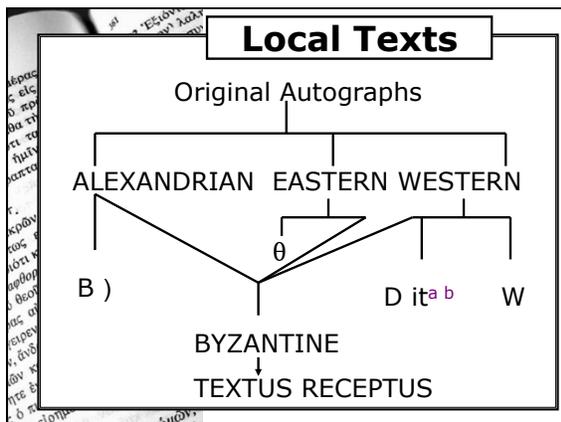
e.g.,

Codex 2

12<sup>th</sup> C.

Lk. 6:21ff





### Printing

*First Printed GNT*

### Conclusion

*Conventional wisdom would say that the reading which has the majority of witnesses favoring it is the oldest and the best.*

**BUT**

*Since the paper trail was so disrupted, it is not possible to decide the best reading simply by counting mss. They must be weighed.*

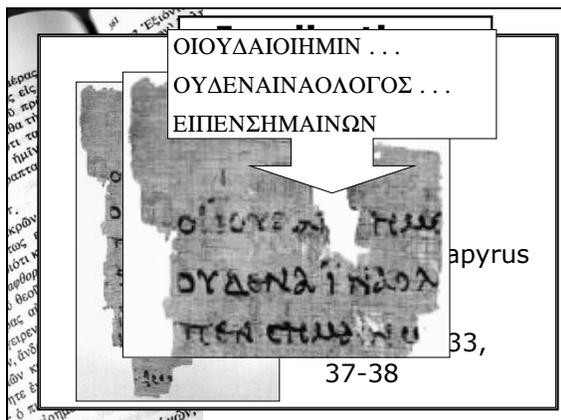
### Implications

*Results of Textual Criticism—*

- vast majority of differences are spelling, grammar, style
- none affect the substance of Christian doctrine

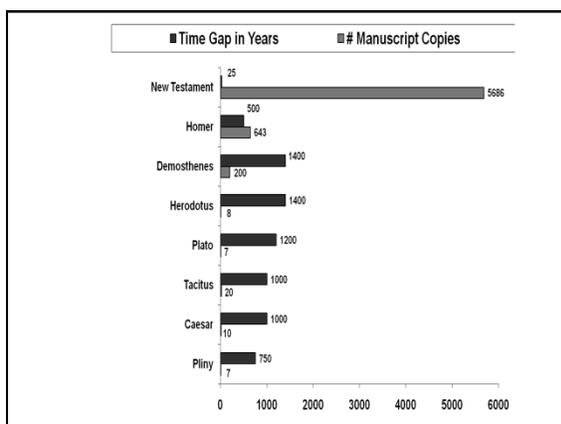
### Manuscript time span

- The New Testament manuscripts are much closer to their original sources
- The John Ryland manuscript of a portion of the gospel of John is dated around 125 AD (25 years after John wrote it)



AUTHOR	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	10
Livy	59 B.C.-A.D. 17			20
Plato ( <i>Tetralogies</i> )	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs.	7
Tacitus ( <i>Annals</i> )	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	20 (-)
also minor works	100 A.D.	1000 A.D.	900 yrs.	1
Pliny the Younger ( <i>History</i> )	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs.	7
Thucydides ( <i>History</i> )	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Suetonius ( <i>De Vita Caesarum</i> )	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs.	8
Herodotus ( <i>History</i> )	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Horace			900 yrs.	
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	193
Lucretius	Died 55 or 53 B.C.		1,100 yrs.	2
Catullus	54 B.C.	1550 A.D.	1,600 yrs.	3
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,500 yrs.	9
Demosthenes	383-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	200*
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	49†
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs.	10

\* All from one copy.  
† Of any one work.



Work	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Homer ( <i>Iliad</i> )	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 AD	125 AD	25 yrs	Over 24,000

**(2) The internal test:**

- The books of the Bible largely claim to be primary accounts.
- See John 21:24
- Prophecies of Christ

**(3) The external test:**

- The Bible is externally verifiable because it is locked into history. Archaeological evidence consistently affirms the reliability of the Old Testament and New Testament accounts.

## Archaeological Evidence

- Hittites and Ebla
- Moabite Stone, Black Obelisk, Taylor Prism, Lachish Letters
- Geographical details in the life of Jesus
- Luke's historical and geographical accuracy

## Ancient Non-Christian Sources

- There are 17 ancient non-Christian sources that testify to the historicity of Christ and early Christianity.

• Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*, ch. 9, 187-228.

### 17 Ancient non-Christian Sources

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Tacitus (AD 55-120)                     | 10. Lucian (2 <sup>nd</sup> century)                                   |
| 2. Seutonius (AD 117-138)                  | 11. Mara Bar-Serapion (late 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> century) |
| 3. Josephus (AD 37-97)                     | 12. Gospel of Truth (AD 135-160)                                       |
| 4. Thallus (c. 52)                         | 13. Apocryphon of John (120-130)                                       |
| 5. Pliny the Younger (c. 112)              | 14. The Gospel of Thomas (AD 140-200)                                  |
| 6. Emperor Trajan (c. 112)                 | 15. The Treatise on Resurrection (late 2 <sup>nd</sup> century)        |
| 7. Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138)            | 16. Acts of Pontius Pilate (before AD 150)                             |
| 8. The Talmud (AD 70-200)                  | 17. Phlegon (early 2 <sup>nd</sup> century)                            |
| 9. Toledoth Jesu (5 <sup>th</sup> century) |  |

- See Josephus and Tacitus

## Josephus (Antiquities, 93 AD)

- About that time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

## Josephus (2)

- Now there arose about this time a source of further trouble in one Jesus, a wise man who performed surprising works, a teacher of men who gladly welcome strange things. He led away many Jews, and also many of the Gentiles. He was the so-called Christ. When Pilate, acting on information supplied by the chief men among us, condemned him to the cross, those who had attached themselves to him at first did not cease to cause trouble, and the tribe of Christians, which has taken this name from him is not extinct even today.

### Tacitus (Annals 166 AD)

- Therefore, to scotch the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits, and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men, loathed for their vices, whom the crowd styled Christians. Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilatus, and the pernicious superstition was checked for a moment, only to break out once more, not merely in Judaea, the home of the disease, but in the capital itself, where all things horrible or shameful in the world collect and find a vogue.

### Norm Geisler

- There s more evidence that the Bible is a reliable source than there is for any other book from the ancient world.

### Dr. Nelson Glueck

- "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical description has often led to amazing discoveries."

• Dr. Nelson Glueck, Rivers in the Desert, (New York: Farrar, Strous and Cudahy, 1959), 136.

### Dr. Joseph P. Free

- "Archaeology has confirmed countless passages which have been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contradictory to known facts.....Yet archaeological discoveries have shown that these critical charges.....are wrong and that the Bible is trustworthy in the very statements which have been set aside as untrustworthy..... We do not know of any cases where the Bible has been proved wrong."

• Dr. Joseph P. Free, Archaeology and Bible History. Scripture Press, Wheaton, IL, 1969, pg. 1

### Dr. William F. Albright

- "The reader may rest assured that nothing has been found [by archaeologists] to disturb a reasonable faith, and nothing has been discovered which can disprove a single theological doctrine. We no longer trouble ourselves with attempts to 'harmonize' religion and science, or to 'prove' the Bible. The Bible can stand for itself."

• Dr. William F. Albright, eminent archeologist who confirmed the authenticity of the Dead Sea Scrolls following their discovery

### Dr. Clifford Wilson

- "I know of no finding in archaeology that's properly confirmed which is in opposition to the Scriptures. The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen."

• Dr Clifford Wilson, formerly director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology

The Bible is unique in its production, preservation and proclamations, and it has changed history and changed lives more than any other book.

THE BIBLE IS  
TRUSTWORTHY

