

# FOUNDATIONS —OF OUR FAITH—

Wednesday Nights- Adult 3 Class  
July-August 2021

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class material for  
tonight using the QR  
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# FOUNDATIONS

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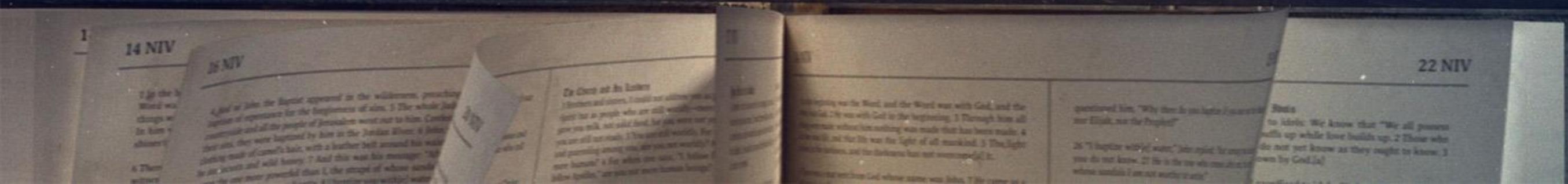
## Schedule

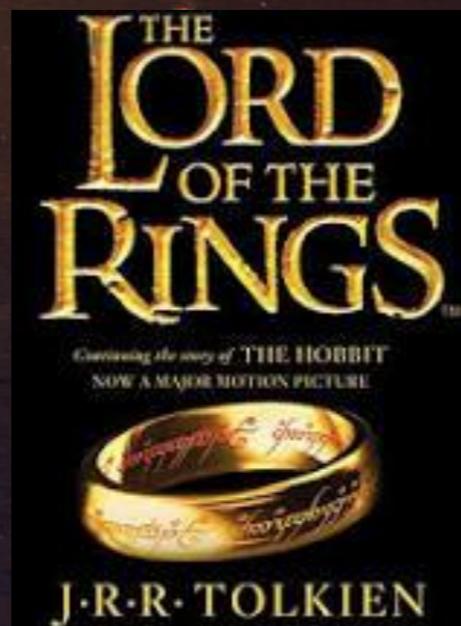
- *Big Picture Of The Bible*
- *I Can Trust My Bible*
- *Firmly Rooted*



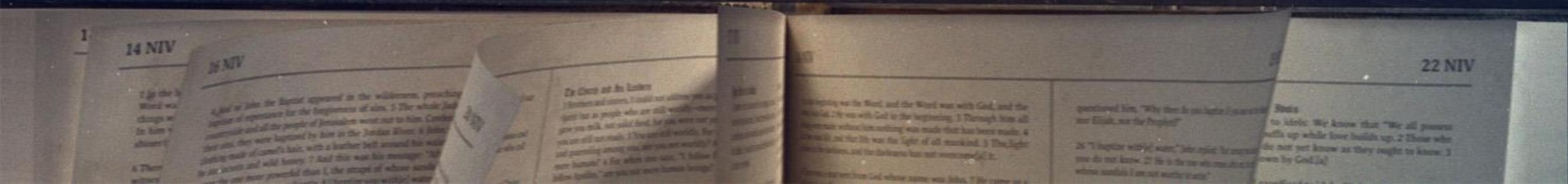


1. The Claims Of The Bible
2. The Unity Of The Bible
3. Manuscript Evidence
4. Historical Evidence
5. Literature Evidence
6. Prophecy Evidence
7. How The Books Were Chosen (Canon)





- Books written before the invention of the printing press in the 15th century were all written by hand.
- These are called manuscripts.
- For the most part all the originals or autographs have been lost so we rely upon manuscripts or copies of the originals.
- Since none of the original writings of the bible exist that we know of, it is important that the copies of the originals or manuscripts are analyzed or compared in order to reconstruct the text of the originals as accurately as possible.





stone



clay



leather

### Old Testament Written

(approx. 1500-400 BC)



papyrus

The oldest New Testament fragment (from John 18) that we have today was copied in Greek on a papyrus codex around AD 110-130.

### New Testament Written

(approx. AD 45-100)



Scrolls of leather, and later of papyrus, were used to make copies of the Scriptures.

A papyrus codex is a bound volume made from sheets folded and sewn together, sometimes with a cover. They were used more than scrolls after AD 1-100.



### Bible Copied on Papyrus

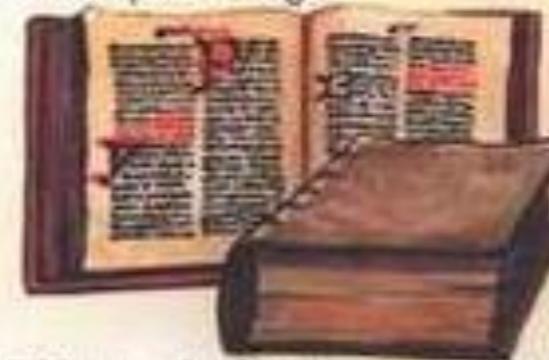


Fine quality animal skins from calves or antelope (vellum) and sheep or goats (parchment) were used for over 1000 years to make copies of the Bible approximately AD 300-1400.

Two of the oldest vellum copies (AD 325-350) that exist today are the Vatican Codex and the Sinaitic Codex.

### Bible Copied on Fine Animal Skins

Wycliffe Bibles were inscribed by hand on vellum in the 1300s-1400s. Some copies took ten months to two years to produce and cost a year's wage.



The Bible was the first book to be printed with Gutenberg's printing press in 1455.

### Bible Printed by Printing Press after 1455

# The Old Testament



# Testimony of Jesus

- Confirmed arrangement
  - **Luke 24:44** – “Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”
- Confirmed Chronology
  - **Luke 11:51a** – “From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah...”
- Quoted From 24 of 39 Books
- Confirmed Its Reliability
  - **Matt 5:17-18** – “<sup>17</sup>Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”
  - **John 10:35** – “...and the Scripture cannot be broken...”
  - **Matt 4:4, 7, 9** – “It is written...”

# Textual Transmission



The Aleppo Codex Deut. 4:38 — 6:3  
From J. Segall, *Travels through Northern Syria* (London 1910) 99

# Textual Transmission

- **Talmudists (100–500AD)**
  - Catalogued Hebrew civil & canonical law
  - Well known for their extraordinary discipline in transcribing Hebrew text



# Textual Transmission

- **Talmudist Rules:**
  - A synagogue roll must be written on the skins of clean animals
  - It must be prepared for the particular use of the synagogue by a Jew
  - These must be fastened together with strings taken from clean animals
  - **Every skin must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codex**
  - The length of each column must not extend over less than 48 or more than 60 lines; and the breadth must consist of thirty letters
  - The whole copy must be first-lined; and if three words be written without a line, it is worthless

# Textual Transmission

- **Talmudist Rules:**

- The ink should be black, neither red, green, nor any other color, and be prepared according to a definite recipe
- An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least deviate
- **No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him**
- Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene
- Between every new parashah (section) the breadth of nine consonants
- Between every book three lines

# Textual Transmission

- **Talmudist Rules:**
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line; the rest need not do so
  - The copyist must sit in full Jewish dress
  - He must wash his whole body
  - He must not begin to write the name of God ("YHWH") with a pen newly dipped in ink
  - Should a king address him while writing that name he must take no notice of him

# **Textual Transmission**

- **Other notes:**

- Any roll in which these regulations were not observed were condemned to be buried in the ground, burned, or banished to schools to be used for reading books
- When the Talmudist finished transcribing a manuscript, they were so convinced they had an exact duplicate that they would give the new copy equal authority
- If both were equally correct, the older manuscript was at a disadvantage because it was more liable to become defaced or damaged in the lapse of time. A damaged or imperfect copy was at once condemned as unfit for use

# Textual Transmission

- Massoretes (500–900AD)
  - Well-disciplined, treating the text with the greatest imaginable reverence
  - Devised a complicated system of safeguards against scribal slips



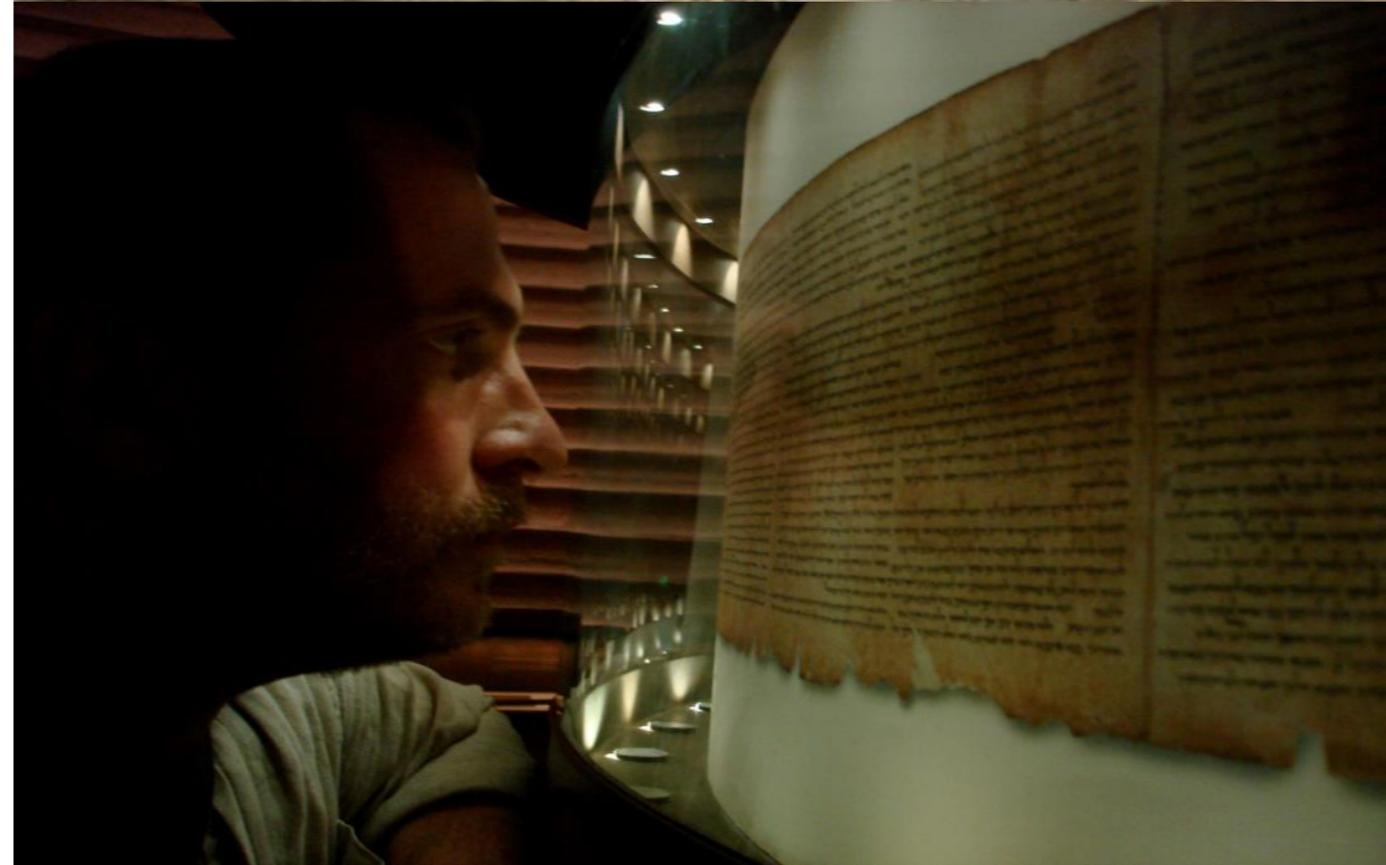
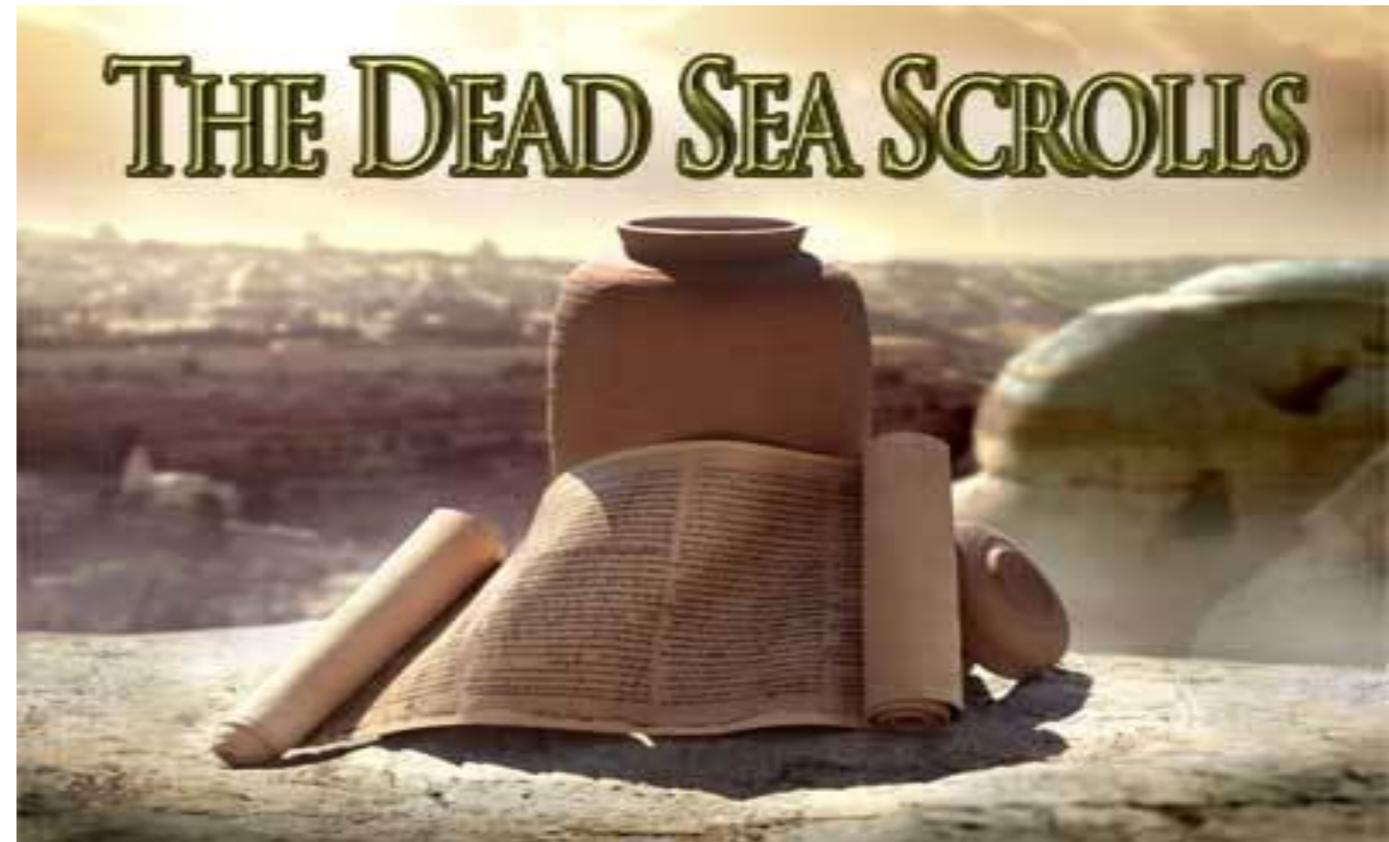
# **Textual Transmission**

- **Massoretes' Rules:**
  - Numbered verses, words, and letters of each individual book
  - Calculated the middle word and letter of each line
  - Enumerated verses which contained all the letters of the alphabet, or a certain number of them

# Archeology

- **Dead Sea Scrolls**

- Discovered OT manuscripts dating back to 400BC
- 1000 years older than previous known manuscripts
- 2 complete scrolls of Isaiah found (dated 125 BC)
- Proved Jewish transcribers credibility



**Verse****Dead Sea "Great  
Isaiah" Scroll (125  
B.C.)****Aleppo Codex  
(A.D. 930)****Modern  
Translation (NIV)****1**

Who has believed our report  
and the arm of YHWH (1) to  
whom has it been revealed?

Who would have believed  
our report? And to whom  
hath the arm of the LORD  
been revealed?

Who has believed our  
message and to whom has  
the arm of the LORD been  
revealed?

**2**

And he shall come up like a  
suckling before us and as a  
root from dry ground there is  
no form to him and no beauty  
to him and in his being seen  
and there is no appearance  
that we should desire him.

For he shot up right forth  
as a sapling, and as a root  
out of a dry ground; he  
had no form nor  
comeliness that we should  
look upon him, nor beauty  
that we should delight in  
him.

He grew up before him  
like a tender shoot, and  
like a root out of dry  
ground. He had no beauty  
or majesty to attract us to  
him, nothing in his  
appearance that we  
should desire him.

**3**

He is despised and rejected of  
men, a man of sorrows and  
knowing grief and as though  
hiding faces from him he was  
despised and we did not  
esteem him.

He was despised, and  
forsaken of men, a man of  
pains, and acquainted with  
disease, and as one from  
whom men hide their face:  
he was despised, and we  
esteemed him not.

He was despised and  
rejected by men, a man of  
sorrows, and familiar with  
suffering. Like one from  
whom men hide their  
faces he was despised,  
and we esteemed him not.

**4**

Surely our griefs he is bearing  
and our sorrows he carried  
them and we esteemed him  
beaten and struck by God and  
afflicted.

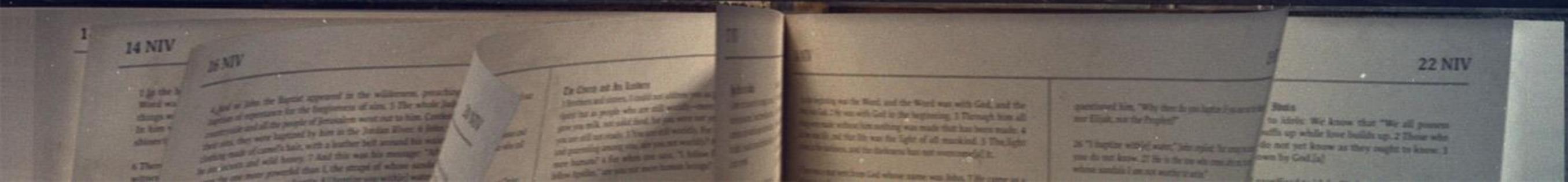
Surely our diseases he did  
bear, and our pains he  
carried; whereas we did  
esteem him stricken,  
smitten of God, and  
afflicted.

Surely he took up our  
infirmities and carried our  
sorrows, yet we  
considered him stricken  
by God, smitten by him,  
and afflicted.

Of the 166 words in Isaiah 53, there are only 17 letters in question. Ten of these letters are simply a matter of spelling, which does not affect the sense. Four more letters are minor stylistic changes, such as conjunctions. The remaining three letters comprise the word "light" which is added in verse 11, and does not affect the meaning greatly. Furthermore, this word is supported by the Septuagint and IQ Is [first cave of Qumran, Isaiah scroll]. Thus, in one chapter of 166 words, there is only one word (three letters) in question after a thousand years of transmission—and this word does not significantly change the meaning of the passage.

Norman & Nix. A General Introduction to the Bible.

- He would not be widely believed (John 1:10–12).
- He would not have the look of Majesty (Luke 2:7).
- He would be despised and suffer (Matthew 26:67–68; 27:39–43).
- He would be concerned about health needs (Matthew 8:17) and would die for our sins (1 Peter 2:24).
- His pain/punishment would be for us (Matthew 28:20; Romans 4:25).
- All of us have sinned (Romans 3:10–18).
- He would not respond to charges (Matthew 26:63).
- He was to be oppressed and killed (Matthew 26:65–68).
- He was associated with criminals during life and at death (Matthew 27:38; 27:57–60).
- He would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9).
- He would be crushed, suffer and die, yet live (Luke 23:44–48; Luke 24:36–44).
- He would bear our sins (1 Peter 2:24).
- He would have a portion with the great (Philippians 2:8–11).



# Archeology

## • Ebla Tablets

- 17,000 tablets discovered in 1974 in northern Syria
- Recorded laws, customs, events from same era as Abraham and Moses
- Proved written language existed at least a 1000 years before Moses
- Mentions biblical cities: Sodom, Zeboim, Admah, Hazor, Megiddo, Salem (Jerusalem), and Gaza



# Archeology

- **Hittites**

- Once radically claimed by critics to be a myth and infallible proof for the inaccuracy of the OT
- Archeology has now discovered over a 100 finds overlapping 1200 years of Hittite history
- In some universities, you can get a degree in Hittite History



# Archeology

- **Jericho**

- Excavation uncovered evidence that the walls fell outwardly
- A thick layer of soot was discovered at the site indicating that the city was destroyed by fire (**Josh 6:24**)
- Archaeologists found large amounts of grain. This is again consistent with the biblical account that the city was captured quickly

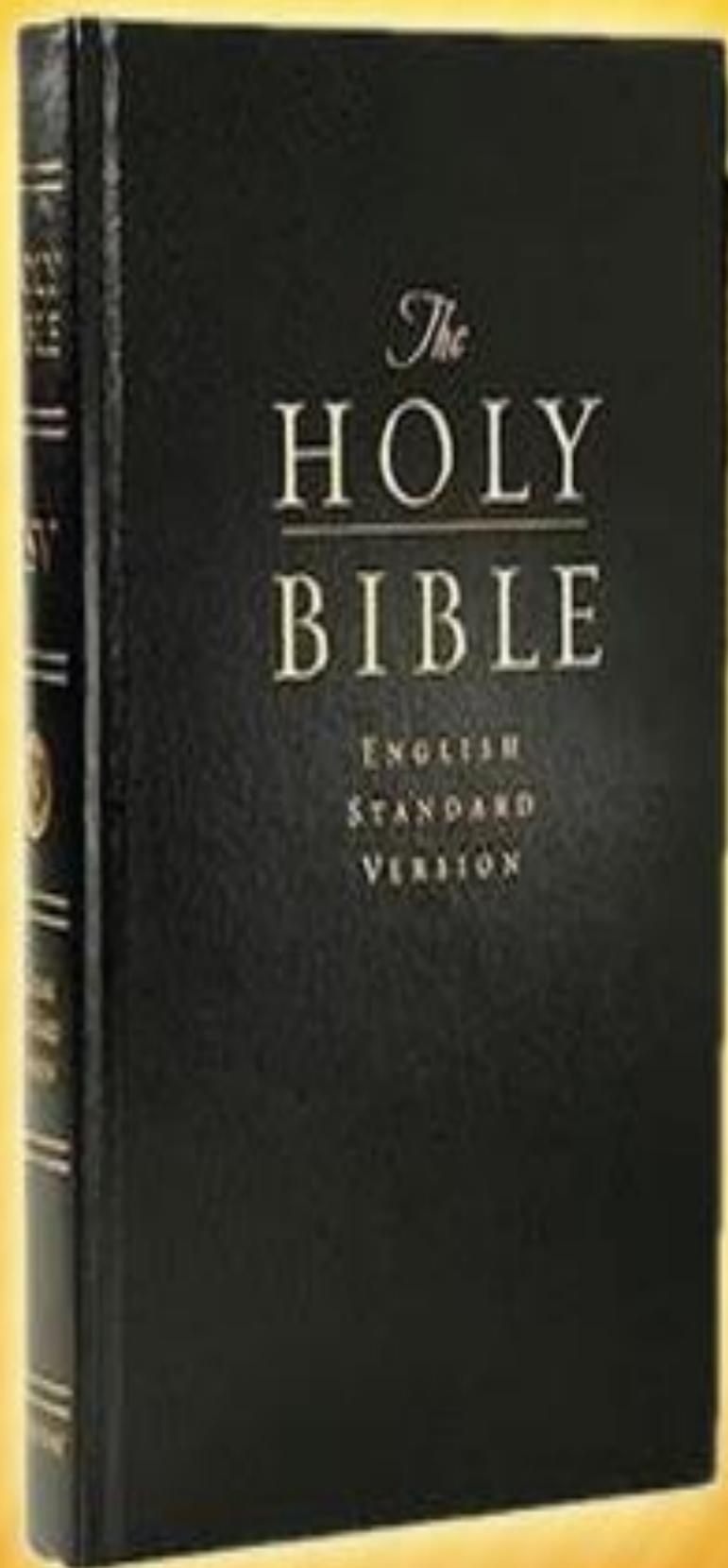


2 TIMOTHY 3:16

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

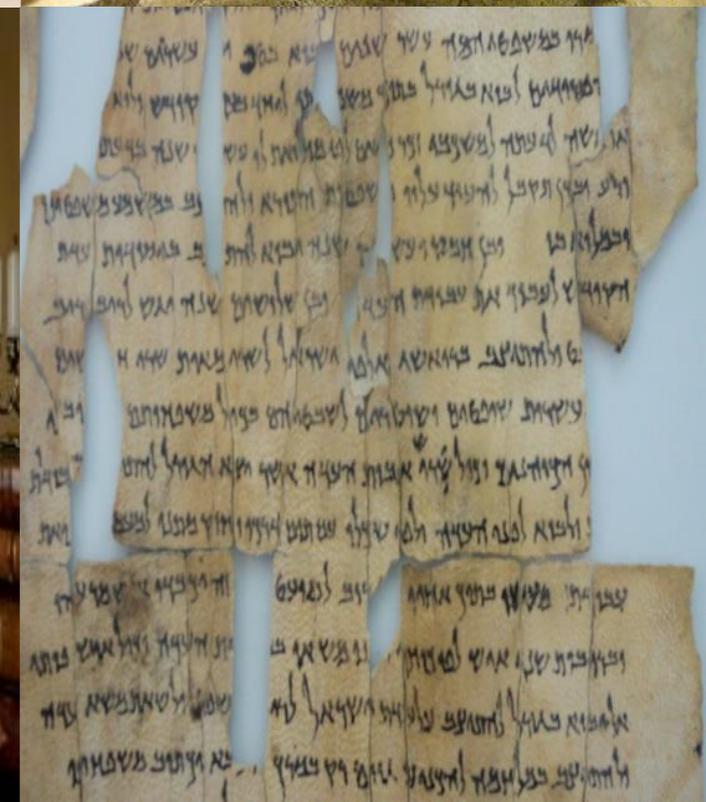
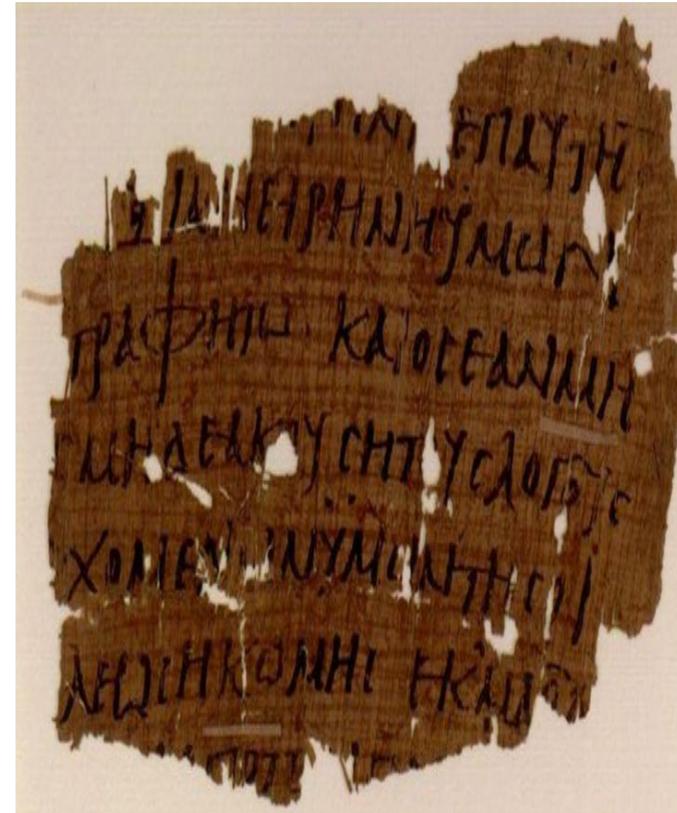
17 that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped

**IS THE  
NEW TESTAMENT  
RELIABLE?**



## • Critics concern

- We do not possess the original NT manuscripts
- Papyrus it was written on quickly wore out
- Had to be copied and recopied by hand
- How do we know that the NT we have today is close enough to the original writings so as to be equally reliable?



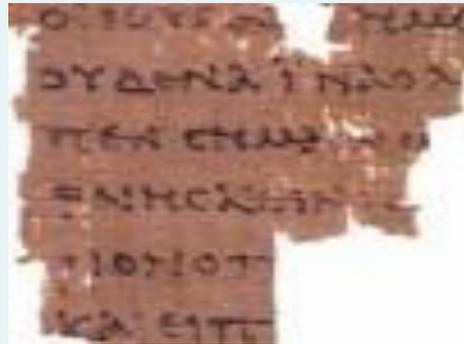
Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of copies
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	100–44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427–347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs.	7
Tacitus (Annals)	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	20
Pliny the Younger (History)	61–113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs.	7
Thucydides (History)	460–400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Suetonius (De Vita Caesarum)	75–160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs.	8
Herodotus (History)	480–425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,390 yrs.	8
Sophocles	496–406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	193
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
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs.	643
<b>New Testament</b>	<b>40–100 A.D.</b>	<b>125 A.D.</b>	<b>25 yrs.</b>	<b>over 24,000 (5,300 ancient Greek; 10,000 Latin Vulgate; over 9,300 other)</b>

- John Ryland's fragment of John's Gospel dates at approximately 125 AD



- **John 18:31-33** – “<sup>31</sup>So Pilate said to them, ‘Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law.’ The Jews said to him, ‘We are not permitted to put anyone to death,’ <sup>32</sup>to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die. <sup>33</sup>Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’”
- **John 18:37-38** – “<sup>37</sup>Therefore Pilate said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’”

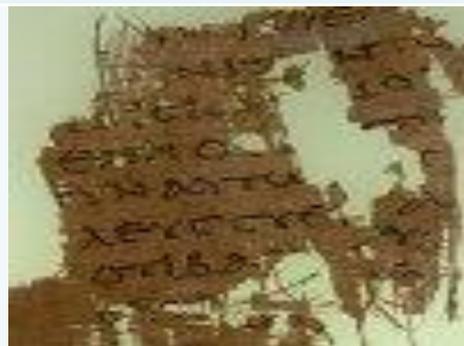
## 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD



P52 (Rylands)

100 – 150AD

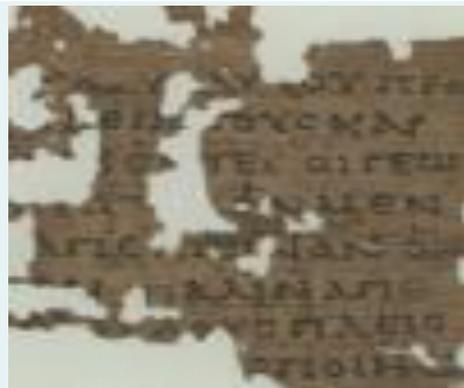
Jn 18:31-33, 37-38



P90 (Oxyrhynchus)

150 – 200AD

Jn 18:36-19:7



P104 (Oxyrhynchus)

150 – 200AD

Matt 21:34-37, 43, 45



P98 (IFAO)

150 – 200AD

Rev 1:13 - 2:1

## Late 2<sup>nd</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD



P4 (Coptos)

200AD

Luke 1-6



p64 & p67 (Magdalen)

200AD

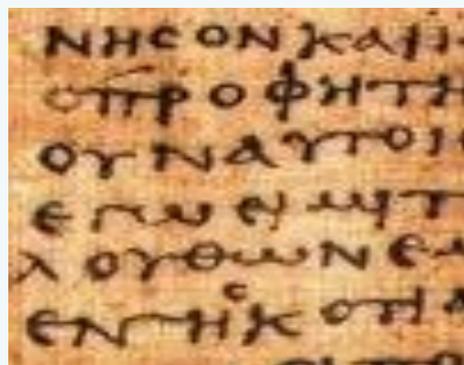
Matt 3, 5 & 26



P46 (Chester Beatty)

200AD

Most of Paul's epistles

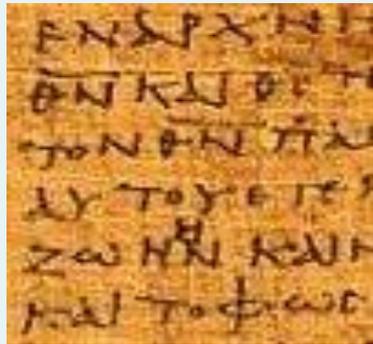


P66 (Bodmer)

200AD

most of John

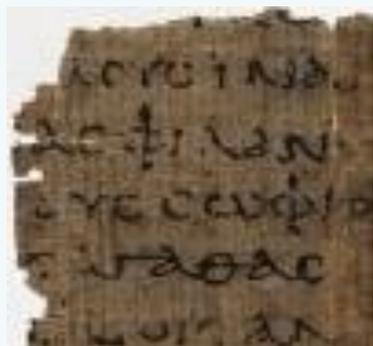
Late 2<sup>nd</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD



P75 (Bodmer)

200AD

most of Luke,  
half of John



P32 (Ryland's)

200AD

Tit 1:11-15; 2:3-8



p77 & 103

200AD

Matt 13:55-56,  
14:3-5, 23:30-39



Uncial 0189

200AD

Acts 5:3-21 (oldest  
manuscript written on  
parchment)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD



Uncial 0212

250AD

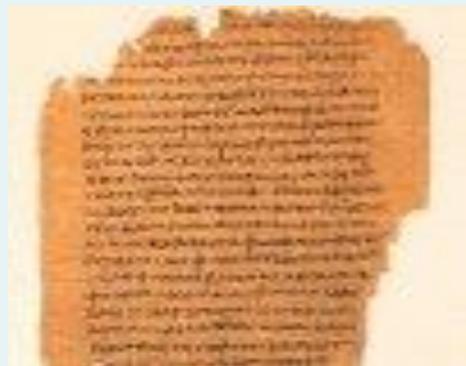
All 4 gospels



P45 (Chester Beatty)

250AD

large portions of all 4 gospels and Acts



P47 (Chester Beatty)

250AD

most of Rev 9:10-17:2



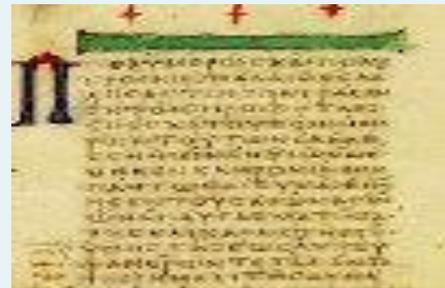
P72 (Bodmer)

300AD

1 & 2 Peter, Jude

# Bibliographical

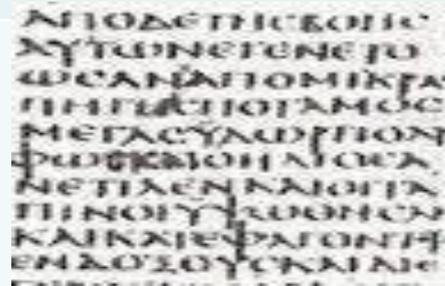
3<sup>rd</sup> century AD



Codex Vaticanus

325 – 350AD

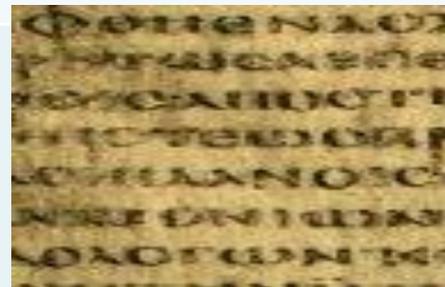
most of the Septuagint (Greek OT/Apocrypha) and most of the NT



Codex Sinaiticus

330 – 360AD

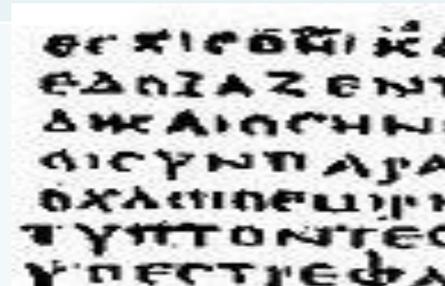
about half of the Septuagint and all of the NT



Codex Alexandrinus

400 – 440AD

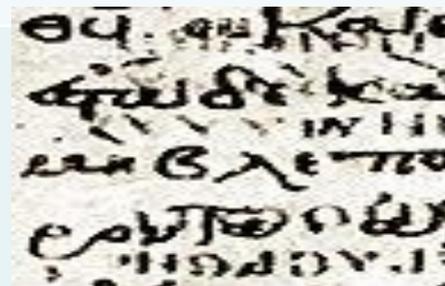
most of the Septuagint and all of the NT



Codex Bezae

400AD

most of the Gospels & Acts



Codex Ephraemi

450AD

some of the Septuagint and much of the NT

# Bibliographical

- **How accurate?**

**99.5%**



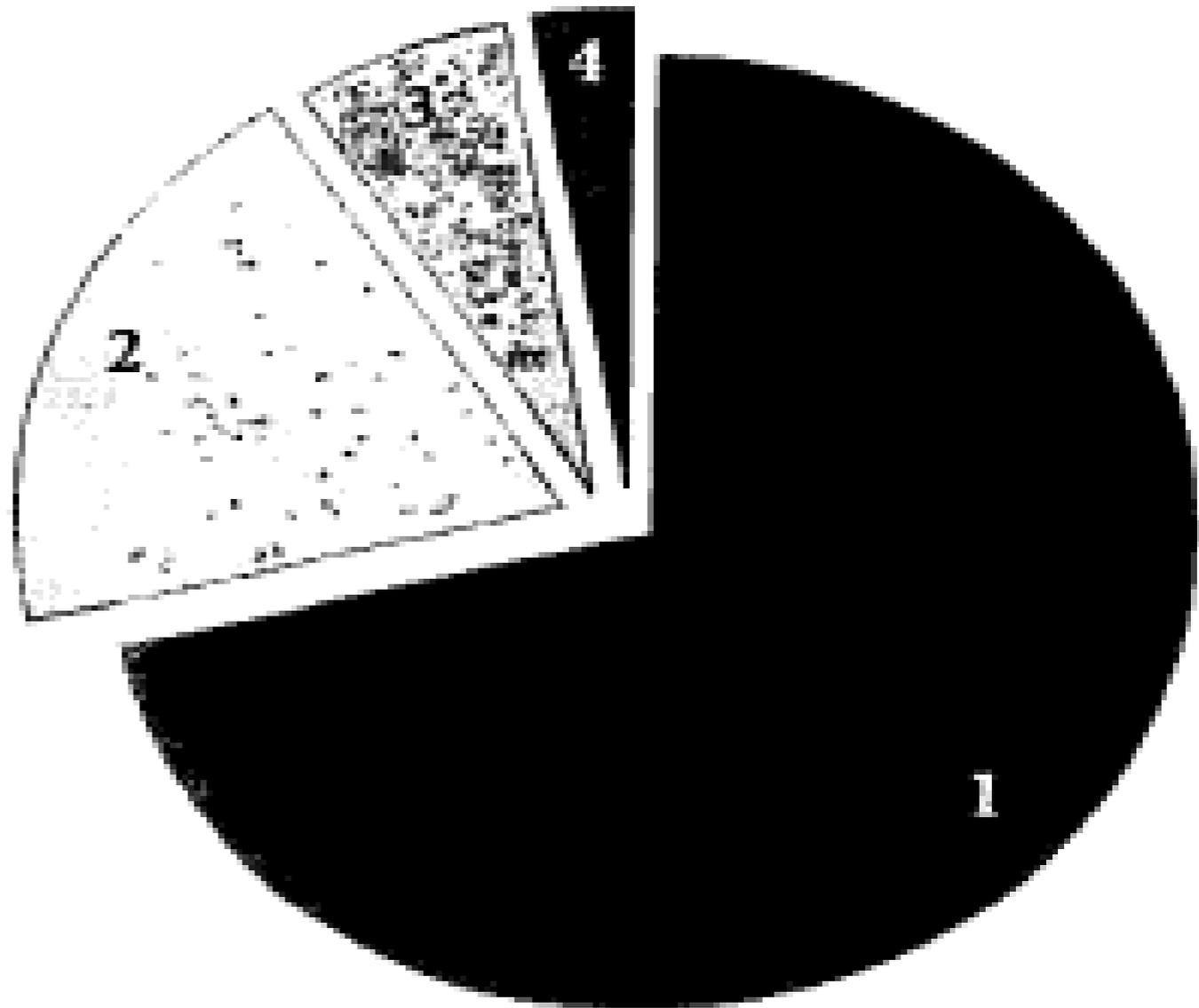
# Bibliographical

## 1. Misspellings/Nonsense

- **1 Thes 2:7** – “We were gentle (Gk. ‘ēpioi’) among you” vs. “We were horses (Gk. ‘hippoi’) among you”

## 2. Minor Changes/Word Order

- King Herod vs. Herod the King
- “The Son of God” vs. “The only Son of God”



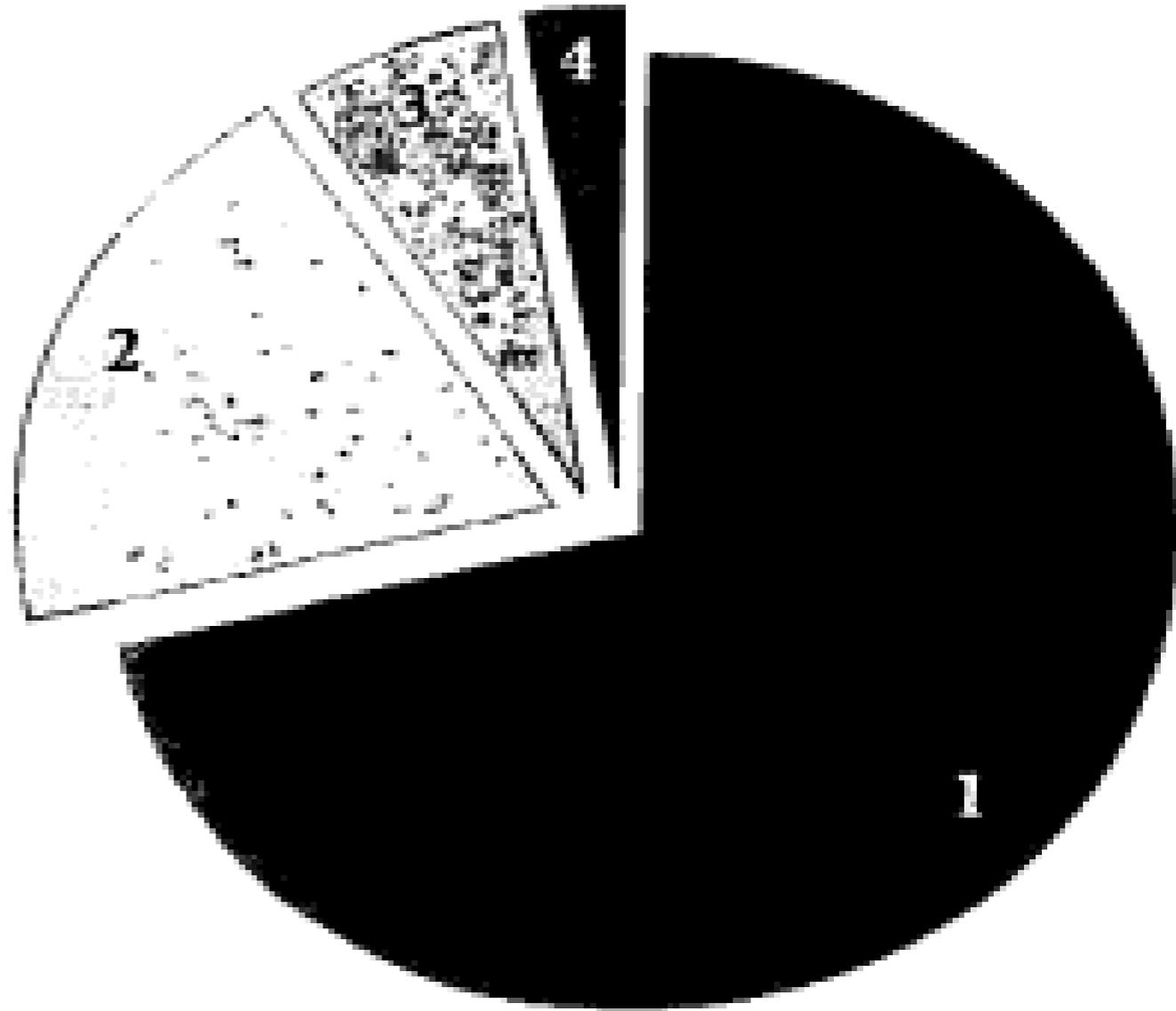
# Bibliographical

## 3. Meaningful changes not viable

- **1 Thes 2:9** – “The gospel of God” vs. “The gospel of Christ”

## 4. Meaningful & viable changes

- **Rom 5:1** – “We have peace” (Gk. ‘echomen’) vs. “Let us have peace” (Gk. ‘echōmen’)
- **Mark 16:9-20 & John 7:53-8:11**



# Bibliographical

## EARLY CHURCH FATHER'S REFERENCES TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

WRITER	GOSPELS	ACTS	PAULINE EPISTLES	GENERAL EPISTLES	REVELATION	TOTALS
JUSTIN MARTYR	268	10	43	6	3 (266 allusions)	330
IRENÆUS	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA	1,017	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
ORIGEN	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
TERTULLIAN	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
HIPPOLYTUS	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
EUSEBIUS	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
GRAND TOTALS	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

# Bibliographical

- **What can we conclude?**

- Not enough time elapsed between when Jesus spoke and when His words were recorded to allow misrepresentation or development of legendary material about Him
- Not enough time has elapsed between the original and existing ancient manuscripts to allow significant transmission errors or tampering

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text. Overlaid on the center of the book is the text 'You can trust the NEW TESTAMENT'. The words 'You can trust the' are in a smaller, italicized font, while 'NEW TESTAMENT' is in a very large, bold, white font with a black outline.

*You can trust the*  
**NEW TESTAMENT**