



The Reliability of the Bible

Can we trust that the scriptures are the word of God?

The Original Source

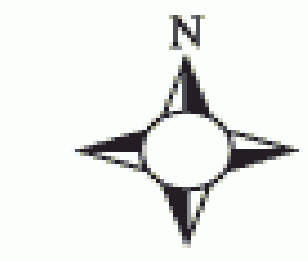
The Source is Reliable



The New Testament World

in the Time of the Roman Empire

0 Miles 300



ἐν Χριστῷ In Christ.

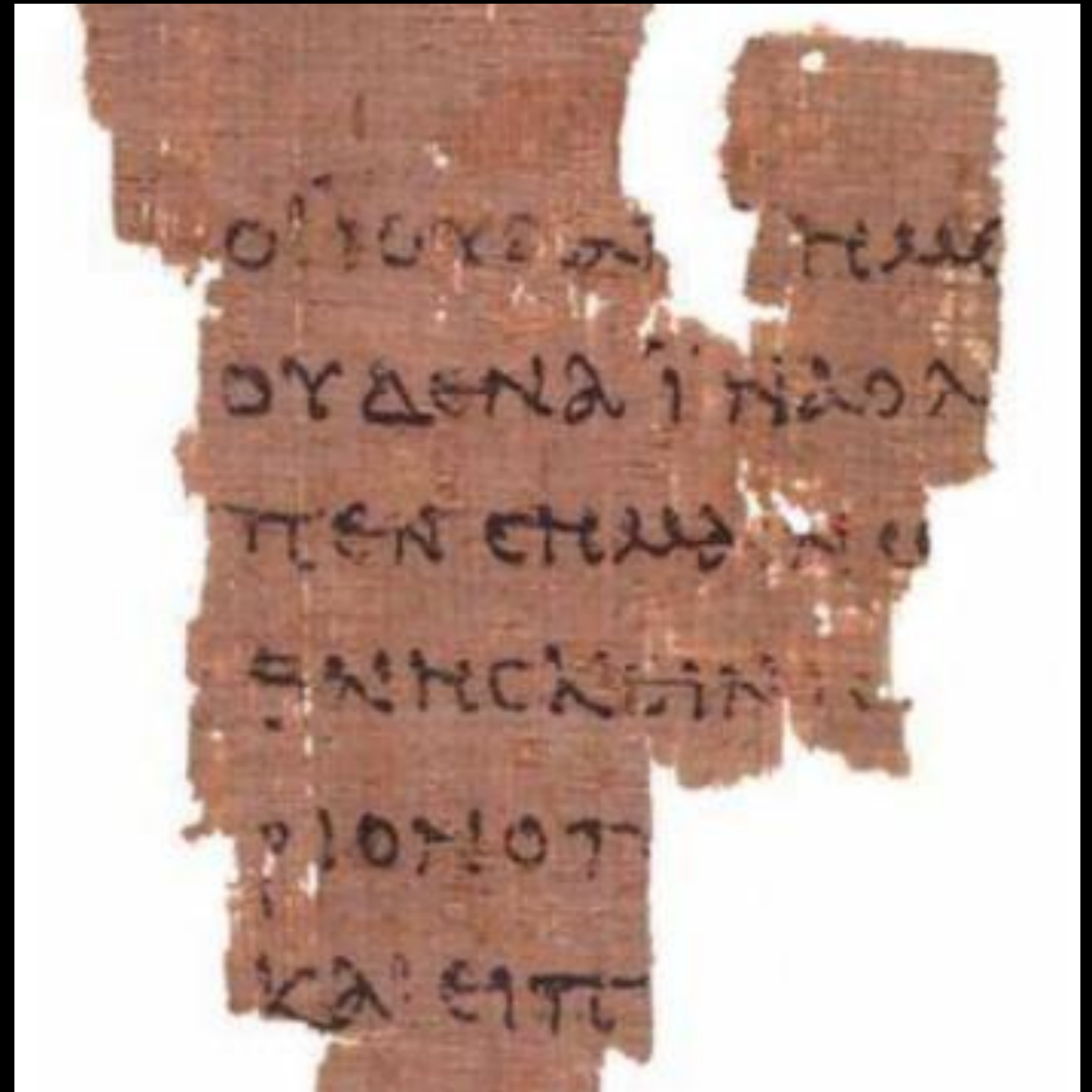
There is no other gospel.



Trust the Source

Do we have any idea what was originally written?

- Authorship
- The reliability GAP
- The oldest OT manuscripts
- The oldest NT manuscripts
- What about all the other books that got left out?
- What the sources of the bible do for our trust in the reliability of the scriptures.



Authorship

Rule of Canon

- Apostolic Origin
- Recognition by the Early Church
- Apostolic Content



Reliability Gap

How much time?

- Definition
- Ancient examples
- New Testament Examples
- What this means for trusting in the accuracy of your Bible.



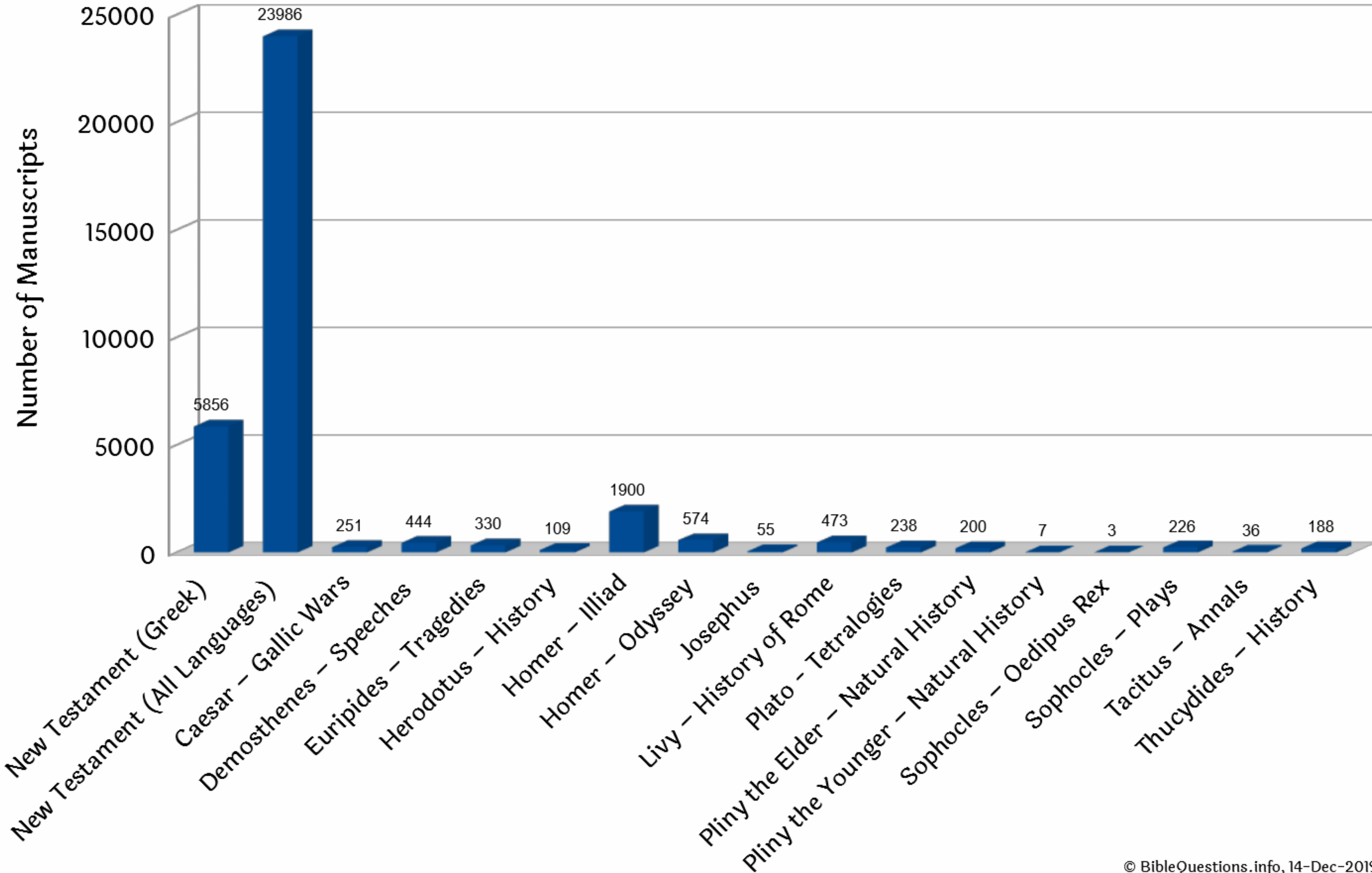
1 AD

200 AD

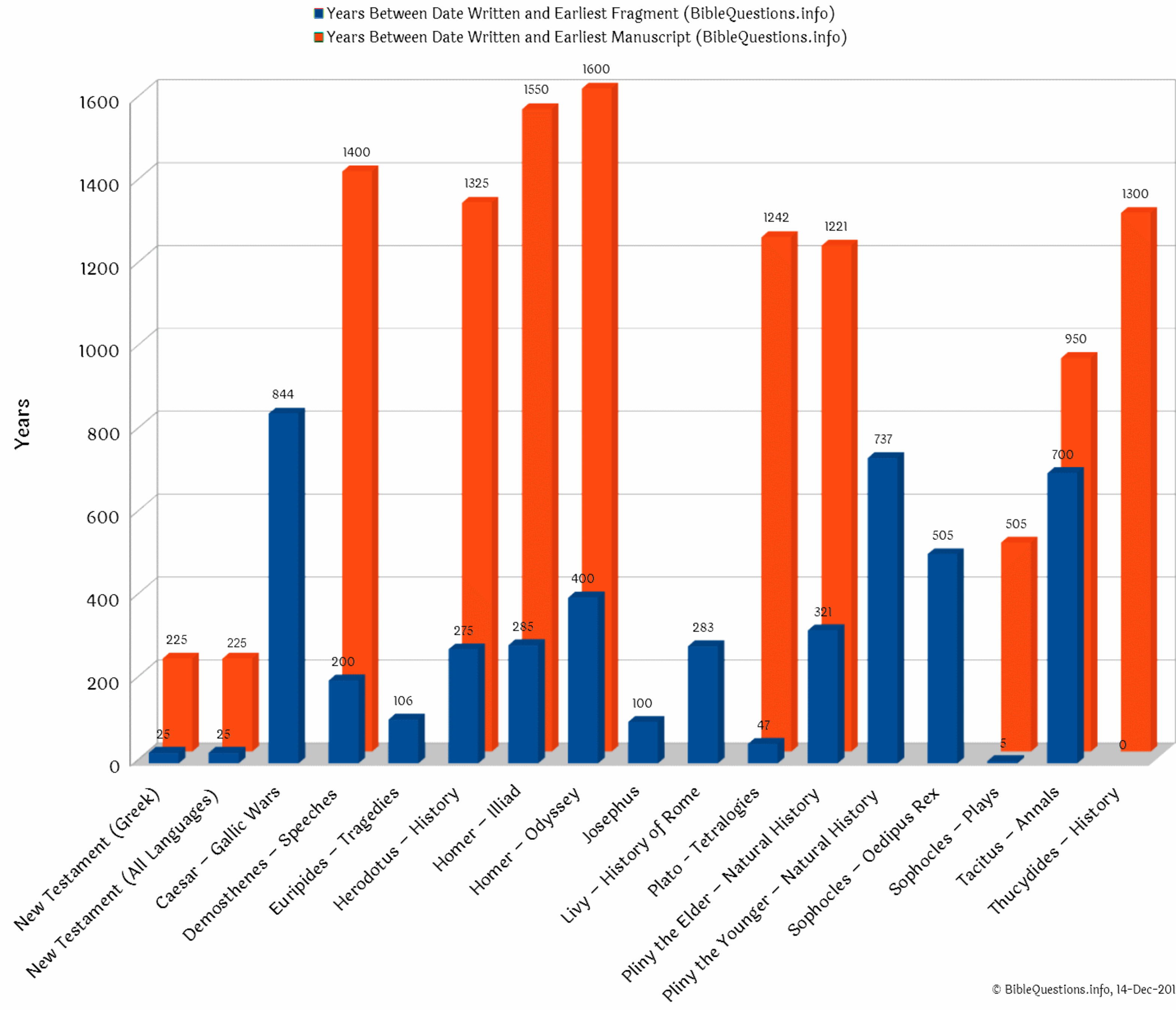
200 AD

900 AD

Number of Manuscripts for Ancient Works



Years Between Date Written and Earliest Fragment or Manuscript



Oldest OT Manuscripts

- [Codex Cairensis](#)

- [Nash Papyrus](#)

- [Dead Sea Scrolls](#)









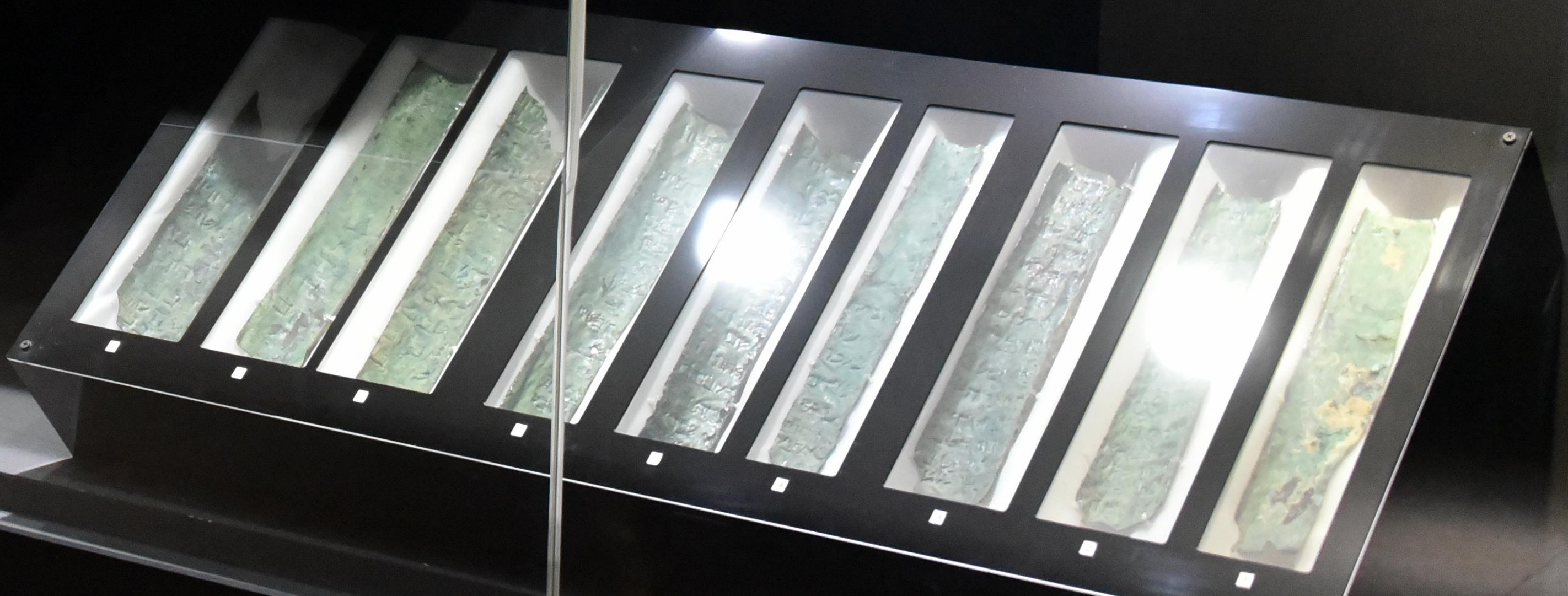
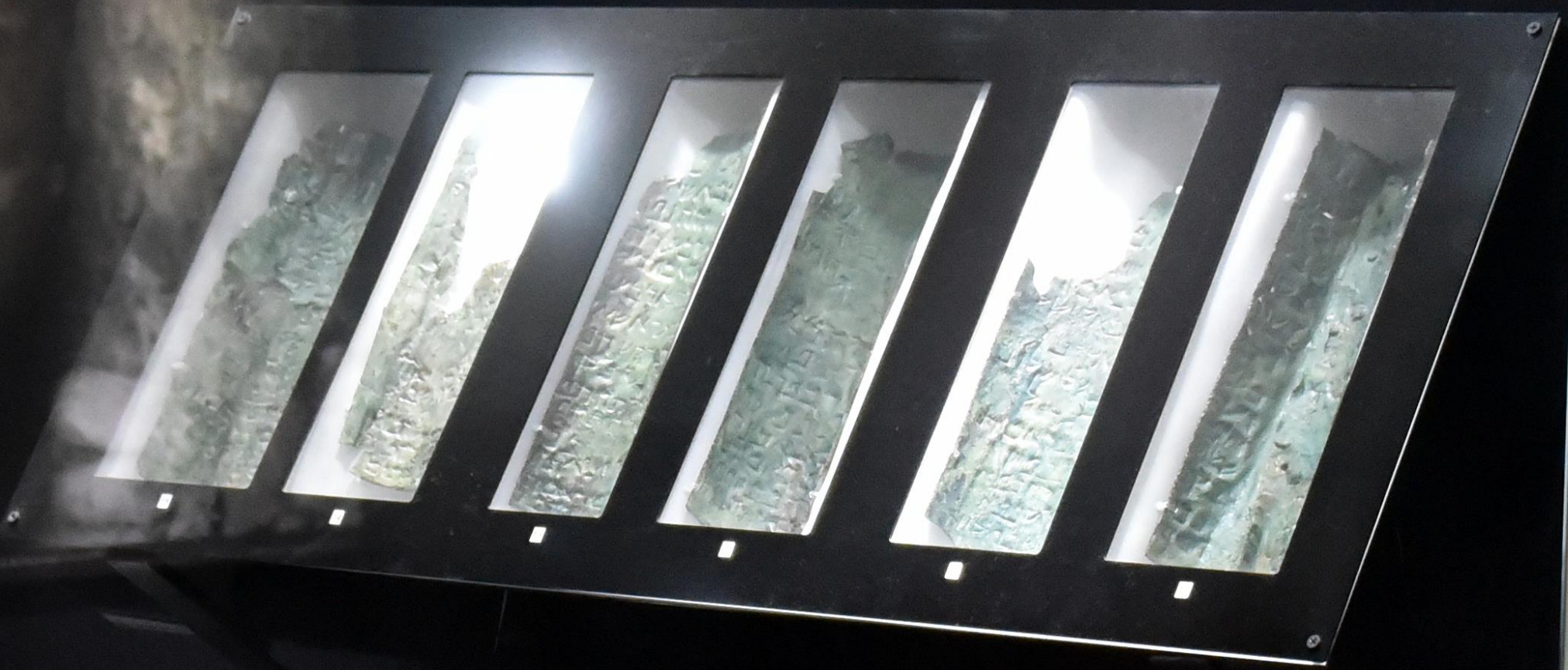
1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.



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Informational text panel on the left wall, bottom section.



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Informational text panel on the right wall, top section.

Informational text panel on the right wall, bottom section.

Oldest NT Manuscripts

Papyrus fragments

- P90 and P104
- P98
- P52
- What this means for trusting in the reliability of your Bible.
 - [Original Languages](#)



What about all the other books that got left out?

- What is the OT Apocrypha?

WHO ACCEPTS THE APOCRYPHA?

CRAIG EVANS, NONCANONICAL WRITINGS AND NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION
(PEABODY, MA: HENDRICKSON PUBLISHERS, 1992), 189.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

TOBIT
JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON

1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES

GREEK ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS

TOBIT
JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH
1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES
3 MACCABEES
4 MACCABEES
PSALM 151

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS

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WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
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LETTER OF JEREMIAH
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LETTER OF JEREMIAH
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SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH
1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES
3 MACCABEES

PSALM 151

What about all the other books that got left out?

- What are the NT Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha writings?

N.T. Apocrypha

New Testament Apocryphal Books	
1. <i>Epistle of Pseudo-Barnabas</i>	c. 70-79
2. <i>Epistle to the Corinthians</i>	c. 96
3. <i>Ancient Homily</i>	c. 120-140
4. <i>Shepherd of Hermas</i>	c. 115-140
5. <i>Didache, Teaching of the Twelve</i>	c. 100-120
6. <i>Apocalypse of Peter</i>	c. 150
7. <i>The Acts of Paul and Thecla</i>	170
8. <i>Epistle to the Laodiceans</i>	fourth century?
9. <i>The Gospel According to the Hebrews</i>	65-100
10. <i>Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians</i>	c. 108
11. <i>The Seven Epistles of Ignatius</i>	c. 110

Geisler,
Norman
L. and
William E.
Nix. A
General
Introducti
on to the
Bible. p.
202-205.

N.T. Pseudepigrapha

ACTS

1. *The Acts of Peter* (second century), contains legend that Peter was crucified upside down.
2. *The Acts of John* (second century), ascetic, Docetic and Gnostic influences.
3. *The Acts of Andrew* (?), story of imprisonment and death of Andrew, Gnostic and ascetic.
4. *The Acts of Thomas* (?), deeds and martyrdom of Thomas who went to India.
- 5-8. *The Acts of Paul; The Acts of Matthias; The Acts of Philip; The Acts of Thaddaeus*; etc.

Source:
Geisler,
Norman L.
and William
E. Nix. A
General
Introduction
to the Bible.
p. 200-201.



- Was something nefarious going on with the canonization of the bible?

[illegible]

What the sources of the Bible do for our trust in the reliability of the Scriptures.

1. The sources indicate something miraculous is going on.
2. The claims concerning a coverup or diabolical canonization are just conspiracies and are designed to lure you away.
3. We can trust that the Bible is God's word.



The Transmission

The Ancient Copying of the Bible is Trustworthy

Did someone change what was written?

• What is transmission?

• What is a variant? (Poor transcription)

• Thank God for the monks.

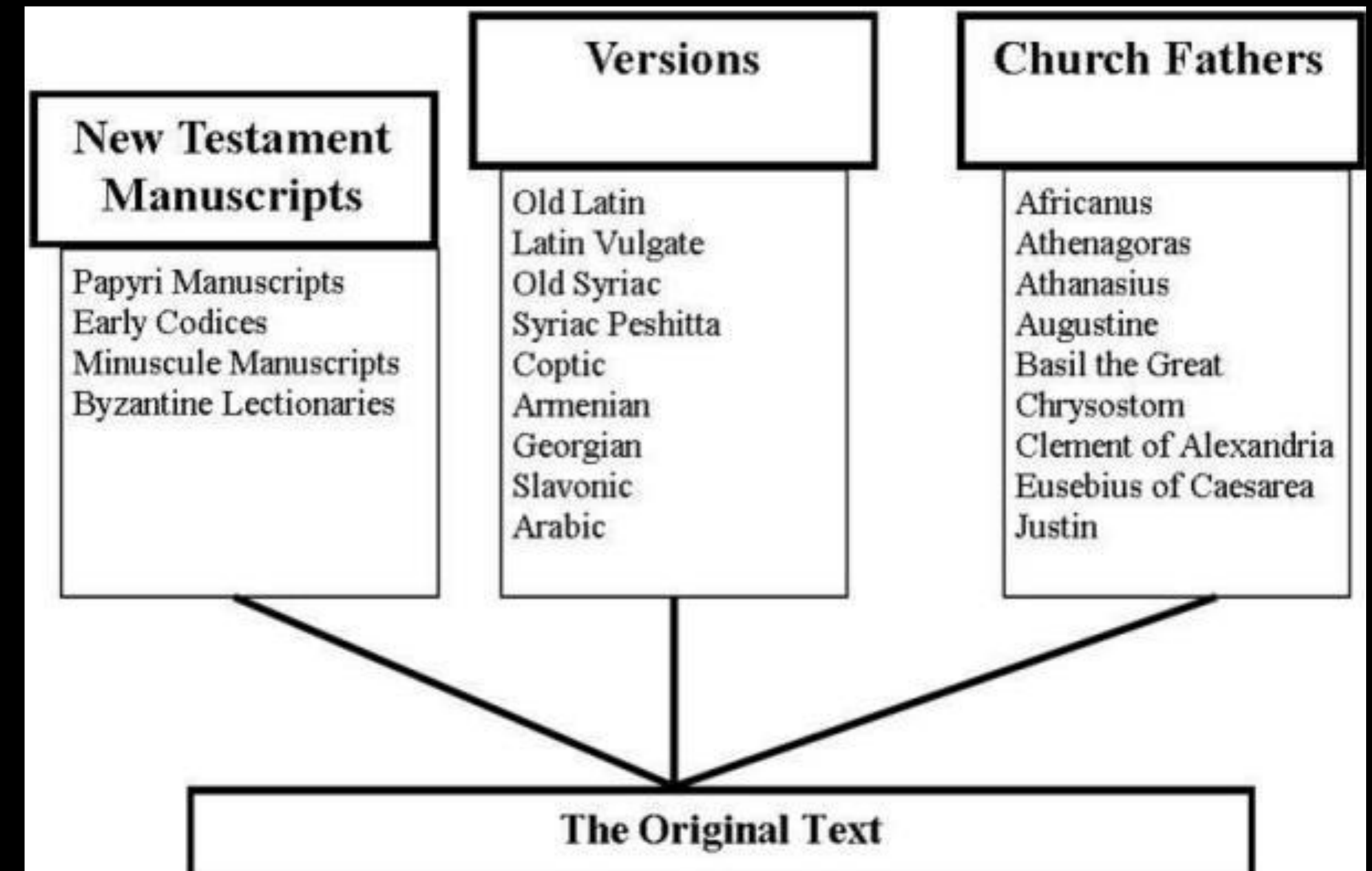
• The importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for trusting in the transmission of the OT.

• [Go online and see for yourself.](#)



What is Transmission?

- Definition
- What is textual criticism?



1st
generation

RYSS # 1

original

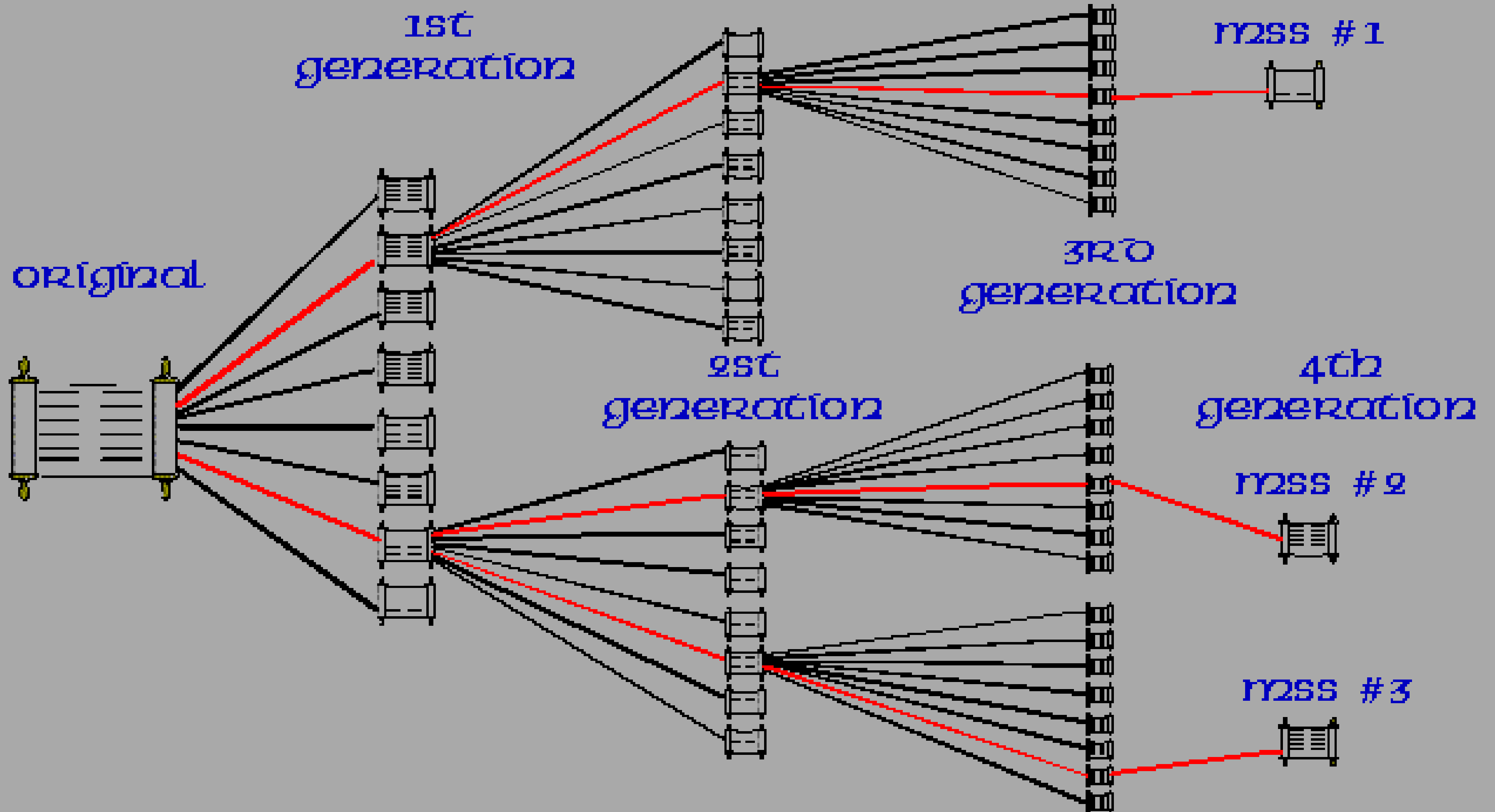
3rd
generation

2nd
generation

4th
generation

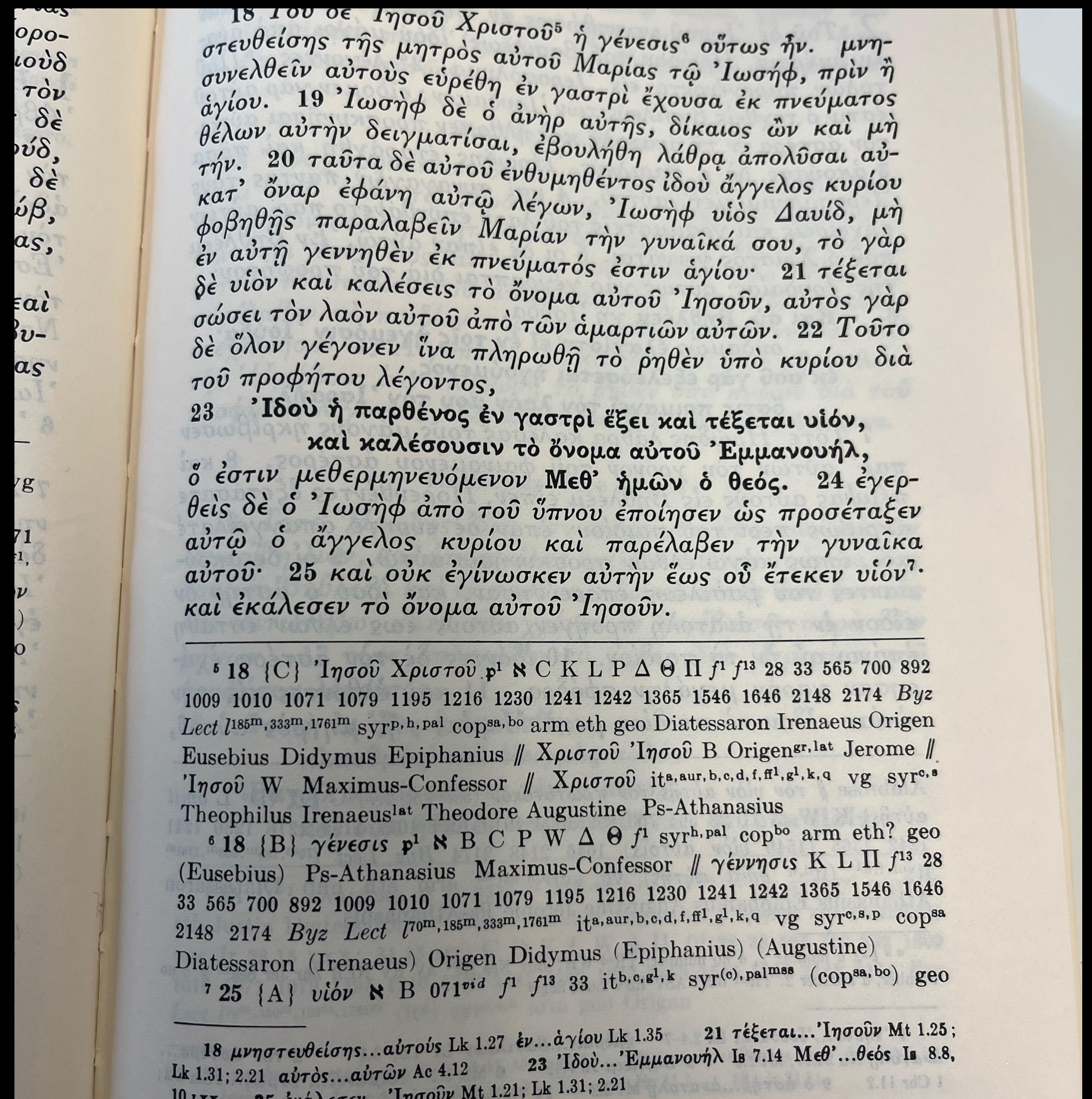
RYSS # 2

RYSS # 3



What is a Variant?

- Example of a Variant Map
- Example from the Greek text



The Birth of Jesus Christ
(Lk 2.1-7)

18 Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ⁵ ἡ γένεσις⁶ οὕτως ἦν. μνη-
στευθείσης τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῇ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἢ
συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὐρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ πνεύματος
ἁγίου. 19 Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὢν καὶ μὴ
θέλων αὐτὴν δειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρα ἀπολῦσαι αὐ-
τήν. 20 ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου
κατ' ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων, Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαβὶδ, μὴ
φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαρίαν τὴν γυναῖκά σου, τὸ γὰρ
ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου. 21 τέξεται
δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν, αὐτὸς γὰρ
σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. 22 Τοῦτο
δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ κυρίου διὰ
τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος,
23 Ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν,
καὶ καλέσουσιν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ,
ὃ ἐστὶν μεθερμηνευόμενον Μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ θεός. 24 ἐγερ-
θεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν
αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβεν τὴν γυναῖκα
αὐτοῦ. 25 καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτὴν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκεν υἱόν⁷.
καὶ ἐκάλεσεν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

⁵ 18 {C} Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ p¹ N C K L P Δ Θ Π f¹ f¹³ 28 33 565 700 892
1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1216 1230 1241 1242 1365 1546 1646 2148 2174 Byz
Lect l^{185m, 333m, 1761m} syr^{p, h, pal} cop^{sa, bo} arm eth geo Diatessaron Irenaeus Origen
Eusebius Didymus Epiphanius // Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ B Origen^{gr, lat} Jerome //
Ἰησοῦ W Maximus-Confessor // Χριστοῦ it^{a, aur, b, c, d, f, ff¹, g¹, k, q} vg syr^{c, s}
Theophilus Irenaeus^{lat} Theodore Augustine Ps-Athanasius

⁶ 18 {B} γένεσις p¹ N B C P W Δ Θ f¹ syr^{h, pal} cop^{bo} arm eth? geo
(Eusebius) Ps-Athanasius Maximus-Confessor // γέννησις K L Π f¹³ 28
33 565 700 892 1009 1010 1071 1079 1195 1216 1230 1241 1242 1365 1546 1646
2148 2174 Byz Lect l^{70m, 185m, 333m, 1761m} it^{a, aur, b, c, d, f, ff¹, g¹, k, q} vg syr^{c, s, p} cop^{sa}
Diatessaron (Irenaeus) Origen Didymus (Epiphanius) (Augustine)

⁷ 25 {A} υἱόν N B 071^{vid} f¹ f¹³ 33 it^{b, c, g¹, k} syr^{(o), pal^{msa}} (cop^{sa, bo}) geo
18 μνηστευθείσης...αὐτοῦς Lk 1.27 ἐν...ἀγίου Lk 1.35 21 τέξεται...Ἰησοῦν Mt 1.25;
Lk 1.31; 2.21 αὐτὸς...αὐτῶν Ac 4.12 23 Ἰδοὺ...Ἐμμανουήλ Is 7.14 Μεθ'...θεός Is 8.8,
10 Lxx 25 ἐκάλεσεν...Ἰησοῦν Mt 1.21; Lk 1.31; 2.21

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Eusebius Didymus Epiphanius // Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ B Origen^{gr, lat} Jerome //
Ἰησοῦ W Maximus-Confessor // Χριστοῦ it^{a, aur, b, c, d, f, ff¹, g¹, k, q} vg syr^{c, s}
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Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone's joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted.

4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. 5 But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, "The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses."

6 So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. 7 At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: "Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. 8 God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. 10 So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers* with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? 11 We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus."[†]

12 Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

13 When they had finished, James stood and said, "Brothers, listen to me. 14 Peter* has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. 15 And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

16 'Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house* of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it,

17 so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD, including the Gentiles—all those I have called to be mine. The LORD has spoken—

18 he who made these things known so long ago."^{††}

19 "And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. 21 For

15:10 Greek disciples. 15:14 Greek Simeon. 15:16 Or kingdom; Greek reads tent. 15:16-18 Amos 9:11-12 (Greek version); Isa 45:21. 15:22 Greek were leaders among the brothers. 15:33 Some manuscripts add verse 34, But Silas decided to stay there.

these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations."[†]

The Letter for Gentile Believers
22 Then the apostles and elders together with the whole church in Jerusalem chose delegates, and they sent them to Antioch of Syria with Paul and Barnabas to report on this decision. The men chosen were two of the church leaders*—Judas (also called Barsabbas) and Silas. 23 This is the letter they took with them:

"This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem. It is written to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings!

24 "We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them!

25 So we decided, having come to complete agreement, to send you official representatives, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question.

28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: 29 You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell."

30 The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting of the believers and delivered the letter. 31 And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message.

32 Then Judas and Silas, both being prophets, spoke at length to the believers, encouraging and strengthening their faith. 33 They stayed for a while, and then the believers sent them back to the church in Jerusalem with a blessing of peace.*

35 Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. They and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord there.[†]

Paul and Barnabas Separate

36 After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing." 37 Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. 38 But Paul dis-

agreed strongly with them in that sharp with Mark, and a the Lord's throughout churches

Paul's Sec

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Acts 8:4

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¹⁶ 'Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house* of David.

I will rebuild its ruins and restore it,

¹⁷ so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD,

including the Gentiles—

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The LORD has spoken—

¹⁸ he who made these things known so long ago.*†

Isa 45:21

¹⁹ "And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. ²¹ For

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love
you are my disciples

36 Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?"

And Jesus replied, "You can't go with me now, but you will follow me later." †

37 "But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you."

38 Jesus answered, "Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter—before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me. †

Matt 26:33-35

Jesus, the Way to the Father

14 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home.* If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going

13:21 Greek was troubled in his spirit. 13:23 Greek was reclining on Jesus' bosom. The "disciple Jesus loved" was probably John. 13:31 "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 13:32 Several early manuscripts do not include And since God receives glory because of the Son. 14:2a Or There are many rooms in my Father's house. 14:2b Or If this were not so, I would have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you. Some manuscripts read If this were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. 14:7 Some manuscripts read If you have really known me, you will know who my Father is. 14:15 Other manuscripts read you will obey; still others read you should obey. 14:16 Or Comforter, or Encourager, or Counselor. Greek reads Paraclete; also in 14:26. 14:17 Some manuscripts read and is in you.

Lev 19:18

2 Pet 1:14

15 "If you love me, obey* my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,* who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.* ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. † ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."

²² Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, "Lord, why are you

How does Transmission study help us?

- Inspired and without error as originally given
- Trustworthy as copied and passed on
- Miraculous to be so accurate

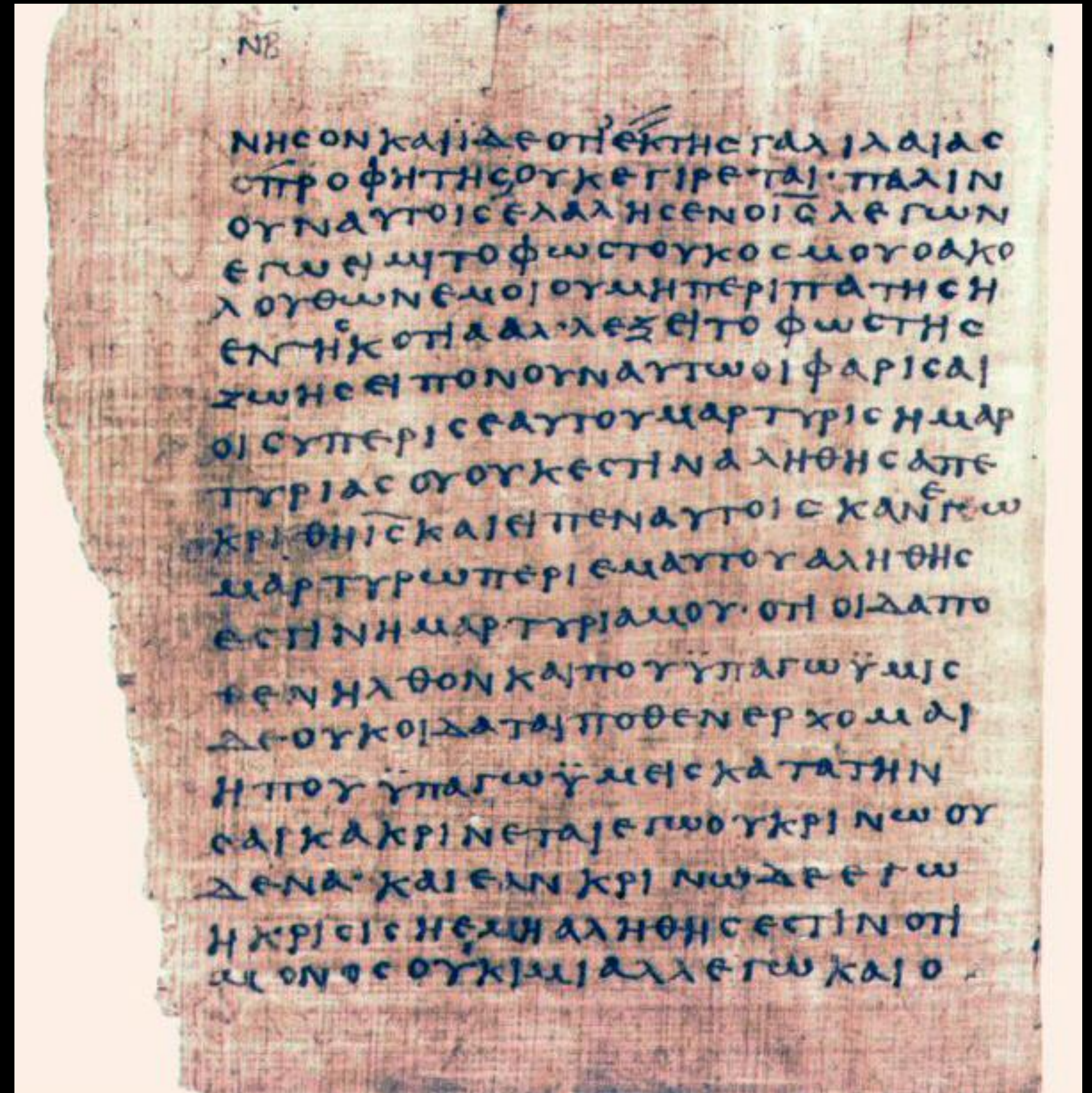
The Translation

Putting Ancient Documents into the Languages of Today

Trust the Translation

Was it just lost in translation?

- The written languages of the bible.
- The Bible Jesus read.
- The earliest translations of the New Testament.
- The Latin texts.
- The English translations.
- Modern translations.



Old Testament

Hebrew and Aramaic

Biblical, or Classical Hebrew

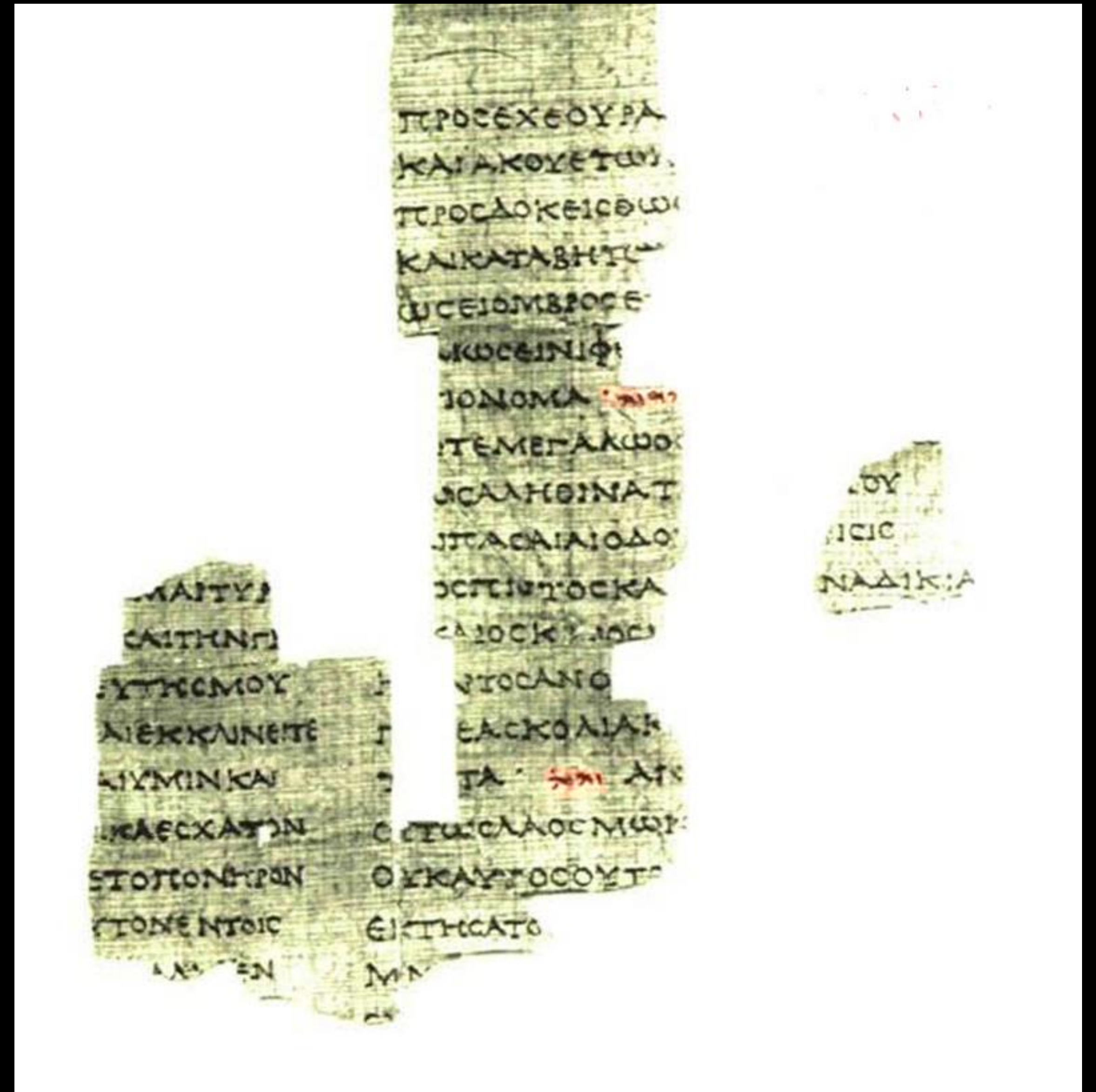
Aramaic



New Testament

Koine Greek

- Not the same as Classical Greek
- Developed from various Greek dialects and became the “Common” language.
- Used by Alexander the Great and required of conquered nations.
- Septuagint was the first translation of the OT into Greek.



Translations of the New Testament

- Latin Vetus Latina
- Latin Vulgate
- 500AD
- Wycliffe
- Guttenberg
- Tyndale
- King James
- Modern Translations



The Translation Spectrum

- Formal
- Functional
- Free



What's the Issue?

- These are dead languages. How can we know what the original words mean?
- In translating, can you capture the true meaning as originally written?
 - Poetry
 - Nuance
 - Word plays
 - Culture in mind
 - Audience in mind

How Does Translating Help Us?

- A good translation helps us understand what is written (or heard)
- The Bible connects deeply when it is read in our heart language
- The Bible is one of the primary ways we encounter God.