

ONE WORD.
MANY TRANSLATIONS.
• ONE TRUTH •

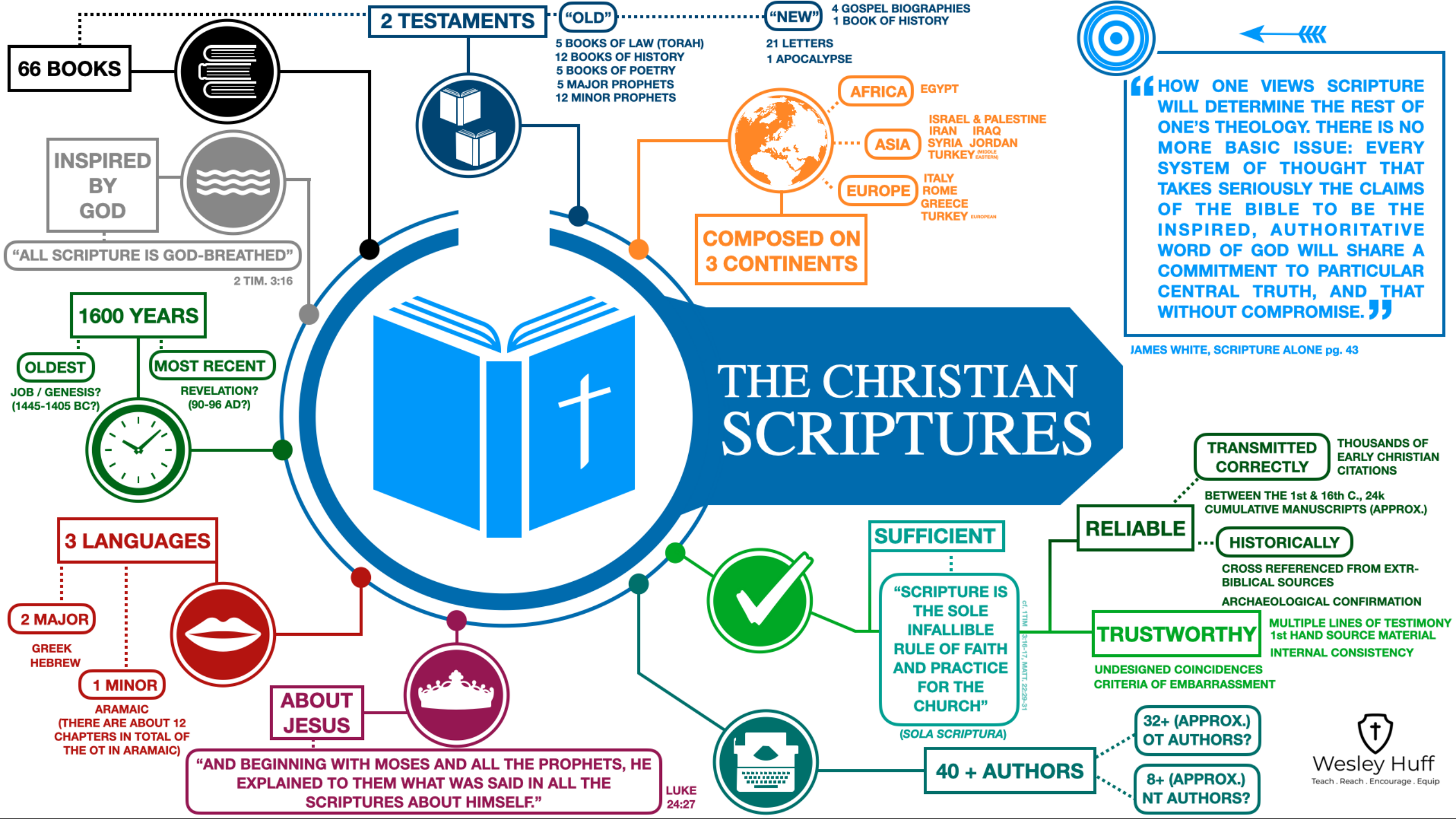


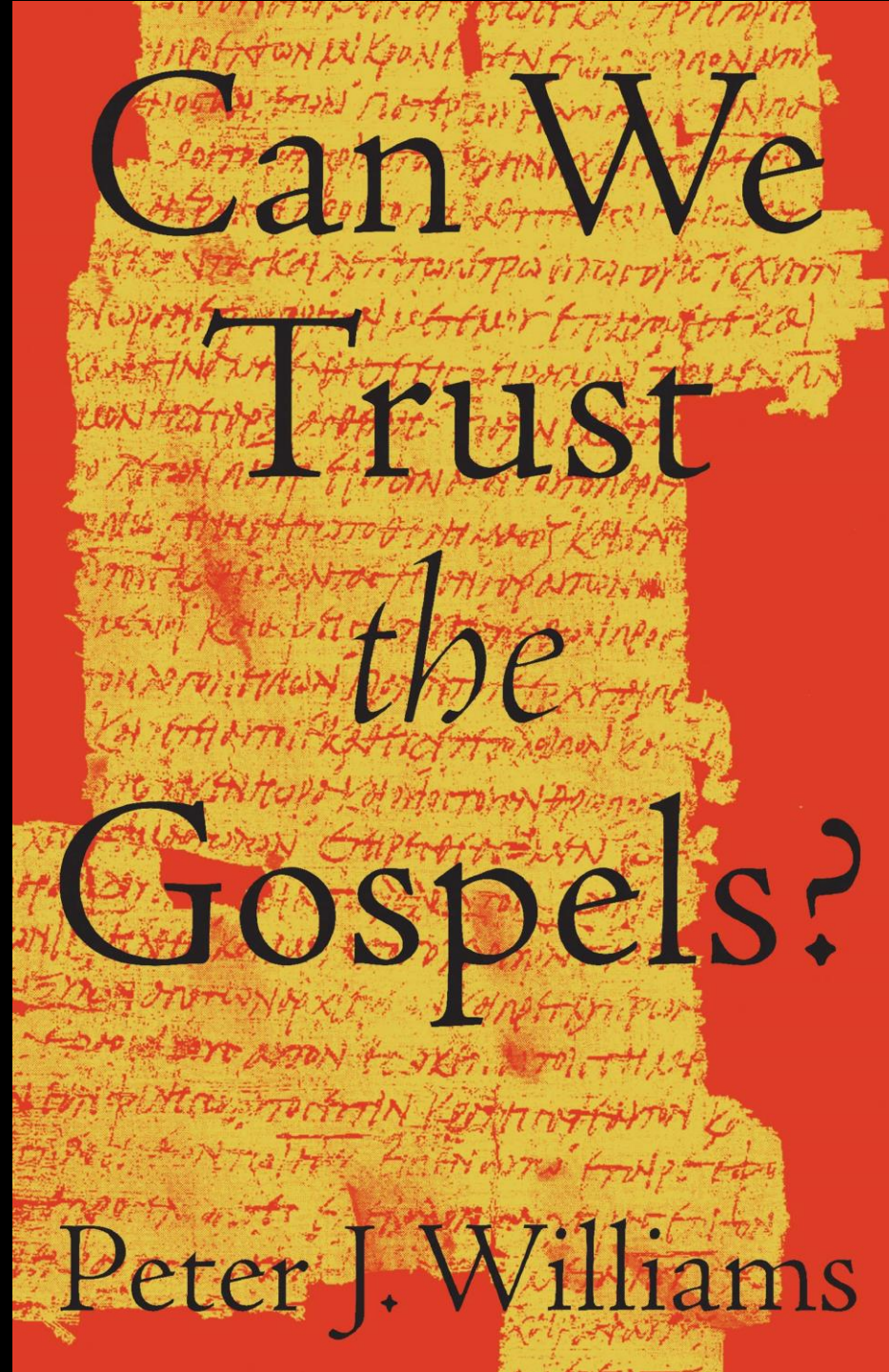
“How one views Scripture will determine the rest of one’s theology. There is no more basic issue: every system of thought that takes seriously the claims of the Bible to be the inspired, authoritative Word of God will share a commitment to particular central truth, and that without compromise.”

— James White

Why this books matters

1. It's a lamp
2. It's milk, bread and honey
3. It's a sword
4. It's a mirror
5. It's a fire and a hammer
6. It's a seed
7. It's a rock



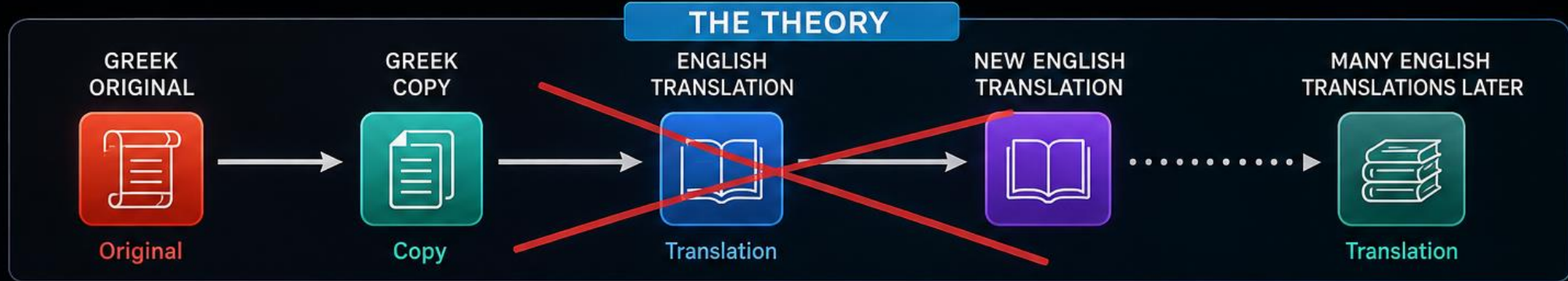


Can We Trust the Gospels?

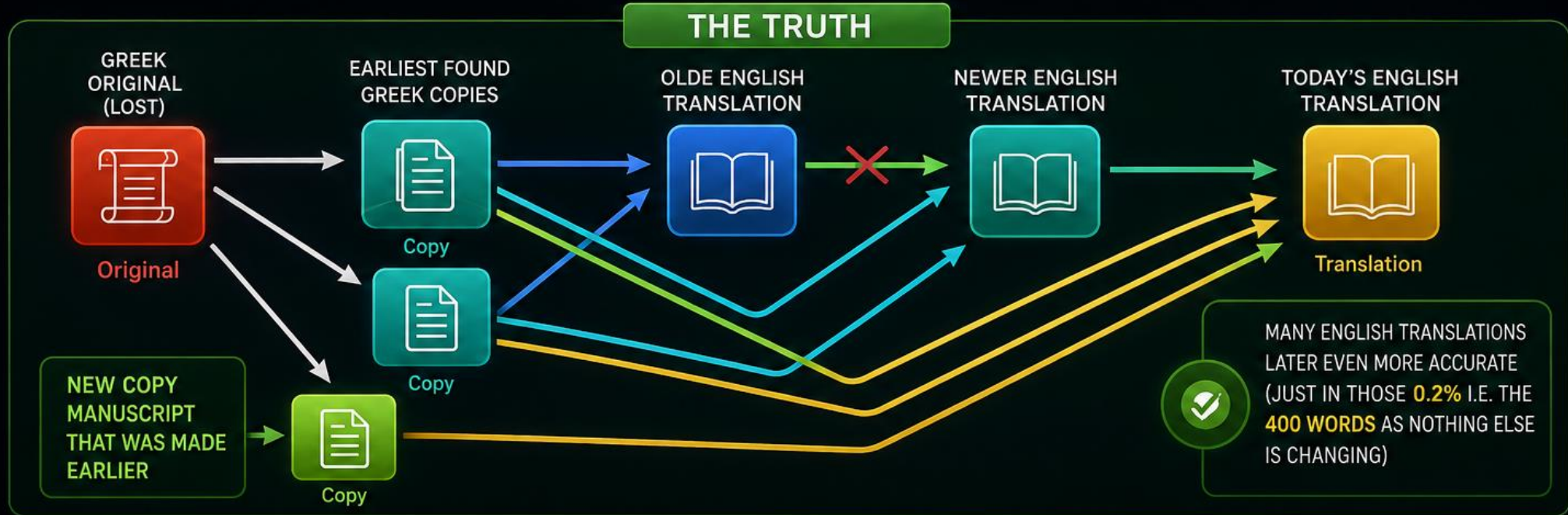
Peter J. Williams

COMMON CONCEPT OF TRANSLATIONS

THE THEORY



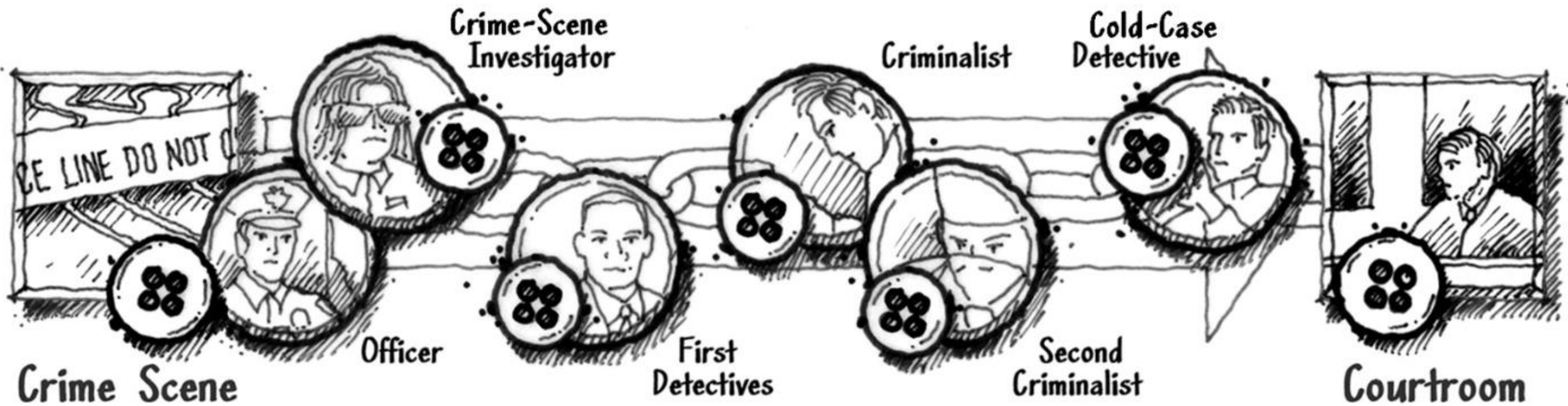
THE TRUTH



THOUSANDS OF MANUSCRIPTS. | MANY COPIES. | MANY TRANSLATIONS. | ONE FAITHFUL MESSAGE.



GOD'S WORD ENDURES.



Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	# of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	----
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	----
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	----
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

NOTES:

- There are thousands more New Testament Greek manuscripts than any other ancient writing.
- The internal consistency of the New Testament documents is about 99.5% textually pure.
- In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Dating



These documents were penned between 3rd century BCE — 1st century CE

75%

of the scrolls were written in Hebrew

Although most of the scrolls are parchment with some being papyrus, one is made of copper. Known as the "Copper Scroll," it lists 64 locations - 63 of which are said to be caches of silver and gold. None of these treasures have been found.



Languages used



Hebrew

Aramaic

Greek

Nabataean

Contents



The scrolls contain copies all of the Hebrew canon (Old Testament) except for Esther.

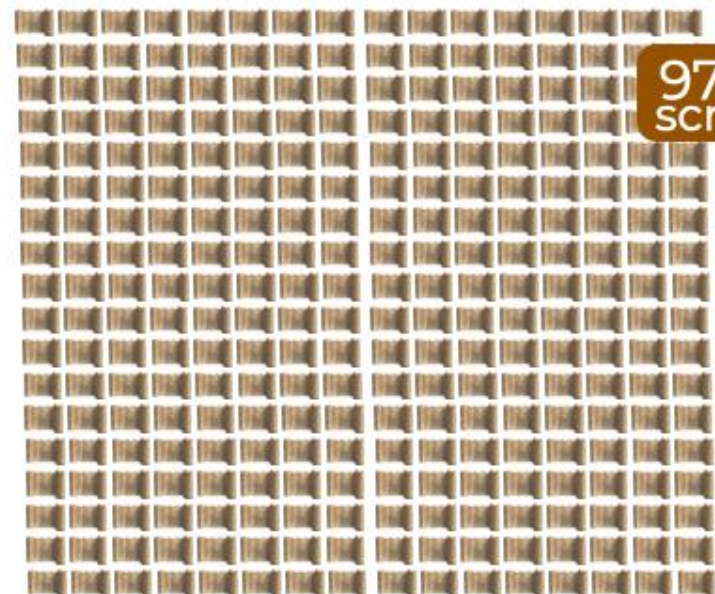
A sampling of other books founded amongst the collection:

Book of Enoch
Book of Jubilees
Book of Tobit
Wisdom of Sirach

The War Scroll
The Rule of Blessing
Community Rules



Over 970 scrolls assembled from more than 10 000 fragments make up the Collection we call the Dead Sea Scrolls. The majority of these manuscripts are highly fragmentary although when pieced together comprise:



970+ scrolls

The longest is 29 feet long

We are not entirely sure who wrote, copied, and stored all of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is thought that most of them are the product of the Jewish sect known as the Essenes. However, scholars also believe that a good number may be the work of the Sadducees or potentially other less well known Jewish groups living in the deserts around the Dead Sea.



The smallest is no bigger than 3 inches

24 feet long

The Great Isaiah scroll was 1 000 years older than any previously Hebrew copy of that book prior to its discovery. It is one of the only scrolls from the Dead Sea Scrolls that contains the near entirety of the book from start to finish.



33 copies of Deuteronomy

24 copies of Genesis

20 copies of Isaiah



Murabba'at
Bar Kokhba's Caves

Ein Gedi

Nahal Hever
Bar Kokhba's Caves

Masada

Jericho
Cave 11
Cave 1
Qumran
Cave 4

Dead Sea

“Moreover, the claim that Jesus was simply made up falters on every ground.”

Bart D. Ehrman
DID JESUS EXIST?

“When we have once made up our minds that we have not the materials for a complete Life of Jesus, but only for a picture of His public ministry, it must be admitted that there are few characters of antiquity about whom we possess so much indubitably historical information, of whom we have so many authentic discourses.”

Albert Schweitzer
THE QUEST FOR THE HISTORICAL JESUS

“PLINY THE YOUNGER

GENRE: POLITICAL

DATES: 61-113 AD

Mentions that Christ's followers sing to Christ "as to a god."

TACITUS

GENRE: HISTORY

DATES: 61-116 AD

Discusses Jesus' crucifixion

THALLUS

GENRE: HISTORY

DATES: c. 52 AD

Describes strange phenomena in Judea on the day of Jesus' death.

LUCIAN

GENRE: ANCIENT SATIRE

DATES: 115-200 AD

Mentions Jesus' crucifixion and habits of his followers

CELSCUS

GENRE: PHILOSOPHY

DATES: c. 175 AD

Says Jesus was born in Judea, lived part of his childhood in Egypt and was a miracle worker. Accuses Jesus of using "magic powers" he learned during his upbringing in Egypt.

GOSPELS

GENRE: BIOGRAPHIES

DATES: 50s - 90s AD

Includes at least 5 independent sources (Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Q).

PAUL'S LETTERS

GENRE: EPISTLES

DATES: 40s - 60s AD

Paul cites sayings, notes Jesus' lineage, describes the Last Supper, lists witnesses to the resurrection.

IGNATIUS

GENRE: LETTERS

DATES: 33-103 AD

CLEMENT

GENRE: LETTERS

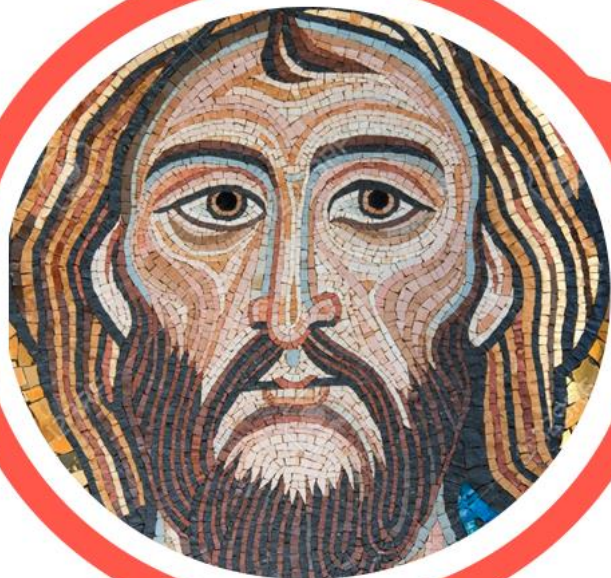
DATES: c. 95 AD

POLYCARP

GENRE: LETTERS

DATES: 69-150 AD

THE HISTORICAL JESUS



BIBLICAL



EARLY CHRISTIANS



ROMANS



GREEKS



EARLY JEWS

JOSEPHUS

GENRE: HISTORIES

DATES: c. 90s AD

Mentions Jesus, James the brother of Jesus, and John the Baptist

B&H STUDIES in Christian Apologetics

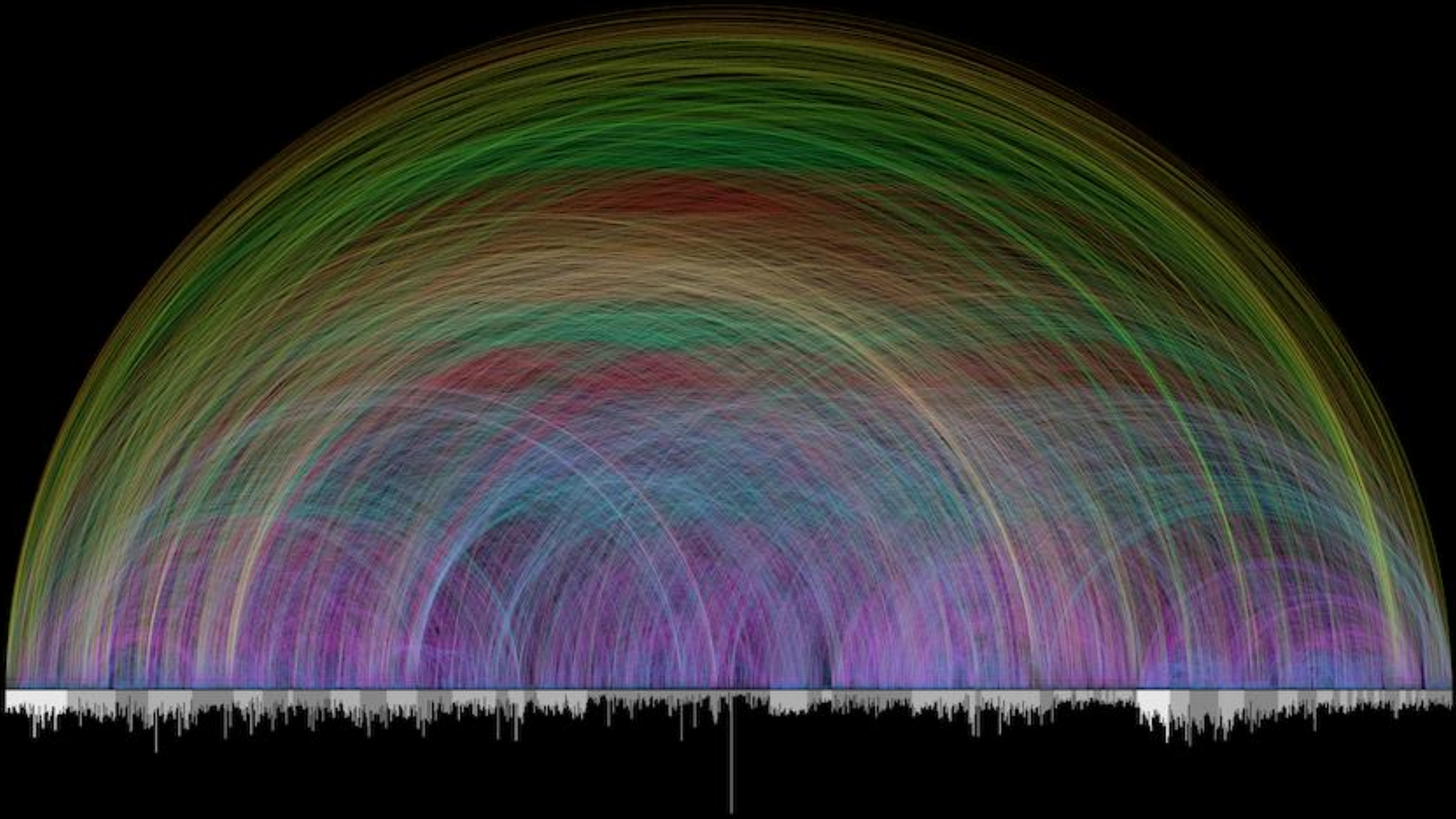
Robert B. Stewart, *General Editor*

The Historical Reliability of the New Testament

Countering the Challenges to Evangelical Christian Beliefs



CRAIG L. BLOMBERG



“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Why should you trust the Bible?

- The Bible's composition is miraculous
- The Bible's preservation is unparalleled.
- The Bible's accuracy is confirmed by archaeology.
- The Bible's prophecies have been fulfilled with mathematical precision.
- The Bible's Gospels are based on eyewitness testimony.

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