

EAT THIS BOOK

“Eating the book takes it all in, assimilating it into the tissues of our lives...Words-spoken and listen to, written and read —are intended to do something in us, give health and wholeness, vitality and holiness, wisdom and hope. Yes, *eat* this book.”

– Eugene Peterson | *Eat This Book*

EAT THIS BOOK

THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is God's revelation to mankind
2. The Bible is a book
3. The Bible communicates one unified story
4. The Bible is inherent and authoritative
5. The Bible should be "consumed"
6. The Bible is a means to an end

EAT THIS BOOK



SERIES OVERVIEW

Week 1 | What is the Bible and why does it matter?

Week 2 | Can the Bible be trusted?

Week 3 | How to read it?

Week 4 | *"Straight Outta Context"*

CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?

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CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?

"Their stories of Jesus's words and deeds have always been and always will be near and dear to me. Among other things, I have always strived to make the values they promote and the ethics they teach the center of my moral life, and I encourage others to do likewise. For me they are the most important books in our civilization and for my own life.

That does not mean that I think they are always historically accurate. On the contrary, even though they do contain valuable historical information about Jesus's life and death, ***they also contain a good deal of material that is non-historical.*** It is my task in this writing assignment to show why I think that is"

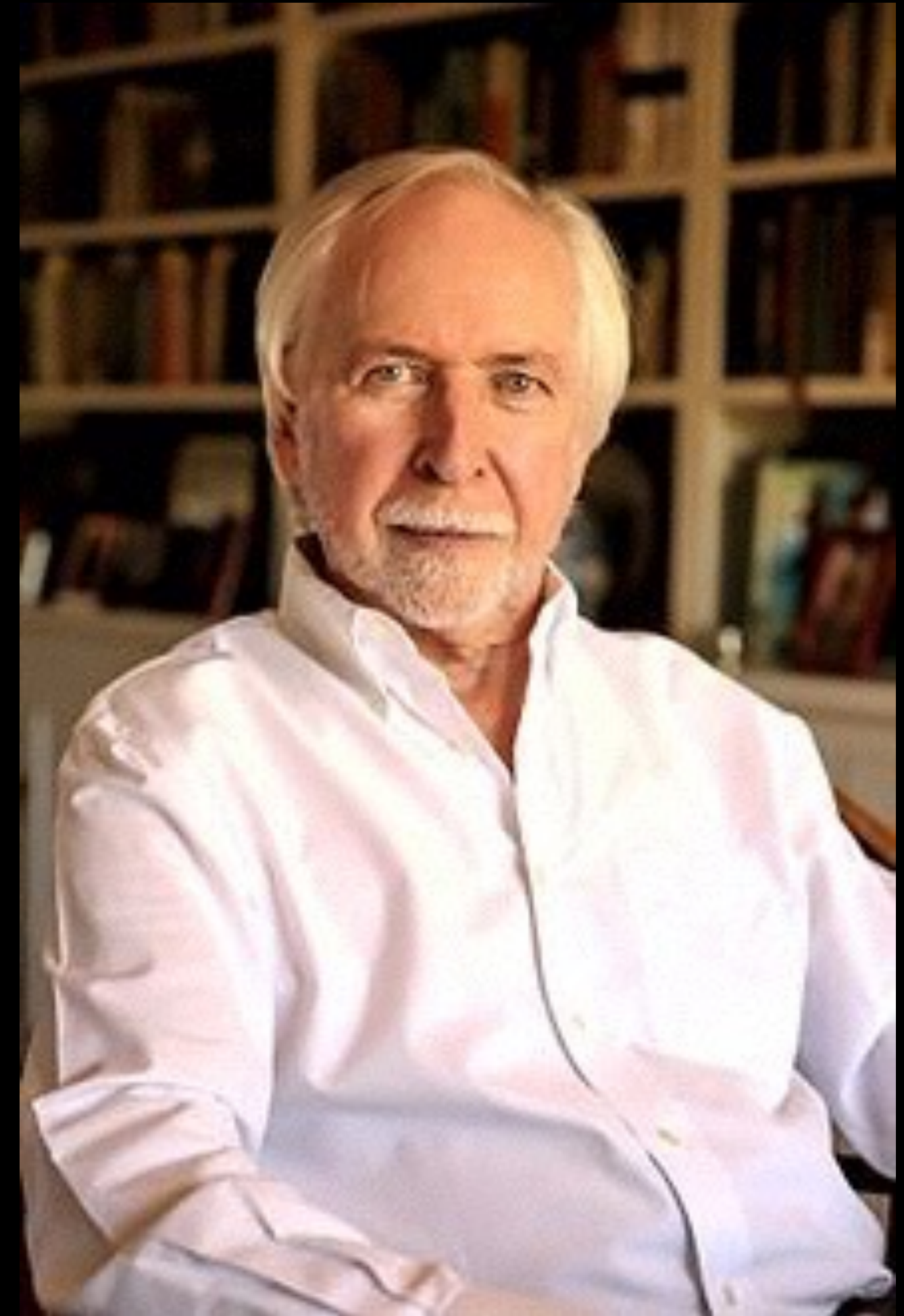


Bart Ehrman, Ph.D. | Author, Professor UNC Chapel Hill

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CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?

[paraphrase] *"With so many religions claiming to hold the very words of God there is no way to know if God or the gods have actually spoken and if we have what they said...I do not treat biblical subjects as transcendent deities nor historical figures but as literary protagonists."*



Jack Miles, Ph.D. | Author, Professor UC Irvine

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CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?



"...But we
paraphrase a book
written 3,500
hundred years
ago"

Macklemore | "Same Love"

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CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?

#1: Transmission | Is what we have what they wrote?

#2: Historicity | Is what they wrote what happened?

#3: Inspiration | Is what they wrote what God said?

TRANSMISSION

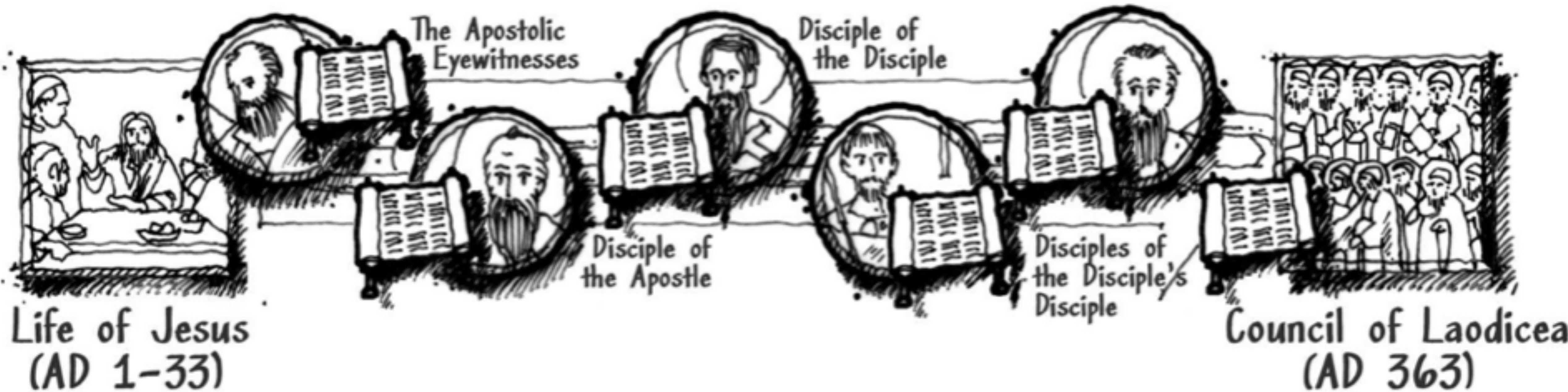
"Remember playing 'telephone' as a kid? You'd whisper a sentence in a friend's ear, and he or she would whisper it to the next person, and so on, until the last one reported a message so distorted from the original that everyone would convulse with laughter. Biblical scholars sometimes refer to this game to explain how the Gospels evolved, presumably with less comedic results. After Jesus died, traditions about him circulated by word of mouth throughout the Mediterranean world."



Gary Wills | Author, Professor Northwestern

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TRANSMISSION



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MANUSCRIPTS

ΕΝΑΡΧΗ ΠΗΝΟΛΟΓΗ
ΚΑΙ ΟΛΟΓΟΝ ΤΗΝ
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ΕΠΗΝΑΥΤΟΥΑ

NEW TESTAMENT

- 5,818 Greek
- 2 Million Pages Handwritten
- 15,000-20,000 non-Greek
- Codex Sinaiticus



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MANUSCRIPTS

Old Testament

- *Dead Sea Scrolls*
- *Discovered 1940s*
- *150 B.C. and 70 A.D.*



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MANUSCRIPTS

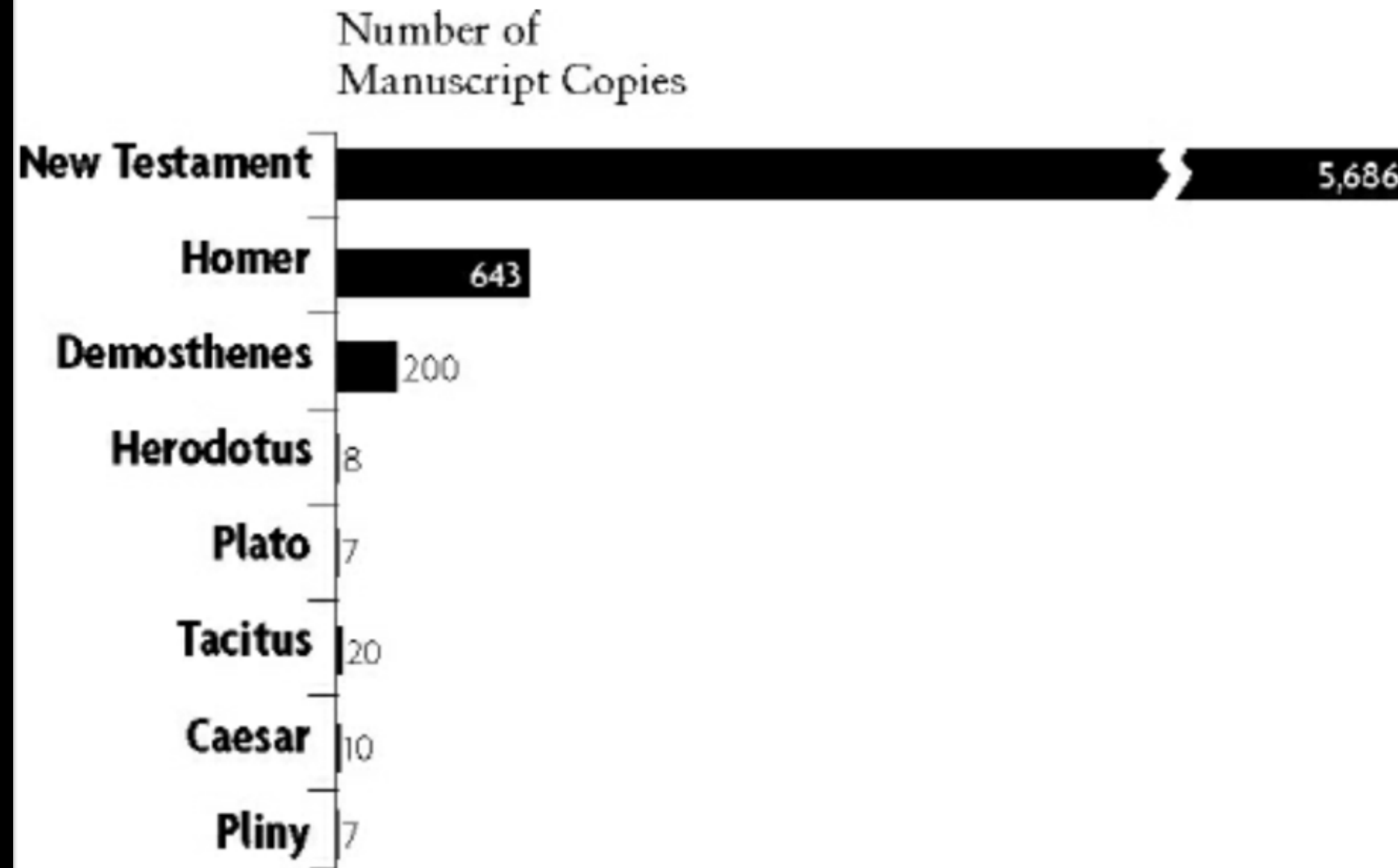
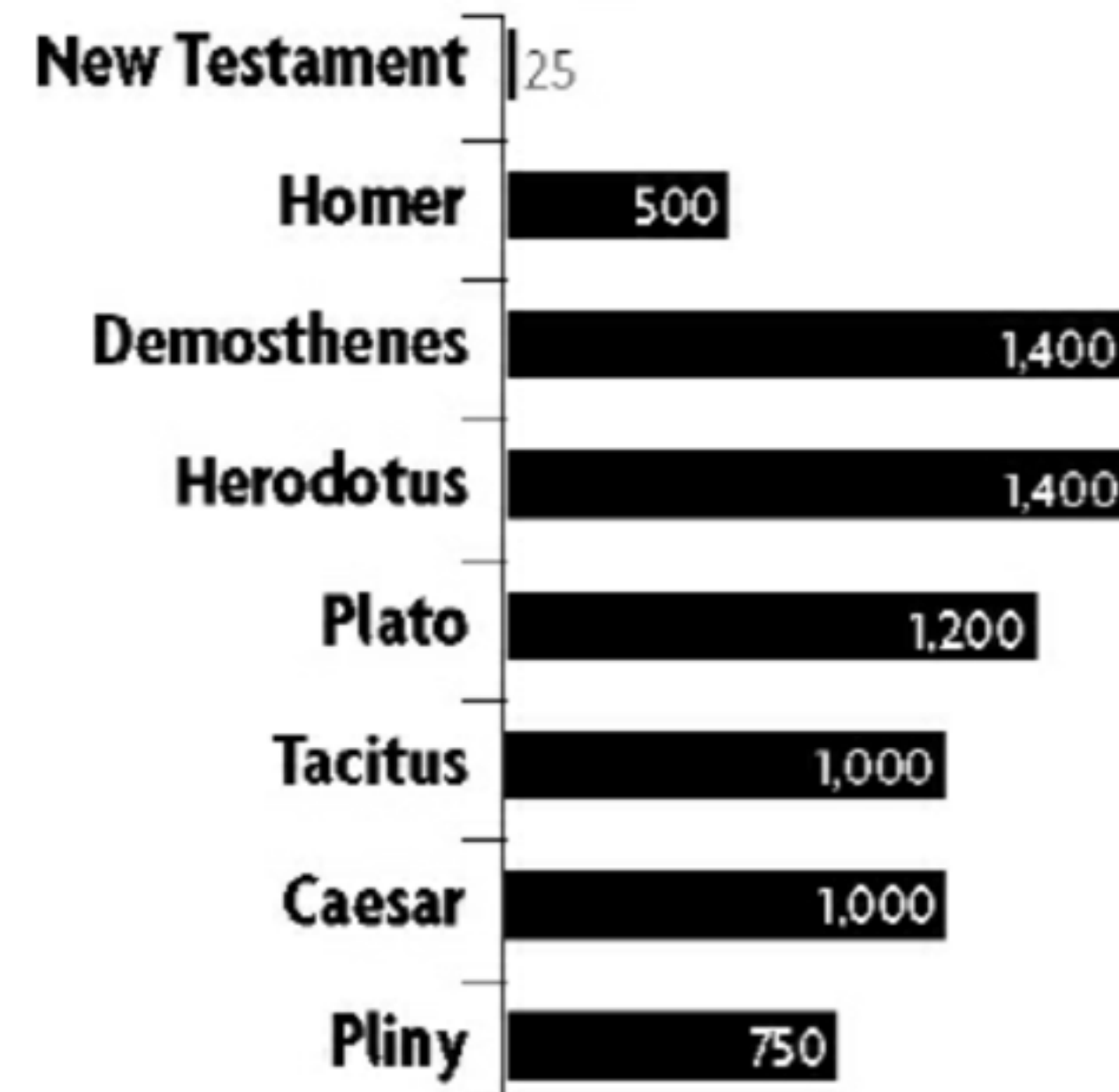


Fig. 9.1

Reliability of the New Testament Compared to Other Ancient Documents

Time Gap (*in Years*) Between
Original and First Surviving Copies



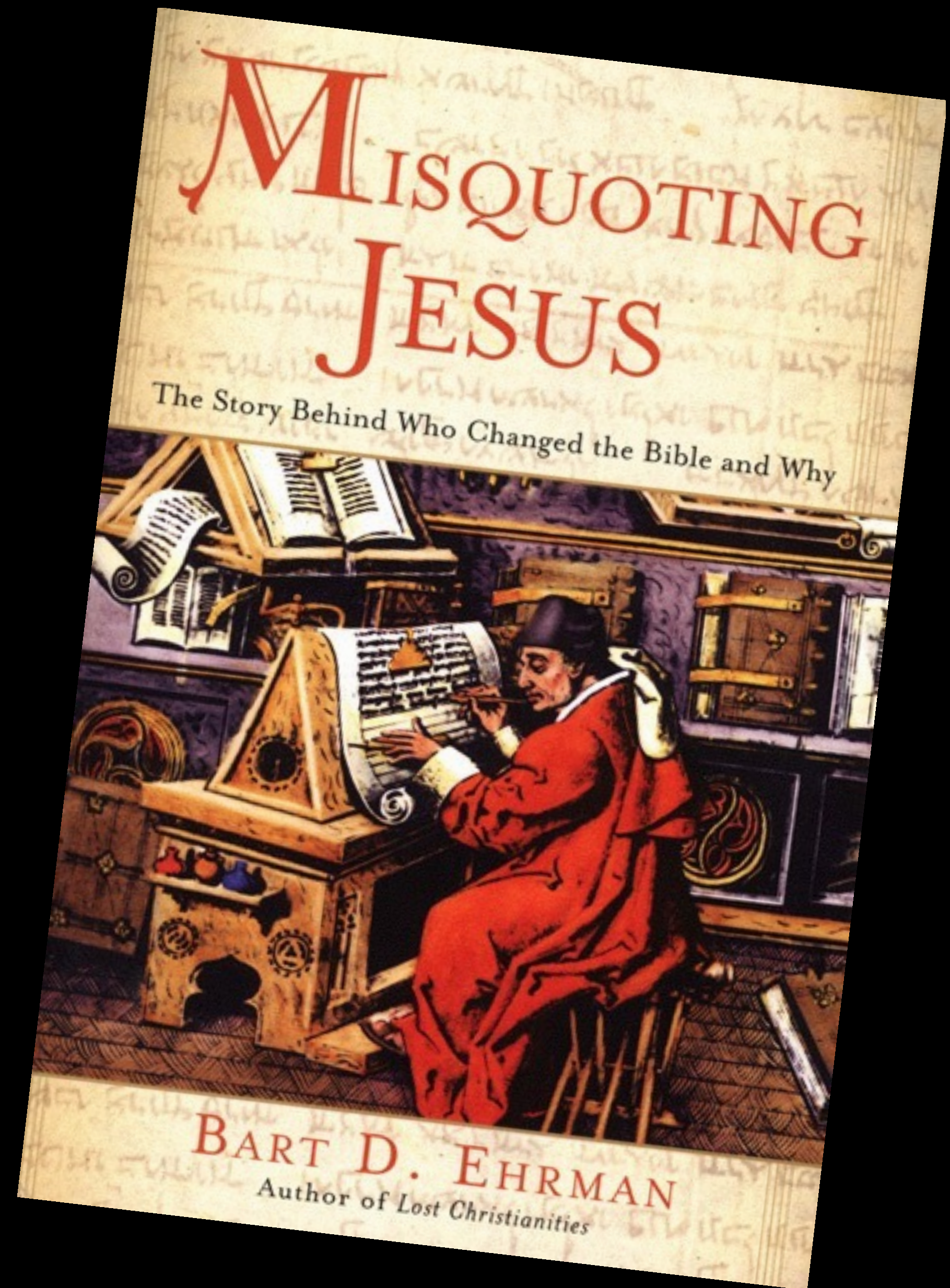
MANUSCRIPTS



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VARIANCES

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



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VARIANCES

“Most of the changes found in our early Christian manuscripts have **nothing to do** with theology or ideology. Far and away the most changes are the result of mistakes, pure and simple – slips of the pen, accidental omissions, inadvertent additions, misspelled words, blunders of one sort or another.”

AUNT SALLY'S SECRET SAUCE

Sally's Original: Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, and boil.

Uncle Dave: Add 1 cup of finely chipped garlic, and boil.

Cousin Don: *Ad 1 cup of finely chipped garlic, and boil.*

Cousin Charlie: Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, and bowl.

Cousin Emma: *Add 1 cup of finely chopped glaric, and boil.*

Aunt Jemima: Add 1 cup if finely chopped garlic, and boil.

Uncle Felix: *Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, nd boil.*

Uncle Bob: AID WON COP OF FLIND CHICKED GARLIX, AND BOT.

TRANSMISSION

1. The Bible has abundant manuscript support
2. The Bible has insignificant variances between manuscript copies

HISTORICITY

1. The writers included verifiable historical details

HISTORICAL DETAILS

Luke 3:2

...during the high-priesthood of Annas and **Caiaphas**, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Matthew 26:3,57

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was **Caiaphas**... Those who had arrested Jesus took him to **Caiaphas** the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled.

HISTORICAL DETAILS



Caiaphas Ossuary

HISTORICITY

1. The writers included verifiable historical details
2. Artifact Evidence
3. The Principle of Embarrassment

EMBARRASSING PERSONAL DETAILS

- Moses' short comings (Exodus)
- Jesus telling Peter, "get behind me Satan" (Mark 8:33)
- Disciples being afraid of Jesus walking on water (Mark 6:45-52)
- Disciples not understanding who Jesus (Gospels)
- Jesus considered "crazy" (Mark 3:21,31)
- Jesus deserted by followers (John 6:64-66)
- Jesus' feet wiped with hair of prostitute (Luke 7:36-39)

HISTORICITY

1. The writers included verifiable historical details
2. Artifact Evidence
3. The Principle of Embarrassment
4. "Unreliable" Witnesses

WOMEN WITNESSES



John 20:1-18; Mark 16

EAT THIS BOOK

HISTORICITY

1. The writers included verifiable historical details
2. Artifact Evidence
3. The Principle of Embarrassment
4. "Unreliable" Witnesses
5. Extra Biblical Historical Writings

EXTRA BIBLICAL HISTORICAL WRITINGS

Example: Josephus | Jewish Historian

- Jesus having disciples
- Jesus being claiming to be God
- People talking about Jesus' miracles & teaching
- Jesus death on a Roman cross

INSPIRATION

1. Supernatural Predictions Fulfilled

EAT THIS BOOK

SUPERNATURAL PREDICTIONS

Jesus:

- **Descendant of Abraham | Gen.12:1-3**
- **Born in Bethlehem | Mic. 5:2**
- **From the tribe of Judah | Gen. 49:10**
- **The house of David | Ps. 110:1**
- **Born of a virgin | Isa. 7:1-4**
- **Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver | Zech. 11:12f.**
- **Have His hands and feet pierced | Ps. 22:16**
- **Crucified with transgressors | Isa. 53:9, 12**
- **Cry out from the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" | Ps. 22:1**
- **Rise from the dead | Ps. 16:8-11**
- **Ascend into heaven | Ps. 68:1-8**

INSPIRATION

1. Supernatural Predictions Fulfilled

2. Supernatural Unity

INSPIRATION

1. Supernatural Predictions Fulfilled
2. Supernatural Unity
3. Supernatural Insight

INSPIRATION

1. Supernatural Predictions Fulfilled
2. Supernatural Unity
3. Supernatural Insight
4. Supernatural Events

INSPIRATION

1. Supernatural Predictions Fulfilled
2. Supernatural Unity
3. Supernatural Insight
4. Supernatural Events
5. Supernatural Impact

INSPIRATION

1. Supernatural Predictions Fulfilled
2. Supernatural Unity
3. Supernatural Insight
4. Supernatural Events
5. Supernatural Impact
6. Supernatural Survival

INSPIRATION

1 Peter 1:24-25 | For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the *word of the Lord stands forever.*"

RESOURCES

- Stand to Reason | STR.org
- *Reasonable Faith* | reasonablefaith.org
- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be An Atheist* | Norm Geisler
- *More Than a Carpenter* | Josh & Sean McDowell
- *Cold Case Christianity* | J. Warner Wallace
- *A Practical Guide to Culture* | Brett Kunkle