

Project ISSACHAR

Training in
Apologetics and
Biblical Worldview

“Those who had
understanding of the
times, to know what Israel
ought to do...”

1 Chronicles 12:32



Outlines and other
resources...

ThinkingAboutTheBible.com

SESSION 1

Can I Really Trust the Bible?



GOD

**“My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the Lord.” Is. 55:8**

“But I need to know You!”

MAN

**God chose to reveal Himself to us
through His Word...**



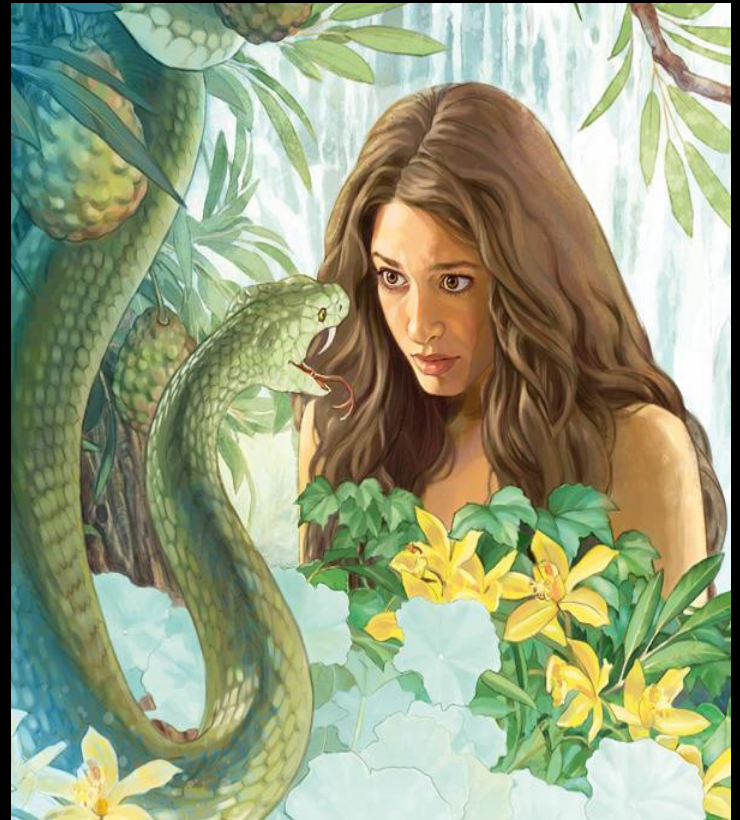
“Special Revelation”

GOD



MAN

“Did God actually say...”



Genesis 3:1



“It is written...”

“Again, it is written...”

“Be gone, Satan!
For it is written...”

Matthew 4



**Does God reveal
Himself any other
way?**

General Revelation

“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made, so they are without excuse.”

Romans 1:20

“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

General Revelation can tell us...

- A supreme being exists**
- It is intelligent**
- It is creative**
- It values beauty and order**
- It merits my “seeking”**

**SPECIAL
REVELATION
(Scripture)**

**GENERAL
REVELATION
(the creation)**

**General Revelation compels
me to look for more
information.**

Psalm 18

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day it pours out speech, and night to night it reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

**General
Revelation**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

**Special
Revelation**



**Does the Bible need defending?
Does our faith need defending?**

**“In your hearts honor Christ
the Lord as holy, always
being prepared to make a
defense to anyone who asks
you for a reason for the
hope that is in you.”**

1 Peter 3:15

APOLOGETICS...

giving a reason



Giving a reason to...

- **Unbelievers (but not usually)**
- **Seekers**
- **Doubting believers**
- **Young people**

Part 1 - SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE...



Written by more than 40 different authors...

King

Peasant

Shepherd

Philosopher

Fisherman

Poet

General

Doctor

Rabbi

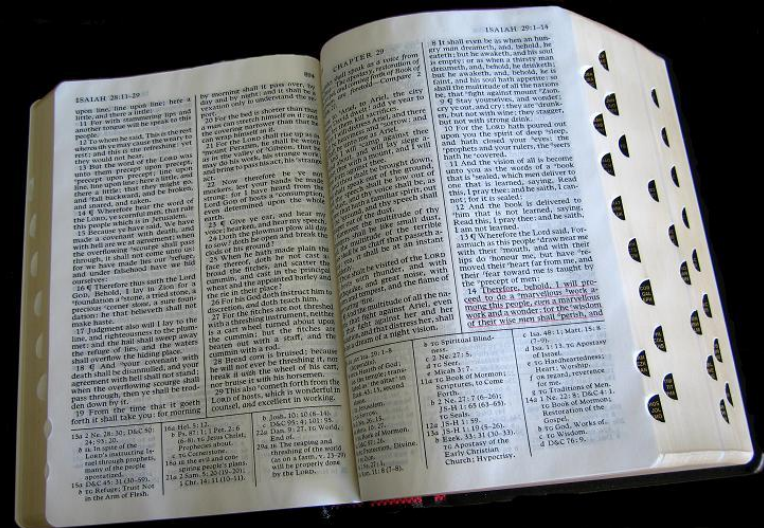
Tax collector



Written from different places...

Wilderness
Prison
Hillside
Palace
Island
On the road

(on 3 continents)



Written in many circumstances...

Joy

Despair

War

Peace

Judgment

Awe

Thoughtfulness

Grief



Written in many forms...

- Poetry
- Historical records
- Letters
- Legal documents
- Prophecies
- Doctrinal treatises



Written in 3 languages...

Hebrew
Greek
Aramaic



**Written over a period of
1500 years...**

1400 BC

100 AD



(40 generations)

**Yet... thoroughly consistent and
single-minded...**



Part 2 - PROPOSITIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE...



***“I believe in the inspiration of
the Bible.”***

INSPIRED – God-breathed

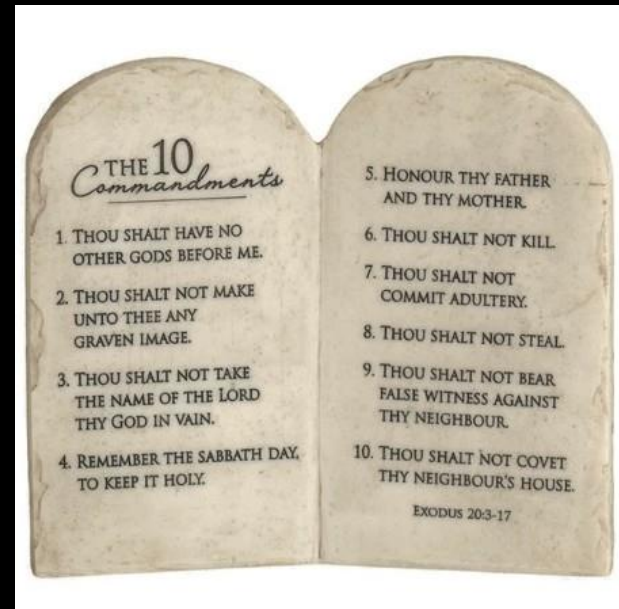
Mechanical inspiration?

Did God take control of the hands of the writers, thus writing His exact words...



But some *sections* were dictated...

- 10 Commandments
- “Thus says the Lord...”



DUAL AUTHORSHIP...

“The Holy Spirit so superintended the human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God’s Word to man without error in the whole or in the part.”

John MacArthur

***“I believe in the inspiration of
the Bible.”***

**But did God inspire the *words*
or the *ideas*?**

“Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, ‘And to **seeds,’ referring to many, but referring to one, ‘And to your **seed,**’ who is Christ.”**

Galatians 3:16

“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”**

Jesus, Matthew 5:18

“Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods**’ to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—”**

John 10:34-35

*“I believe in the **verbal**
inspiration of the Bible.”*

But does the Bible **contain**
inspired sections, or is it **all**
inspired?

*“I believe in the verbal, **plenary** inspiration of the Bible.”*

**Every word in Scripture is
inspired.**

***“I believe in the verbal, plenary
inspiration of the Bible.”***

**But does this apply to only the
parts dealing with salvation
and spiritual growth?**

Infallible – totally trustworthy
in spiritual matters

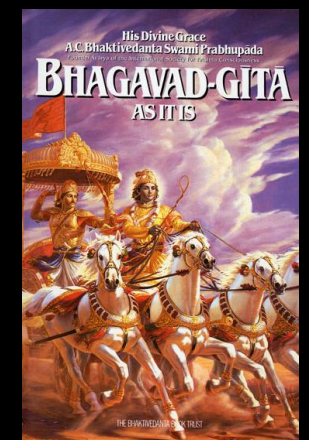
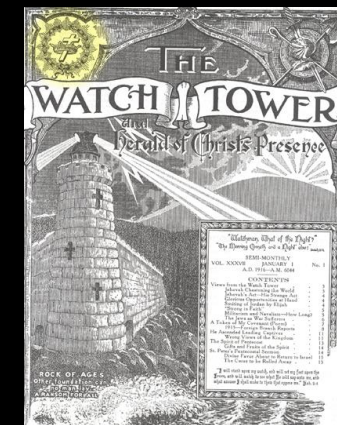
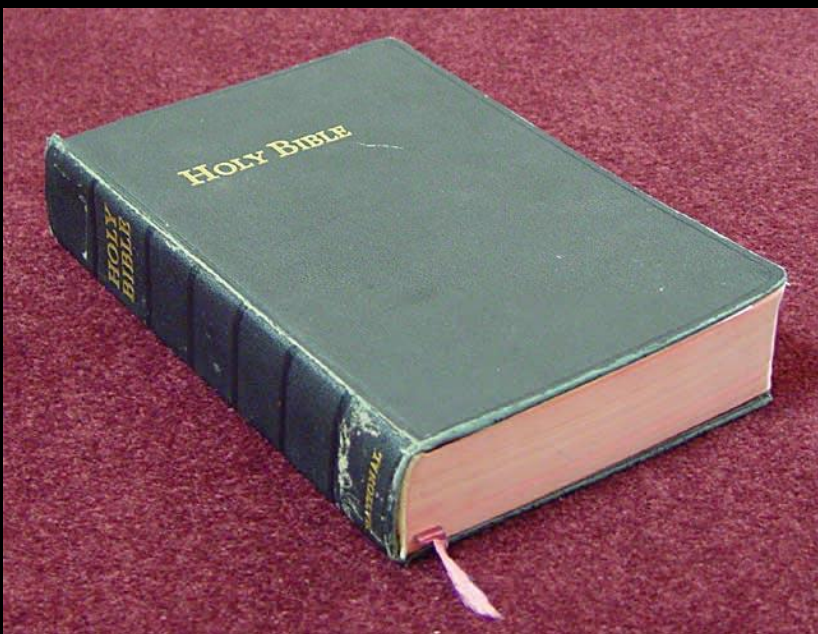
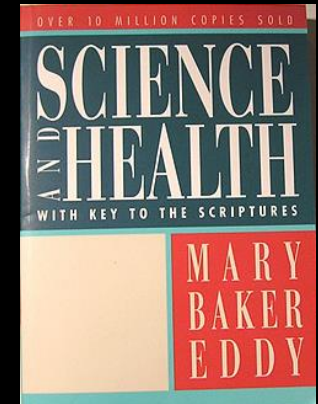
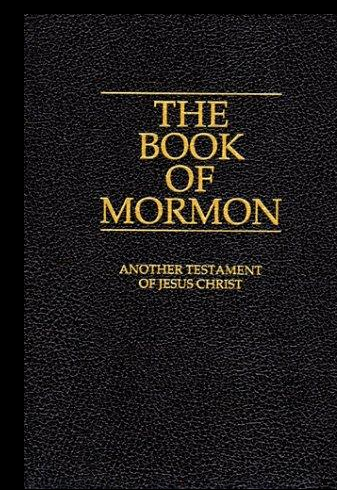
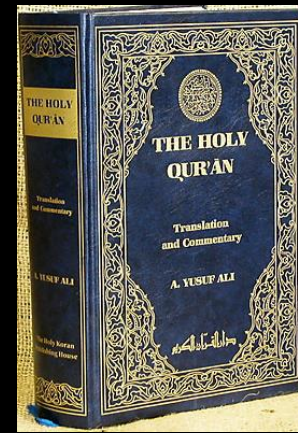
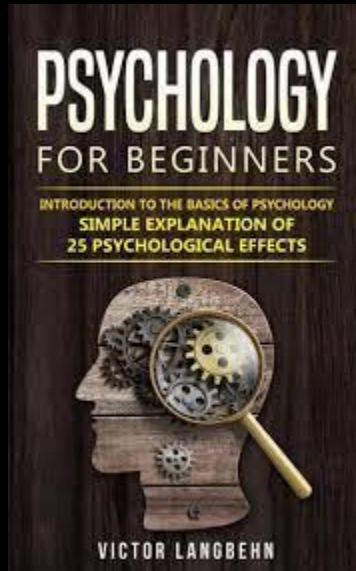
Inerrant – totally accurate in all
matters (science, history, sociology,
psychology)

"Inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with social, physical or life sciences."

Paul Feinberg

*“I believe in the infallible,
inerrant, verbal, plenary
inspiration of the Bible.”*

**But does the Bible contain all I
need to know about spiritual
things?**



“I believe in the sufficient, infallible, inerrant, verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible.”

But does this apply to all translations, languages, and paraphrases?

*“I believe in the sufficient,
infallible, inerrant, verbal,
plenary inspiration of the Bible,
in the original manuscripts.”*

**But most of it is still way too
hard to understand!**

PERSPICUOUS...

***straight-forward,
meant to be understood***

***“I believe in the perspicuous,
sufficient, infallible, inerrant,
verbal, plenary inspiration of the
Bible, in the original
manuscripts.”***

***“I believe in the sufficient,
infallible, inerrant, verbal,
plenary inspiration of the Bible,
in the original manuscripts.”***



Part 3 - WHAT SKEPTICS SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE...



AUTHORITY
AUTHENTICITY


AUTHORITY

**Did the information really
come from God?**

AUTHENTICITY

**Is my copy of Scripture true to
the original Scripture?**

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY...**



Thus saith
the LORD

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

Confirmation by Jesus

- Jesus quoted extensively from the “scriptures” (Old Testament)
- Jesus referenced OT persons and events as historical
- Jesus used OT as authoritative

“Wait a minute! Was Jesus authoritative?”





BRIEF DETOUR
(Why is Jesus authoritative?)

Evidence for Jesus's Authority

- Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies.
- Jesus gave prophecies that were fulfilled.
- Jesus's teachings are effective.
- Jesus worked miracles.
- Jesus rose from the dead.

**Details
coming
later!**

“Have you not read...?” Jesus, Matt. 12:3

“Have you not read...?” Jesus, Matt. 12:5

“Have you not read...?” Jesus, Matt. 19:4

“Have you not read...?” Jesus, Matt. 21:42

“Have you not read...?” Jesus, Matt. 22:31

“What is written...?” Jesus, Luke 10:26

**Jesus validates the apostles'
future writing of the
New Testament...**

**“He [the Holy Spirit] will teach
you all things and bring to your
remembrance all things that I
said to you.”**

John 14:26

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

The Apostles validated not only the Old Testament, but each other's "new" writings...



**“Which things we also speak,
not in words taught by human
wisdom, but in those taught by
the Spirit, *combing spiritual
thoughts with spiritual words.*”**

1 Corinthians 2:13

**“All Scripture is inspired by
God and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for
correction, for training in
righteousness.”**

2 Timothy 3:16

“...prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:21

“...just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him, speaking of these things in all his letters. Some things in these letters are hard to understand, things the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to the rest of the scriptures.”

2 Peter 3:15-16

“that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

“Scripture cannot be broken...”

John 10:35

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

The Bible is consistent with what we would expect from the Romans 1 Creator...

The powerful, intelligent, creative, purposeful, lover-of-beauty we see through nature would likely communicate this way.

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

The Bible is *efficacious* in my personal life...

The principles given in Scripture work in my life in the real world.

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

Bible Teachings Are Effective

*Principles, wisdom, commandments,
and promises work in the real world in
real situations.*

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

**The Holy Spirit within me confirms
the Word of God...**

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

Fulfilled Prophecies

***All prophecies that could be fulfilled
by present--have been fulfilled.***

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

Internal coherence of the Bible...

Despite varied sources, facts are consistent from book to book.

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

Undesigned “coincidences” ...

Matthew 14 gives private information about what Herod was thinking and saying. How did Matthew know this?

Luke 8 mentions the disciples were followed by Joanna, wife of Chuza (Herod's house manager).

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

The Bible Is Accurate

Biblical propositions coincide with the real world.

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

The Bible Is Accurate *HISTORICALLY*

“Wait a minute! What about all those people and places that don’t show up in secular history?”



CONFIRMED ARCHAEOLOGICALLY

David
Uzziah
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Ahaz
Sennacherib
Pekah
Joash
Hoshea
Menahem
Shishak
Tirhakah
Hadadezer
over 30 others

Bethel
Capernaum
Chorazin
Dan
Ephesus
Gaza
Gezah
Hesbon
Hazor
Jericho
Joppa
Ninevah
Shechem
and dozens more

Evidence for biblical **AUTHORITY**

The Bible Is Accurate *SCIENTIFICALLY*

“Wait a minute! What about all the bad science?”



Scientific facts “before their discovery”

“...He suspends the earth over nothing” Job 26:7

“He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.” Job 36:27-28

“The earth, from which food comes, is transformed below as by fire.” Job 28: 5

**“Wait a minute!
What about all
those mistakes
and contradictions
in your Bible?”**



“...smallest of seeds (?)... Mark 4:31



Writers' use of figurative language...

“4 corners of the earth?”



1 angel?
2 angels? (Luke)





Different authors
Different perspectives
No contradiction

People may be
quoted in
Scripture even
though they
may be in
error...

Job's "friends"



**“Wait a minute!
Even if the original
manuscripts were
from God, you
have only
corrupted copies
of the original
manuscripts!”**



**IS THE BIBLE
AUTHENTIC?**

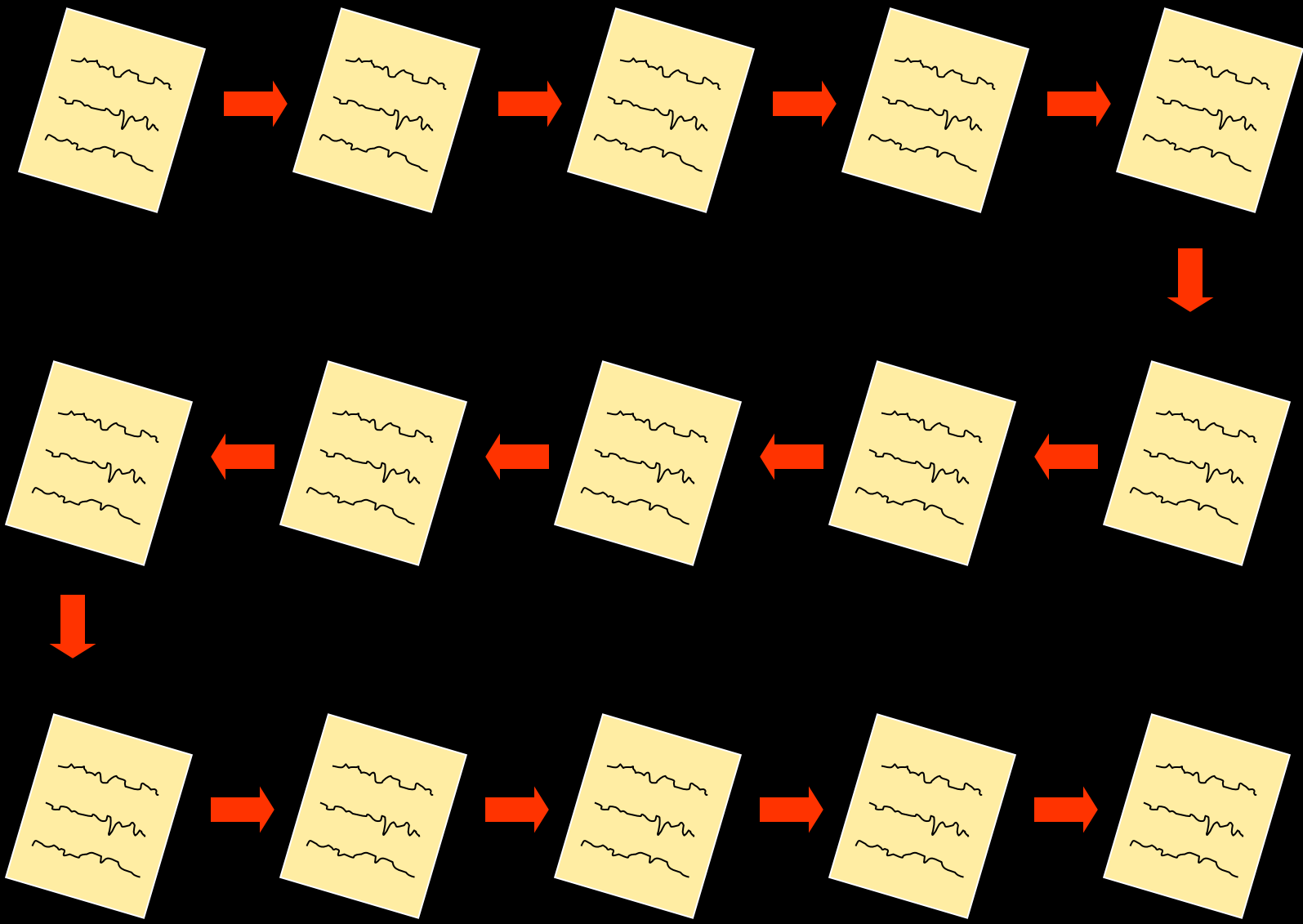
Evidence for the **AUTHENTICITY** of the Bible...

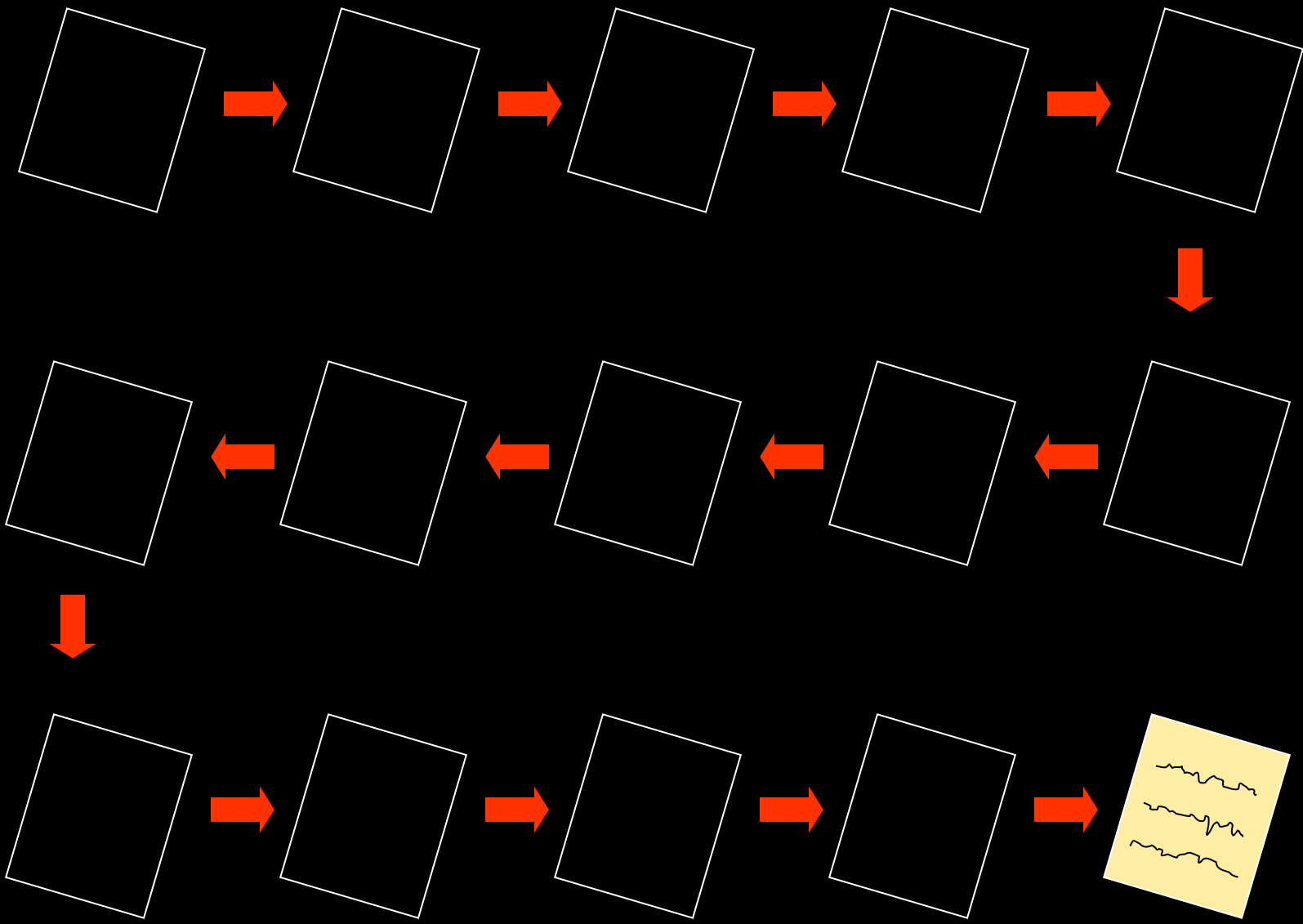
Do we have accurate copies of
the original?

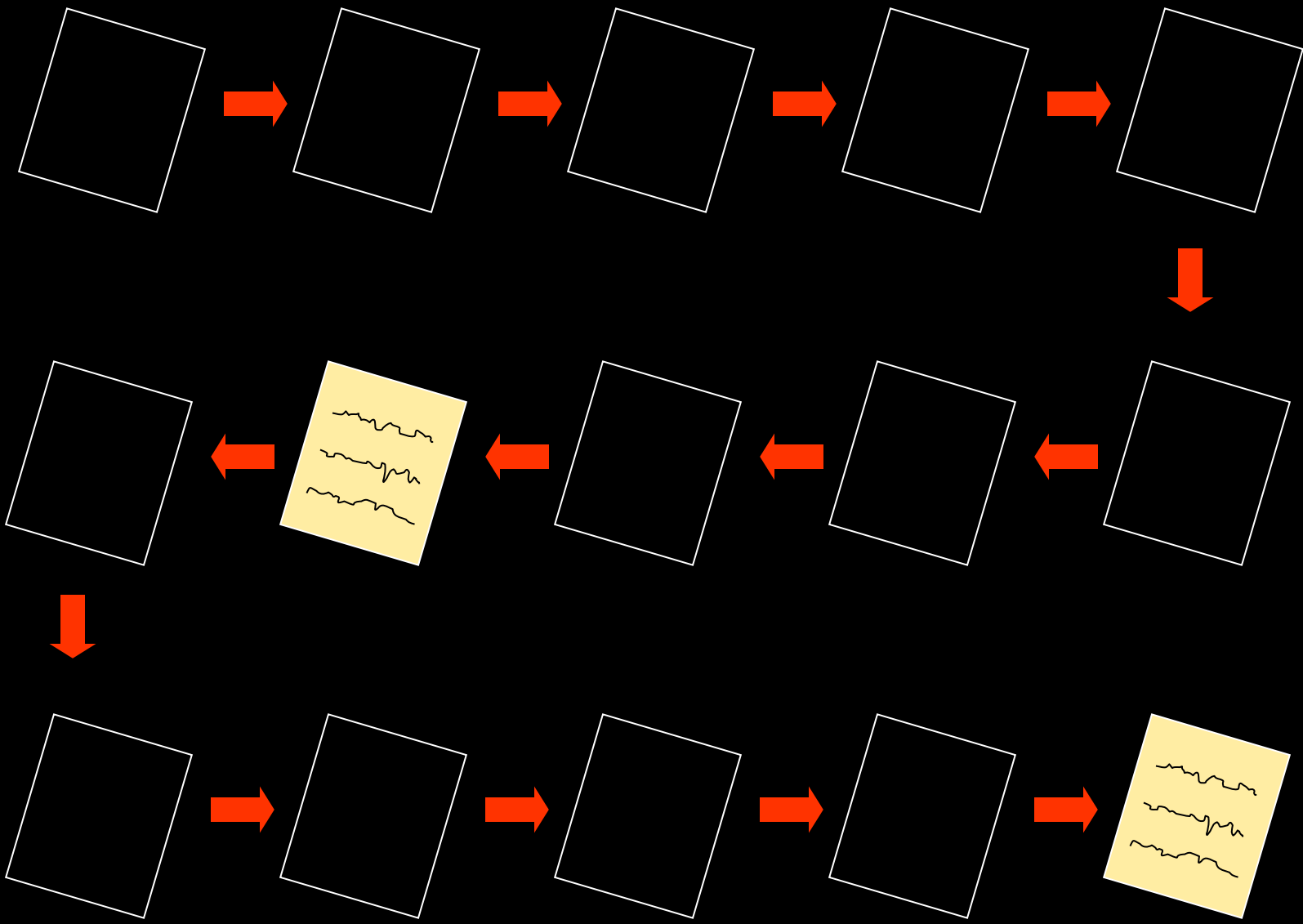


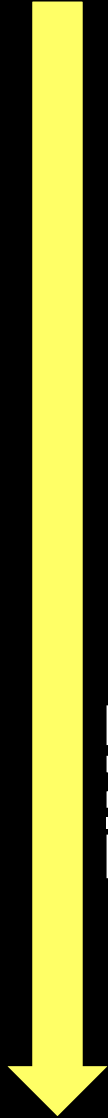




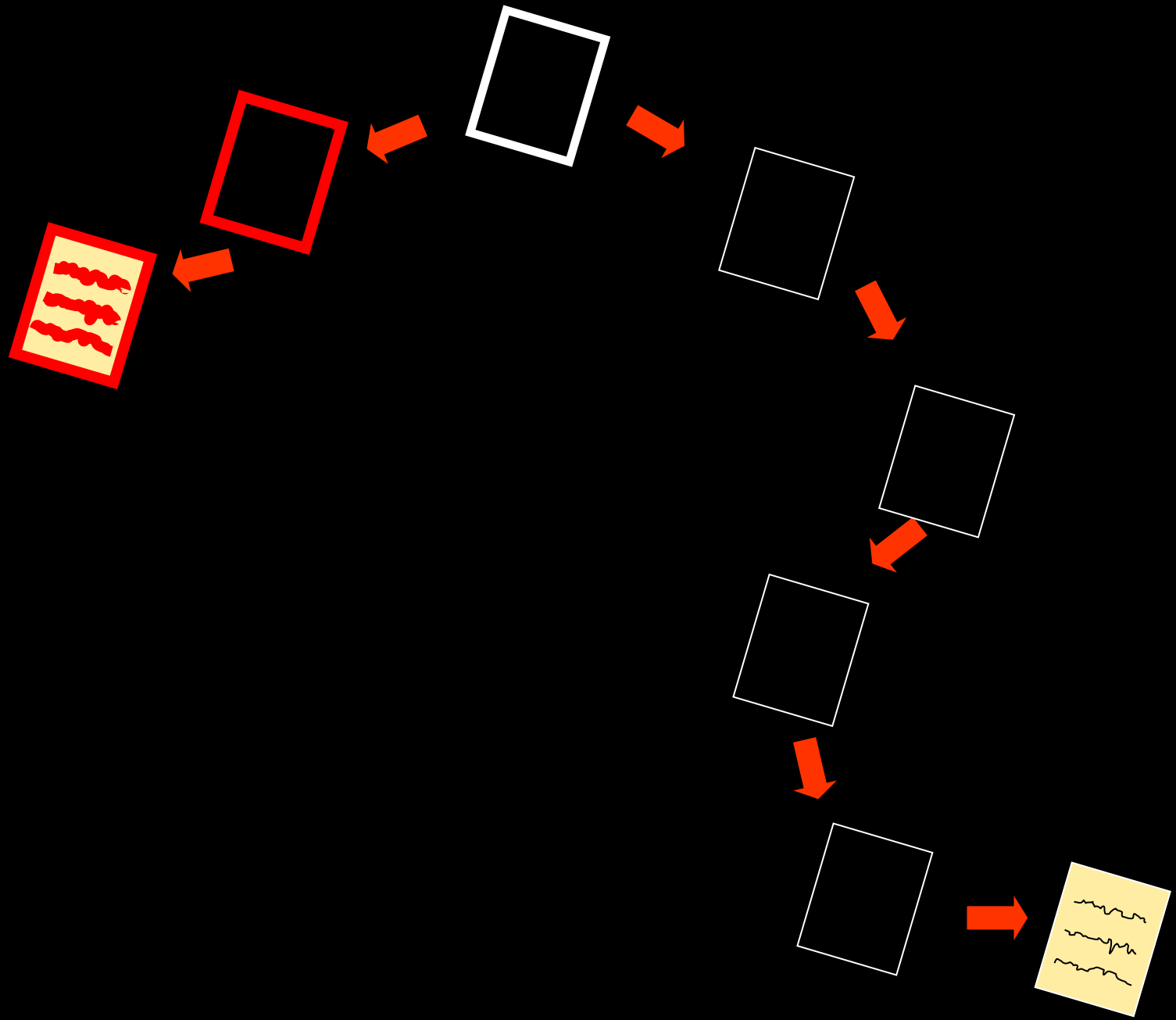








TIME



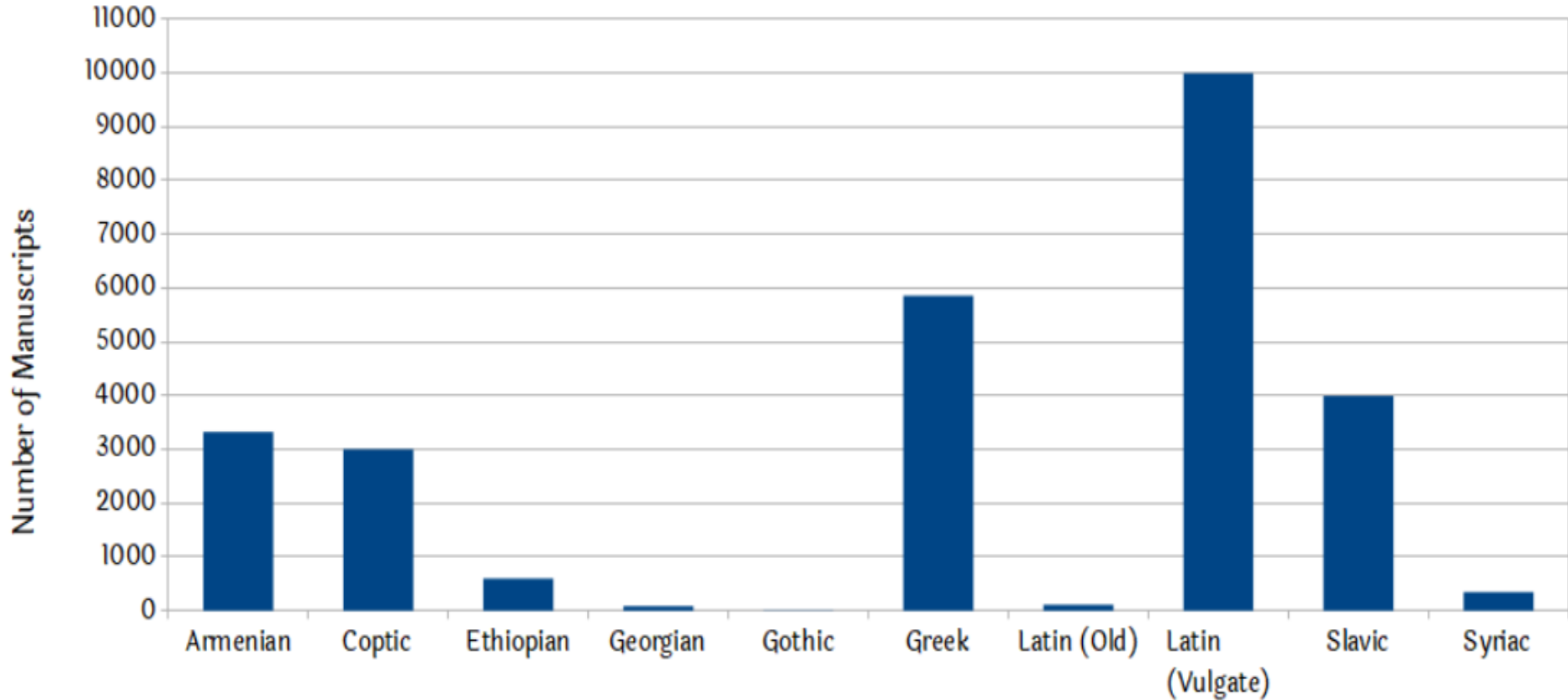
What about differences among manuscripts?

- Omissions?
- Additions - scribal notes?
- Translation subjectivity?
- *<1% even in question.*
- *No essential doctrines are in question!*

Author	Between writing & 1st copy	# of MSS
Plato	1,200 years	7
Caesar	1,000 years	10
Herodotus	1,300 years	8
Thucydides	1,300 years	8
Aristotle	1,400 years	49
Josephus	1,000 years	120
Homer (Iliad)	500 years	643
Gospels	Less than 100 years ⁱⁱⁱ	1700
Paul's letters	110-150	800
Acts	200 years	650
General epistles	150-200 years	600
Revelation	150-200 years	300 ^{iv}

New Testament Manuscripts Languages

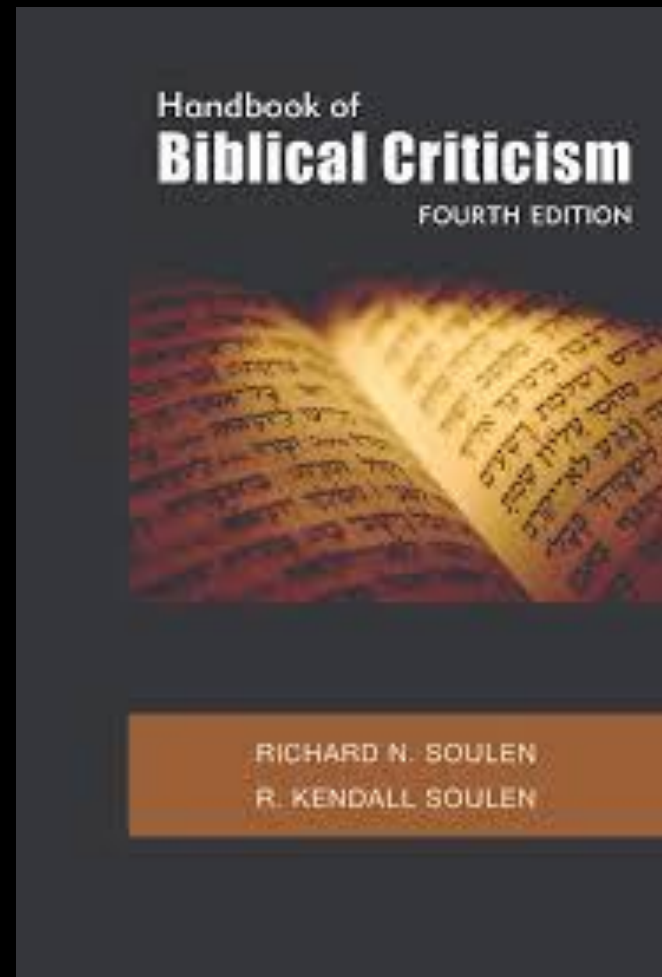
Data from: McDowell, Josh and McDowell, Sean. Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017) Pg. 47-53; Chart from: BibleQuestions.info



Thousands (millions) of verses
in commentaries and other
publications...



Thousands of
verses in works
by *opponents*
critiquing the
Bible...



Dead Sea Scrolls

Caves of Qumran (1947)



Dead Sea Scrolls

- **over 900 manuscripts**
- **300 BC to AD 70**
- **30% Hebrew Scripture**
- **1000 years earlier than oldest manuscripts**



KING JAMES (Isaiah 53)

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

DEAD SEA SCROLL

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor **he hath** comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire **ourselves**.

3 He is despised and rejected of men **and** man of sorrows, and **he knows** grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; and **despised** him, and we esteemed him not.

**Dead Sea Scrolls
indicate that
Scripture
changed
insignificantly
over a
millennium of
copying.**



**We have access to very
many, very reliable
early manuscripts of
the Bible.**

BOTTOM LINE



**“Wait a minute!
Didn’t a bunch of
pious old men
decide which
books would be in
your Bible?”**



The Canon in a nutshell...

Church leaders affirmed books and epistles that the Spirit was already using efficaciously among believers.

Part 4 – WHICH BIBLE TRANSLATION SHOULD I USE?



**The closest to
the original!**

Complete Equivalence...

Word-for-word translation

- KJV (King James Version)
- NKJV (New King James Version)
- NASB (New American Standard Bible)
- ESV (English Standard Version)
- NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)

Dynamic Equivalence...

Ideas-for-idea translation

- NIV (New International Version)
- NLT (New Living Translation)
- NET (New English Translation)
- HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

**“Heaven and earth will pass away,
but MY WORDS shall not pass
away.”**

Matthew 24:35

**Wouldn't the God of the
Bible make sure we had
access to His true WORD?**

