



The Word of God Pt. 2

And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,
“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.

An open book with text overlaid. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The text is in a dark red color and is centered on the page. The background is a light, neutral color.

LUKE 4:17–19

HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM
RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND
RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE
OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE
FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

LUKE 4:17–19

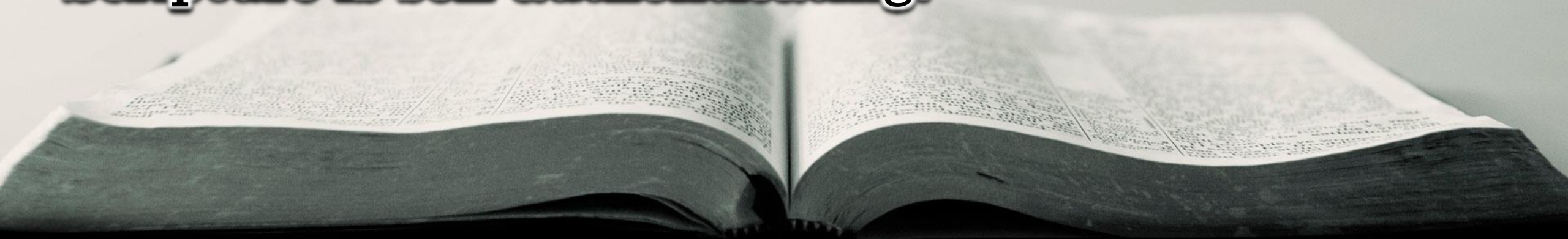
And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him, and He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

LUKE 4:20–21

Canonicity – the church's recognition of the divine origin and authority of the sixty-six books of scripture.

The church did not determine which books were canonical, but only recognized those books which were canonical.

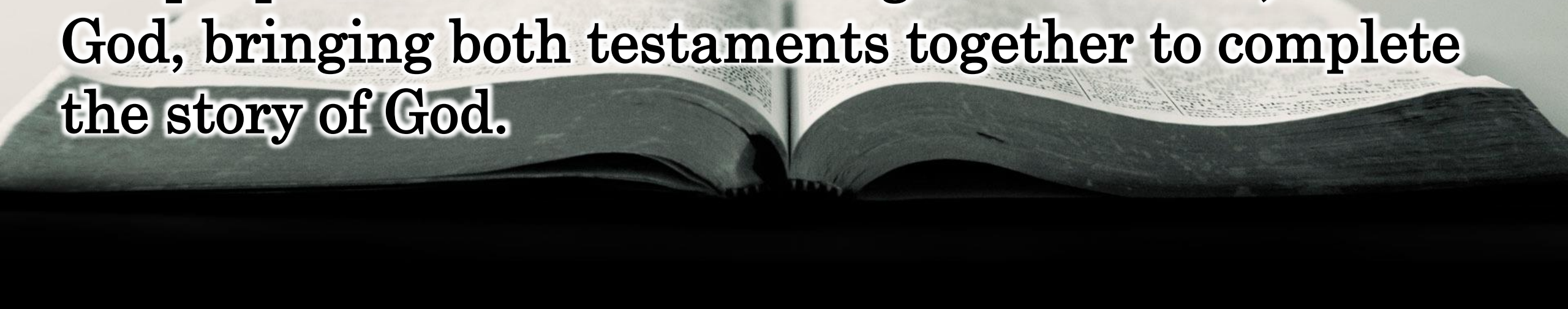
Scripture is self-authenticating.



How was the New Testament authenticated?

1. Apostolicity (was it written by an apostle or authenticated by an apostle?)

It was the distinct calling of the apostles which gave them the authority to validate the prophets and write in such a way under the inspiration of God to complete the prophetic words concerning the Messiah, Son of God, bringing both testaments together to complete the story of God.



How was the New Testament authenticated?

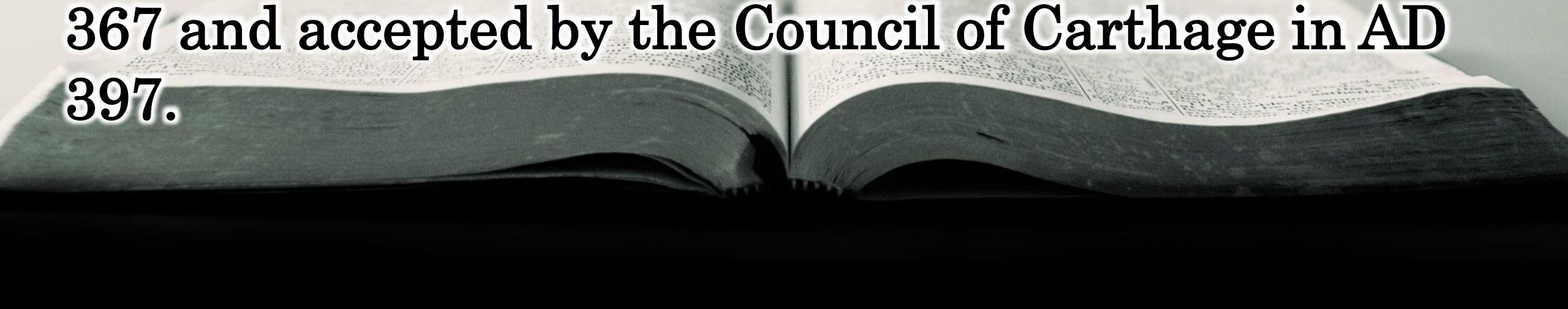
2. Universality (was it widely read and accepted?)

The early church verified the validity of the New Testament through various tests. One such test was apostolicity: Did an apostle authenticate the writing in question? Did the disciples and the early church universally accept and read the writing in question?



How was the New Testament authenticated?

Did the writing in question hold up to the doctrinal test in agreement with the writings of the other apostles? Therefore, it was the apostles themselves who canonized the Scriptures as we have them today. The 27 books of the NT seen today are the same as that of the 39th Easter Letter of Athanasius dated AD 367 and accepted by the Council of Carthage in AD 397.



How was the New Testament authenticated?

3. Character (sufficiently spiritual, directed at godliness, doctrinal content in agreement with other apostles) recognized which books were “from the Lord” and which were not, though the process was by no means finalized by the end of the first century.



How was the New Testament authenticated?

4. In AD 367, in the 39th Easter Letter of Athanasius, we find a list of the 27 books of the NT we have today.

This list was accepted by the churches east of the Mediterranean while churches in the west came to accept the same list some 30 years later, in AD 397, at the Council of Carthage.



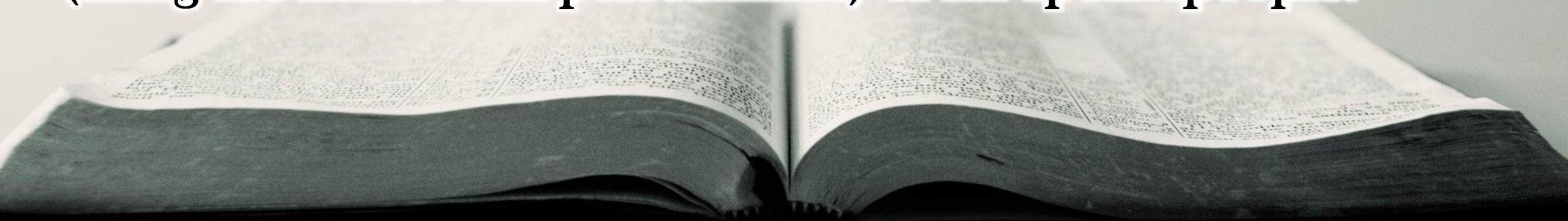
How was the New Testament authenticated?

Diocletian persecution (AD 303-11), in which Christians were tortured, their property taken, and their sacred books destroyed by fire, undoubtedly helped to move the church along in its recognition of which books were sacred (i.e., inspired) and which were not.



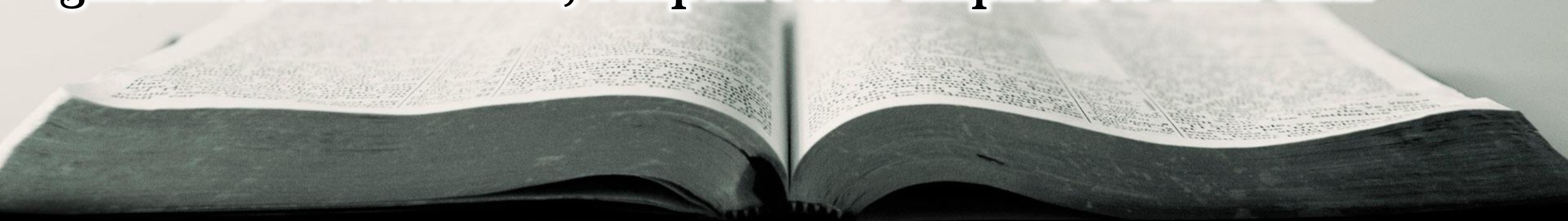
Inspiration

“Inspiration” is the theological word, derived from the Greek term **θεόπνευστος**, used to refer to the process whereby God superintended the human authors of scripture so that what they wrote was simultaneously their own words as well the Word of God himself; God “breathed out” his words through the words (using the minds and personalities) of his spokespeople.



Inspiration

Thus, through Spirit-inspired writings God has preserved an historical/theological record of his words and deeds and has given it to his covenant people as a means of grace that they might trust him fully and obey him implicitly. As a result of our sinfulness and finiteness we stand in need of such divine guidance and wisdom; scripture was inspired to that end.





The Reliability of the New Testament



Inspiration



Inerrant



Inspiration

Inerrancy

Inerrancy is a logical corollary to inspiration. The authors of Scripture was under the supernatural influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Since God is true, what they wrote and affirmed is in all ways true as well. Thus inerrancy applies to the autographa and Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic copies insofar as they faithfully reproduce the autographa.

Inerrancy

The doctrine rightly teaches that the scriptures are without error in all that they affirm, whether they refer to geographical, historical, or theological issues. Thus, the scriptures are the final authority in matters of faith and practice and take precedence over tradition, culture, and creed. This doctrine also allows for different literary styles, poor grammar, approximations in numbers, etc.

“He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”



JOHN 8:47

Origen, Against Celsus 7.60

“The Divine nature intended to teach not only those who were learned in the literature of Greece, but also the rest of mankind. Jesus adapted Himself in order to be understood by the simple multitudes whom He addressed. He sought to win their attention by using language familiar to them. This is so that after their first introduction, they might be easily persuaded to strive after an understanding of the deeper truths hidden in Scripture.”

Clement of Alexandria

“The things [Jesus] explained [to his disciples] require even more consideration than the things which seem to have been simply stated. Those who heard such explanations didn’t ask questions, because the Lord’s words pertaining to the entire design of salvation were meant to be contemplated with awe and a deep spiritual mind.”, Who is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?

Origen, De principiis 1, praef. 8

“Then [we believe] that the Scriptures were composed by the Spirit of God and that they have not only a meaning that is manifest but also another that is hidden as far as most people are concerned... About this the universal Church is in accord, that the whole law is spiritual. What the law is full of, however, is not known to all but only to those to whom it is given by the grace of the Holy Spirit in a word of wisdom and knowledge.”

Jerome, Letter 53

“There are many today who consider themselves leamed, yet the Scriptures are a sealed book to them. They can’t open it without the help of Him who has the key of David. ‘He that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth.’”

Athanasius, On the Incarnation of the Word 57

“In order to search Scripture and truly understand it, we must have an honorable life, a pure soul, and Christ’s righteousness. Then our minds can understand the Word of God as much as human nature allows.... People who want to see a city or country go to the place to see it. In the same way, if we want to understand those who wrote about God, we must begin by washing and cleansing our souls. We must live like the saints themselves and imitate their works. When we become like them and live the common life, we can understand what God has revealed to them.”

An old lady returned home from a church service to find an intruder in the process of ransacking her house. "Stop!" she yelled. "Acts 2:38!" (which says, "Repent!") The burglar stopped dead while the old lady called the police. As he handcuffed the burglar, the officer asked, "How come you just stood there? All the old lady did was quote a Bible verse." "A Bible verse?" the thief replied. "She said she had an axe and two .38s!" - See more at:

A man who goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, I'm coughing my heart out. It feels like my lungs are burning up." "Let's take a look," says the doctor. So the doctor examines him. "It's not looking good. But you're in luck. I've got a bottle of medicine here. The instructions are on the bottle. It'll clear this up in three days." Five days later the man returns. "Doctor, you told me this stuff would cure me in three days. I'm not getting better. I'm getting worse." "Did you read the instructions?" the doctor asks. "Of course I read the instructions," the man replies. "It says ..." The doctor snatches the bottle out of his hand.

"Gimme that bottle. This bottle is unopened." "You didn't say I had to open it." "Listen, you came in to see me. I examined you. I diagnosed your problem. I gave you the medicine. Now it's over to you." How many Christians know that God's Word has power to transform their lives, to heal, to deliver, to give wisdom, to counsel, but they just never seem to get around to reading it on a regular basis?

“Have you not even read this Scripture:

‘THE STONE WHICH THE
BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS
BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER

stone;

MARK 12:10

And He began to say to them,
“Today this Scripture has been
fulfilled in your hearing.”

LUKE 4:21

“Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

JOHN 7:42

“If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

JOHN 10:35

“While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

JOHN 17:12

“Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

ACTS 1:16

The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying,
“ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.”

GALATIANS 3:8

Until I come, give attention to
the public reading of Scripture,
to exhortation and teaching.

I TIMOTHY 4:13

But know this first of all, that no
prophecy of Scripture is a matter
of one's own interpretation,

2 PETER 1:20

All Scripture is inspired by God
and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, for
training in righteousness;

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

It is truth: “The sum of Thy word is truth” (Psalms 119:160). It makes free: “...If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).



3. It produces faith: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17, NASB).



4. It judges: “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb. 4:12).



John 8:47

“He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

~~HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE~~

Luke 24:27

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:44-45

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.” 45. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:2

So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:17

And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

~~HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK~~
~~ADDRESSING THE CULTURE~~
~~WITH SCRIPTURE~~

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE



The Reliability of the New Testament

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

In the New Testament it became known as:

Law or “The word of God.” Prophets
books of Psalms
the Law Scripture Oracles
Scroll Parchment

γραφὴ graphē; a document, i.e. holy Writ (or its contents or a statement in it).

Today it is known as:

“The word of God.”

Scripture

The Bible is not a book, but rather a compilation of 66 books.

Bible

Greek word bíblos (βίβλος), meaning “book,” “scroll” or “parchment.”

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

Matthew

Paul - 13 Letters

Mark

Hebrews - author unknown

**John - Gospel, 3
Letter & Revelation**

James - 1 Letter

Peter - 2 Letters

**Luke - Gospel &
Acts (history of the
early church)**

Jude - 1 Letter

**It's the Law: "On the evidence of
two or three witnesses a matter shall
be confirmed" (Deut. 19:15).**

The New Testament is not one book

27 N.T. Books

c. 9 authors

Over a period of
c. 50-60 years

All in Greek

Middle East
Geographically

Each book is uniquely inspired by God

They are written in a variety of genres

**Gospels
(Autobiographies
of Jesus)**

**History
(Narrative)**

**Epistles
(Letters)**

**Apocalyptic
(Revelation)**

• **The New Testament Has:**

- *More manuscripts*

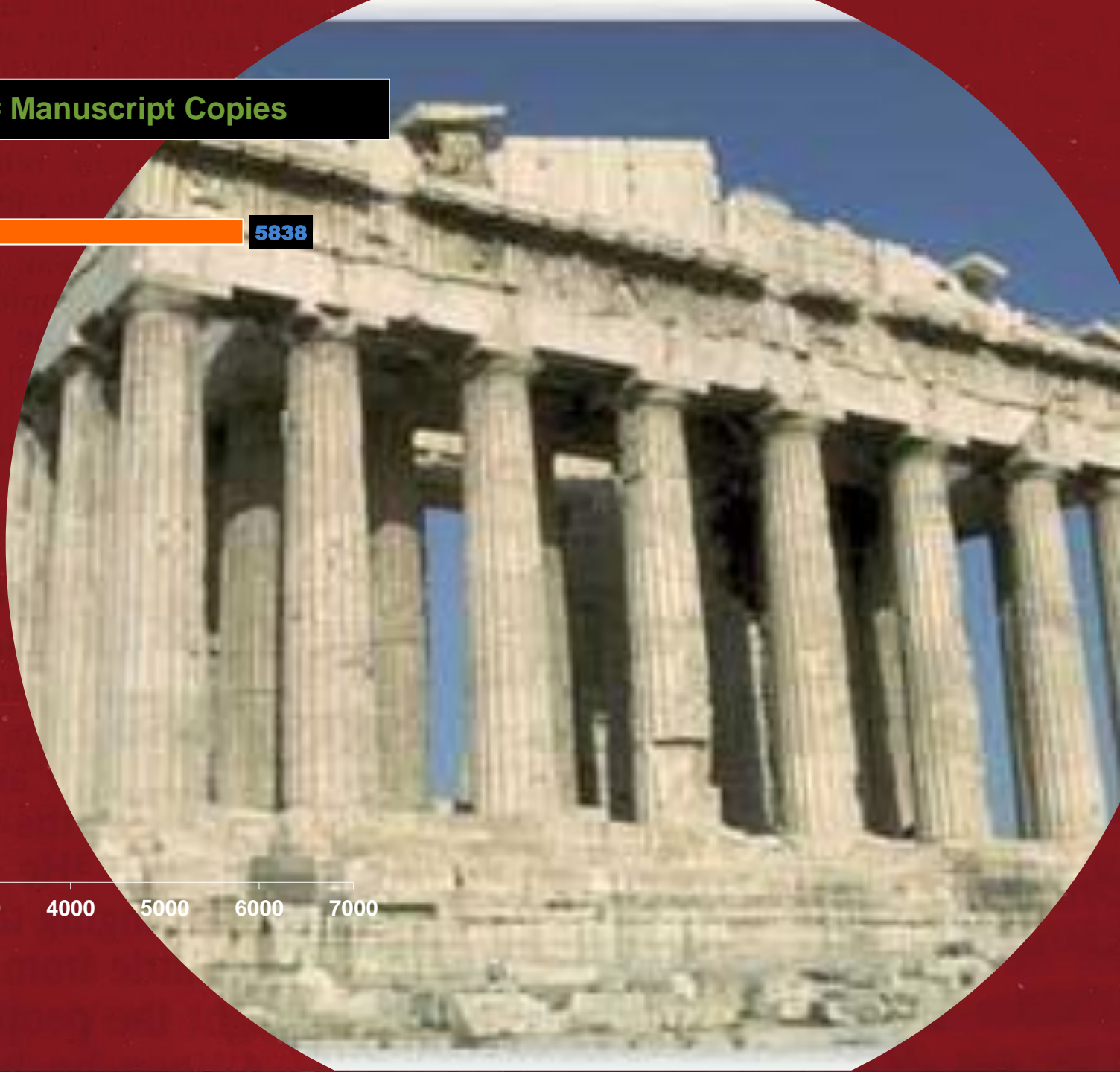
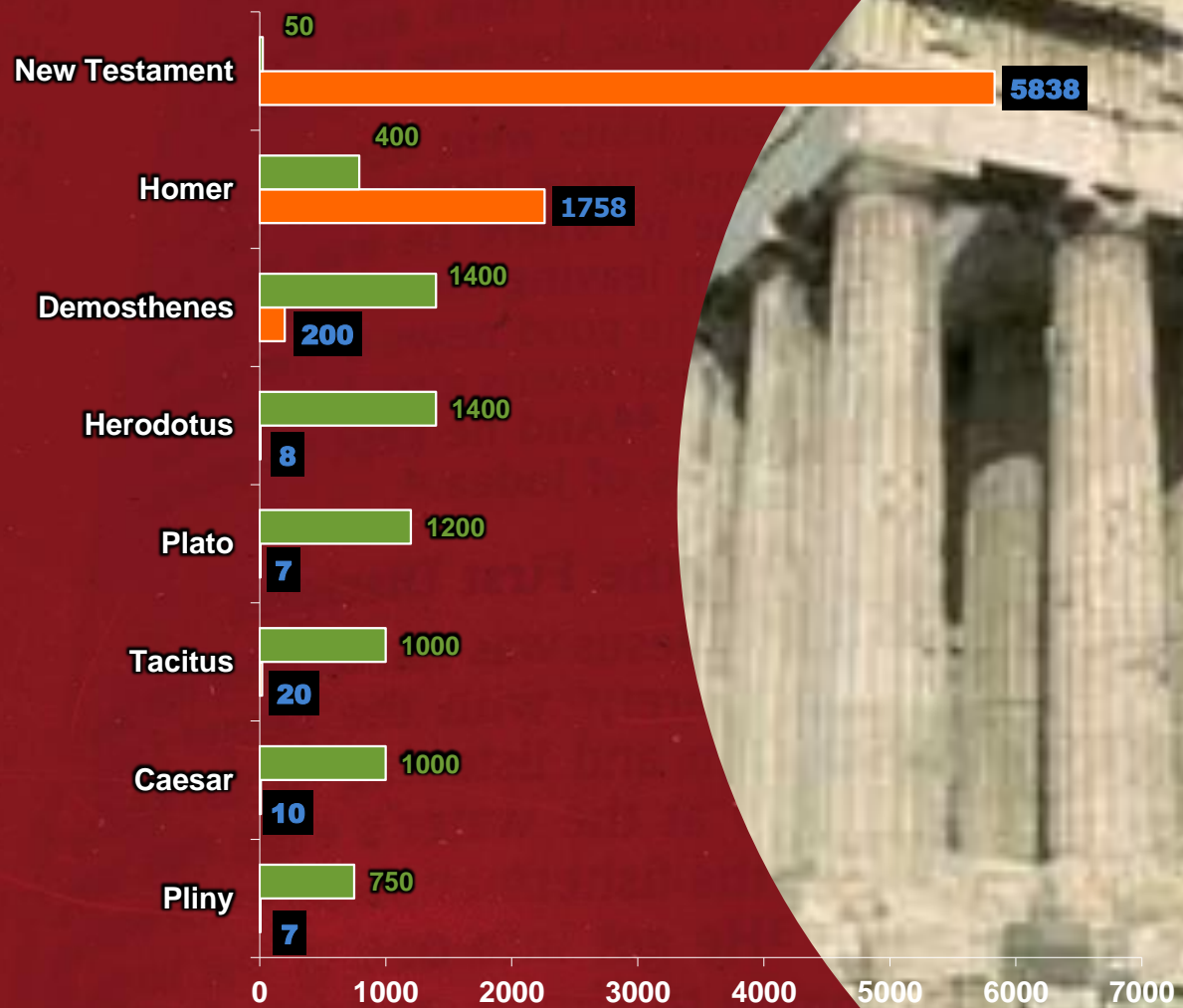
- *Earlier manuscripts*

- *More accurately copied manuscripts* —
than any other book from the ancient
world!

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

■ Time Gap in Years

■ # Manuscript Copies



Total Number of Manuscripts

Greek:	5,800
Latin:	10,000+
Others	8,000+
Total	24,000 mss.

Nothing else in the ancient world even comes close to this!

~~HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE~~

Alexander the Great

Sources Available

Contemporary—none

100 years later—only fragments

300–500 years later—several histories

N.T.—20-30 years later—
whole story of Christ



Archaeological Confirmation

- *Over 30 people in the New Testament have been confirmed*
- *Over 60 confirmed historical details in the Gospel of John (C. Blomberg)*
- *Over 80 confirmed historical details in the book of Acts (C.J. Hemmer)*

Without a single mistake!

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

FOREWORD BY DR. WALTER C. KAISER, JR.

THE POPULAR
HANDBOOK *of*
ARCHAEOLOGY
and the BIBLE

*Discoveries That
Confirm the
Reliability
of Scripture*



JOSEPH M. HOLDEN
NORMAN GEISLER

Archaeological Confirmation

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

Archaeological Confirmation

“In extraordinary ways, modern archaeology has affirmed the historical core of the Old and New Testaments—corroborating key portions of the stories of Israel’s patriarchs, the Exodus, the Davidic monarchy, and the life and times of Jesus.”

(Jeffery Sheler, “Is the Bible True,” US News & World Report, October 25, 1999, 52)

What did the New Testament writers have to gain by making up a new religion?

They had every motive to say the resurrection did NOT happen!

Why would they die for a known lie?

HOW SHALL WE NOW THINK
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE
WITH SCRIPTURE

APOSTLE'S BELIEFS & PRACTICES

before & after the resurrection

BEFORE

- ANIMAL SACRIFICE
- BINDING LAW OF MOSES
- STRICT MONOTHEISM
- THE SABBATH
- CONQUERING MESSIAH
- CIRCUMCISION

AFTER

- CHRIST'S SACRIFICE
- CHRIST'S LIFE
- TRINITY
- SUNDAY WORSHIP
- SACRIFICIAL MESSIAH
- BAPTISM & COMMUNION

500 Eyewitnesses of the Resurrection

“...He [Jesus] was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...” (1 Cor. 15:3-8)--written 55-56 A.D.

Ten Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

- 1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.**
- 2. There were nine different authors of 27 books.**
- 3. Their works were based on eyewitness testimony.**
- 4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm its message.**
- 5. There was no time for myth to replace basic facts.**
- 6. The internal nature of the records is authentic.**
- 7. Noted Roman historians have confirmed it.**
- 8. Noted legal experts have vouched for it.**
- 9. Numerous archaeological finds supported it.**
- 10. Non-Christian sources support their message.**

***Nothing like this exists for any other book
from the ancient world!***

