

Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. **If God exists then miracles are possible.**
5. **Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.**
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. **Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:**
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).



Are Miracles Possible?

Copyright By Norman L. Geisler 2007

Are Miracles Possible?

I. The Nature of Miracles

II. The Importance of Miracles

III. The Possibility of Miracles

IV. The Reality of Miracles

V. The Chief Purpose of Miracles

I. The Nature of Miracles

- **A. Definition:** A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the natural world.
- It is an event that would not (or could not) have been produced by purely natural forces.

- **B. Distinction:**

Natural Event	Supernatural Event
Regular	Irregular (Rare)
Repeatable	Not Repeatable
Predictable	Not Predictable

B. Distinction: Miracle and Providence

Miracle

Supernatural Cause

Nature Can Not Produce

**God Is The Direct Cause
(apart from Nature)**

How Is Unknown

Unusual Event

Providence

Natural Cause

Nature Can Produce

**God Is Indirect Cause
(through nature)**

How Can Be Known

Unusual Timing

B. Distinction: Miracle and Magic

Miracle

Supernatural

Under God's Control

Glory to God

Deception Involved

Fits in Nature

Magic

Natural Cause

Under Man's Control

Glory to Man

No Deception Involved

Does not Fit in Nature

B. Distinction: Miracle and Magic

Divine Miracle

Supernatural

Connected with Truth

Associated with Good

Never Associated

with the Occult

Satanic Sign

Supernormal

Connected with Error

Associated with Evil

Often Associated

with the Occult

Some Occult Signs

1. False predictions (Deut. 18:21-22).
2. Contacting departed spirits (Deut. 18:11).
3. Use of objects of divination as stones, crystals, etc. (Deut. 18:11).
4. Use of mediums, channelers, witches, fortune-tellers (Deut. 18:11).
5. Association with idols or images (Ex. 20:3-4; Deut. 13:-3).
6. Denial of Christ deity (Col. 2:8-9) or humanity (1Jn. 4:1-2).
7. Abstinance of foods for spiritual reasons (1 Tim. 4:3-4).
8. Deprecating or denying marriage (1 Tim. 4:3).
9. Promoting immorality (Eph. 2:2-3; Jude 7).
10. Encouraging self-denial and legalism (Col. 2:16-23).
11. Encouraging self-deification (Gen. 3:5; 2 Thes. 2:9).
12. Denying the reality of death (Gen. 3:4).
13. Promoting lying (Jn. 8:44).
14. Advocating astrology (Deut. 4:19; Isa. 47:13-15).

B. Distinction: Supernatural v. Psychological Healings

Supernatural

Faith not required

Contact Needed

Always Works

No Relapses

All Kinds of Diseases

Always Immediate

Psychological

Faith is Required

Contact not Needed

Does not Always Work

Many Relapses

Not All Kinds of Diseases

Not Always Immediate

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

a. **No Word of God without them**

“The Bible cannot be the supernatural

Word of God without supernatural acts

of God.”

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

- a. No Word of God without them
- b. No Son of God without them

“Jesus cannot be the supernatural Son of God without supernatural acts of God.”

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

- a. No Word of God without them
- b. No Son of God without them
- c. No Salvation without them

Are Miracles Possible?

c. No Salvation without miracles

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” (1 Cor. 15:17)

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

III. The Possibility of Miracles

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

III. The Possibility of Miracles

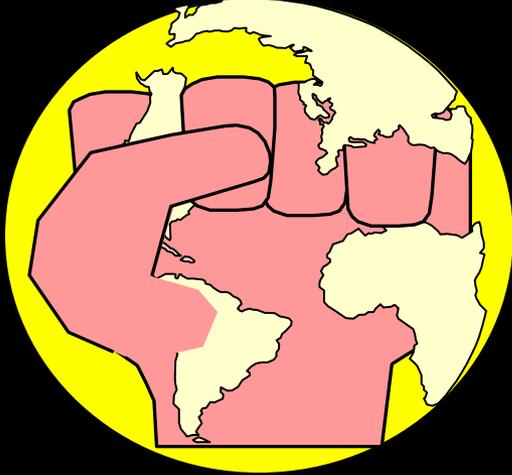
a. If God exists, miracles are possible.

“But if we admit God, must we admit miracles?

Indeed, indeed, you have no security against it.

*That is the bargain” (C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*, 109).*

The Three Major Religious World Views



Theism

Pantheism

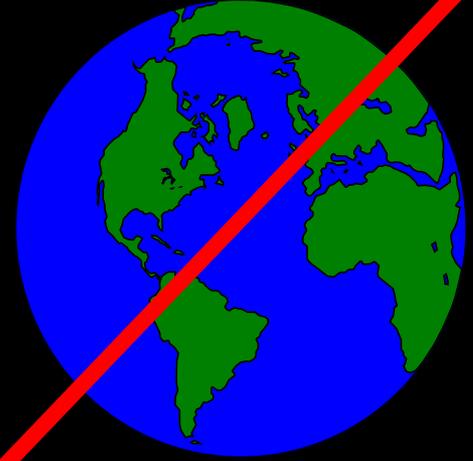
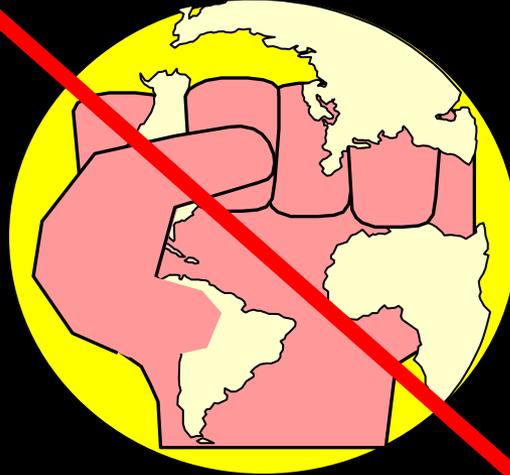
Atheism

God made all

God is all

No God at all

Only Theism has Miracles



Theism

~~Pantheism~~

~~Atheism~~

God made all

~~God is all~~

~~No God at all~~

YOUR WORLD VIEW CAN COLOR YOUR CONCLUSION

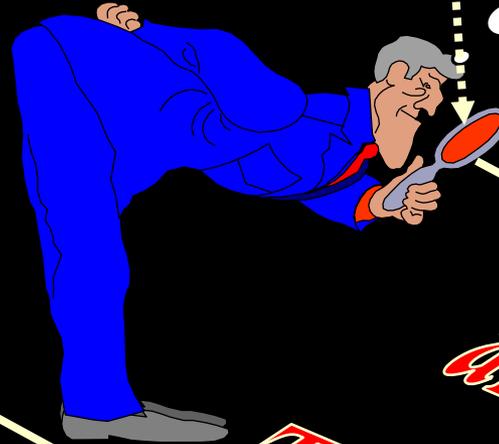
Theism

*Miracles
Are
Possible*



Atheism, Pantheism

*Miracles
Are Not
Possible*



*History
and
Truth*

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

III. The Possibility of Miracles

a. If God exists, miracles are possible.

b. To disprove miracles are possible, one
must disprove God exists.

Are Miracles Possible?

II. The Importance of Miracles

III. The Possibility of Miracles

- a. If God exists, miracles are possible.
- b. To disprove miracles are possible, one must prove God is impossible.
- c. To prove miracles are actual, prove God.

The

Conclusion:

*The physical universe
had a beginning!*

God

"In the beginning God..."

*But if God, then
miracles!*



Did David Hume Prove Miracles are Impossible?

David Hume's Argument:

- 1. Natural Law is by definition a description of a regular occurrence.**
- 2. A miracle is by definition a rare occurrence.**
- 3. The evidence for the regular is always greater than that for the rare.**
- 4. A wise person always bases his belief on the greater evidence.**
- 5. Therefore, a wise person should never believe in miracles.**



A Response to David Hume

1. It does not deny the **possibility** of miracles; it only addresses the **credibility** of miracles.
2. If valid, it proves too much. It would mean we should not believe in a miracle even if one actually occurred!
3. The argument is not sound since the third premise is false.



David Hume's Argument has a False Premise

David Hume's Argument:

- 1. Natural Law is by definition a description of a regular occurrence.**
- 2. A miracle is by definition a rare occurrence.**
- 3. The evidence for the regular is always greater than that for the rare (=false).**
- 4. A wise person always bases his belief on the greater evidence.**
- 5. Therefore, a wise person should never believe in miracles.**



The Answer to Hume's Objection

The evidence for the regular is not always greater than that for the rare.

Examples from Hume's own world view:

- 1. The origin of the universe is not a regular event.**
- 2. The origin of life on earth does not occur regularly.**
- 3. Macroevolution has not be repeated.**
- 4. The entire history of the earth happened only once.**

Lewontin

- “We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs... because we have a prior commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a materialistic explanation of the phenomenal world but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes.... Moreover that materialism is absolute for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door” (*New York Review of Books*, 1/9/96).

Are Miracles Possible?

I. The Nature of Miracles

II. The Importance of Miracles

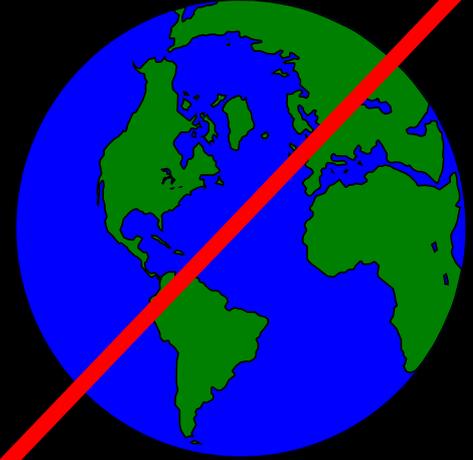
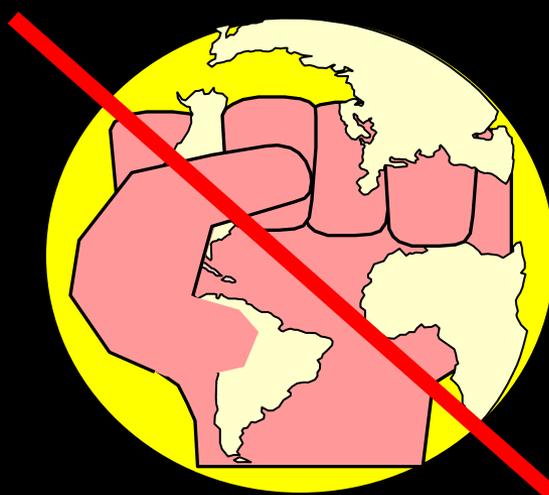
III. The Possibility of Miracles

IV. The Reality of Miracles

If God, then miracles!

1. The biggest miracle has occurred (creation from nothing).
2. Therefore, other smaller miracles are possible.

If God Exists, Two World Views are False



Theism

~~Pantheism~~

~~Atheism~~

God made all

~~God is all~~

~~No God at all~~

The Possibilities in a Theistic Universe

Could be true:

1. Judaism
2. Christianity
3. Islam



Cannot be true:

1. Hinduism
2. Buddhism
3. New Age
4. Secular Humanism
5. Mormonism
6. Polytheism
7. Wicca
8. Confucianism
9. Taoism

The Three Major Theistic Religions



Theism

God made all

Which is true:

1. Judaism?
2. Christianity?
3. Islam?

The Three Major Theistic Religions



All Believe in Miracles.

***Only Christ was
confirmed by
miracles.***

Only Christianity is true.

Theism

God made all

Miracles Confirm Christianity to be True



Theism

Christ:

Judaism Predicted Him

Islam Recognized Him

Miracles Confirmed Him

God made all

The Three Major Theistic Religions



Theism

God made all

Christ:

All Believe in Miracles.

***Only Christ was
confirmed by
miracles.***

***Only Christianity is
true.***

Are Miracles Possible?

I. The Importance of Miracles

II. The Possibility of Miracles

III. The Reality of Miracles

IV. The Chief Purpose of Miracles

The Purpose of Miracles:

To confirm a message from God

Nicodemus: *“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs [miracles] that you do unless God is with him” (John 3:2).*

The Purpose of Miracles:

To confirm a message from God

Acts 2:22: *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know....”*

The Purpose of Miracles:

To confirm a message from God

Hebrews 2:3: “God also bearing witness [to Jesus] both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and with gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will.”

Christ Confirmed by the Jewish Bible

Prophecy Proves He is the Messiah



Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

Ethnic Group

Abraham, Gen 12:1

Tribe

Judah, Gen 49:10

Dynasty

David, 2 Sam 7:12

How

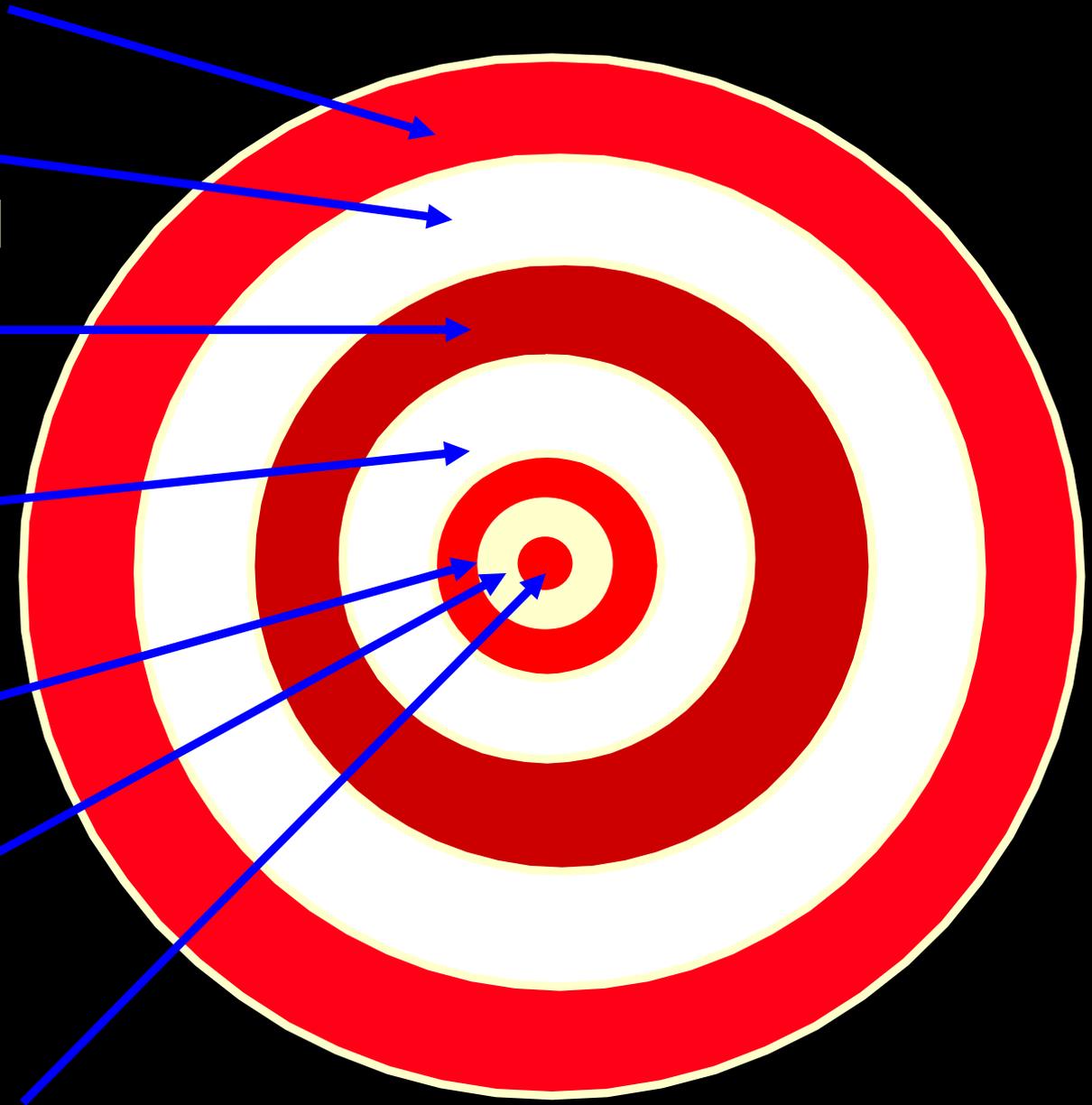
Virgin, Isa 7:14

Where

Bethlehem, Mic 5:2

When

33 A.D., Dan 9:24



Christ Confirmed by the Jewish Bible

Prophecy Proves He is the Messiah

History Proves He Performed Miracles

Christ Confirmed by the Qur'an

Qur'an: Miracles Confirm Christ



ACCORDING TO THE QUR'AN

MUHAMMAD

Not Virgin Born

Not Messiah

Not Word of God

Did No Miracles

Body is in Grave

JESUS

Virgin Born

Called Messiah

Called Word of God

Did Miracles

Body is in Heaven

According to Qur'an:

Christians Should Obey the Bible

Sura 5:68 Says: *"O People of the Book! ye have no ground to stand upon unless ye stand fast by the Law, the Gospel, and all the revelation that has come to you from your Lord."*

According to the Qur'an:

Truth is Found in the Bible

Sura 10:94: *“But if you (Muhammad) are in doubt as to what We (Allah) have revealed to you, ask those who read the Book before you; certainly the truth has come to you from your Lord, therefore you should not be of the disputers.”*

The New Testament is Historically Reliable

The NT says Jesus did Miracles.

The NT is Historically Reliable.

Therefore, Jesus did miracles.

*But miracles confirm He is the Son of
God.*

Hence, Jesus is the Son of God.

The New Testament is Historically Reliable

- 1. More manuscripts**
 - 2. Earlier manuscripts**
 - 3. Better copied manuscripts**
 - 4. More eyewitnesses of events**
 - 5. More confirmed by archaeology**
- Than any book from the ancient world!**

I. Without Miracles, There Is --

- a. No Word of God without them**
- b. No Son of God without them**
- c. No Salvation as an act of God**

II. With Miracles, There Is—

- a. The Word of God**
- b. The Son of God**
- c. The Way to God**

In brief, ...

- 1. God exists**
- 2. Miracles are Possible**
- 3. The New Testament is Reliable**
- 4. The NT says Miracles Confirmed
Jesus as the Son of God**
- 5. Therefore, Jesus is the Son of God**

Jesus Said He is the Only Way to God

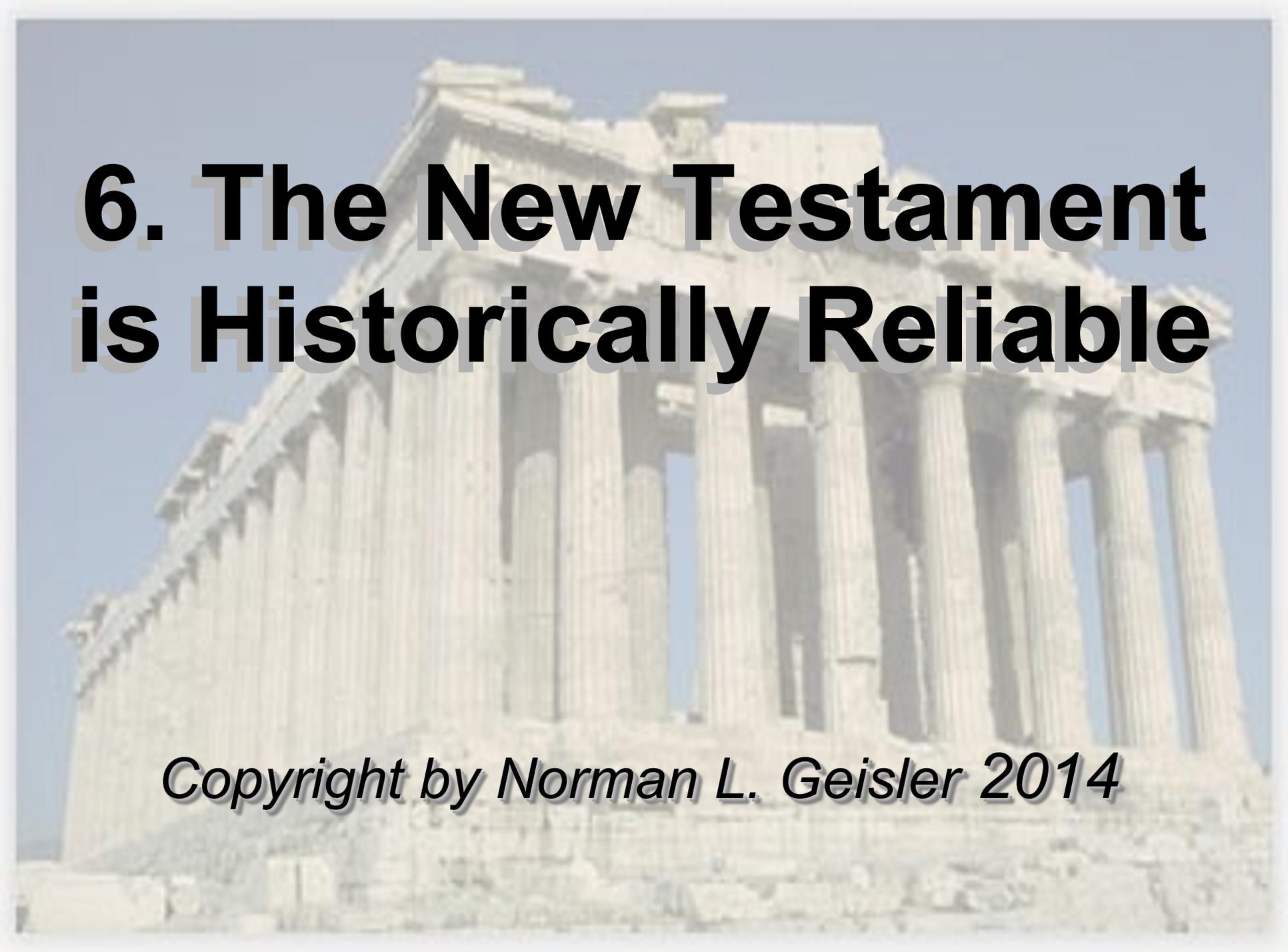
John 14:6: *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me.”*

John 10:1, 9: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.... I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved....”*

Acts 4:12: *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

1 Timothy 2:5: *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”*

Therefore, Jesus is the only way to God!



6. The New Testament is Historically Reliable

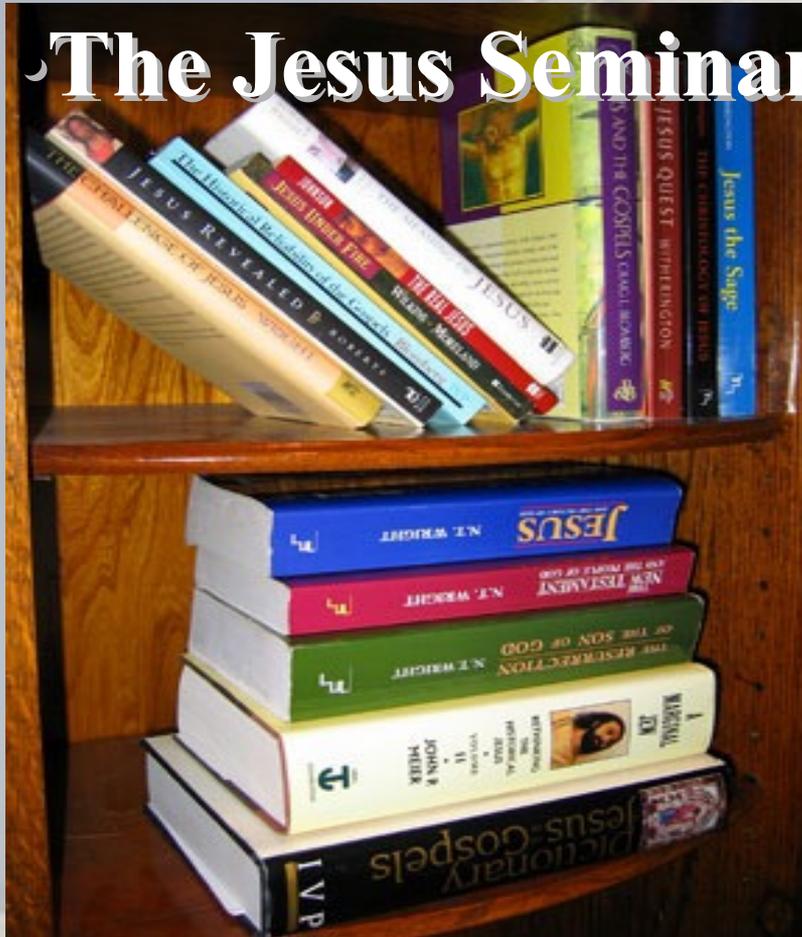
Copyright by Norman L. Geisler 2014

Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

- 1. Truth about reality is knowable.**
- 2. The opposite of true is false.**
- 3. It is true that the theistic God exists.**
- 4. If God exists then miracles are possible.**
- 5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.**
- 6. The New Testament is historically reliable.**
- 7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.**
- 8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:**
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies;**
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;**
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection**
- 9. Therefore, Jesus is God.**
- 10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.**
- 11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.**
- 12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).**

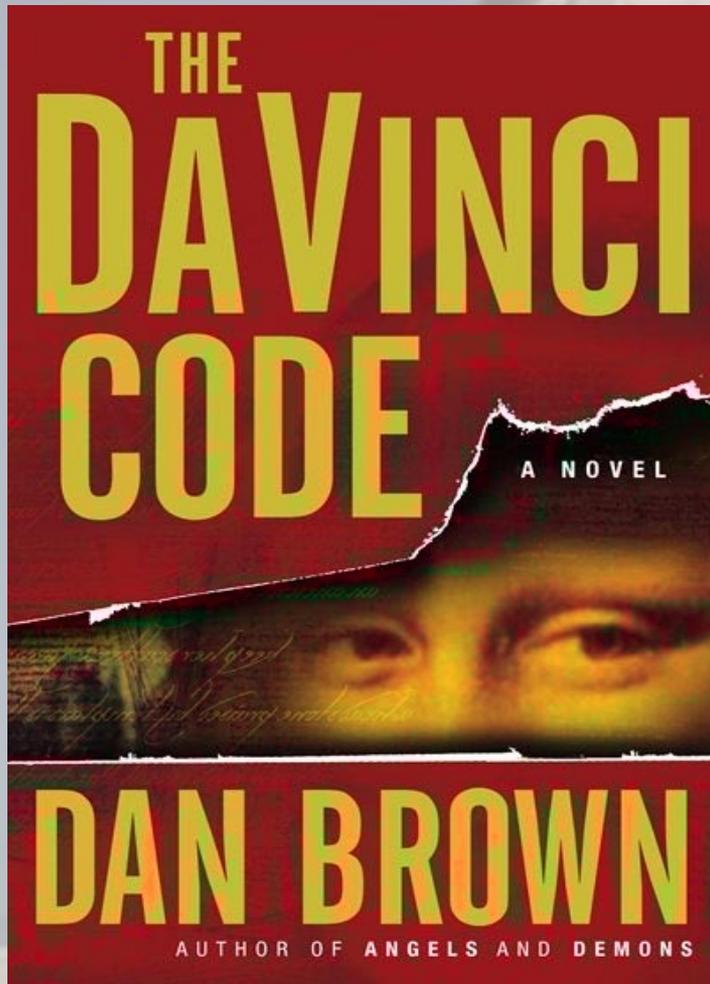
A. The Jesus Seminar: Doubts Most of the Gospels

The Jesus Seminar



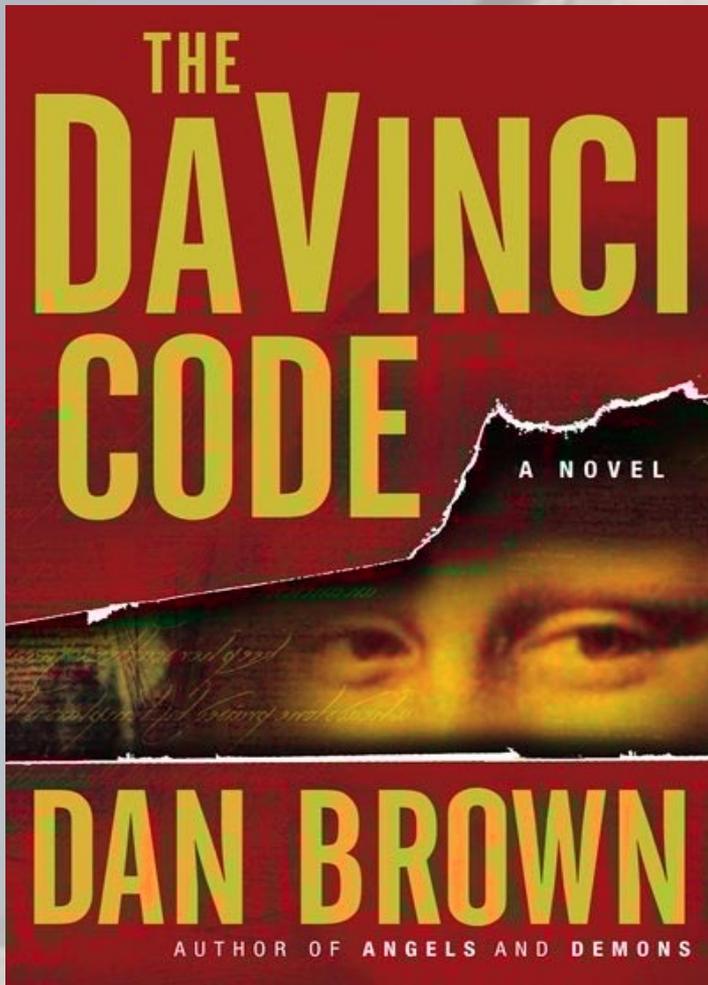
- 82% is not authentic
- 16% more is doubtful
- 98% total is in doubt

B. DaVinci Code: Purely Human



“The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God.... Man created it as a historical record.... History has never had a definitive version of the book...” (231).

B. DaVinci Code: False Miracles



“Many have made a trade of delusions and false miracles, deceiving the stupid multitude....”

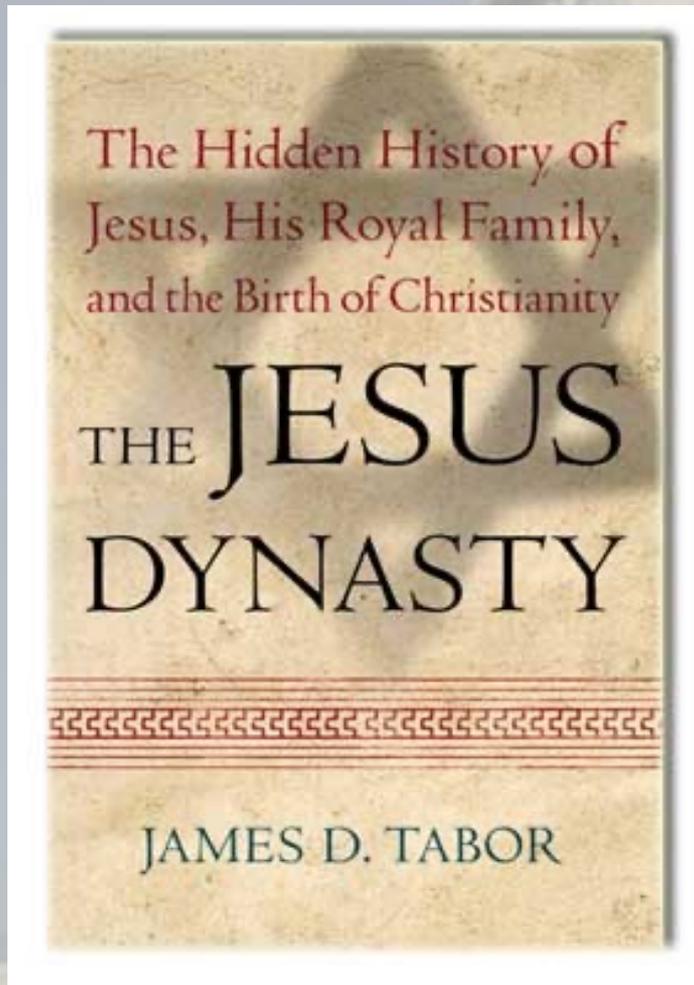
C. Bart Ehrman: Doubts Manuscripts



“And these [NT Ms.] copies all differ from one another, in many thousands of places.... These copies differ from each other in so many places that we don’t even know how many differences there are.”

“Mark did not say the same thing as Luke. John is different from Matthew—not the same. Paul is different from Acts. And James is different from Paul” (Misquoting Jesus, 10, 12).

D. James Tabor: No Miracles



The Gospels have errors and contradictions (237). Miracle stories are not true including the Virgin Birth and resurrection because “Women do not get pregnant without a male—ever” (233) and “Dead bodies don’t rise—not if one is clinically dead—as Jesus surely was after Roman crucifixion and three days in a tomb” (234).

Evidence the NT is Reliable

- A. The **Documents** are Copied Accurately.
- B. The **Events** were Recorded Accurately.



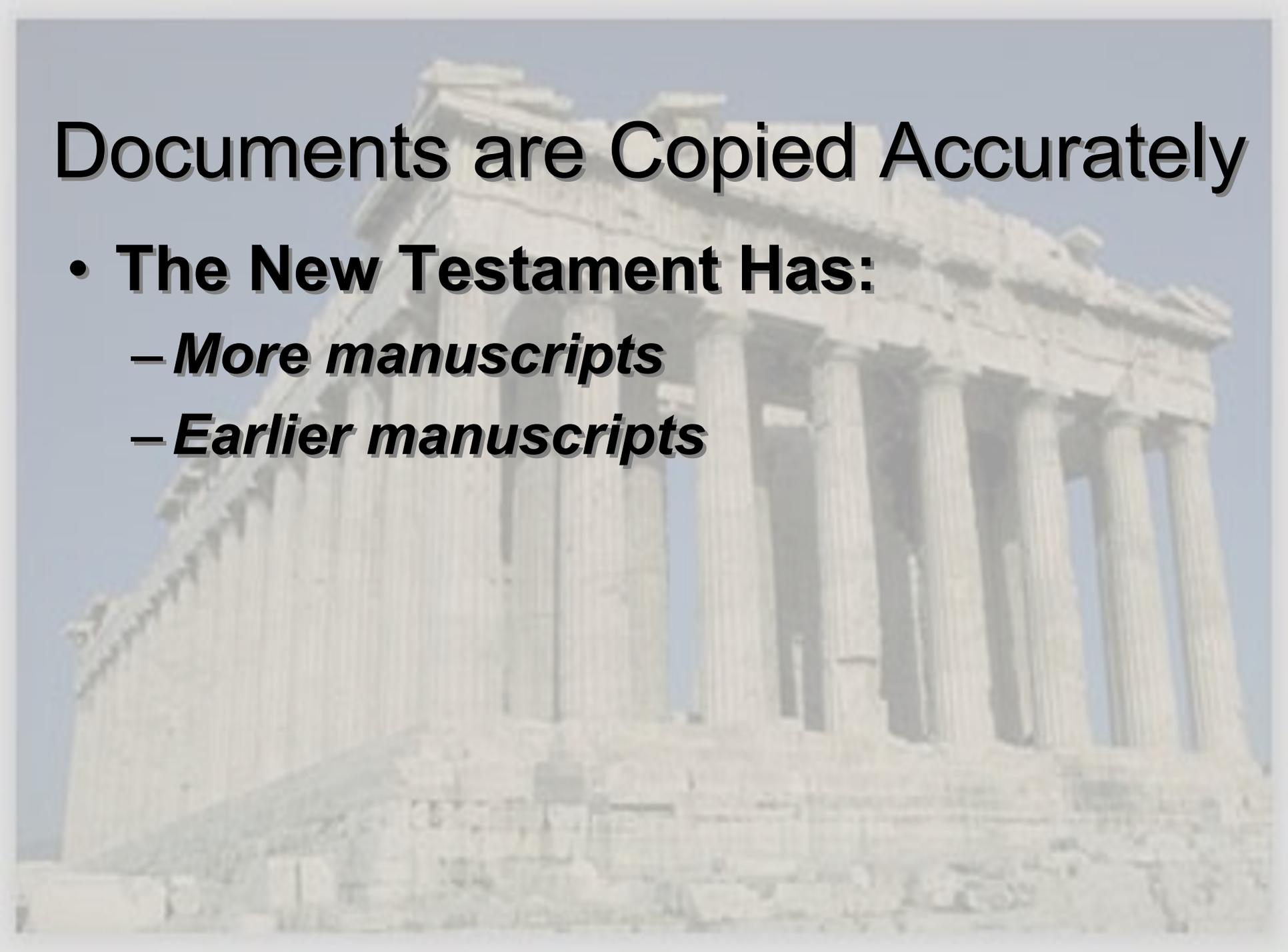
Documents are Copied Accurately

- **The New Testament Has:**
 - *More manuscripts*



Documents are Copied Accurately

- **The New Testament Has:**
 - *More manuscripts*
 - *Earlier manuscripts*



Documents are Copied Accurately



- **The New Testament Has:**
 - *More manuscripts*
 - *Earlier manuscripts*
 - *More accurately copied manuscripts*

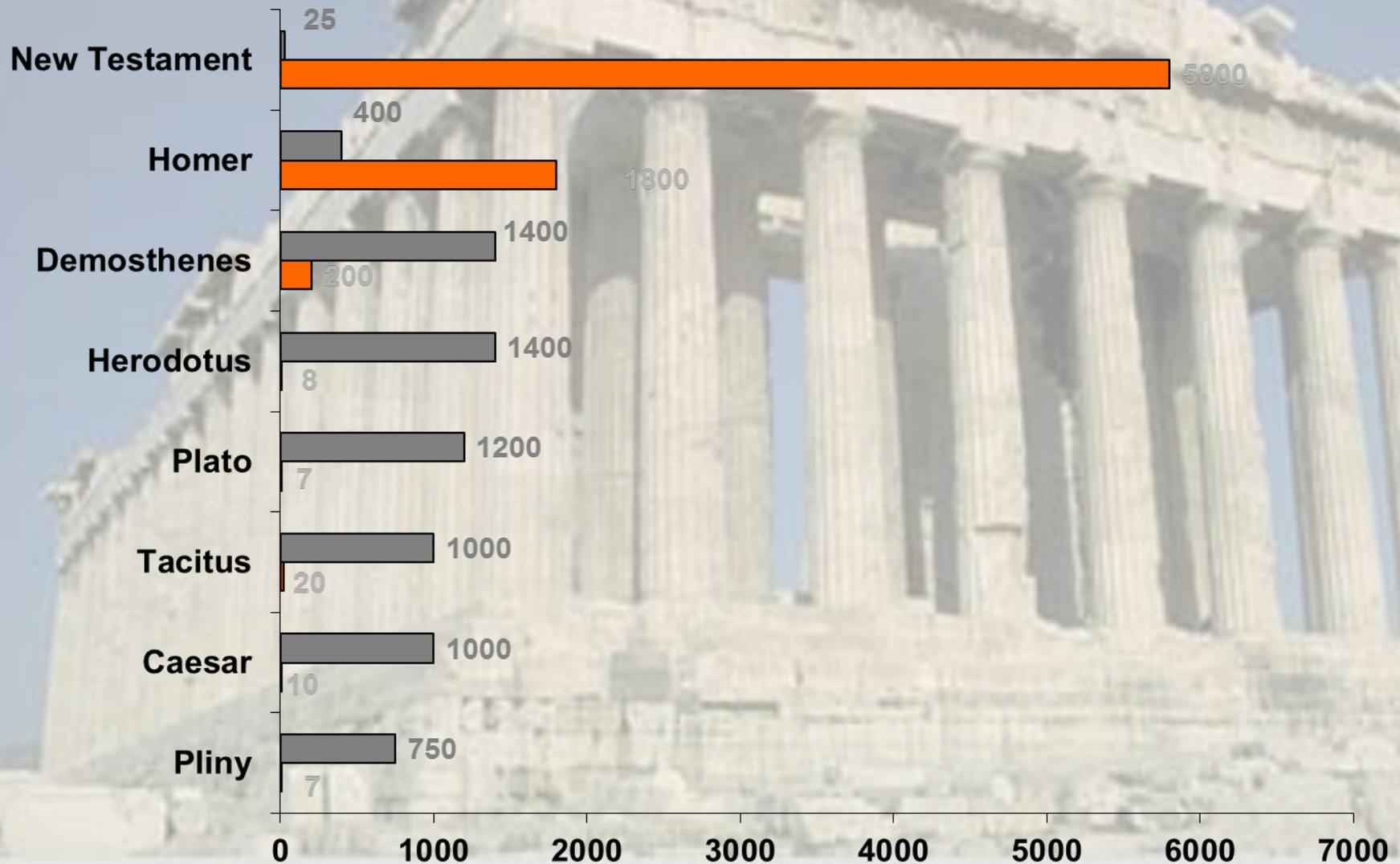
Documents are Copied Accurately

- **The New Testament Has:**
 - *More manuscripts*
 - *Earlier manuscripts*
 - *More accurately copied manuscripts.*
 - ***than any other book from the ancient world!***

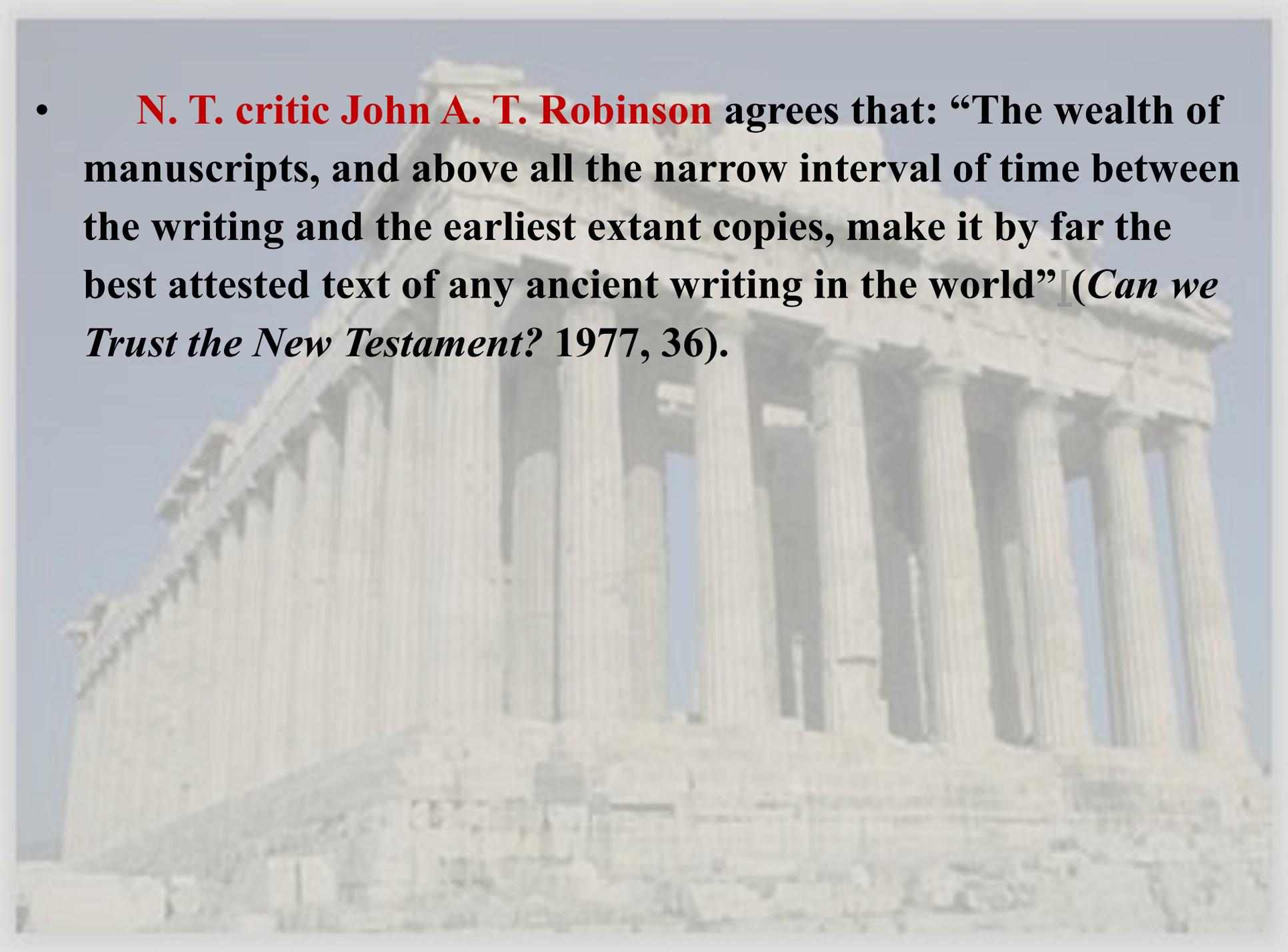
More and Earlier NT Mss.

■ Time Gap in Years

■ # Manuscript Copies



- **N. T. critic John A. T. Robinson** agrees that: “The wealth of manuscripts, and above all the narrow interval of time between the writing and the earliest extant copies, make it by far the best attested text of any ancient writing in the world” [*Can we Trust the New Testament?* 1977, 36).



- **N. T. critic John A. T. Robinson** agrees that: “The wealth of manuscripts, and above all the narrow interval of time between the writing and the earliest extant copies, make it by far the best attested text of any ancient writing in the world” [*Can we Trust the New Testament?* 1977, 36).
- **Skeptic Helmut Koester** attests that: “Classical authors are often represented by but one surviving manuscript But there are nearly five thousand manuscripts of the NT in Greek the manuscript tradition of the NT begins as early as the end of II CE. . . . Thus it seems that NT textual criticism possesses a base which is far more advantageous than that for the textual criticism of classical authors” (*History and Literature of Early Christianity*, two vols. (1982, II:16-17).

The Testimony of the *Scrolls*



There are More NT Manuscripts

The NT

c. 5800 mss.

Most Other Books

10-20 mss.

The Testimony of the *Scrolls*



There are Earlier NT manuscripts

New Testament

Most Other Books

25 – 150+ yr. gap

c. 1000 yr. gap

John Ryland – 117f A.D.--five verses from John 18:31-33; 37-38

Bodmer Papyri--200 A.D.--most of John, 1&2Peter, and Jude

Chester Beatty Papyri--250 A.D.--nearly all the NT books

Vaticanus Manuscript--325-50 A.D.--most of OT and NT

Bodmer Papyri



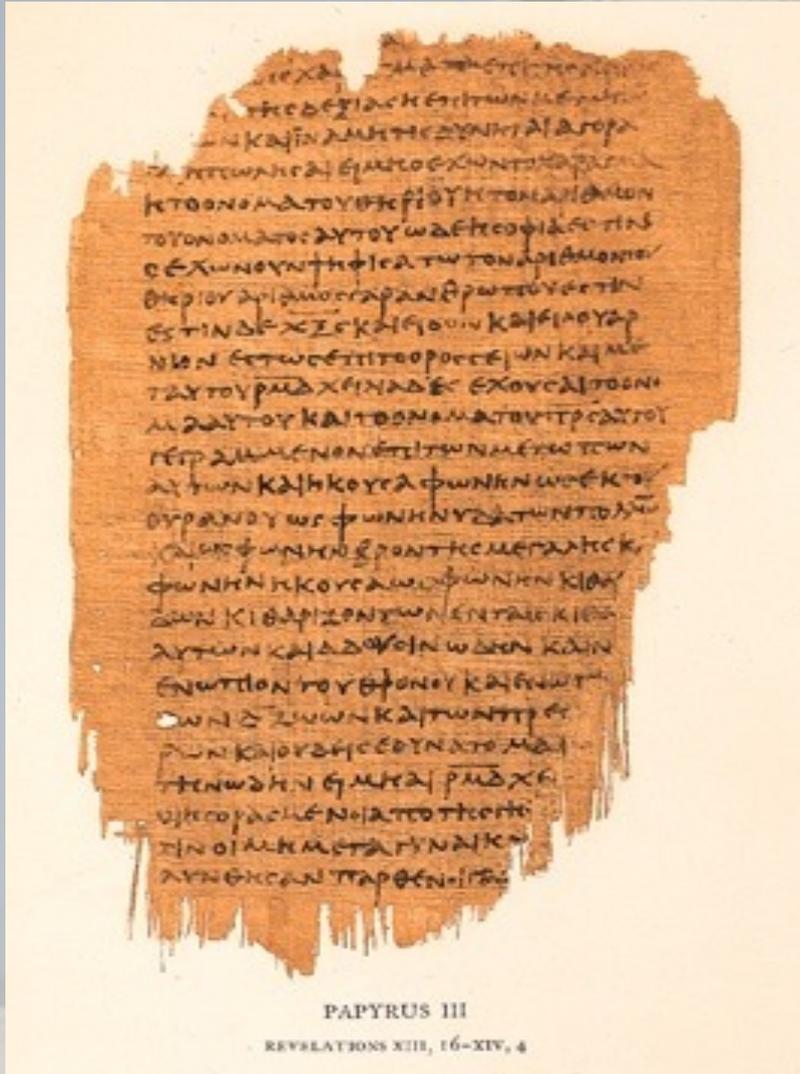
Dated: c. 200 A.D.

Housed: Geneva

Contents: Luke, John (P⁶⁶, P⁷⁵, 1 & 2 Peter & Jude P⁷²)

Value: Earliest copy of an Epistle and a Gospel (only 100+ years from the original Gospel).

Chester Beatty Papyri



Dated: c. A. D. 250

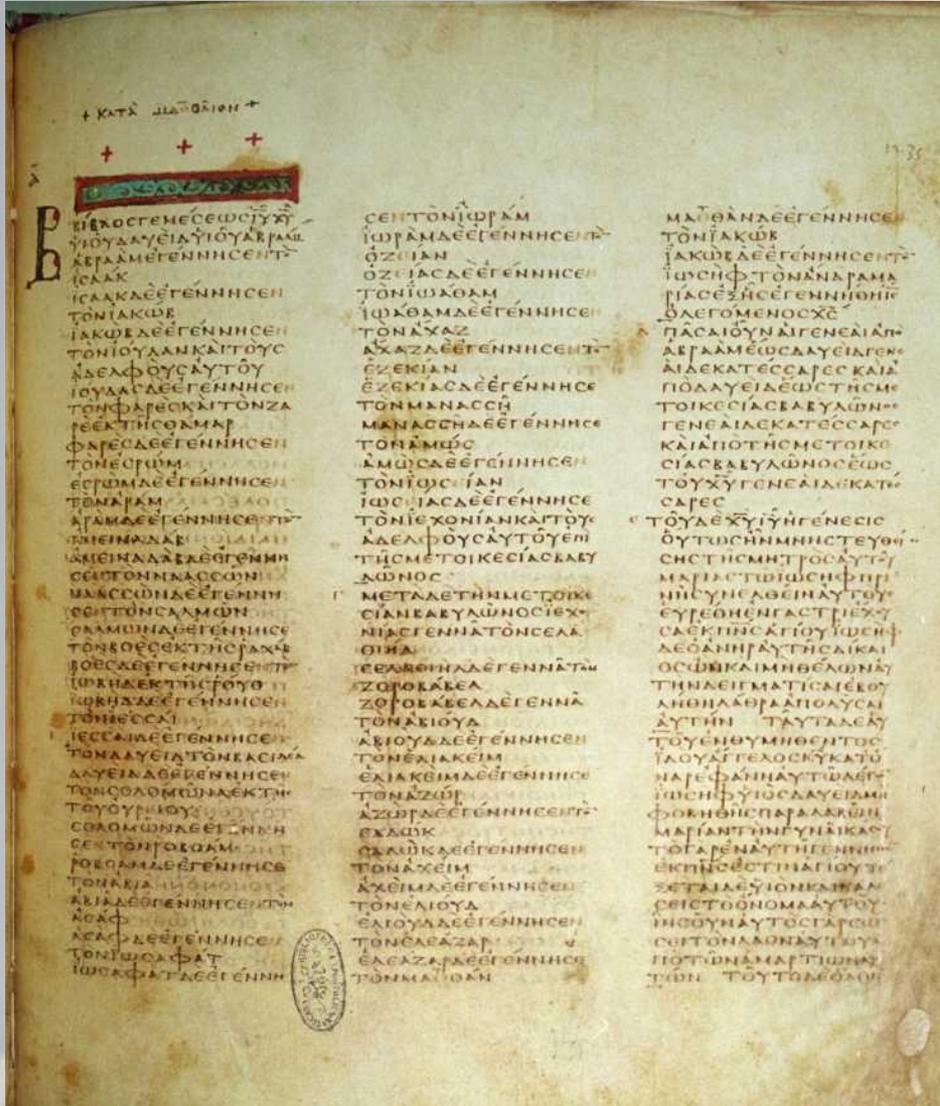
Housed: Dublin

Contents: Most of NT

Value: Earliest copy of most of the NT

Symbols: P⁴⁵P⁴⁶•47

Codex Vaticanus



Date: A. D. 325-350

Contents: Most of the OT and most of the NT

Value: Has NT and Greek OT (LXX)

Housed: Rome

Symbol: B

•Codex Sinaiticus

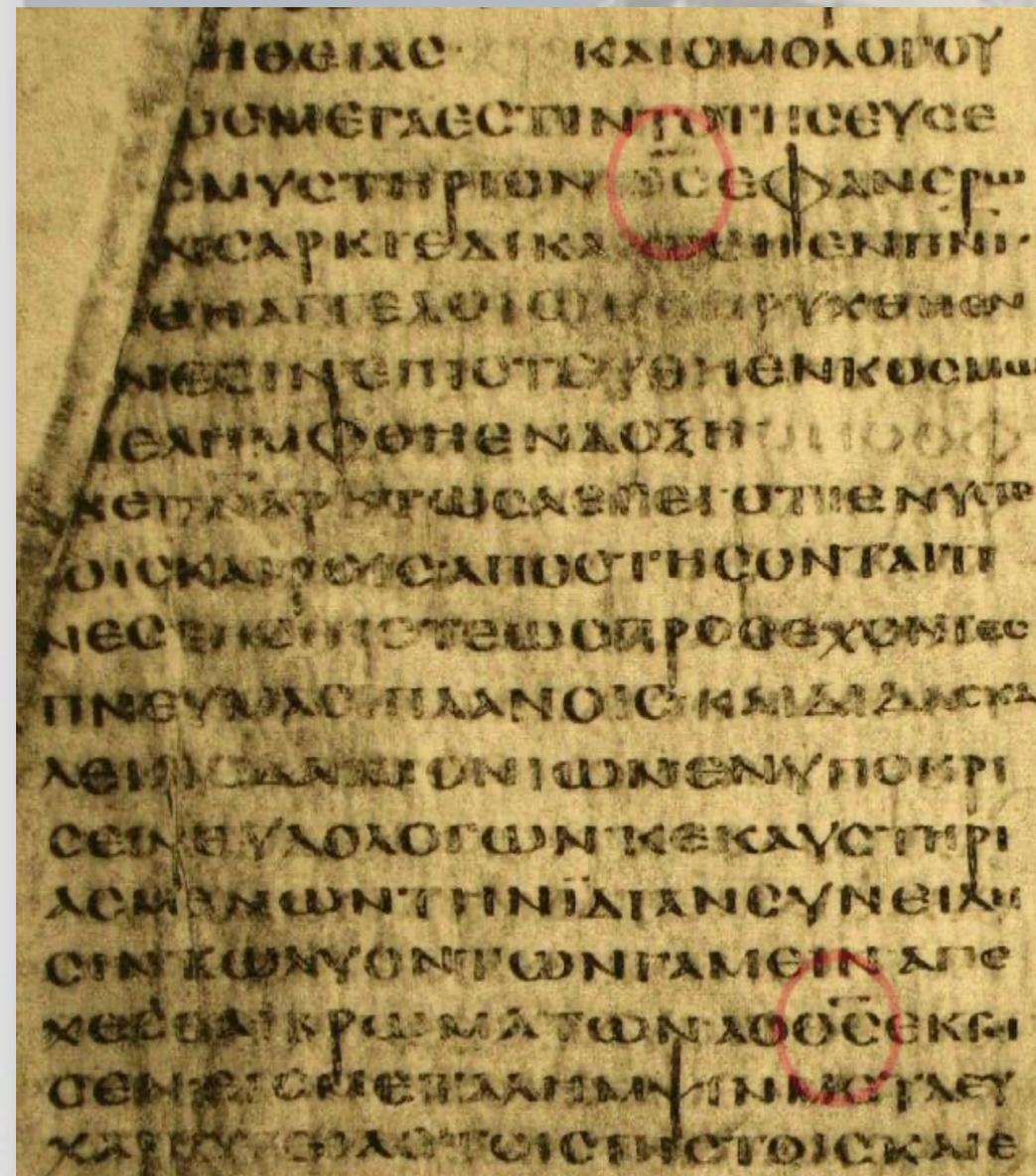
Date: A. D. 340

Contents: Half of OT and almost all of NT

Value: One of the oldest and most accurate ms.

Housed: Leipzig, Germany

Symbol: Ⲱ (Aleph)



Percent of Accuracy of the NT

Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above “trivialities” and can be called “substantial variations.” It is **98.33 percent pure.**



Percent of Accuracy of the NT

Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above “trivialities” and can be called “substantial variations.” It is **98.33 percent pure.**

Ezra Abbott said about 9/20 (95 percent) of the readings are “various” rather than “rival” readings, and about 9/20 (95 percent) of the rest make no appreciable difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is **99.75 percent pure.**

Percent of Accuracy of the NT

Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above “trivialities” and can be called “substantial variations.” It is **98.33 percent pure**.

Ezra Abbott said about 9/20 (95 percent) of the readings are “various” rather than “rival” readings, and about 9/20 (95 percent) of the rest make no appreciable difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is **99.75 percent pure**.

A. T. Robertson said the real concern is with about a “thousandth part of the entire text.” So, the reconstructed text of the New Testament **99.9 percent free** from real concern.

Percent of Accuracy of the NT

Westcott and Hort estimated that only about one-sixtieth rise above “trivialities” and can be called “substantial variations.” It is **98.33 percent pure**.

Ezra Abbott said about 9/20 (95 percent) of the readings are “various” rather than “rival” readings, and about 9/20 (95 percent) of the rest make no appreciable difference in the sense of the passage. Thus the text is **99.75 percent pure**.

A. T. Robertson said the real concern is with about a “thousandth part of the entire text.” So, the reconstructed text of the New Testament **99.9 percent free** from real concern.

B. Philip Schaff estimated that of the 150,000 variations known, only 400 affected the sense; and of those only 50 were of real significance; and of these **not one affected “an article of faith....”**

“Statistics Lie, and”

“These copies differ from each other in so many places that we don’t even know how many differences there are” (Ehrman, 10).

1. YOU HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS
2. THOU **HAST WON 10** MILLION DOLLARS
3. Y’ALL **HAVE WON \$10,000,000**

Note:

- Of 27 letters in line 2, only 7 are the same in line 3 (**c. 26 %**), yet the **message is 100 % identical!**
- They are different in **form** but not in **content**.
- Most NT variations are of this kind.

**If you received this message, you
would have no doubt!**

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

"YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

"YOU #AVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

Note:

- 1. Even with mistakes, 100% of the message comes through.**
- 2. The more errors, the more sure you are of the message.**

Even Critic Bart Ehrman admits: "In fact, most of the changes found in 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 of another" (Misquoting Jesus, 55).

The Testimony of the Scrolls



Noted Ms. Expert: Sir. Frederick Kenyon

*“The interval between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and **the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established”***

(Kenyon, Bible and Archaeology, 288)

The Testimony of the *Scrolls*



There are Better NT Manuscripts

The NT* *Most Other Books

99.9% accuracy 90-95% accuracy

***The Marabharata*-----90% accuracy**

***Iliad of Homer*-----95% accuracy**

***The New Testament*---98-99.9% accuracy**

The Testimony of the Fathers

EARLY CITATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3 (266 allusions)	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement Alex.	1,017	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Grand Totals	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

Total Number of Manuscripts

Greek: 5,800

Latin: 10,000+

Ethiopic 2,000+

Slavic 4,000+

Armenian 2,500+

Others 500+

Total Some 25,000 mss.

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

Conclusion

- The New Testament Has:
 - *More Manuscripts*



Conclusion

- The New Testament Has:
 - *More Manuscripts*
 - *Earlier Manuscripts*



Conclusion

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the Parthenon temple on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. The temple's classical architecture, including its columns and pediment, is visible but semi-transparent, serving as a backdrop for the text.

- The New Testament Has:
 - *More Manuscripts*
 - *Earlier Manuscripts*
 - *More Accurately Copied Manuscripts*

Conclusion

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the Parthenon temple on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. The temple's classical architecture, including its columns and pediment, is visible against a clear sky.

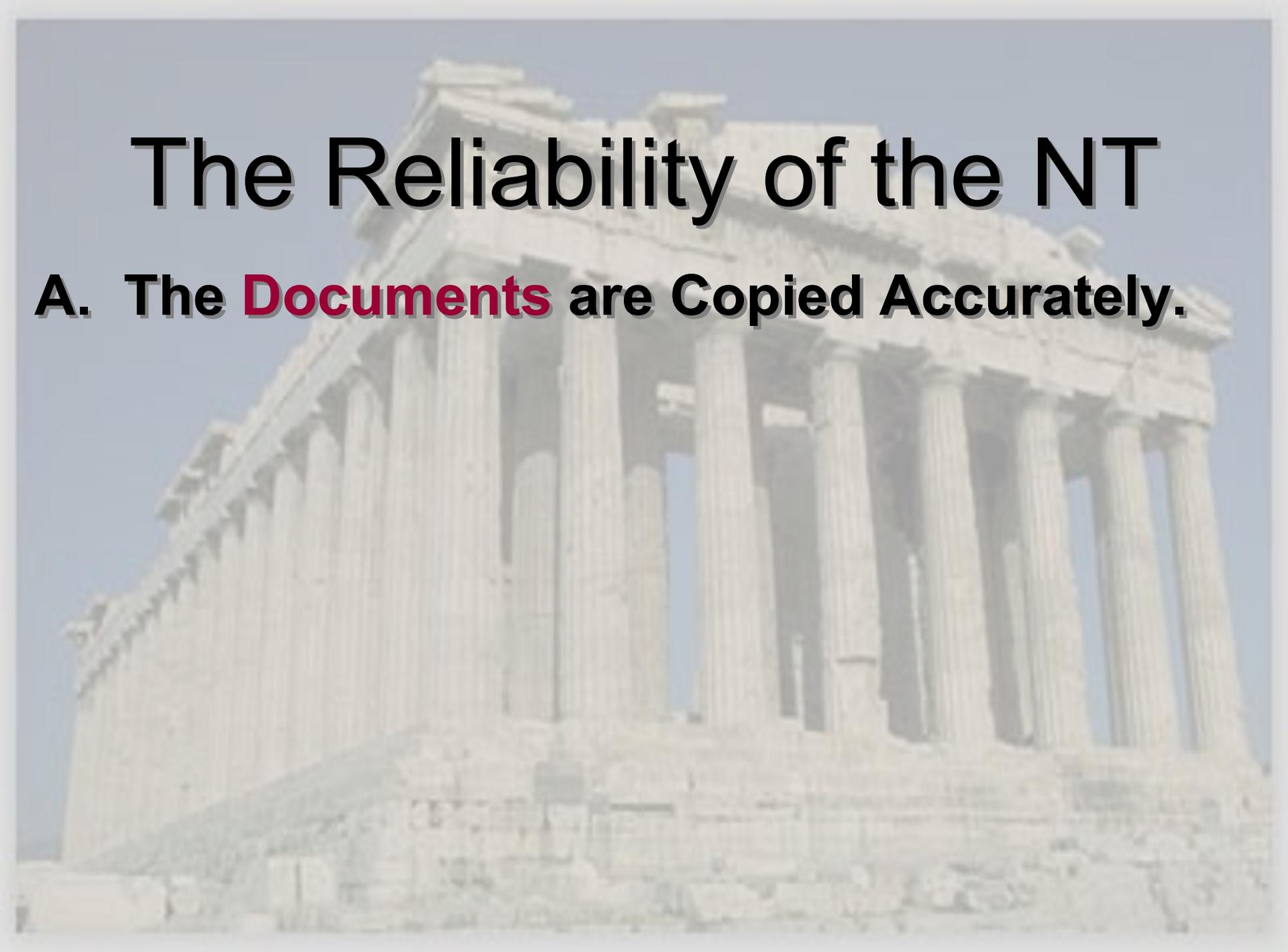
- The New Testament Has:
 - *More Manuscripts*
 - *Earlier Manuscripts*
 - *More Accurately Copied Manuscripts*

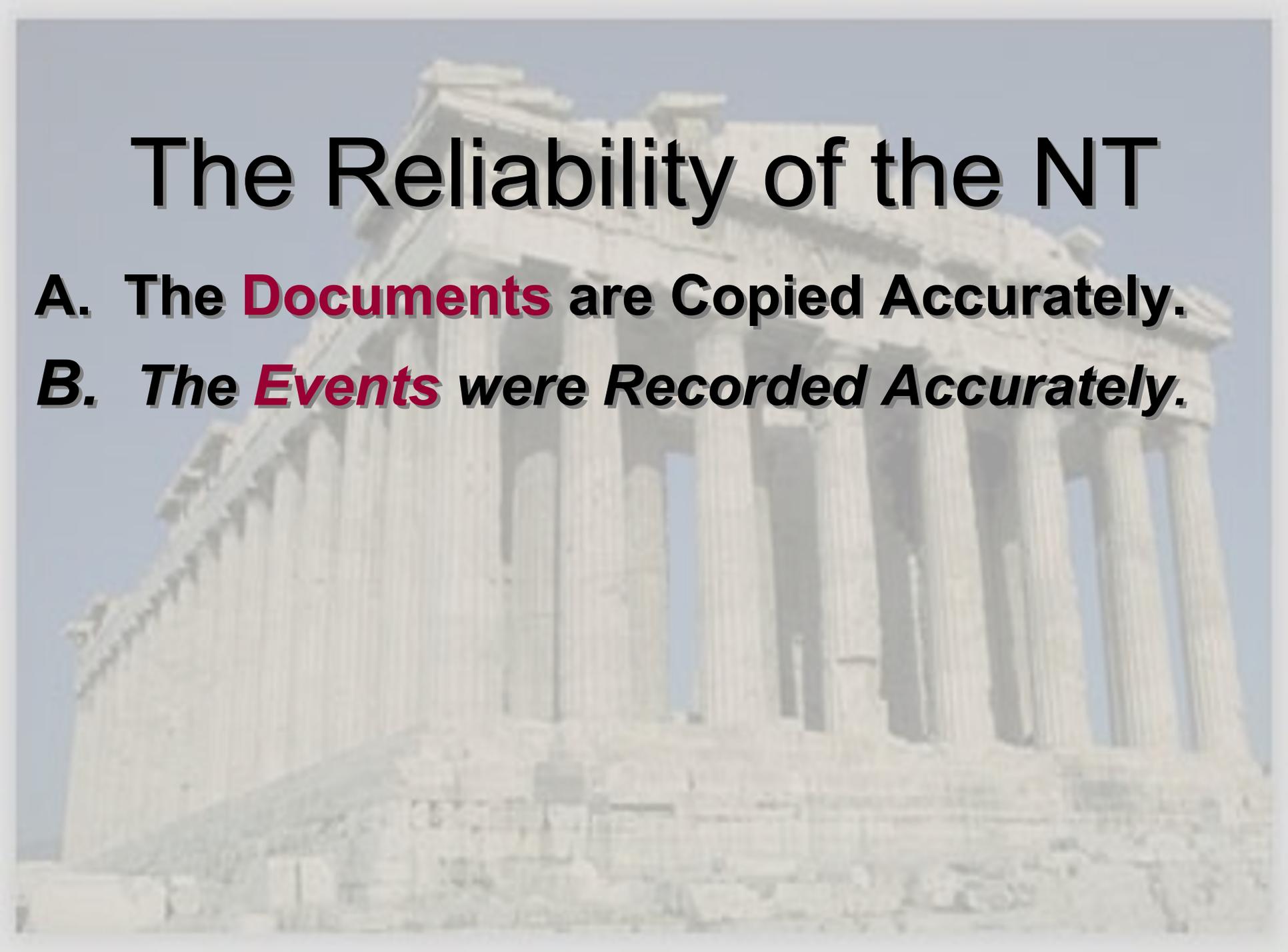
Conclusion

- The New Testament Has:
 - *More Manuscripts*
 - *Earlier Manuscripts*
 - *More Accurately Copied Manuscripts*
- than any other book from
the ancient world!***

The Reliability of the NT

A. The **Documents** are Copied Accurately.





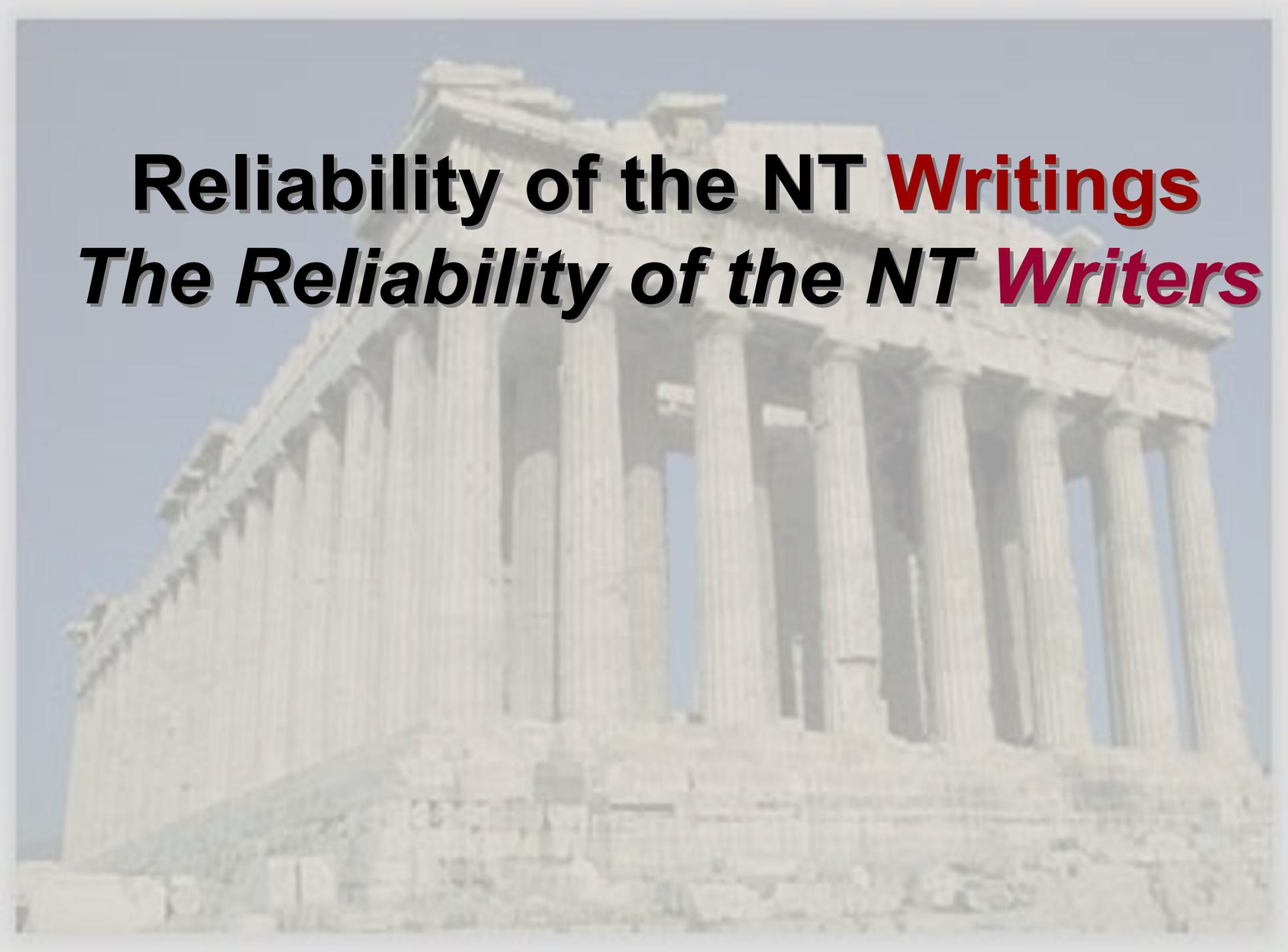
The Reliability of the NT

A. The **Documents** are Copied Accurately.

B. *The **Events** were Recorded Accurately.*

Reliability of the NT **Writings**

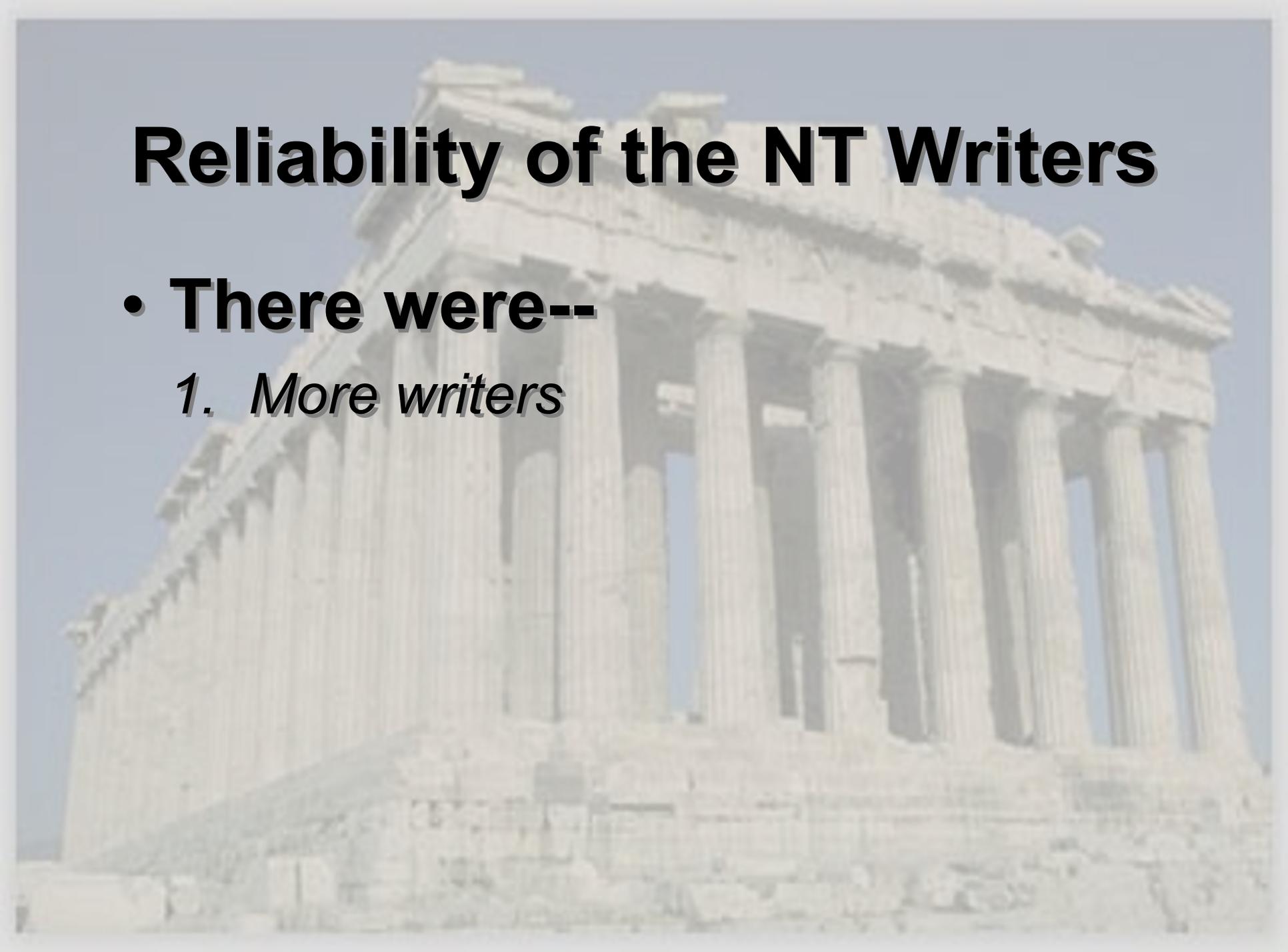




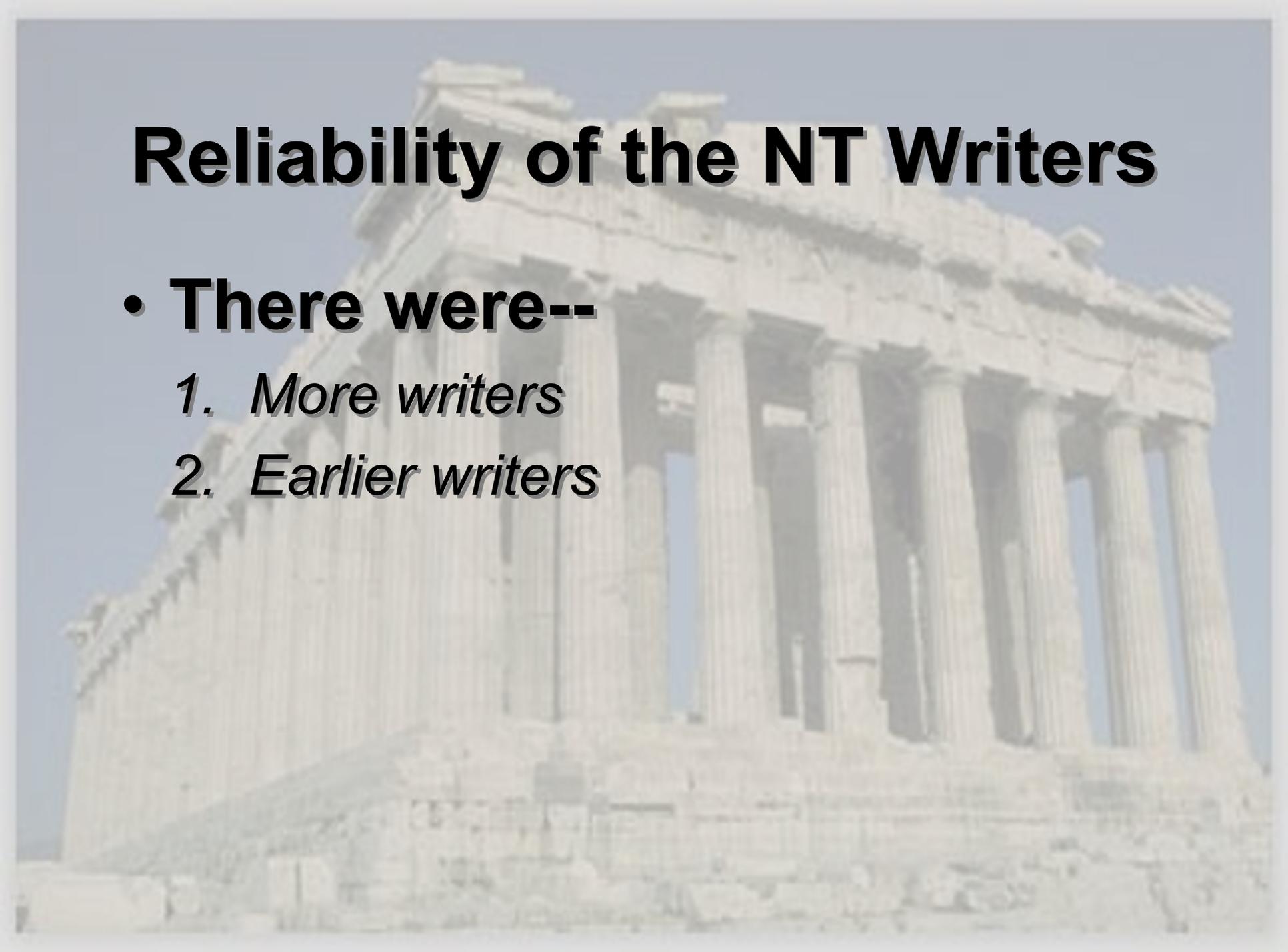
Reliability of the NT Writings
The Reliability of the NT Writers

Reliability of the NT Writers

- **There were--**
 1. *More writers*

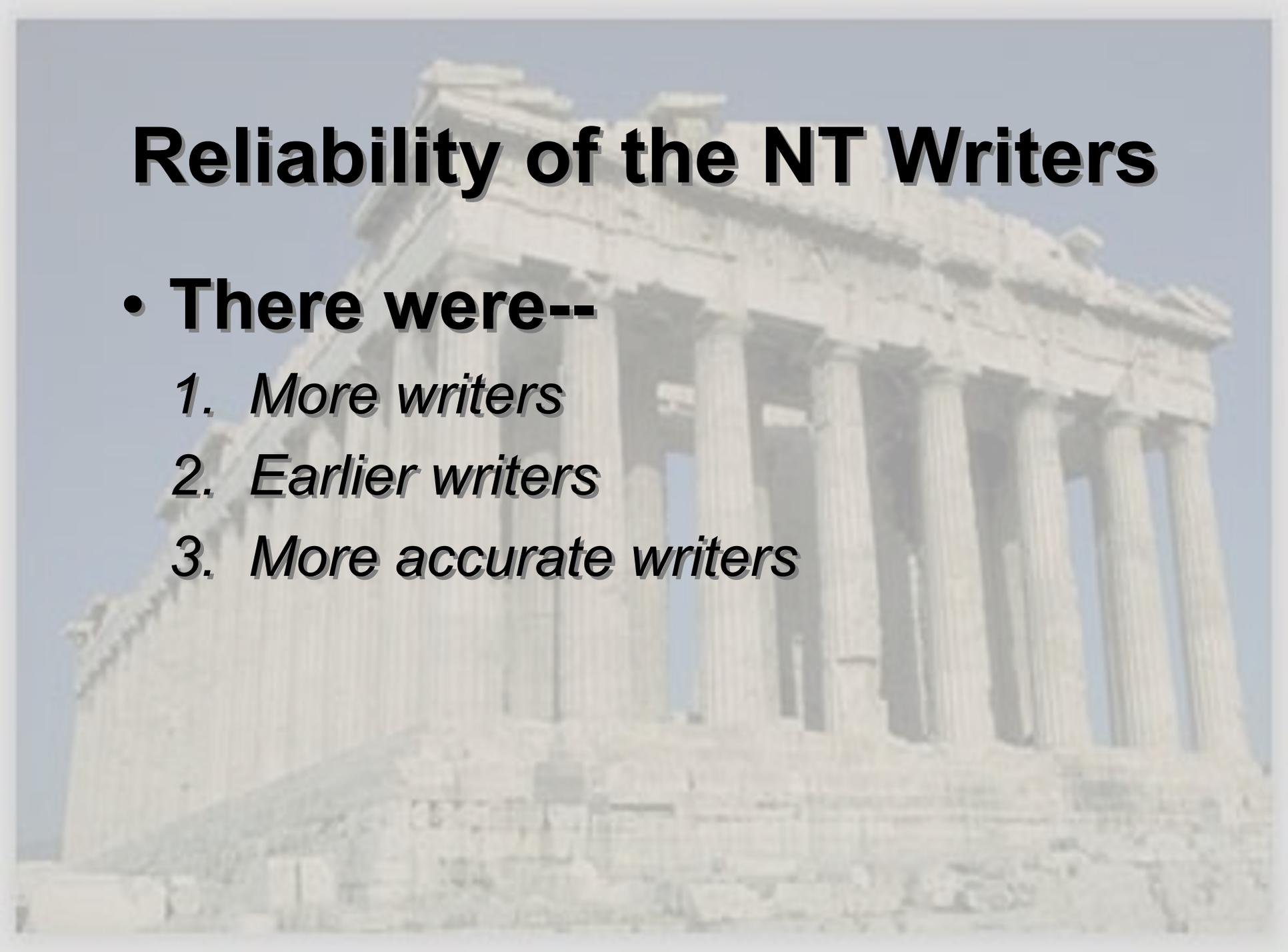


Reliability of the NT Writers

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the Parthenon, a classical Greek temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. It features a prominent portico with eight tall, fluted columns supporting a pedimented roof. The temple is situated on a rocky outcrop, and the sky is a clear, pale blue.

- **There were--**
 1. *More writers*
 2. *Earlier writers*

Reliability of the NT Writers

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the Parthenon, a classical Greek temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. It features a prominent portico with eight tall, fluted columns supporting a triangular pediment. The temple is situated on a hillside, and the sky is a clear, pale blue.

- **There were--**

1. *More writers*

2. *Earlier writers*

3. *More accurate writers*

Reliability of the NT **Writers**

- **There were--**

1. *More writers*

2. *Earlier writers*

3. *More accurate writers*

***--than for any other book from
the ancient world!***

1. There Were More Writers

- **New Testament Has:**
 - *Nine writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews).*

1. There Were More Writers

- **New Testament Has:**
 - *Nine writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews).*
 - *They wrote 27 books (of the NT).*

1. There Were More Writers

- **New Testament Has:**
 - *Nine writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews).*
 - *They wrote 27 books (of the NT).*
 - **Note:** *If these were not the exact writers, it does not affect the argument. Some were and others were contemporaries.*

1. There Were More Writers

There Were Nine NT Writers:

- **Matthew**--*an apostle*
- **Mark**--*an associate of the apostle Peter*
- **Luke**--*an associate of the apostle Paul*
- **John**--*an apostle*
- **Paul**--*an apostle*
- **James**--*the brother of Jesus*
- **Peter**--*an apostle*
- **Jude**--*the brother of James*
- **Hebrews**--*an associate of the apostles (2:3 cf. 13:23)*

2. There Were Earlier Writers

- *There were eyewitness writers*
- *There were contemporary writers*
- *There were writers within c. 20 years of the events*

John: An Eyewitness

“The man who saw it [the crucifixion] has given testimony, and his testimony is true” (Jn. 19:35).

“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true” (Jn. 21:24).

*“That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked at** and our hands have **touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life” (1John 1:1).*

Book of Acts

- “God has raised this Jesus to life, and **we are all witnesses** of the fact” (Acts 2:32).
- “Peter and John replied.... For we cannot help speaking about what **we have seen and heard**” (Acts 4:19-20).
- “**We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and **caused him to be seen****” (Acts 10:39-40).

500 Eyewitness 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....**”*

(1Cor. 15:3-8)--written 55-56 A.D.

Luke: Based on Eyewitnesses

- *“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:1-4).*

Hebrews: Confirmed by Apostles

*“How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, **was confirmed to us by those who heard him**. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will” (Heb. 2:3-4).*

Peter: An Eyewitness

- *“We did not follow cleverly invented stories [myths] when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses of his majesty**” (2 Peter 1:16).*
- *“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, **a witness of Christ’s suffering** and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed” (1 Peter 5:1).*

Numerous Scholars Hold NT is Based in Eyewitness Testimony

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses.*

Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels.*

Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel.*

Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*

Bruce, F. F. *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament.*

Carson, D. A. and Douglas Moo. *NT Introduction.*

Craig, William Lane. *Knowing the Truth About the Resurrection.*

Dodd, C. H. *History and the Gospels.*

Guthrie, Donald. *NT Introduction.*

Habermas, Gary. *The Historical Jesus.*

Hemer, Colin. *Acts in the Setting of Hellenic History.*

Kenyon, Frederick. *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts.*

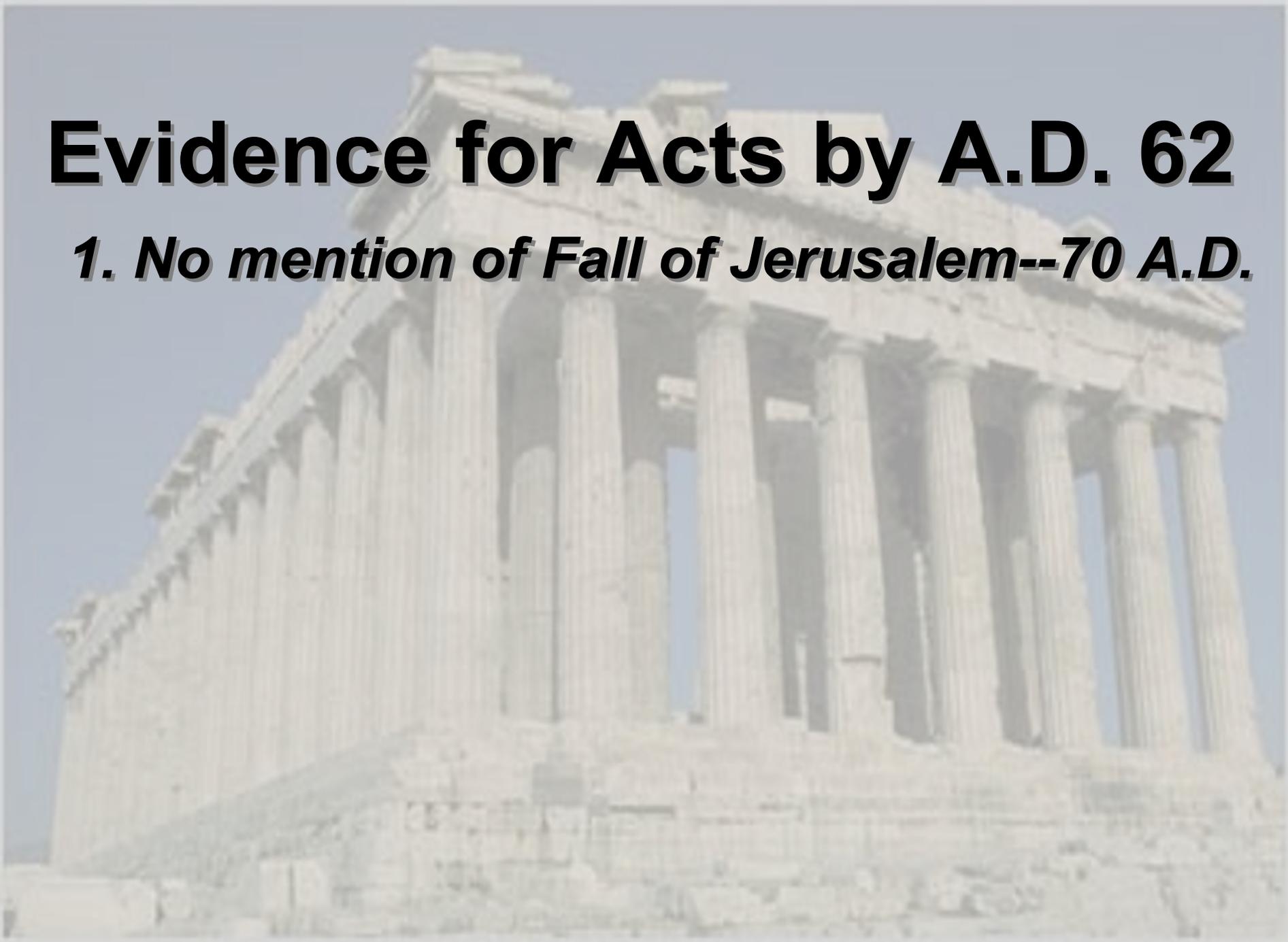
Linnemann, Eta. *Is There a Synoptic Problem?*

Metzger, Bruce. *The Text of the New Testament.*

Wright, N. T. *Can We Trust the Gospels?*

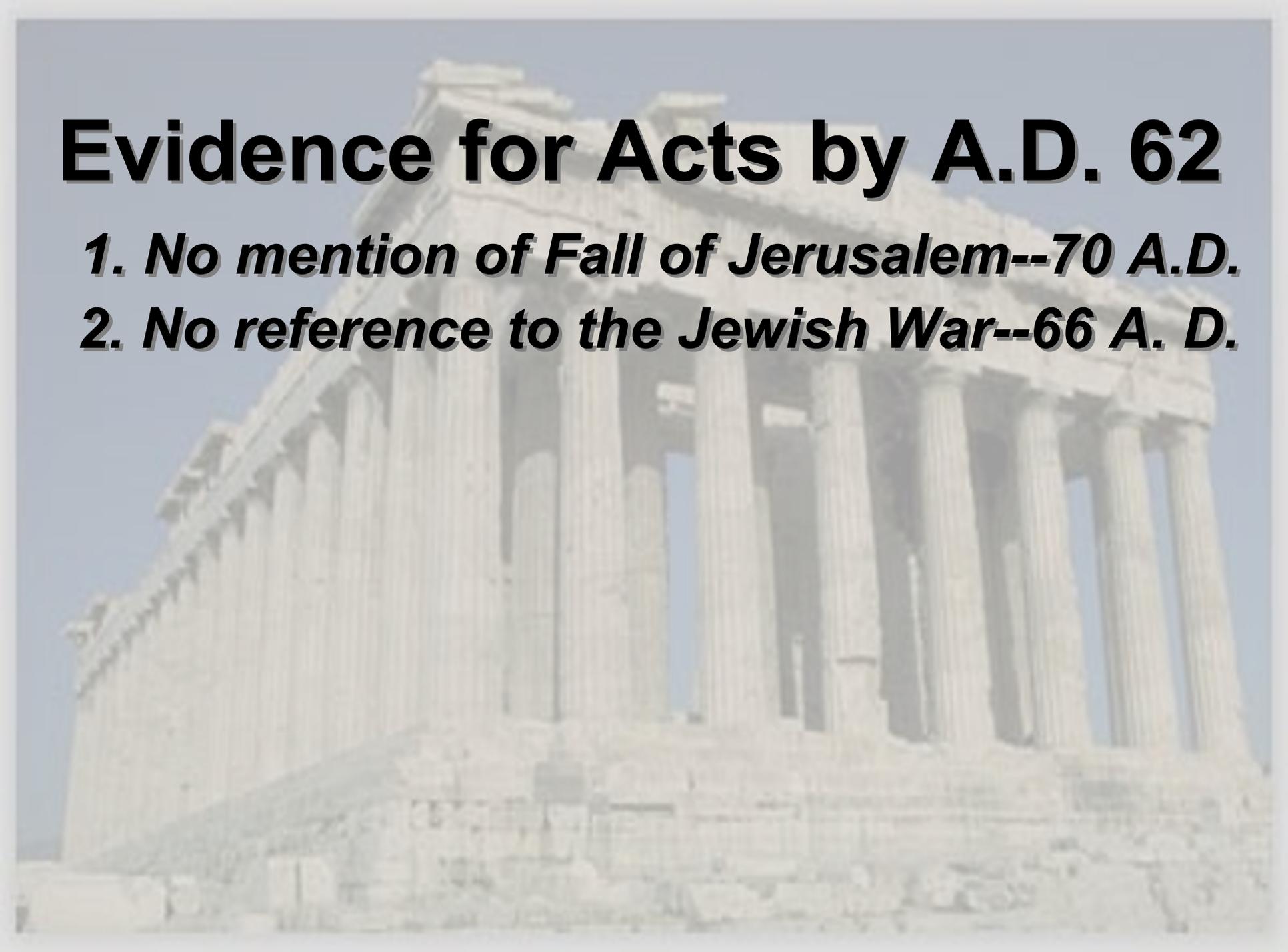
Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.



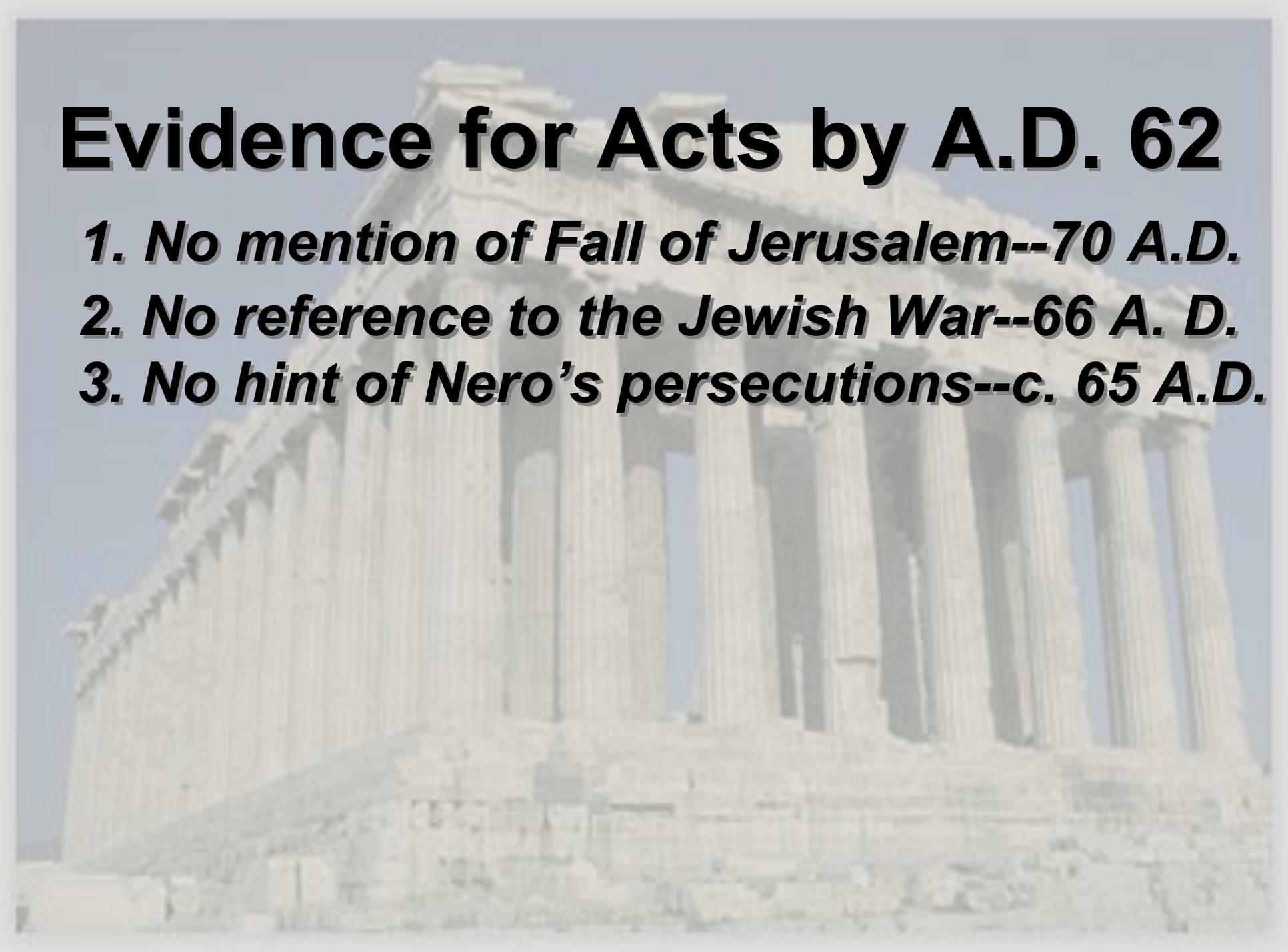
Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.***
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.***



Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.***
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.***
- 3. No hint of Nero's persecutions--c. 65 A.D.***



Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.***
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.***
- 3. No hint of Nero's persecutions--c. 65 A.D.***
- 4. Apostle Paul is still alive--c. 65 A.D.***

Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.***
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.***
- 3. No hint of Nero's persecutions--c. 65 A.D.***
- 4. Apostle Paul is still alive--c. 65 A.D.***
- 5. Apostle James is still alive--c. 62 A.D.***

Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.***
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.***
- 3. No hint of Nero's persecutions--c. 65 A.D.***
- 4. Apostle Paul is still alive--c. 65 A.D.***
- 5. Apostle James is still alive--c. 62 A.D.***

Note: Josephus recorded James' death at 62 A.D.--*Antiquities, 20.9.1*).

It is like writing the life of President Kennedy without mentioning his assassination (in 1963).

NT Timeline

C C
r r
o e
s e
s d

1
C
o
r.

J A P
a c m a
c t e u
s s l

T
e
m
p
l
e

30

40

50

60

70

Mk ← Lk

Rom, 1&2 Cor, Gal ←

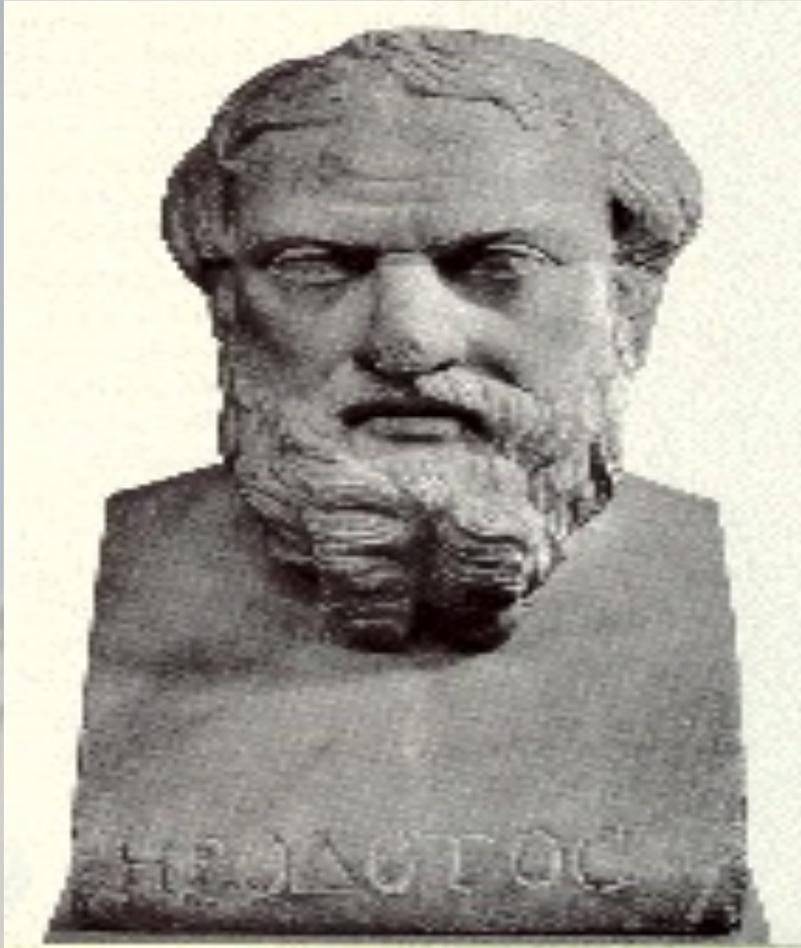
Most of the NT ←

Age of Eyewitnesses

Evidence for Early NT Authorship

- Late first & early second century books citing the NT exist: *Epistle of Barnabas* (70-90); *Epistles of Clement* (94-95); *Epistles of Polycarp* (c.90-155); *Didache* (c. 80-120?); *Shepherd of Hermas* (90-100); *Epistles of Ignatius* (by 117); *An Ancient Homily* (120-140); *Fragments of Papias* (130-140).
- Even critical scholars agree that 1 Cor. was written by c. **55-56 A.D.**
- Acts was written by **62 A.D.**
- Luke was written before Acts (**60-61 A.D.**).
- No mention of the destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) or the death of James (**62 A. D.**).
- Any dates in the 1st century are too early to allow mythological development on core truths.

No Time for Myths



- *“The writings of the Greek historian Herodotus enable us to test the rate at which a legend accumulates; the tests show that **even the span of two generations is too short** to allow legendary tendencies to wipe out the hard core of historical fact” (W. Craig, *The Son Rises*, 101)*

Historical Crosshairs

The Year A. D. 29

*“In the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar**—when **Pontius Pilate** was governor of Judea, **Herod** tetrarch of Galilee, his brother **Philip** tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and **Lysanias** tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of **Annas** and **Caiaphas**, the word of God came to **John** son of Zechariah in the desert” (Luke 3:1-2).*

Note:

- 1) An exact date is given--A.D. 29.*
- 2) All eight people are known from history.*
- 3) All were known to live at this exact time.*
- 4) This is not a “once upon a time” story (myth).*

Dean of Archaeology Speaks Out

"In my opinion, every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the forties and the eighties of the first century A. D. (very probably sometime between about 50 and 75 A. D.)."
(W. F. Albright, "Toward a More Conservative View" in Christianity Today, 1/18/63)

The Confessions of a Liberal Critic

*“Death of God” Theologian Bishop
John Robinson Redates New Testament*

Matthew--A.D. 40-60+

Mark-----A.D. 45-60+

Luke-----A.D. 57-60+

John-----A.D. 40-65+

(Redating the New Testament, 352-354)

Accepted Dates of 1 Corinthians: A.D. 55-56

- “For what I **received** I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he 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**” (1 Cor. 15:1-6).

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**



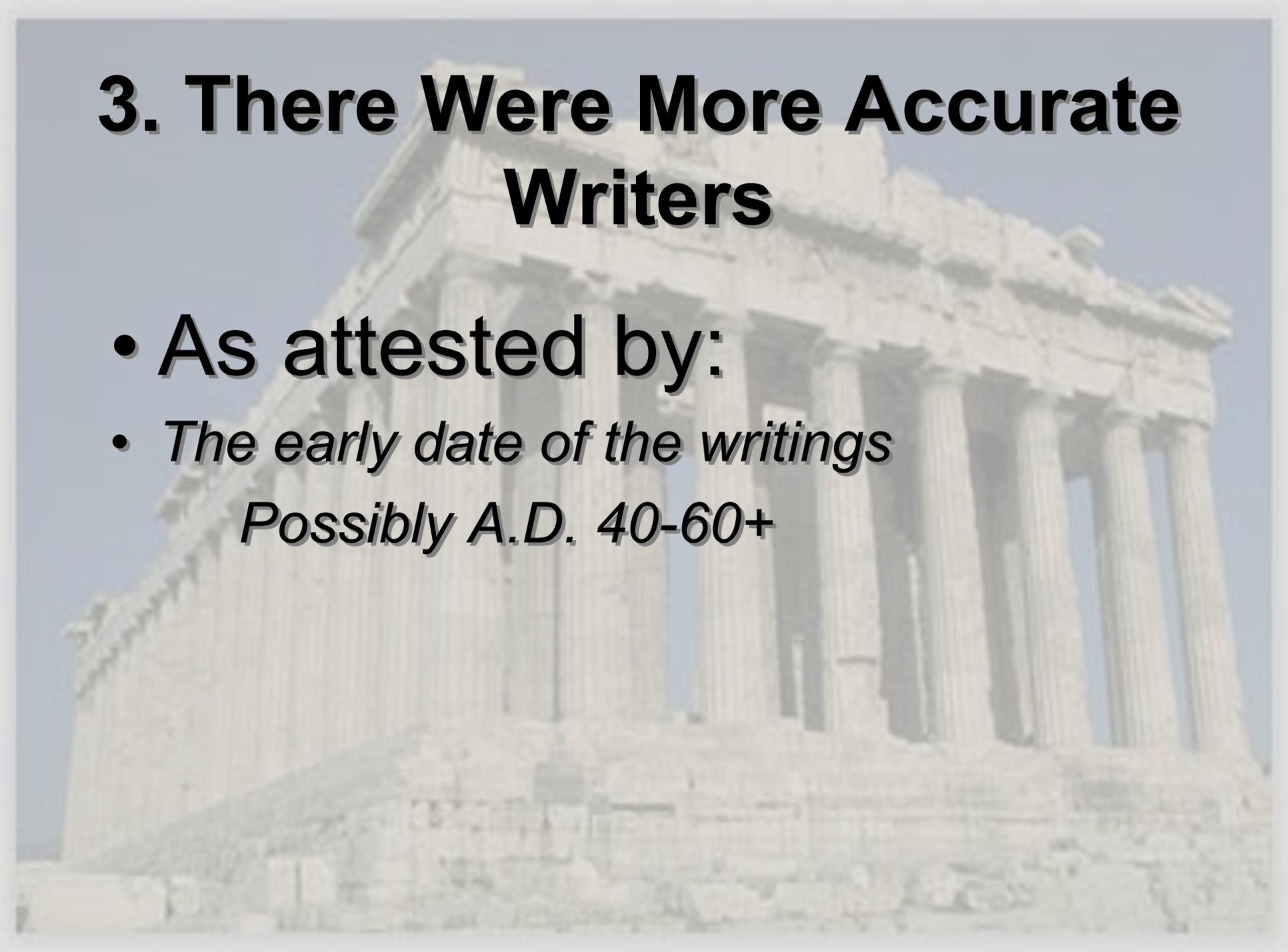
3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
- *The early date of the writings*



3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
- *The early date of the writings*
Possibly A.D. 40-60+



3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
- *The early date of the writings*
Possibly A.D. 40-60+
Probably A.D. 55-60

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
- *The early date of the writings*
 - Possibly A.D. 40-60+*
 - Probably A.D. 55-60*
 - Certainly during life of eyewitnesses*

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
 - *The early date of the writings*
 - Possibly A.D. 40-60+*
 - Probably A.D. 55-60*
 - Certainly during life of eyewitnesses*
 - Much earlier than other ancient books*
- Compare Alexander the Gt.**

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 life of Christ (and most of NT)***

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
- *The early date of the writings*
The early confirmation from Paul's Writings
(27 events confirmed by Paul In 55-57 A.D.)

27 Confirmation of Gospel Events in Paul's Epistles (55-57 A.D.)

- (1) Jewish ancestry of Jesus (Gal. 3:16);**
- (2) His Davidic descent (Rom. 1:3);**
- (3) His virgin birth (Gal. 4:4);**
- (4) His life under Jewish law (Gal. 4:4);**
- (5) His brothers (1Cor. 9:5);**
- (6) His twelve disciples (1Cor. 15:7),**
- (7) one of whom was named James (1Cor. 15:7);**
- (8) that some had wives (1Cor. 9:5),**
- (9) and that Paul knew Peter and James (Gal. 1: 18-2:16);**
- (10) Jesus' poverty (2 Cor. 8:9);**
- (11) His meekness and gentleness (2Cor. 10:1);**
- (12) His abuse by others (Rom. 15:3);**
- (13) His teachings on divorce and remarriage (1Cor. 7:10-11);**
- (14) His view on paying wages of ministers (1Cor. 9:14);**

27 Confirmation of Gospel Events in Paul's Epistles (55-57A.D.)

- (15) His view on paying taxes (Rom. 13:6-7);**
- (16) His command to love one's neighbors (Rom. 13:9);**
- (17) On Jewish ceremonial uncleanness (Rom. 14:14);**
- (18) On Jesus' titles of deity (Rom. 1:3-4; 10:9);**
- (19) His institution of the Lord's Supper (1Cor. 11:23-25);**
- (20) His sinless life (2Cor. 5:21);**
- (21) His death on the cross (Rom. 4:25; 5:8; Gal. 3:13; 1Cor. 15:3),**
- (22) specifically by crucifixion (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20),**
- (23) His burial (1Cor. 15:4);**
- (24) His resurrection on the "third day" (1Cor. 15:4);**
- (25) His post-resurrection appearance to the apostles (1Cor. 15:5-8),**
- (26) His post-resurrection appearances to others (1Cor. 15:6);**
- (27) His present position at God's right hand (Rom. 8:34).**

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
- *The early date of the writings*
- *The number of writers (9)*

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
 - *The early date of the writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The authentic nature of their writings:*

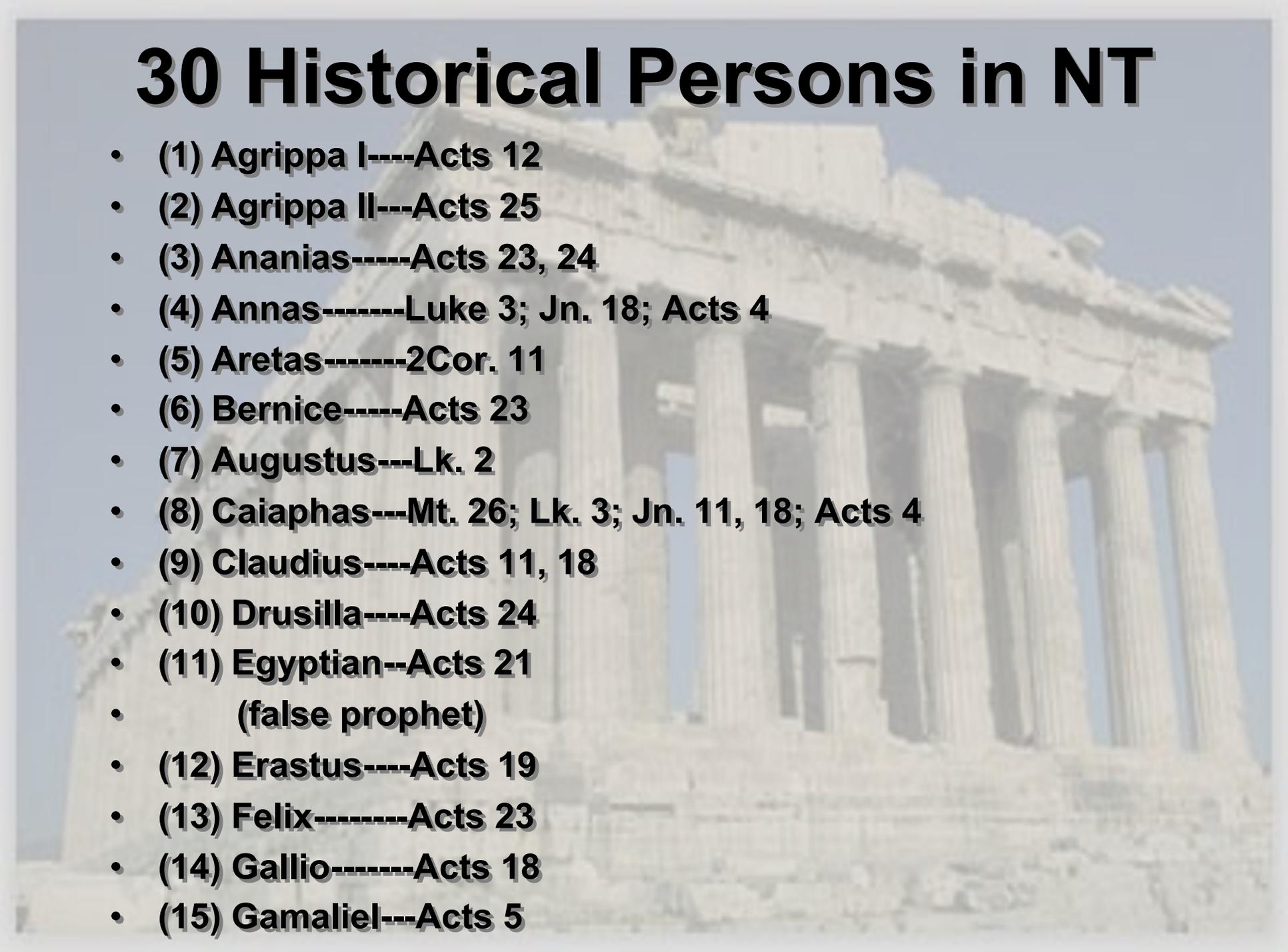
3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
 - *The early date of the writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The authentic nature of their writings:*
They are vivid, fresh, unembellished, detailed, self-incriminating, diverse, but mutually confirming = historical, not mythological.

The Authentic Nature of The Writings

- 1. They made no attempt to harmonize their accounts.**
- 2. They included material that put Jesus in a bad light.**
- 3. They left many difficult passages in their text.**
- 4. They retained many self-incriminating details.**
- 5. They included many demanding sayings of Jesus.**
- 6. They distinguished their words from Jesus' words.**
- 7. They did not deny their testimony under threat of death.**
- 8. They claimed their record was based on eyewitnesses.**
- 9. They had women witnessing the resurrection before men.**
- 10. They challenged readers to check out the facts.**
- 11. They discarded long-held Jewish beliefs overnight.**
- 12. They include more than 30 historical people.**

30 Historical Persons in NT



- (1) Agrippa I----Acts 12
- (2) Agrippa II---Acts 25
- (3) Ananias-----Acts 23, 24
- (4) Annas-----Luke 3; Jn. 18; Acts 4
- (5) Aretas-----2Cor. 11
- (6) Bernice-----Acts 23
- (7) Augustus---Lk. 2
- (8) Caiaphas---Mt. 26; Lk. 3; Jn. 11, 18; Acts 4
- (9) Claudius----Acts 11, 18
- (10) Drusilla----Acts 24
- (11) Egyptian--Acts 21
 - (false prophet)
- (12) Erastus----Acts 19
- (13) Felix-----Acts 23
- (14) Gallio-----Acts 18
- (15) Gamaliel---Acts 5

30 Historical Persons in NT

- (16) Herod Antipas-----Mt. 14; Mk. 6; Lk. 3, 23
- (17) Herod Archelaus--Mt. 2
- (18) Herod the Gt.-----Mt. 2; Lk. 1
- (18) Herod Philip I-----Mt. 14; Mk. 6
- (19) Herod Philip II-----Lk. 3
- (20) Herodias-----Mt. 14; Mk. 6
- (21) Salome-----Mt. 14; Mk. 6
- (22) James-----Acts 15; Gal. 1
- (23) John the Baptist--Mt. 3; Mk. 1; Lk. 3; Jn. 1
- (24) Judas of Galilea--Acts 5
- (25) Lysanias-----Lk. 3
- (26) Pilate-----Mt. 27; Mk. 15; Lk. 23; Jn. 18
- (27) Quirinius-----Lk. 2
- (28) Porcius Festus---Acts 24-26
- (29) Sergius Paulus---Acts 13
- (30) Tiberius Caesar--Lk. 3

The Non-Mythological Nature of their Writing

A Famous Myth-Writer Speaks Out



- “All I am in private life is a literary critic and historian, that’s my job. And I am prepared to say on that basis if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legend or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic. **I’ve read a great many novels and I know a fair amount about the legends that grew up among early people, and I know perfectly well the Gospels are not that kind of stuff**” (C.S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections*, 209).

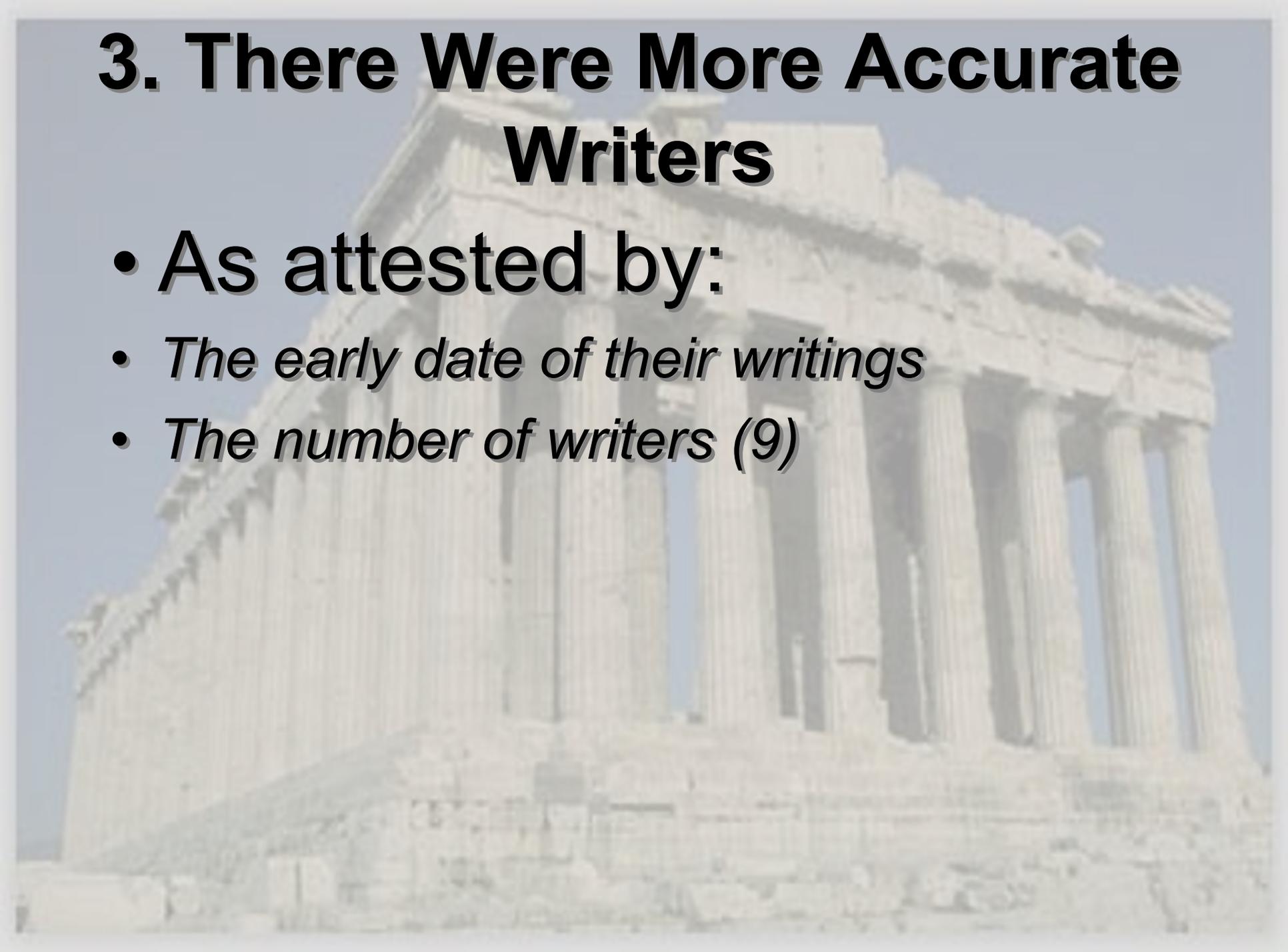
3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*



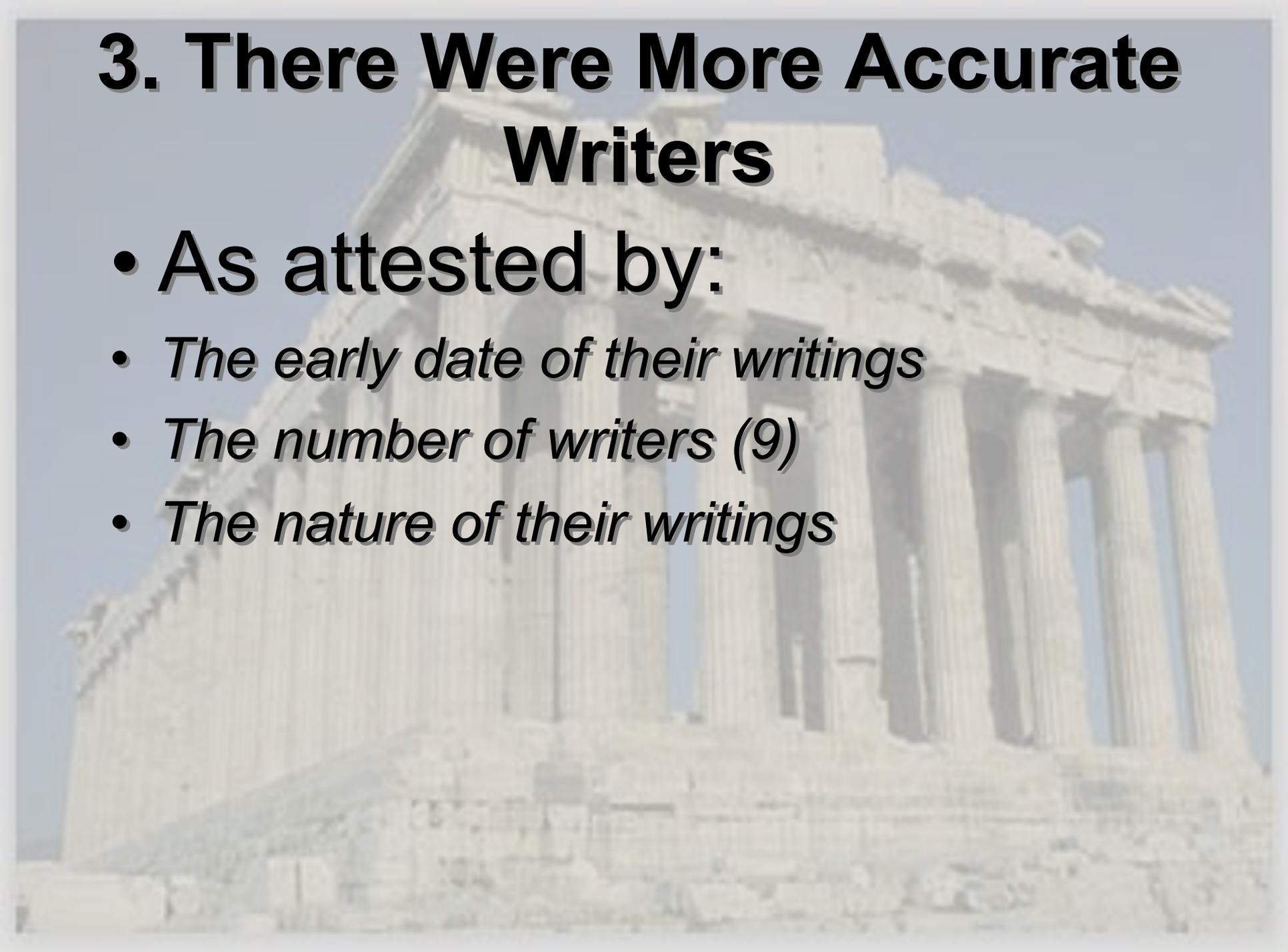
3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*



3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The nature of their writings*



3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The nature of their writings*
 - *The accuracy of their writings confirmed by:*

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- *As attested by:*
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The nature of their writings*
 - *The accuracy of their writings confirmed by:*
 - **Noted Roman Historians**

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The nature of their writings*
 - *The accuracy of their writings confirmed by:*
 - **Noted Roman Historians**
 - **Legal Experts**

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The nature of their writings*
 - *The accuracy of their writings confirmed by:*
 - **Noted Roman Historians**
 - **Legal Experts**
 - **Non-Christian Sources**

3. There Were More Accurate Writers

- **As attested by:**
 - *The early date of their writings*
 - *The number of writers (9)*
 - *The nature of their writings*
 - *The accuracy of their writings confirmed by:*
 - **Noted Roman Historians**
 - **Legal Experts**
 - **Non-Christian Sources**
 - **Archaeological finds**

Noted Roman Historian Confirms Numerous Details in Acts

A.N. Sherwin-White, Roman Society and Roman Law in the NT.

“So it is **astonishing** that while Greco-Roman historians have been growing confidence, the twentieth-century study of the gospel narratives, starting from no less promising material, have taken so **gloomy** a turn in the development of form-criticism...that the historical Christ is unknowable and the history of his mission cannot be written. This seems **very curious**” (187).

He calls the mythological view “**unbelievable**” (189).

Noted Roman Historical Confirms Hundreds of Details in Acts

Colin Hemer, *Acts in the Setting of Hellenic History* (1990)

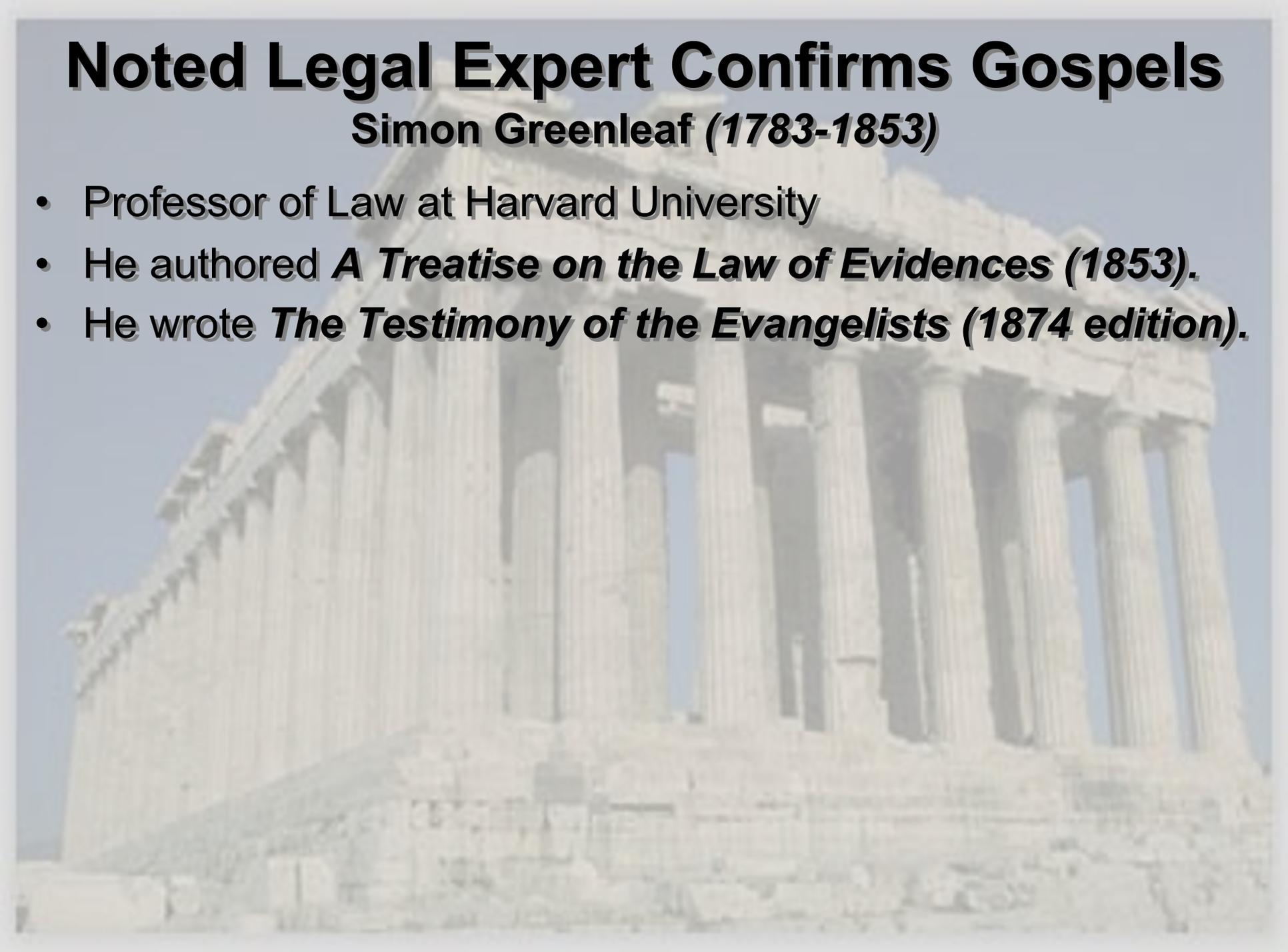
Evidence that Acts is a first-rate history because of its knowledge of:

- 1. Minute geographical details known to the readers.***
- 2. Specialized details known only to special groups.***
- 3. Specifics of not widely known routes, places, and officials.***
- 4. Correlation of dates in Acts with general history.***
- 5. Details appropriate to that period but not others.***
- 6. Events which reflects a sense of “immediacy.”***
- 7. Idioms and culture that bespeak of a first-hand awareness.***
- 8. Verification of numerous details of times, people, and events of that period best known by contemporaries.***

Noted Legal Expert Confirms Gospels

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

- Professor of Law at Harvard University
- He authored ***A Treatise on the Law of Evidences (1853)***.
- He wrote ***The Testimony of the Evangelists (1874 edition)***.



Noted Legal Expert Confirms Gospels

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

- Professor of Law at Harvard University
- He authored *A Treatise on the Law of Evidences* (1853).
- He wrote *The Testimony of the Evangelists* (1874 edition).

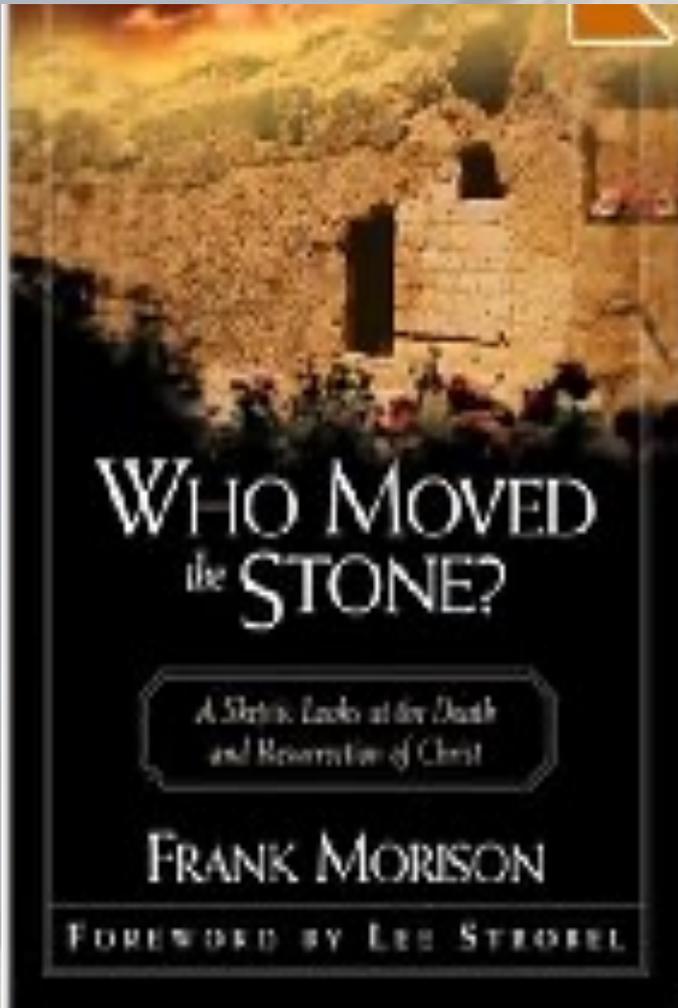
***"The narratives of the evangelists are now submitted to the reader's perusal and examination, upon the principles and by the rules already stated.... If they had thus testified on oath, in a court of justice, they would be entitled to credit; and whether their narratives, as we now have them, would be received as ancient documents, coming from the proper custody. If so, then it is believed that every honest and impartial man will act consistently with that result, by receiving their testimony in all the extent of its import"* (pp. 53-54).**

Noted Legal Expert Confirms Gospels

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)

- Continued...
- ***"All that Christianity asks of men on this subject, is, that they would be consistent with themselves; that they would treat its evidences as they treat the evidence of other things; and that they would try and judge its actors and witnesses, as they deal with their fellow men, when testifying to human affairs and actions, in human tribunals. Let the witnesses be compared with themselves, with each other, and with surrounding facts and circumstances; and let their testimony be sifted, as if it were given in a court of justice, on the side of the adverse party, the witness being subjected to rigorous cross-examination. The result, it is confidently believed, will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth"*** (46).

Other Attorneys Confirm NT



- Thomas Sherlock, *The Tryal of the Witnesses of the Resurrection.*
- Frank Morrison, *Who Moved the Stone?*
- John Montgomery,
- *Christianity and History*
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ.*
- J.W. Wallace, *Cold-Case Christianity*

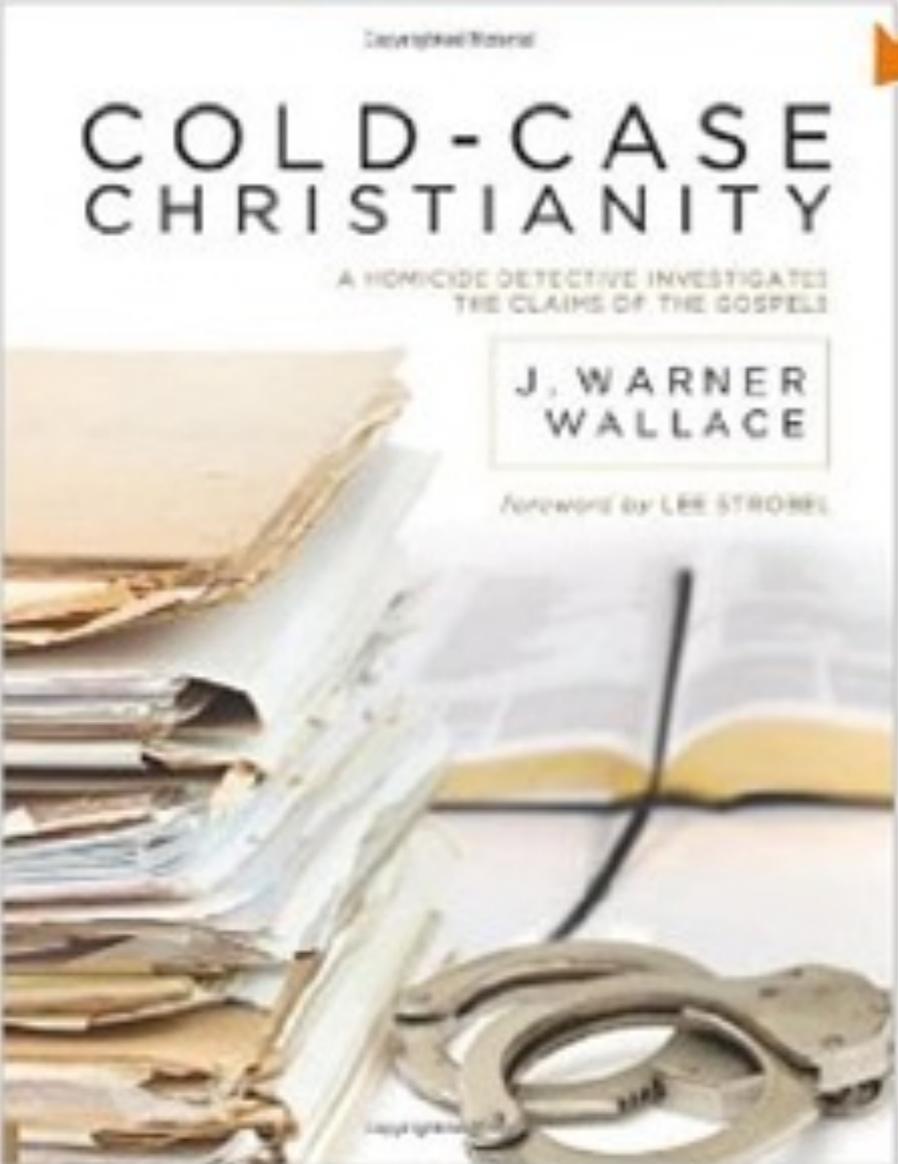
Copyright © 2012

COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY

A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE INVESTIGATES
THE CLAIMS OF THE GOSPELS

J. WARNER
WALLACE

Foreword by LEE STROBEL

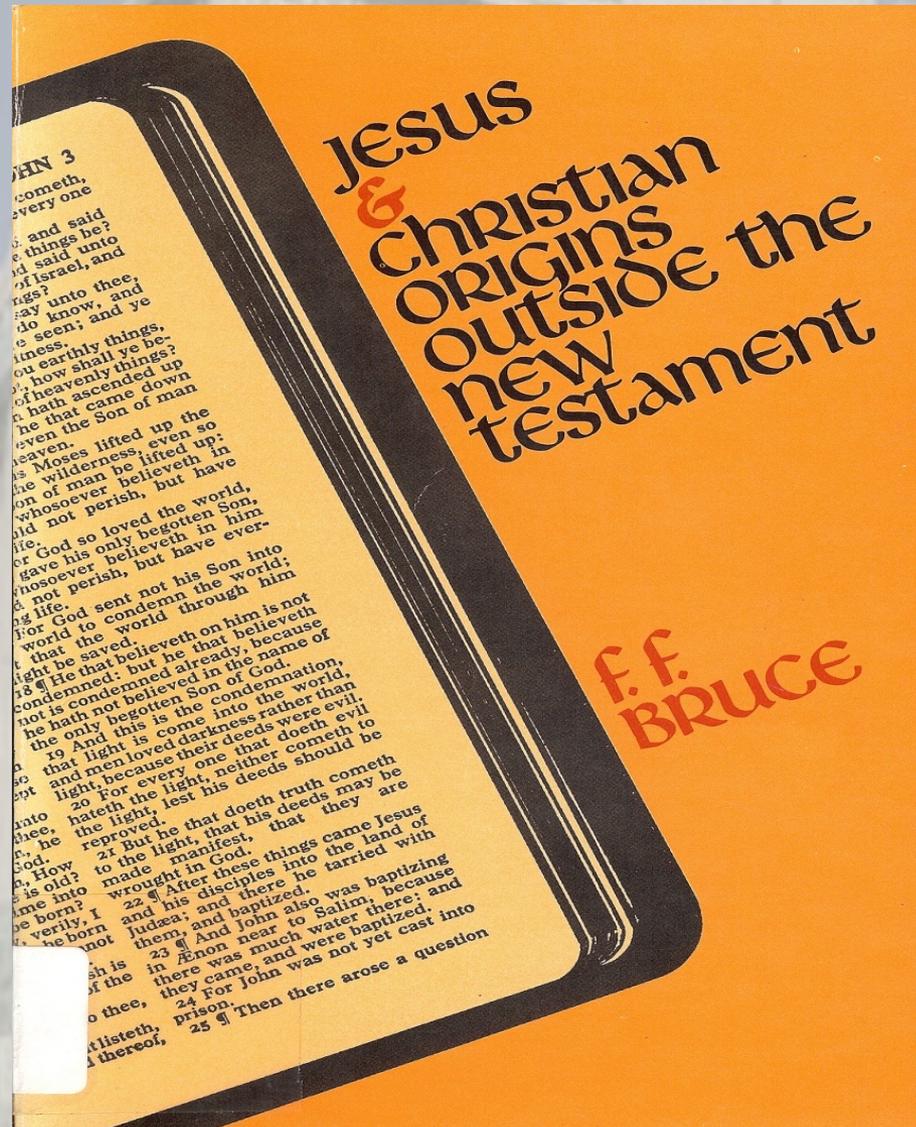


J. W. Wallace

Homicide detective who accepts Christianity because when applying investigative techniques to the New Testament , he concluded that Christianity “withstands the most scrupulous of investigative techniques.”

Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F.F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.*



Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F.F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.*

Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus.*

The Following NT Events are Affirmed:

- (1) Jesus was from Nazareth.**
- (2) He lived a virtuous life.**
- (3) He performed unusual feats.**
- (4) He introduced new teaching contrary to Judaism**
- (5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**
- (6) His disciples believed He rose from the dead.**
- (7) His disciples denied polytheism.**
- (8) His disciples worshiped Him.**
- (9) His teachings and disciples spread rapidly.**
- (10) His followers believed they were immortal.**
- (11) His followers had contempt for death.**
- (12) His followers renounced material goods.**

Non-Christian sources within 150 years of Jesus

Source	AD	Existed	Virtuous	Worship	Disciples	Teacher	Crucified	Empty Tomb	Disciples' Belief in Resurrection	Spread	Persecution
Tacitus	115	X			X		X	X*		X	X
Suetonius	117-138	X		X	X			X*		X	X
Josephus	90-95	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Thallus	52	X					X*				
Pliny	112	X		X	X	X		X*		X	X
Trajan	112?	X*		X	X					X	X
Hadrian	117-138	X*			X					X	X
Talmud	70-200	X					X				X
Toledoth Jesu	fifth century	X						X			
Lucian	second century	X		X	X	X	X				X
Mara Bar-Serapion	first through third century	X	X	X		X	X	X*			
Phlegon	80?	X					X	X	X		

*implied

(Geisler and Douglas, *Bringing Your Faith to Work*, 247)

The Testimony of the *Stones*

- No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible.
- Thousands of archaeological finds support the Bible.



No Archaeological Evidence Has Ever Refuted the Bible.

*"As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that **no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.***

*Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible" (Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, 31).*

Bethlehem: Jesus' Birth Place

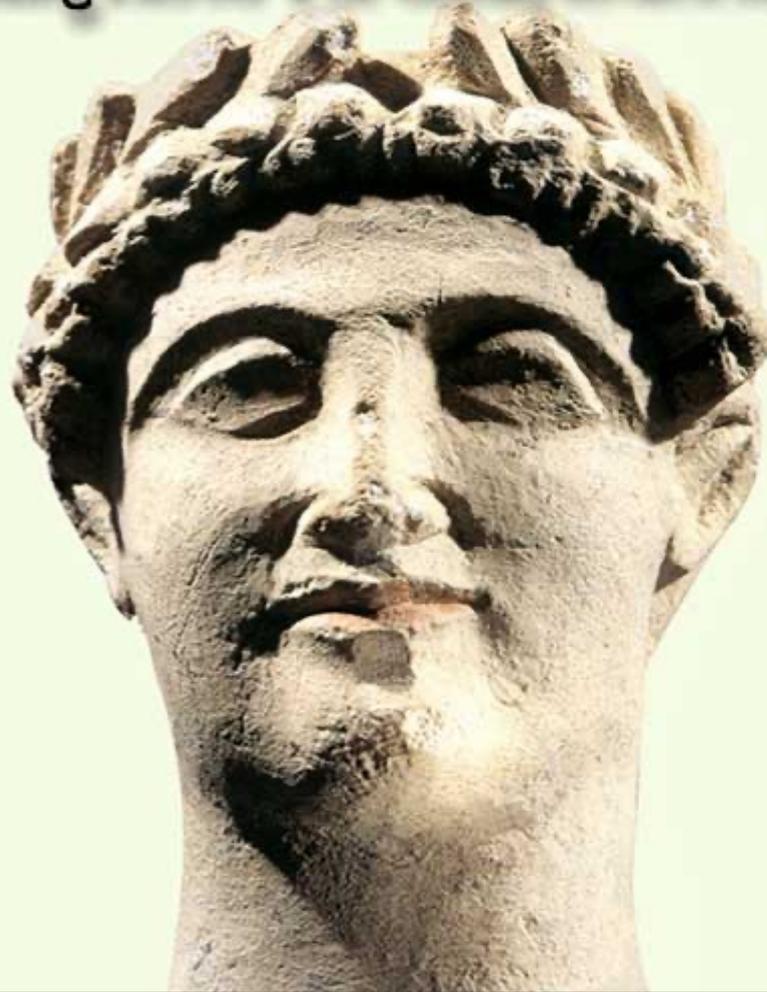


Caesar Augustus: Emperor When Jesus was Born (Lk. 2)



Herod King When Jesus Was Born (Matthew 2)

King Herod The Great, Servant of Rome



Jordon River: The Place of Jesus' Baptism (Mt. 3)



Pool of Siloam (Jn. 5)



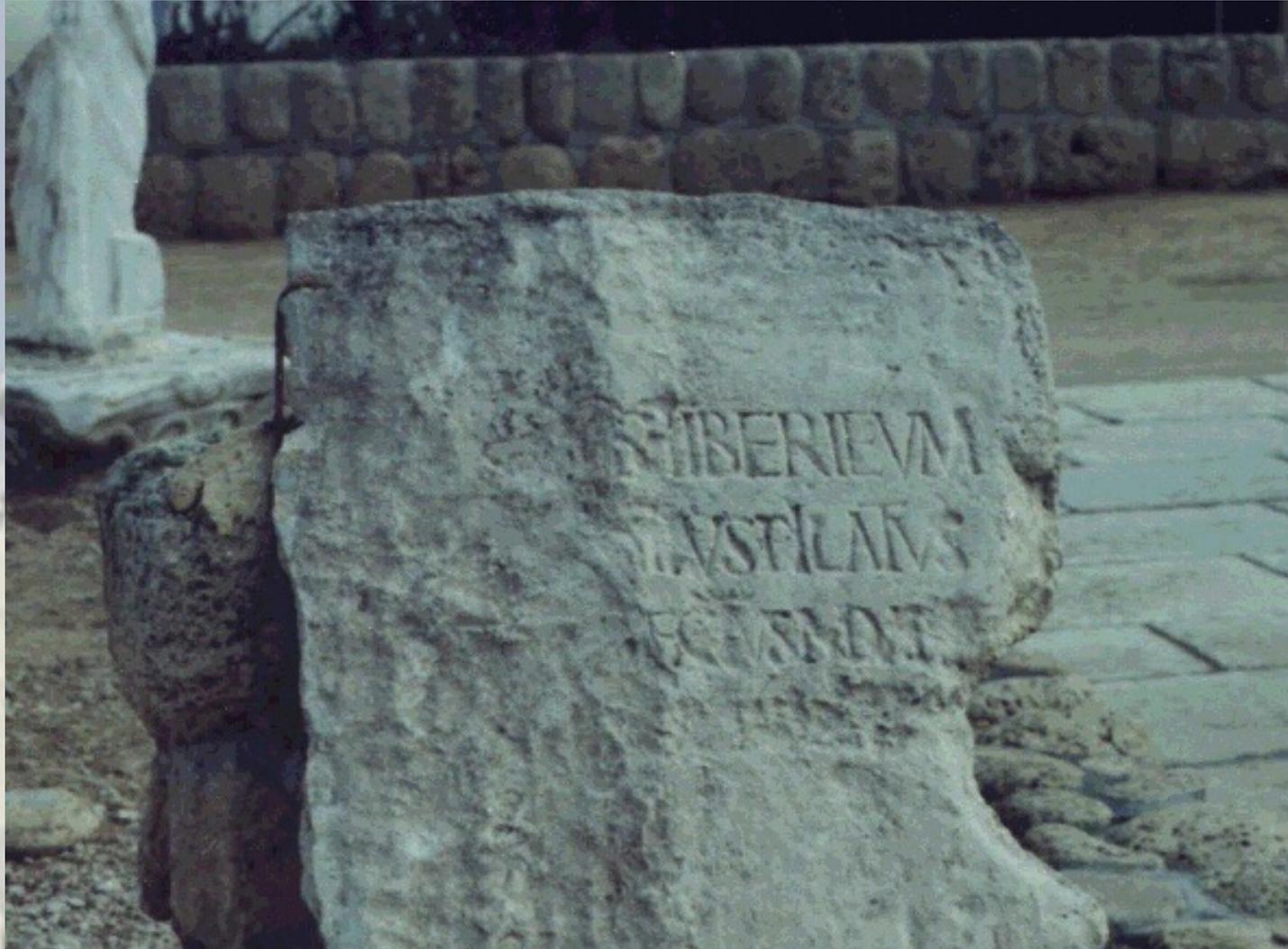
Synagogue at Capernaum Where Jesus Taught (Lk. 7)



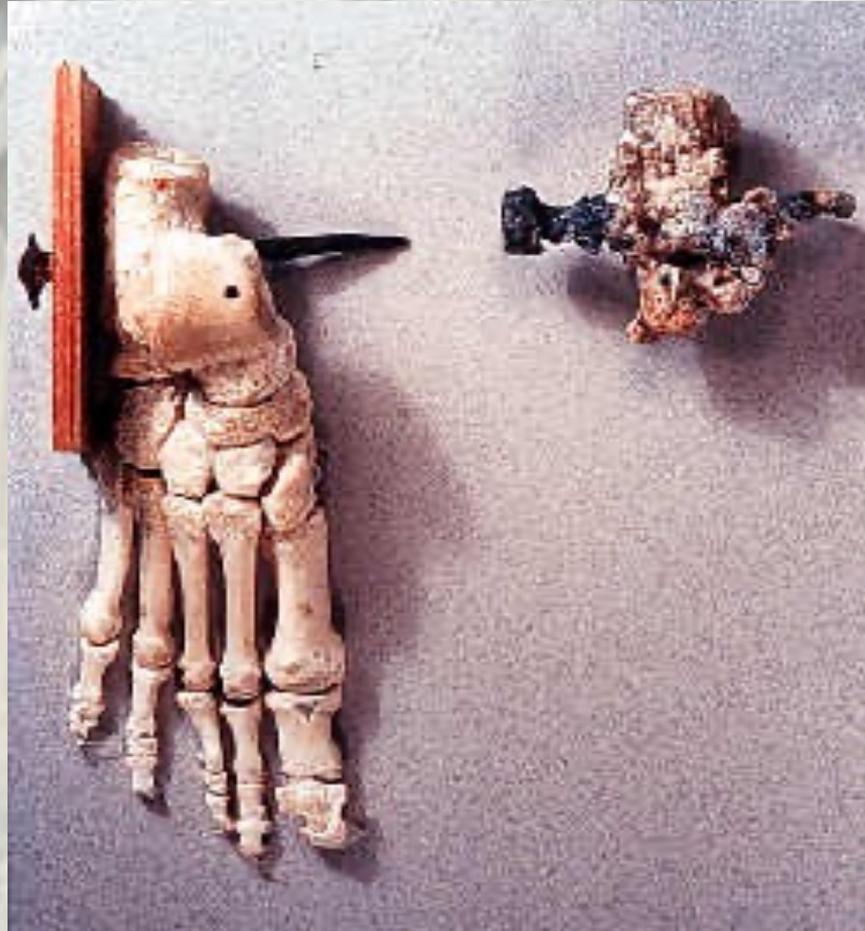
Foundation of Herod's Temple court where Jesus Taught (Lk 2)



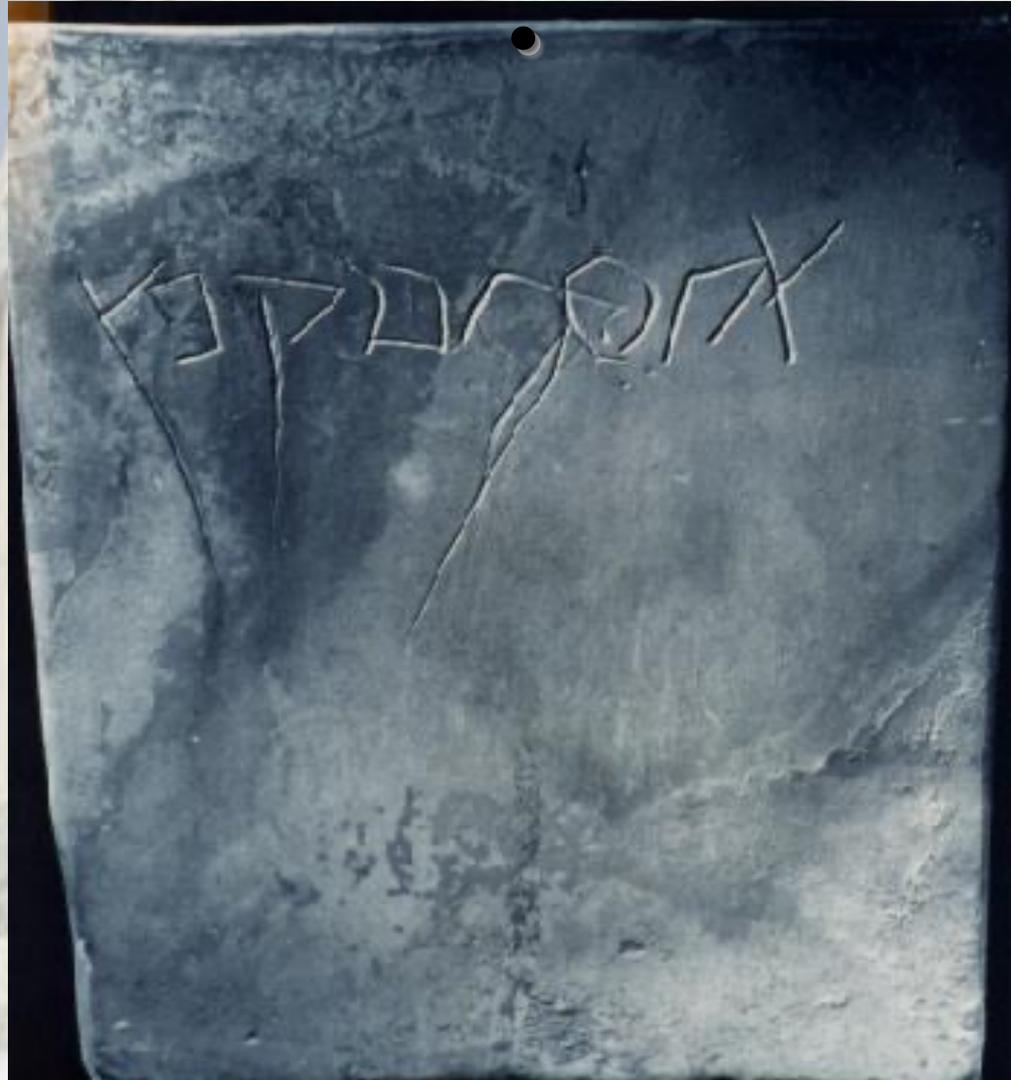
•“Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea”
26-37 A.D. (Mt. 27)



Crucifixion Victim 1st Century A.D. (Discovered in Jerusalem)



**•Ossuary of Joseph Caiaphas:
High Priest 18-36 A.D.**



Jesus's Brother?

An Aramaic inscription recently discovered on a burial box from Jerusalem could be an authentic reference to Jesus of Nazareth, from three decades after the crucifixion, according to a specialist in ancient inscriptions.

(Read right to left)

Yeshua Jesus	a khu brother of	Yosif Joseph	bar son of	Ya 'a qov Jacob (James)
ܝܫܘܥ	ܐܚܝ	ܝܘܨܫ	ܒܪ	ܝܥܩܘܒ



SOURCE: Medical Archaeology Review

THE WASHINGTON POST

Ossuary Deemed Authentic!

According to an announcement *in Biblical Archeological Review*, the inscription on the James Ossuary has been found to be authentic. It declares: "In the most recent embarrassment for the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), the government's star witness, Yuval Goren, former chairman of Tel Aviv University's institute of archaeology, was forced to admit on cross-examination that there is original ancient patina in the word "Jesus," the last word in the inscription that reads **"James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus"** (Oct 2008).

- **Site of an Empty Tomb like Jesus' Tomb (Mk. 16)**



Arch of Titus Who Destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Mt. 24)



Titus Conquering Jerusalem



Archaeology Affirms the Bible

“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)*

A Summary of the Evidence

Ten Good Reasons for Accepting the NT:

- 1. There were nine different authors.**
- 2. There were 27 different books.**
- 3. They were based on eyewitness testimony.**
- 4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm them.**
- 5. There was no time for myths to develop.**
- 6. The nature of the records is authentic.**
- 7. Non-Christian sources support them.**
- 8. Noted Roman historians have confirmed them.**
- 9. Noted legal experts have vouched for them.**
- 10. Many archaeological finds have supported them.**

A Summary of the Evidence

Ten Good Reasons for Accepting the NT:

1. There were nine different authors.
2. There were 27 different books.
3. They were based on eyewitness testimony.
4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm them.
5. There was no time for myths to develop.
6. The nature of the records is authentic.
7. Non-Christian sources support them.
8. Noted Roman historians have confirmed them.
9. Noted legal experts have vouched for them.
10. Many archaeological finds have supported them.

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

Conclusion

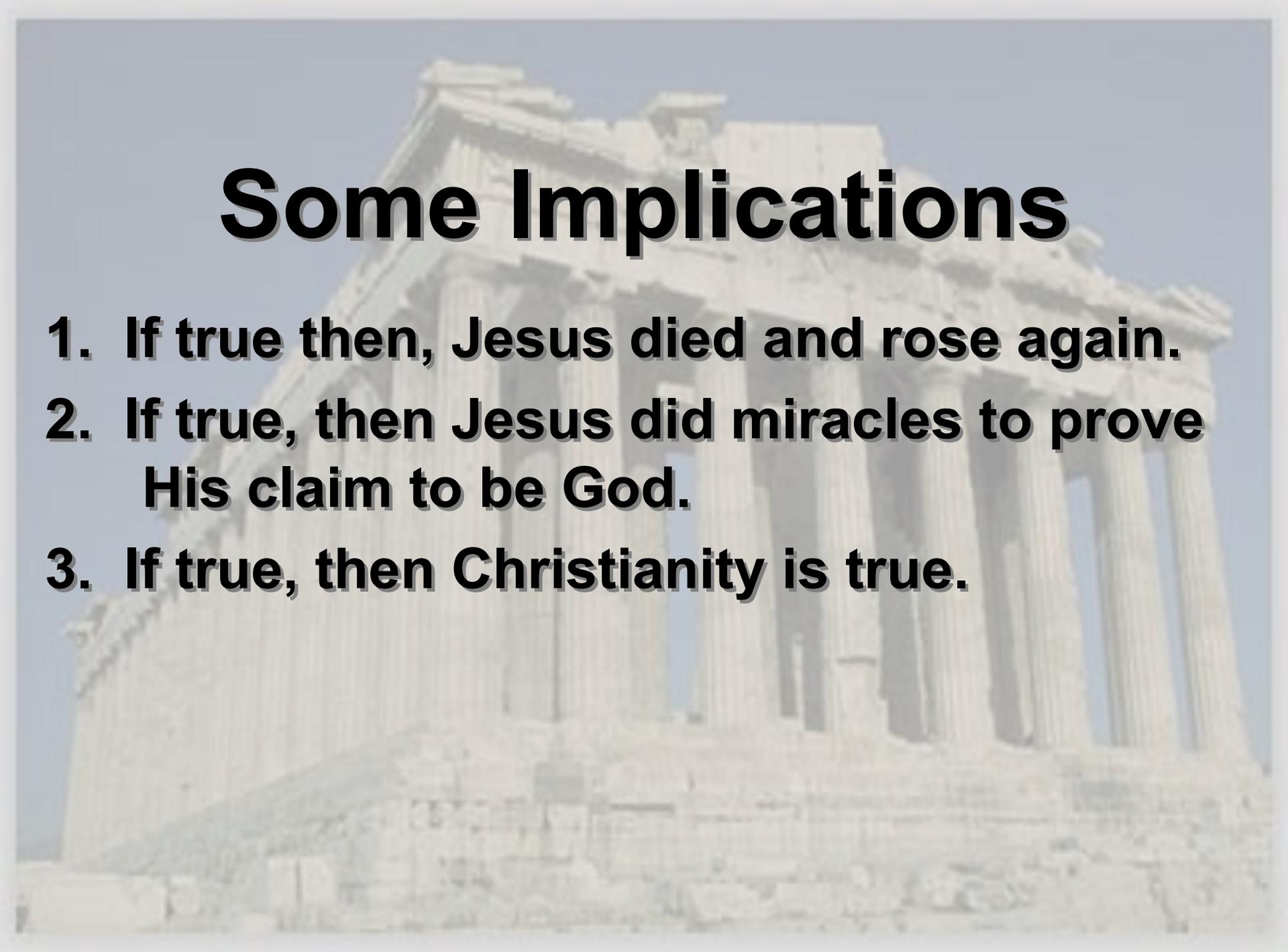
- **The New Testament is Historically Accurate**
- **Hence, when the NT says:**
 - Jesus **said** it, then Jesus actually said it;
 - Jesus **did** it, then Jesus actually did it.

The life, death and resurrection of Christ is not just a good story; It actually happened!

Conclusion

It's Not Just a Movie: It's History!





Some Implications

- 1. If true then, Jesus died and rose again.**
- 2. If true, then Jesus did miracles to prove His claim to be God.**
- 3. If true, then Christianity is true.**

Objection 1: *Extraordinary Events Demand Extraordinary Evidence*

- 1. If “extraordinary” means *miraculous*, then it begs the question.**
- 2 If it means *more than usual*, then we have it.**
- 3. Other extraordinary events are accepted without extraordinary evidence:**
 - Big Bang Origin of the Universe***
 - Spontaneous Generation of First Life***

Objection 2: Miracles are not Possible?

- I. If God exists, miracles are possible.*
- II. To disprove miracles are possible, one must prove God is impossible (but no one has).*
- III. Evidence for God is Evidence for miracles.*
- IV. There is good evidence for God.*
- V. Hence, there is good evidence for miracles.*



Objection 3: *David Hume Proved Miracles are Incredible?*

David Hume's Objection:

- 1. Natural Law is by definition a description of a regular occurrence.**
- 2. A miracle is by definition a rare occurrence.**
- 3. The evidence for the regular is always greater than that for the rare.**
- 4. A wise person always bases his belief on the greater evidence.**
- 5. Therefore, a wise person should never believe in miracles.**

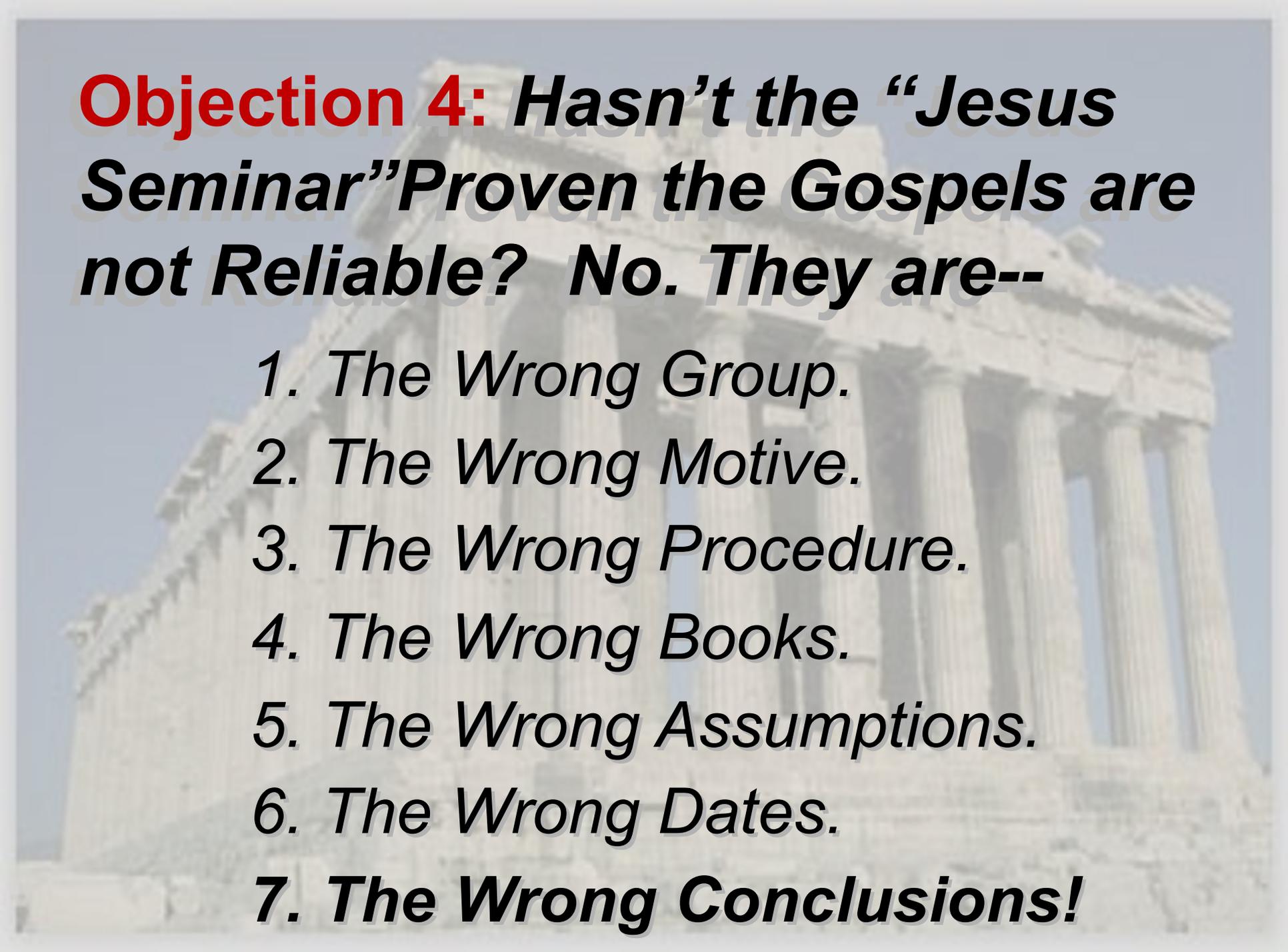


A Response to David Hume's Objection

The evidence for the regular is not always greater than that for the rare.

Examples from Hume's own world view:

- 1. The Big Bang is is not a regular event.*
- 2. The origin of life on earth does not occur regularly.*
- 3. Spontaneous generation/evolution is unrepeated.*
- 4. The entire history of the earth is unrepeated.*



Objection 4: Hasn't the "Jesus Seminar" Proven the Gospels are not Reliable? No. They are--

- 1. The Wrong Group.*
- 2. The Wrong Motive.*
- 3. The Wrong Procedure.*
- 4. The Wrong Books.*
- 5. The Wrong Assumptions.*
- 6. The Wrong Dates.*
- 7. The Wrong Conclusions!***

Objection 5: *The NT Witnesses had a religious bias.*

- 1. Some were initially biased against the resurrection (e.g., Thomas, James, Paul).*
- 2. Critics of the NT have a bias too.*
- 3. Holocaust survivors are biased, but they are the best witnesses of it.*
- 4. Question isn't whether they are biased but whether they told the **truth**.*

Objection 6: *There are many apparent contradictions in the NT testimony*

Response:

Contradictions *have not been proven.*

Conflicts *supports the truthfulness of their testimony:*

a) It shows they were independent.

b) It shows they were not in collusion.

Example # 1 of Alleged Error

The Inscription on the Cross

Matthew- *THIS IS JESUS _____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Mark - _____ *THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Luke - *THIS IS _____ THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

John - _____ *JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Complete: *THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Example # 2: Judas' Death

Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."

Acts (1:18): "...falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."

Resolution: Sometime after hanging himself, his body was discovered, the rope cut, and the body fell on sharp rocks and it burst open.

Example # 3 of the Critics

Matthew (28:5) said there *was one* angel at the tomb.

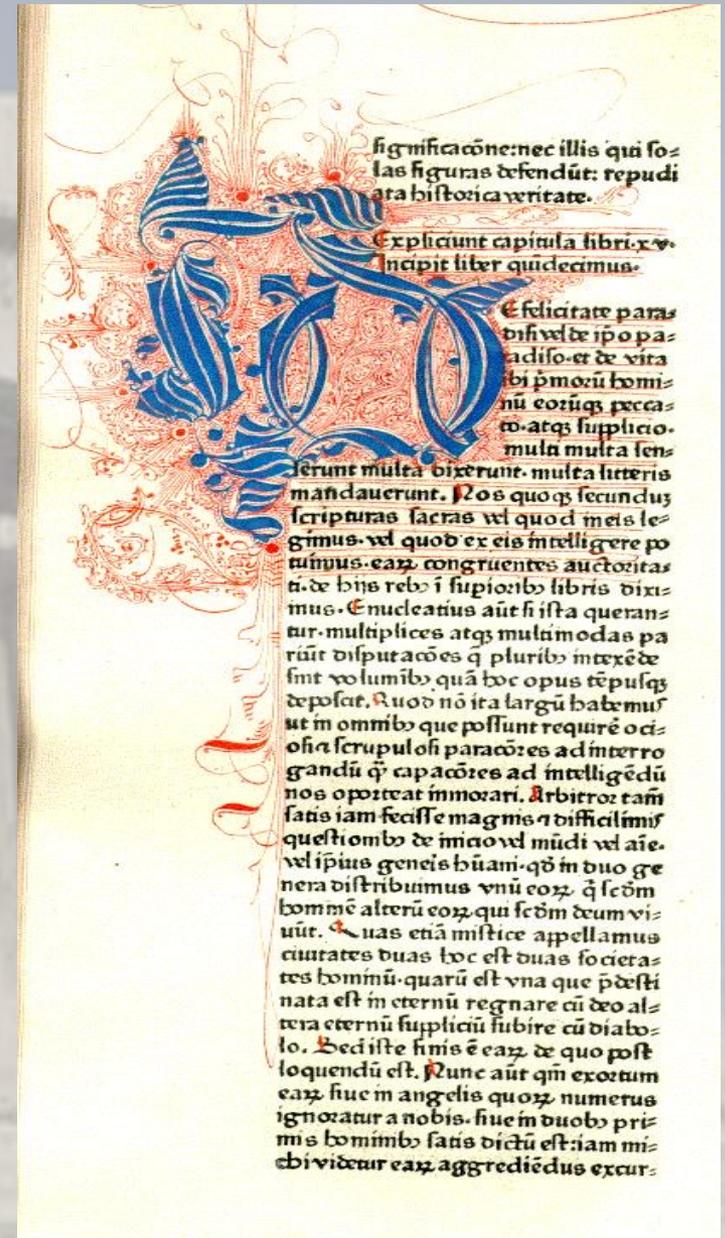
John (20:12) said there *were two* angels there.

Resolution: Wherever there are two, there is always one. It Never Fails!

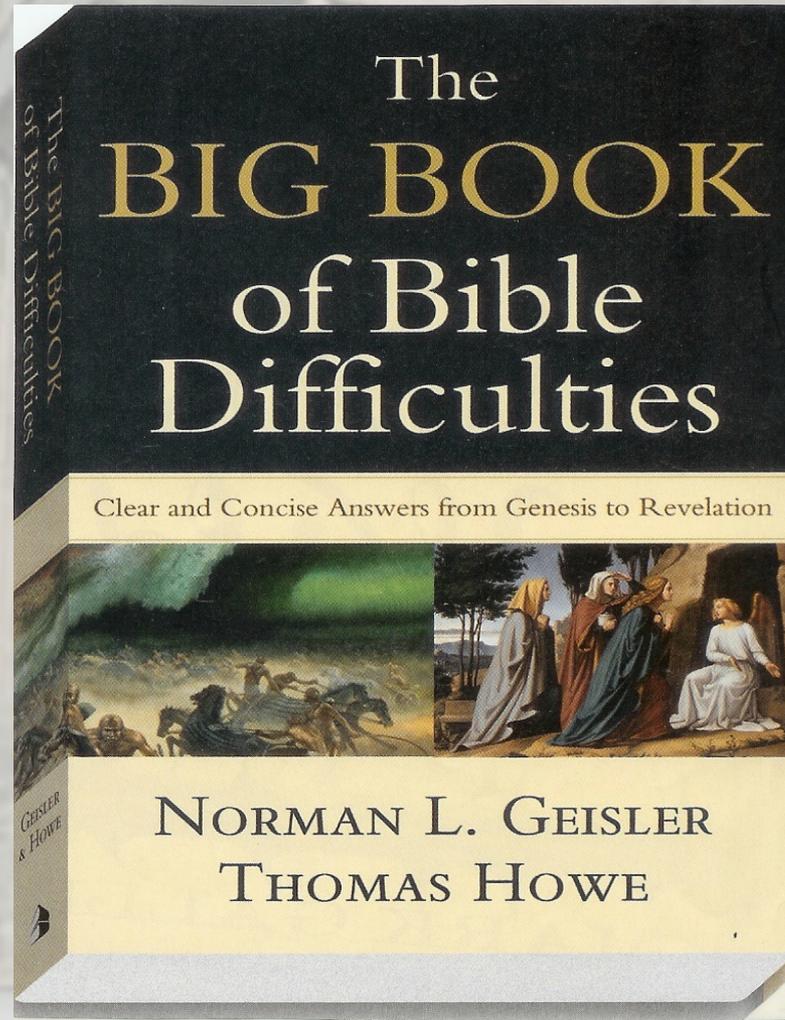
Note: *Matthew did not say there was only one angel there.*

St. Augustine's Dictum:

“If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, The author of this book is mistaken; but either [1] the manuscript is faulty, or [2] the translation is wrong, or [3] you have not understood.”
(Augustine, Reply to Faustus 11.5)



For 800 More Errors of the Critics, See *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties*.



Objection 7: *History is Unknowable*

Response to Objection:

- 1. How can one *know* it is unknowable?**
- 2. We can't know it is *bad* history, unless we know what *good* history is.**
- 3. If we can know the *immediate* past (hours, days, and weeks ago), the why can't we know the more *remote* past the same way?**
- 4. If we can't know it *indirectly* through records, then how can we know the geological past?**
- 5. If we can't know it through *fragmentary* records, then how can geologist know the past? (Yet many say evolution is a fact.)**

Objection 8: We Can't Trust John

Because:

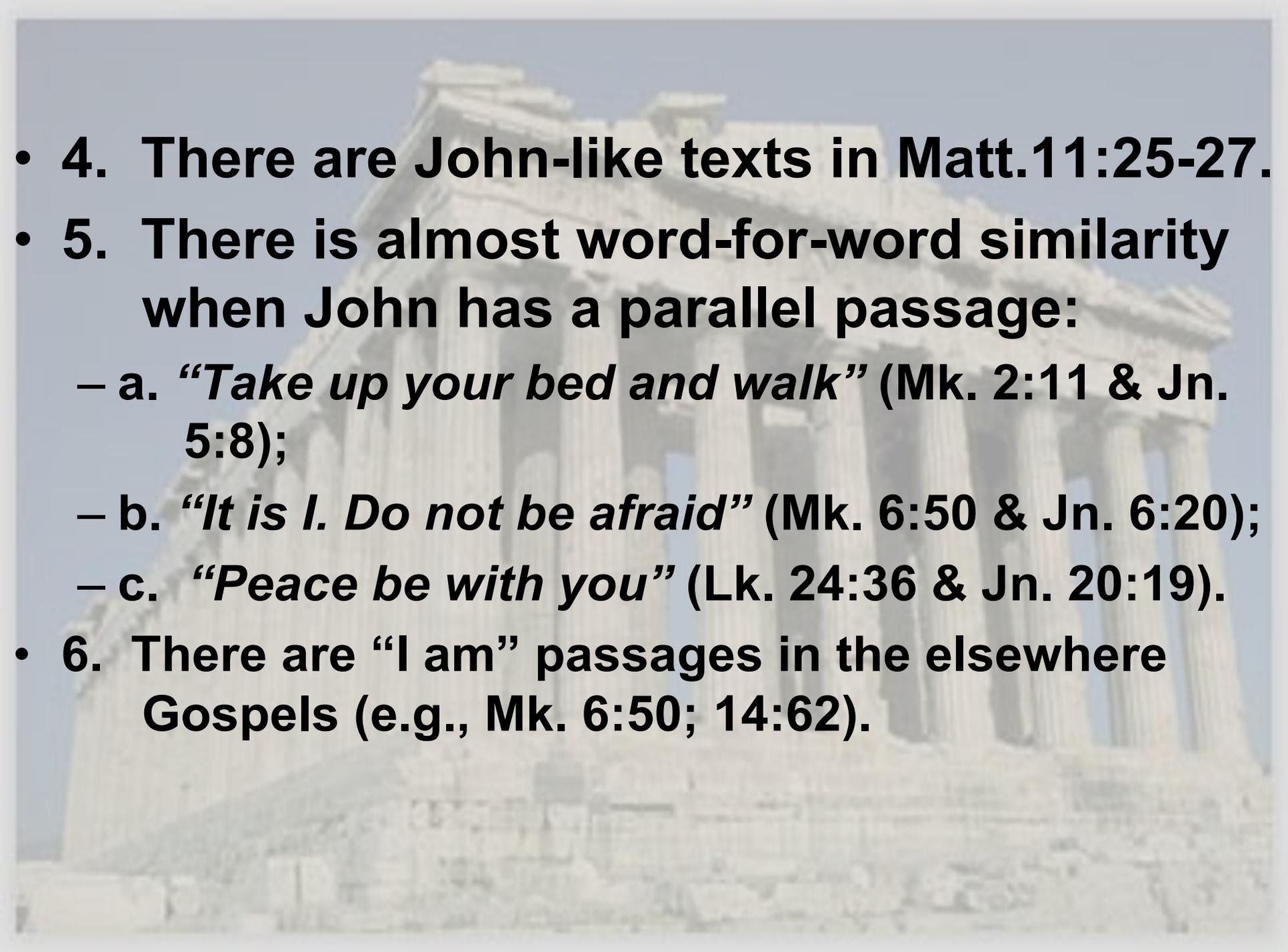
- 1. It records different events (Jn. 2-5; 8-17)**
- 2. It relates different discourses (Jn. 2-4; 13-17).**
- 3. It stresses Christ's deity (Jn. 1:1; 5:23; 8:58; 10:30; 12:41; 17:5; 20:29).**
- 4. It has a different times for events (Mk. 15:25 cf. Jn. 19:4).**
- 5. It has no parables as the other Gospels do.**
- 6. It has different miracles (Jn. 2, 5, 9, 11).**
- 7. It uses different words (e.g., "I am," "verily, verily").**

So, John is *creating*, not reporting Jesus' words!

Response to Objection 8:

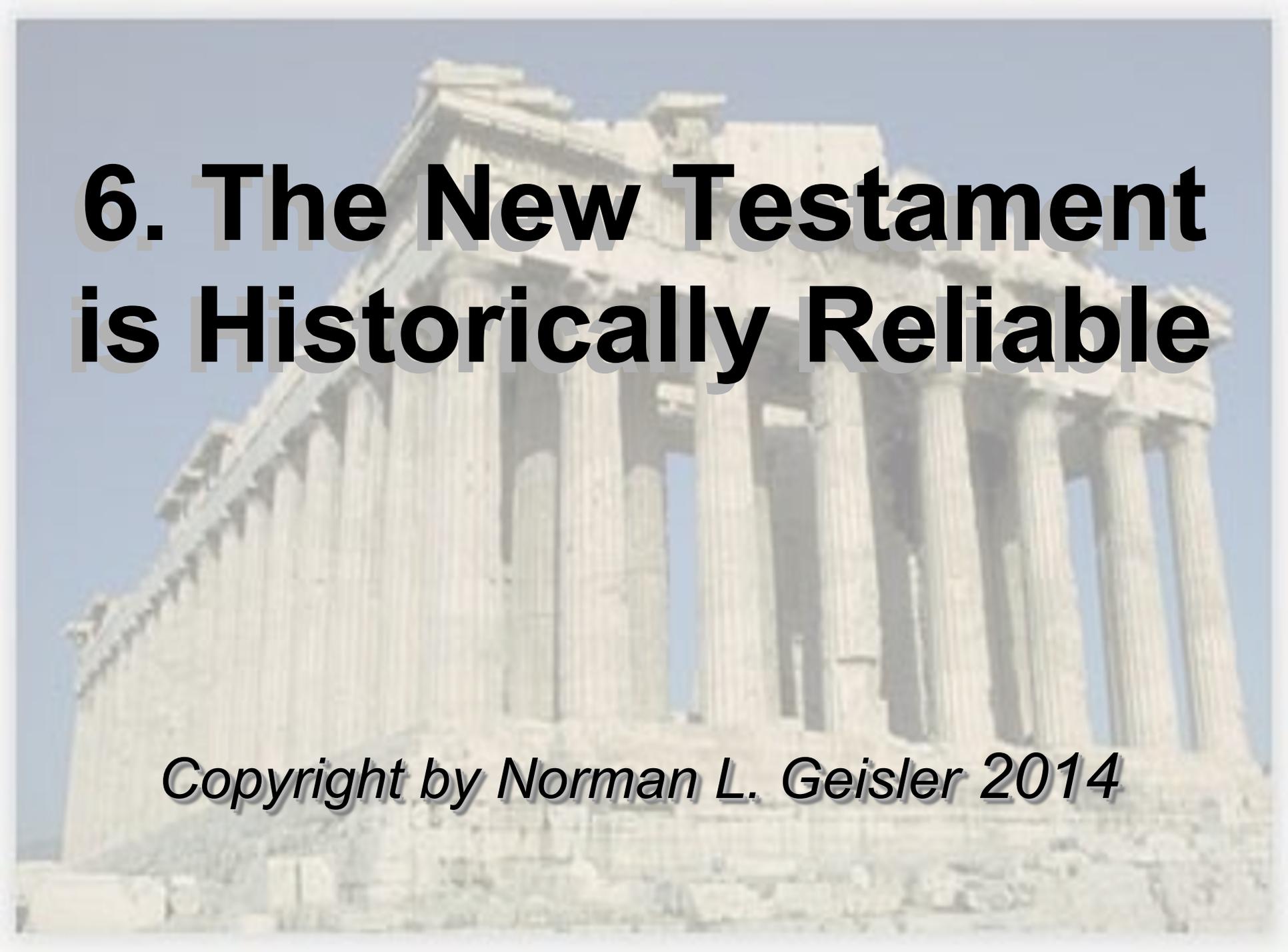
- 1. We don't need John for this apologetic argument. The other Gospels and Epistles are sufficient.**
- 2. John gives the same basic story as the others, including all the major events:**
 - 1) Jesus was heralded by John the Baptist (1);***
 - 2) Jesus preached the Kingdom of God (3);***
 - 3) He did many miracles, even the same ones (6, 20);***
 - 4) He made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (12);***
 - 5) He was rejected by the His people (the Jews);***
 - 6) He was crucified under Pilate (19);***
 - 7) He rose from the dead (20);***
 - 8) He appeared to many (20-31).***

- **3. Difference in John are due to:**
 - ***a) Its stress of early and late Judean ministry.***
 - ***b) Its stress on private conversations.***
 - ***c) Its central purpose (Jn. 20:31).***
 - ***d) It's a later date (using Roman time).***
 - ***e) Its supplemental in nature.***
 - ***f) Jesus' response when his words were rejected.***
 - ***g) Its translation from Aramaic into Greek.***
 - ***h) The author's desire to show tone of original.***
 - ***h) It may be a paraphrase of His words:***
 - ***a) We may have only the *ipsissima vox* (same meaning).***
 - ***b) We may not always have the *ipsissima verba* (same words).***

- 
- 4. There are John-like texts in Matt.11:25-27.
 - 5. There is almost word-for-word similarity when John has a parallel passage:
 - a. *“Take up your bed and walk”* (Mk. 2:11 & Jn. 5:8);
 - b. *“It is I. Do not be afraid”* (Mk. 6:50 & Jn. 6:20);
 - c. *“Peace be with you”* (Lk. 24:36 & Jn. 20:19).
 - 6. There are “I am” passages in the elsewhere Gospels (e.g., Mk. 6:50; 14:62).

Response to Objection 8:

- **7. “Very, verily” is unique to John but:**
 - a. It may have been doubled for rhetorical effect.
 - b. Repetition may reflect emphasis in the original oral statement.
 - c. It may have been used only at these times (There is no parallel text where only one “verily” is used, though it is used this way twice Mt. 26:34; Mk. 14:30).



6. The New Testament is Historically Reliable

Copyright by Norman L. Geisler 2014