

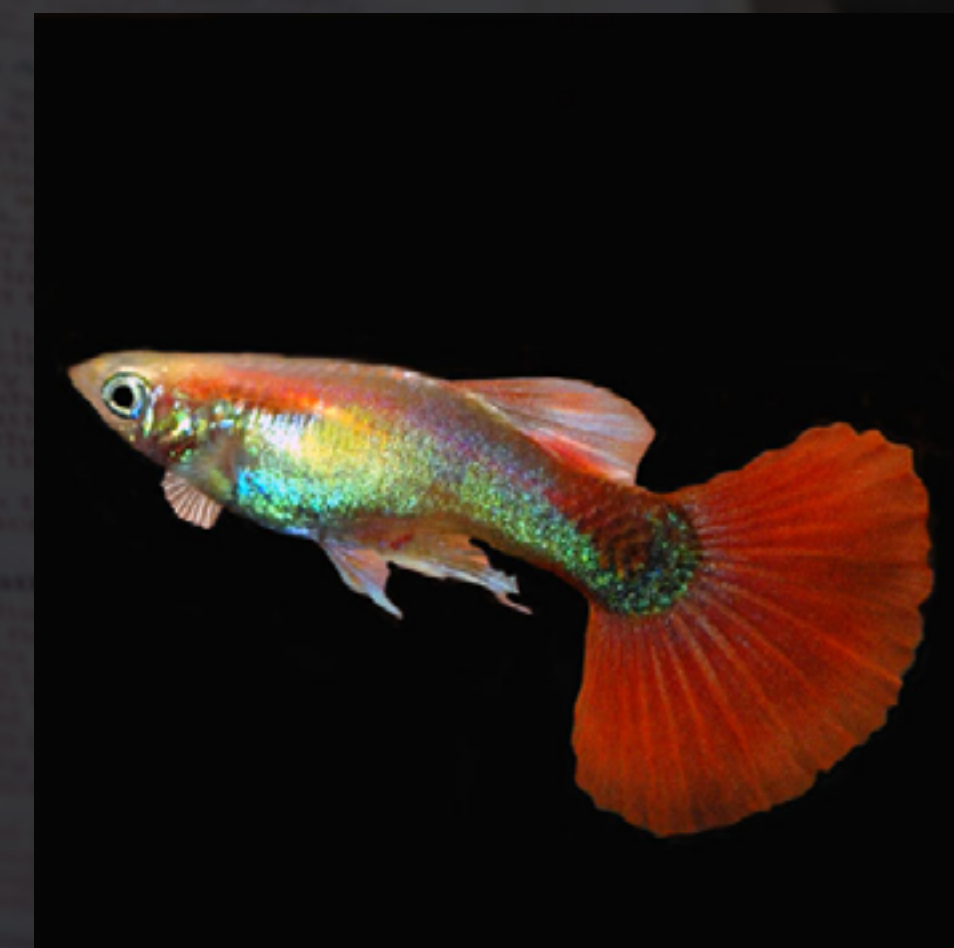
An open Bible is shown lying flat on a dark, textured surface. The pages are filled with printed text, likely a Bible translation. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "GOD'S WORD" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a solid black horizontal band spans the width of the image, containing the text "THE ONLY SURE FOUNDATION" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

GOD'S WORD

THE ONLY SURE FOUNDATION

2018 BARNABY STUDY (US)

- Over *half* of practicing Christian young people say that *evangelism is morally wrong*.
- About **51%** of churchgoers in general *don't know* the Great Commission.
- The percentage of *atheism* among young people has *doubled* in and only **9%** of Gen Z (iGen) are engaged Christians.



MATTHEW 7:24-27

FINALE OF JESUS'S 'SERMON ON THE MOUNT'

CONTEXT IS KING

**“REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT
HAND.”**

(Matthew 3:2 & 4:17)

The Sermon on the Mount is an exposition from
our Lord himself on what defines the Kingdom of
Heaven.

STARTS OFF WITH A LIST OF WHAT DEFINES TRUE CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM

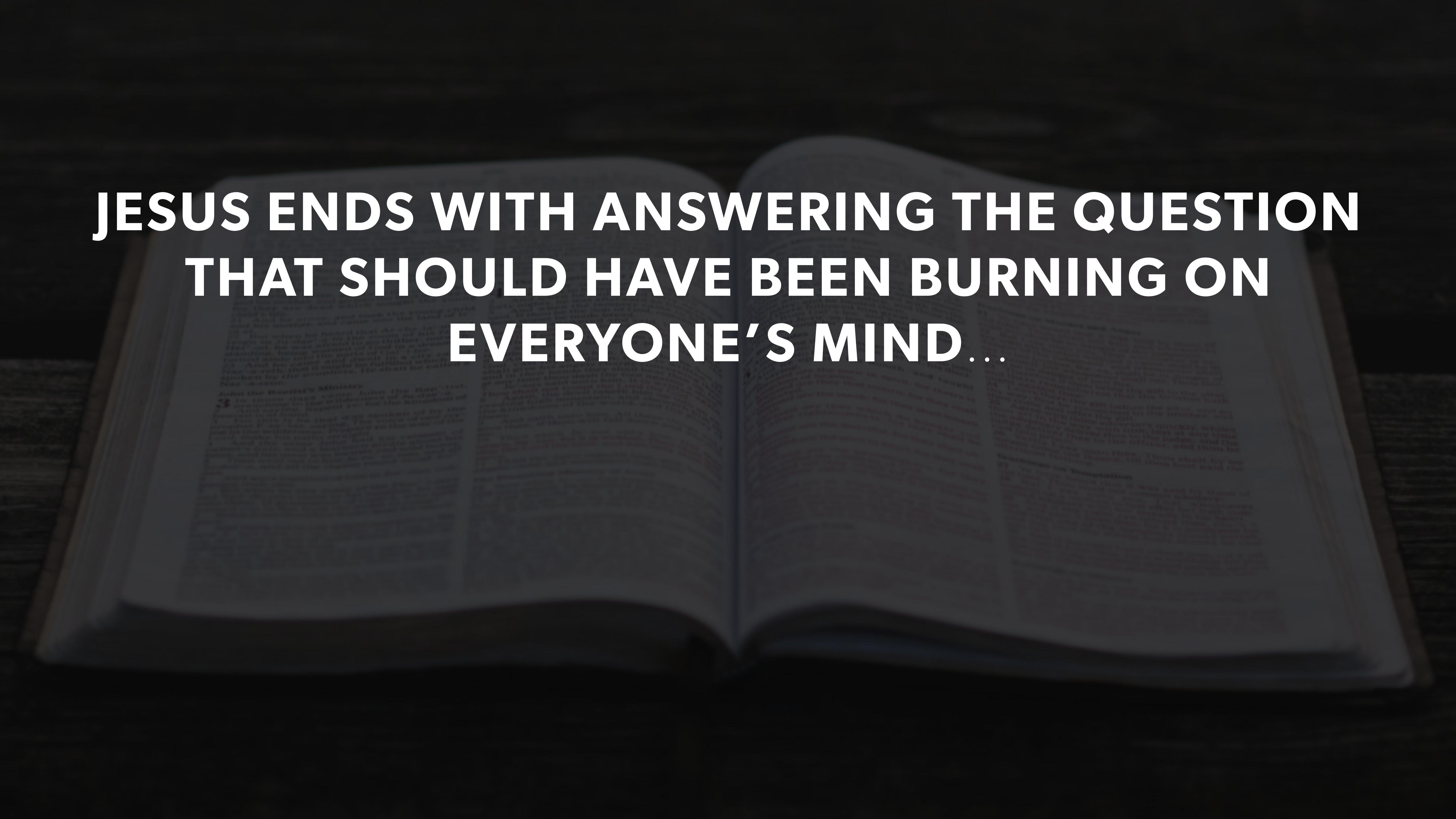
(Matthew 5:2-16)

Poor in spirit, those who mourn, meek, hunger and
thirst for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart,
peacemakers, persecuted for the sake of Christ, and
live as the salt and light of the world...

LAST POINT OF JESUS'S SERMON

(Matthew 7:13-27)

If you miss this, you've missed everything!

An open Bible is shown, lying flat. The pages are filled with text, but the text is mostly obscured by a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The overlay is a dark grey or black, with the main text in white. The text is centered and spans across both pages of the Bible. The Bible is open to a page that appears to be the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 23, based on the visible text fragments. The text on the left page includes "And he said unto them, Woe unto you, Pharisees!" and the text on the right page includes "But woe unto you, Pharisees!" and "And he said unto them, Woe unto you, Pharisees!". The text is in a serif font, likely a traditional Bible translation like the King James Version. The overall image has a dark, moody atmosphere, with the Bible being the central focus.

**JESUS ENDS WITH ANSWERING THE QUESTION
THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BURNING ON
EVERYONE'S MIND...**

HOW DO I GET INTO THIS KINGDOM?

WARNING OF FALSE PATHS (verses 13-14)

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

POPULARITY NEVER DEFINED TRUTH

WARNING OF FALSE GUIDES (verses 15-20)

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits... A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

CHECK YOUR TEACHERS AND OURSELVES

WARNING OF FALSE CITIZENS (verses 21-23)

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven...

TRUST IN CHRIST'S FINISHED WORK

HOW DO WE ENTER THE KINGDOM?

(verses 24-27)

The parable of the houses tells us how to avoid a life that is spiritually doomed to catastrophic structural failure.

JESUS TELLS US – “BUILD YOUR LIFE UPON MY WORD. MAKE IT YOUR SURE FOUNDATION.”

“Everyone then who **hears** these words of mine and **does** them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who **hears** these words of mine and **does not do** them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

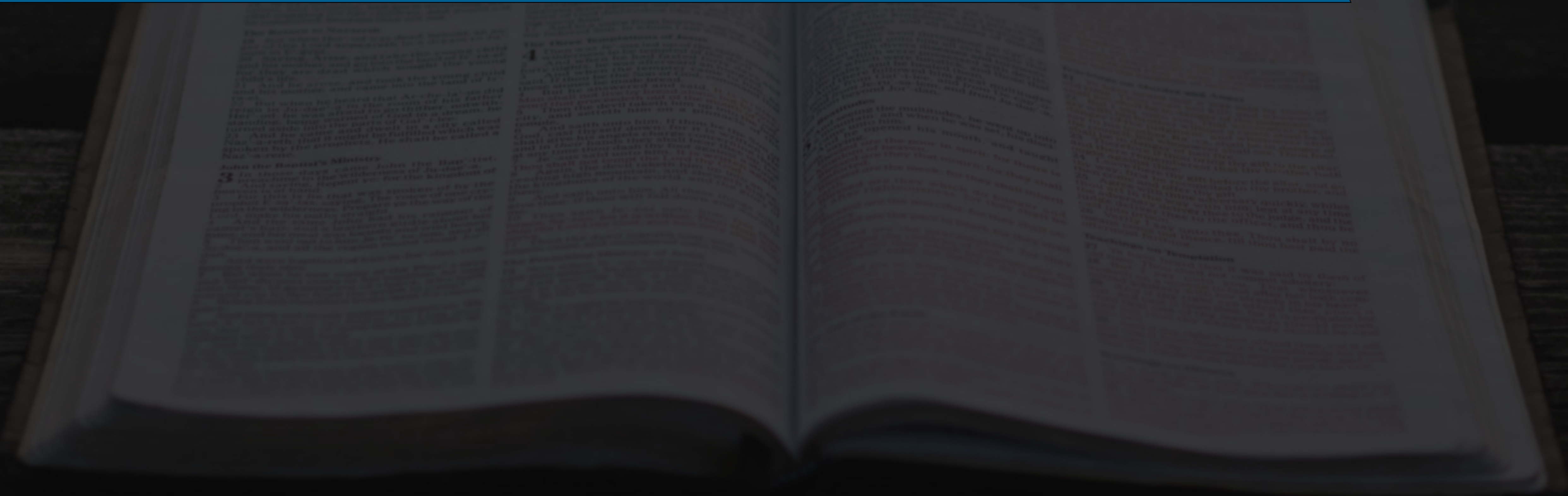
(Matthew 7:24-27)

An open Bible is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is visible but not the primary focus. Overlaid on the left page is a large, bold, white question. The Bible is open to a page that appears to contain a list or a series of short paragraphs.

**1. WHY TRUST THE BIBLE AS OUR ONLY
SURE FOUNDATION?**

**2. HOW DO WE MAKE THE BIBLE OUR
SURE FOUNDATION?**

1. WHY TRUST THE BIBLE AS OUR ONLY SURE FOUNDATION?



1. WHY TRUST THE BIBLE AS OUR ONLY SURE FOUNDATION?

3 self-attesting internal qualities:

A. FOCUSED PLOTLINE

The Bible is one consistent message.

B. FULFILLED PROPHECY

The Bible shows God delivered on what He said.

C. FAITHFUL PRESERVATION

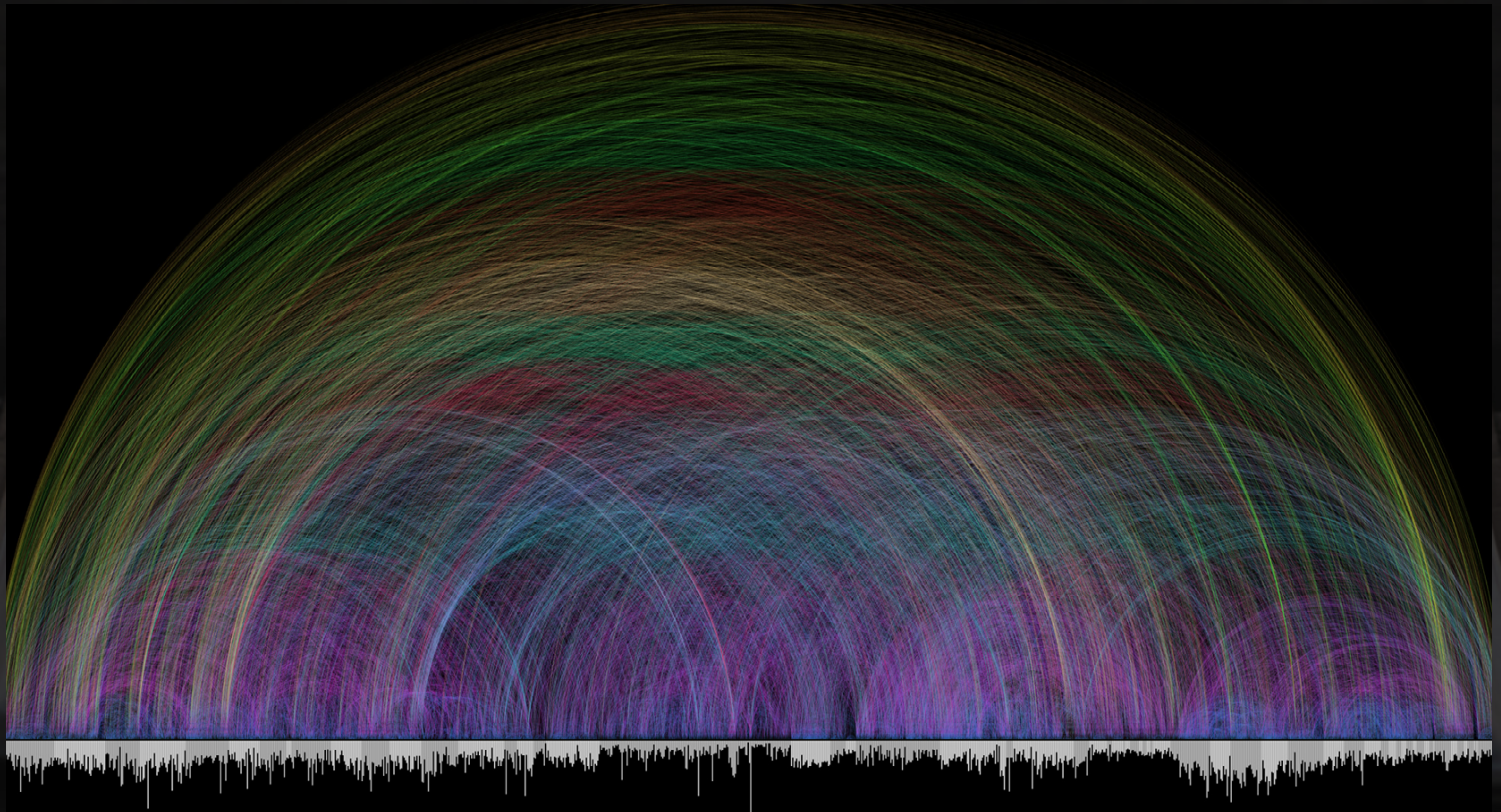
The Bible has stood the test of time.

A. FOCUSED PLOTLINE

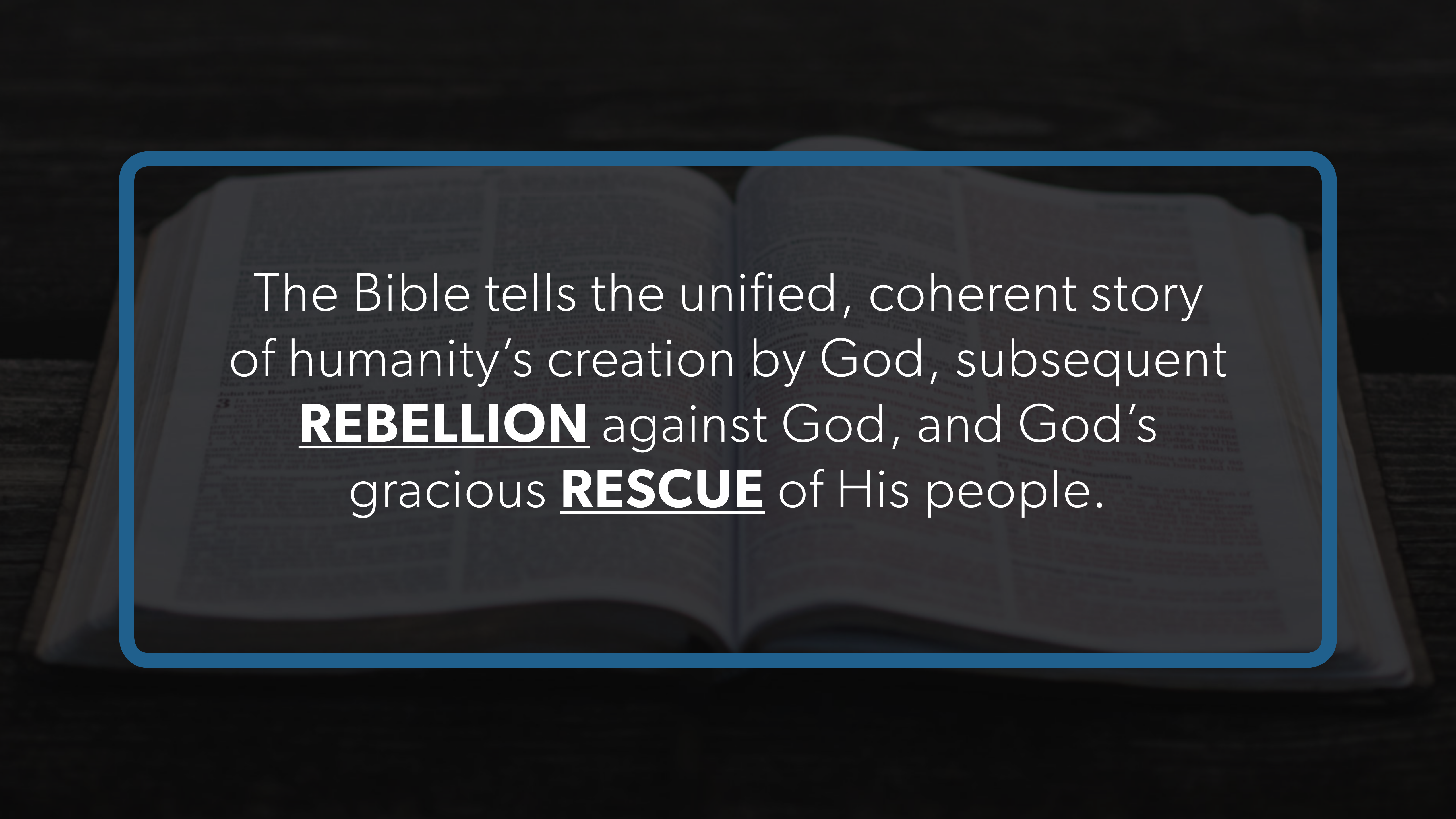
If the Bible is ultimately the product of One Divine Author, then its collective message should be consistent across all of its books.

A. FOCUSED PLOTLINE

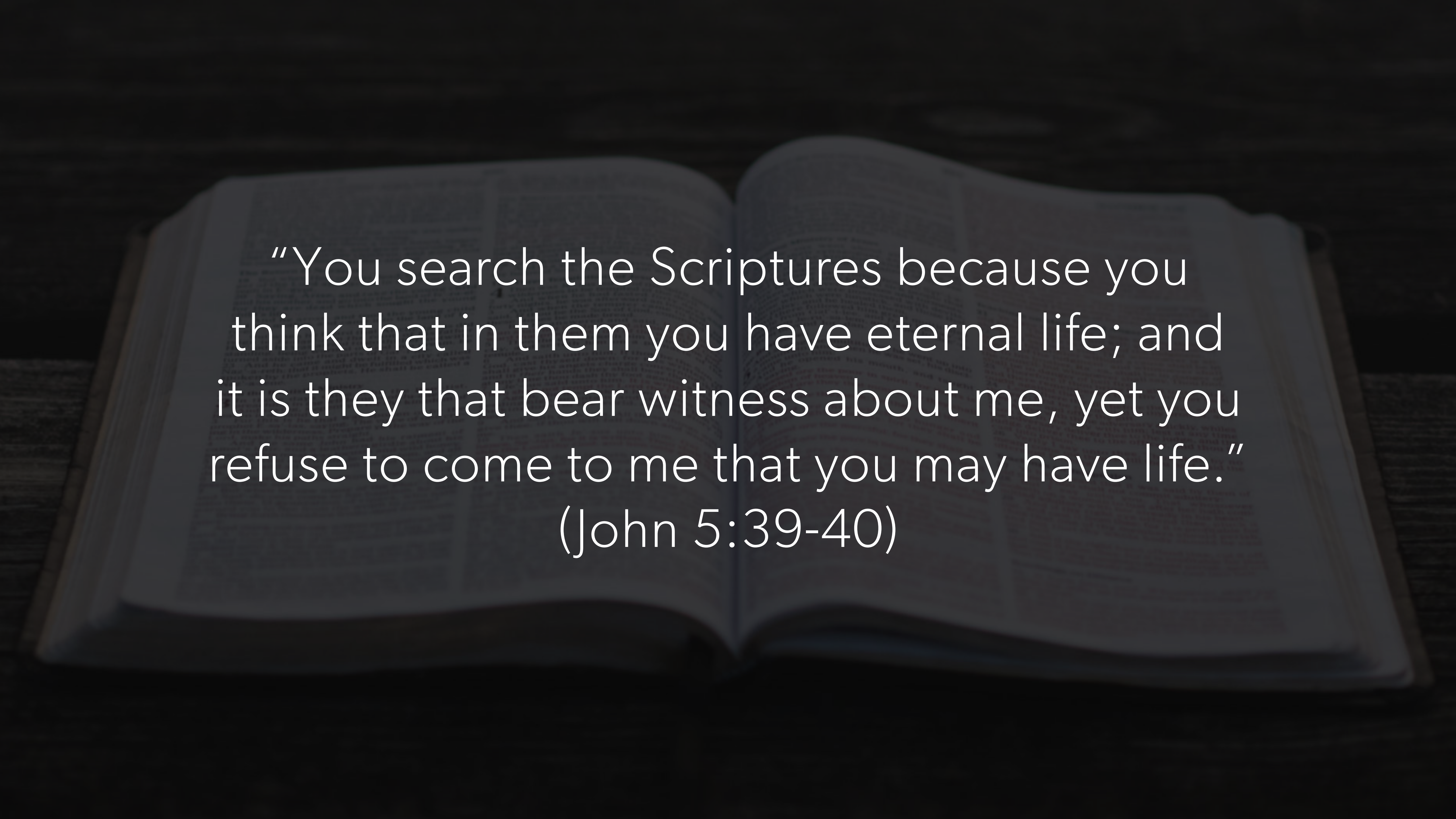




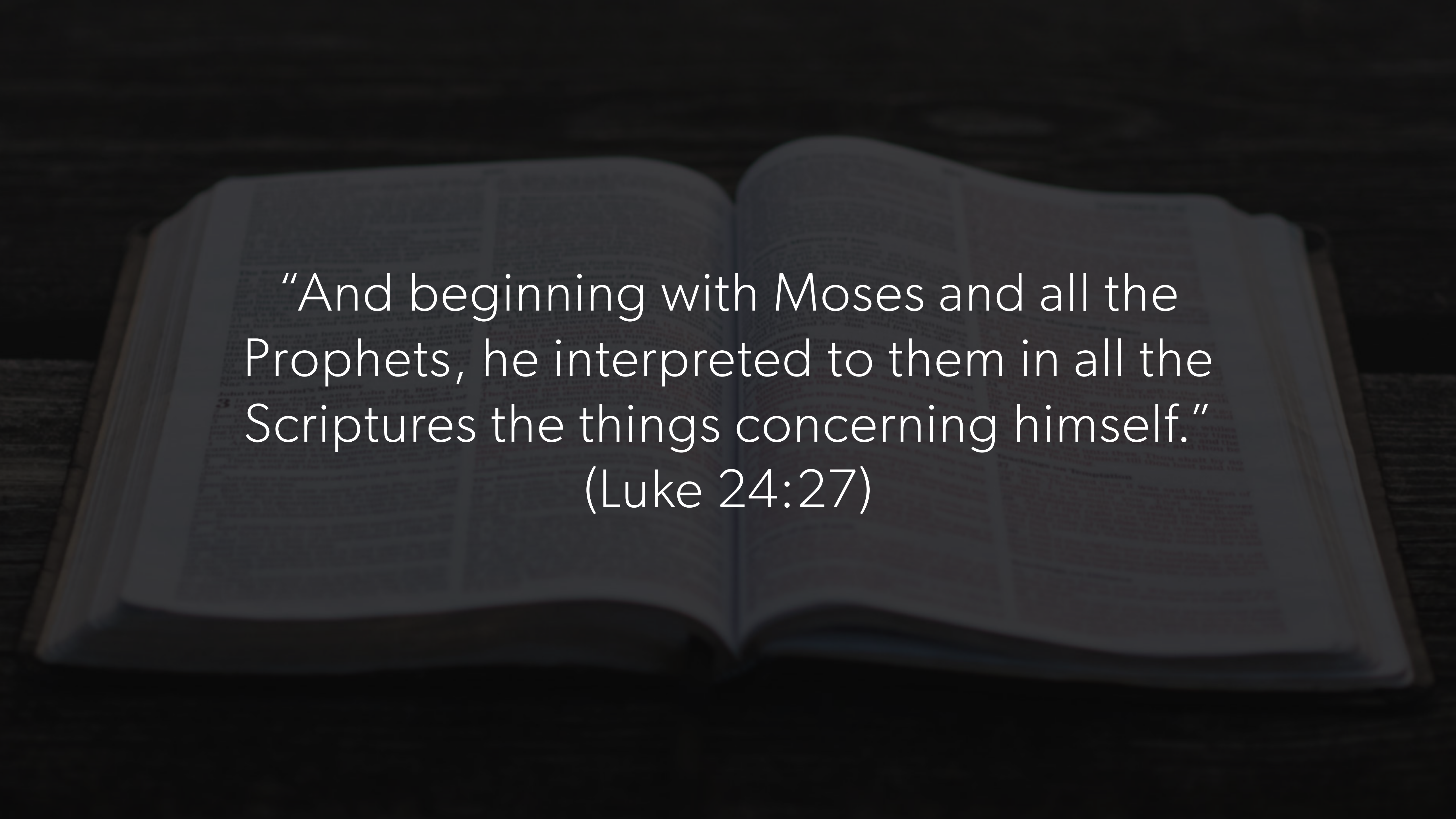
BIBLE VISUAL ARC (63,779 CROSS-REFERENCES)

An open Bible is shown in the background, with its pages slightly blurred. Overlaid on the Bible is a blue rounded rectangle containing white text. The text describes the Bible's narrative of creation, rebellion, and rescue.

The Bible tells the unified, coherent story of humanity's creation by God, subsequent **REBELLION** against God, and God's gracious **RESCUE** of His people.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are a light, aged cream color, and the text on them is faint and mostly illegible. The book is centered against a dark, textured background. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a quote in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The quote is split across two lines, with the first line on the left page and the second line on the right page. Below the quote, also centered, is the reference '(John 5:39-40)' in the same white font.

“You search the Scriptures because you
think that in them you have eternal life; and
it is they that bear witness about me, yet you
refuse to come to me that you may have life.”
(John 5:39-40)

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, likely from a Bible. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a quote in white, serif font. The quote is: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." Below the quote, in the same font, is the reference "(Luke 24:27)".

"And beginning with Moses and all the
Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the
Scriptures the things concerning himself."
(Luke 24:27)



TAKE AWAY: The Bible, as God's word, has One Ultimate Author telling ONE STORY of God's redemption. No other religious work has the same level of diversity of human authorship, yet consistency of a singular Divine message.

B. FULFILLED PROPHECY

If the Bible is the God's word, we should expect it to evidence a supernatural quality about what it predicts.

I. MESSIANIC PROPHECY

Jesus Christ fulfilled approximately over **300** specific Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah in his birth, life, death and resurrection.

This is the whole point of the Bible: to point to Jesus Christ as the long awaited Saviour of the world!

THE MESSIAH WOULD:

- be born of a virgin, in Bethlehem as a decendent of David
- have been the object of a murderous plot to kill him as a baby
- be preceded by a messenger like Elijah
- be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
- be forsaken and pierced but vindicated
- be resurrected and bring a new covenant

COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN FORGED?

No. People don't fabricate false tales that don't advantage them and then willingly go to brutal executions for the sake of that lie.

Also, other external sources corroborate the evidence.

II. THE SUFFERING SERVANT (ISAIAH 52-53)

Clearly a prophecy pointing to Jesus.

Doubted for many years by critical scholars.

1947 - QUMRAN CAVES

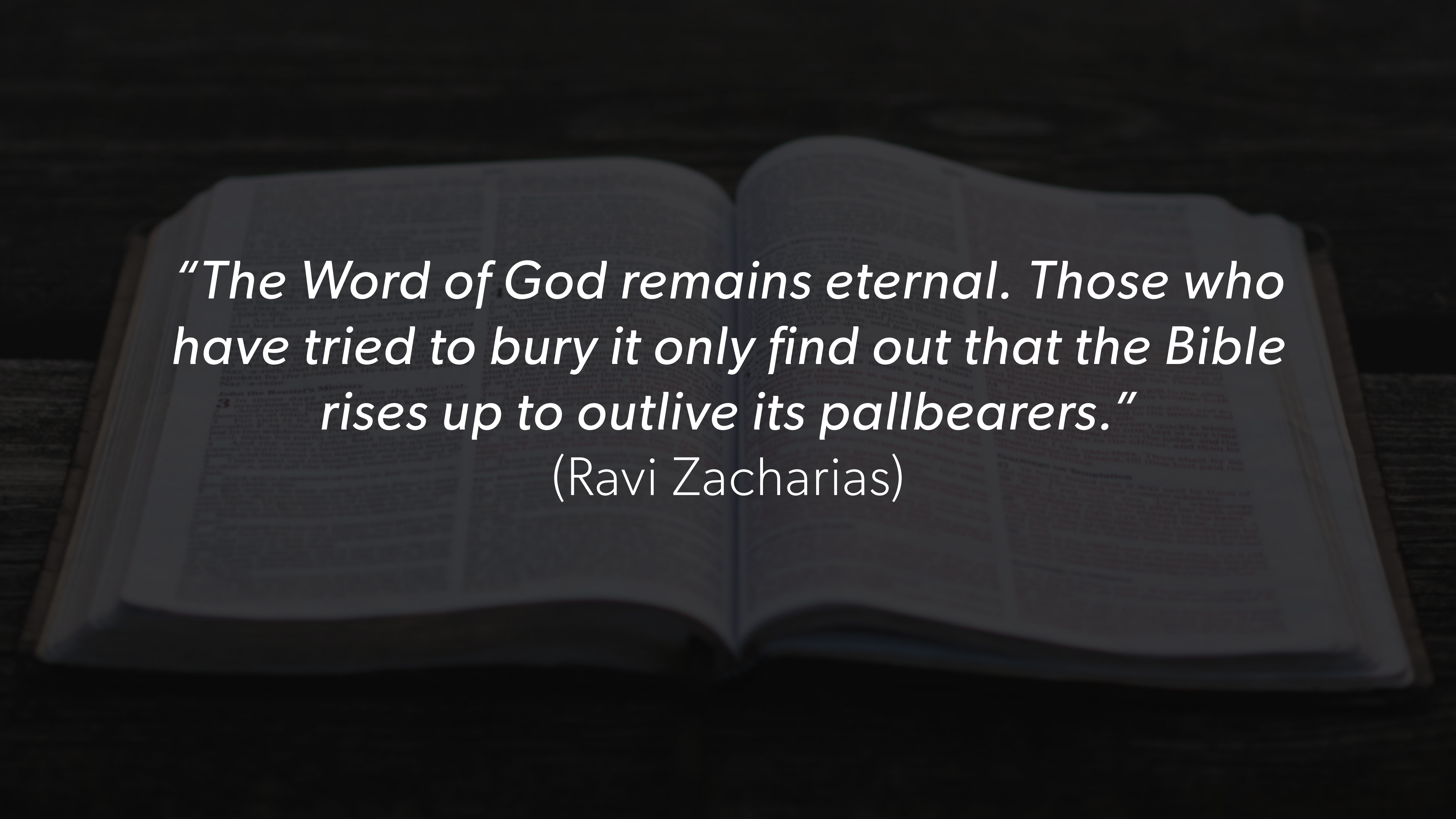


This was the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls



The Great Scroll of Isaiah (356 - 103 BC)



An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with text, but the image is dark and the text is mostly illegible. Overlaid on the center of the Bible is a quote in white, italicized font. The quote reads: "The Word of God remains eternal. Those who have tried to bury it only find out that the Bible rises up to outlive its pallbearers." Below the quote, the name (Ravi Zacharias) is written in a plain white font.

"The Word of God remains eternal. Those who have tried to bury it only find out that the Bible rises up to outlive its pallbearers."

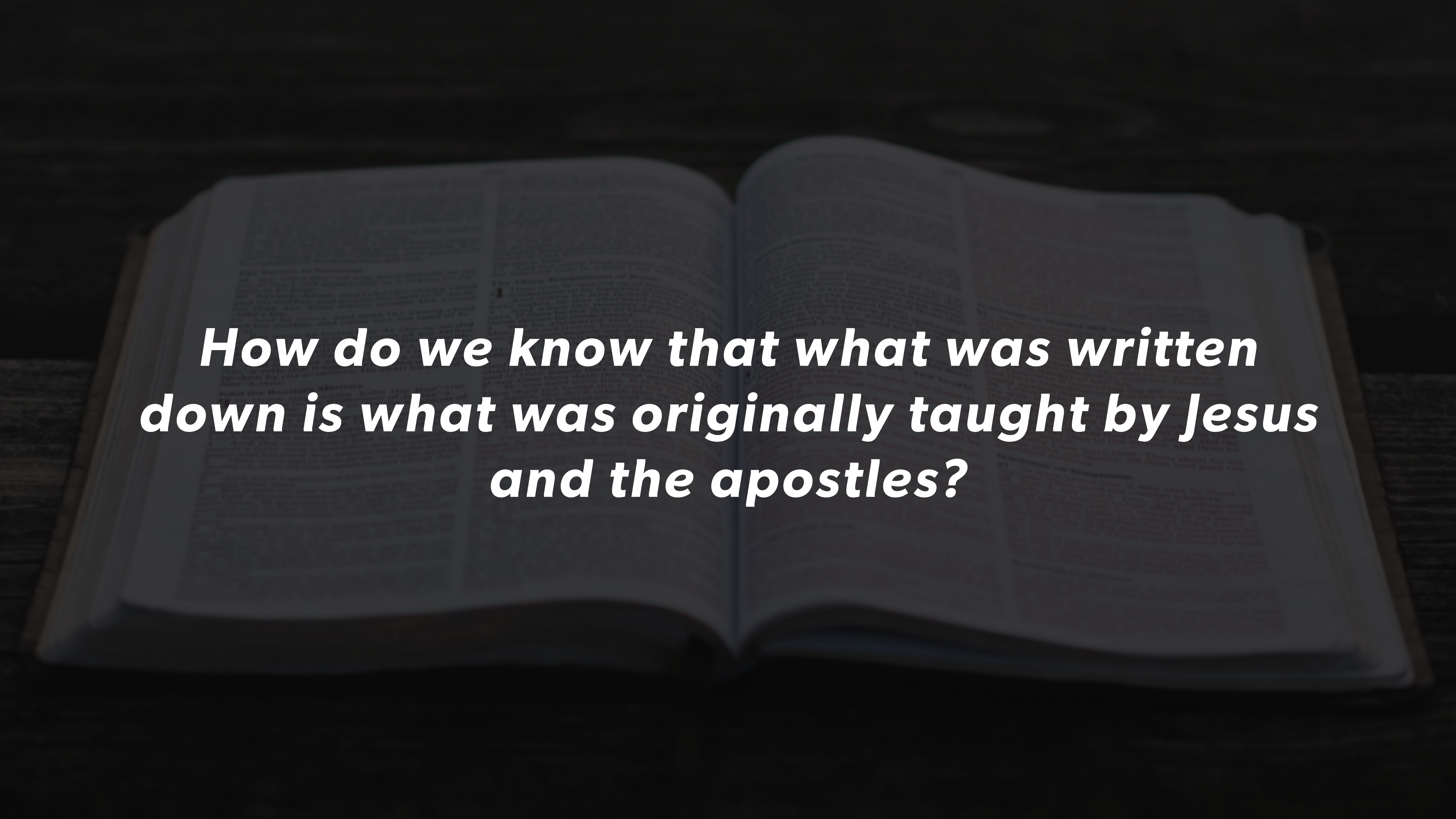
(Ravi Zacharias)



TAKE AWAY: The Bible's prophetic claims are accurately fulfilled. The many specific Messianic prophecies which are fulfilled in Jesus Christ are compelling evidences of its truth.

C. FAITHFUL PRESERVATION

If the Bible is God's word, He will preserve it for us so that we can be confident that what we have and read today is really what He meant for us to have.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, likely from a Bible. The lighting is dim, creating a dark, moody atmosphere. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a large, bold, white text in a serif font.

***How do we know that what was written
down is what was originally taught by Jesus
and the apostles?***

1 CLEMENT 42:1-2 (c. 96 AD)

“The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus the Christ was sent from God. The Christ therefore is from God and the Apostles from the Christ.”

IRENÆUS, *AGAINST HERESIES* 3.1.1

(c.130-202 AD)

“We have learned from none others the plan of our salvation, than from those through whom the Gospel has come down to us, which they did at one time proclaim in public, and, at a later period, by the will of God, handed down to us in the Scriptures, to be the ground and pillar of our faith.”



CHALLENGE: **HOW DO WE KNOW IT WASN'T CORRUPTED?**

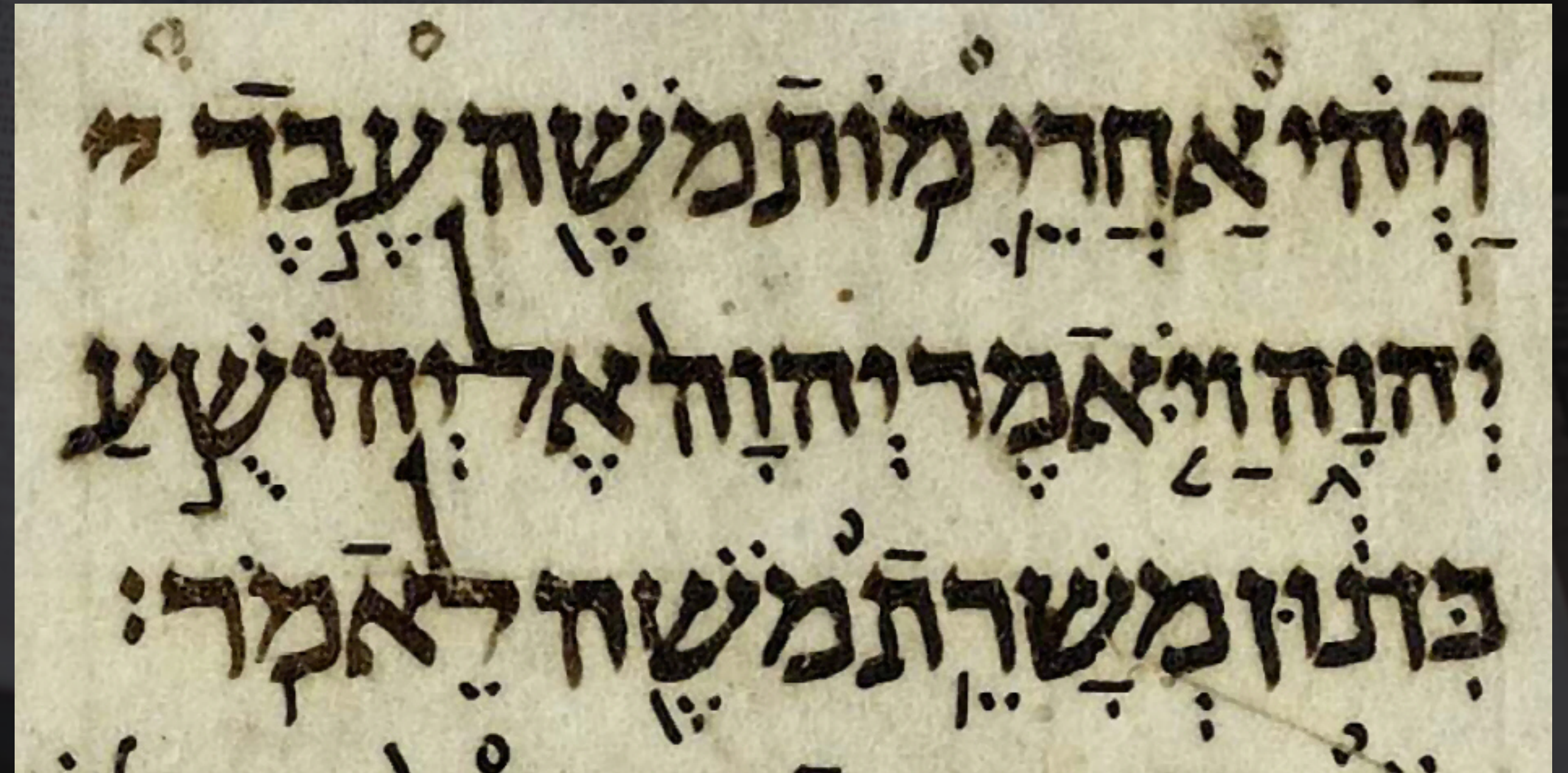
The Bible claims that God's word stands forever (Isa. 40:8), and Jesus even claims that heaven and earth would sooner pass away than even one of the smallest marks of his words (Matt. 5:18, 24:35 & Luke 21:33).

Does it live up to this claim?

PRESERVATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The traditional Hebrew and Aramaic version of the OT which we have preserved today is called the Masoretic Text.

ALEPPO CODEX (10th century)



PRESERVATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

For example, the Scroll of Isaiah was found to be **95% the same** - and the 5% difference was mainly in obvious scribal mistakes which made no difference to the meaning of the text.

PRESERVATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



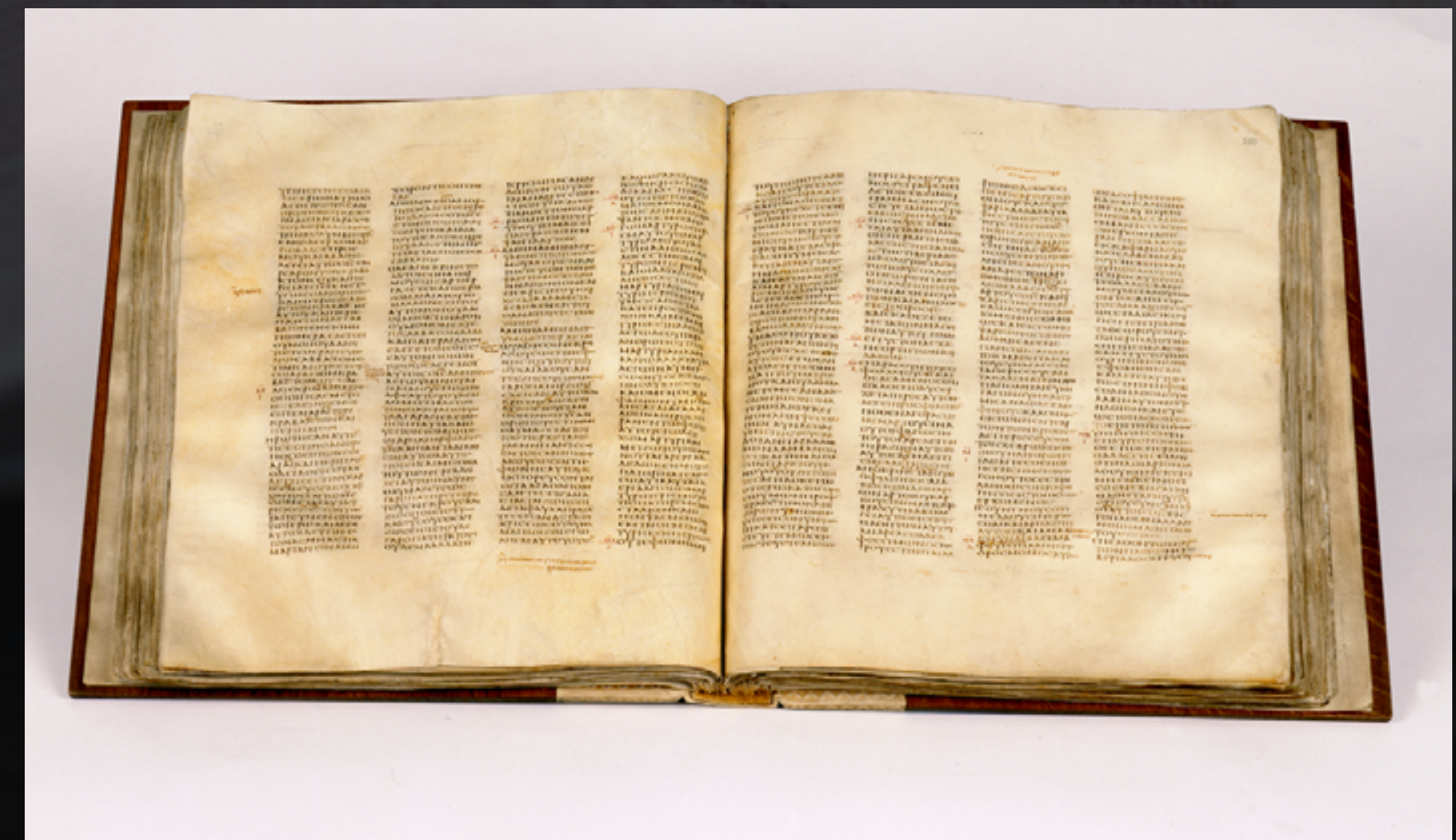
TARGUM - Aramaic
(500 - 1000 AD)



SILVER SCROLLS
Paleo-Hebrew
(587-586 BC)



NASH PAPYRI
Hebrew
(150-100 BC)



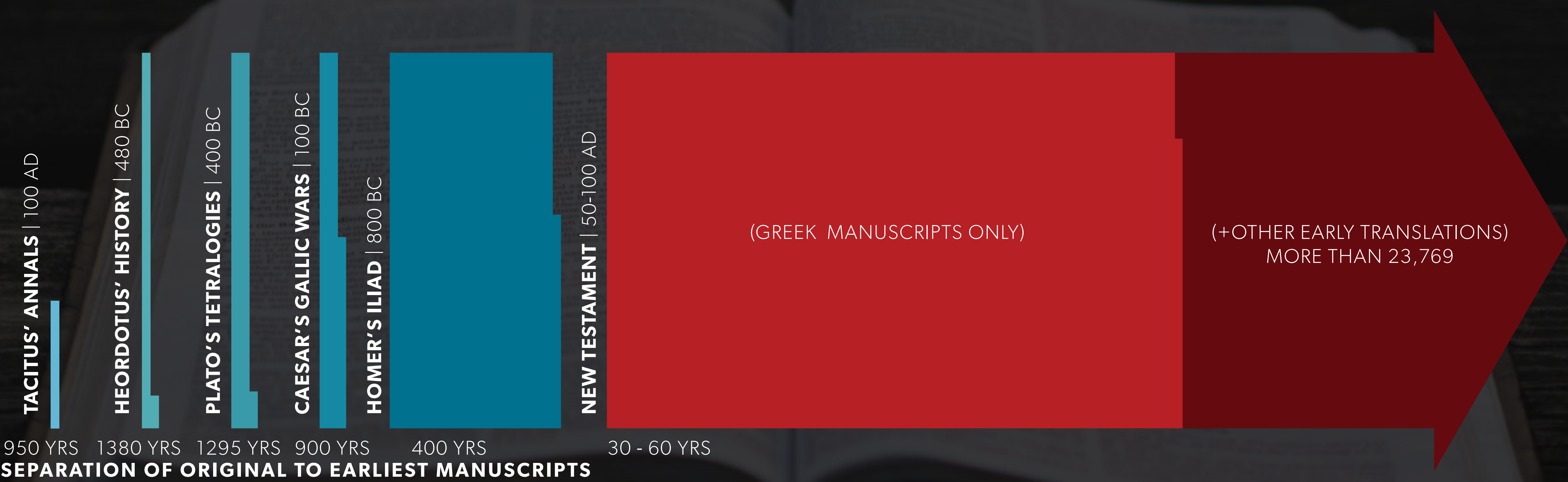
SEPTUAGINT
Greek
Codex Vaticanus,
Codex Sinaiticus
(4th Century)

PRESERVATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The evidence we have for the preservation of the New Testament is ***simply staggering*** - especially when compared to any other similar work of antiquity.

PRESERVATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

There are over **5700** Greek hand-copied manuscripts containing either parts or all of the NT. The average size of a NT manuscript is over **450** pages. Some of the earliest manuscripts are dated possibly to within **60** years of the originals



PRESERVATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

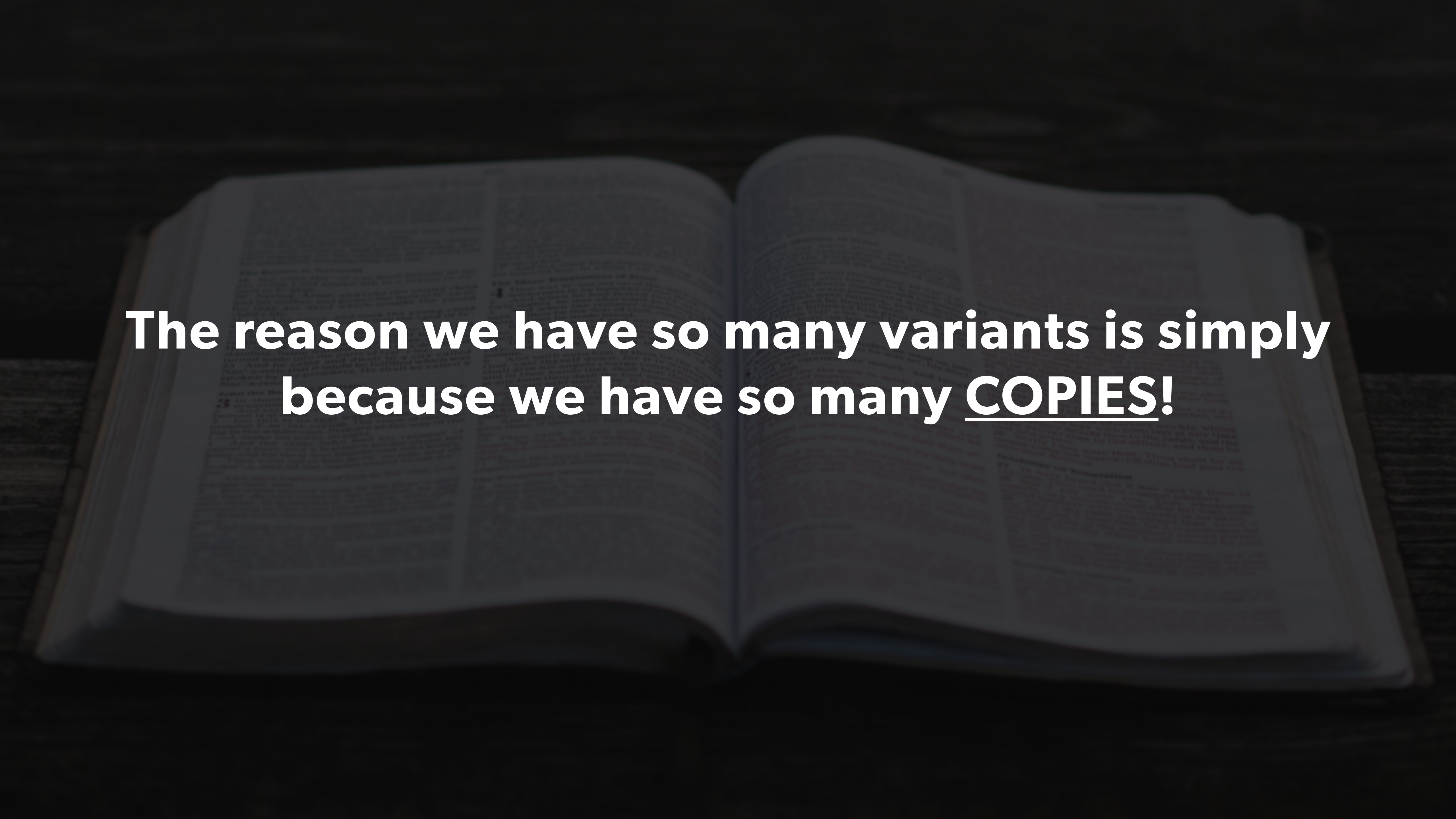
Simply stated, ***no other work of antiquity*** has the same level of manuscript evidence to support the faithful transmission of the text as the New Testament documents.



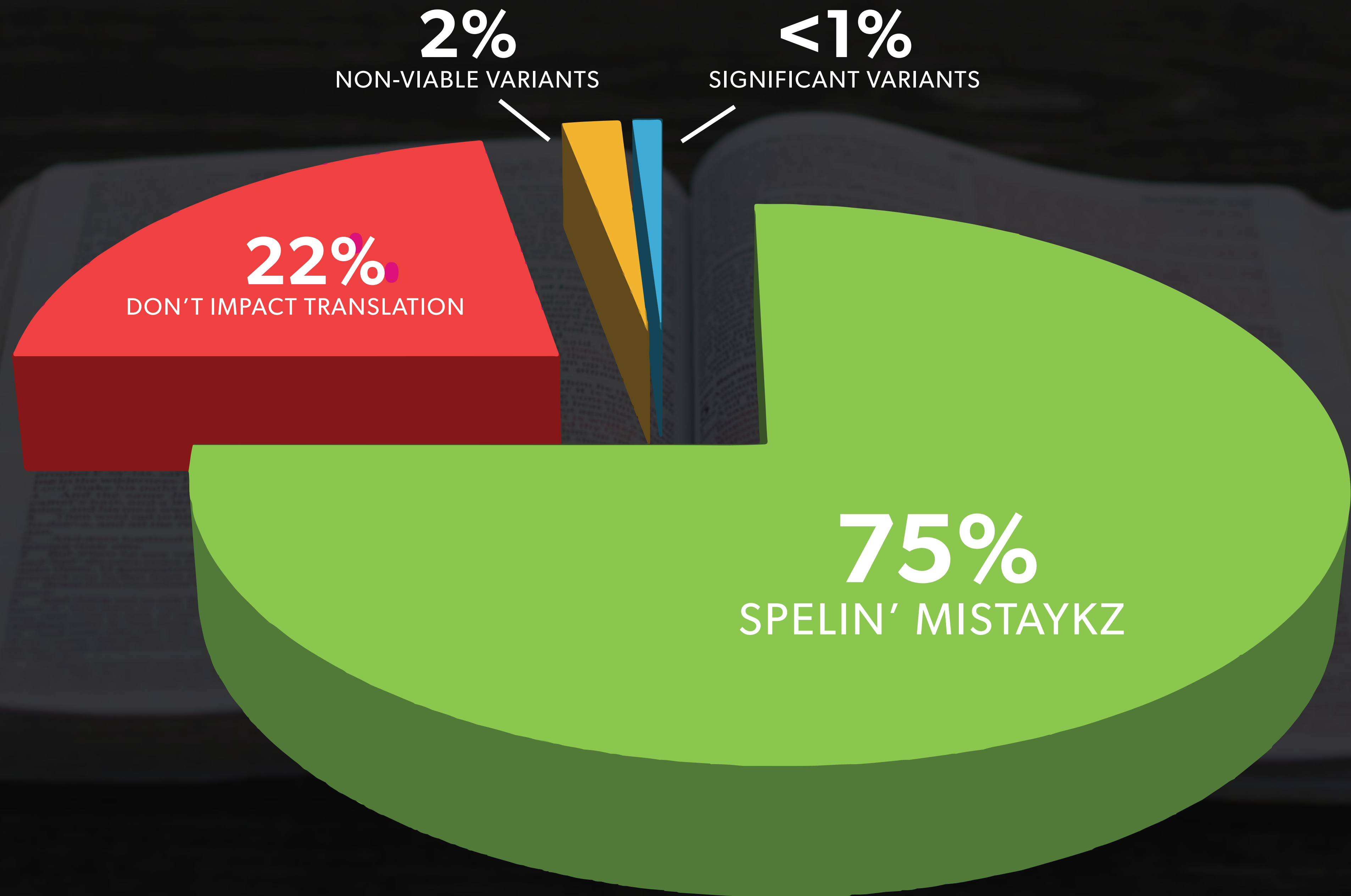
CHALLENGE: WHAT ABOUT THE VARIANTS?

***Bart Ehrman: “There more textual variants
than there are words in the New Testament.”***

How can we have any confidence about the text if
there are that many ‘mistakes’ in the copies?

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with dense, small text, likely from a Bible or a similar historical document. The lighting is dim, with the center of the book being slightly brighter than the edges. Overlaid on the center of the open pages is a large, bold, white text block.

**The reason we have so many variants is simply
because we have so many COPIES!**



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

(Bart D. Ehrman, *Misquoting Jesus*)

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with dense, small text, likely from a legal or academic source. The text is in a serif font, with some lines indented. The book is centered in the frame against a dark, textured background. Overlaid on the center of the book is a large, bold, white text block.

**THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VARIANT READINGS
THAT ACTUALLY HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE
AMOUNT TO LESS THAN 0.5%!**

An Embarrassment of Wealth of Evidence



An open book is shown in a dark, low-key photograph. The pages are slightly aged and the text is mostly illegible due to the lighting. Overlaid on the center of the open book is a quote in white text. The quote is in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the quote, the source is cited in a smaller, regular font.

“...if the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt.”

(F.F. Bruce, The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?, pg 10)

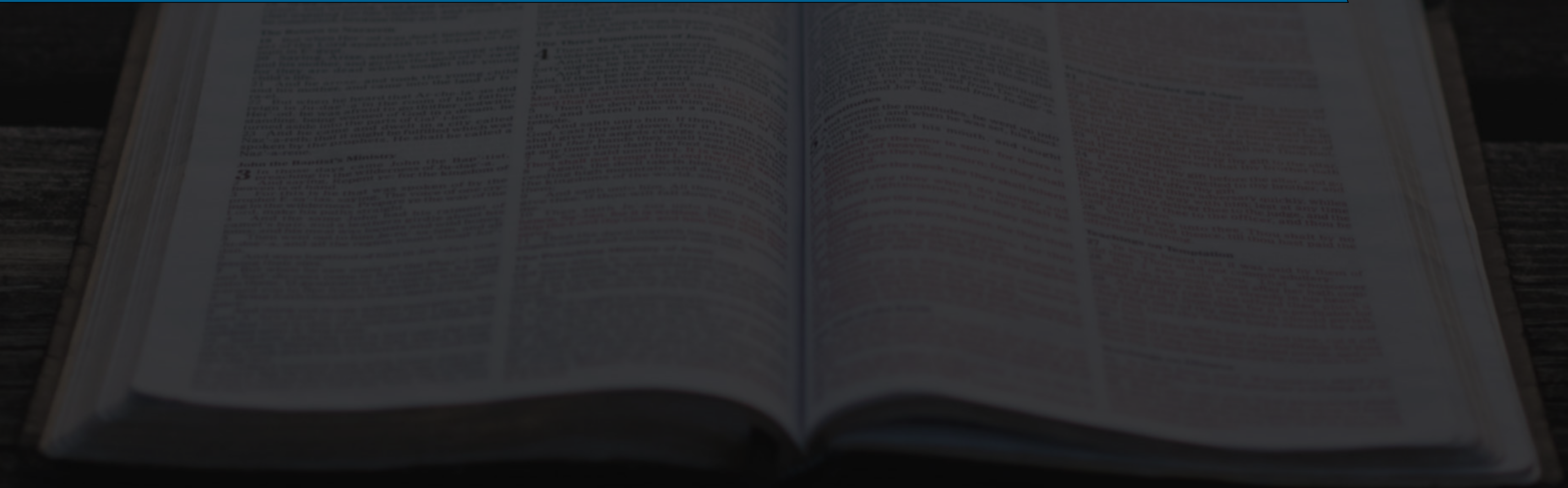
WHY DO SKEPTICS STILL NOT BELIEVE?

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”
(John 3:19)



TAKE AWAY: The historical record of manuscripts show how the biblical text has been faithfully transmitted to us in a way that shows God's providential preservation of His Word.

2. HOW DO WE MAKE THE BIBLE OUR SURE FOUNDATION?

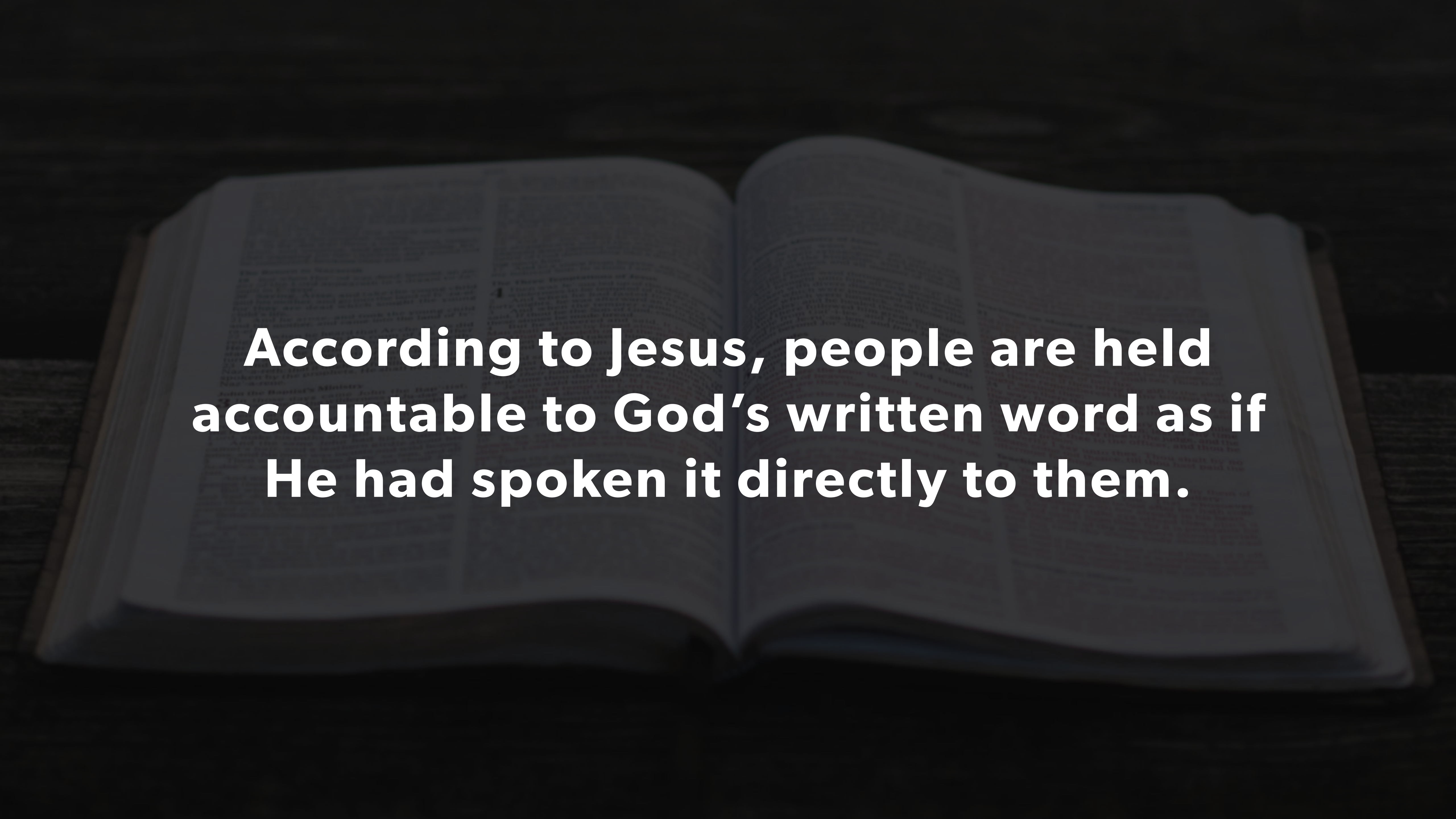


Every single authentic move of the Spirit and revival in a society was wrought by a return to fervent prayer and God's Word – in reading, studying and proclaiming it.

It is the God-ordained means to both entrance into His Kingdom and the spread of His Kingdom.

A. WE'RE **ACCOUNTABLE** TO WHAT GOD HAS SAID TO US IN HIS WORD

“...have you not read what was said to you by
God?”
(Matthew 22:31b)

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, suggesting it is a Bible or a similar religious text. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is dark and contemplative. Overlaid on the center of the open book is a large, bold, white text block.

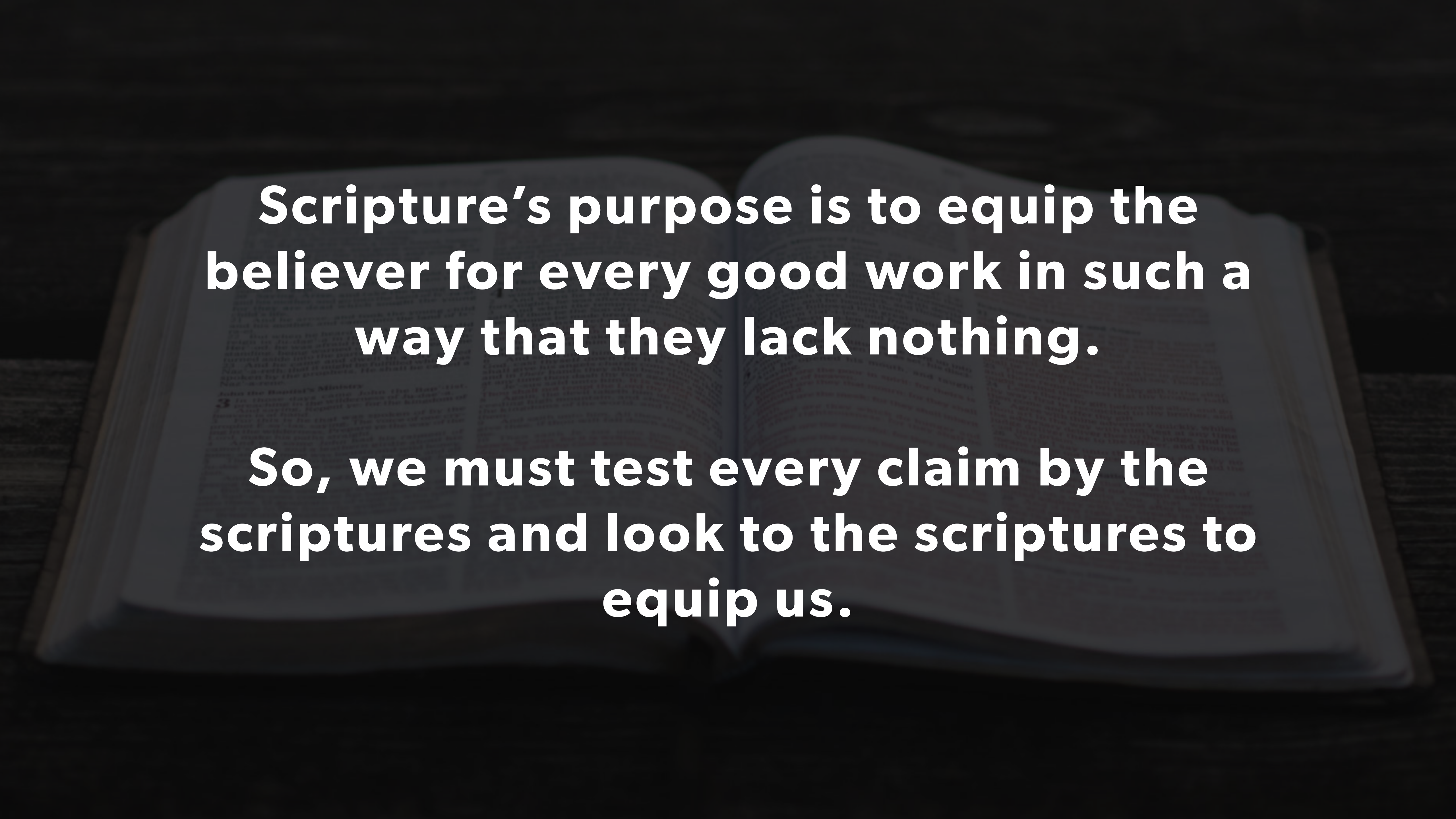
According to Jesus, people are held accountable to God's written word as if He had spoken it directly to them.



HEART CHECK: Do you read the Bible as if you will be held accountable to what it says? Is your attitude to the Bible serious or casual, passionate or indifferent?

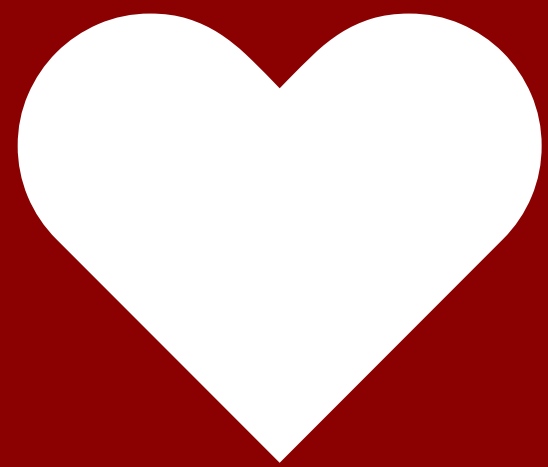
B. GOD'S WORD IS *SUFFICIENT* TO FULLY EQUIP US FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are filled with small, illegible text, likely from a Bible. Overlaid on the book are two large, white, bold text blocks. The first block is at the top, and the second block is at the bottom. The background is dark, making the white text stand out.

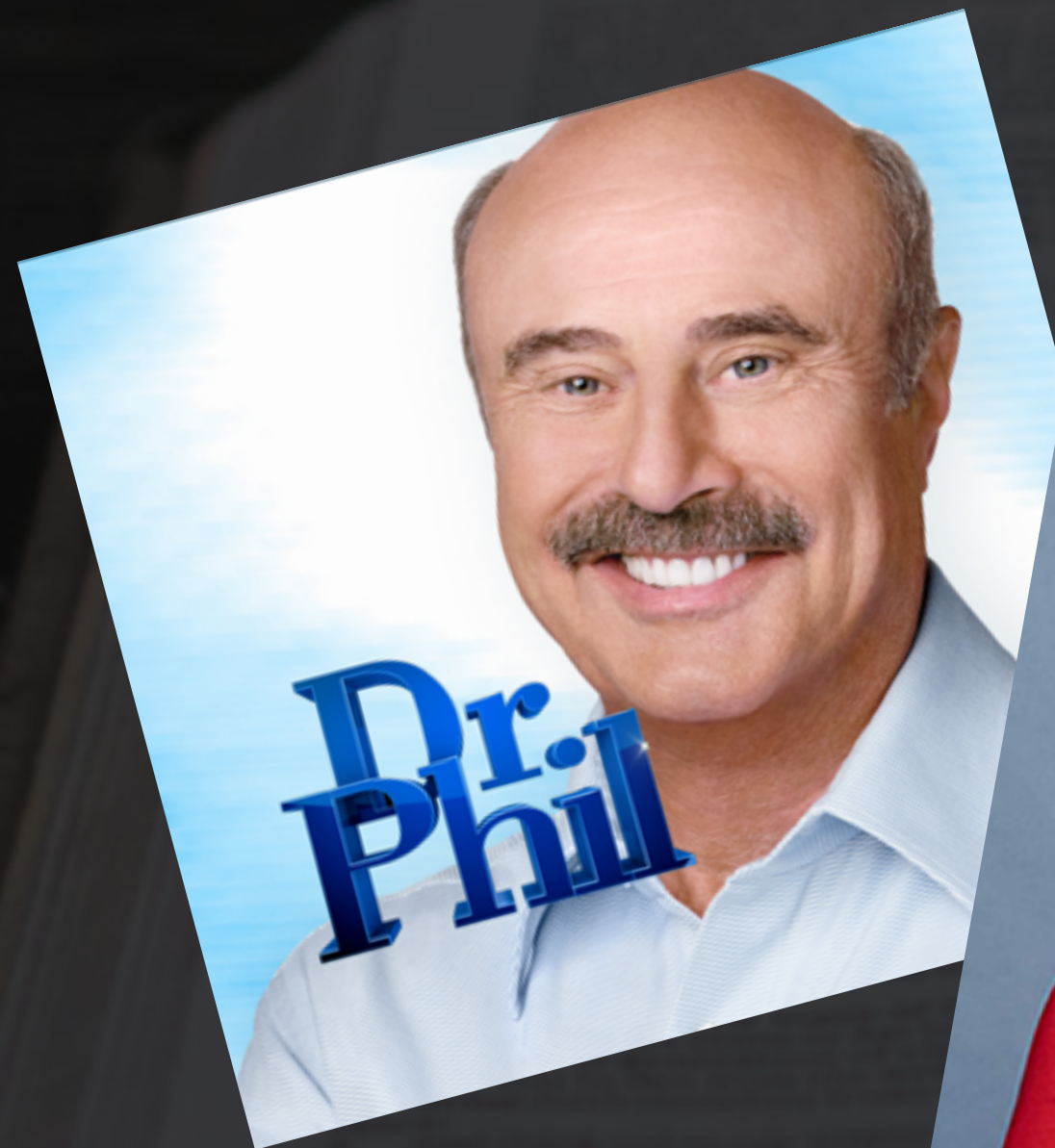
**Scripture's purpose is to equip the
believer for every good work in such a
way that they lack nothing.**

**So, we must test every claim by the
scriptures and look to the scriptures to
equip us.**



HEART CHECK: Do you look to scripture as the sole and ultimate authority for your life? Or are you running after other things to prepare you for life's challenges? Have you been taught, reproofed, corrected and trained by scripture?

What would others say was your ultimate authority?



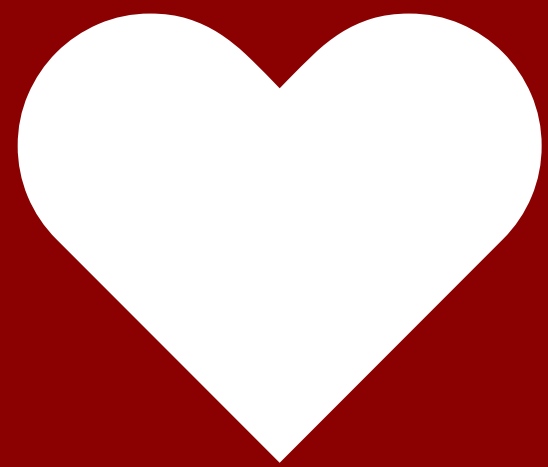
Have you hid God's word so much in your heart that it is what naturally comes out?

C. WE MUST *APPLY OURSELVES* TO *RIGHTLY UNDERSTAND* HIS WORD

“...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
(2 Peter 1:20-21)

God meant to say something specific to us, and He didn't mis-speak. It is our responsibility to properly interpret what He meant to say.

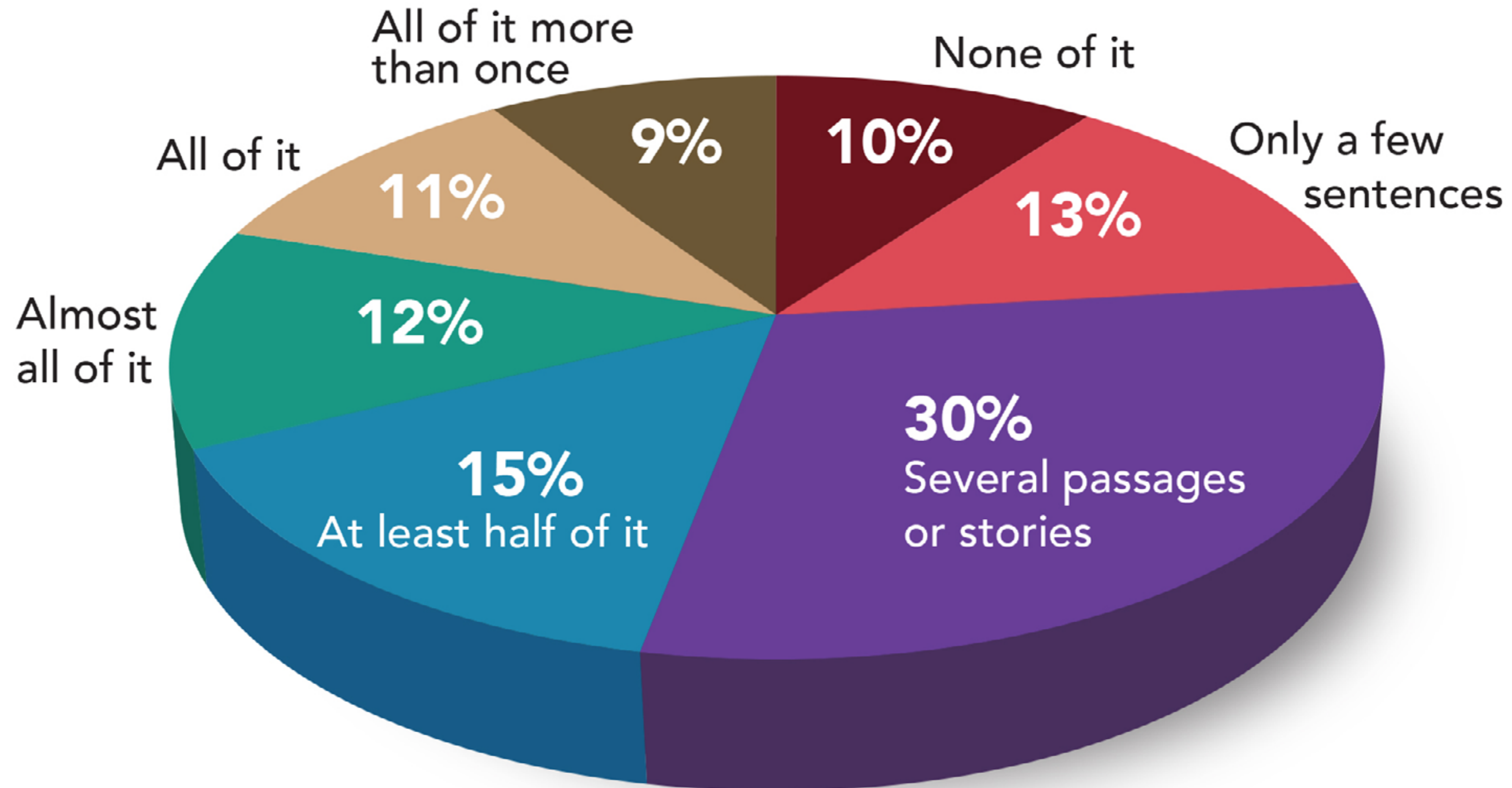
This is why 2 Timothy 2: 15 commands us to study to show yourself an approved workman, rightly handling the word of truth.



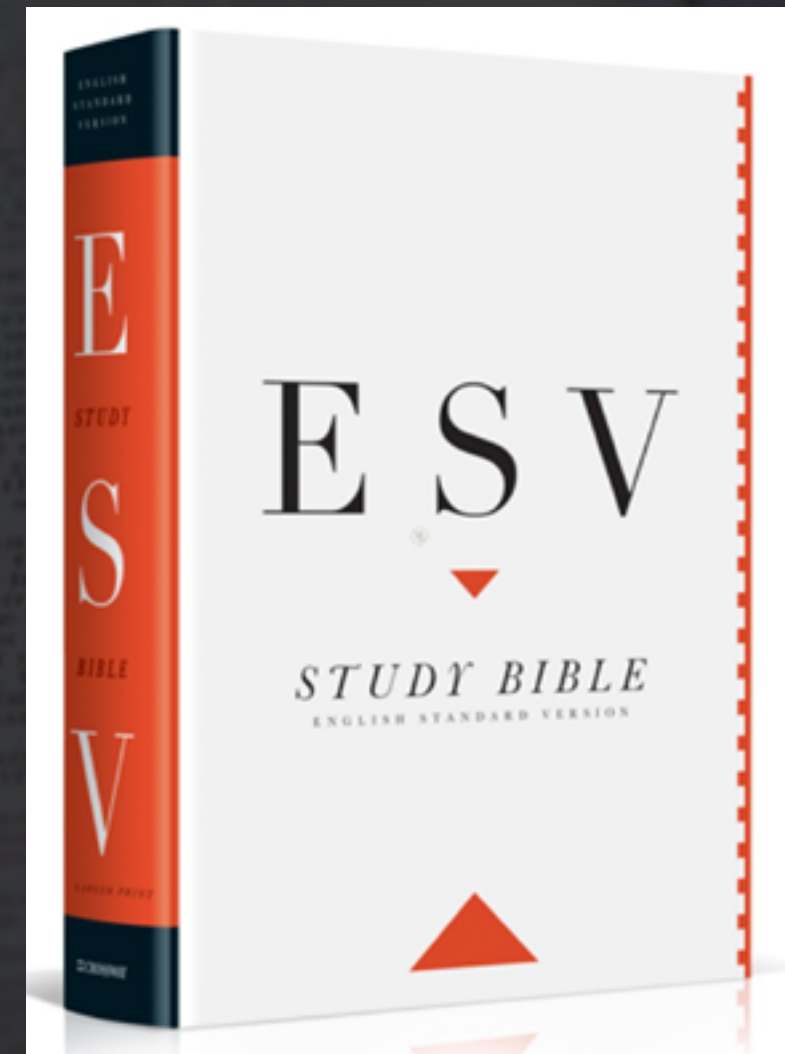
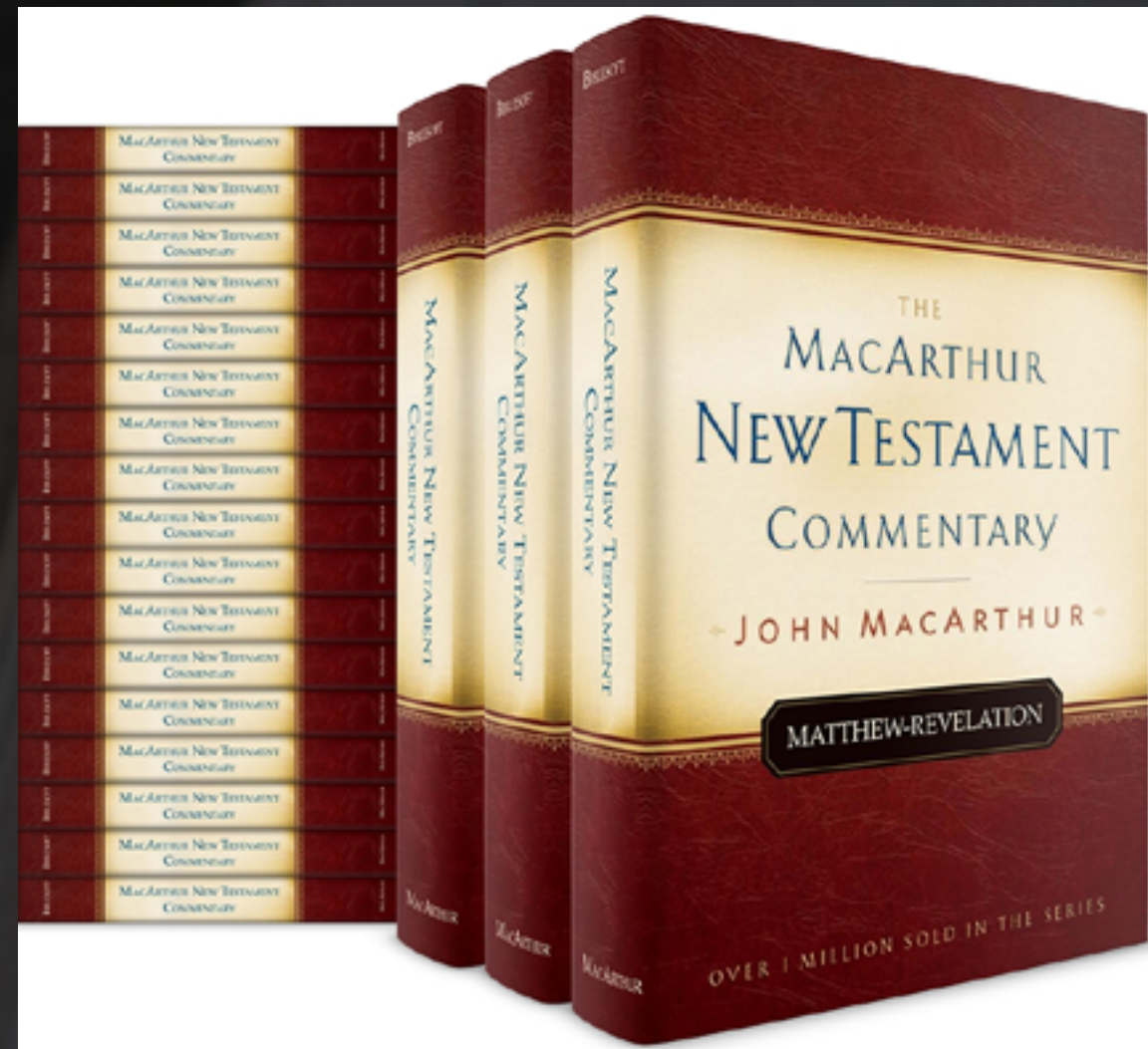
HEART CHECK: How hard do you work at trying to understand God's Word? Is it something that you hold as a high priority? Or do you settle for just listening to what the TV preacher says, or what you imagine it to say?

Among Americans:

How much of the Bible have you personally read?



How much time/money do you invest in studying God's word?



A wasted life is a life that succeeds at things that don't ultimately matter.

Young people today want their lives to matter.
They also don't want a blind and shallow faith.
They want a faith that is robust and able to
tackle the tough questions.

LEARNING ARCHIVE

Below are the recordings and online materials for some of the past groups, classes and workshops we have done. We'll be continuing to add to this archive as we do more groups, classes and workshops, to be sure to check back for more updates!

- All
- CLASSES
- GROUPS
- WORKSHOPS



THE REASON FOR HOPE 02



THE REASON FOR HOPE 01



THE INCARNATION WORKSHOP –
Wonder | Worship | Witness



READ SCRIPTURE WORKSHOP: How to

HOPECHURCHTW.CA/LEARN



WHEN THE WORLD SAYS:

WHY TRUST THE BIBLE?

HOPECHURCHTW.CA/LEARN