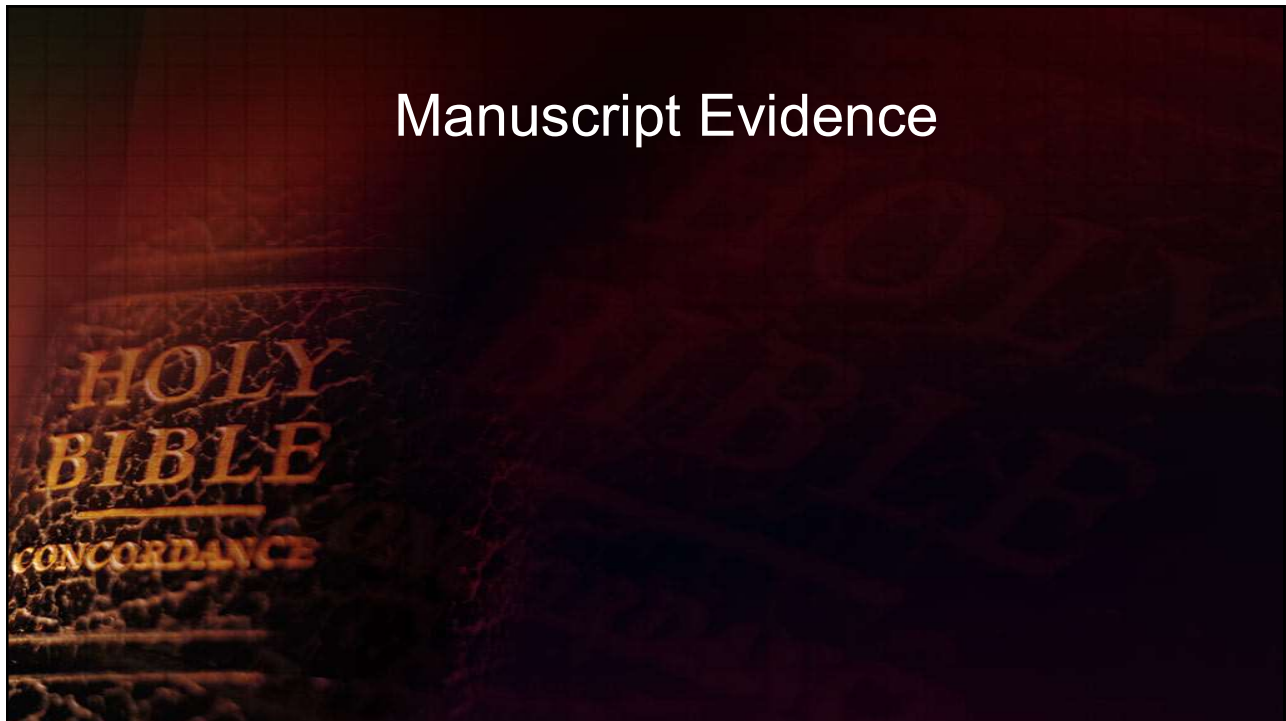




Can We Trust The Bible?

1



Manuscript Evidence

2

Author	Work	Date Written	Earliest MSS	Time Gap	Old # ²⁹	New
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400	643	1,757
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	480-425 BC	10th C	1,350	8	109
Sophocles ³⁰	Plays	496-406 BC	3rd C BC	100-200	100	193
Plato	Tetralogies	400 BC	895	1,300	7	210
Caesar	<i>Gallic Wars</i>	100-44 BC	9th C	950	10	251
Livy	<i>History of Rome</i>	59 BC-AD 17	Early 5th C	400	1 Partial, 19 copies	150

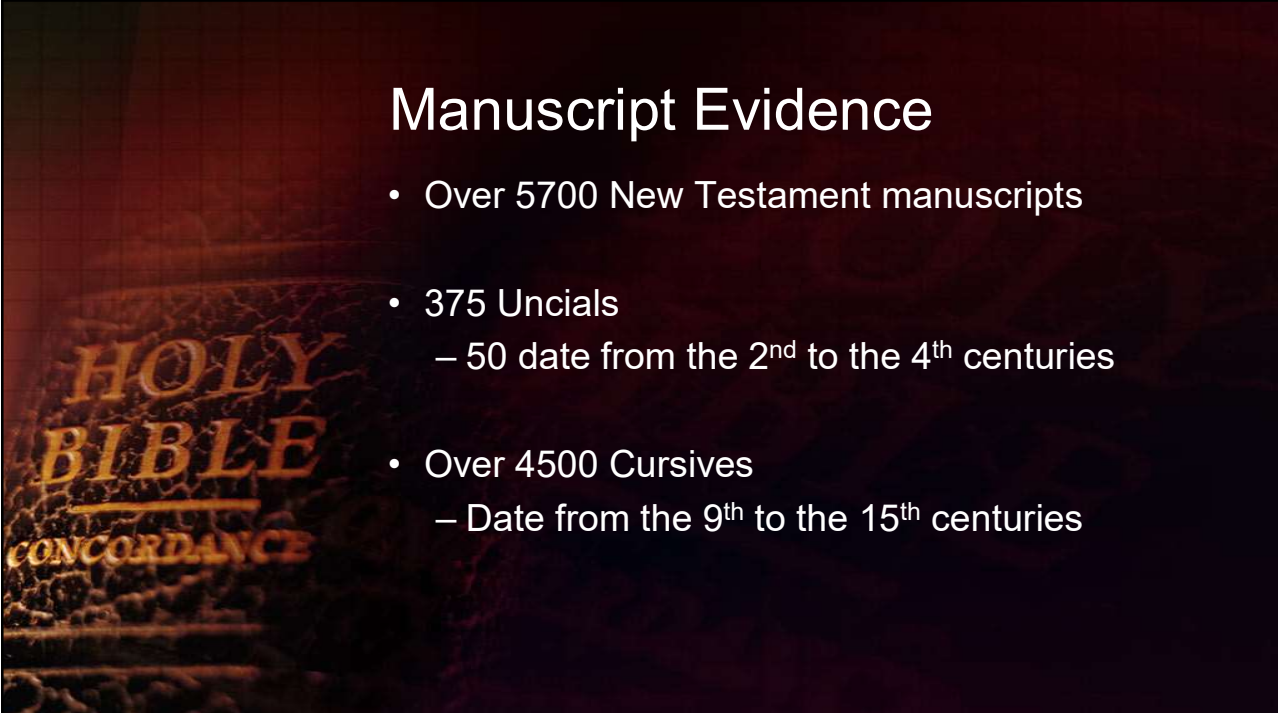
3

Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	AD 100	1st half:850, 2nd: 1050 (AD 1100)	750-950	20	2 + 31 15 th C
Pliny, the Elder	<i>Natural History</i>	AD 49-79	5th C fragment: 1; Rem. 14-15th C	400 (750)	7	200
Thucydides	<i>History</i>	460-400 BC	3rd C BC (AD 900)	200 (1,350)	8	96
Demosthenes	Speeches	300 BC	Some fragments from 1 C. BC. (AD 1100)	1,100+ (1,400)	200	340
NT		AD 50-100	AD 130 (or less) ³¹	40	5,366	5,795

4

New Testament	A.D. 50-100	c. A.D. 114 (portions) c. A.D. 200 (books) c. A.D. 325 (complete N.T.)	c. +50 yrs. c. 100 yrs. c. 225 yrs.	5,600+
---------------	-------------	---	---	--------

5



Manuscript Evidence

- Over 5700 New Testament manuscripts
- 375 Uncials
 - 50 date from the 2nd to the 4th centuries
- Over 4500 Cursives
 - Date from the 9th to the 15th centuries

6

Variants

- Over 200,000 variant readings
- “This means that if, for example, one word is misspelled in 4,000 different manuscripts, it amounts to 4,000 ‘errors.’ Actually, in a case of this kind only one slight error has been made and it has been copied 4,000 times. But this is the procedure which is followed in arriving at the large number of 200,000 ‘errors.’”

7

Variants

1. Trivial variations which are of no consequence to the text.

8

Variants

- So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of **Christ Jesus.**
- So **e** ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered that they be **aptized** in the name of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered **tha** they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus.
- So he ordered that they be baptized in the **nam** of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered that they **aptized** in the name of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered **they** be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- So he ordered that they be baptized **n** name of Jesus Christ.

9

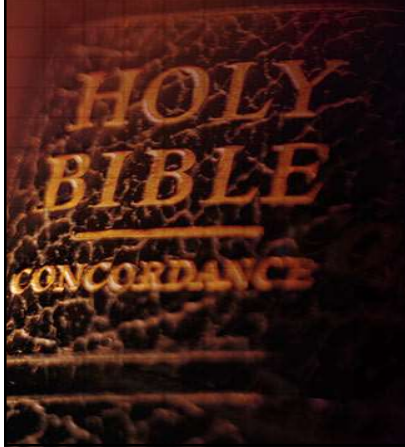
Variants

1. Trivial variations which are of no consequence to the text.
2. Substantial variations which are of no consequence to the text.
3. Substantial variations which have bearing on the text.

10

Mark 16:9-20

- Does it belong or not?

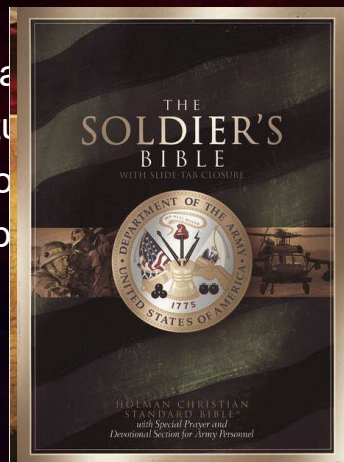


11

Warning!

- Be careful of what's in your Bible!

- Be ca
 - St
 - Co
 - Sp



12

The Cotton Patch Version of Luke and Acts (Jesus' Doings and the Happenings)

For while David himself never entered the spiritual realm, he did say, 'The Boss said to my boss, Be my right hand man while I put even your opponents under your control. Therefore let all America know beyond any doubt that God has made this same Jesus, whom you lynched, both President and Leader.' Upon hearing this they were cut to the quick, and they said to Rock and the other officers, 'Will you please tell us, brothers, what we can do about it?' Rock said to them, 'Reshape your lives, and let each of you be initiated into the family of Jesus Christ so your sins can be dealt with; and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. For the guarantee is to you and your relatives, as well as to all the outsiders whom the Lord our God shall invite.' Rock was going down the line on other matters, too, and kept urging them on. 'Save yourselves,' he was telling them 'from this goofed-up society.'

13

The Message

- "And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat?"

14

Remember What To Look For

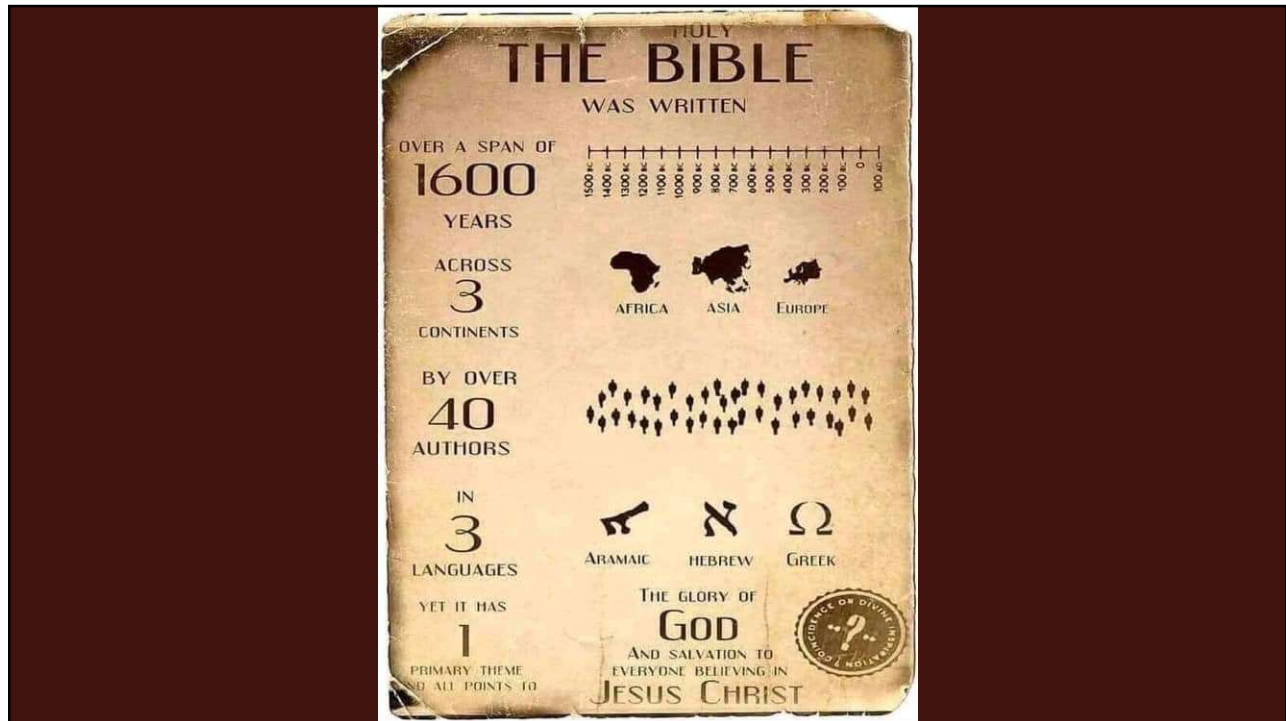
- Who did the translating?
- What was their attitude toward the scriptures?
- What was their translation philosophy?

15

Conclusion

- If we are careful about the translation we use, then we can have every confidence that we have the true Word of God, as He intended!

16



17



18