
BELIEF
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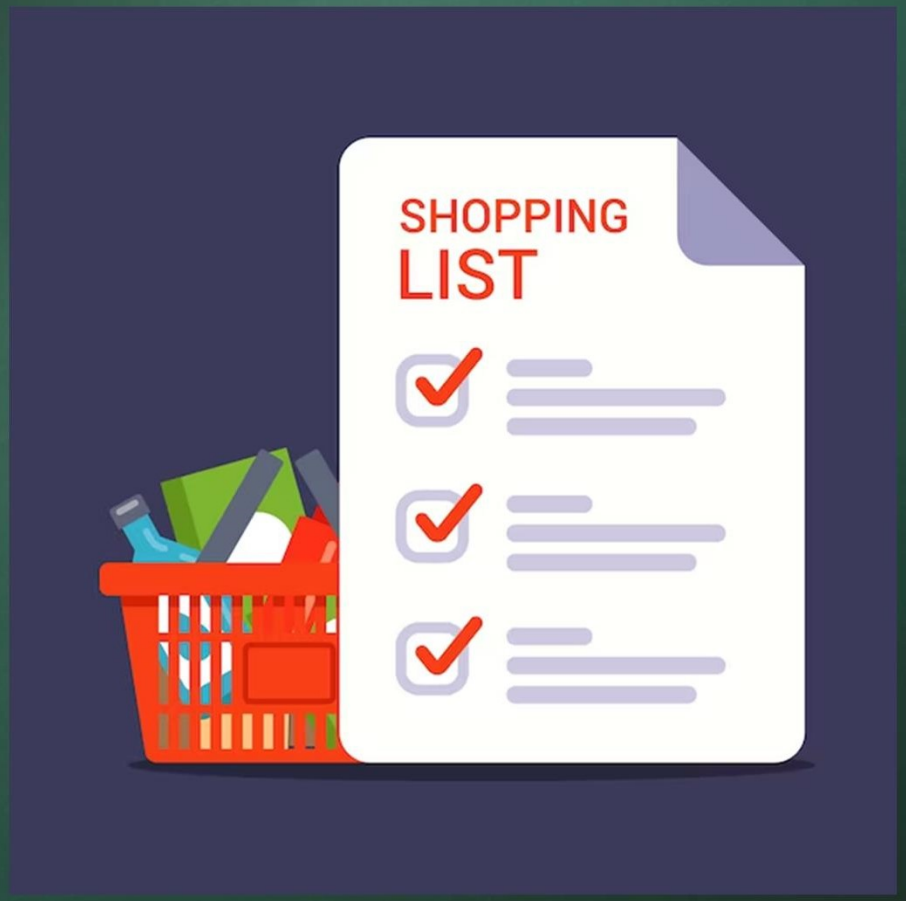

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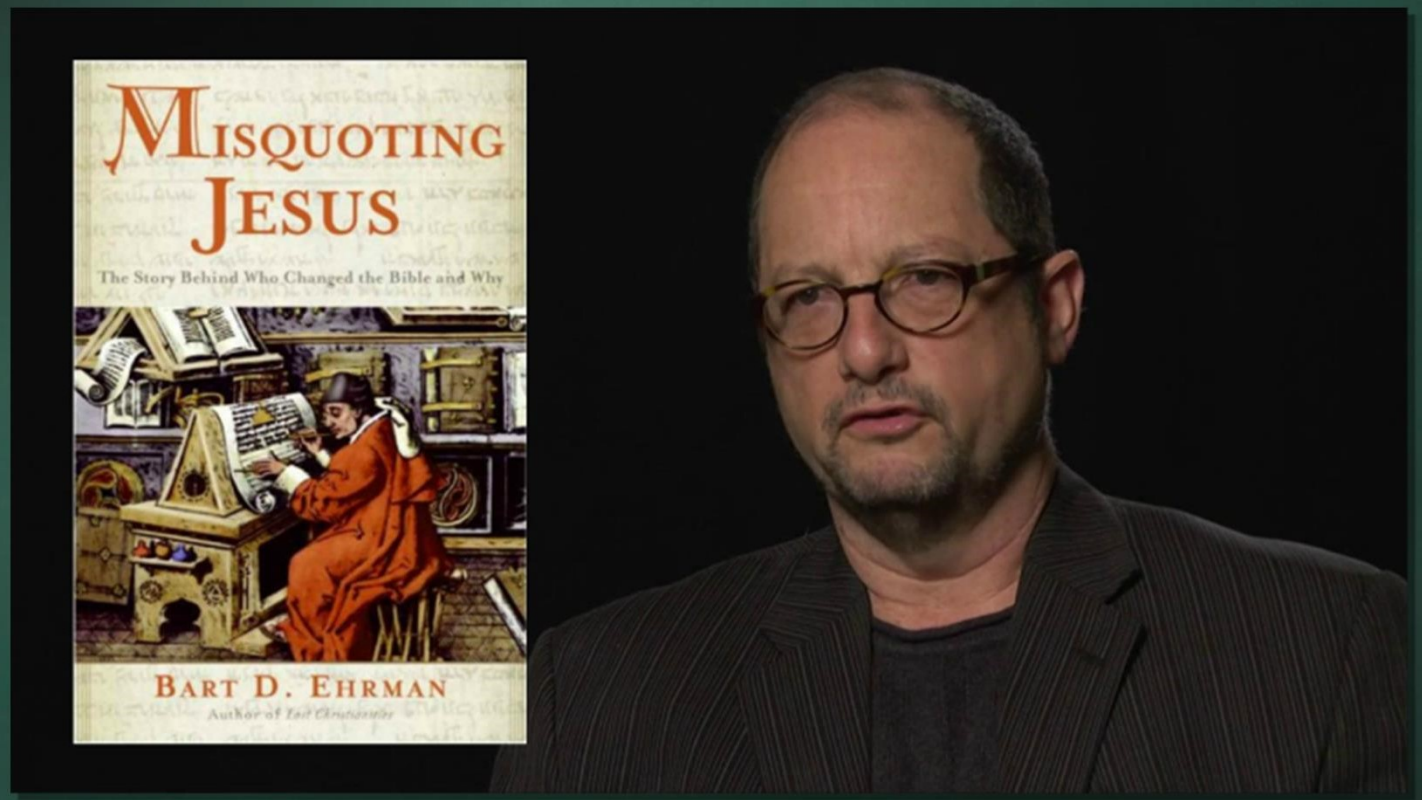

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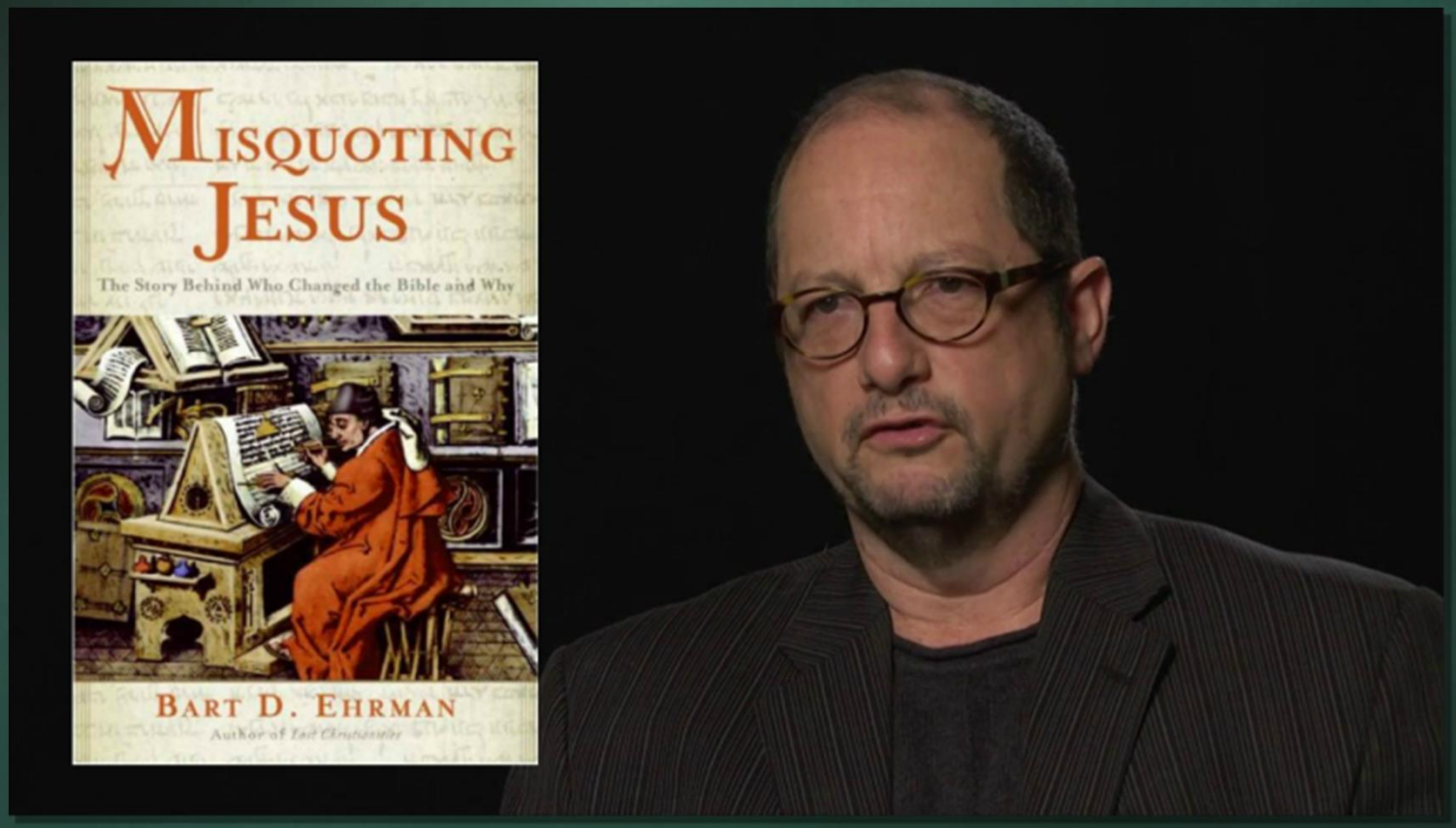
The Bible:

Reliable and Reasonable

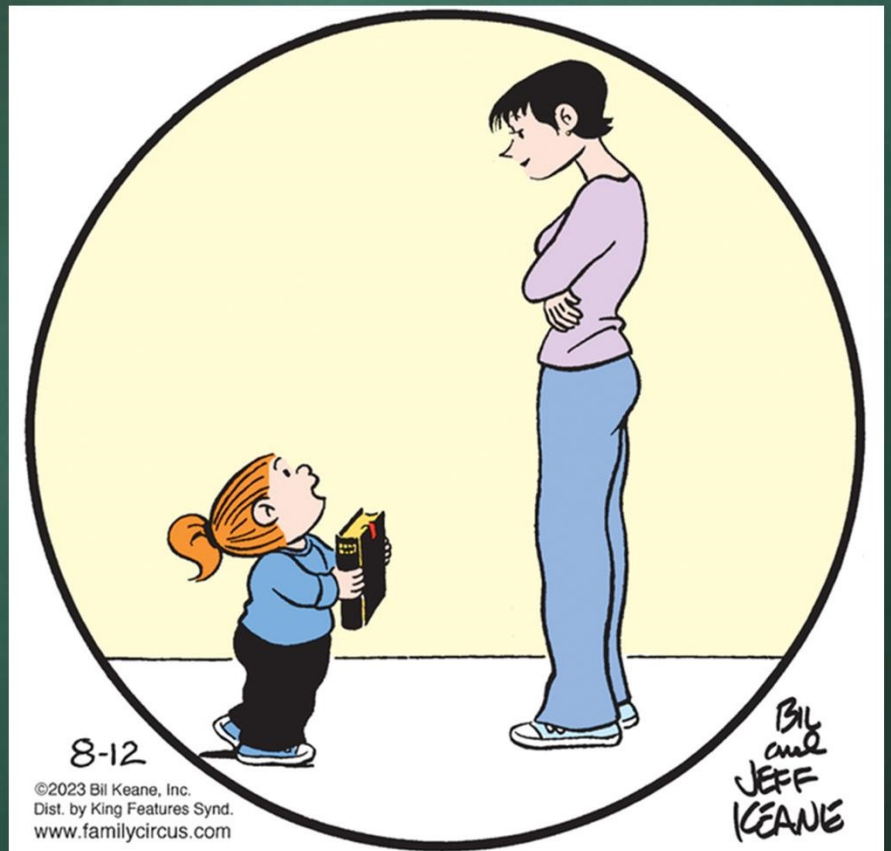




"There are more variations among the manuscripts than there are words in the New Testament." p. 90

- 2 Tim 3:16
- All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;





"Did God write the Bible Himself? Or did He have some Holy Ghost writers?"

BELIEF + = REASONABLE

- 2 Pet 1:20-21
- 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



The Bible: Reliable and Reasonable

- **1) The Copies Challenge**



The Bible: Reliable and Reasonable

- **1) The Copies Challenge**
- **2) The "Contradictions" Challenge**



The Bible: Reliable and Reasonable

- **1) The Copies Challenge**
- **2) The "Contradictions" Challenge**
- **3) The Canon Challenge**



The Copies Challenge

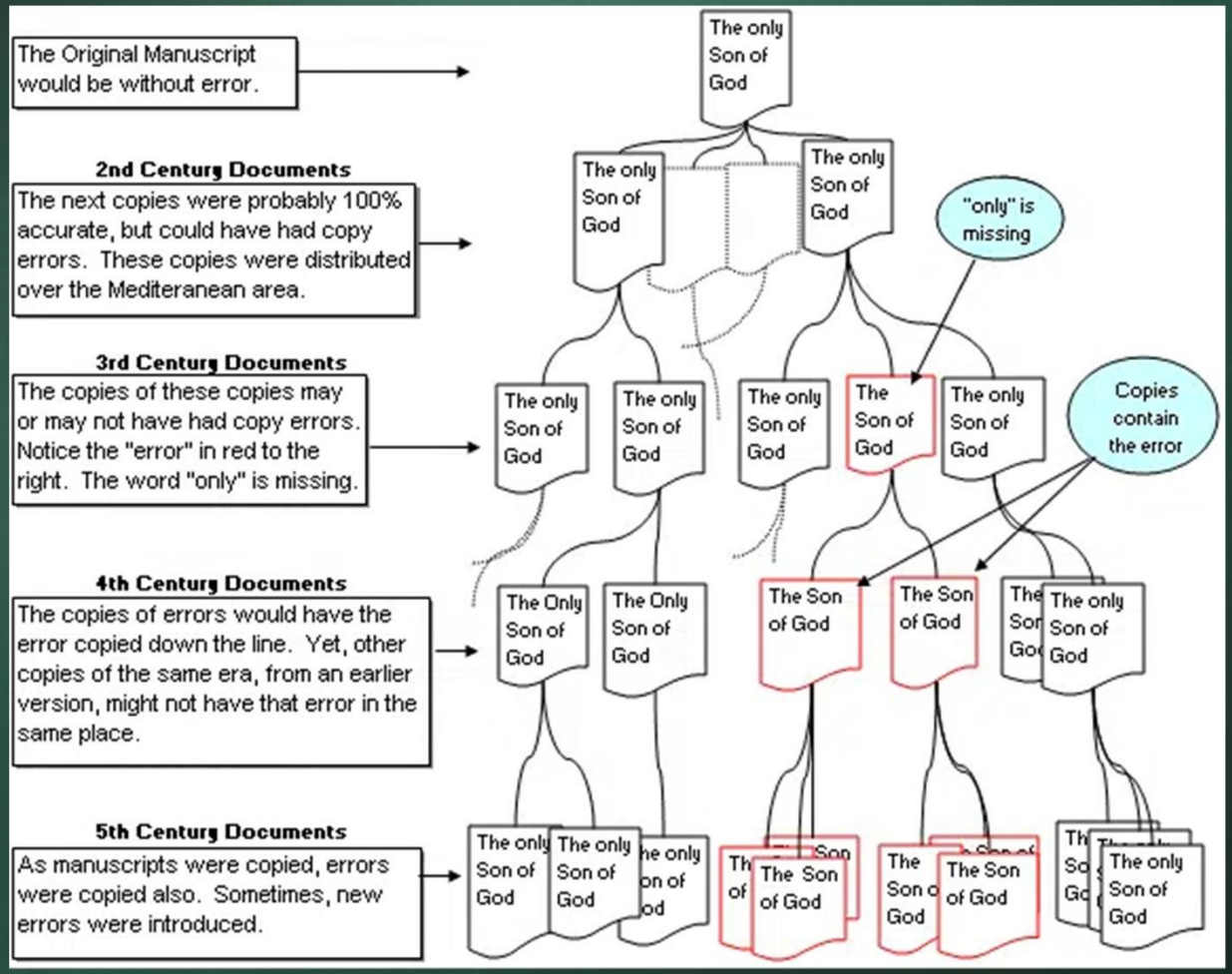
- "What good is it to say that the autographs (i.e., the originals) were inspired? We don't have the originals! We have only error-ridden copies, and the vast majority of these are centuries removed from the originals and different from them, evidently, in thousands of ways.... There are more variations among our manuscripts than there are words in the New Testament."

-Bart Ehrman *Misquoting Jesus* pp. 7, 90

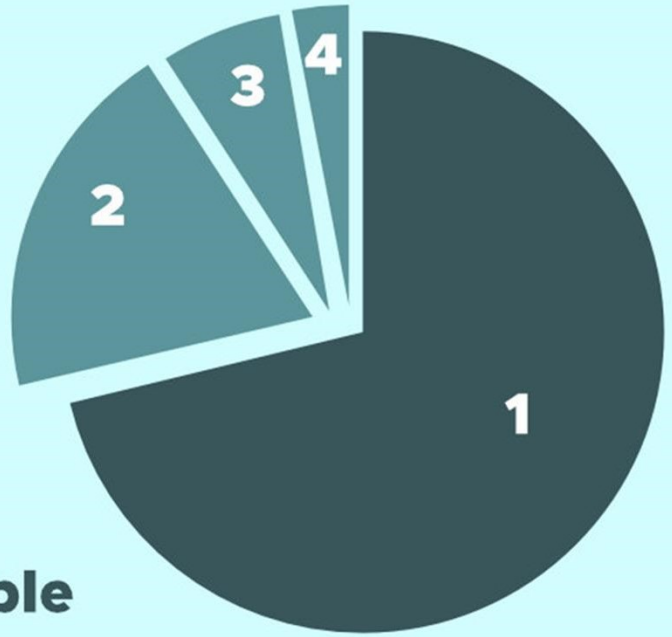


Work	When written	Earliest surviving copy	Time gap	No. of copies
Herodotus	488 – 428 BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Thucydides	c.460-400BC	AD 900	1,300 years	8
Caesar's Gallic War	58-50BC	AD 900	950 years	9-10
Livy's Roman History	59 BC-AD 17	AD 900	900 years	20
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000 years	20
New testament	AD 40-100	AD 130 (full manuscripts AD 350)	300 years	5,000 Greek 10,000 Latin 9,300 others




The Original Manuscript would be without error.
2nd Century Documents
The next copies were probably 100% accurate, but could have had copy errors. These copies were distributed over the Mediteranean area.
3rd Century Documents
The copies of these copies may or may not have had copy errors. Notice the "error" in red to the right. The word "only" is missing.
4th Century Documents
The copies of errors would have the error copied down the line. Yet, other copies of the same era, from an earlier version, might not have that error in the same place.
5th Century Documents
As manuscripts were copied, errors were copied also. Sometimes, new errors were introduced.
The only Son of God
"only" is missing
Copies contain the error
The Son of God
The Only Son of God

TYPES OF VARIANTS



1. Spelling Errors
2. Not meaningful
3. Not viable
4. Both meaningful and viable

SOURCE: J. Ed Komoszewski, M. James Sawyer, and Daniel B. Wallace, *Reinventing Jesus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006), p.63.

www.evidenceunseen.com

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Viable, but not Meaningful

- John: Γιάνης or Γιάννης

Viable, but not Meaningful

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- Inconsequential word order: Christ Jesus vs. Jesus Christ
- Synonyms: God's glory vs. His glory

Meaningful, but Not Viable

1 Thessalonians 2:7

Viable and Meaningful

1 Thessalonians 2:7

But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.”



Meaningful, but Not Viable

1 Thessalonians 2:7

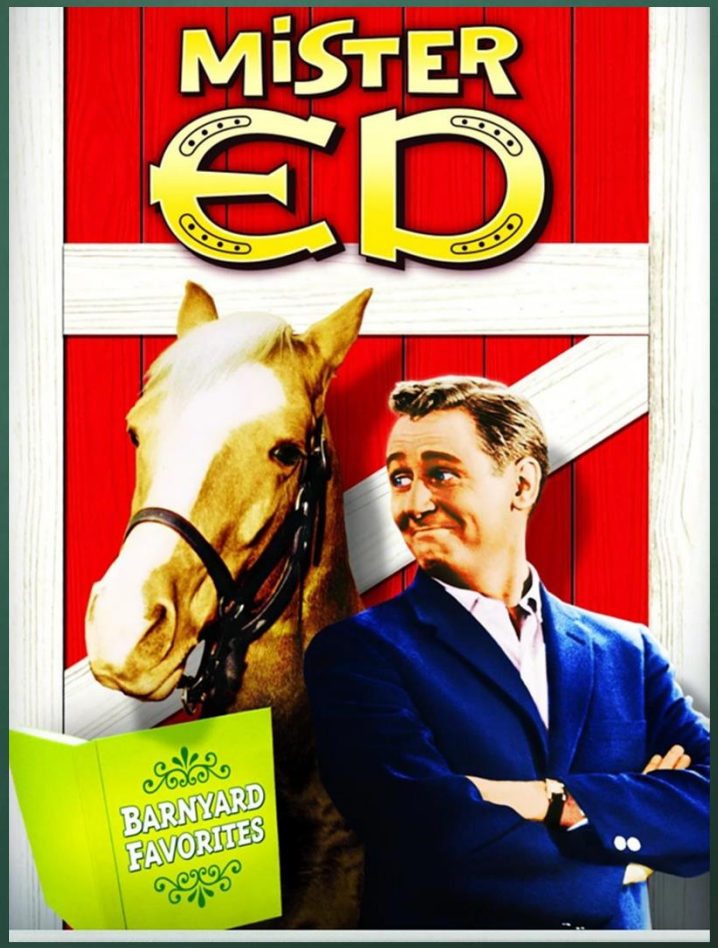
But we were **horses** among you,

Viable and Meaningful

1 Thessalonians 2:7

But we were **gentle** among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children."





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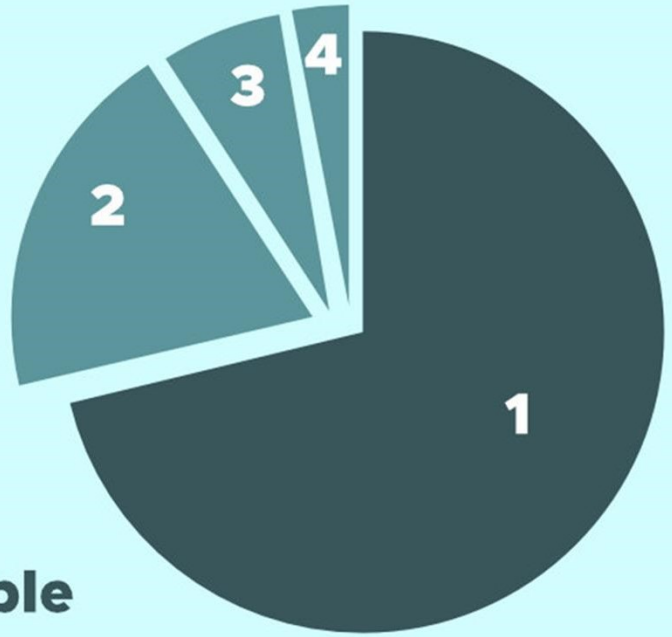

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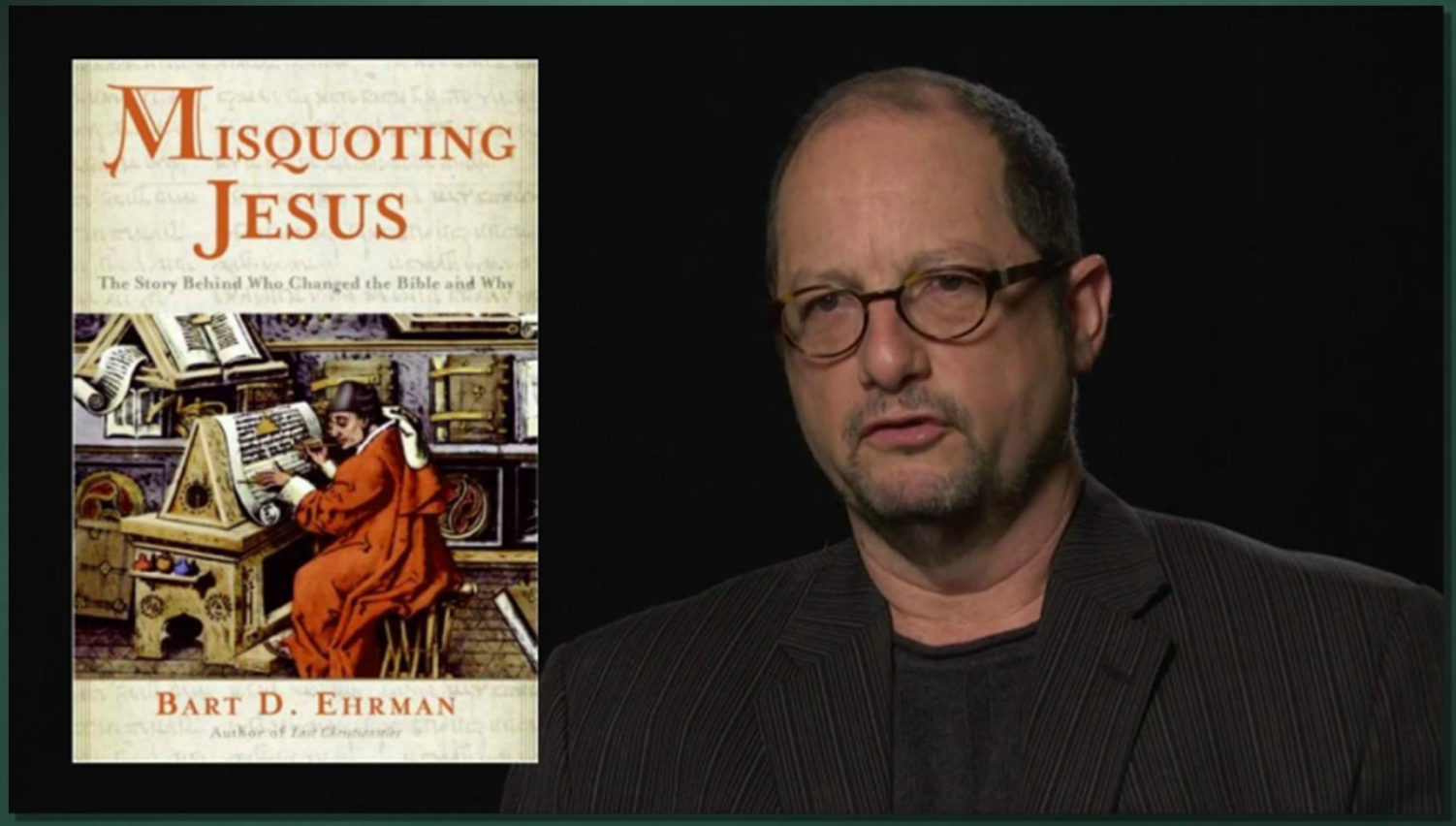

"Essential Christian beliefs are not affected by textual variants in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament." p. 252

The Bible: Reliable and Reasonable

- **1) The Copies Challenge**
- **2) The "Contradictions" Challenge**



The “Contradictions” Challenge

- **The Power of God**
- “… with God all things are possible.” — Matthew 19:26
- “…The LORD was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.” — Judges 1:19



The “Contradictions” Challenge

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- “…The LORD was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.” — Judges 1:19
- “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name
- of the LORD our God.” — Psalm 20:7



The “Contradictions” Challenge

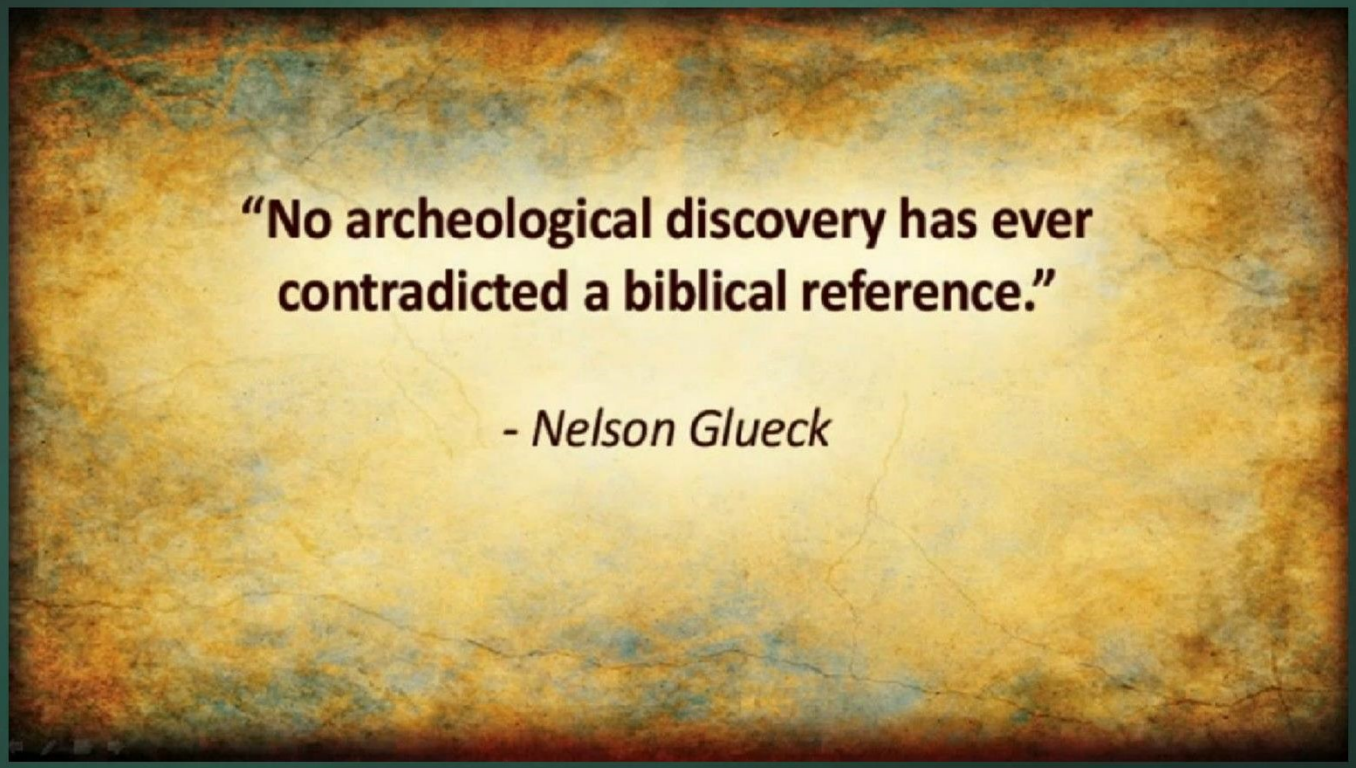
- Two demon-possessed men (Matt. 8:28) vs. one (Mk. 5:2)
- Two blind men (Matt. 20:30) vs. one (Mk. 10:46)
- Two angels at the tomb (Lk. 24:4) vs. one (Mk. 16:5)



The Dead Sea Scrolls







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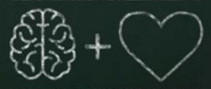

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The Canon Challenge

- **The Criteria for the Canon**
- Written by an apostle or close associate



The Canon Challenge

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The Canon Challenge

- **The Criteria for the Canon**
- Written by an apostle or close associate
- Taught the orthodox faith of the apostles
- Accepted in earliest churches from the beginning



The Bible:

Reliable and Reasonable

