

Is the Bible Reliable?

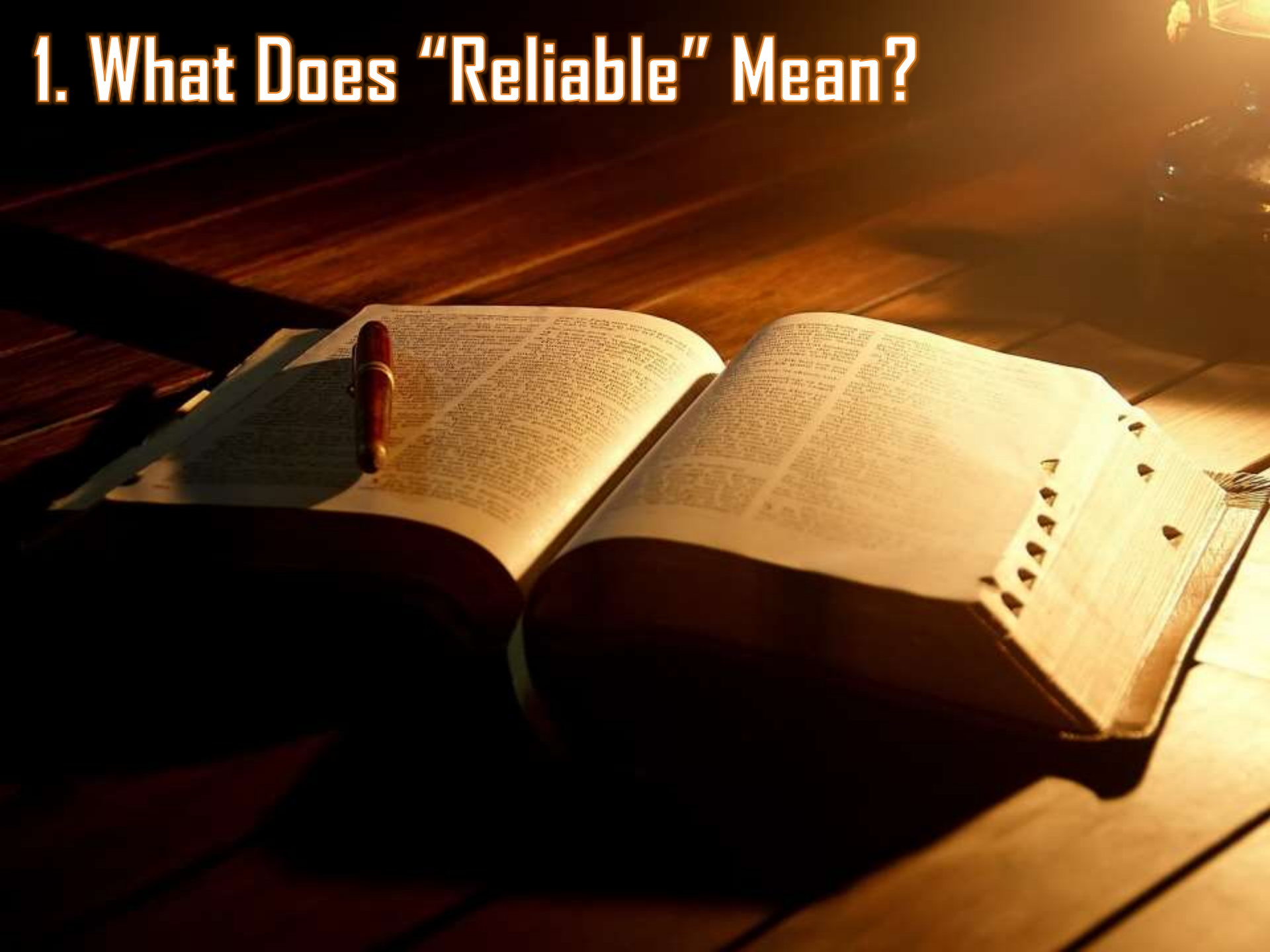
2 Timothy 3:14-17



**The heart cannot exult
in what the mind rejects**

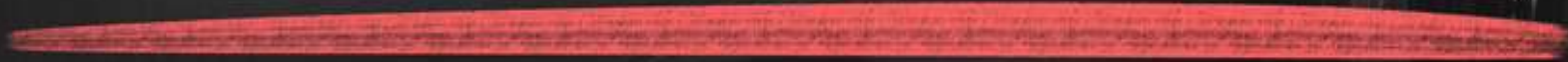


1. What Does "Reliable" Mean?



SOMETHING IS

TRUSTWORTHY



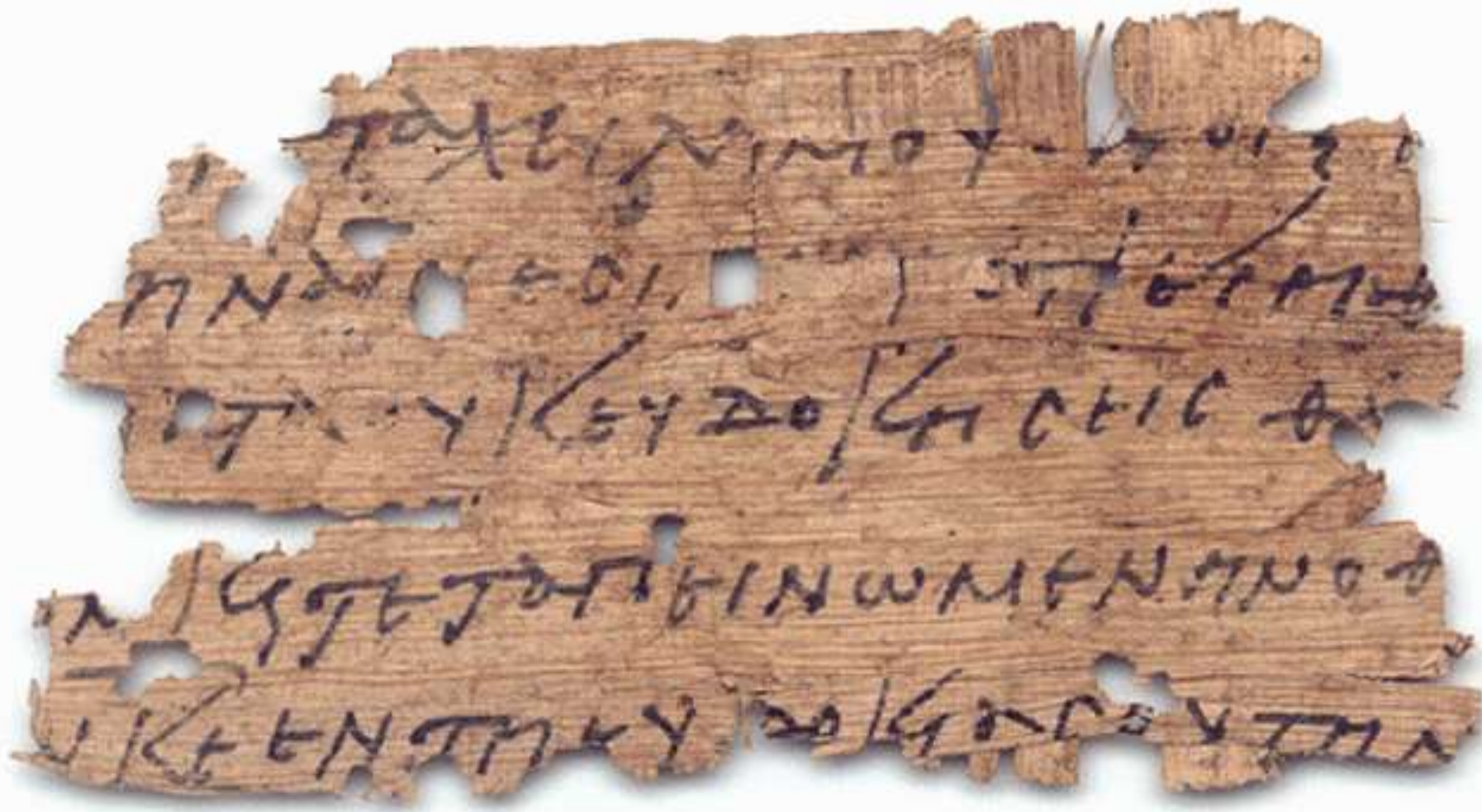
2. Is the New Testament Reliable?



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- 2. We can compare existing manuscripts and fragments to see if they are reliable when it comes to what they report.**
- 3. We can compare manuscript copies and fragments with copies we have today and look for changes?**



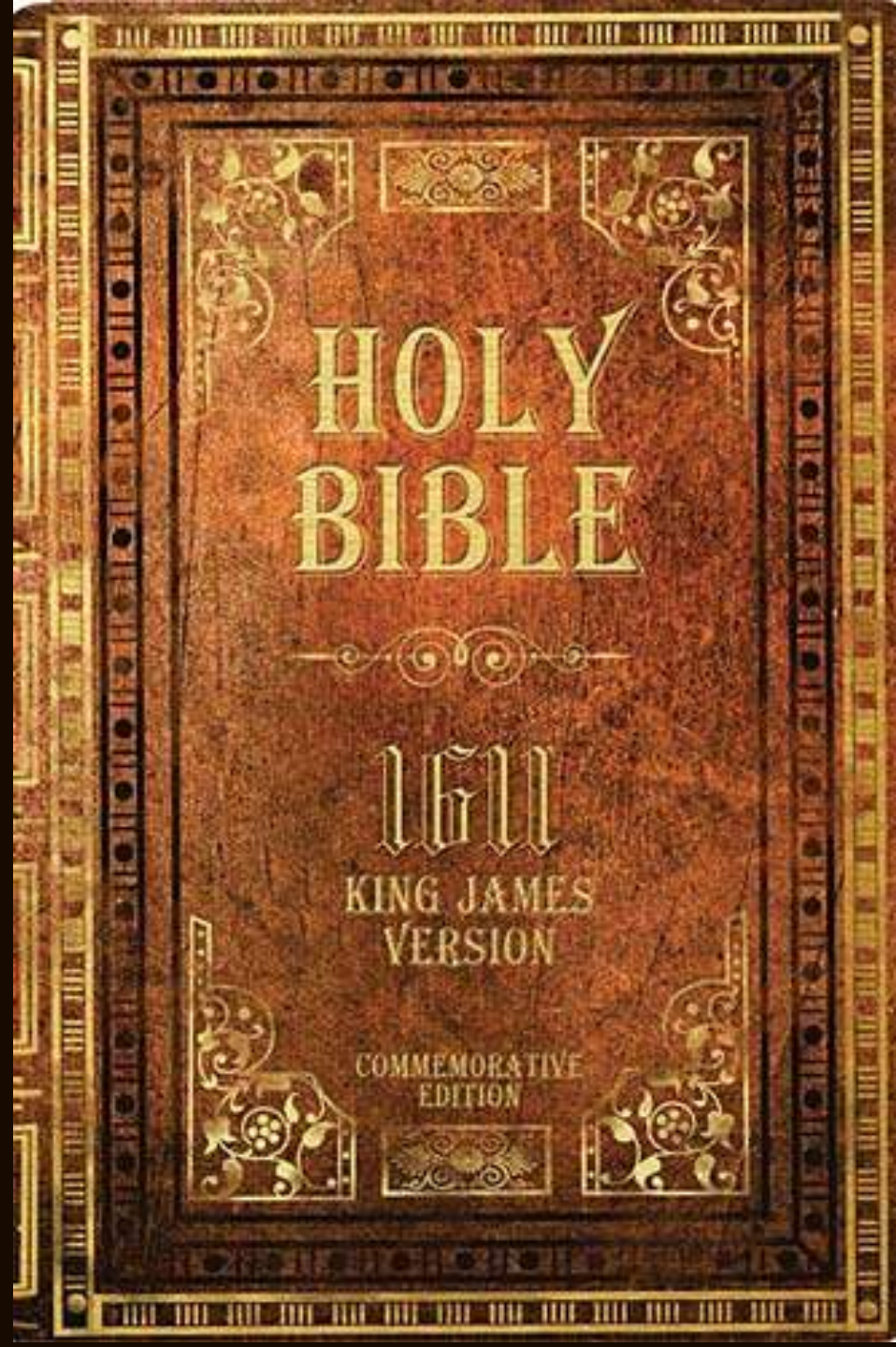
An Ancient Fragment

Mark 9:29 (KJV)

And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by *prayer and fasting.*



The translators of the 1611 King James Bible, used Greek and Hebrew manuscripts from the 12th and 13th centuries. Today Bible translators have access to Greek manuscripts from the 3rd and 4th centuries and Hebrew manuscripts from the era of Jesus.



Process of copying the Old Testament by Jewish Scribes

- 1. They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on, and even to bind manuscripts.**
- 2. Each column of writing could have no less than forty-eight, and no more than sixty lines.**
- 3. The ink must be black, and of a special recipe.**
- 4. They must verbalize each word aloud while they were writing.**
- 5. They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time they wrote it.**

6. There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.

7. The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other. The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.

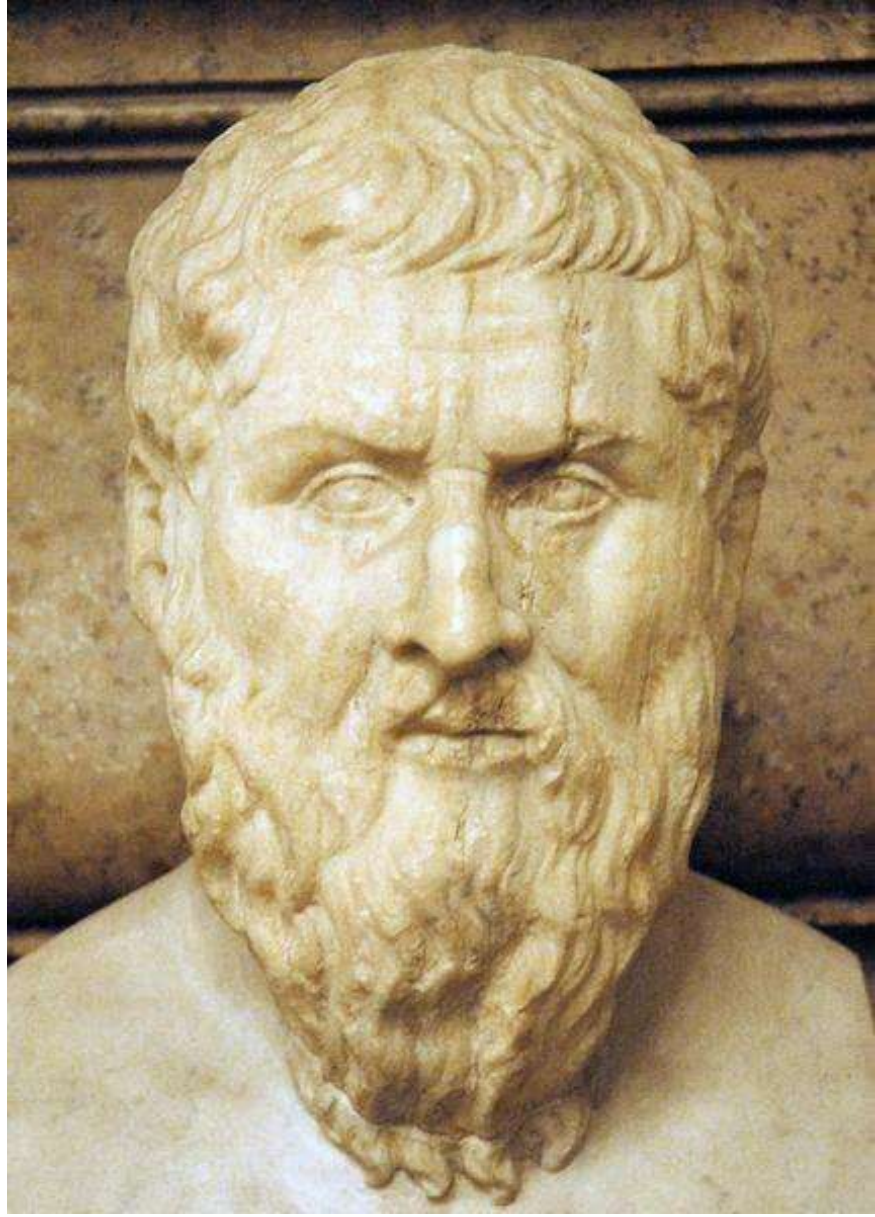
8. The documents could be stored only in sacred places (synagogues, etc).

9. As no document containing God's Word could be destroyed, they were stored, or buried, in a genizah - a Hebrew term meaning "hiding place." These were usually kept in a synagogue or sometimes in a Jewish cemetery.

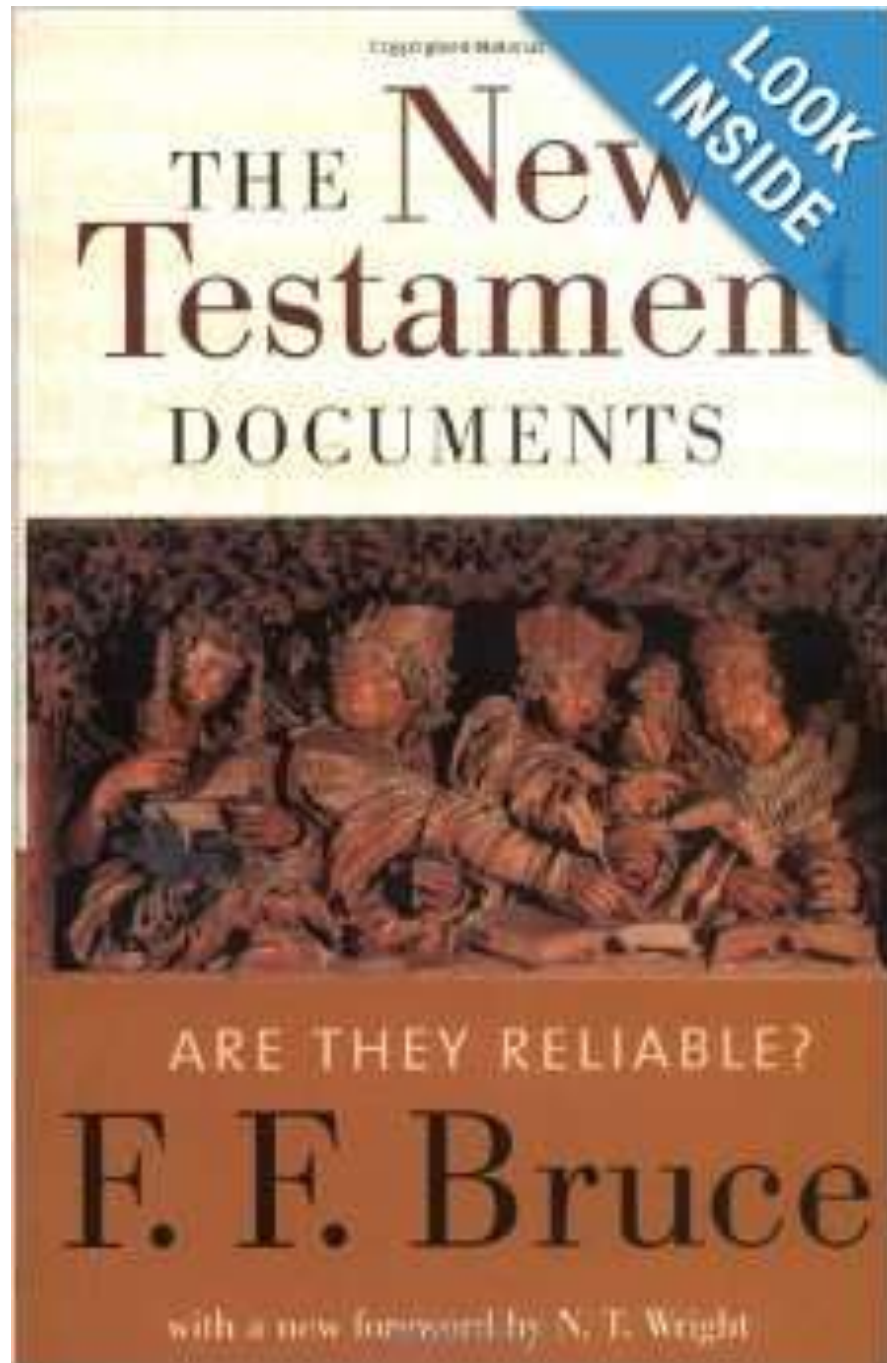
ΕΥΡΩΠΩΝ
ΑΛΕΞΕΥΣΟΥ ΝΟΜΑ
ΤΟΝ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΝ ΠΗ
ΑΤΡΑΙΑΝ ΜΑ... ΤΩΝ
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΩΝ ΤΟ ΤΡΑ... ΤΟΝ ΤΥΤΕΟ
ΑΥ... ΜΟΥΣΟΥ ΤΡΥΝΟΙΚΑΙ Η... Ο
ΟΥ... ΤΑΝΙΣΤΑ ΜΑΧ... ΕΜΕΘΑΣ
ΤΥ... ΕΙΟΙΟΝ ΜΑΥΘΑ... ΑΤΡΟΚΑΙ
Ε... ΤΕΤΙΠΡΟ... ΕΡΟΙΥΤΕΡΟΚΙ
Ω... ΑΤΑΤΡΟ... ΟΔΕΤΑΙ ΩΧ
Η... Ε...
Τ... ΟΡΥΟΕΟΗ

Homer's Iliad

Aristotle



Plato



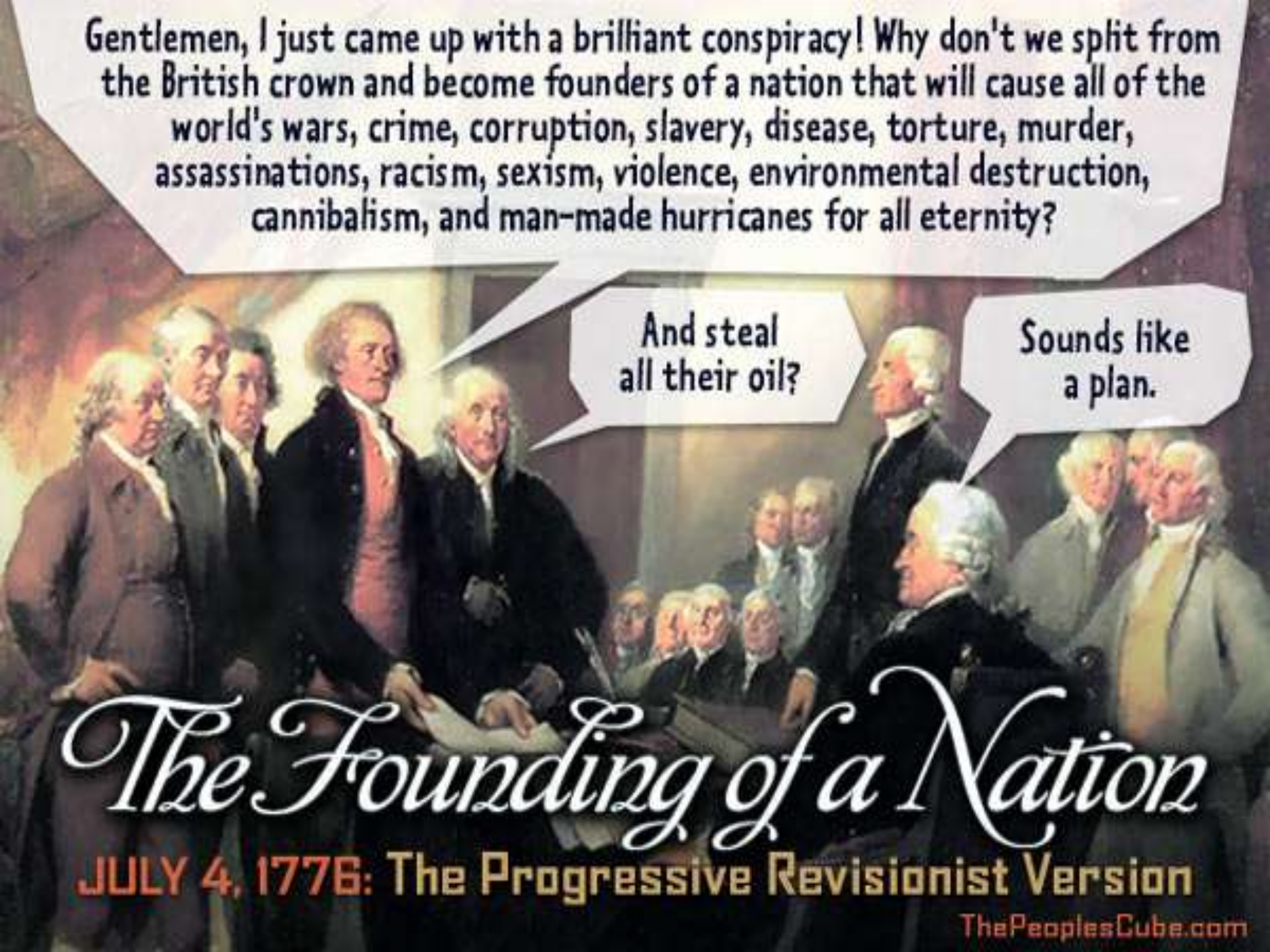
“There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual evidence as the New Testament.”

THE BIBLE: IS IT RELIABLE?

**3. What do you say when someone says
“we don’t have any of the original copies,
so how can we be sure the text isn’t
corrupted?”**

Histories	Oldest Manuscripts	Number Surviving
Livy 59 B.C.–A.D. 17	4th century	27
Tacitus A.D. 56–120	9th century	3
Suetonius A.D. 69–140	9th century	200+
Thucydides 460–400 B.C.	1st century A.D.	20
Herodotus 484–425 B.C.	1st century A.D.	75
New Testament	c. 100–150	c. 5,700 (counting only Greek manuscripts) (plus more than 10,000 in Latin, more than a million quotations from the church fathers, etc.)

*Adapted from a chart by Daniel B. Wallace, published in his chapter, "The Reliability of New Testament Manuscripts," in *Understanding Scripture: An Overview of the Bible's Origin, Reliability, and Meaning*, ed. Wayne Grudem, C. John Collins, and Thomas R. Schreiner, ©2012, p. 114. Used by permission of Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187.



Gentlemen, I just came up with a brilliant conspiracy! Why don't we split from the British crown and become founders of a nation that will cause all of the world's wars, crime, corruption, slavery, disease, torture, murder, assassinations, racism, sexism, violence, environmental destruction, cannibalism, and man-made hurricanes for all eternity?

And steal all their oil?

Sounds like a plan.

The Founding of a Nation

JULY 4, 1776: The Progressive Revisionist Version



*Professor of New Testament Studies
at Dallas Theological Seminary and
founder and executive director of the
Center for the Study of New Testament
Manuscripts.*

**“an embarrassment of riches when it
comes to the biblical documents.”**



Carefully encased within a climate-controlled cabinet in the John Rylands Library is Rylands Library Papyrus P⁵², the St. John's fragment. Measuring only 8.9 by 6 centimeters at its widest points (3.5 by 2.5 inches), this is just the smallest fragment of a long-lost codex.

On the front, **John 18:31-33**

**ΟΙ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΟΙ ΗΜΙΝ ΟΥΚ ΕΞΕΣΤΙΝ ΑΠΟΚΤΕΙΝΑΙ
ΟΥΔΕΝΑ ΙΝΑ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΠΛΗΡΩΘΗ ΟΝ ΕΙ-
ΠΕΝ ΣΗΜΑΙΝΩΝ ΠΟΙΩ ΘΑΝΑΤΩ ΗΜΕΛΛΕΝ ΑΠΟ-
ΘΗΣΚΕΙΝ ΕΙΣΗΛΘΕΝ ΟΥΝ ΠΑΛΙΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΠΡΑΙΤΩ-
ΡΙΟΝ Ο ΠΙΛΑΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΦΩΝΗΣΕΝ ΤΟΝ ΙΗΣΟΥΝ
ΚΑΙ ΕΙΠΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΣΥ ΕΙ Ο ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΩΝ**

**the Jews, “For us it is not permitted to kill
anyone,” so that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled,
which he spoke signifying what kind of death he was
going to die. Entered therefore again into the
Praetorium Pilate and summoned Jesus and said to him,
“Thou art king of the Jews?”**

On the back, **John 18:31-33**

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΕΙΜΙ ΕΓΩ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΓΕΓΕΝΝΗΜΑΙ
ΚΑΙ (ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΤΟ) ΕΛΗΛΥΘΑ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΚΟΣΜΟΝ ΙΝΑ ΜΑΡΤΥ-
ΡΗΣΩ ΤΗ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ ΠΑΣ Ο ΩΝ **ΕΚ ΤΗΣ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑΣ** ΑΚΟΥΕΙ
ΜΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΦΩΝΗΣ **ΛΕΓΕΙ ΑΥΤΩ** Ο ΠΙΛΑΤΟΣ ΤΙ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΕΙΠΩΝ ΠΑΛΙΝ ΕΞΗΛΘΕΝ ΠΡΟΣ **ΤΟΥΣ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΟΥΣ**
ΚΑΙ ΛΕΓΕΙ ΑΥΤΟΙΣ ΕΓΩ ΟΥΔΕΜΙΑΝ
ΕΥΡΙΣΚΩ ΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΑΙΤΙΑΝ

**a King I am. For this I have been born and (for this) I have
come into the world so that I would testify to the truth.
Everyone who is of the truth hears of me my voice.”
Said to him Pilate, “What is truth?” and this having said,
again he went out unto the Jews and said to them,
“I find not one fault in him.”**

**Truth shall spring out of the earth; and
righteousness shall look down from
heaven.**



Psalm 85:11

**For ever, O LORD, thy word
is settled in heaven.**



Psalm 119:89

THE BIBLE: IS IT RELIABLE?

**4. What do you say when someone says
“the Bible has errors!”**

Always be **prepared** to give an **answer**
to **everyone** who asks you to **give** the
reason for the **hope** that **you** have.

1 peter 3:15



1 Peter 3:15

An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely representing the Old Testament. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of dense, handwritten text in a traditional Hebrew script. The paper is aged and yellowed. The text is arranged in columns, with some larger characters that might be initials or section markers. The scroll is set against a plain, light-colored background.

5. Is The Old Testament Reliable?



Dr. Norman Geisler

**"Jesus affirmed its divine
authority ... its imperishability ...
its unbreakability ... its ultimate
supremacy ... its factual inerrancy
... its historical reliability ... [and]
its scientific accuracy."**

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."



Matthew 5:17-18



HUMILITY

is the haughty mind which rejects what the
humble heart embraces!

A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a desert landscape. The sky is filled with vibrant, streaked colors of orange, red, and purple, with rays of light emanating from behind the horizon. The foreground shows a vast, flat desert plain with sparse, low-lying vegetation. The text "Word Of God Speak" is overlaid in a stylized, cursive font, centered horizontally and slightly above the horizon line.

Word Of God Speak



Pour Down Like Rain