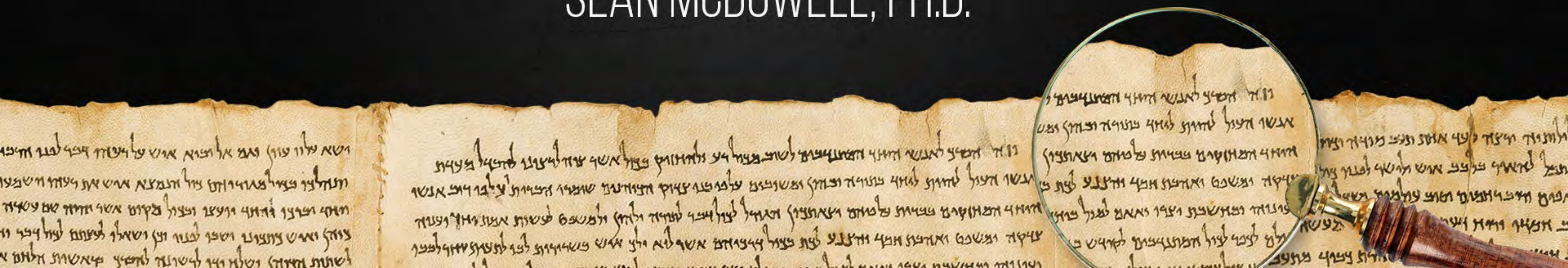


WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT?

SEAN MCDOWELL, PH.D.



THREE KEY TESTS



CHARACTER TEST

THREE KEY TESTS



CHARACTER TEST



COPY TEST

THREE KEY TESTS



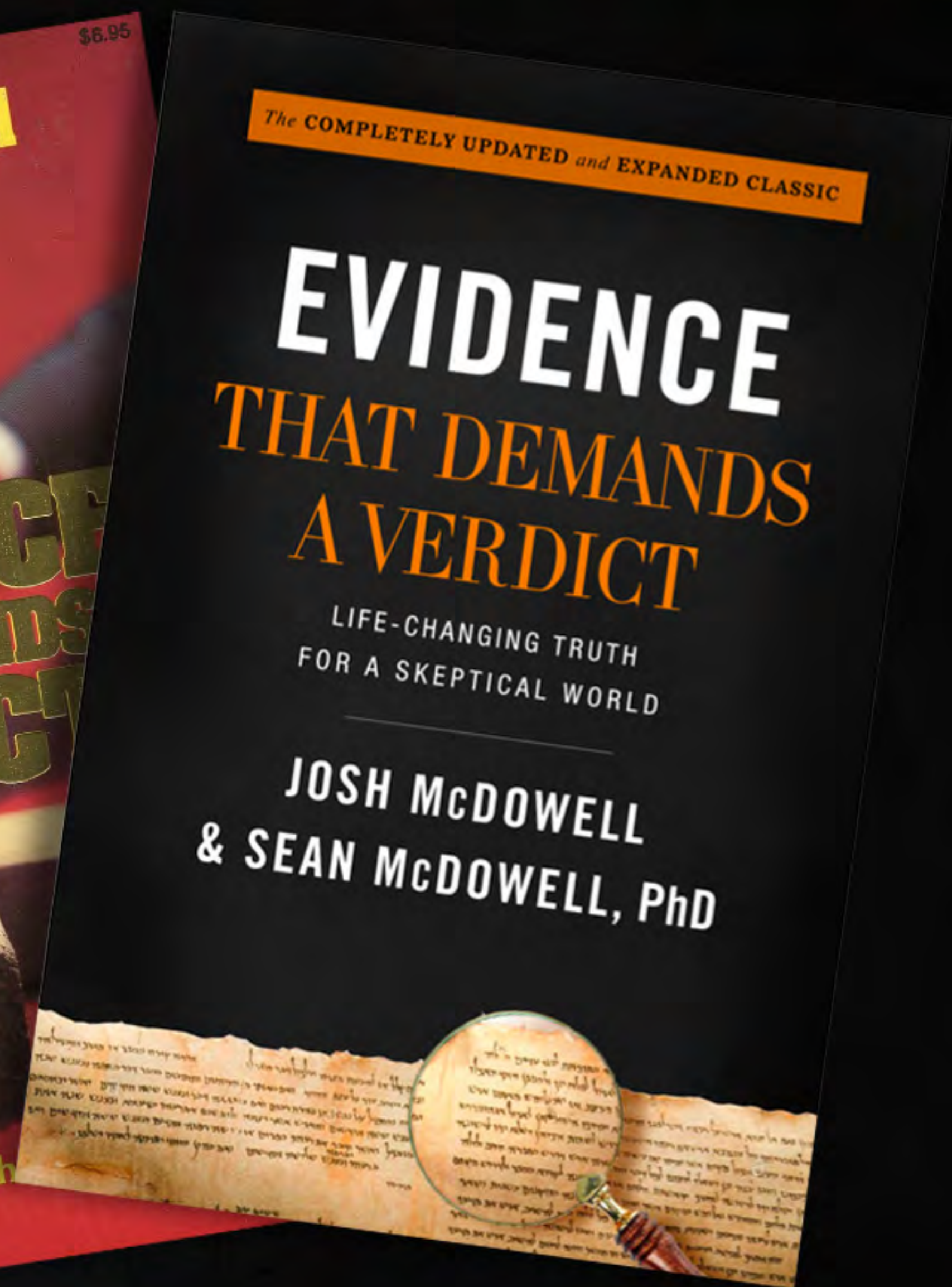
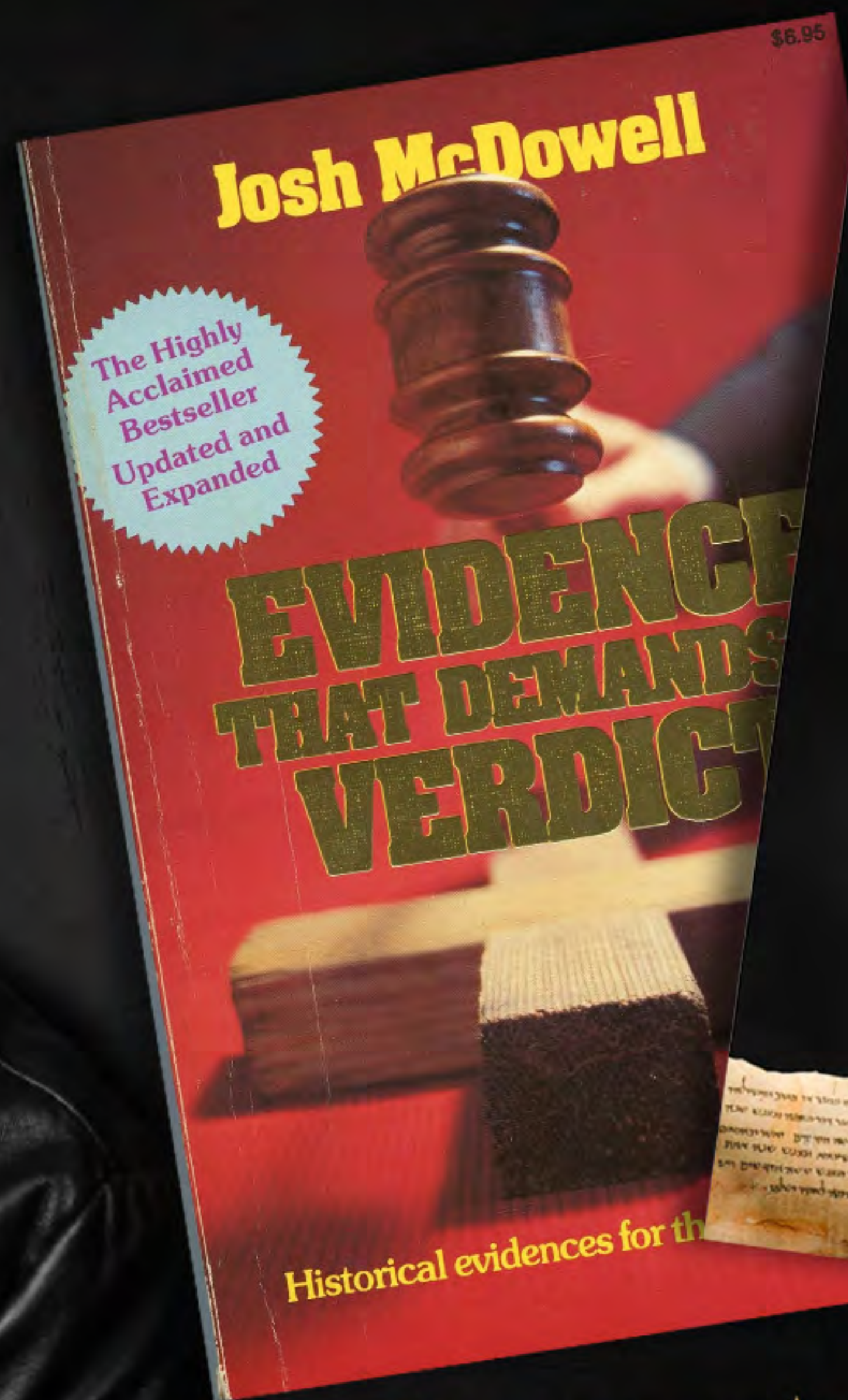
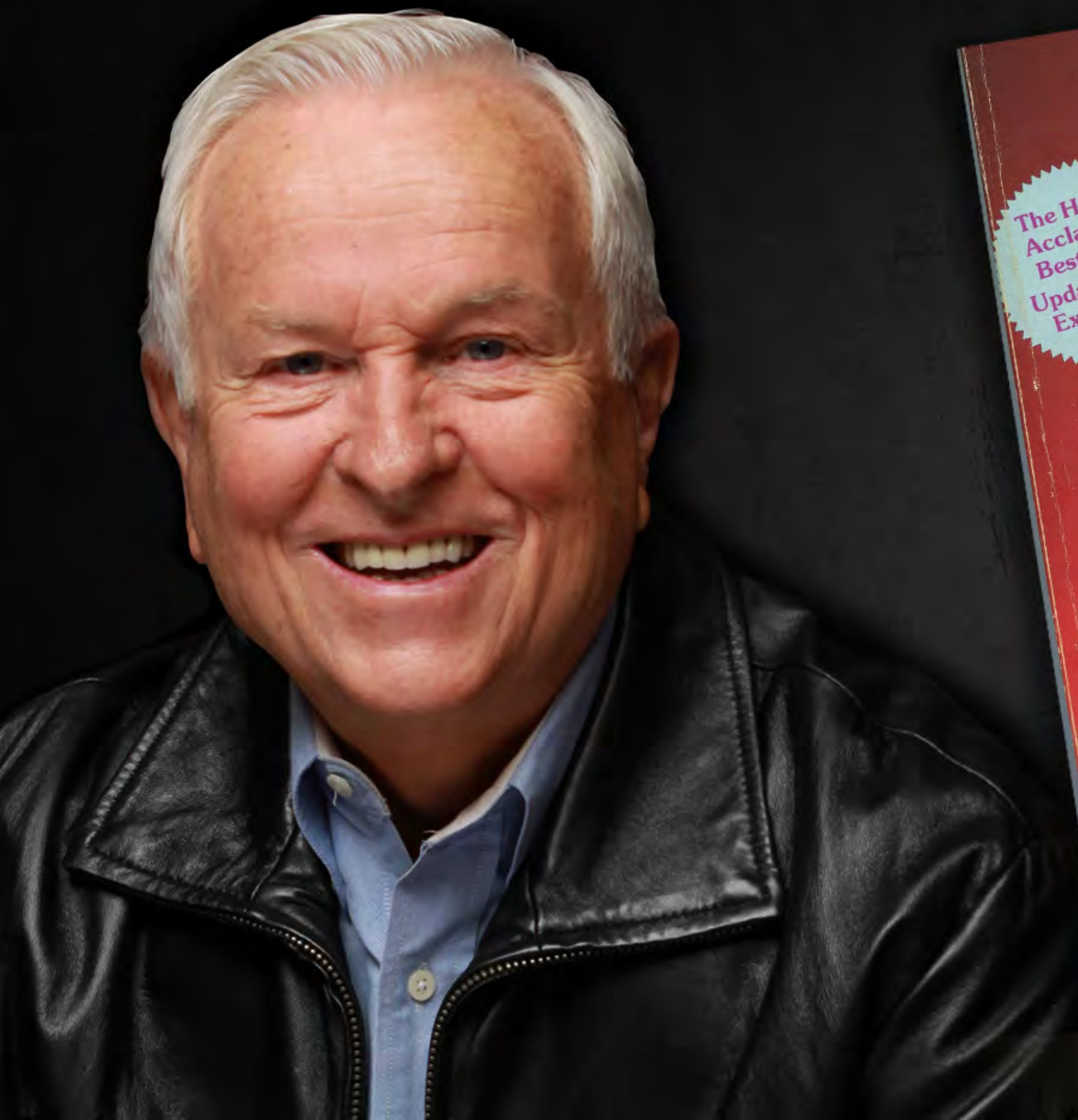
CHARACTER TEST



COPY TEST

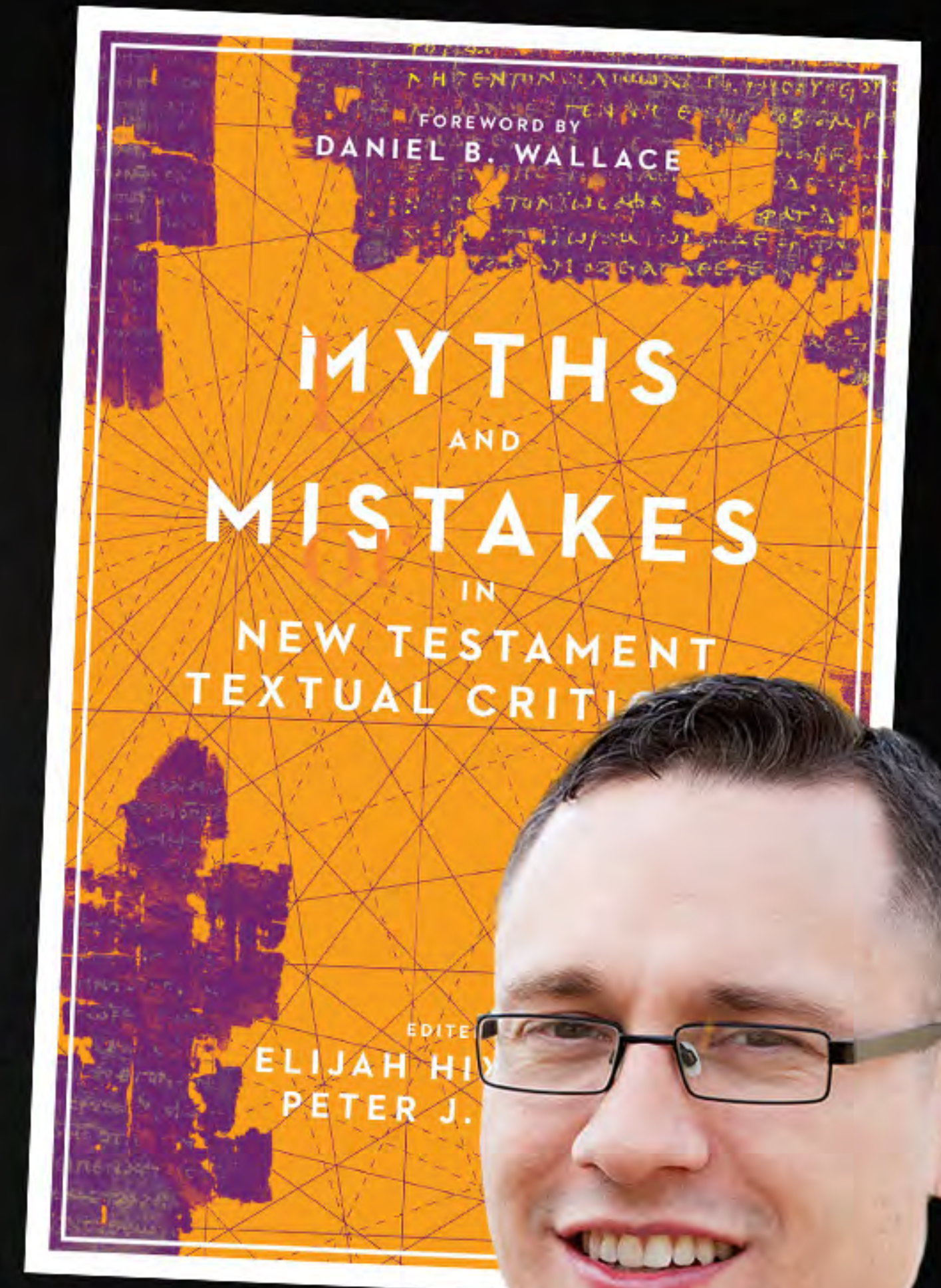


CORROBORATION TEST





"THE INCREDIBLE DISCOVERIES OF
THE LAST SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS AND THE
ENORMOUS LABORS OF TEXTUAL CRITICS
FROM PAST ERAS HAVE DONE MUCH TO IDENTIFY
GOD'S INSPIRED WORDS AND TO INCREASE OUR
CONFIDENCE IN THEIR RECOVERY."



- Elijah Hixson/ Peter J Gurry

1. THE CHARACTER TEST

WERE THE DOCUMENTS PUT TOGETHER WITH HONESTY?



“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us...

LUKE 1:1-4

[illegible]

[Faint handwritten text from folio 9v]

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...just as they were handed down
to us by those who from the
first were **EYEWITNESSES**
and servants of the word...

LUKE 1:1-4



...therefore, since I myself have
CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED
everything from the beginning,
it seemed good also to me to write an...

LUKE 1:1-4



...orderly account so that you
may know the **CERTAINTY**
of the things you have
been taught.”

LUKE 1:1-4



*“We did not follow cleverly
invented stories [myths]
when we told you about the
power and the coming...”*

2 PETER 1:16

[illegible][illegible]

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...of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but we were **EYEWITNESSES**
of His majesty.”

2 PETER 1:16



“What was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what
we have looked at and
touched with our hands...”

1 JOHN 1:1



“What was from the beginning,
what we have **HEARD**, what
we have **LOOKED AT** and
TOUCHED with our hands...”

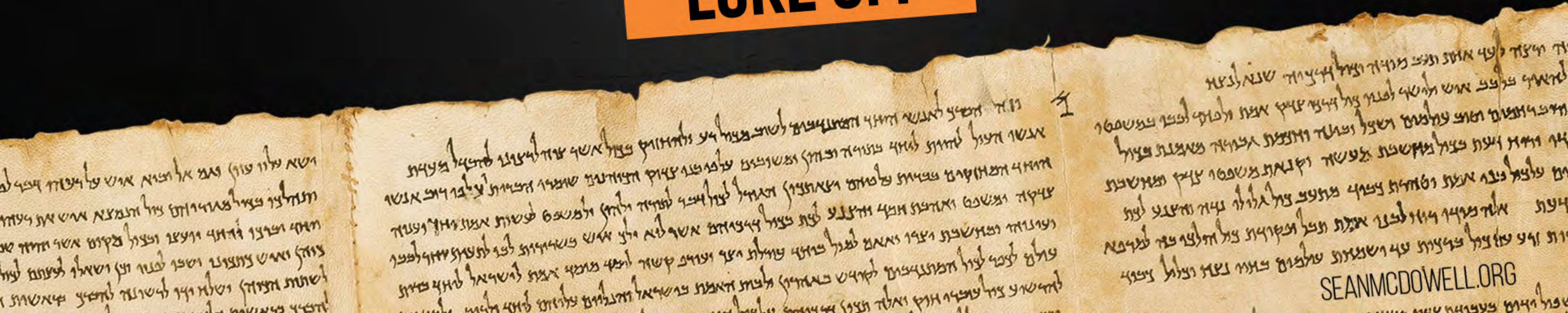
1 JOHN 1:1



A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away....

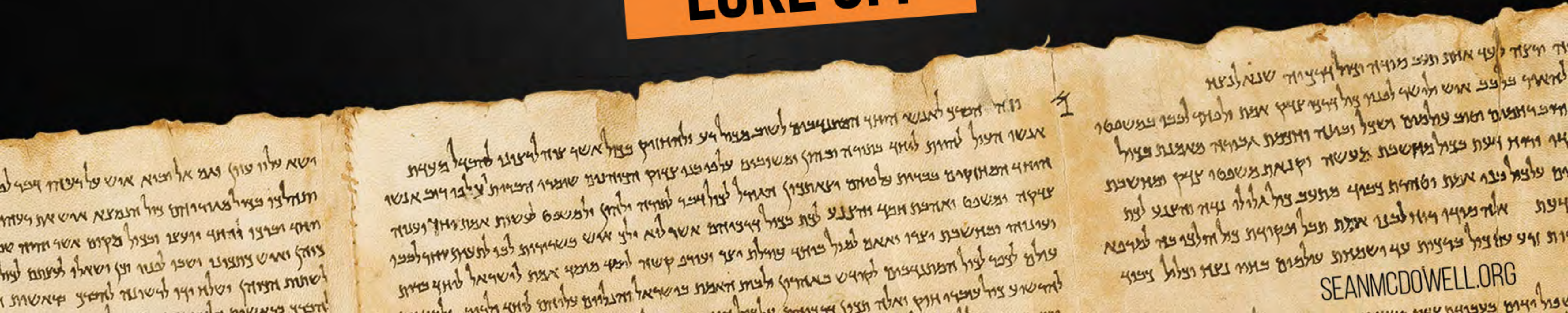
“Now in the fifteenth year
of the reign of Tiberius
Caesar, when Pontius Pilate
was governor...

LUKE 3:1



...of Judea, and Herod was
tetrarch of Galilee, and his
brother Philip was tetrarch of
the region of Ituraea...”

LUKE 3:1



1. THE CHARACTER TEST

DOES THE DOCUMENT CONTAIN EMBARRASSING MATERIAL?

THE CHARACTER TEST

THE CHARACTER TEST

1. PETER DENIES JESUS. (MARK 14:70)

THE CHARACTER TEST

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2. JESUS CALLS PETER SATAN! (MATT. 16:23)

THE CHARACTER TEST

1. PETER DENIES JESUS. (MARK 14:70)

2. JESUS CALLS PETER SATAN! (MATT. 16:23)

3. DISCIPLES FALL ASLEEP IN GETHSEMANE. (MATTHEW 26:36-46)

THE CHARACTER TEST

4. DISCIPLES DON'T UNDERSTAND JESUS' TEACHING.

(MARK 4:1-12)

THE CHARACTER TEST

4. DISCIPLES DON'T UNDERSTAND JESUS' TEACHING.

(MARK 4:1-12)

5. WOMEN DISCOVER THE EMPTY TOMB.

(JOHN 20)

Deaths Of The Apostles

1. PETER CRUCIFIED



Deaths Of The Apostles

1. PETER CRUCIFIED
2. ANDREW CRUCIFIED



Deaths Of The Apostles

1. PETER CRUCIFIED
2. ANDREW CRUCIFIED
3. PHILIP CRUCIFIED



Deaths Of The Apostles

1. PETER CRUCIFIED
2. ANDREW CRUCIFIED
3. PHILIP CRUCIFIED
4. BARTHOLOMEW FLAYED TO DEATH



Deaths Of The Apostles

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2. ANDREW CRUCIFIED
3. PHILIP CRUCIFIED
4. BARTHOLOMEW FLAYED TO DEATH
5. JAMES THE GREATER BEHEADED



Deaths Of The Apostles

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3. PHILIP CRUCIFIED
4. BARTHOLOMEW FLAYED TO DEATH
5. JAMES THE GREATER BEHEADED
6. MATTHEW THE SWORD



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7. MATTHIAS STONED



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8. THOMAS STABBED WITH SPEARS
9. JOHN DIED AFTER EXILE



Deaths Of The Apostles

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7. MATTHIAS STONED
8. THOMAS STABBED WITH SPEARS
9. JOHN DIED AFTER EXILE
10. LUKE HANGED



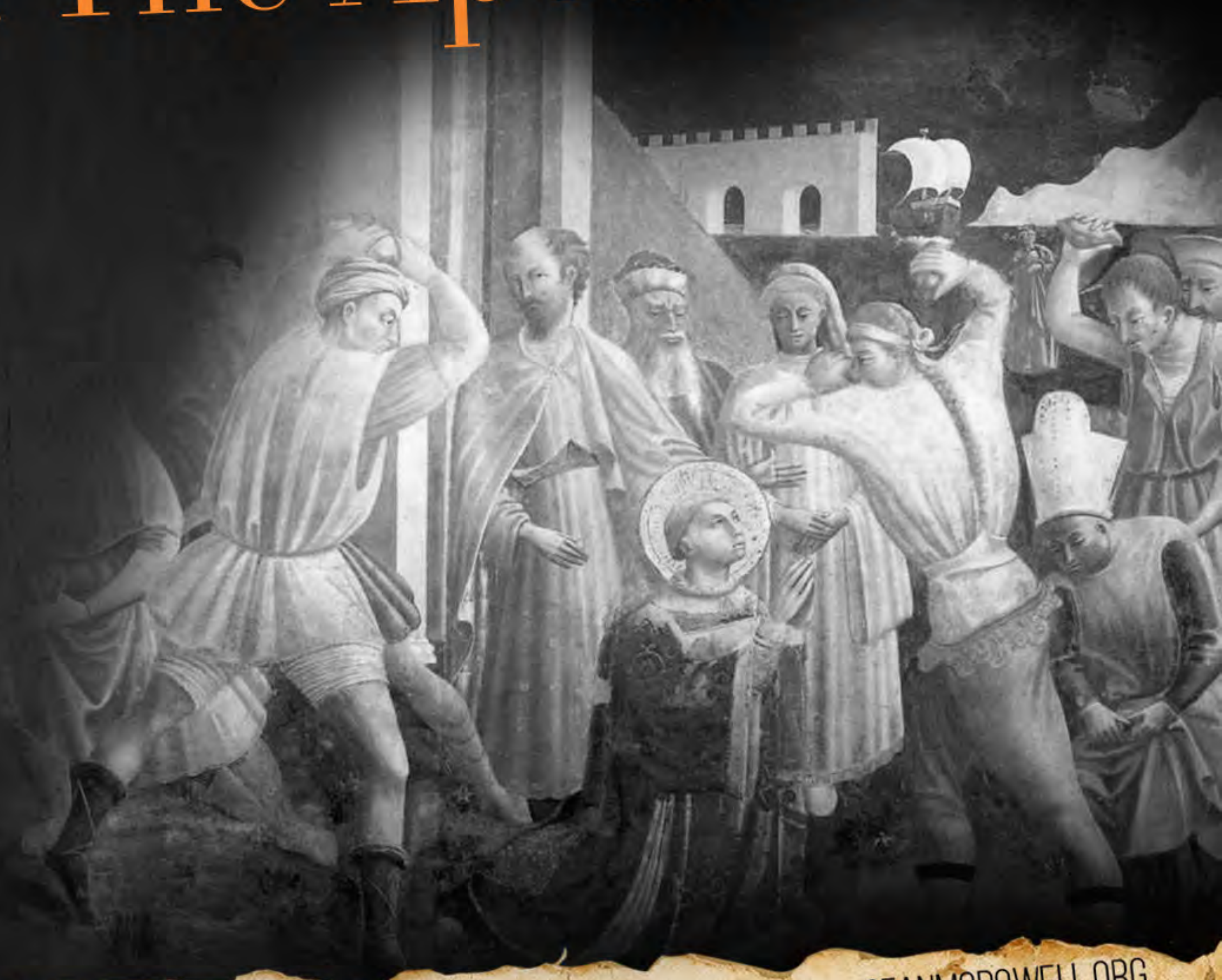
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11. JAMES THE JUST THROWN AND BEATEN



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12. MARK DRAGGED TO DEATH BY HORSE

13. PAUL BEHEADED



2. THE COPY TEST
HAVE THE DOCUMENTS REACHED
US ACCURATELY?

QUESTION 1:

**WHAT IS THE TIME GAP BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL
COPIES AND THE COPIES WE HAVE TODAY?**

THE COPY TEST TIME



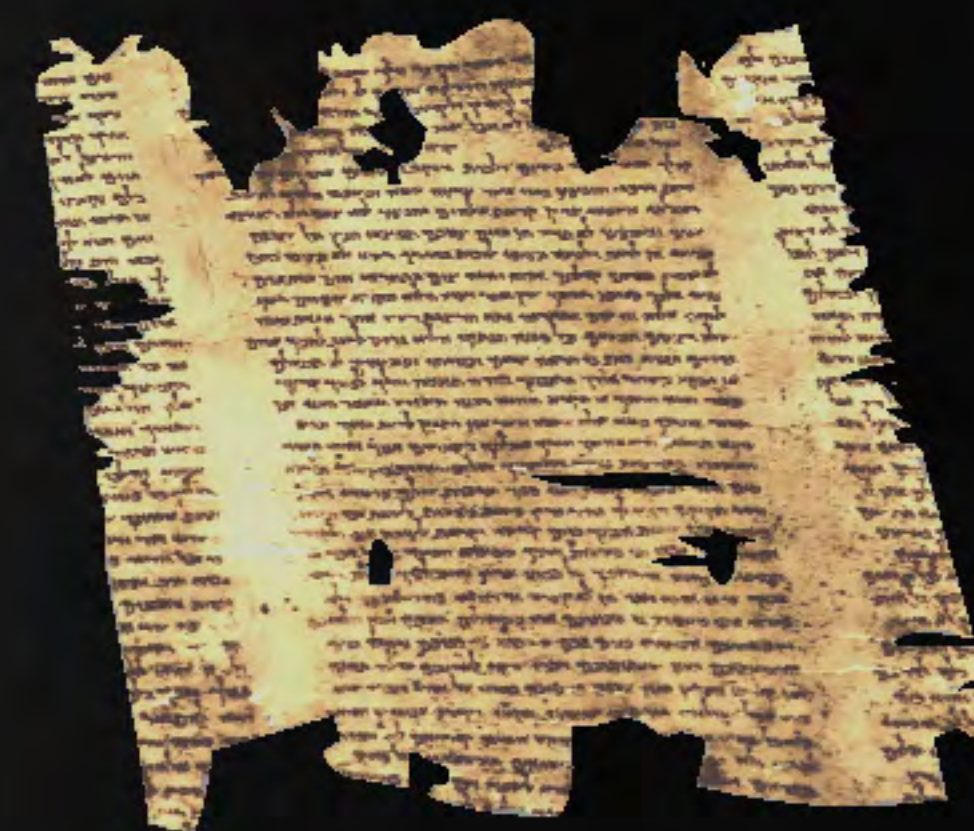
ORIGINAL

THE COPY TEST

TIME



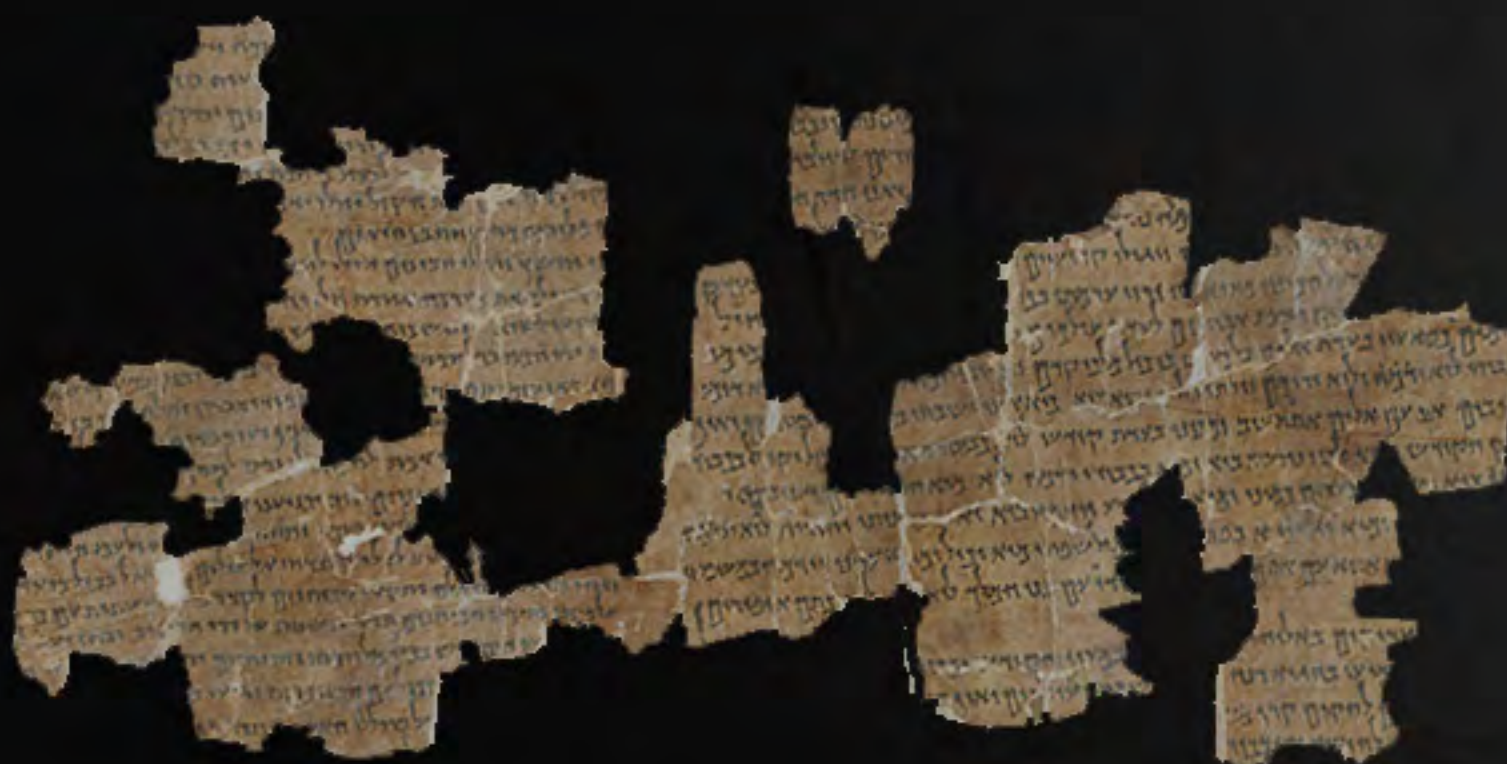
ORIGINAL



DISINTEGRATED

THE COPY TEST

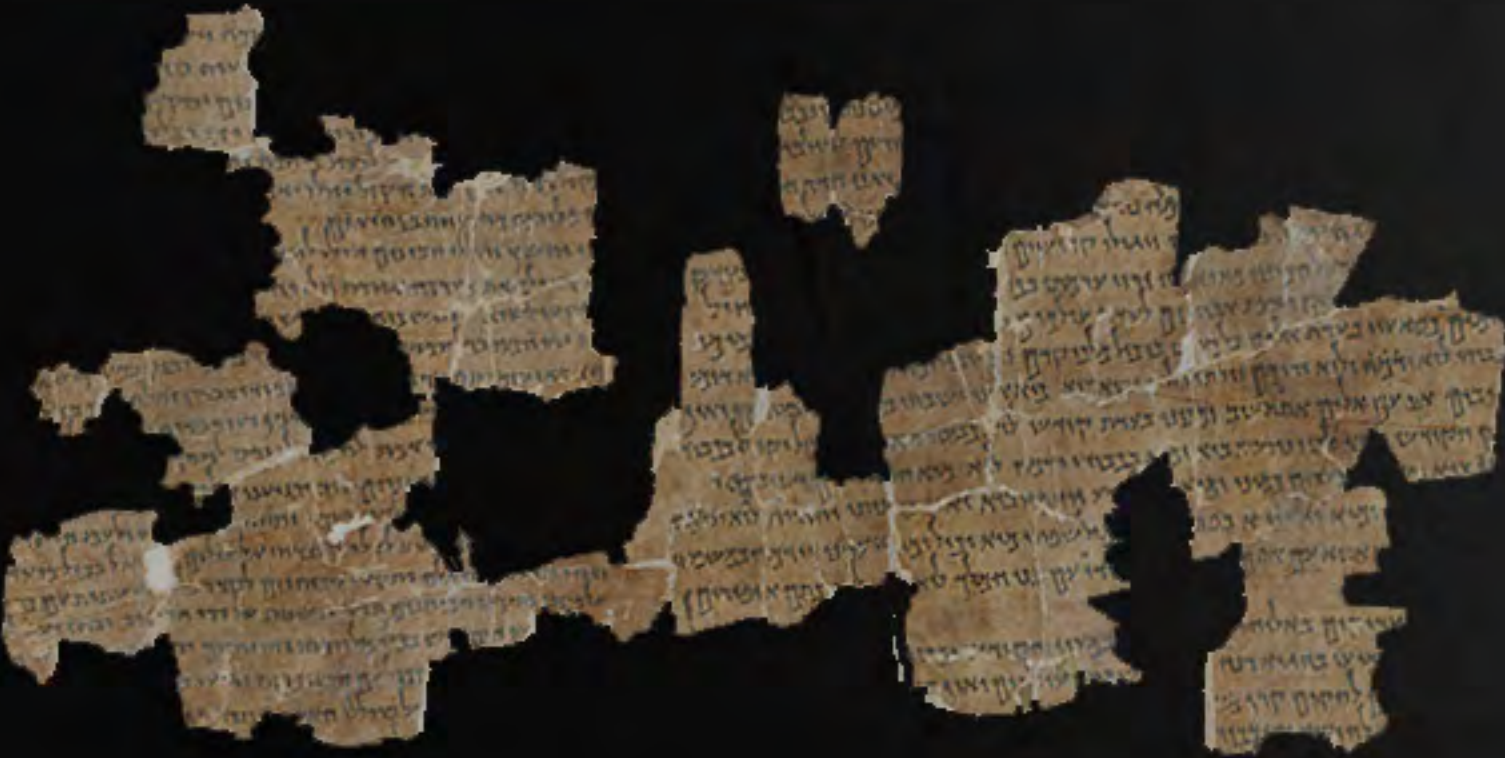
TIME



GENERATION #1

THE COPY TEST

TIME



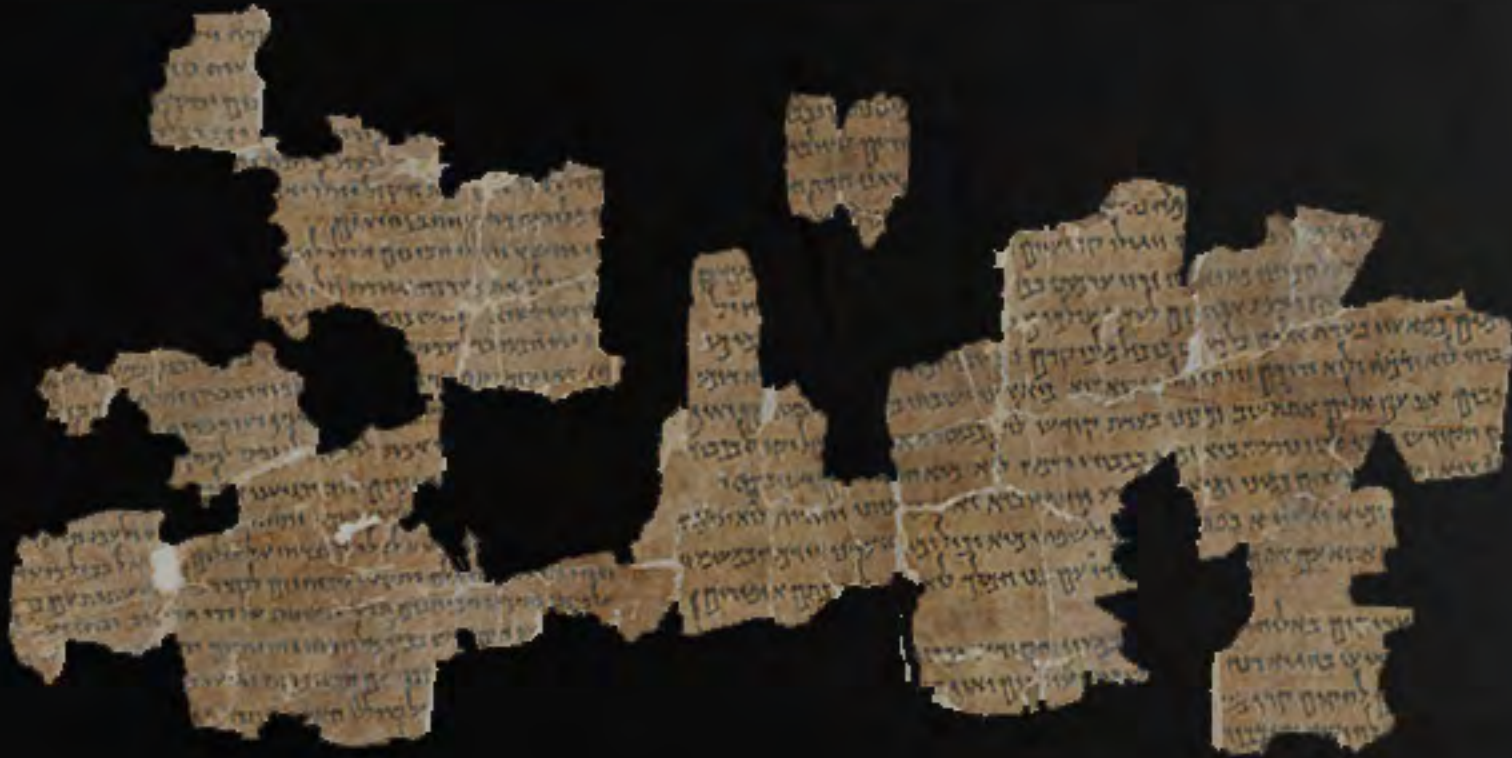
GENERATION #1



GENERATION #2

THE COPY TEST

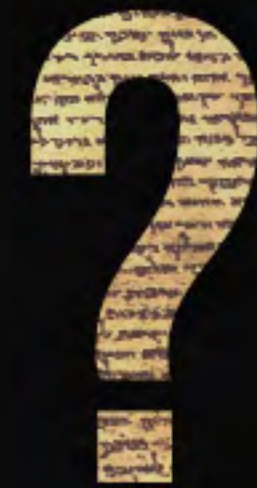
TIME



GENERATION #1



GENERATION #2



GENERATION #3

THE COPY TEST

PLINY THE ELDER: 700 YEARS



THE COPY TEST

PLINY THE ELDER: 700 YEARS

JOSEPHUS: 800 YEARS



THE COPY TEST

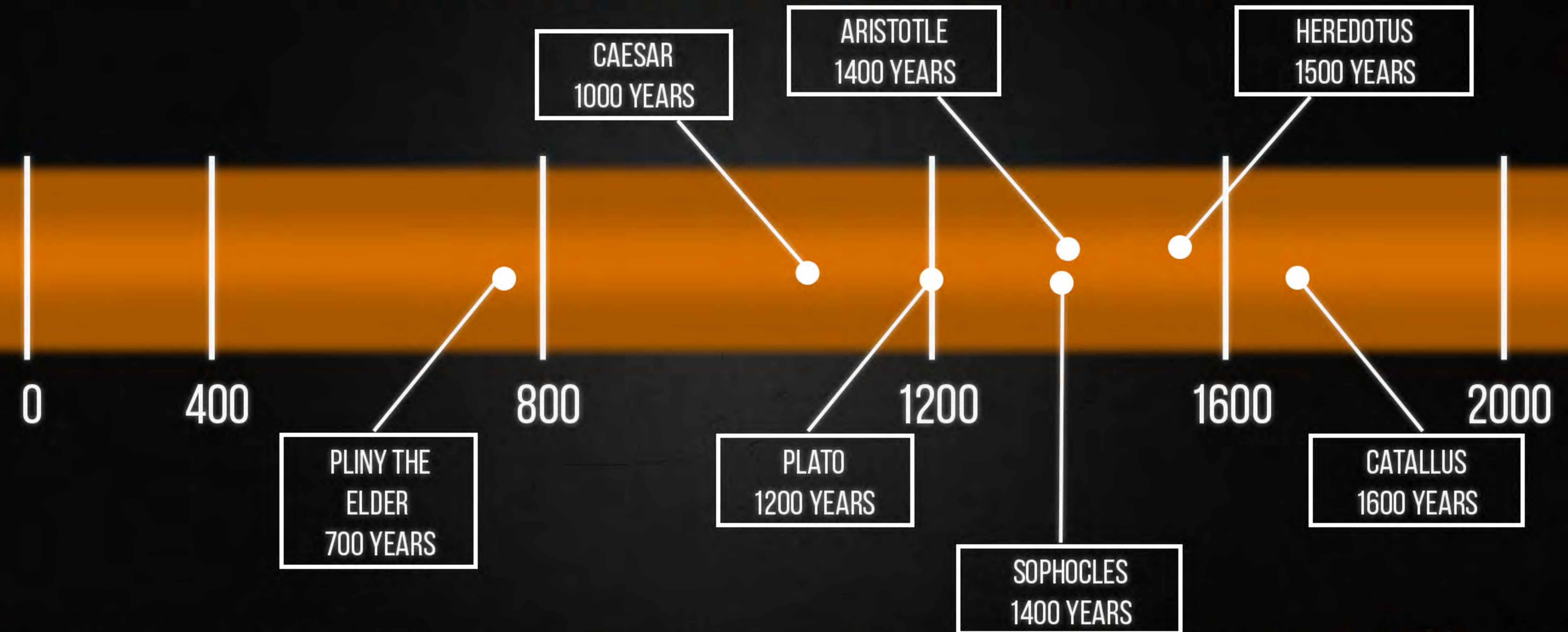
PLINY THE ELDER: 700 YEARS

JOSEPHUS: 800 YEARS

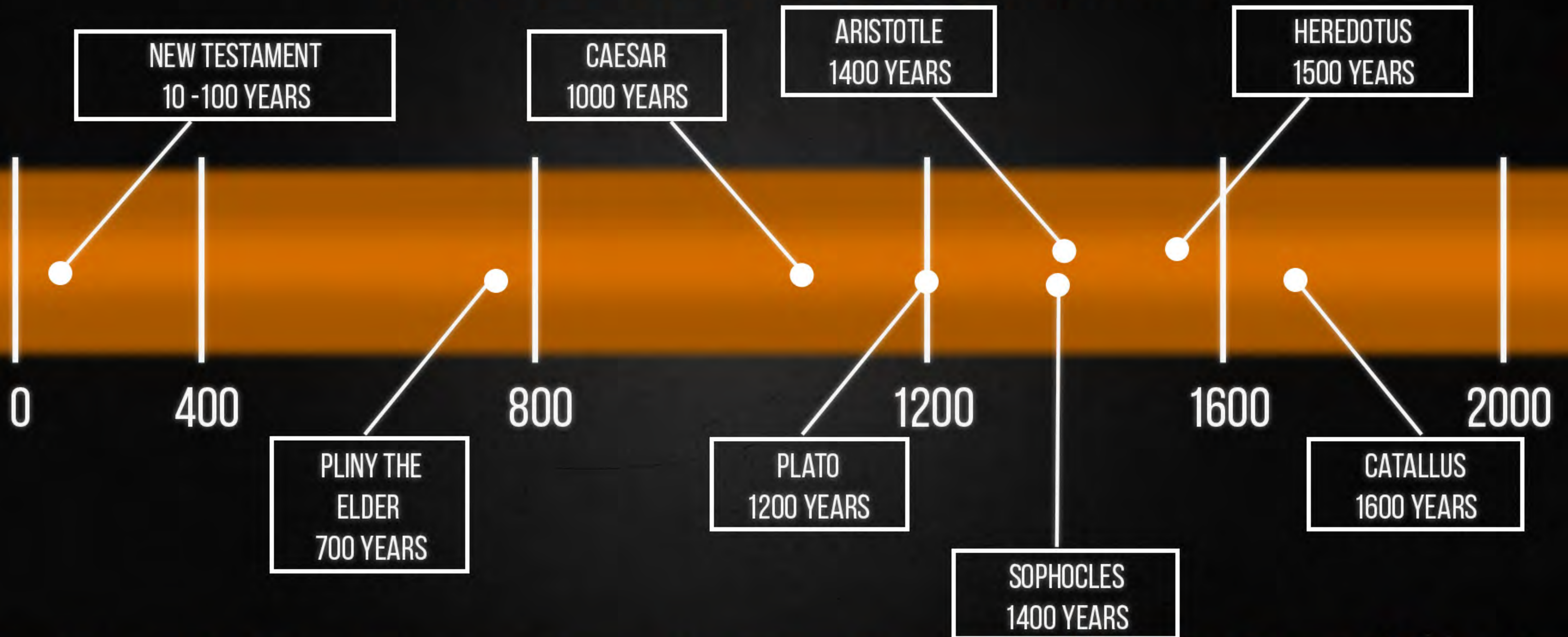
HERODOTUS: 1500 YEARS



THE COPY TEST



THE COPY TEST



THE COPY TEST

JOHN RYLAND PAPYRUS
100-200 A.D.

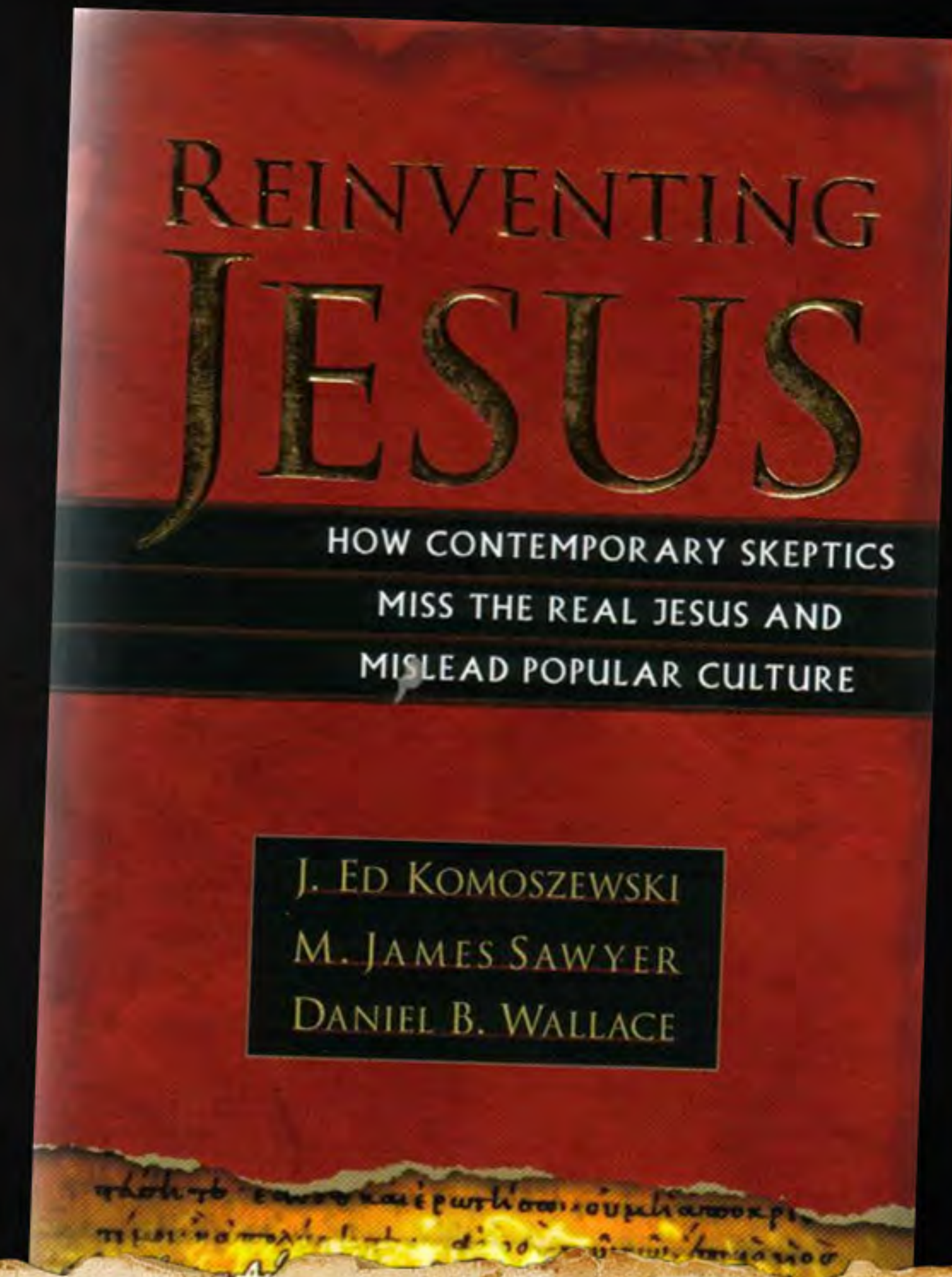
(Portion of the Gospel of John)



THE COPY TEST

**“WE HAVE MORE AND EARLIER
MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE ABOUT THE
PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST THAN WE...**

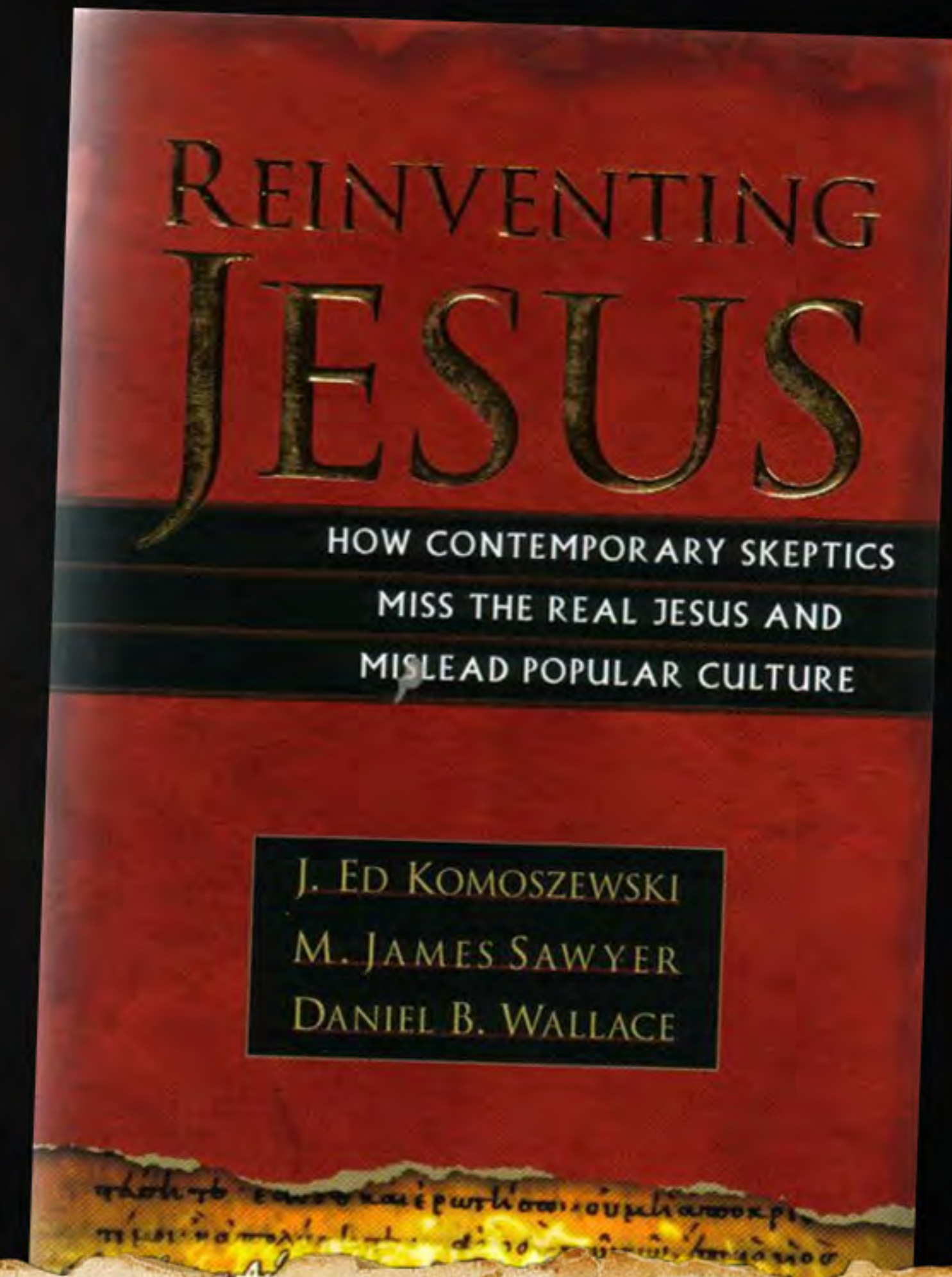
- Daniel B. Wallace



THE COPY TEST

...DO ANYONE ELSE IN THE ANCIENT
WORLD - INCLUDING JULIUS CAESAR
AND ALEXANDER THE GREAT."

- Daniel B. Wallace



QUESTION 2:

200

HOW MANY MANUSCRIPTS
DO WE HAVE?

10

THE COPY TEST

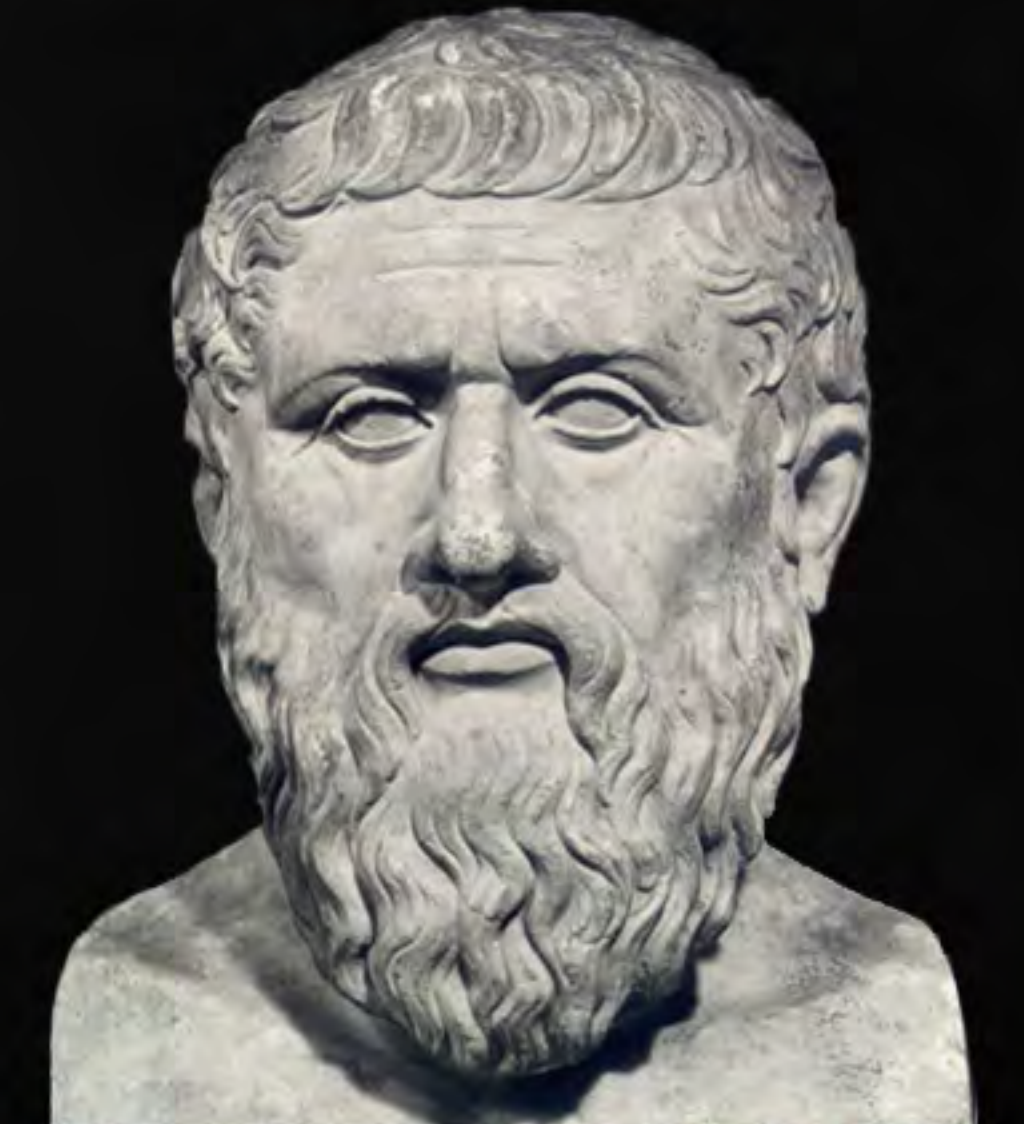
CAESAR: 10 MANUSCRIPTS



THE COPY TEST

CAESAR: 10 MANUSCRIPTS

**PLATO (TETRALOGIES):
7 MANUSCRIPTS**



THE COPY TEST

THE NEW TESTAMENT:



MANUSCRIPTS

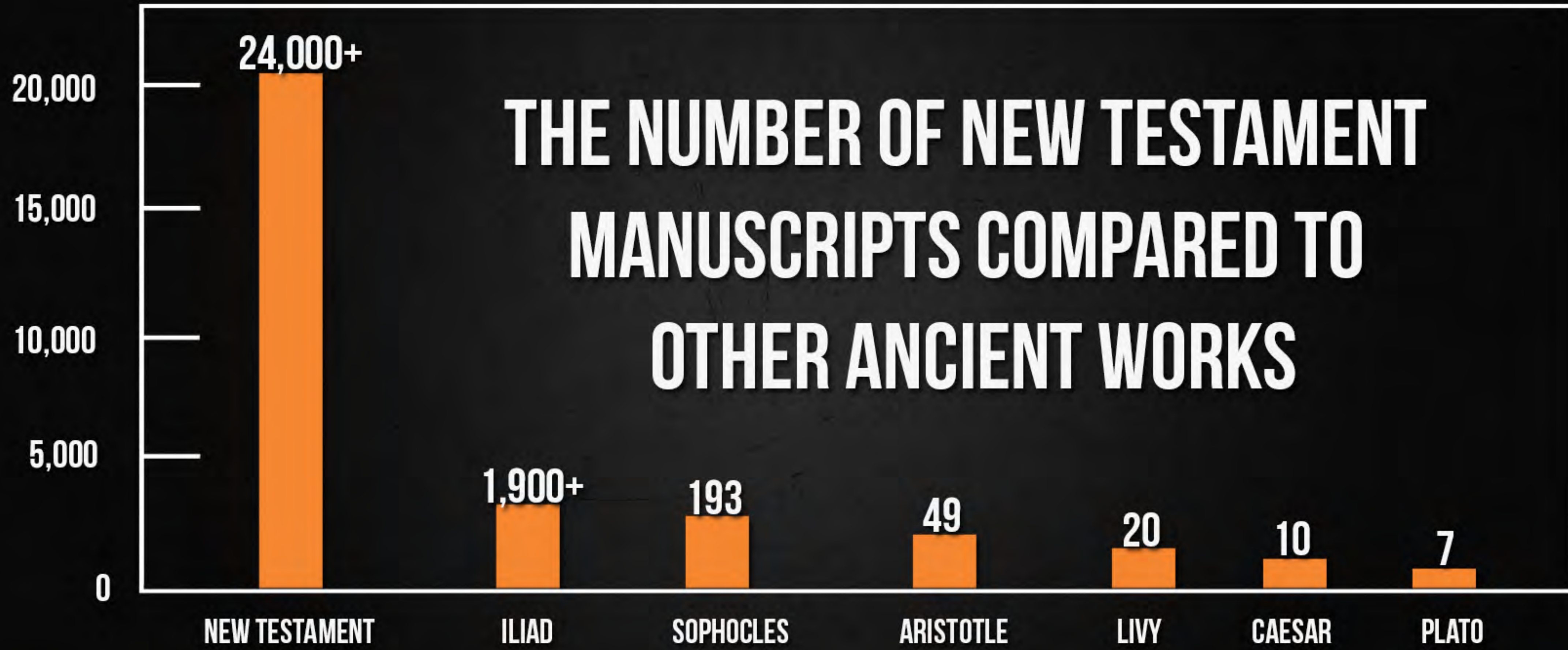
THE COPY TEST

THE NEW TESTAMENT:

24,000+

MANUSCRIPTS

THE COPY TEST



THE COPY TEST

**AVERAGE CLASSICAL WRITER
HAS 20 COPIES**

4'

Daniel B. Wallace

Center for the Study of NT Manuscripts

THE COPY TEST

**NEW
TESTAMENT
MANUSCRIPTS
STACK OVER
1 MILE HIGH!**

Daniel B. Wallace
Center for the Study of NT Manuscripts

THERE ARE

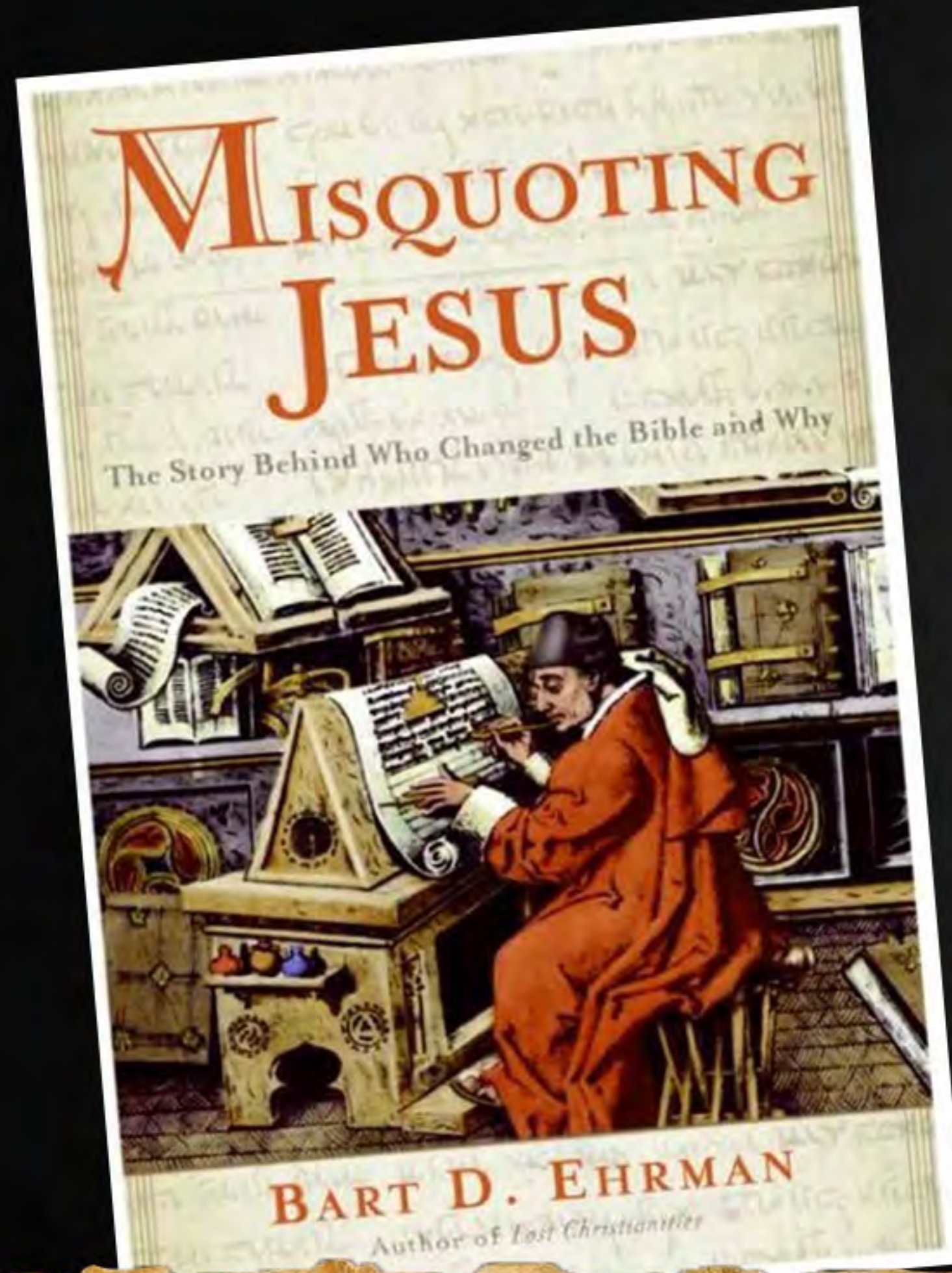
5300+

GREEK MANUSCRIPTS



THE COPY TEST

“THERE ARE MORE VARIATIONS
AMONG OUR MANUSCRIPTS THAN
THERE ARE WORDS IN THE
NEW TESTAMENT.”

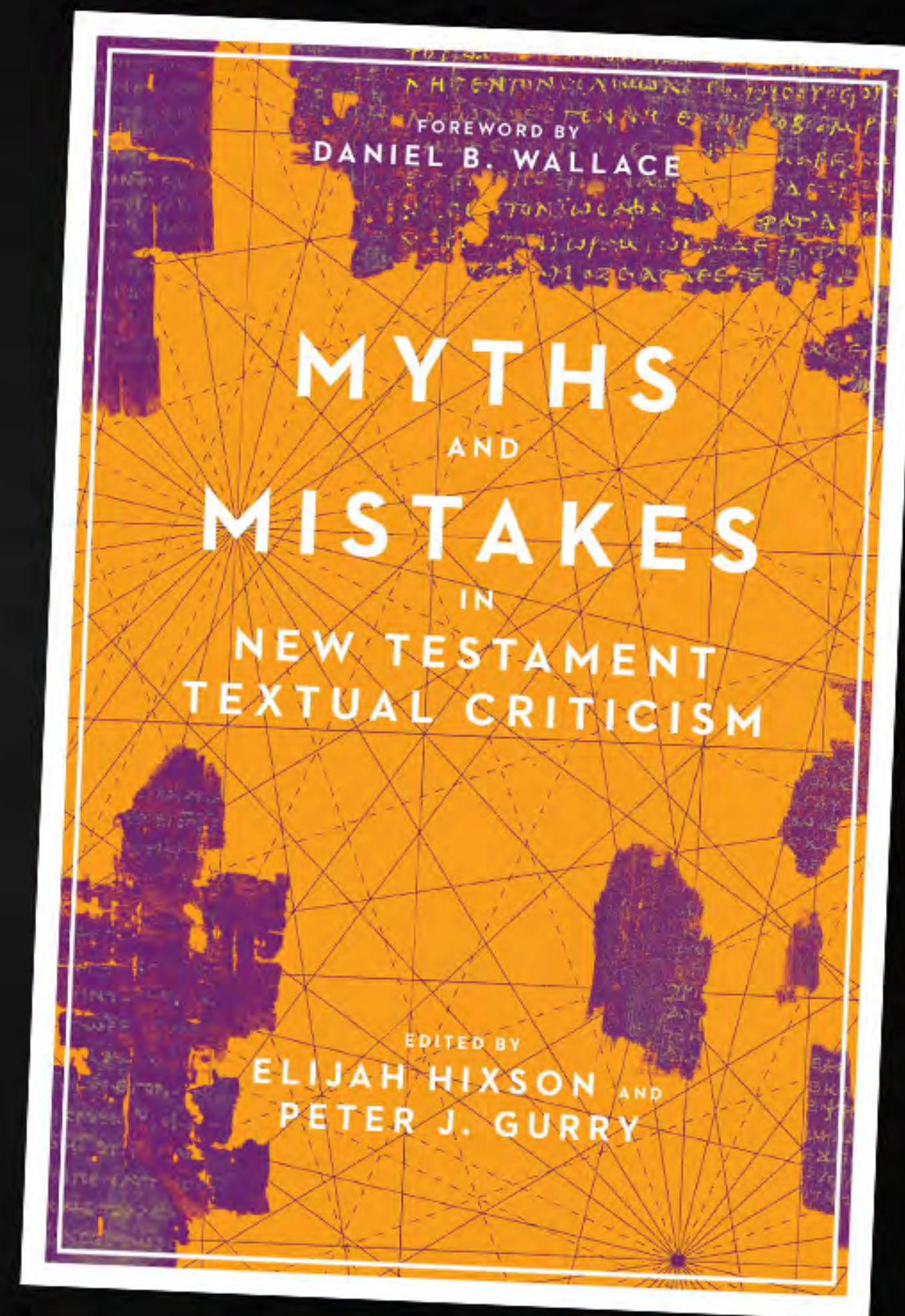


Bart Ehrman
Misquoting Jesus, pg. 89

"MOST OF THESE ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES
IN ORTHOGRAPHY OR WORD ORDER...THERE ARE SO
MANY ERRORS TO SPEAK OF ACROSS A TEXTUAL
TRADITION THAT HAS SO MANY HANDMADE COPIES!"

James B. Prothro

"MYTHS ABOUT CLASSICAL LITERATURE," IN *MYTHS AND MISTAKES*, P. 83.



THERE ARE ROUGHLY 500,000 NON-SPELLING
VARIANTS ACROSS GREEK MANUSCRIPTS.

§ Кеннэтыгыр/оһтү
кытамыгынаахкыт

[illegible]



MARK

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, ^a the Son of God. ¹
² ^b As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, ²

^c "Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ ^d the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

^e "Prepare ³ the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,"

**"THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR RECORD IN
HEAVEN, THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY
SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE."**

1 John 5:7

THE COPY TEST

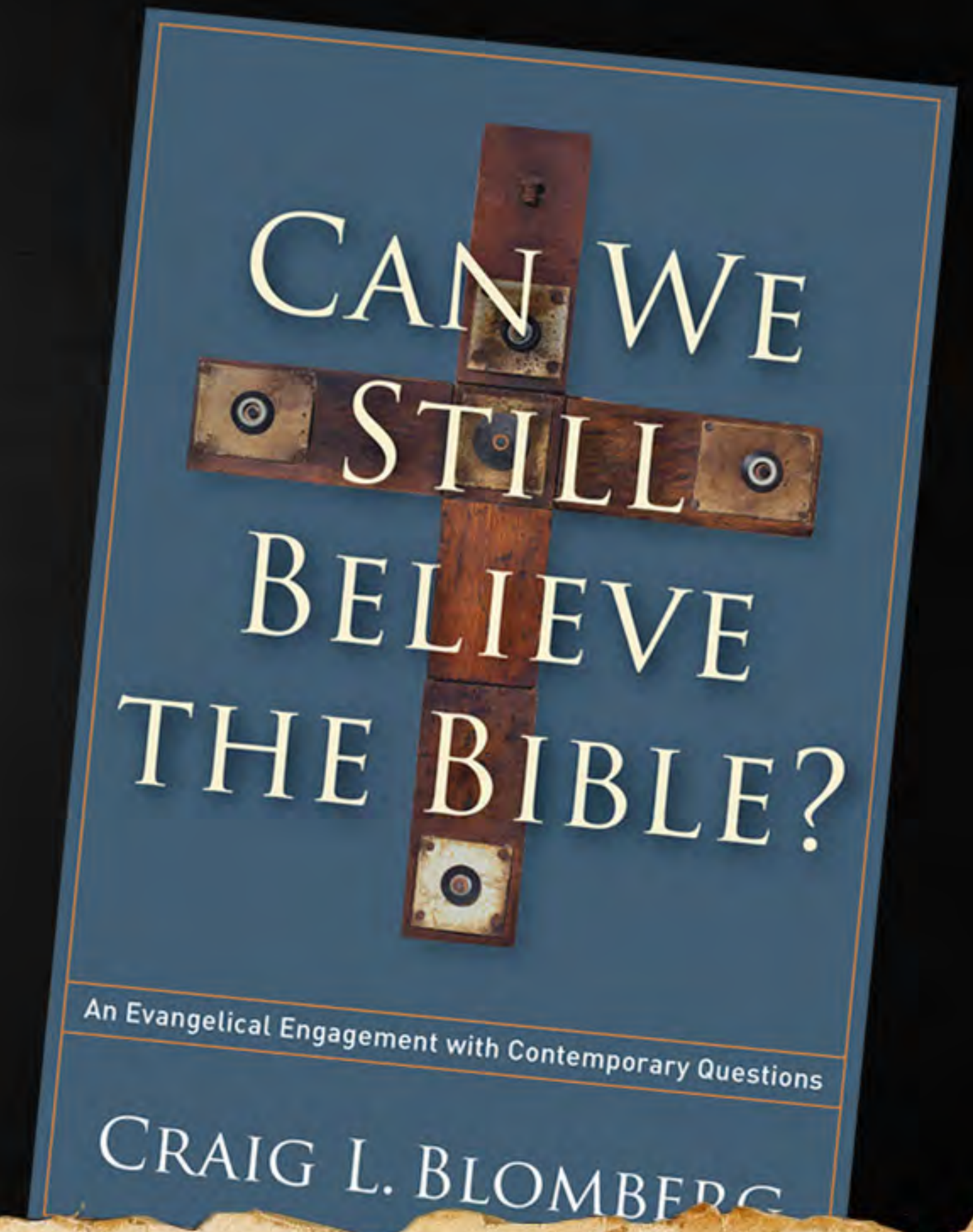
THE ONLY DISPUTED N.T. PASSAGES
MORE THAN TWO VERSES IN LENGTH ARE
MARK 16:9-20 AND JOHN 7:53-8:11

THE COPY TEST

“NO ORTHODOX DOCTRINE OR
ETHICAL PRACTICE OF
CHRISTIANITY DEPENDS SOLELY
ON ANY DISPUTED WORDING...

Craig Blomberg

- 2014

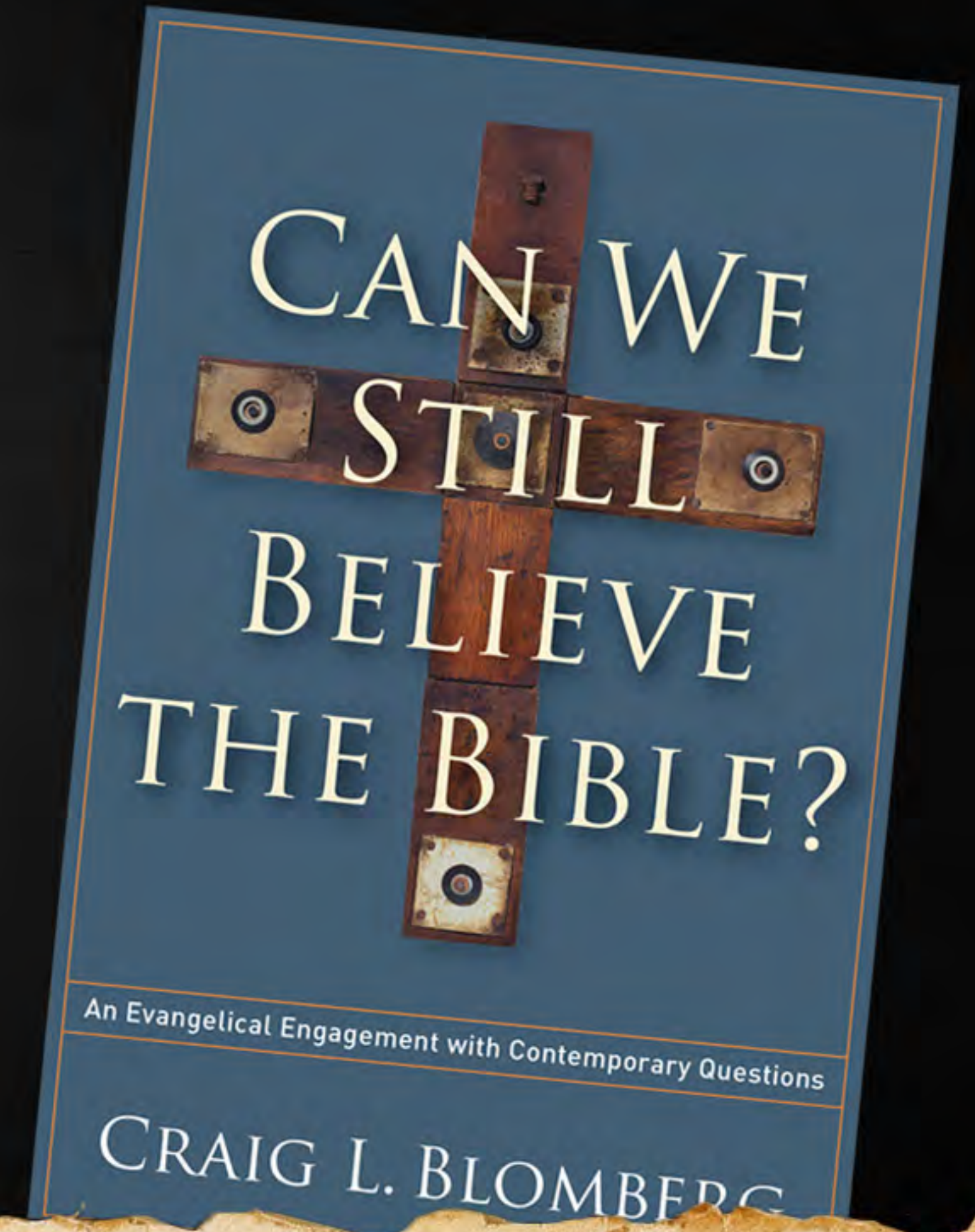


THE COPY TEST

...THERE ARE ALWAYS
UNDISPUTED PASSAGES ONE
CAN CONSULT THAT TEACH
THE SAME TRUTHS."

Craig Blomberg

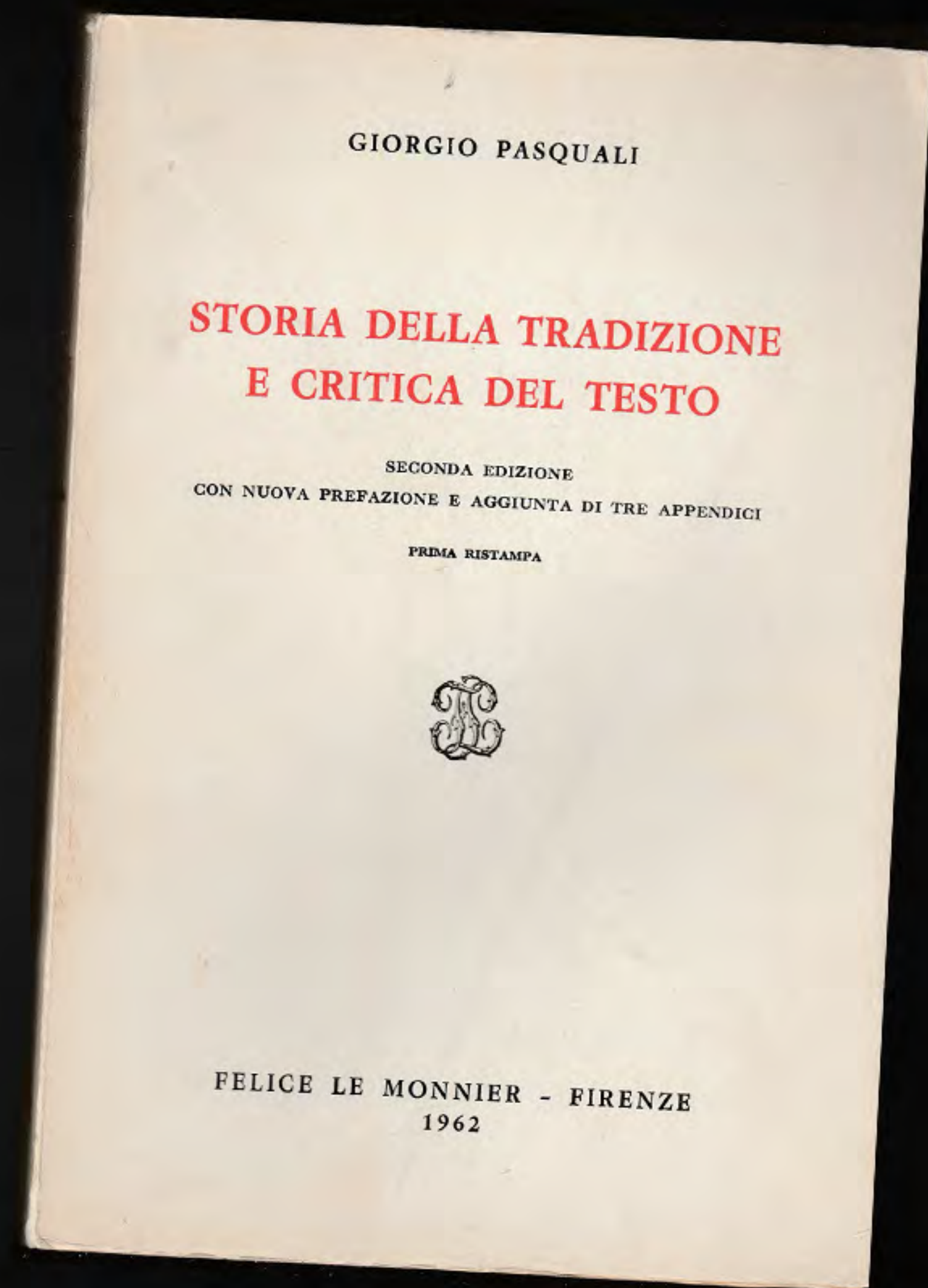
- 2014

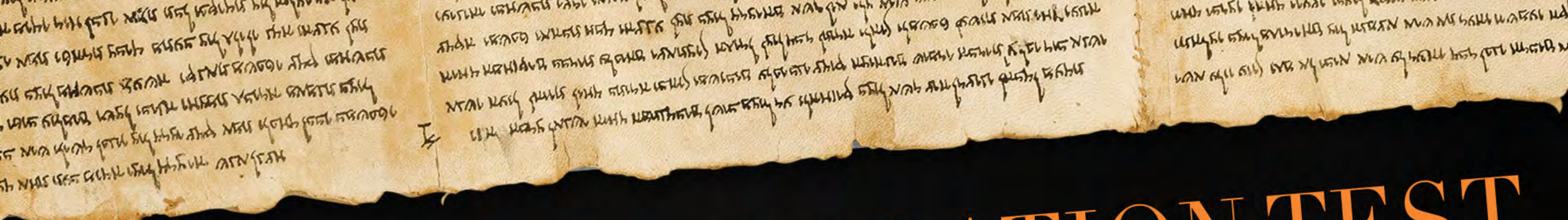


"NO OTHER GREEK TEXT IS HANDED
SO RICHLY AND CREDIBLY."

Giorgio Pasquali

STORIA DELLA TRADIZIONE E CRITICA DEL TESTO, 2ND ED (1952), P. 8





3. THE CORROBORATION TEST

**DO OTHER HISTORICAL MATERIALS
CONFIRM OR DENY THE TESTIMONY
PROVIDED BY THE DOCUMENT ITSELF?**



אשר יצאנו ממצרים ונעלה אל הרי סיני וישבנו לפני ה' בראש ההר
וה' ירד אל סיני ויצאנו ממצרים ונעלה אל הרי סיני וישבנו לפני ה'
וה' ירד אל סיני ויצאנו ממצרים ונעלה אל הרי סיני וישבנו לפני ה'

וה' ירד אל סיני ויצאנו ממצרים ונעלה אל הרי סיני וישבנו לפני ה'
וה' ירד אל סיני ויצאנו ממצרים ונעלה אל הרי סיני וישבנו לפני ה'
וה' ירד אל סיני ויצאנו ממצרים ונעלה אל הרי סיני וישבנו לפני ה'

THE CORROBORATION TEST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Caesarea Maritima
Pilate Description



THE CORROBORATION TEST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Bethesda
John 5:2



THE CORROBORATION TEST

“THERE IS ASTONISHINGLY LITTLE
EVIDENCE THAT THE FEET OF A
CRUCIFIED PERSON WERE EVER
PIERCED BY NAILS.”

Dr. Hewitt
Harvard Theological Review

THE CORROBORATION TEST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A Dead Man Speaks
“Yehohanan” found in
1967 crucified with 7 inch nails



THE CORROBORATION TEST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

His legs were possibly broken
as described in John 19:32



THE CORROBORATION TEST

“ARCHAEOLOGY PROVIDES ONE
IMPORTANT PIECE OF EVIDENCE
THAT HELPS CONFIRM THE
NEW TESTAMENT RECORD.”

Sean and Josh McDowell
Evidence Demands A Verdict, 2017

The COMPLETELY UPDATED and EXPANDED CLASSIC

EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT

LIFE-CHANGING TRUTH
FOR A SKEPTICAL WORLD

JOSH McDOWELL
& SEAN McDOWELL, PhD





VISIT SEANMCDOWELL.ORG

for videos, articles, Sean's blog
and other resources



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@sean_mcdowell

