

A sermon series about tackling
the tough questions about faith

Engagement of Culture Credibility of the Bible The Confusion of Sexuality



Existence of God Engagement of Culture Credibility of the Bible The

**CREDIBILITY
OF THE BIBLE**

**ENGAGEMENT
OF CULTURE**

**SEXUAL
IDENTITY**

**EXISTENCE
OF GOD**



**CREDIBILITY
OF THE BIBLE**

CREDIBILITY

The quality of being trusted,
convincing, believable

CREDIBILITY OF THE BIBLE

Stories **in** the Bible vs. Story **of** the Bible

THE STORY OF THE BIBLE BEGAN WITH JESUS

Without the **resurrection** of Jesus,
there will be no Bible today

Early accounts of Jesus (45-90 AD)



Luke

Mark / Peter

Matthew

John

Early accounts of Jesus (45-90 AD)

¹ **Many** have undertaken to draw up an account of the **things that have been fulfilled** among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses** and servants of the word.

³ With this in mind, since I myself have **carefully investigated** everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an **orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus,
⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Luke 1 : 1-4

Early accounts of Jesus (45-90 AD)

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the **presence of his disciples**, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written **that you may believe** that **Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20 : 30

Paul's letters / Other epistles (45-90 AD)

By 100 AD, hundreds / thousands of documents were circulating around the churches across the regions ...



Early documents

Valuable / Reliable / Sacred / Inspired :

Authorship - connection to Apostles

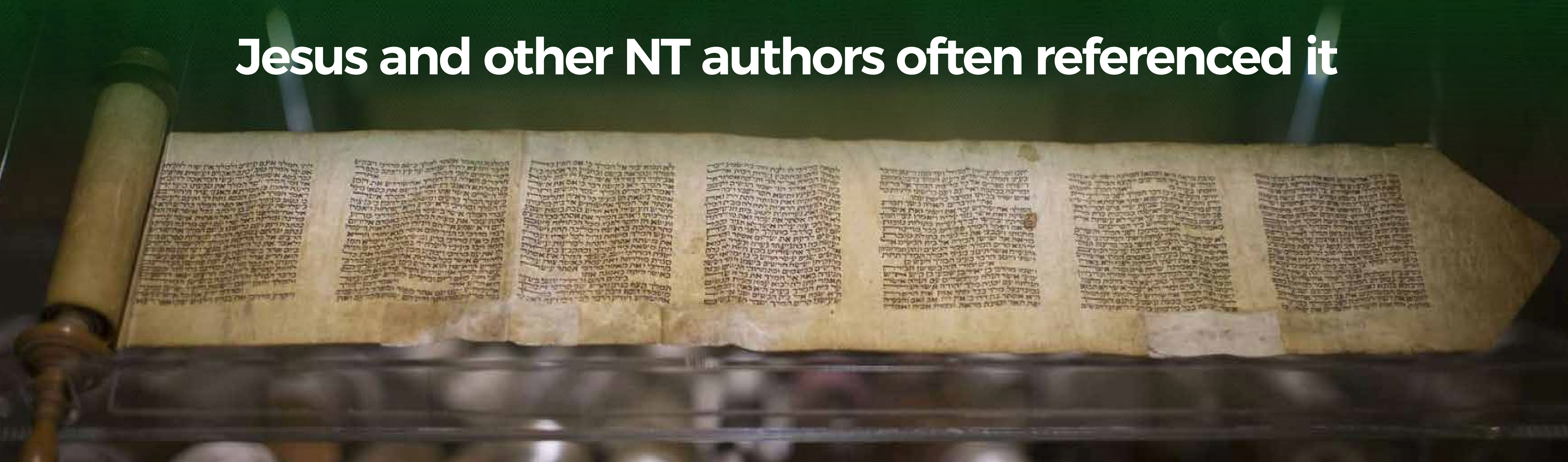
Acceptance - widely accepted by churches

Alignment - divine qualities

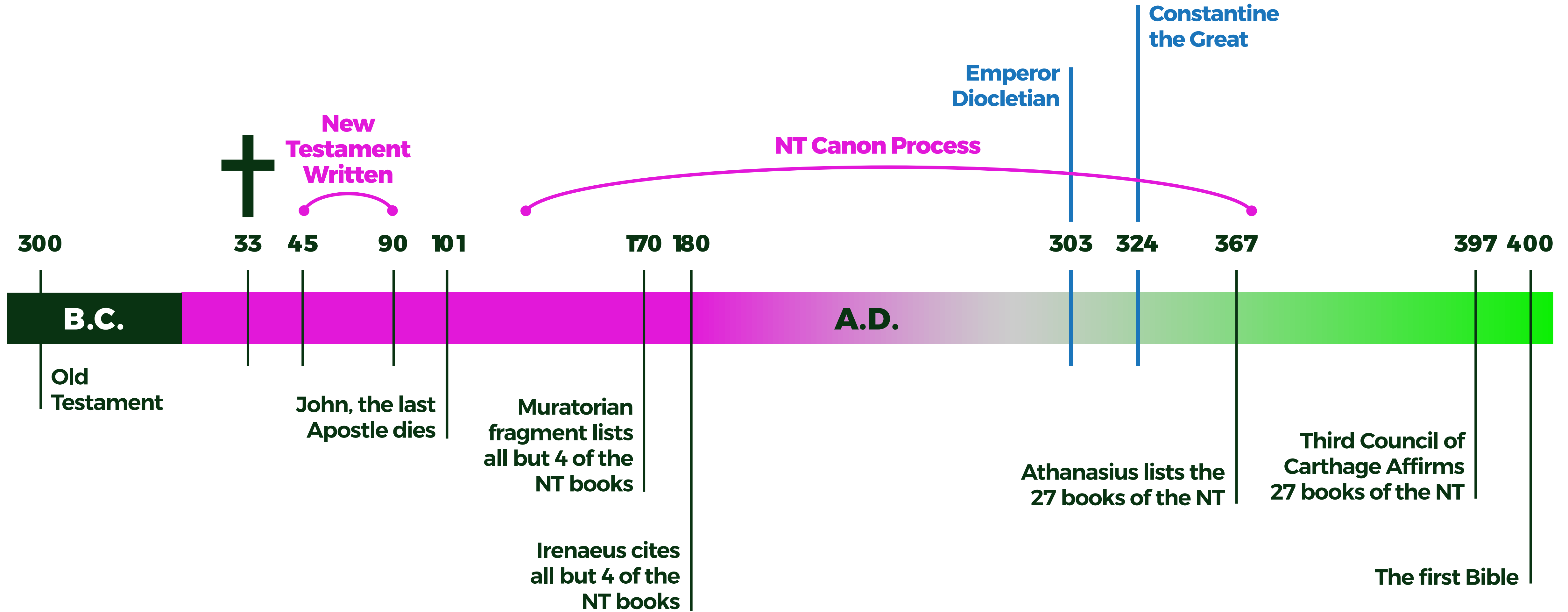
The Hebrew Bible / Old Testament

**By 300 B.C., all OT books have been written,
compiled and recognised as authoritative scriptures**

Jesus and other NT authors often referenced it



Timeline



CREDIBILITY TEST

Bibliography Test

Internal Test

External Test

Prophetic Test

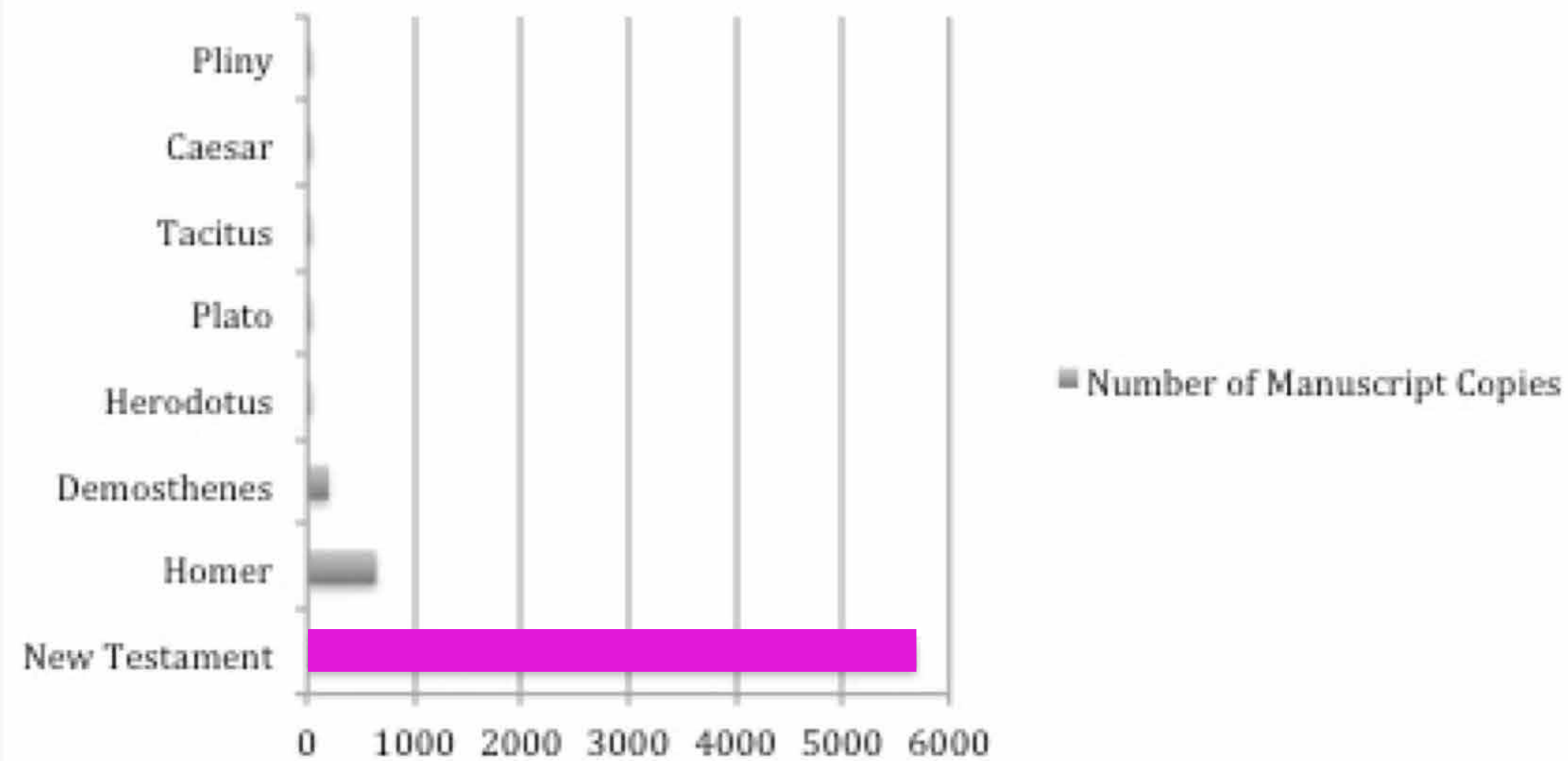
The Bible stands out above the rest

Manuscript Reliability

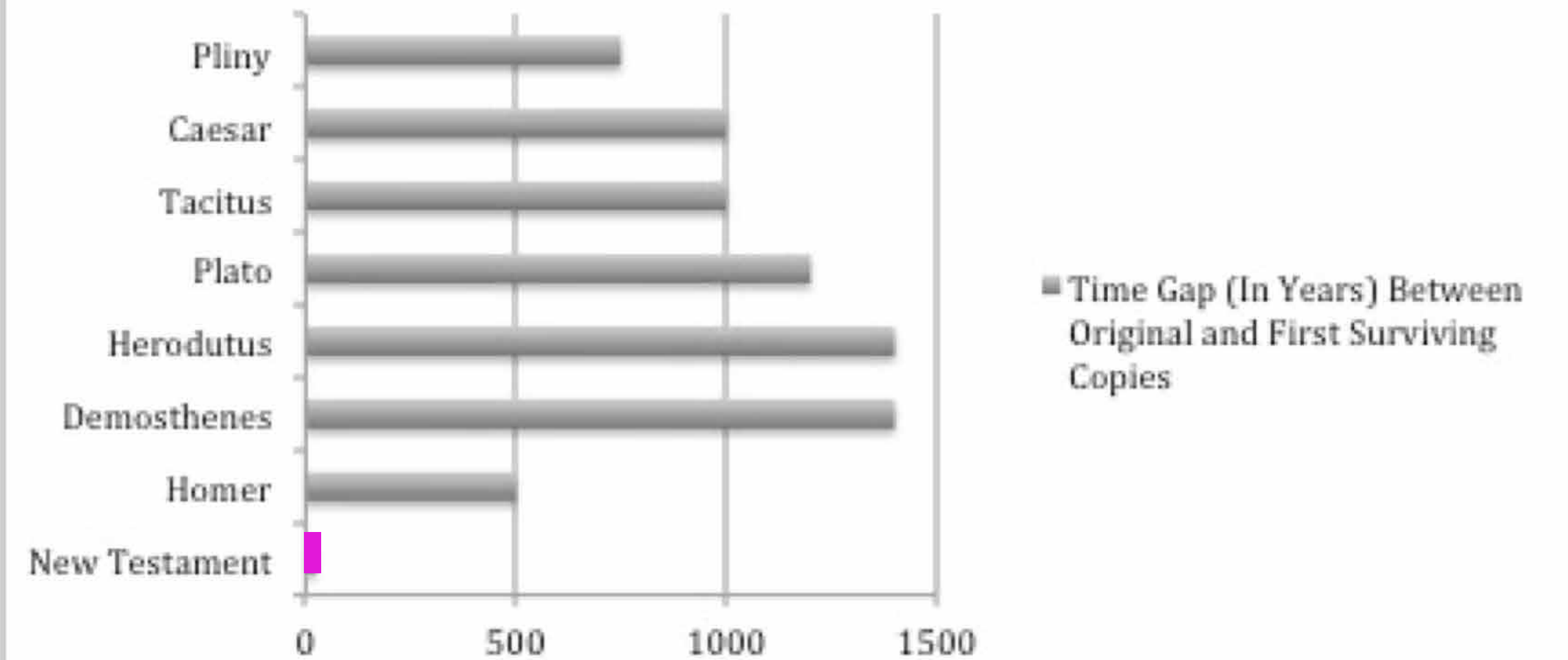
Work / Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Years Elapsed	No. of Copies	
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10	
Plato	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1300	7	
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1100 AD	1500	49	
Iliad (Homer)	900 BC	400 AD	500	643	
Heridotus	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1300	8	
New Testament	40-95 AD	125 AD	30	24,000	The Greek NT copies are ~ 99% in agreement

The Bible stands out above the rest

Number of Manuscript Copies



Time Gap (In Years) Between Original and First Surviving Copies



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64,000
cross
references

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*other sources,
archaeological*





After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

John 5 : 1-2

ing of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four quarters of the world...

The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia *Charting a New Empire*



**Cyrus Cylinder
(King Cyrus, Persia),
600 BC**





Isaiah Scroll (1QIsaa) Written in Hebrew - Qumran, Cave 1. Ca. 120 BCE Parchment
© Photo The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

- **Discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls 1947**
- **> 15,000 fragments**
- **Isaiah - 95% accuracy**

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**>300 prophecies
in OT fulfilled in
Jesus**



For the word of God is **living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4 : 12

¹⁶ **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped
for every good work.

2 Tim 3 : 16-17

Bible Translation Comparison

WORD-FOR-WORD (Formal)

most often used for in-depth study
and personal development

INTERLINEAR

NASB

AMP

ESV

KJV

NKJV

HCSB

NRSV

NAB

NIV

NLT

NIRV

GNT

TLB

MSG

THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT (Dynamic)

most often used for in-depth study
and personal development

PARAPHRASE

most often used for devotional reading
and gaining diverse insights