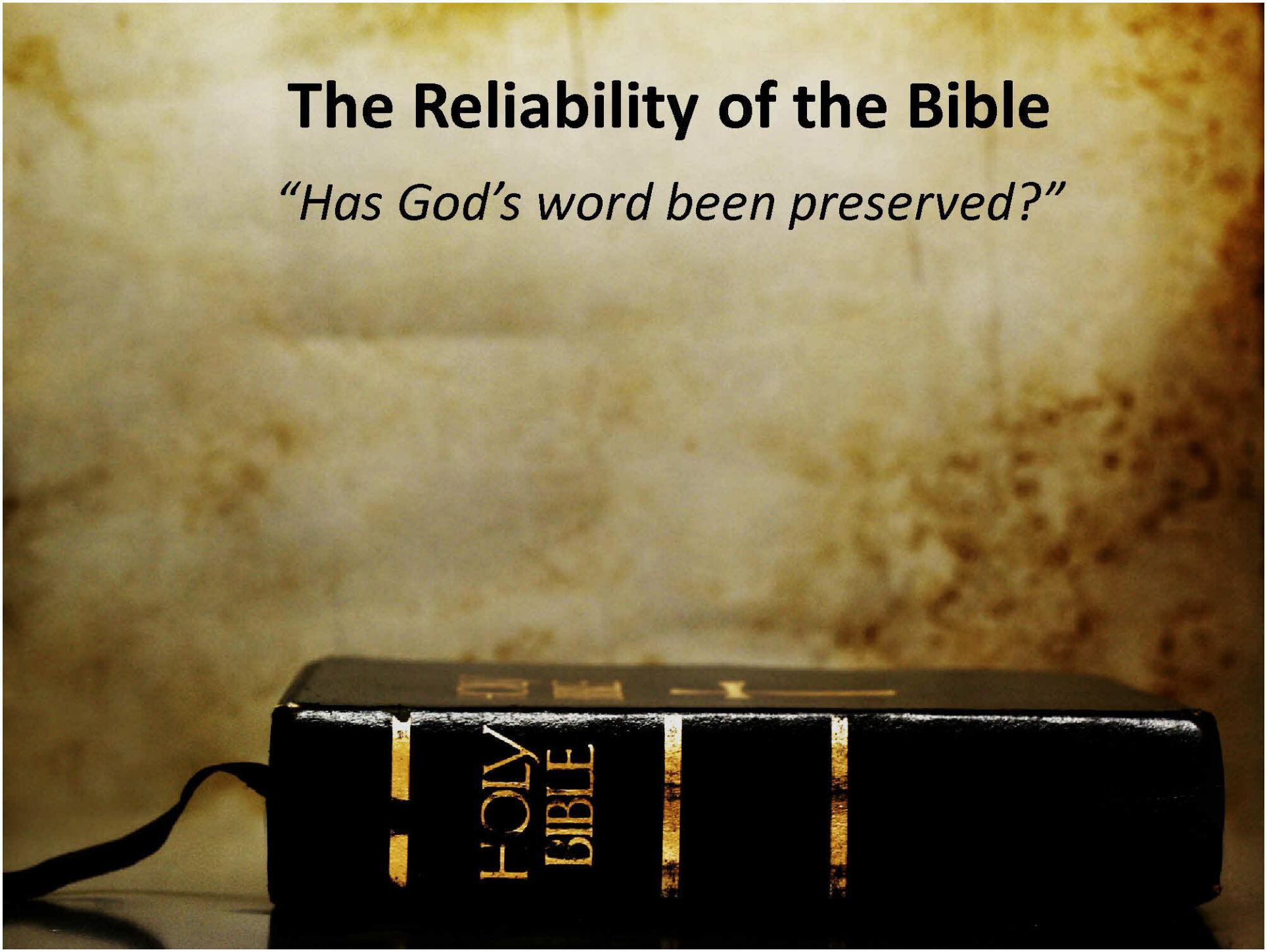
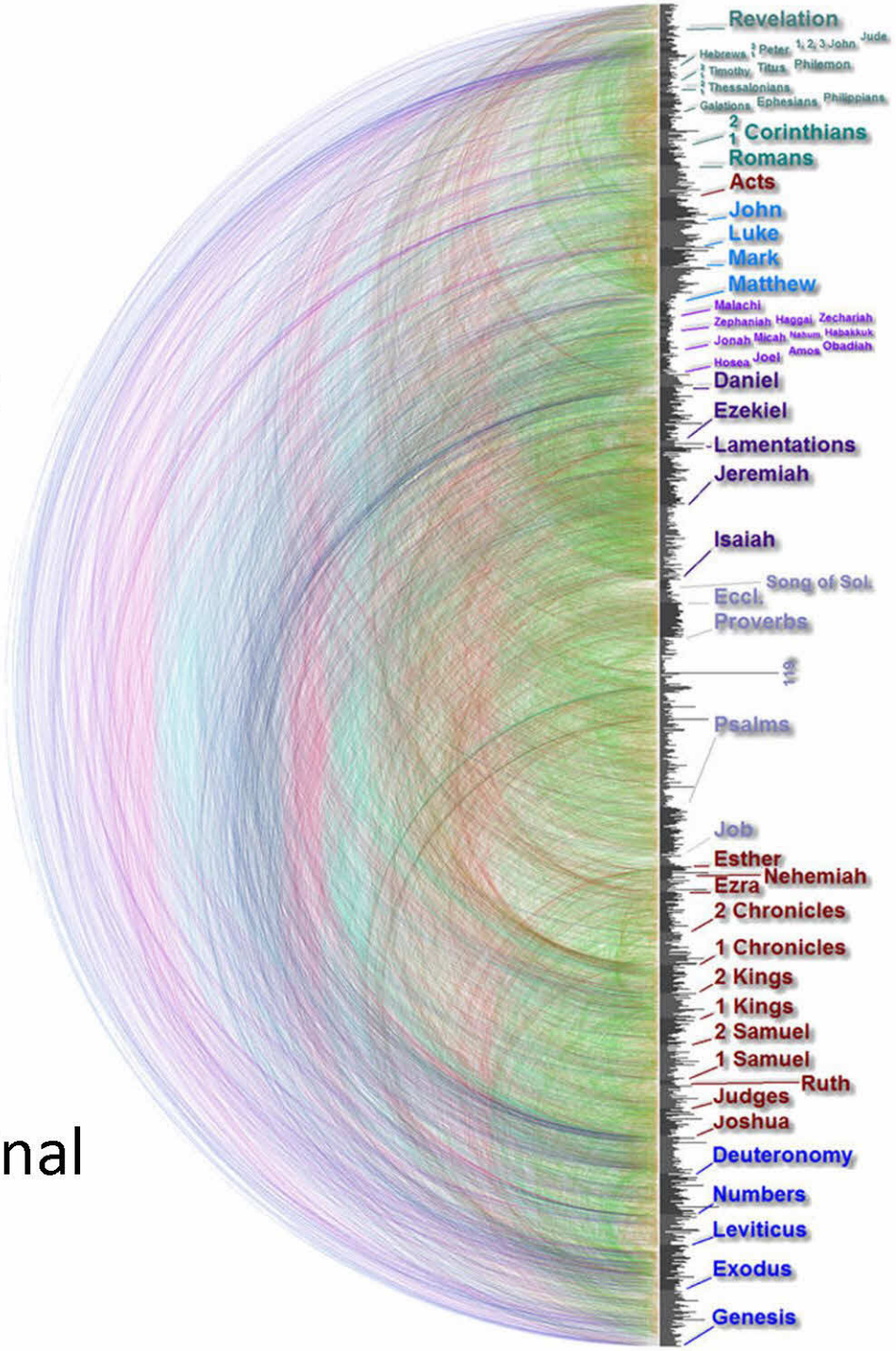
The Reliability of the Bible

"Has God's word been preserved?"

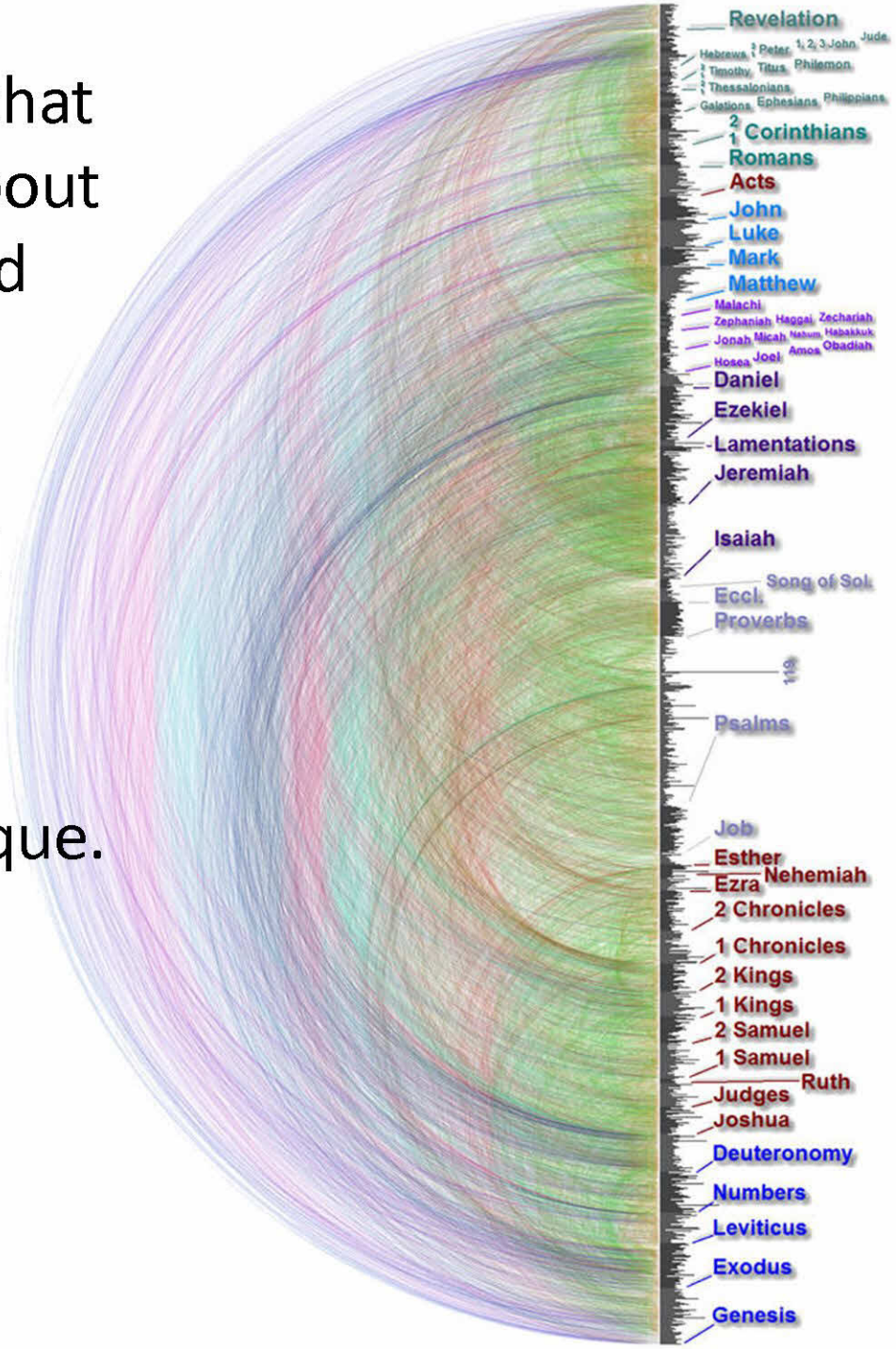


2 Timothy 3:16-17
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.
ESV
HOLY
BIBLE

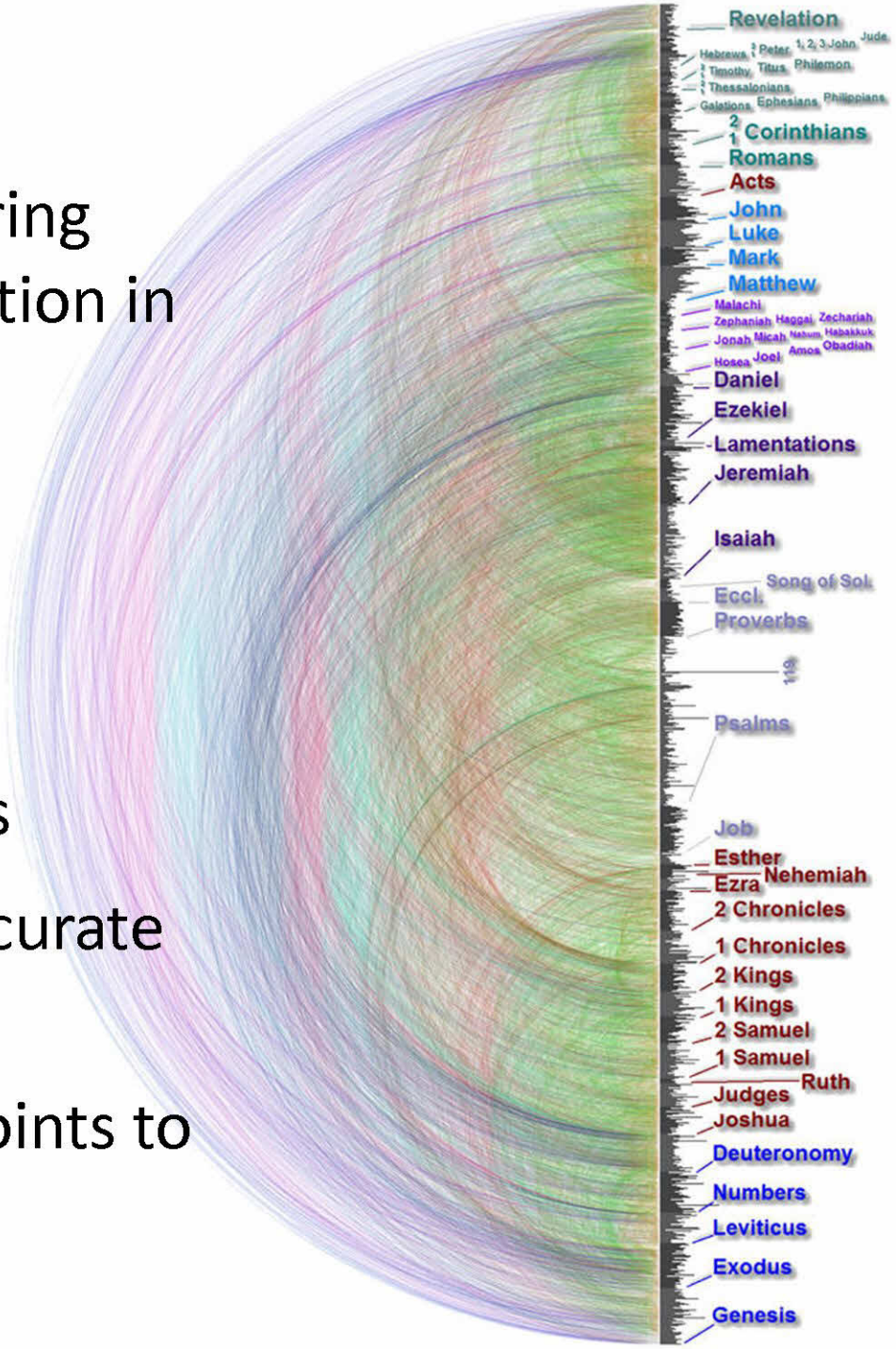
- It would claim to be God's Word.
- It would be historically accurate when it speaks on historical matters.
- The authors would be trustworthy.
- The book would be thematically unified and without contradictions.
- We would have received accurate copies of the original manuscripts.

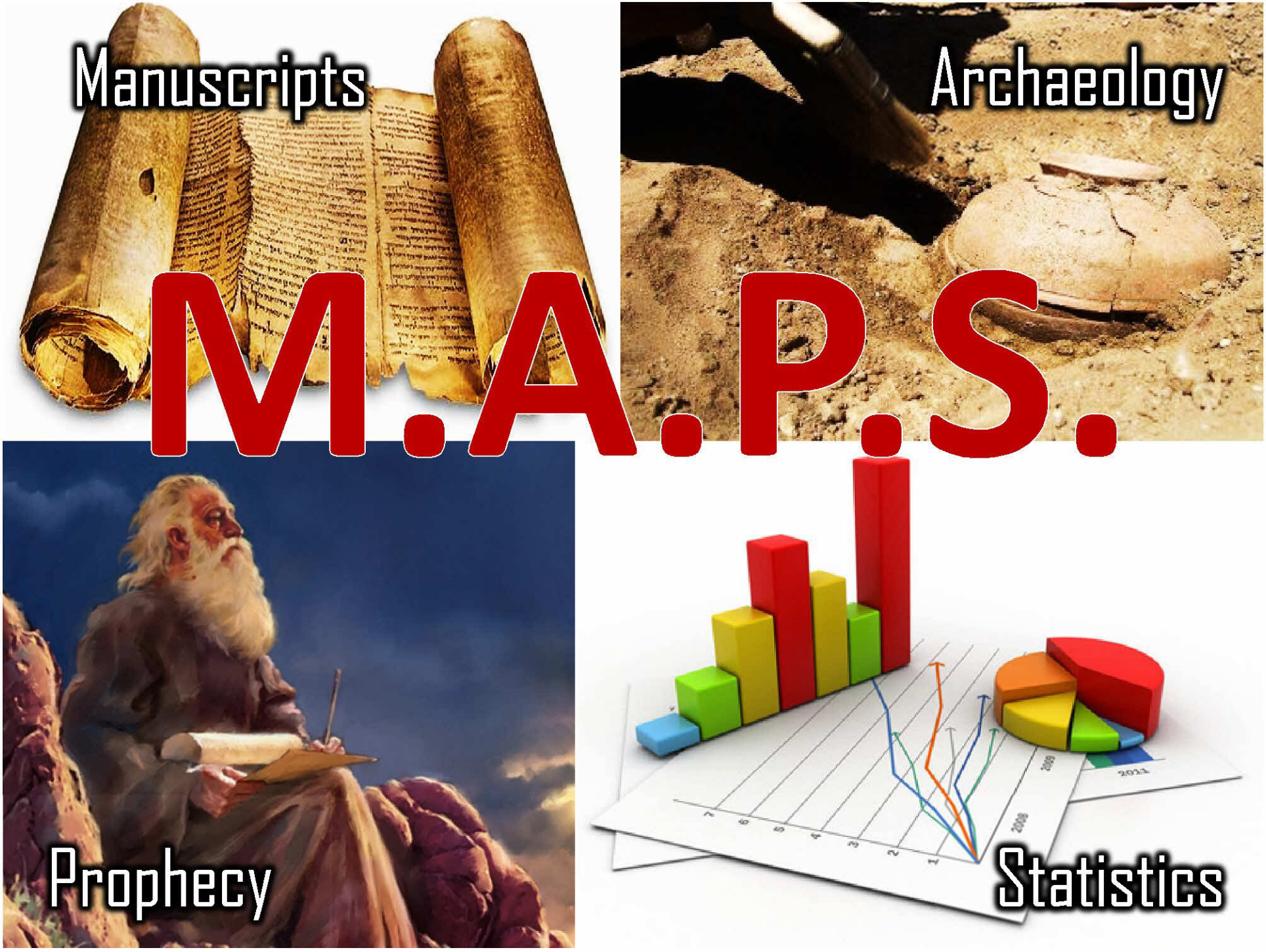


- It would make statements that would reveal knowledge about the way things work beyond the knowledge of its day.
- It would make predictions about the future that could not be known through natural means.
- The message would be unique.
- The messengers would be confirmed by miracles.
- The words would have a transforming power



- 66 Books – 39 OT 27 NT
- Written by 40 Men of differing background, education, station in life.
- 3 different languages
  Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- 3 Continents
- Over a period of 1500 years
- Each book is Historically accurate
- Tells one story
  (a themed narrative that points to Christ)




Manuscripts
Archaeology
M.A.P.S.
Prophecy
Statistics

There are over
200,000
(up to 400,000)
textual variants in the
New Testaments Manuscripts

THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPARED TO OTHER ANCIENT TEXTS

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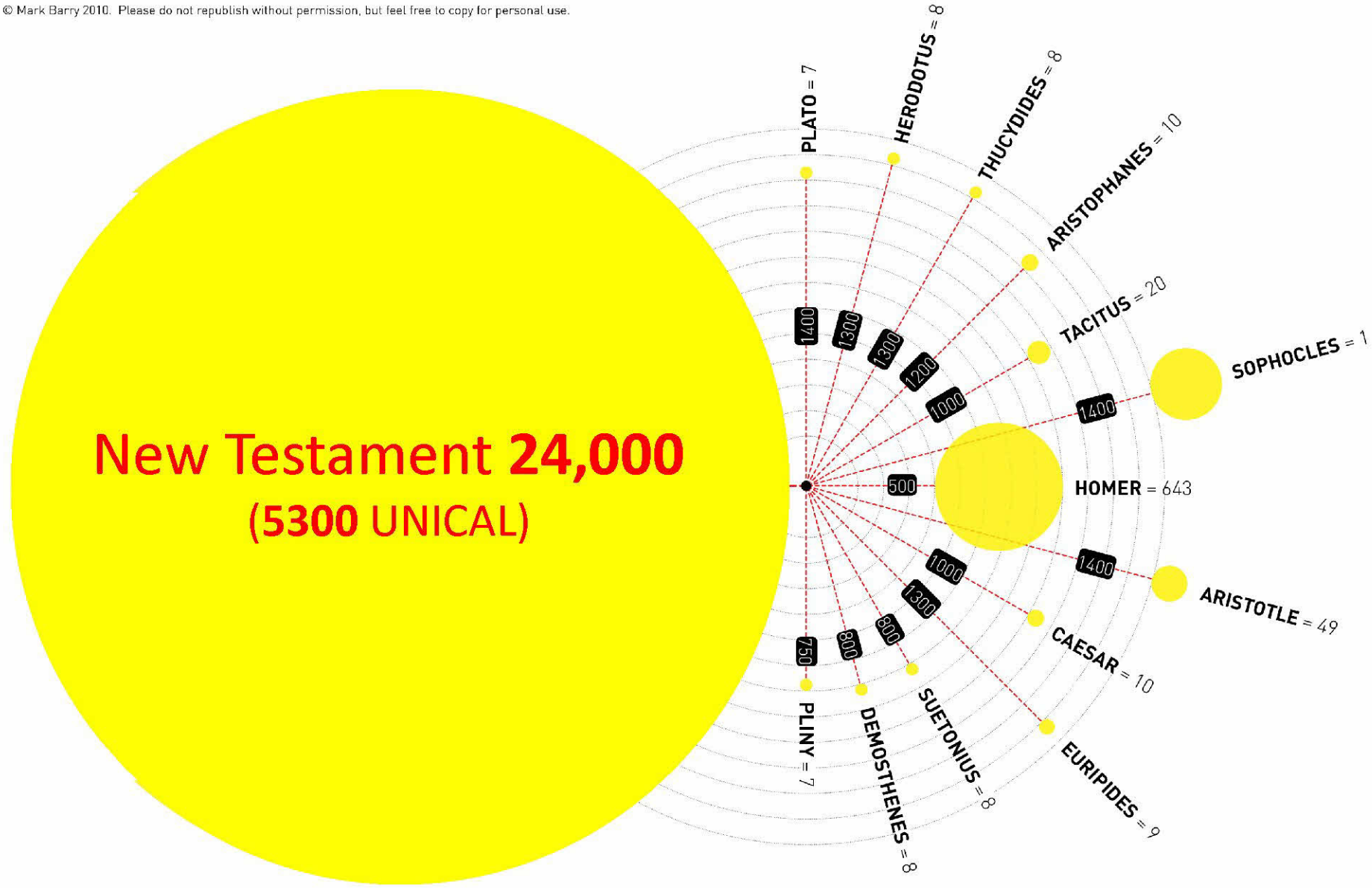
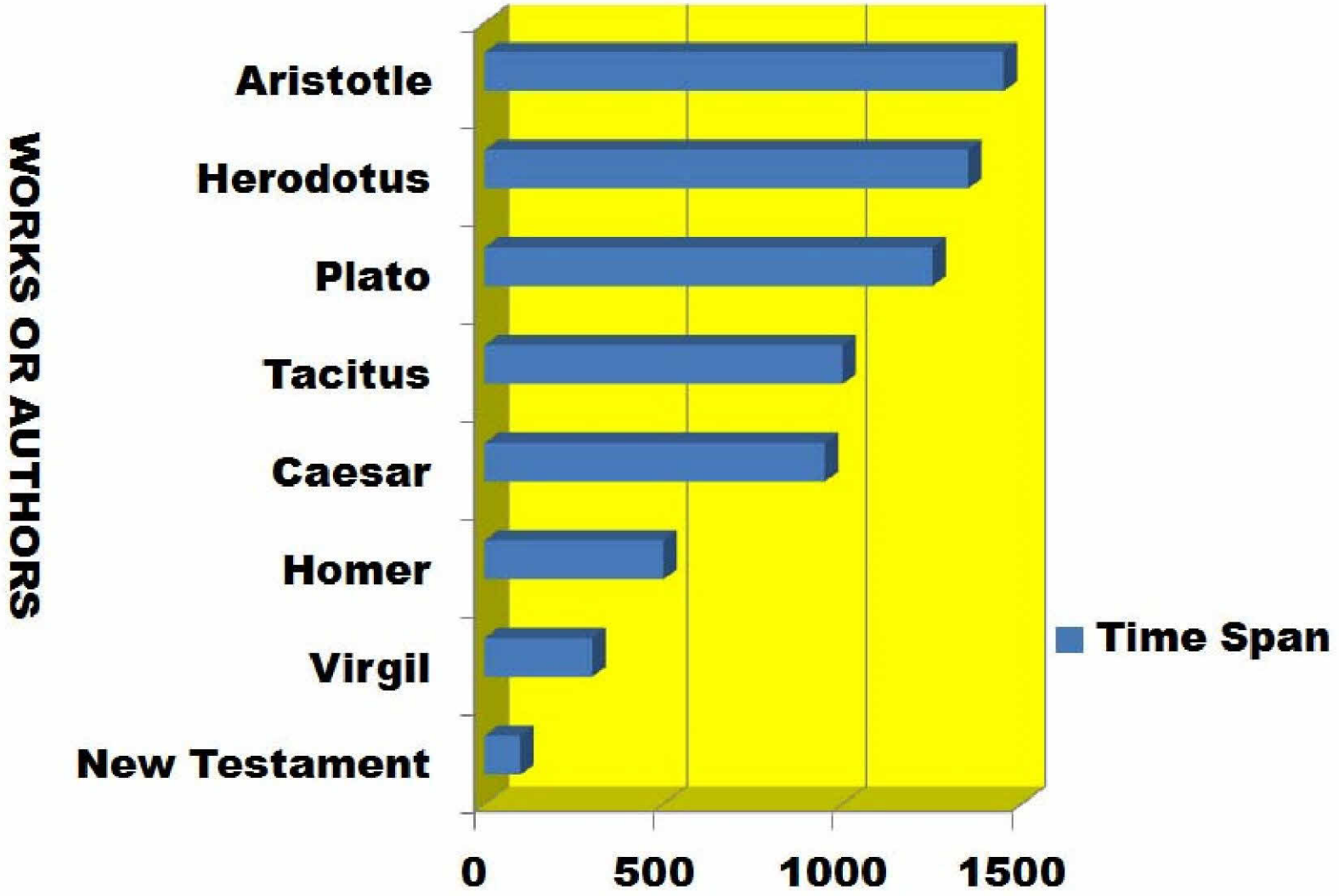


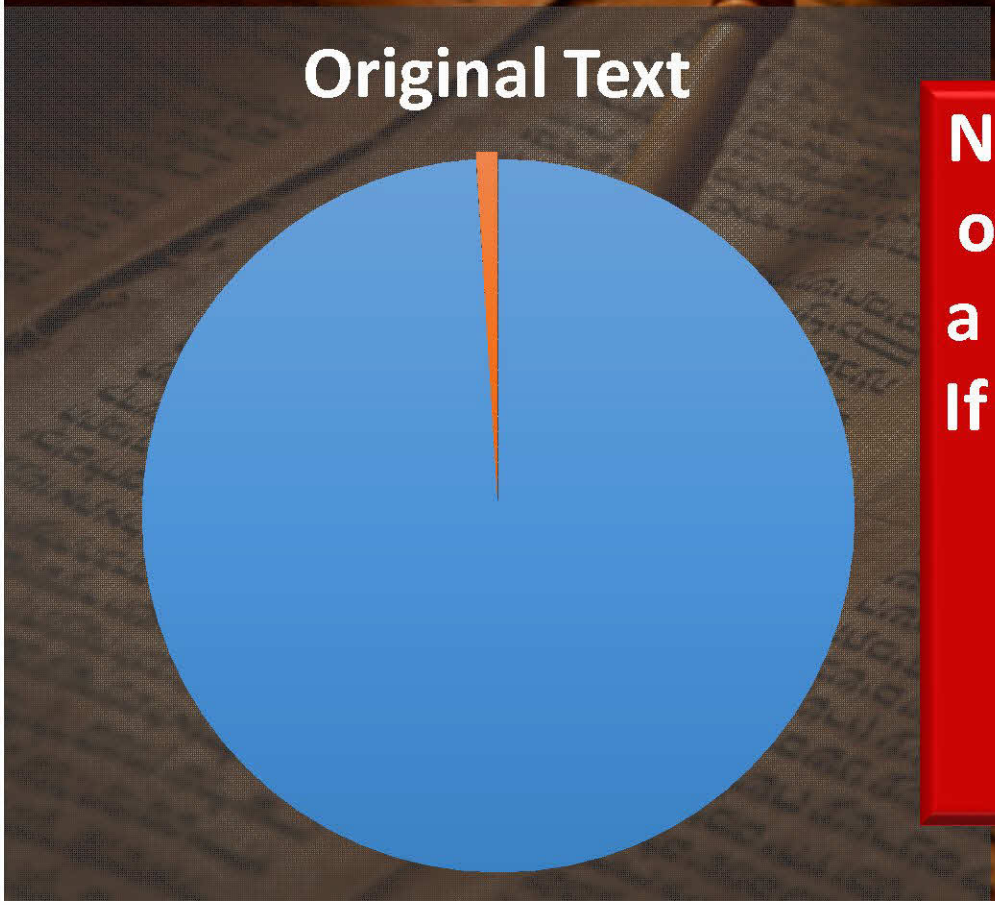
Time Interval Between the Date of Writing And the Earliest Known Manuscript



There are over 200,000 Textual Variants

100% of the original text has been preserved

99%-99.5% of the scripture is verifiably accurate



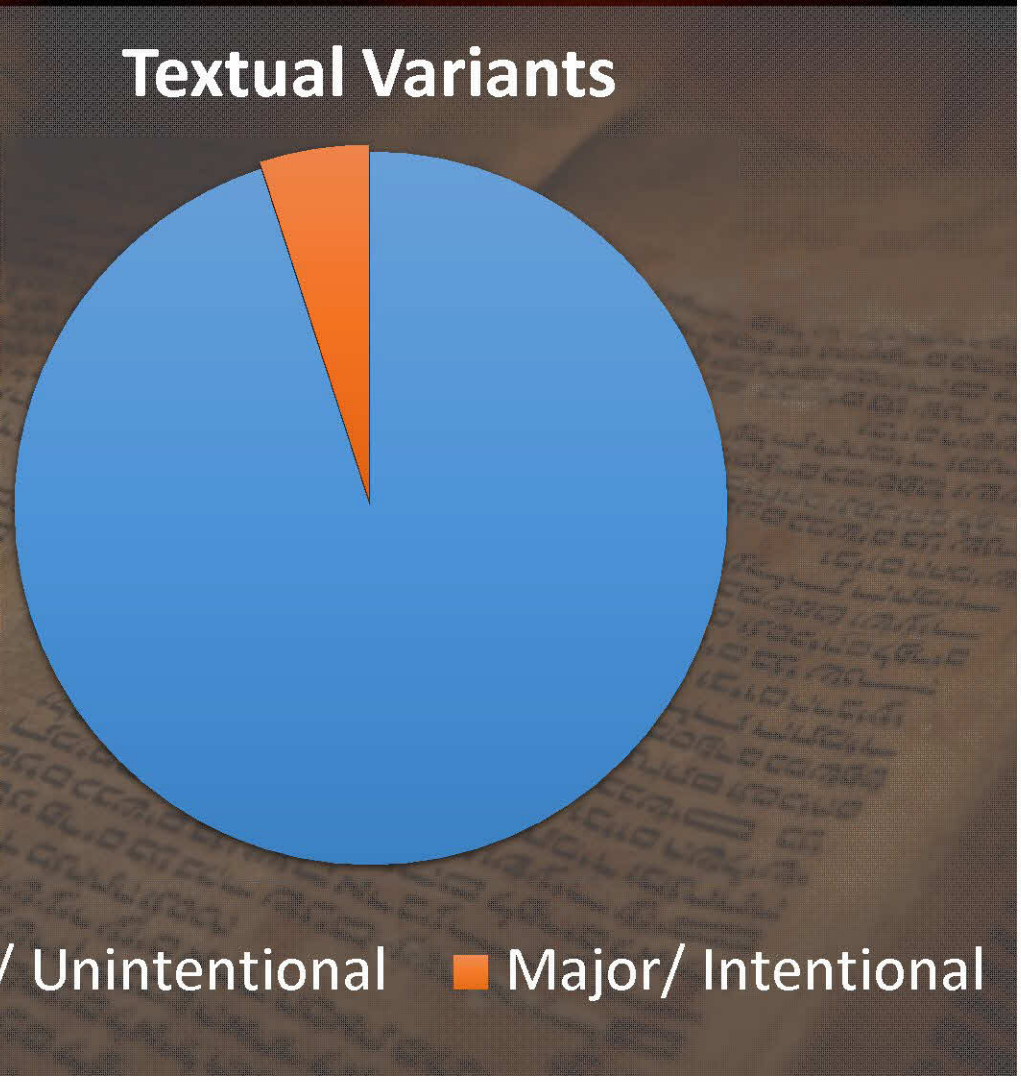
Not a single cardinal doctrine of Scripture is established by a disputed passage. Not one. If we gave up all the passages the textual critics get so excited about, our Christianity would not be significantly changed.

190,000 – 380,000

95% are considered minor variants

- Confusion in similar letters
- Repetition of words or sentences
- Inclusion of marginal notation
- Other scribal error/ workmanship

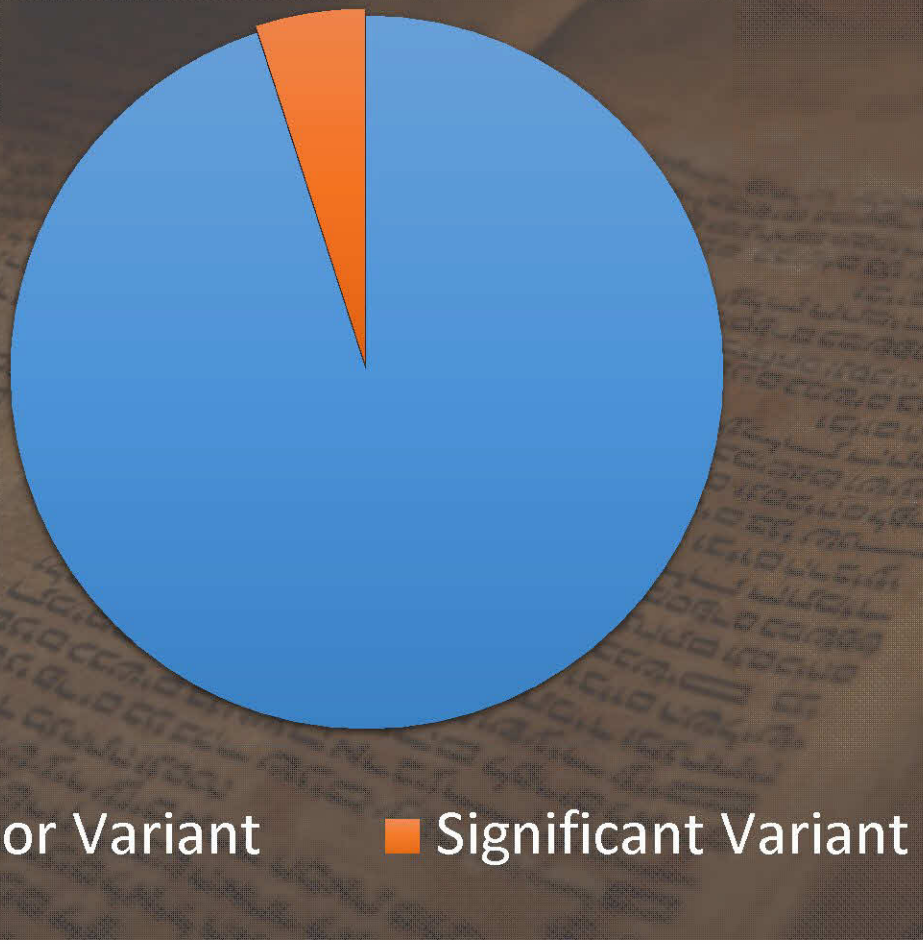
190,000 – 380,000



10,000 – 20,000
or one per MS

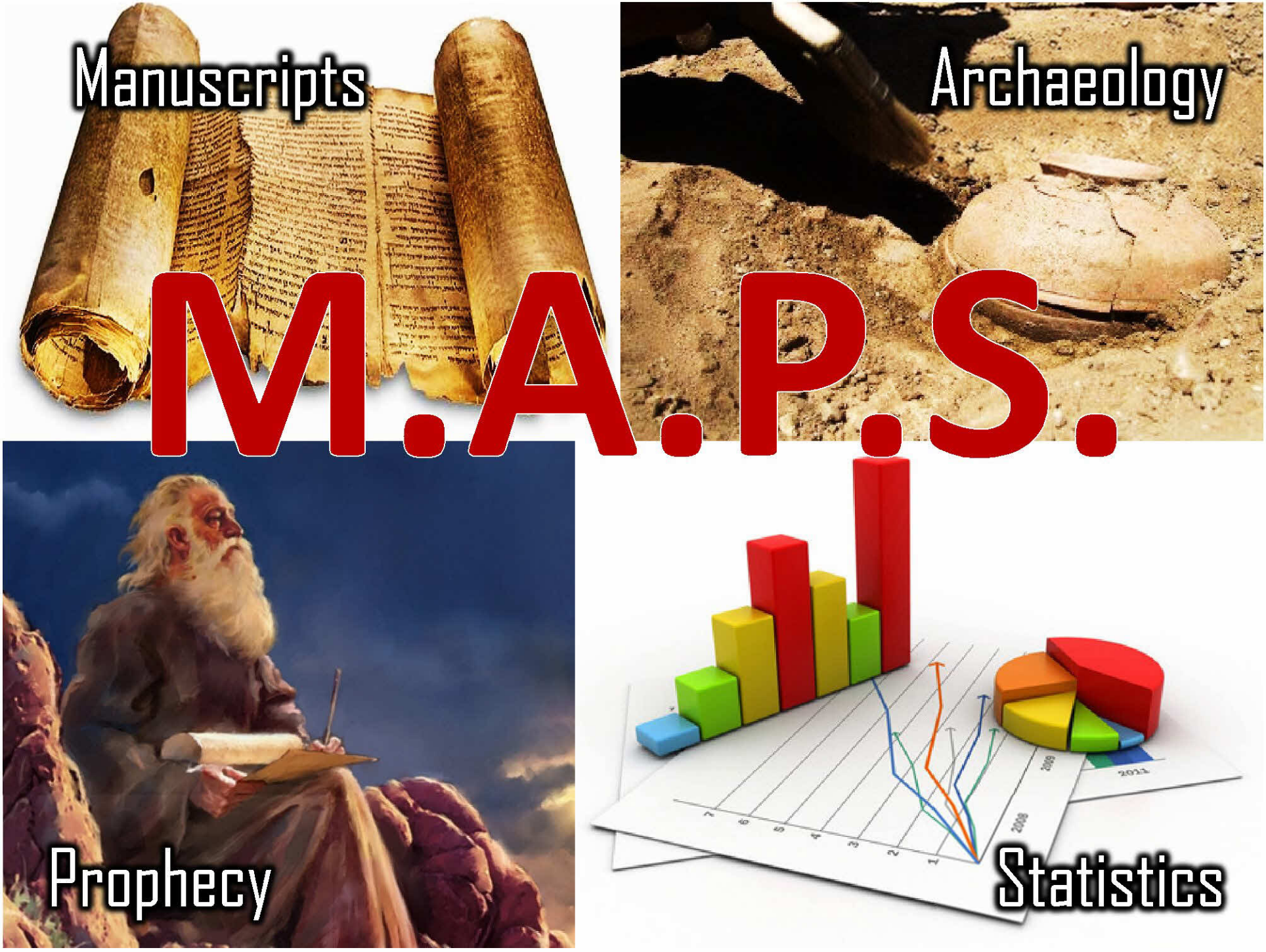
5% Significant Variants

- Revised spelling and grammar
- Harmonization of passages
- Elimination of textual difficulties
- Theological or doctrinal changes



Canon of Scripture

- 100 AD all 27 books were in circulation
- 367 AD the first complete list of the NT
- Counsel of Nicaea 325 AD
- Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp theses three wrote between 96 AD and 110 AD and quote 25 of the 27 books
- Athanasius 296 AD (27)
- Origen 185 AD *(22)*
- Irenaeus 130 AD (21)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1 Peter 1:24-25

for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.