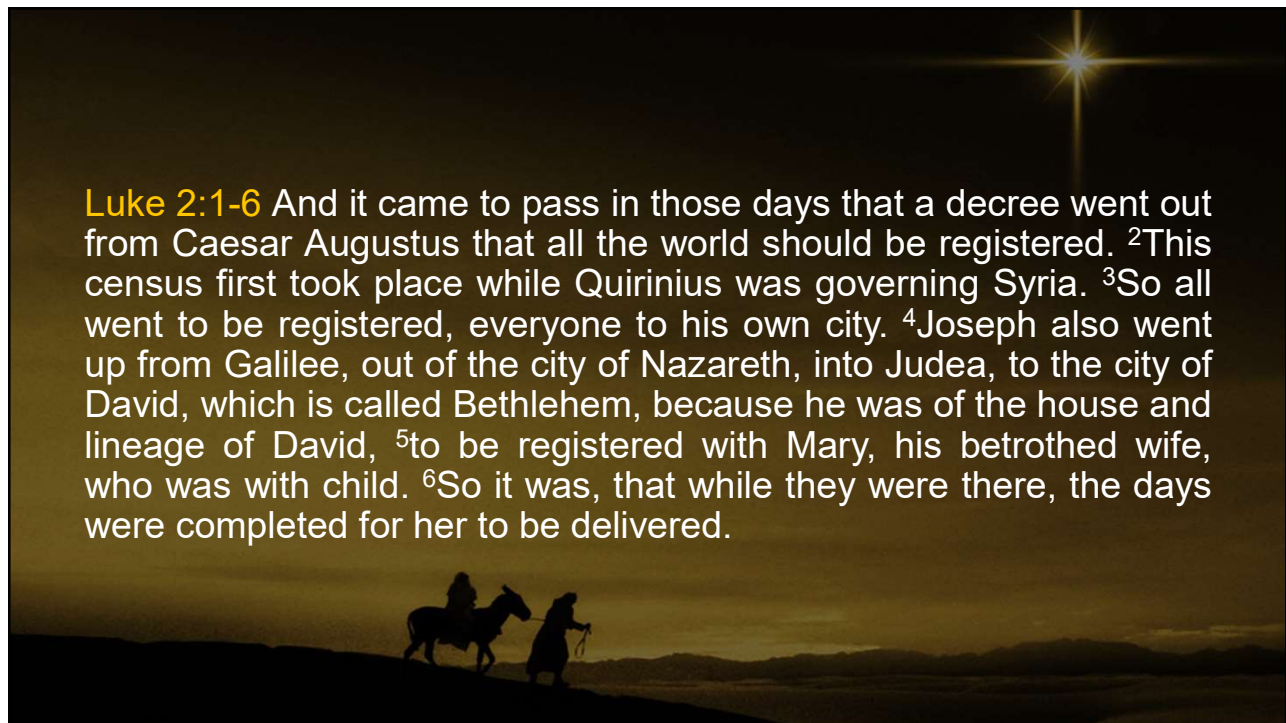


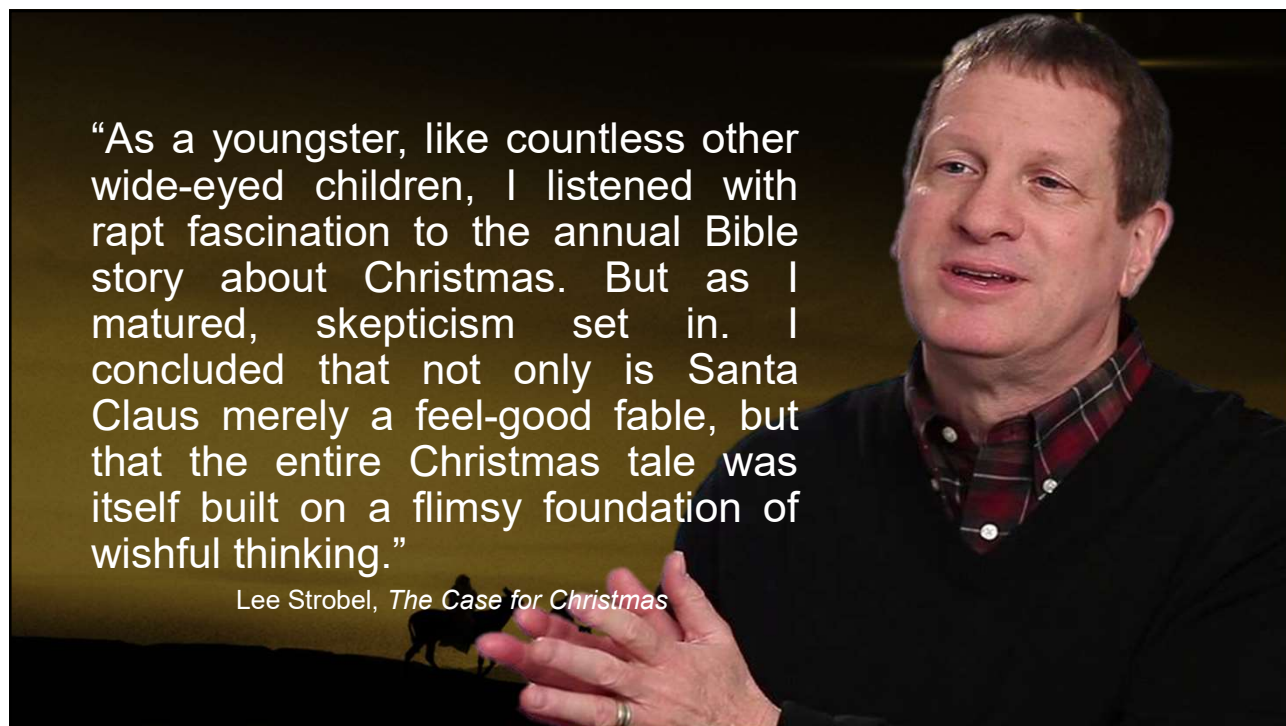


1



**Luke 2:1-6** And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

2



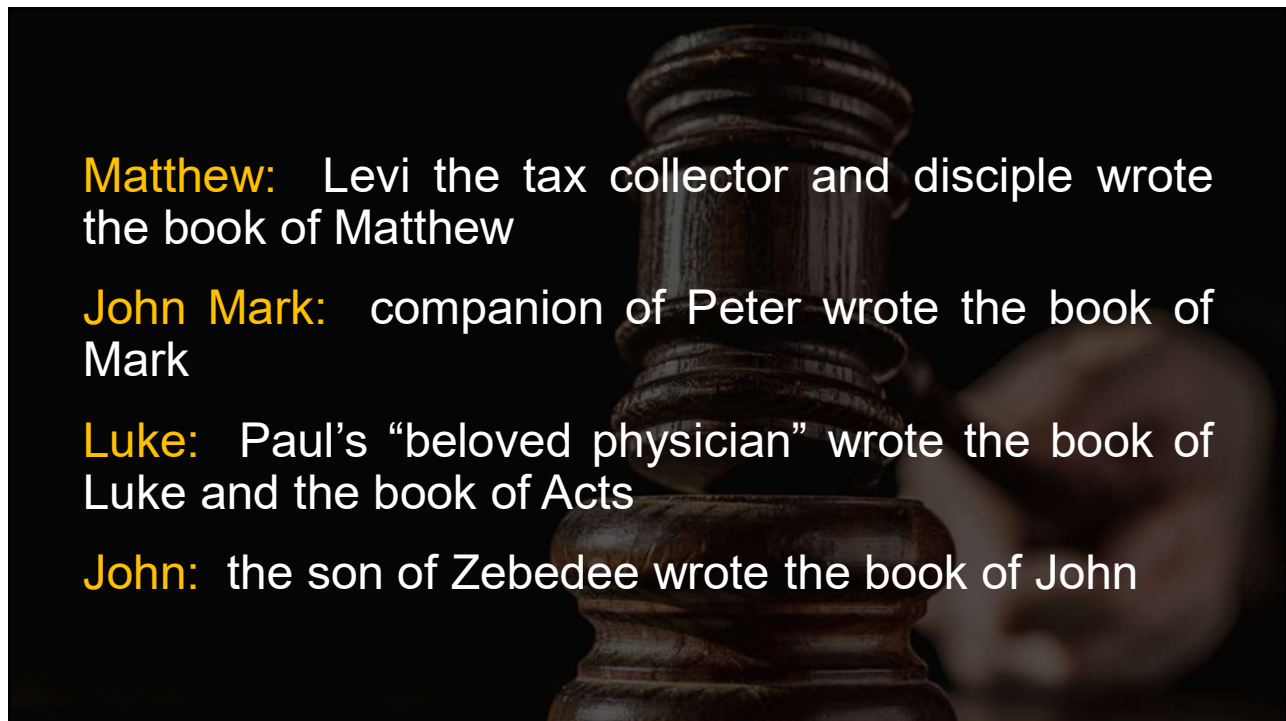
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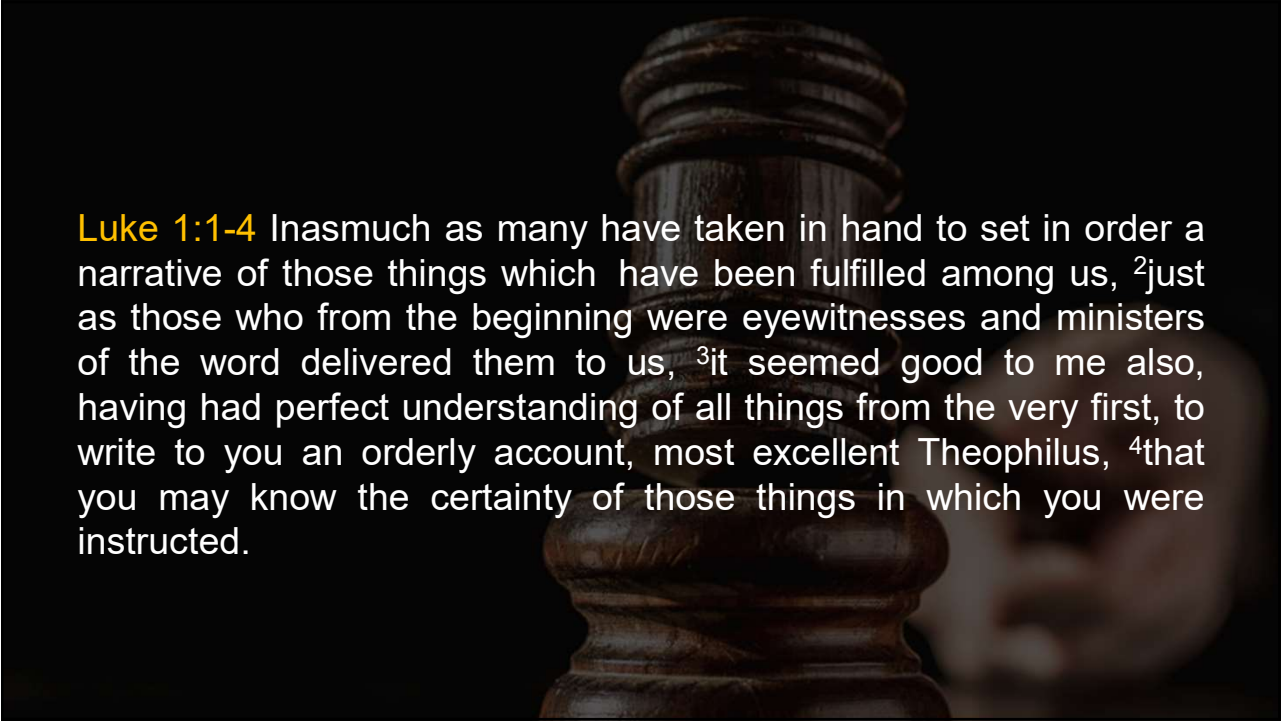
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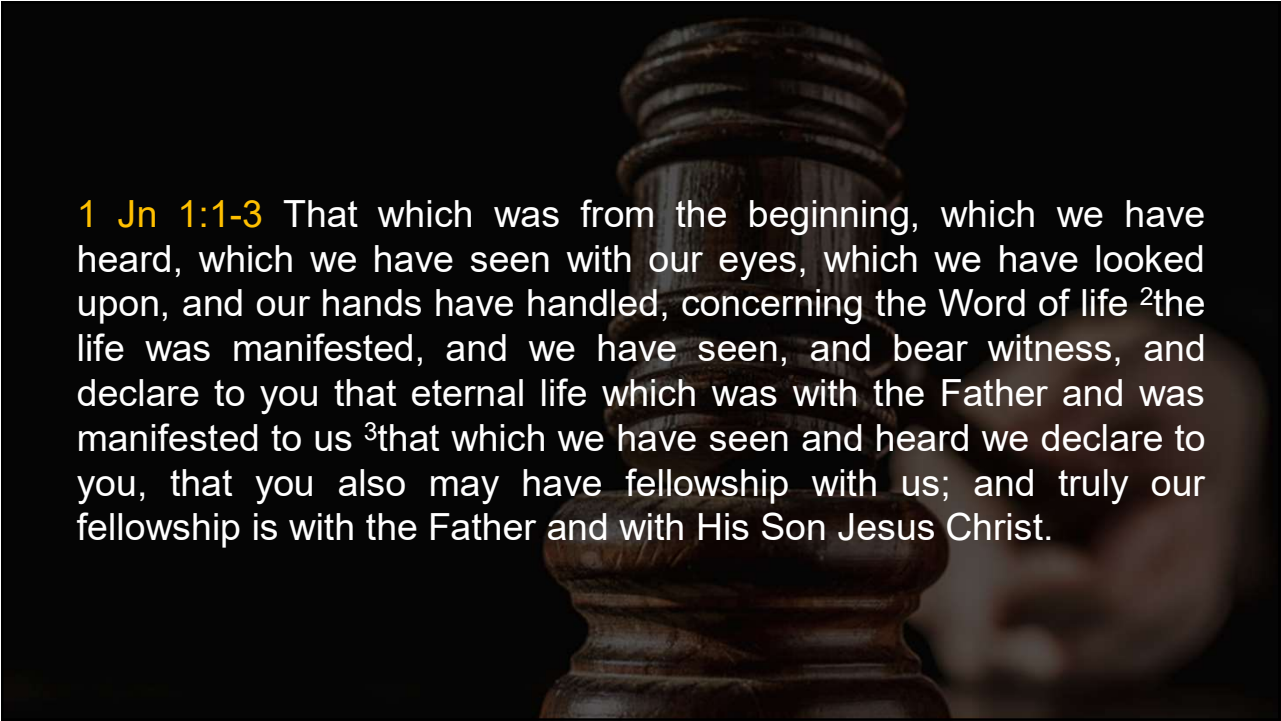


6



**Luke 1:1-4** Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup>it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

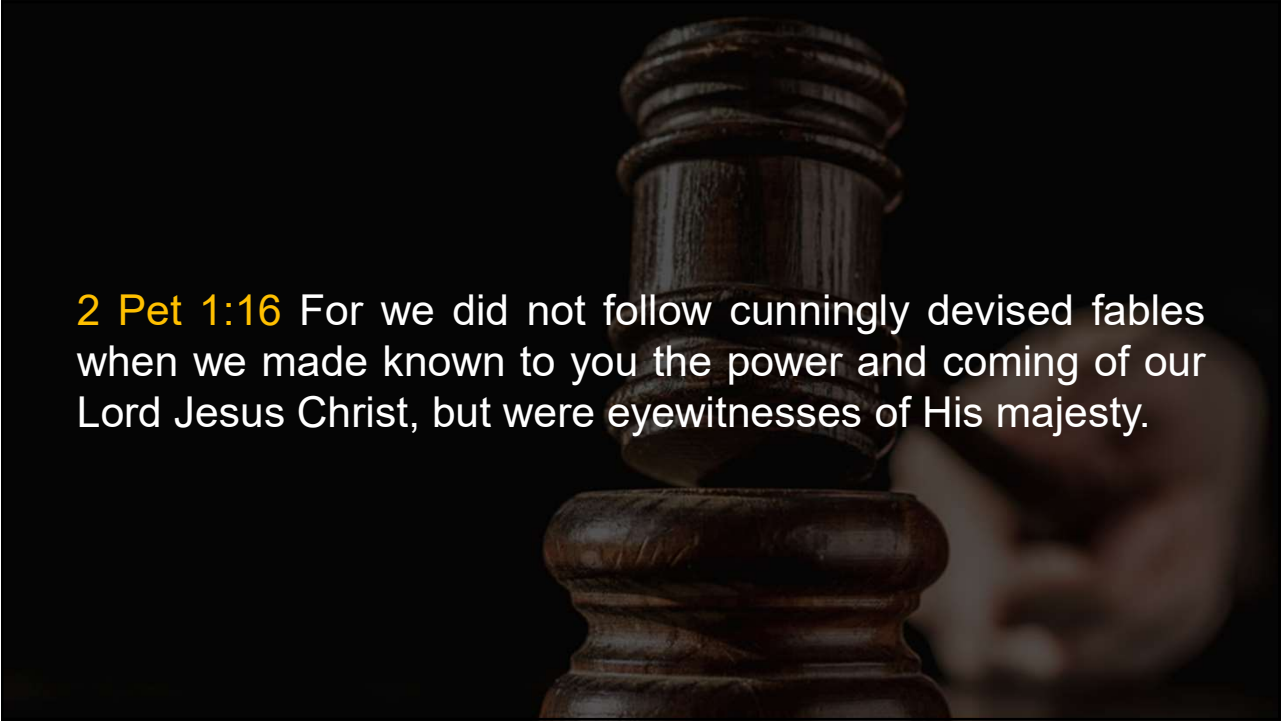
7



**1 Jn 1:1-3** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life <sup>2</sup>the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

8





**2 Pet 1:16** For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

9




Papias, Christian writer, wrote in 125 A.D. that Mark:

“carefully and accurately recorded Peter’s eyewitness observations. ... [Mark] made no mistake and did not include any false statement.”



10



Irenaeus wrote in 180 A.D.:

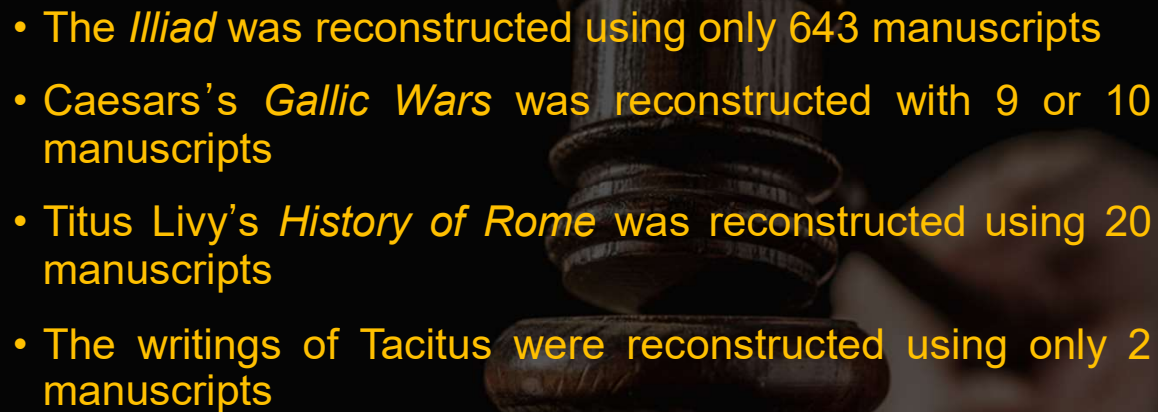
“Matthew published his own Gospel among the Hebrews in their own tongue, when Peter and Paul were preaching the Gospel in Rome and founding the church there.”

11

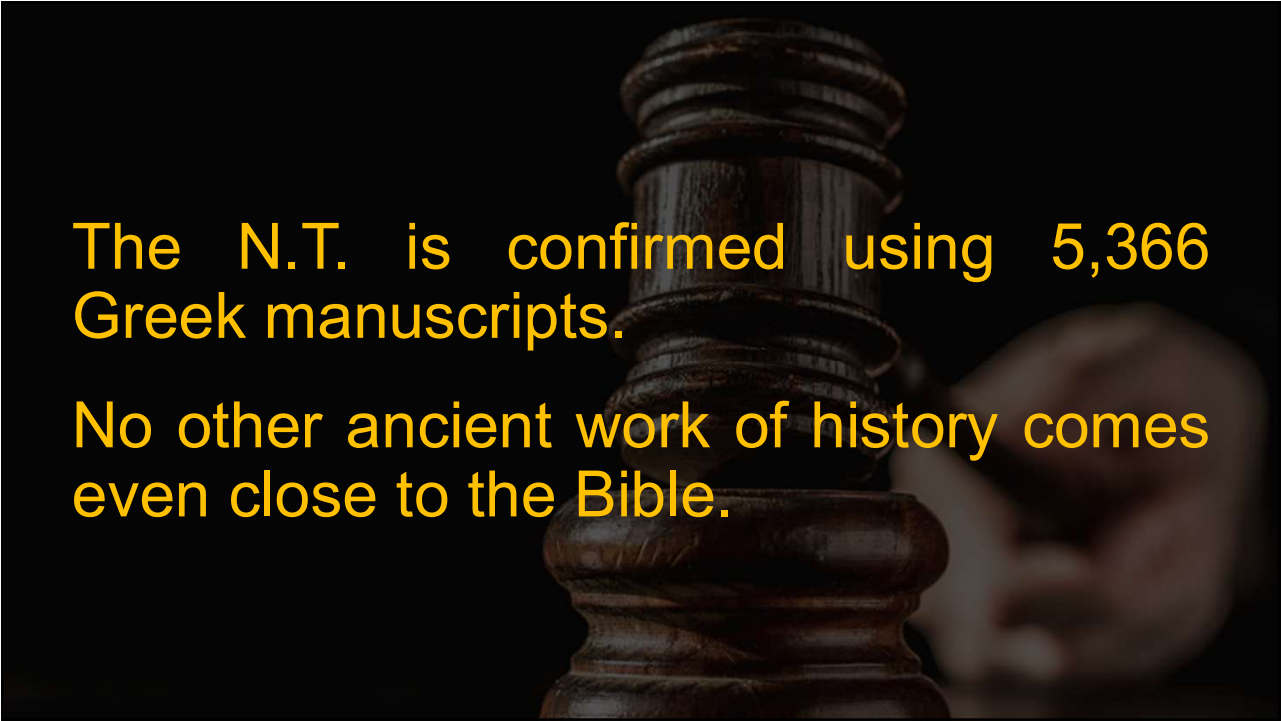


**Exhibit 2:**  
manuscript evidence

12

- 
- The *Illiad* was reconstructed using only 643 manuscripts
  - Caesars's *Gallic Wars* was reconstructed with 9 or 10 manuscripts
  - Titus Livy's *History of Rome* was reconstructed using 20 manuscripts
  - The writings of Tacitus were reconstructed using only 2 manuscripts

13




The N.T. is confirmed using 5,366 Greek manuscripts.

No other ancient work of history comes even close to the Bible.

14





**Sir Frederic Kenyon**  
British paleographer & biblical/classical scholar

“The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries. ... The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world.”

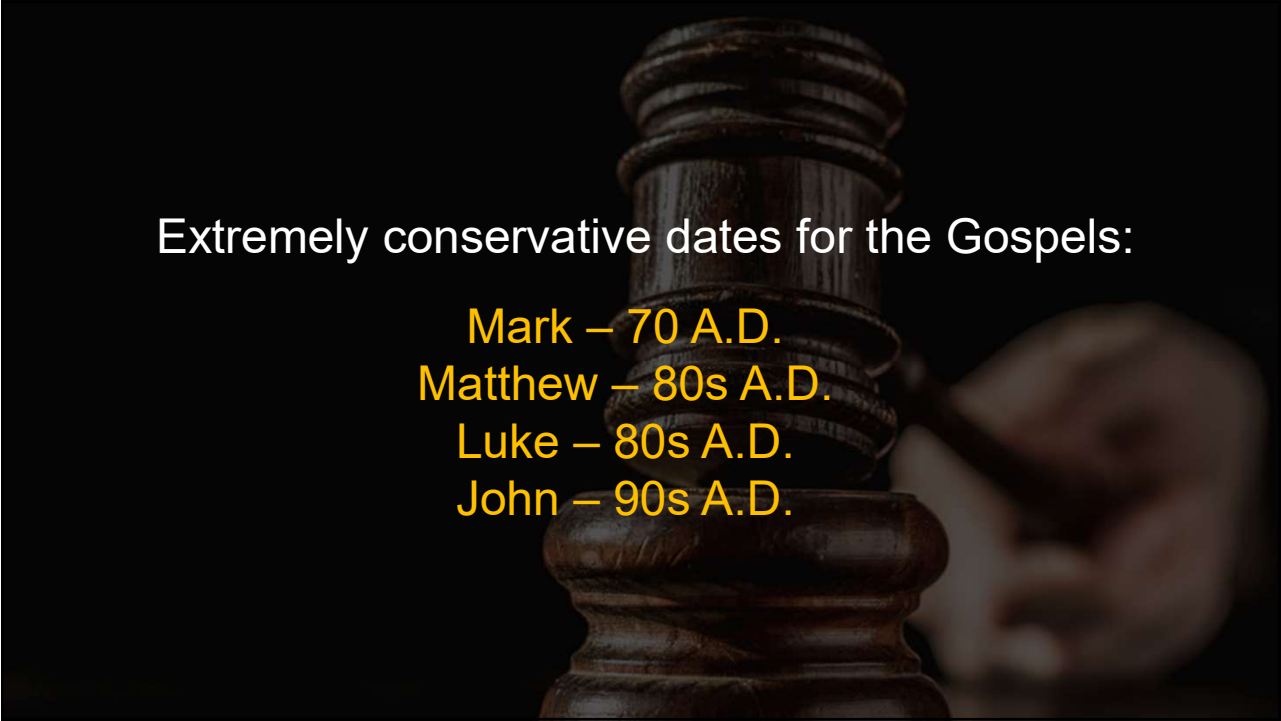
15



**Exhibit 3:**  
the time interval

16





Extremely conservative dates for the Gospels:

Mark – 70 A.D.  
Matthew – 80s A.D.  
Luke – 80s A.D.  
John – 90s A.D.

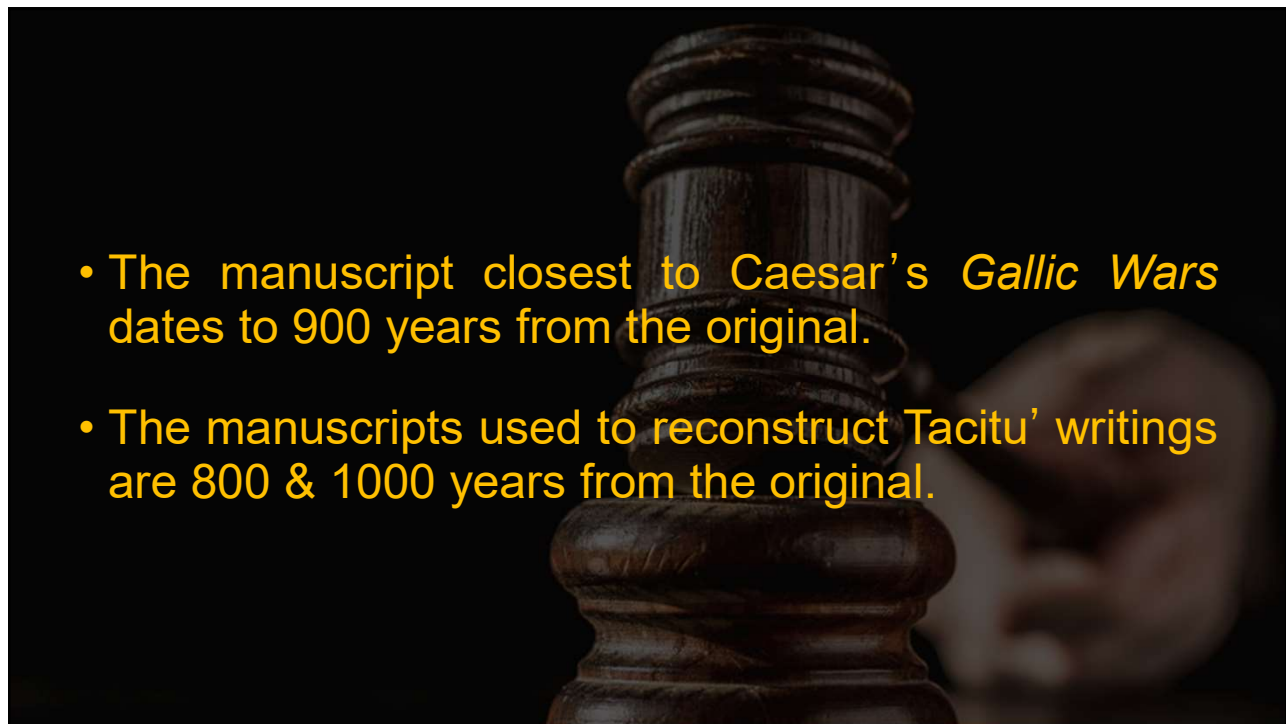
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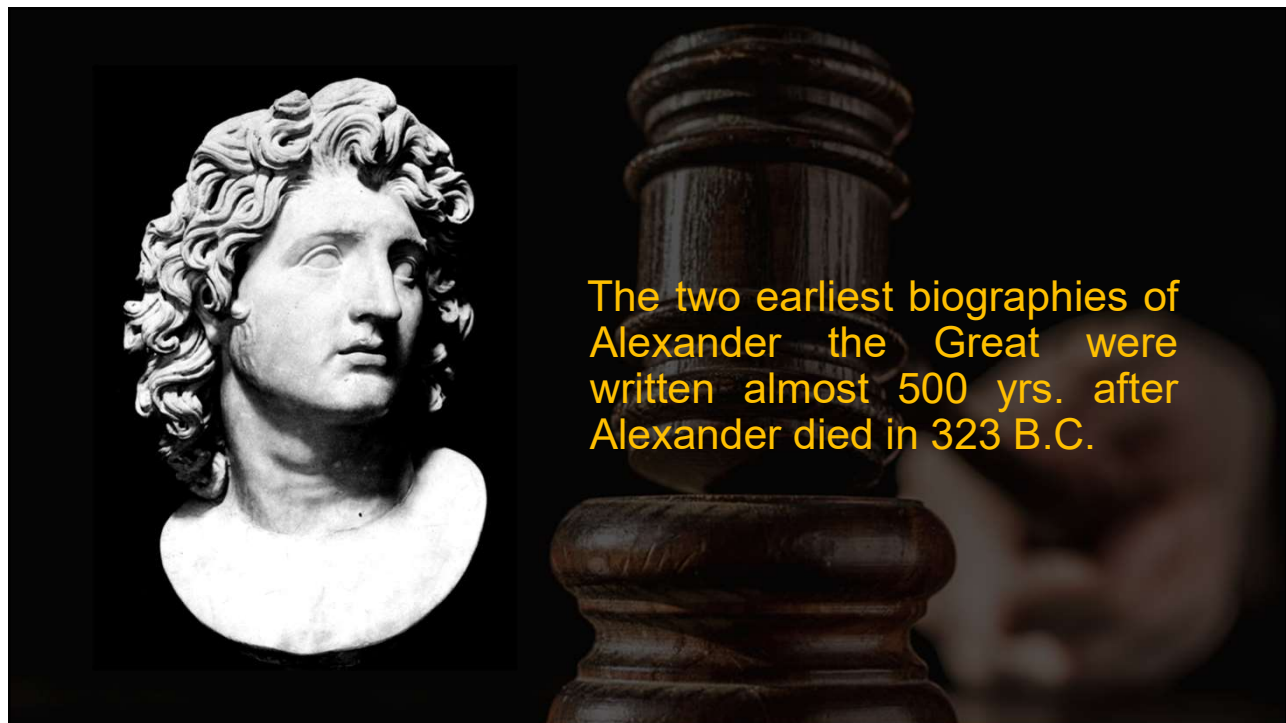
Given that the book of Acts was written in 62 A.D.:

- Since Luke wrote the book of Luke before the book of Acts, that dates Luke earlier than 62 A.D.
- Since Luke incorporates parts of the book of Mark, that means that Mark is earlier even still.
- This means that the book of Mark was written no later than 60 A.D. and quite possibly in the late 50s.
- If Jesus was crucified in 30-33 A.D., then Mark was written about 30 years after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

18



19

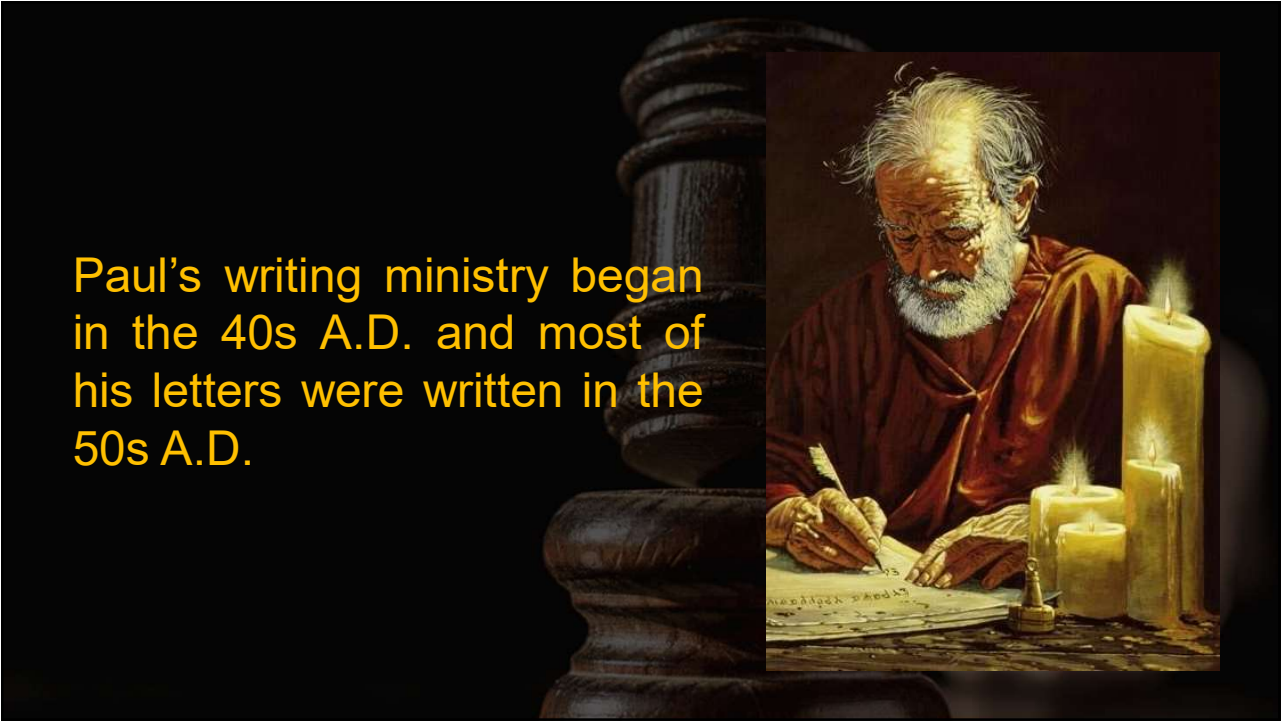


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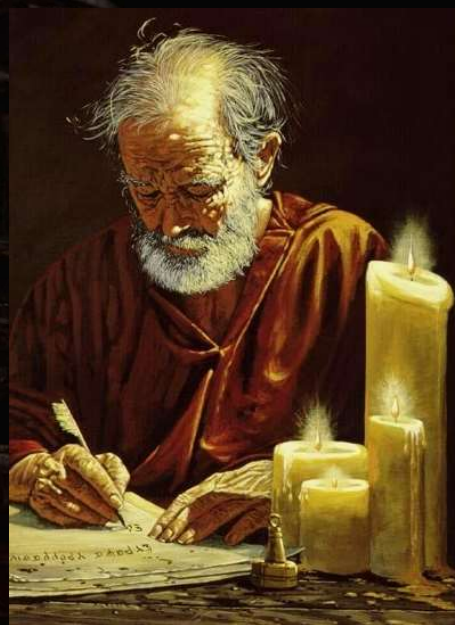


The manuscripts used to confirm the N.T. date from a few decades to 200 years from the originals.

21



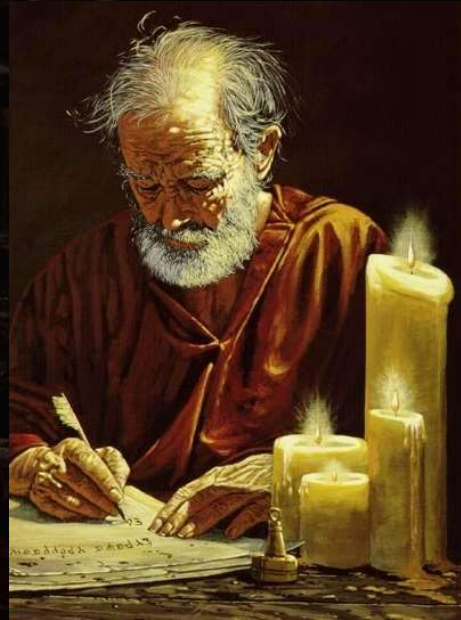
Paul's writing ministry began in the 40s A.D. and most of his letters were written in the 50s A.D.



22



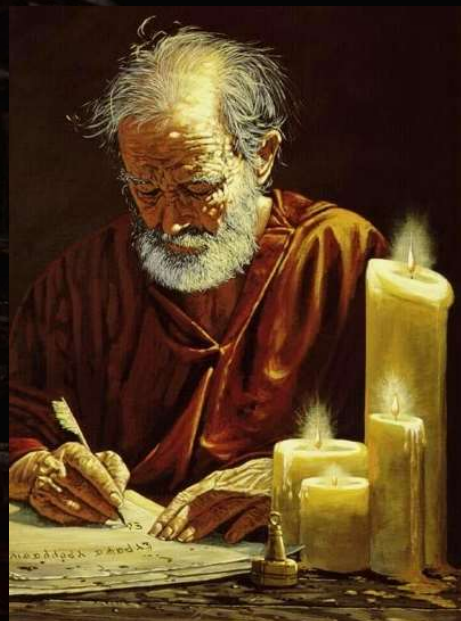
- If Jesus was crucified in 30 A.D.
- Paul's conversion was about 32 A.D.
- Paul met the disciples in about 35 A.D.
- It was during the period from 32-35 A.D. that Paul received much of what the Lord gave him.




23

So, Paul penned the fundamentals of the faith within two decades of the resurrection of Jesus:

**1 Cor 15:3-4** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures



24



**Sir Frederic Kenyon**  
British paleographer & biblical/classical scholar

“The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”

25



**Exhibit 4:**  
archeological proof

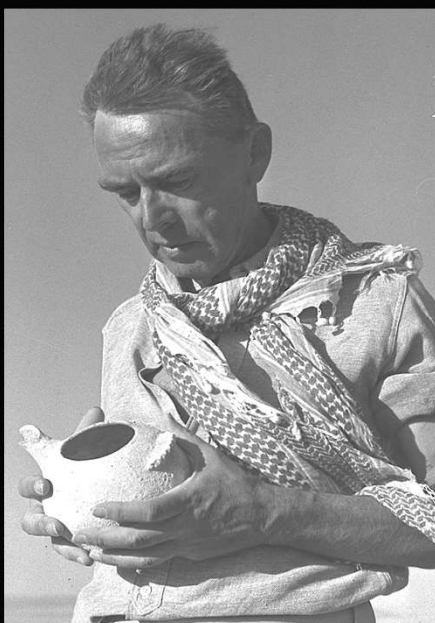
26

**“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament tradition.”**

William F. Albright, renowned biblical archeologist and bible scholar



27



**“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”**

Nelson Glueck, Jewish rabbi, president of Hebrew Union College, and archeologist

28



**“More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine.”**

Millar Burrows, American biblical scholar, a leading authority on the Dead Sea scrolls and professor at Yale Divinity School

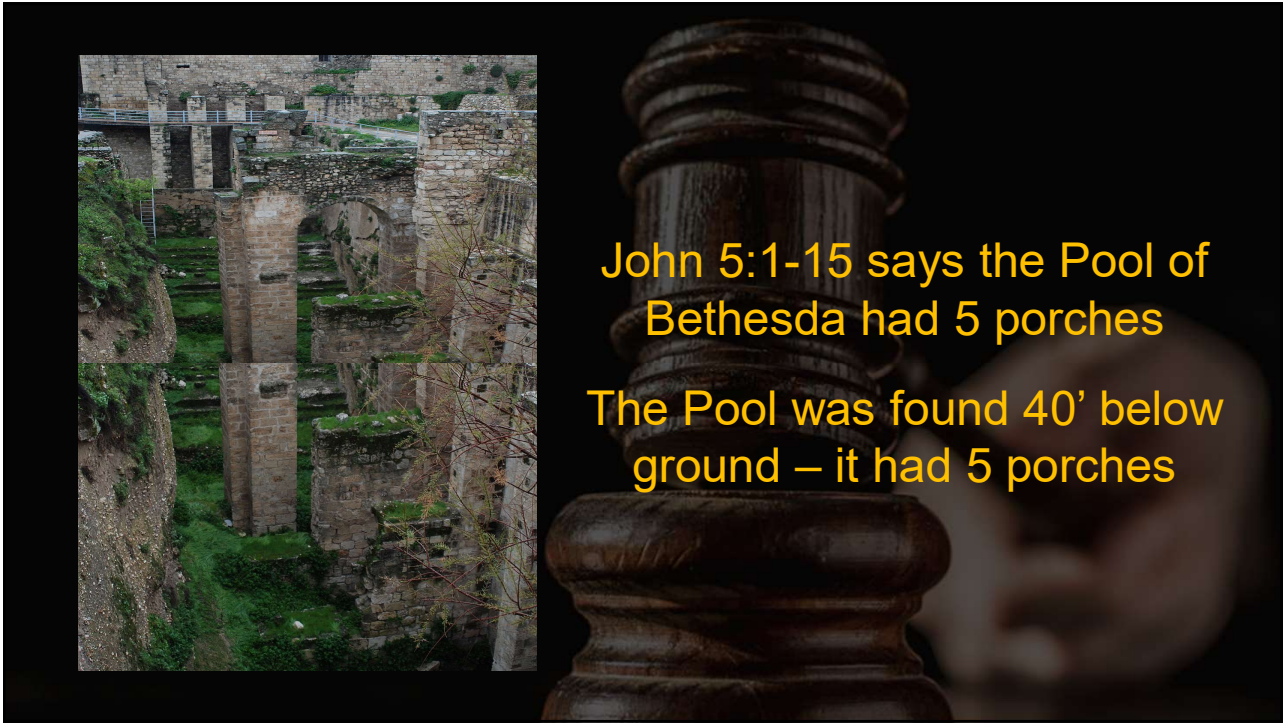
29

In Acts 17:6, Luke refers to city officials in Thessalonica as politarchs



An inscription was found on a 1<sup>st</sup> century arch which can be seen today in the British Museum which begins with the words: “In the time of the politarchs.

30

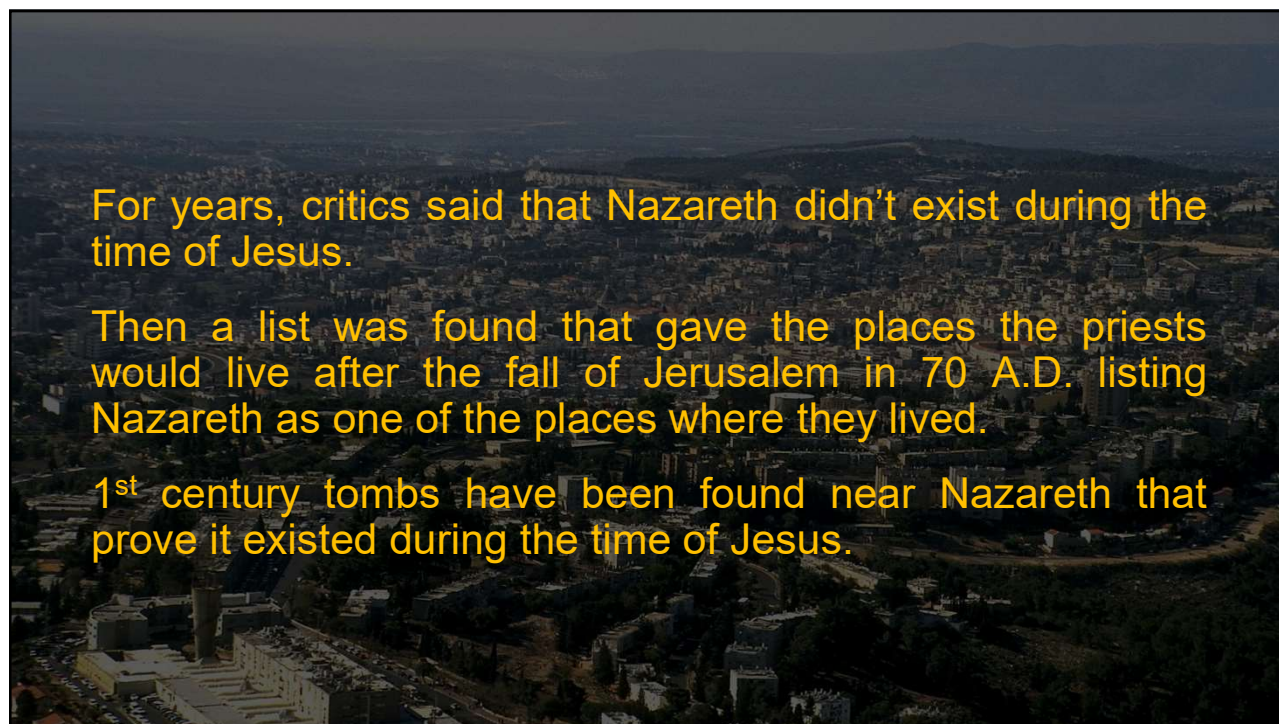


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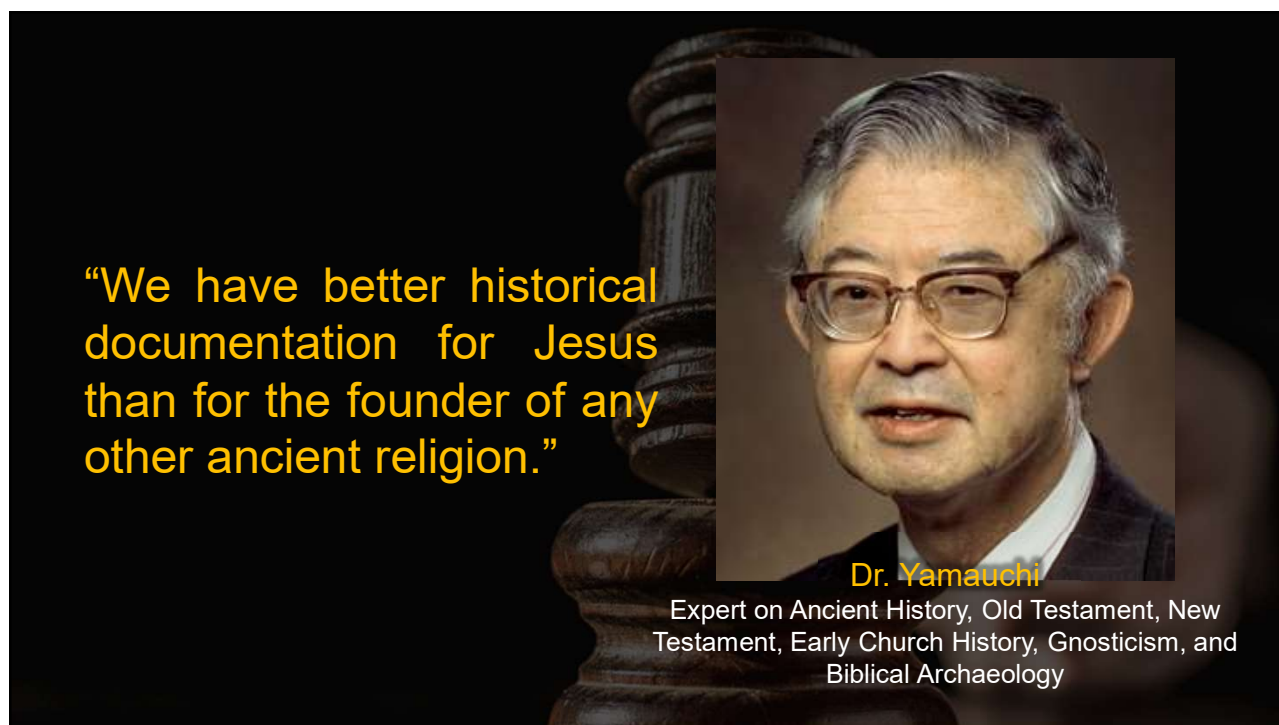


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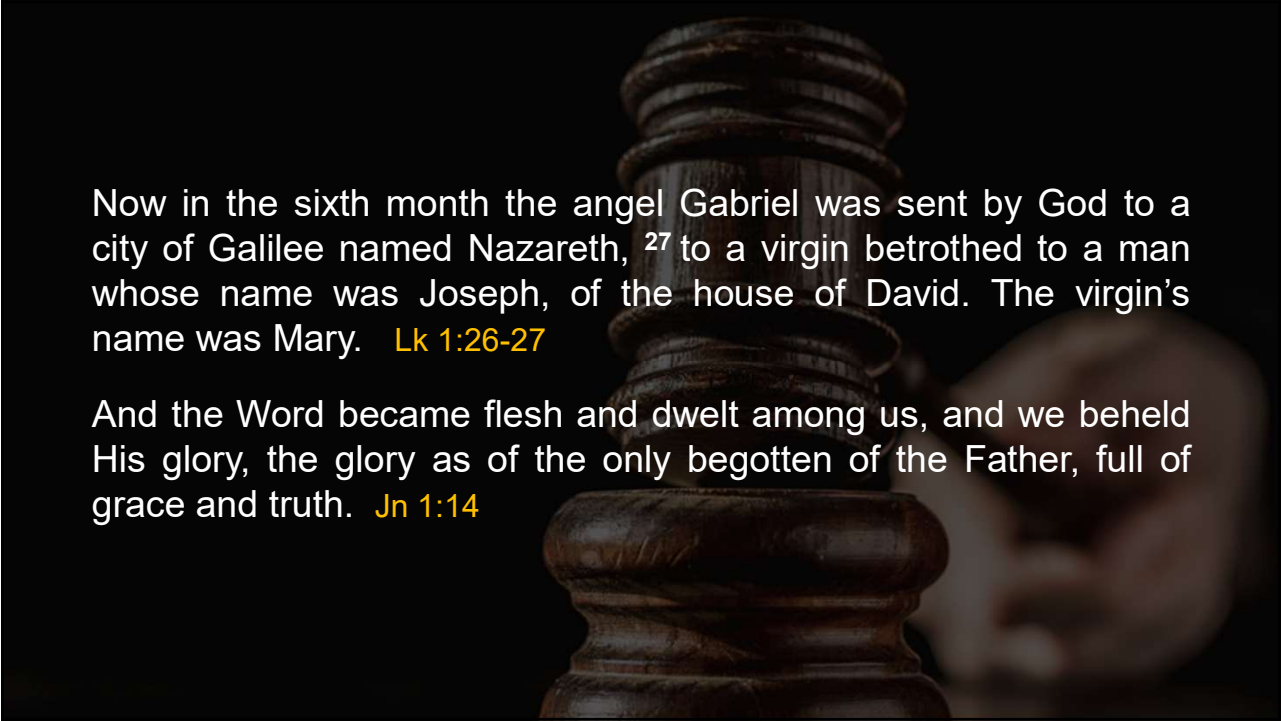


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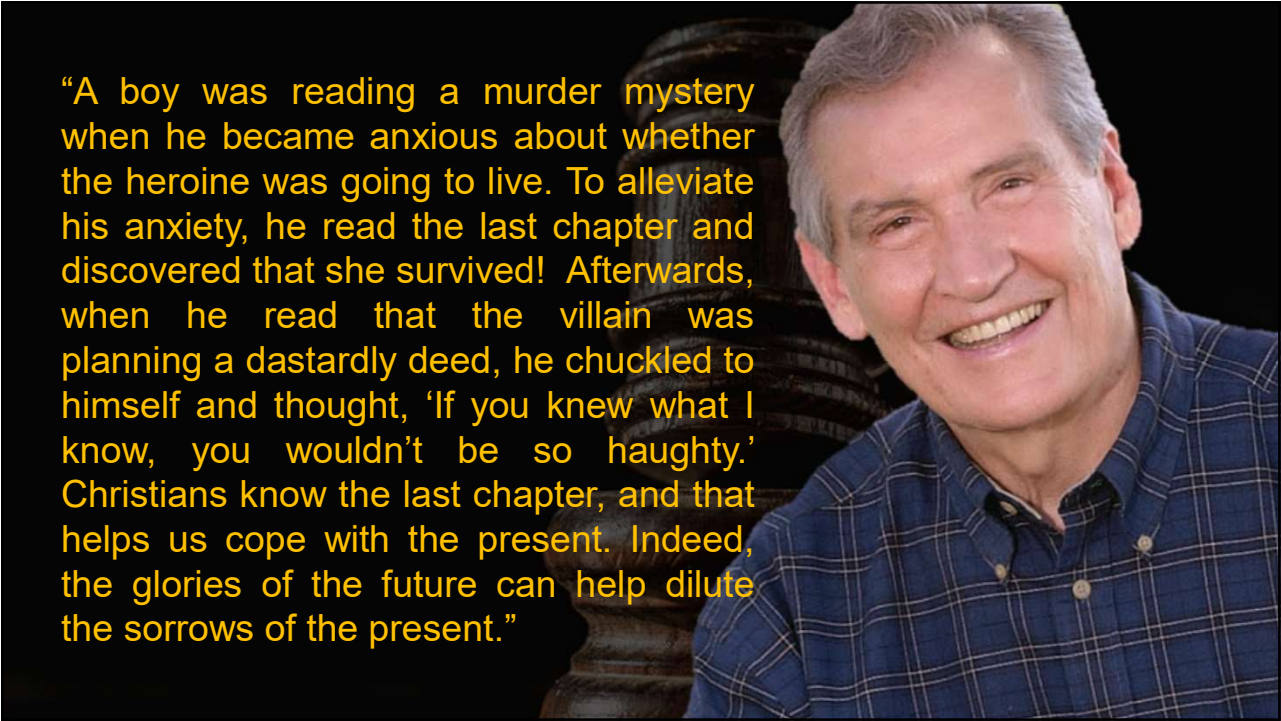




Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **Lk 1:26-27**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **Jn 1:14**

35



"A boy was reading a murder mystery when he became anxious about whether the heroine was going to live. To alleviate his anxiety, he read the last chapter and discovered that she survived! Afterwards, when he read that the villain was planning a dastardly deed, he chuckled to himself and thought, 'If you knew what I know, you wouldn't be so haughty.' Christians know the last chapter, and that helps us cope with the present. Indeed, the glories of the future can help dilute the sorrows of the present."

36