

An open book is shown from a high angle, with one page being turned. The scene is lit with a warm, golden light from the top left, creating a strong glow and casting soft shadows. The text on the pages is partially legible, showing phrases like "As for his father," "Because he cruelly oppressed," "And did his brother by violence," "Robbed what is not good among", "And his people," and "Behold, he shall die for his iniquity." The right side of the image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter, where the main title is placed.

Why Should I Believe?

18:17 *Following Masoretic Text, Targum, and Vulgate; Septuagint reads in
18:17 *Following Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate; Masoretic text



Can We Really Trust the Bible?

Lesson 5

"Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible's historical accuracy. In every case where its claims can thus be tested, the Bible proves to be accurate and reliable."

- Dr. Jack Cottrell

("The Authority of the Bible")

*Mistakes &
Contradictions*

Can We
Really
Trust
the Bible?

Lesson 5

The BIG BOOK of Bible Difficulties

Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation



NORMAN L. GEISLER
THOMAS HOWE

Example 1: The Resurrection

Matthew 28:2 (ESV)

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for **an angel of the Lord** descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Example 1: The Resurrection

Mark 16:5 (ESV)

And entering the tomb, they saw **a young man** sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.

Example 1: The Resurrection

Luke 24:4 (ESV)

While they were perplexed about this, behold, **two men** stood by them **in dazzling apparel**.

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Matthew 27:37 (ESV)

And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “**This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.**”

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Mark 15:26 (ESV)

And the inscription of the charge against him read, “**The King of the Jews.**”

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Luke 23:38 (ESV)

There was also an inscription over him, **“This is the King of the Jews.”**

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Luke 23:38 (ESV)

There was also an inscription over him, **“This is the King of the Jews.”**

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

John 19:19 (ESV)

Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “**Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**”

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

What if the full sign actually read...

**"This is Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews"**

...then all the accounts would be accurate but incomplete??

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Matthew 27:37

**"This is Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews"**

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Mark 15:26

"This is Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews"

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Luke 23:38

**"This is Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews"**

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

John 19:19

**"This is Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews"**

Example 2: Sign on the Cross

Another Consideration...

John 19:20 (ESV)

Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in **Aramaic**, in **Latin**, and in **Greek**.

Important Note

The Bible was written within a specific time period to a specific audience. Understanding scriptures often requires digging deep to understand the original context.

Foreword by David Limbaugh

I Don't Have Enough
FAITH
to Be an
ATHEIST



Norman L. Geisler
Frank Turek

“Some have estimated there are about 200,000 errors in the New Testament manuscripts. First of all these are not ‘errors’ but variant readings, the vast majority of which are strictly grammatical (i.e., punctuation and spelling). Second, these readings are spread throughout nearly 5,700 manuscripts, so that a variant spelling of one letter of one word in one verse in 2,000 manuscripts is counted as 2,000 ‘errors.’”

-Normal Geisler & Frank Turek

(from "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist")

“Textual scholars Westcott and Hort estimated that only one in sixty of these variants has significance. This would leave a text 98.33 percent pure. Philip Schaff calculated that, of the 150,000 variants known in his day, only 400 changed the meaning of the passage, only fifty were of real significance, and not even one affected ‘an article of faith or a precept of duty which is not abundantly sustained by other and undoubted passages, or by the whole tenor of Scripture teaching.’”

-Normal Geisler & Frank Turek

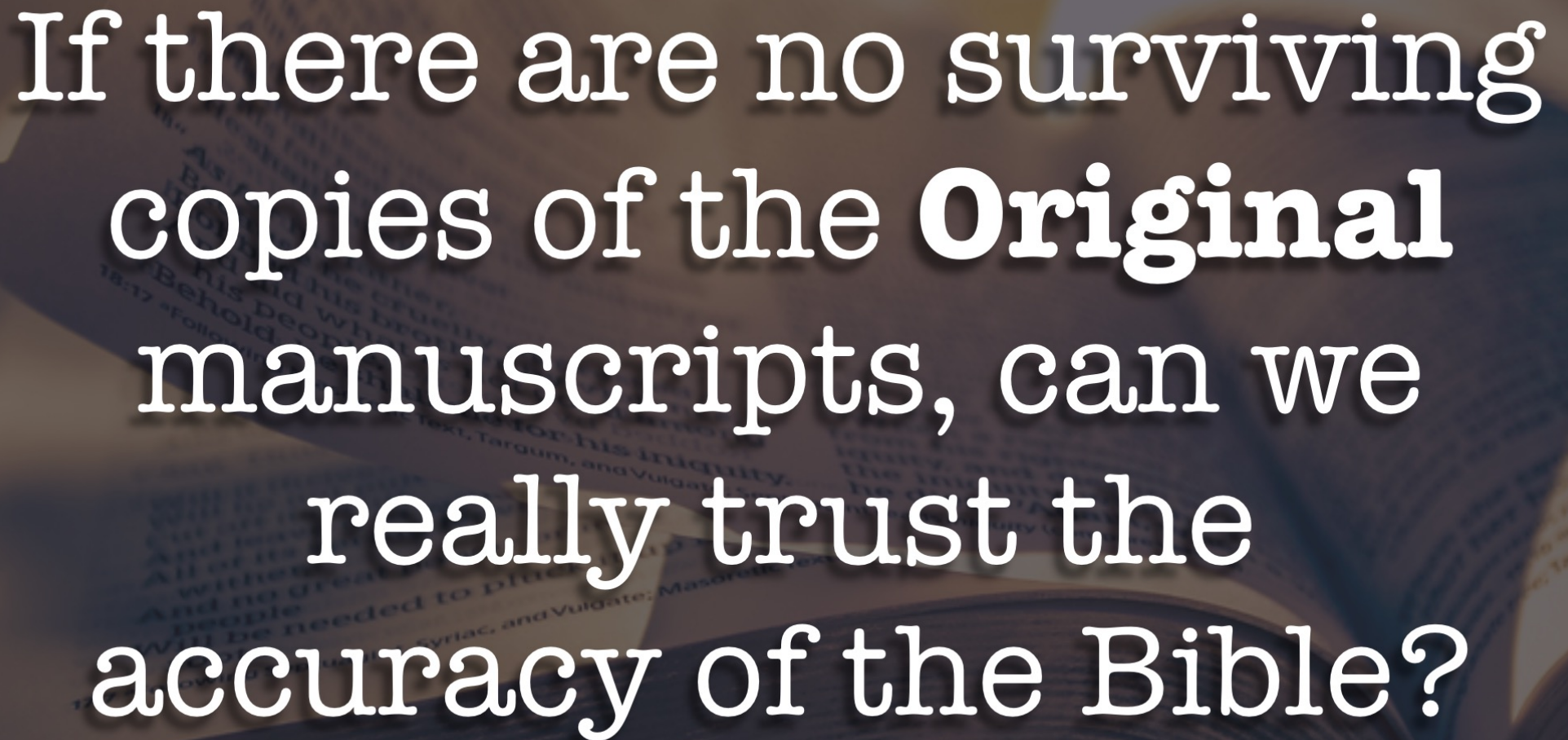
(from "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist")

*Historical
Reliability*

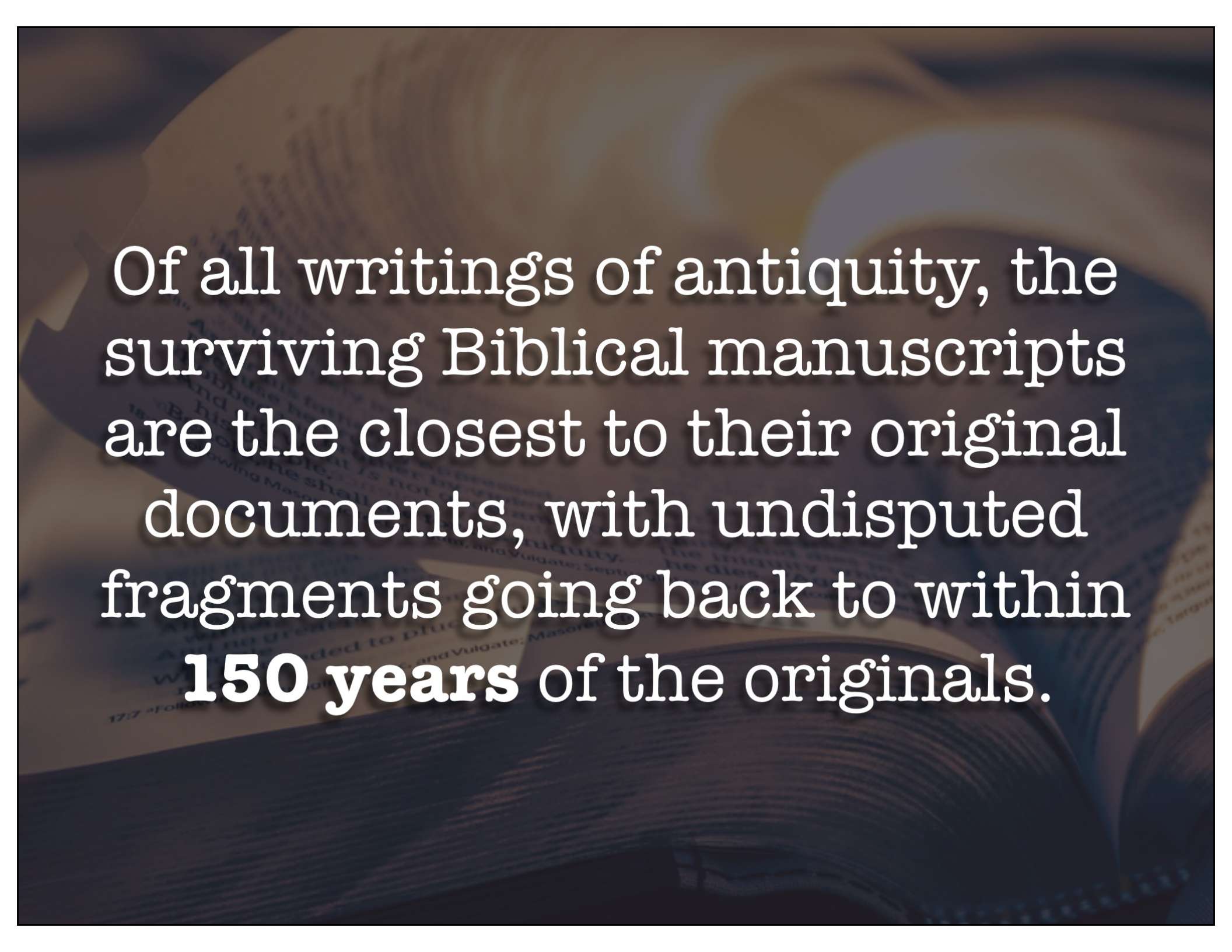
Can We
Really
Trust
the Bible?

Lesson 5

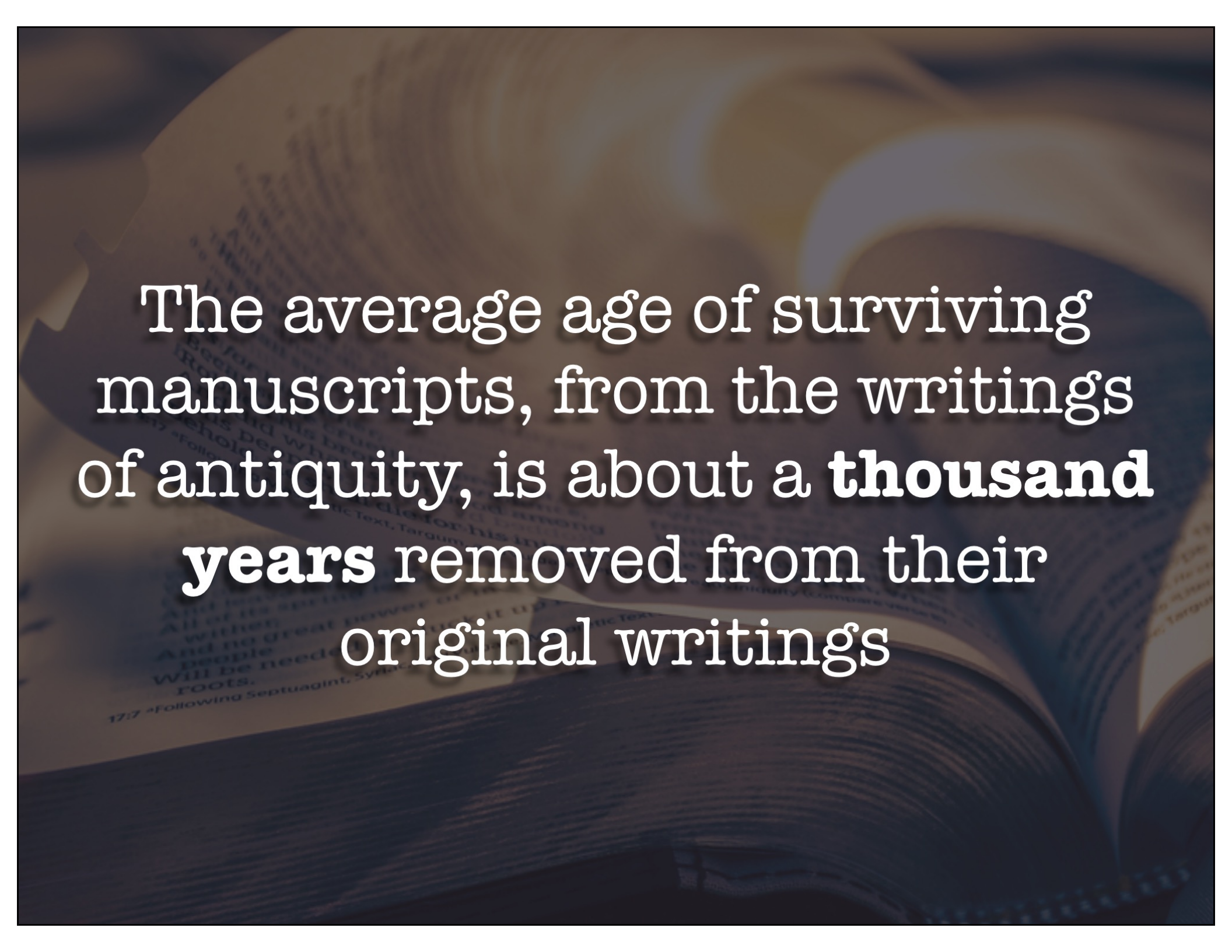


The background of the image shows an open Bible with text in multiple languages, including English, Hebrew, and Greek. The text is slightly blurred and serves as a backdrop for the central question. The overall tone is scholarly and historical.

If there are no surviving
copies of the **Original**
manuscripts, can we
really trust the
accuracy of the Bible?



Of all writings of antiquity, the surviving Biblical manuscripts are the closest to their original documents, with undisputed fragments going back to within **150 years** of the originals.

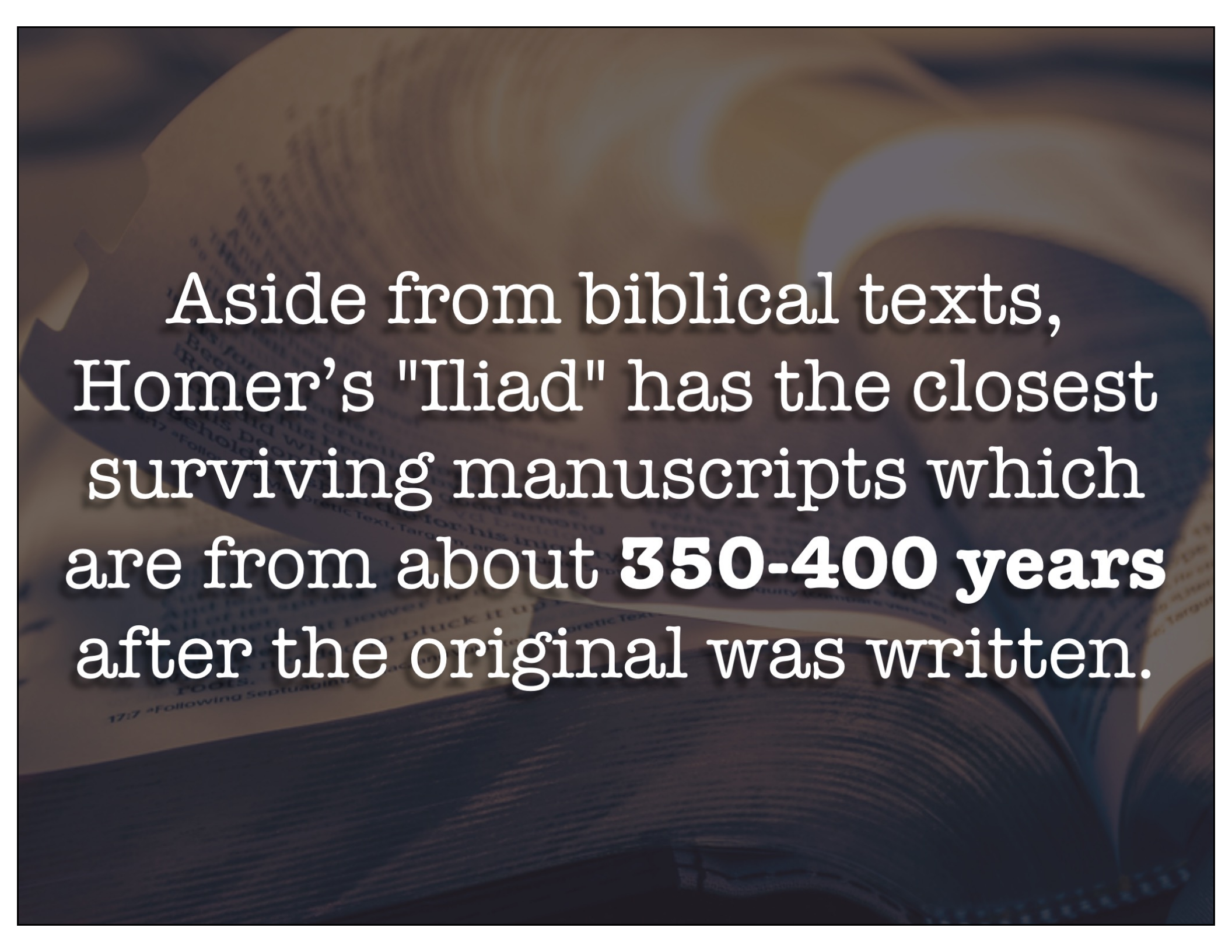


The average age of surviving manuscripts, from the writings of antiquity, is about a **thousand years** removed from their original writings

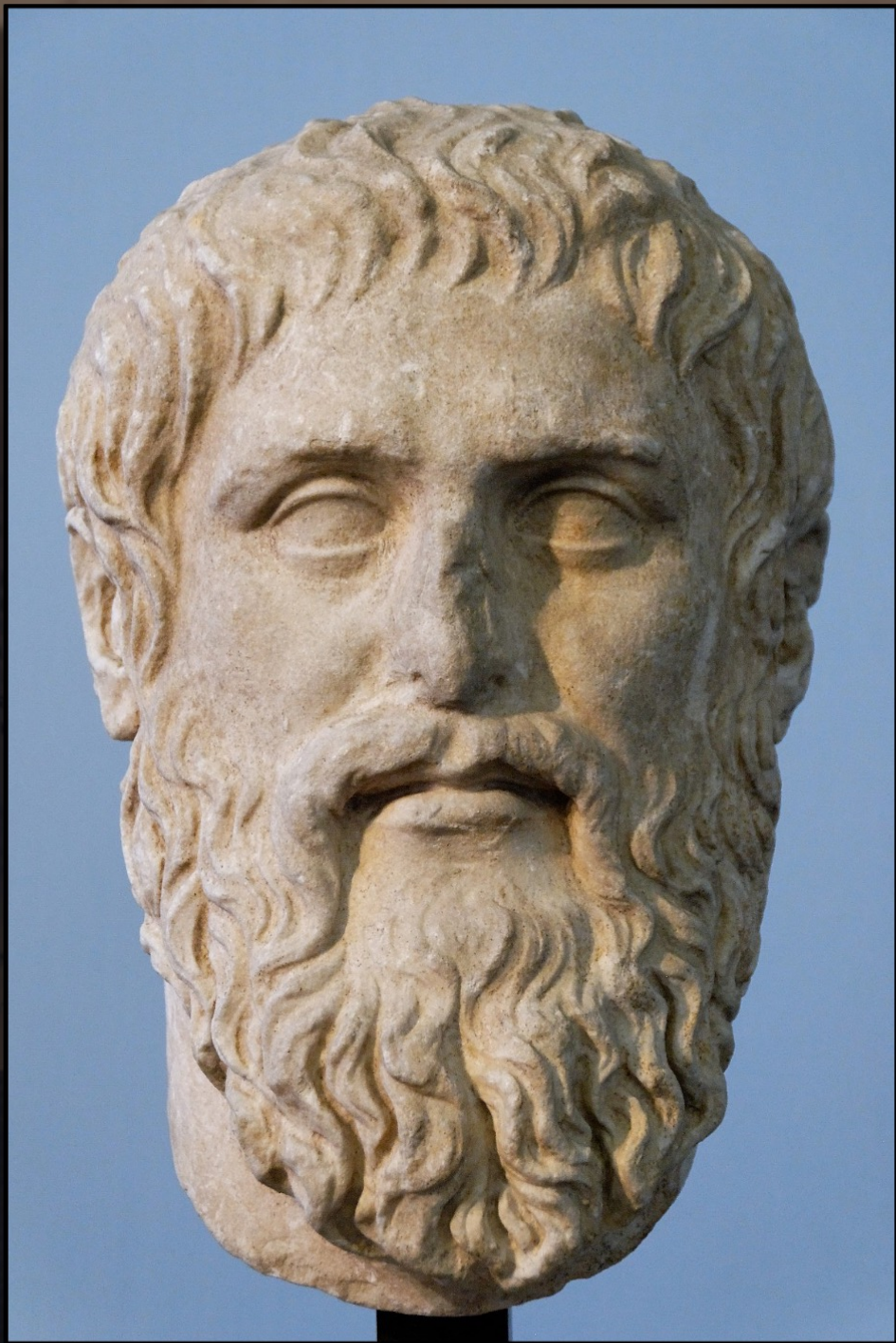


18:17 - Following Masoretic

17:7 - Following Septuagint,

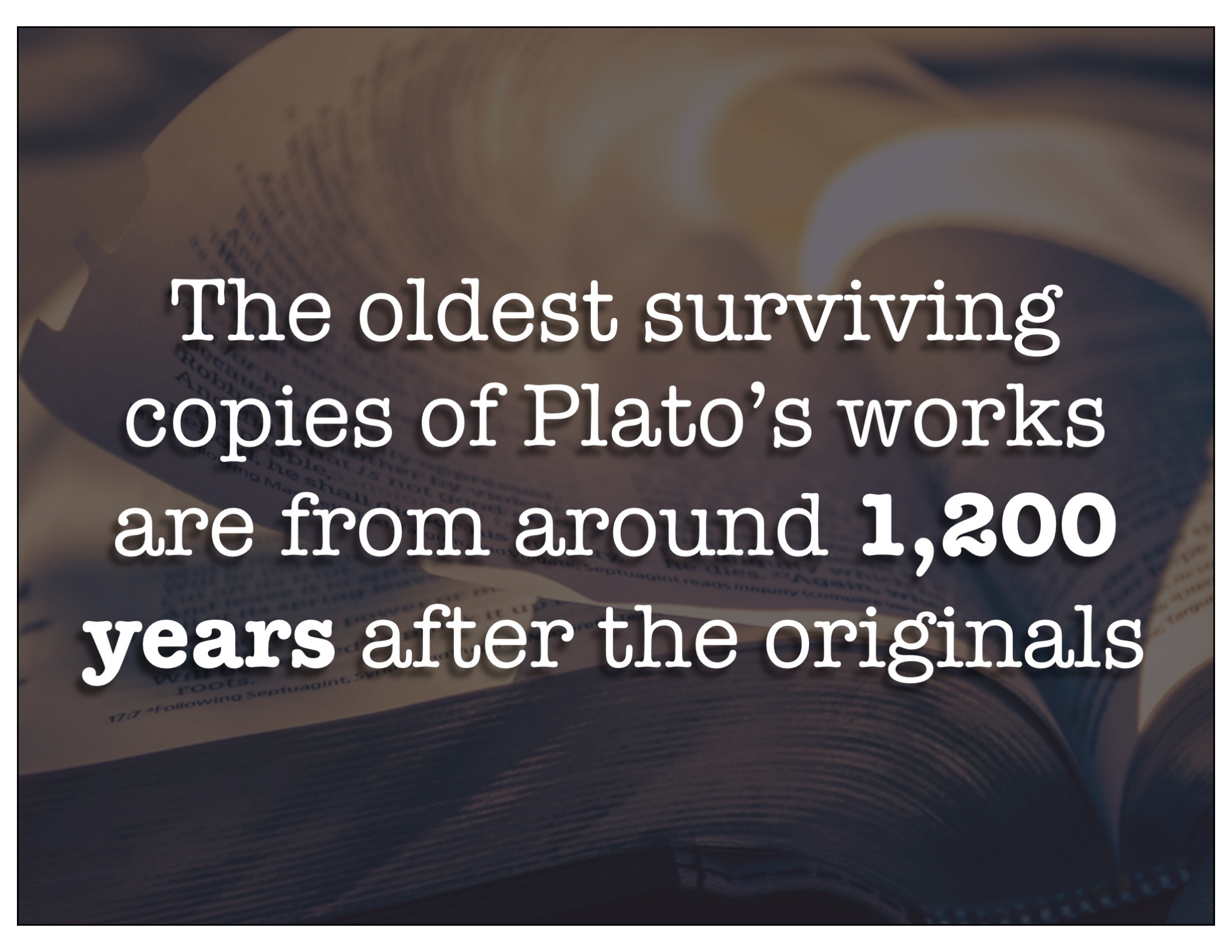


Aside from biblical texts, Homer's "Iliad" has the closest surviving manuscripts which are from about **350-400 years** after the original was written.

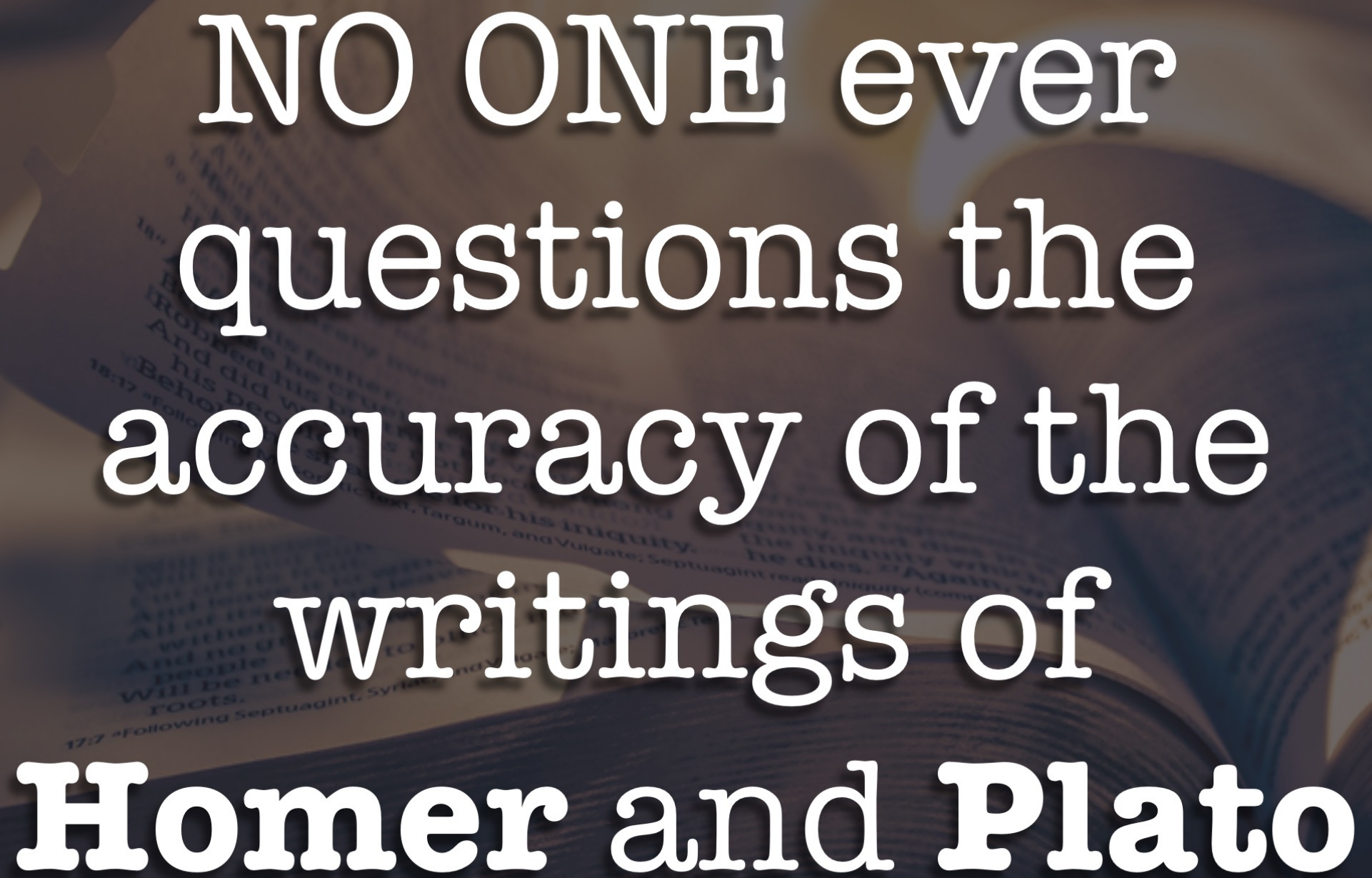


18:17 - Following Masorets

17:7 - Following Septuagint



The oldest surviving
copies of Plato's works
are from around **1,200**
years after the originals



NO ONE ever
questions the
accuracy of the
writings of
Homer and Plato

The Bible Has Been Meticulously Preserved

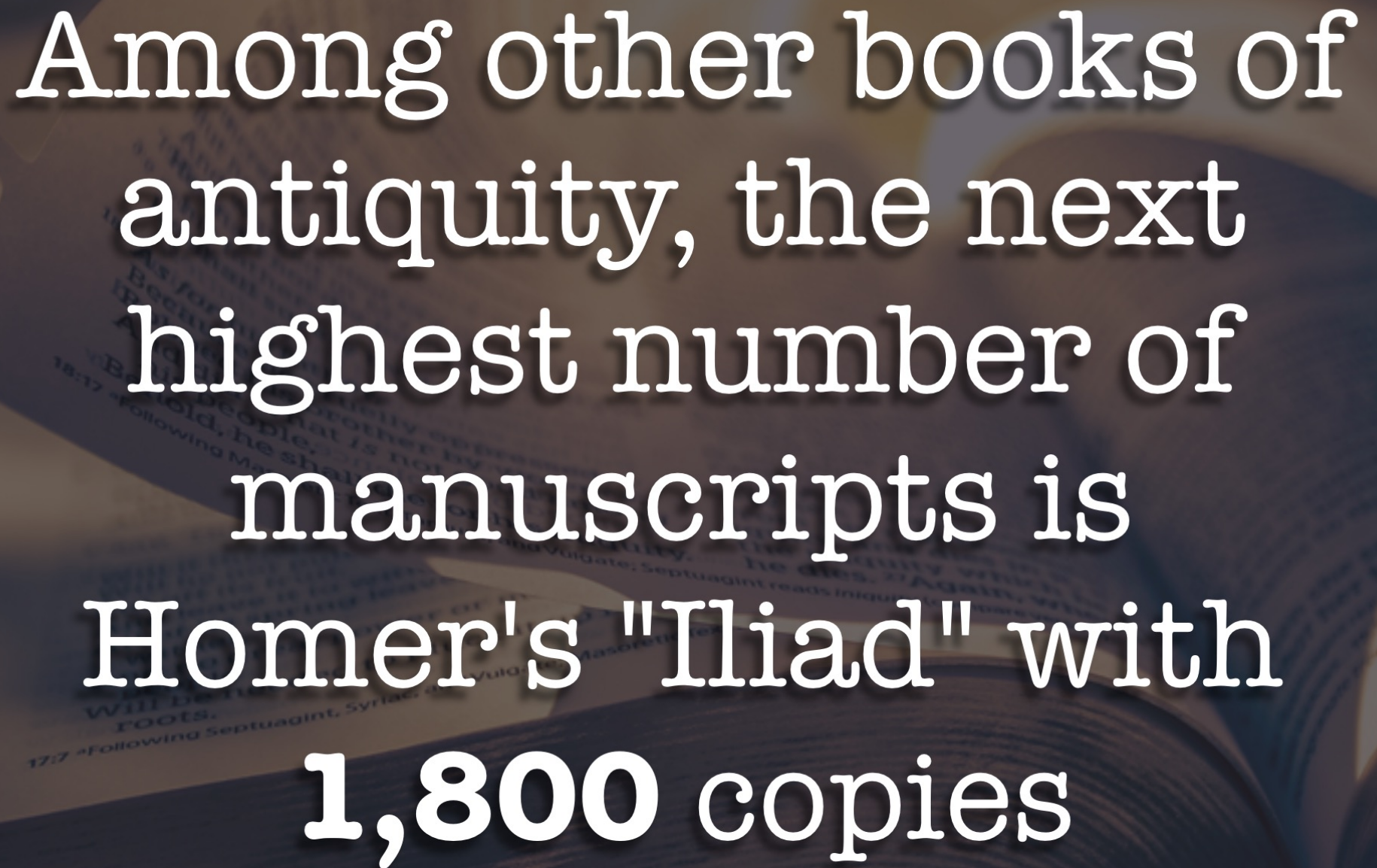
For Example: There are approximately **5,800** Greek manuscripts of the New Testament and over **18,000** in other languages

= Almost **24,000** manuscripts of the New Testament

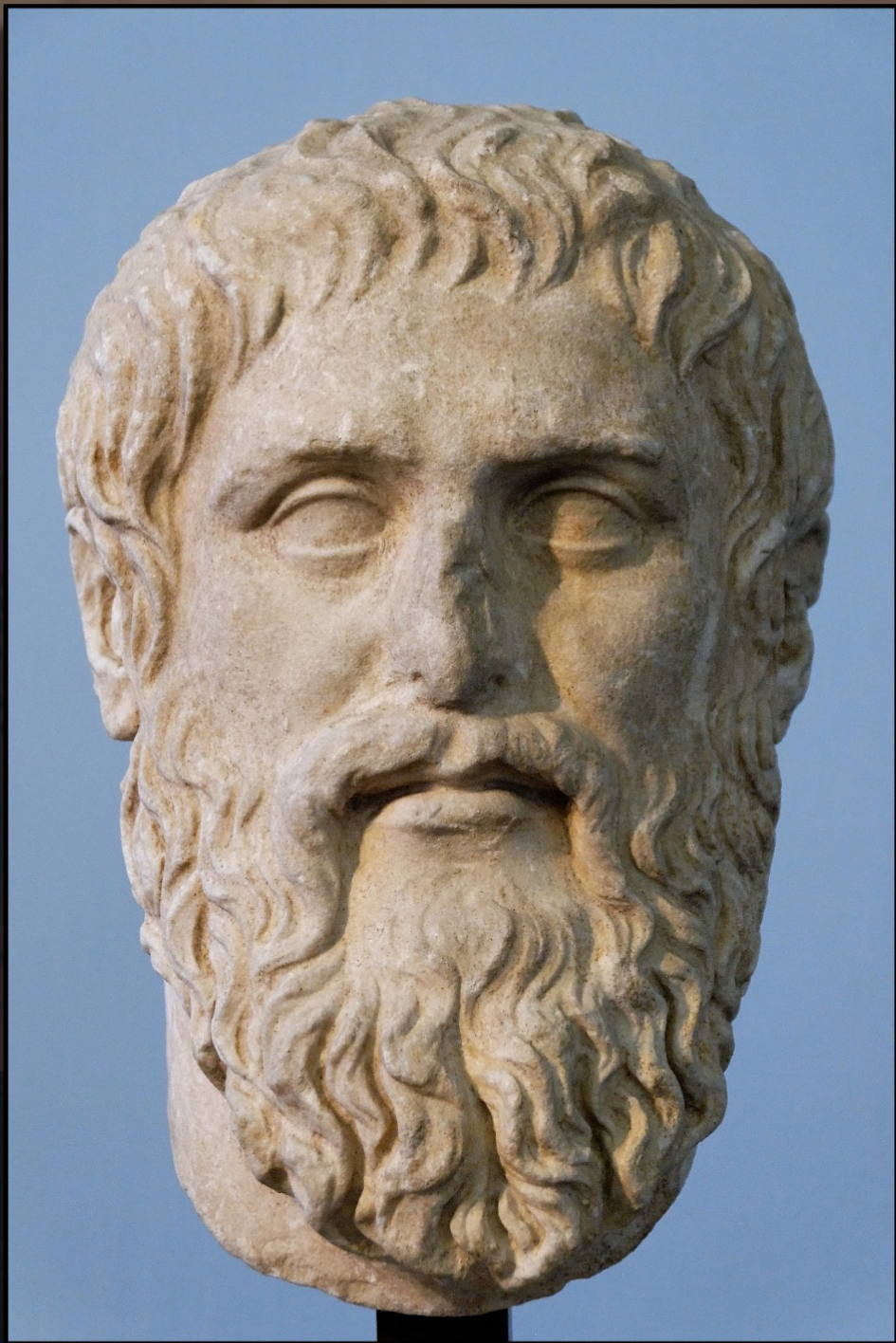


18:17 - Following Masoretic

17:7 - Following Septuagint,



Among other books of antiquity, the next highest number of manuscripts is Homer's "Iliad" with **1,800** copies

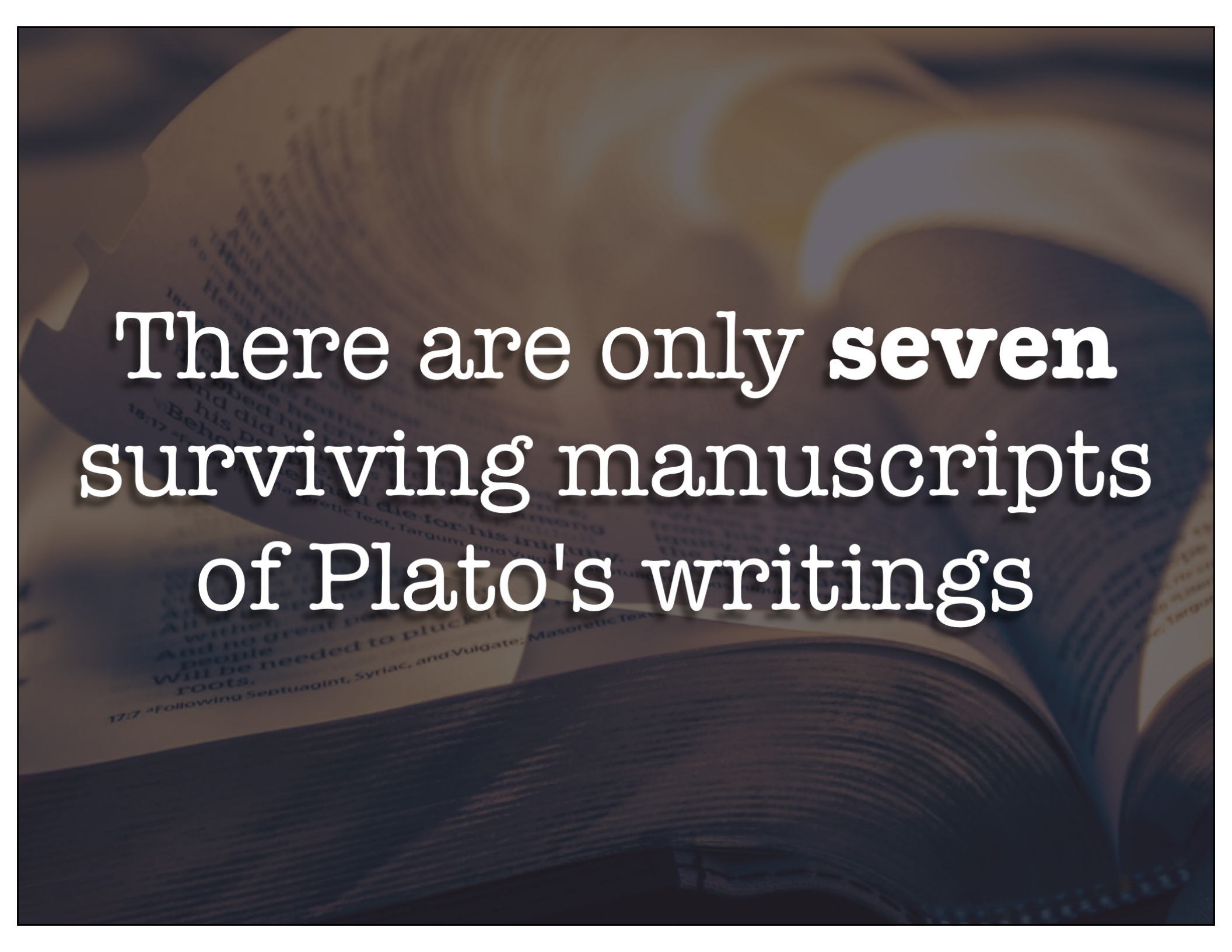


18:17 - Following Masorets

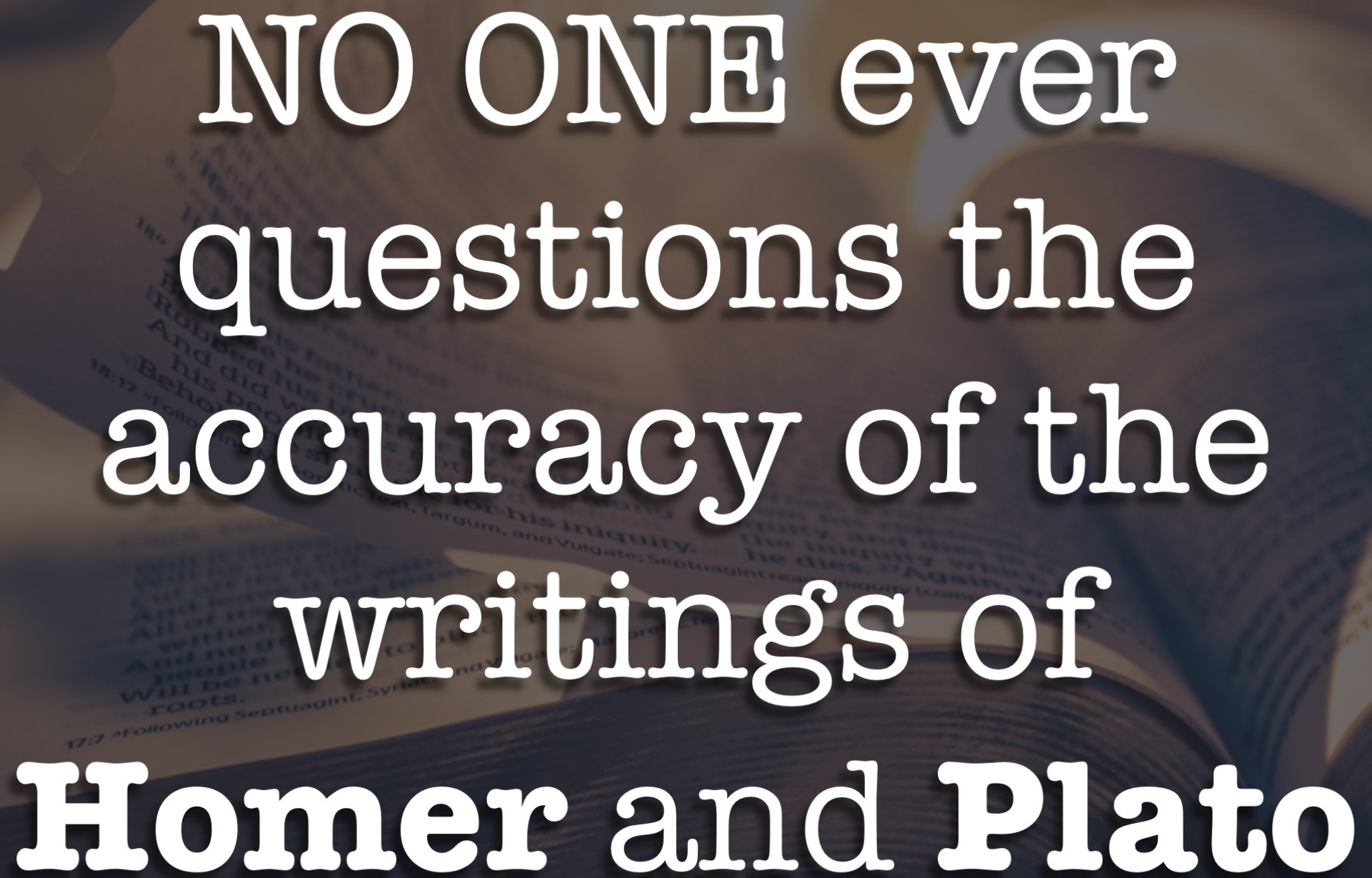
As for his fate
Because he
Robbed his
And did what
his people.
Behold, he sh

17:7 - Following Septuagint

And leaves it
All of its spr
with
And no great
people
Will be neede
roots.



There are only **seven**
surviving manuscripts
of Plato's writings

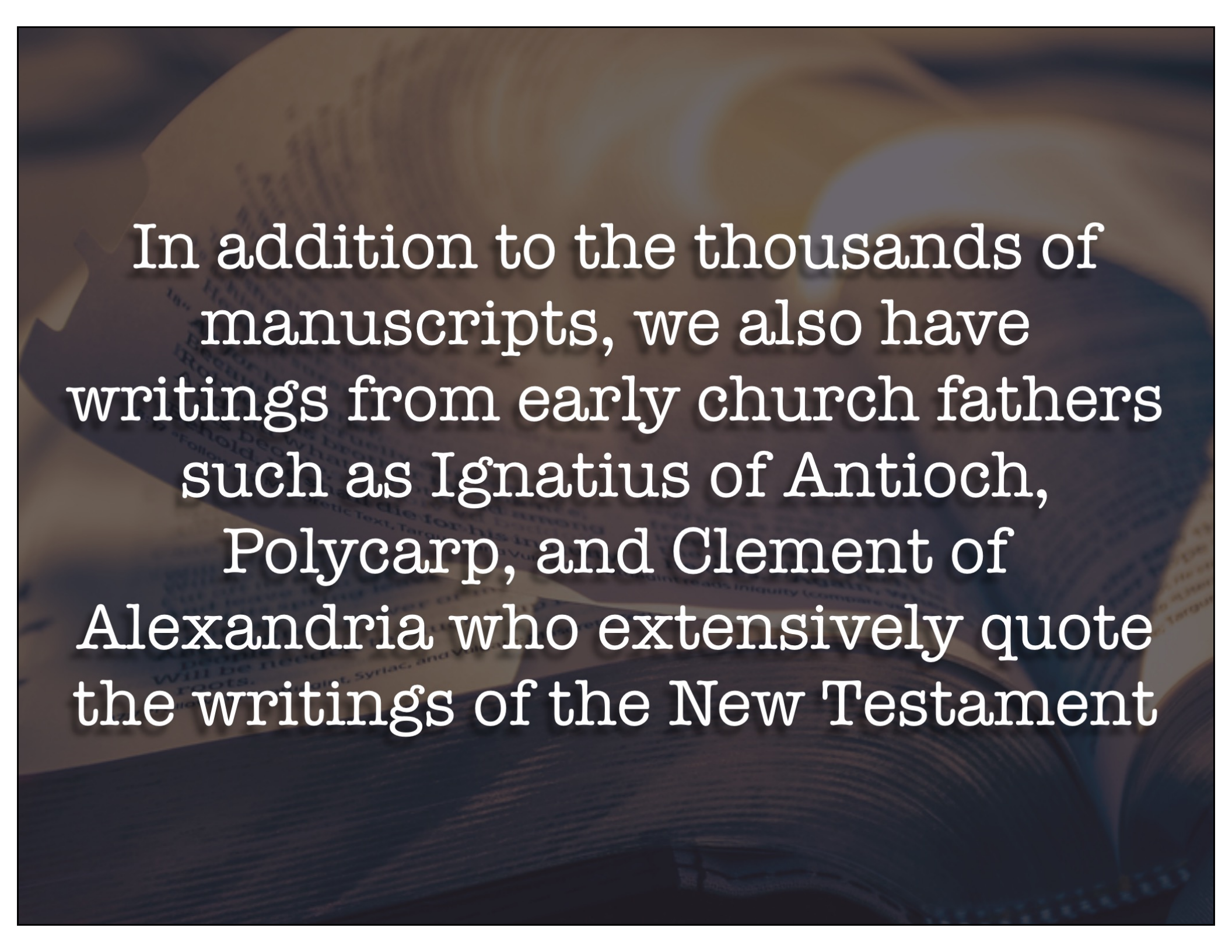


NO ONE ever
questions the
accuracy of the
writings of
Homer and Plato

An open Bible is shown in a dark, moody setting. The pages are slightly blurred, but some text is visible. The central focus is the large white text overlaid on the image. The text reads: "So What About the Bible?".

So What About the Bible?

177 *Following Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate; Masoretic text

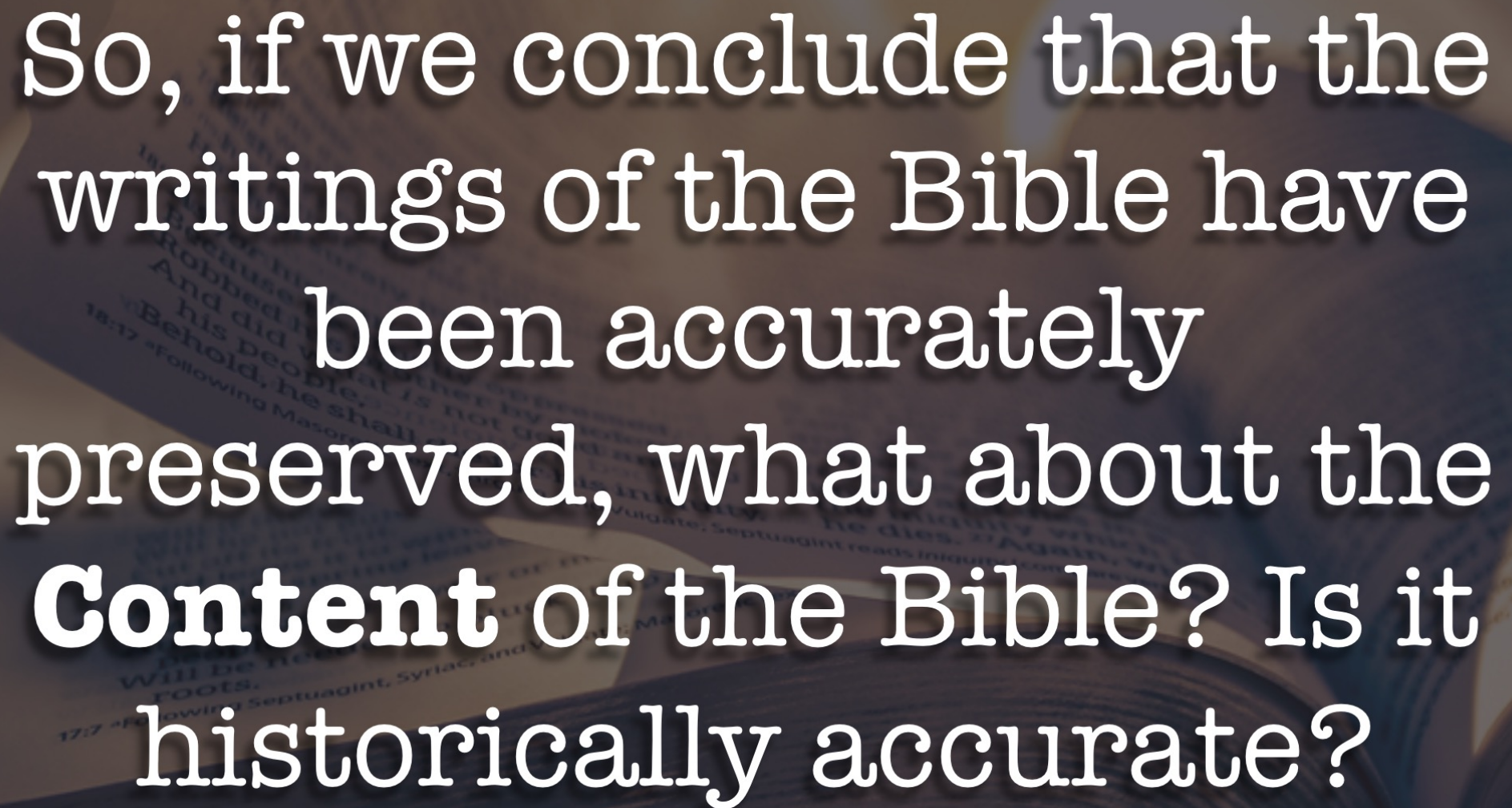


In addition to the thousands of manuscripts, we also have writings from early church fathers such as Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp, and Clement of Alexandria who extensively quote the writings of the New Testament

“It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: Especially is this the case with the New Testament. 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 another of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world.”

-Fredric Kenyon

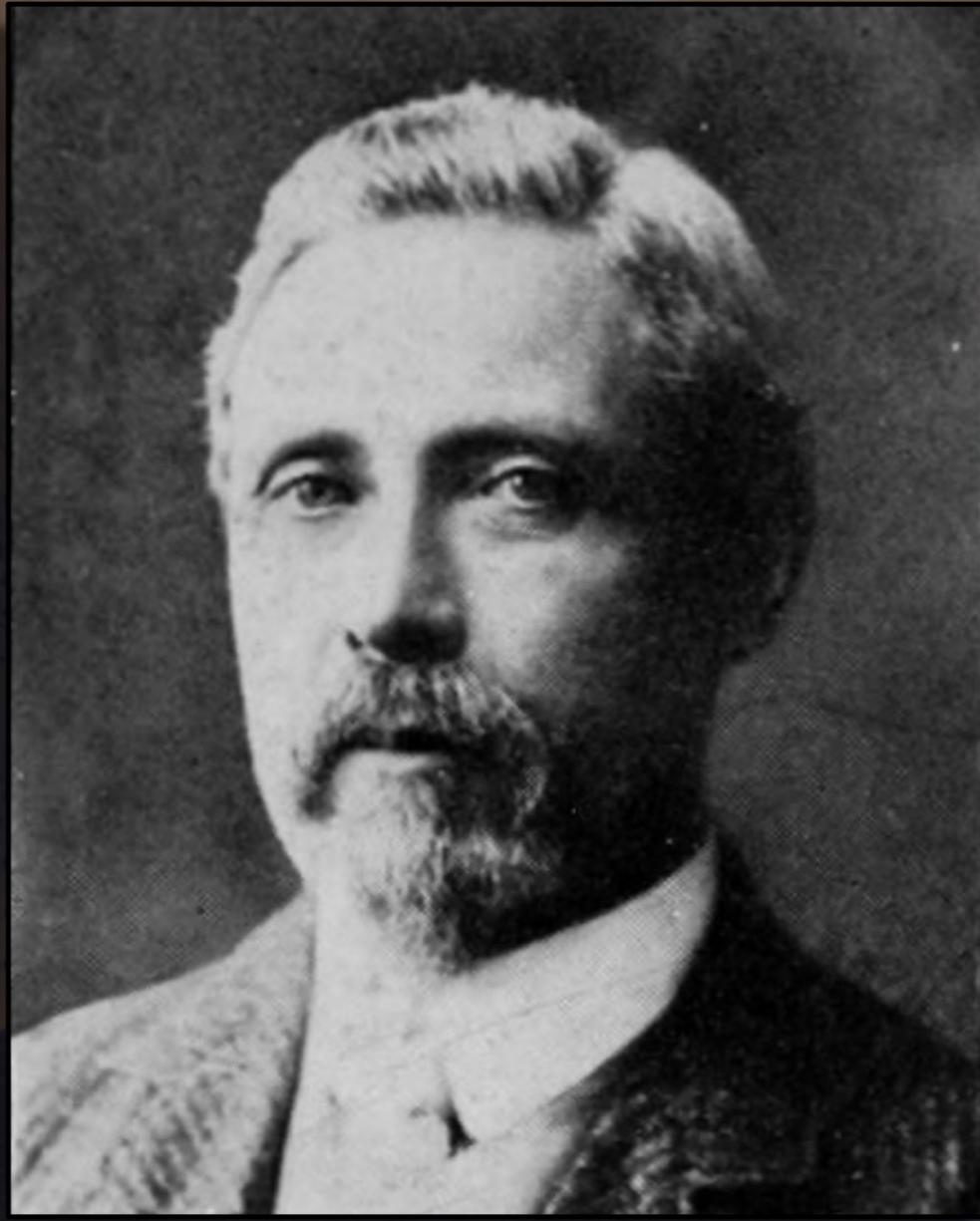
English palaeographer and biblical scholar

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of an open Bible. The pages are filled with text, and the binding is visible in the center. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of blue and brown. The text overlaid on the image is white with a subtle drop shadow, making it stand out against the darker background.

So, if we conclude that the writings of the Bible have been accurately preserved, what about the **Content** of the Bible? Is it historically accurate?



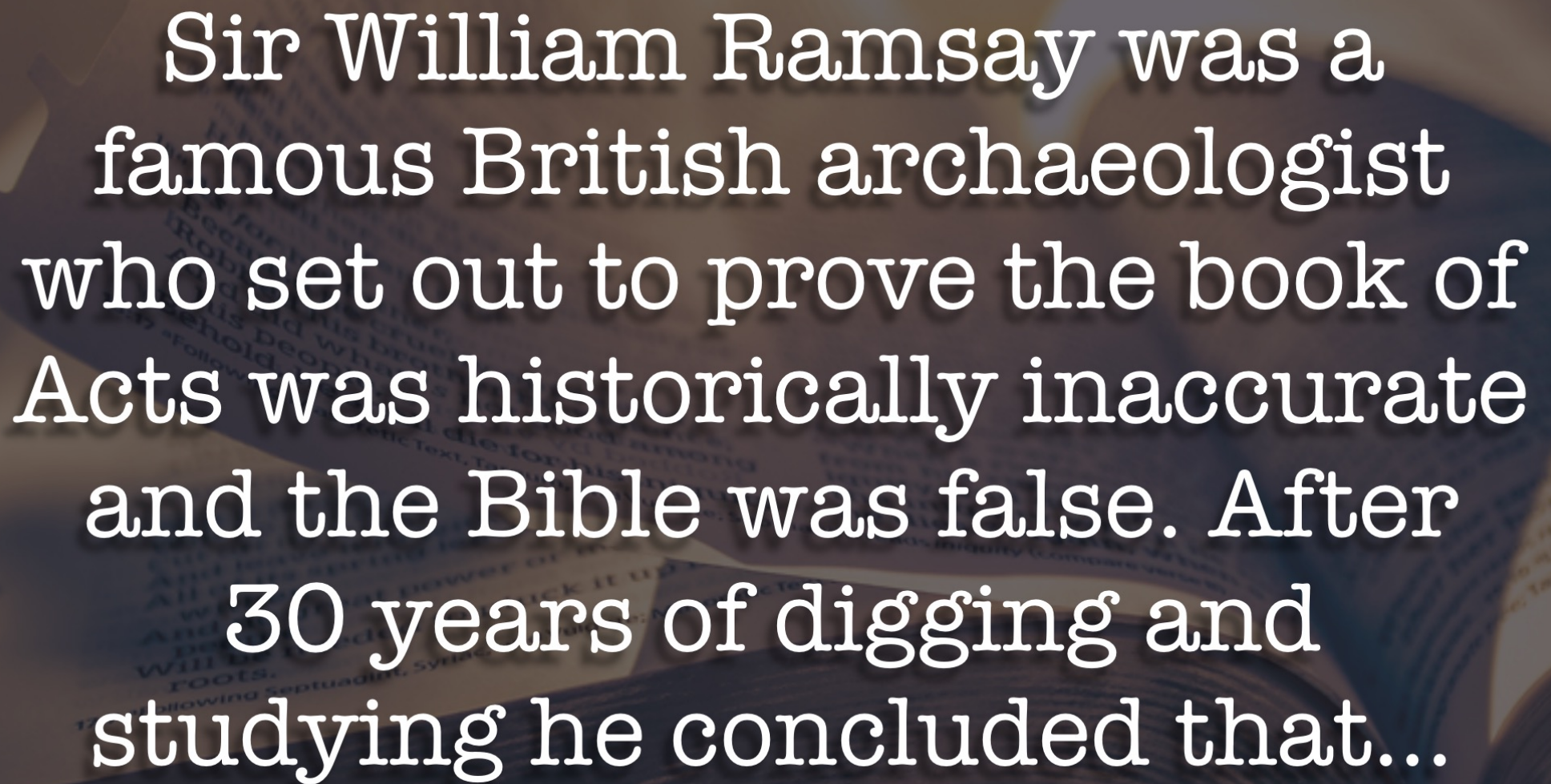
Let's Start With **Acts of Apostles**



18:17 "Behold, he shall
And did what
Robbed his
Because he
As for his
Heshai

17:7 "Following Septuagint
Will be need
people
And no great
All of its
And leave
Will be need
17:7 "Following Septuagint

Argue

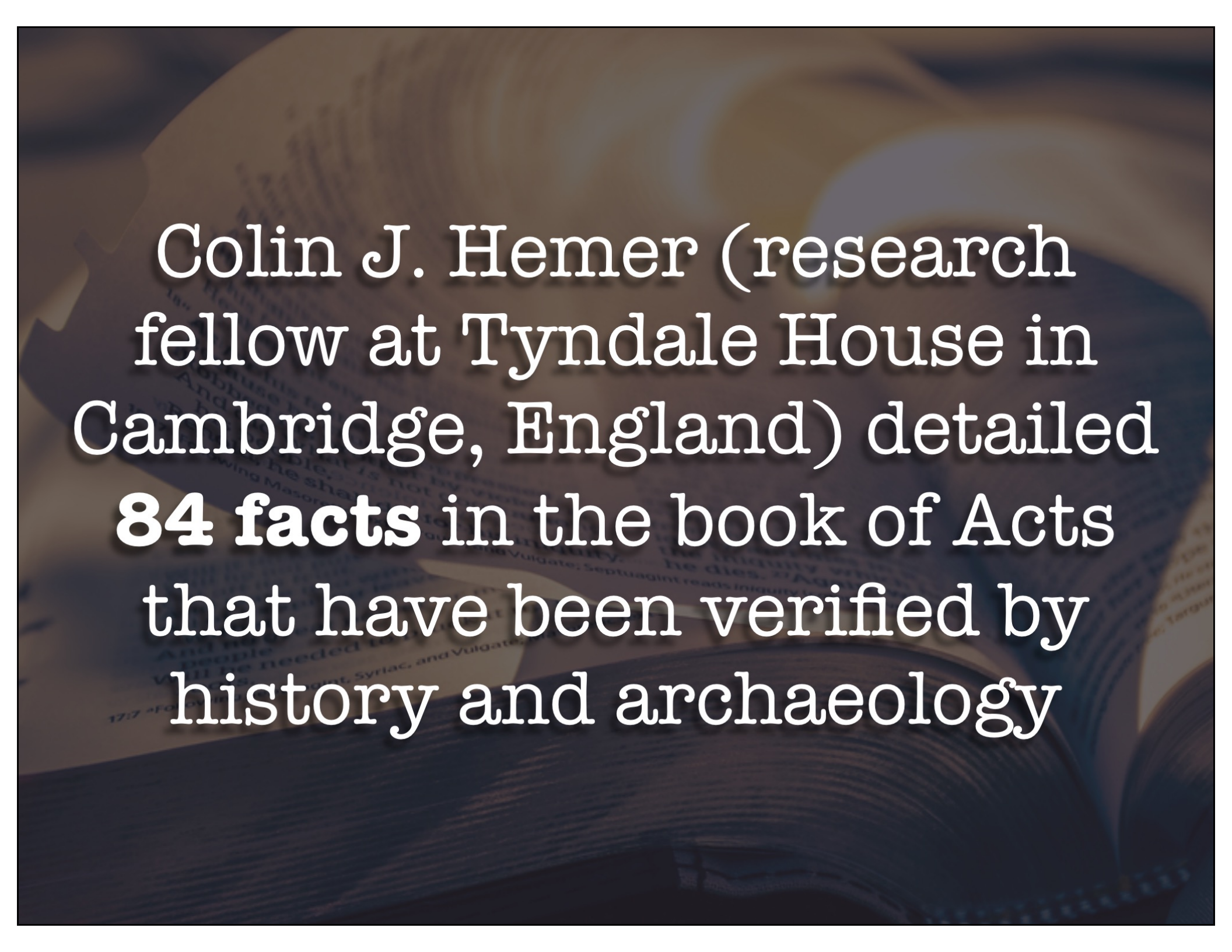


Sir William Ramsay was a famous British archaeologist who set out to prove the book of Acts was historically inaccurate and the Bible was false. After 30 years of digging and studying he concluded that...

“Acts may justly be quoted as a trustworthy historical authority... Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historic sense...In short, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians”

-Sir William Ramsay

(from "The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament")



Colin J. Hemer (research fellow at Tyndale House in Cambridge, England) detailed **84 facts** in the book of Acts that have been verified by history and archaeology

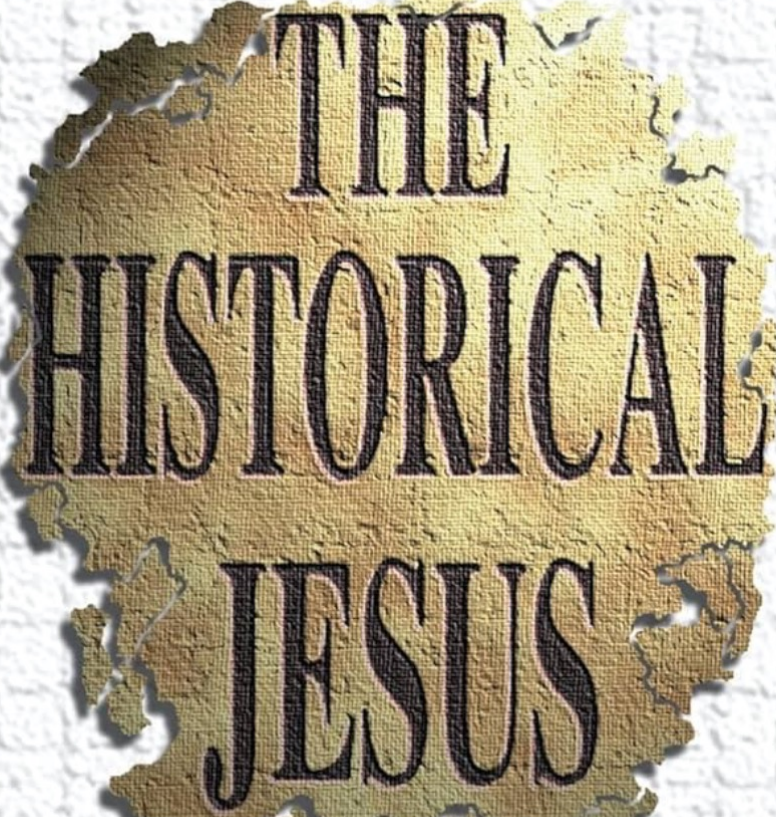
“A writer who thus relates his story to the wider context of world history is courting trouble if he is not careful; he affords his critical readers so many opportunities for testing his accuracy. Luke takes this risk, and stands the test admirably.”

-F. F. Bruce

Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at
the University of Manchester

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages slightly curved. The text on the pages is mostly illegible due to a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The central focus is the large, white, serif text 'What About the Life of Jesus?' which is centered over the book. The background is a dark, muted blue-grey color.

What About the Life of Jesus?



**THE
HISTORICAL
JESUS**

**ANCIENT EVIDENCE FOR
THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

GARY R. HABERMAS

In "The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ", Gary Habermas documents **45 ancient sources** for the life of Jesus, including **17 non-Christian sources**. He goes on to list **129 facts about Jesus' life**, teachings, death, resurrection, and teachings of His early disciples verified by these sources.

*Next
Lesson...*

Who Did Jesus Claim He Was?

Lesson 6