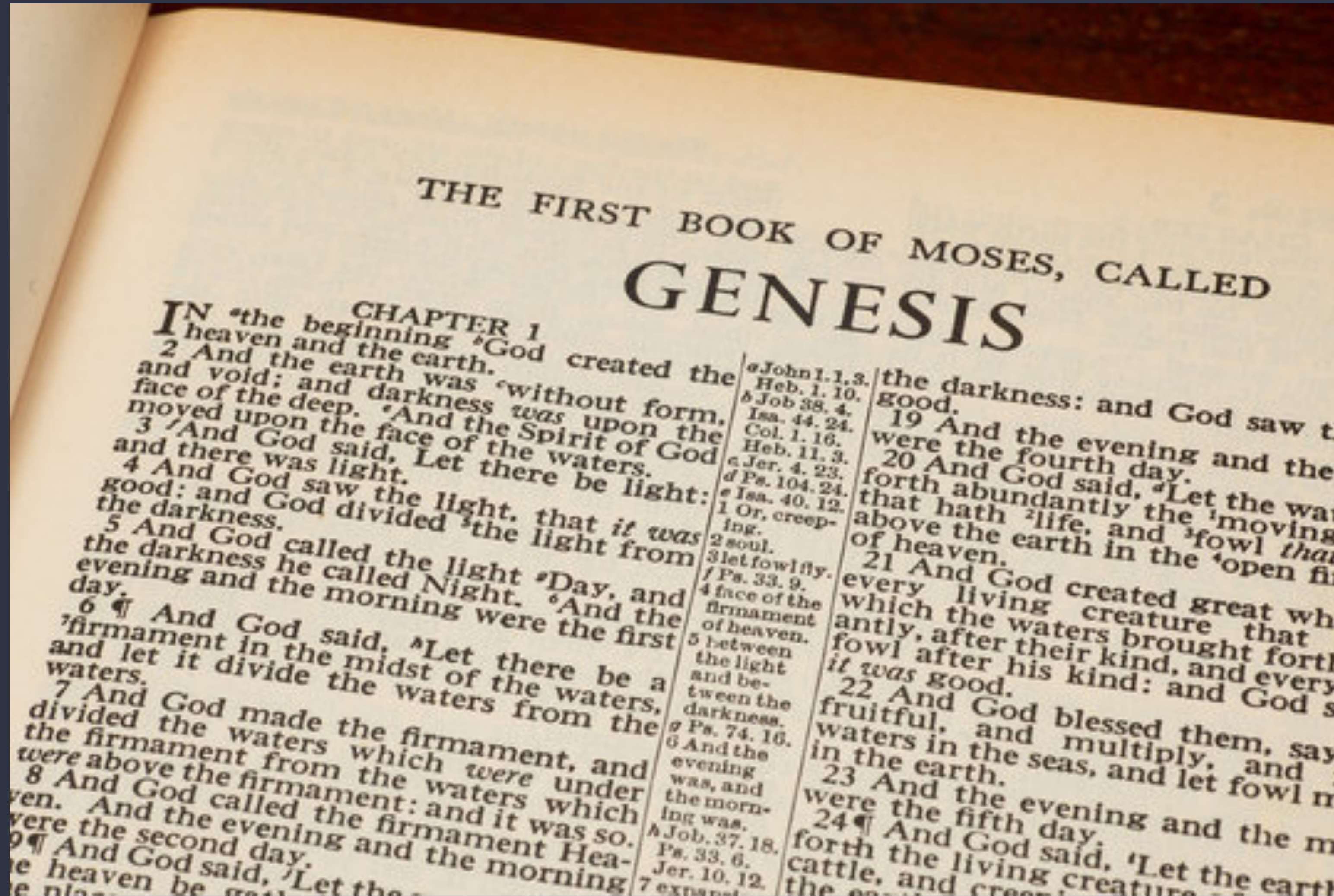


RECAPPING WEEK 2 – IS THE BIBLE AUTHORITATIVE?



An aerial, high-angle photograph of a city with numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is dark, with a green-to-yellow gradient overlay on the left side. A white L-shaped graphic element is positioned over the green area. A dark grey rectangular box is centered on the right side, containing the text 'RECAP WEEK 2' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

RECAP WEEK 2

RECAPPING WEEK 2 – IS THE BIBLE AUTHORITATIVE?

- God and Revelation
- Different attributes of God as it relates to Scripture
- How we know Scripture is the Word of God
- How the Bible was written
- The truthfulness of Scripture
- How we can be convinced
- Confidence Booster

CONFIDENCE BOOSTER

God

God in His Nature is Truth
and cannot lie

God through His Holy Spirit
inspired the human authors

The witness of the
Holy Spirit

The amazing internal
consistency and harmony

Written by 40 authors over
1600 years

Biblical Prophecy

Others
knowledge

Findings in science,
archaeology and history

Change

Inspire movements

Transform societies

Changes lives

An aerial photograph of a city with a grid of buildings. A large green rectangle is overlaid on the top left, and a white L-shaped frame is overlaid on the top and left sides of a grey rectangle. The grey rectangle contains the text.

WEEK 3

Is the Bible Reliable?

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

The word reliable means whether a person can rely or depend on something or someone.

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

Reliability is always associated with truth and fact.

THE \$1000 WORD - INERRANCY

Theologians use the term Inerrancy when it comes to the topic of errors in Scripture.

THE \$1000 WORD - INERRANCY

Inerrancy is that what God communicated through the authors in its **original form** and manuscript did not have any errors in them.

THE \$1000 WORD - INERRANCY

Every word written by the prophets and apostles were **100% error free.**

It's Complicated

DO WE HAVE THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS?

- Time, weather, animals, decay..
- God in His providence and choice has not chosen to preserve the originals as we know it

DO WE HAVE THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS?

For both Old and New Testaments we only have copies and copies of copies.

DO WE HAVE THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS?

It is the case for all writings in history
whether sacred or not to have only
copies.

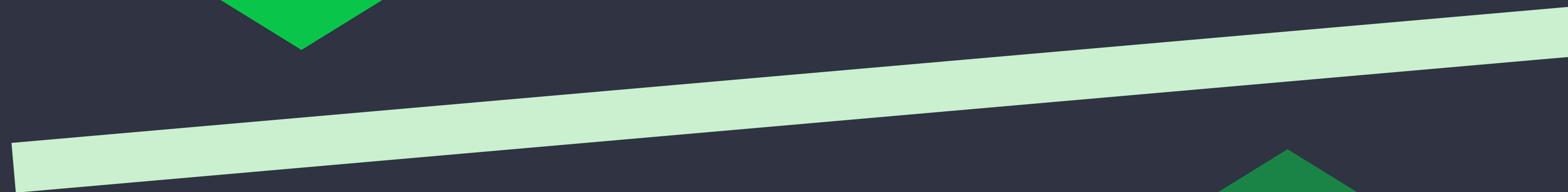
SHOULD WE GIVE
UP AND STOP
TRUSTING?



SINCE WE DON'T HAVE, SHOULDN'T WE STOP TRUSTING?



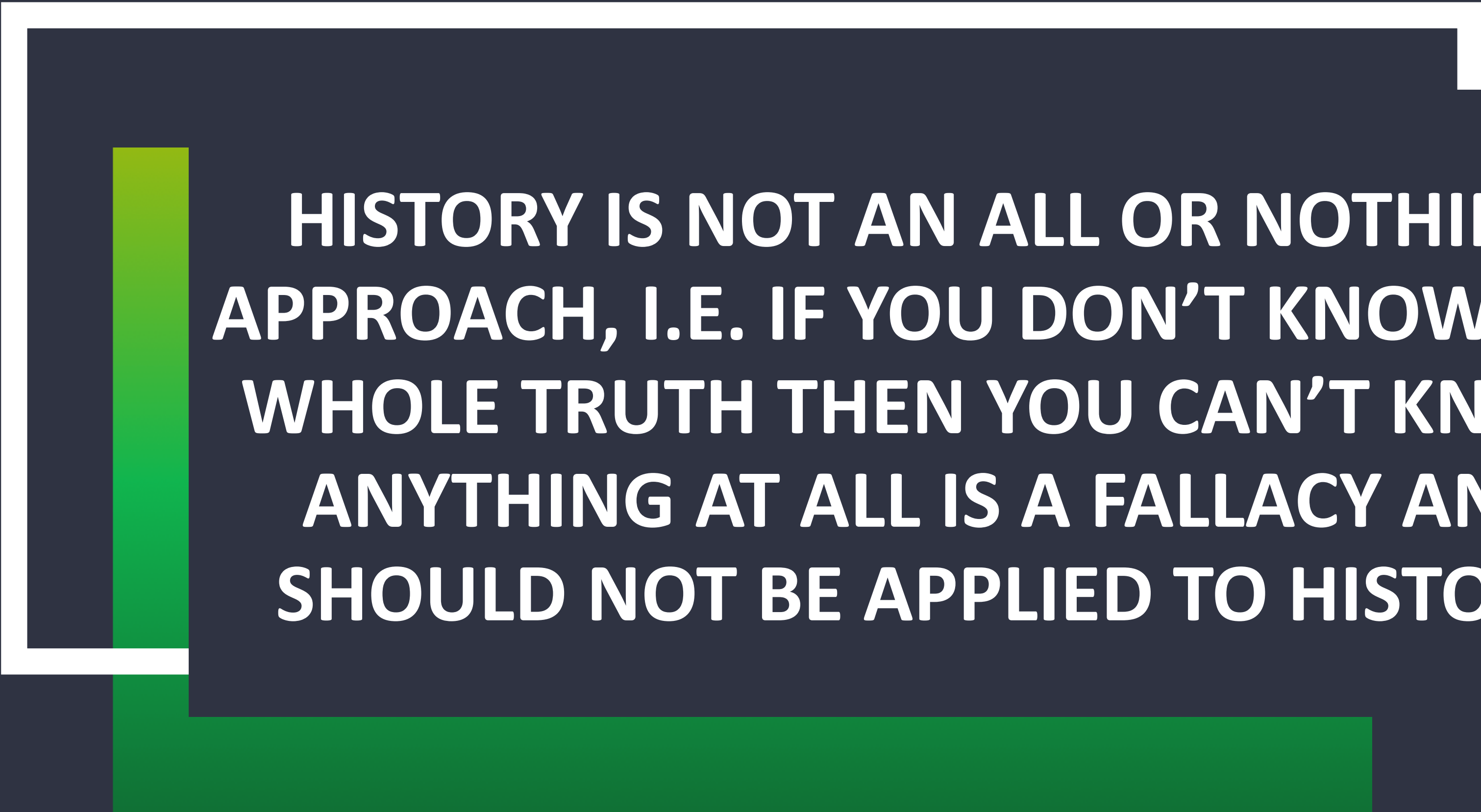
“Scepticism”
I can't know anything



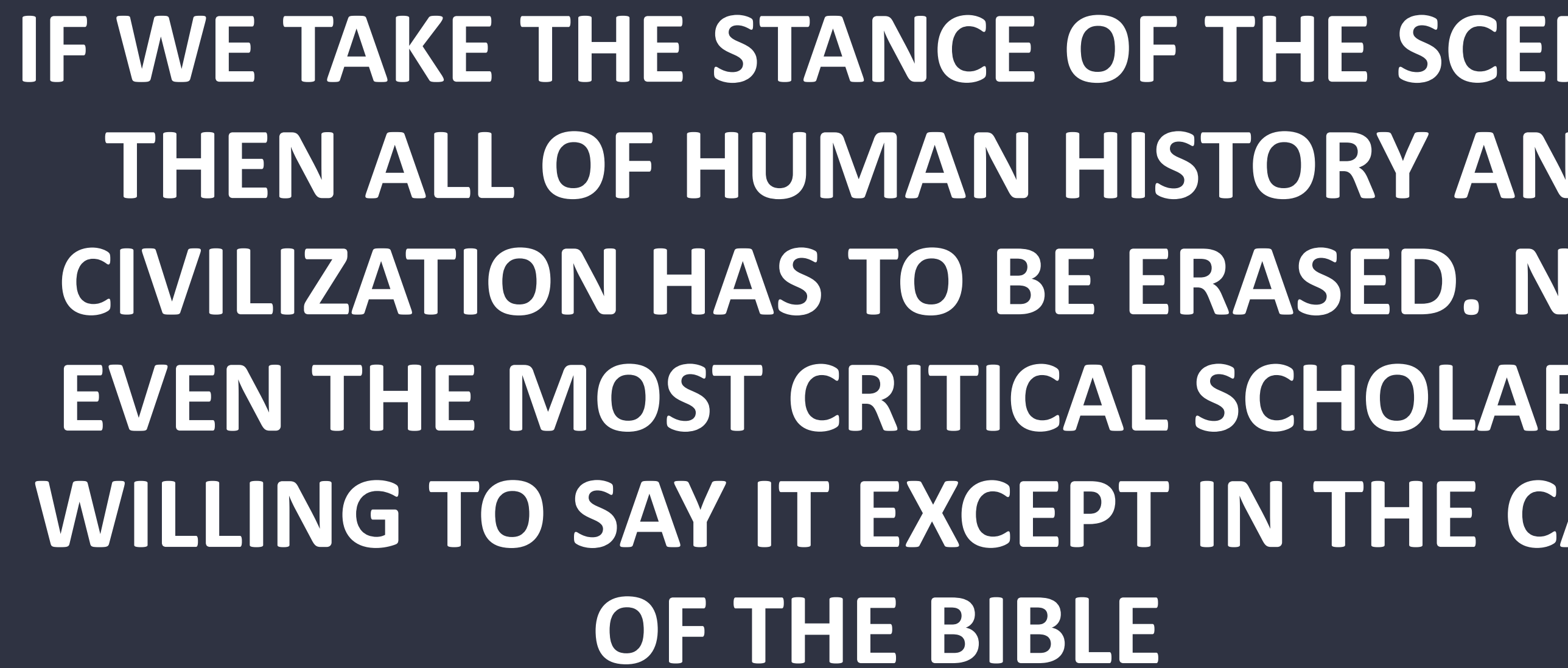
“Best Possible Explanation / Beyond Reasonable Doubt”

What makes the most sense given the data





**HISTORY IS NOT AN ALL OR NOTHING
APPROACH, I.E. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE
WHOLE TRUTH THEN YOU CAN'T KNOW
ANYTHING AT ALL IS A FALLACY AND
SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO HISTORY**

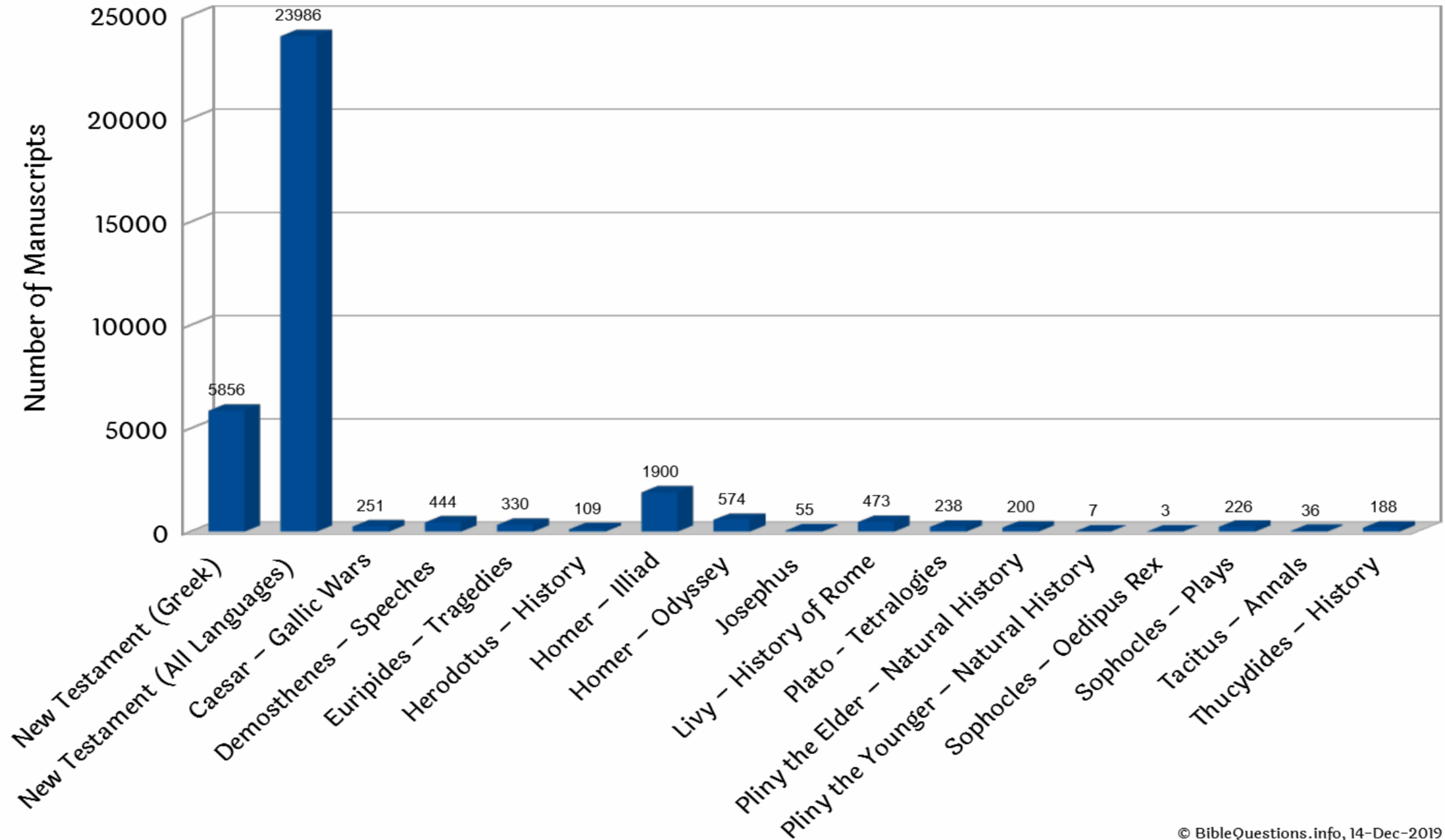


**IF WE TAKE THE STANCE OF THE SCEPTIC
THEN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY AND
CIVILIZATION HAS TO BE ERASED. NOT
EVEN THE MOST CRITICAL SCHOLAR IS
WILLING TO SAY IT EXCEPT IN THE CASE
OF THE BIBLE**

OK, SO HOW MANY COPIES DO WE HAVE?

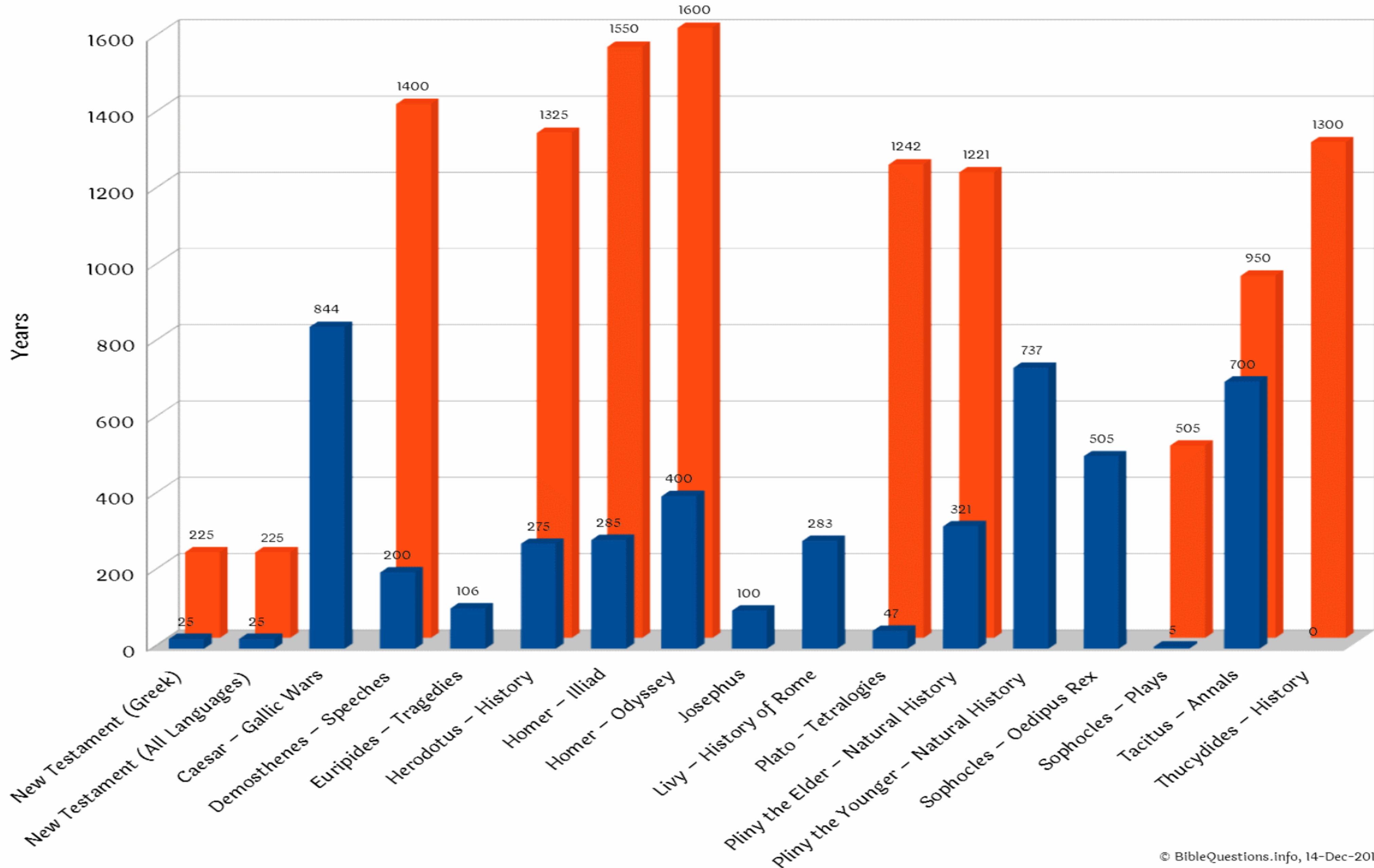


Number of Manuscripts for Ancient Works



Years Between Date Written and Earliest Fragment or Manuscript

■ Years Between Date Written and Earliest Fragment (BibleQuestions.info)
■ Years Between Date Written and Earliest Manuscript (BibleQuestions.info)

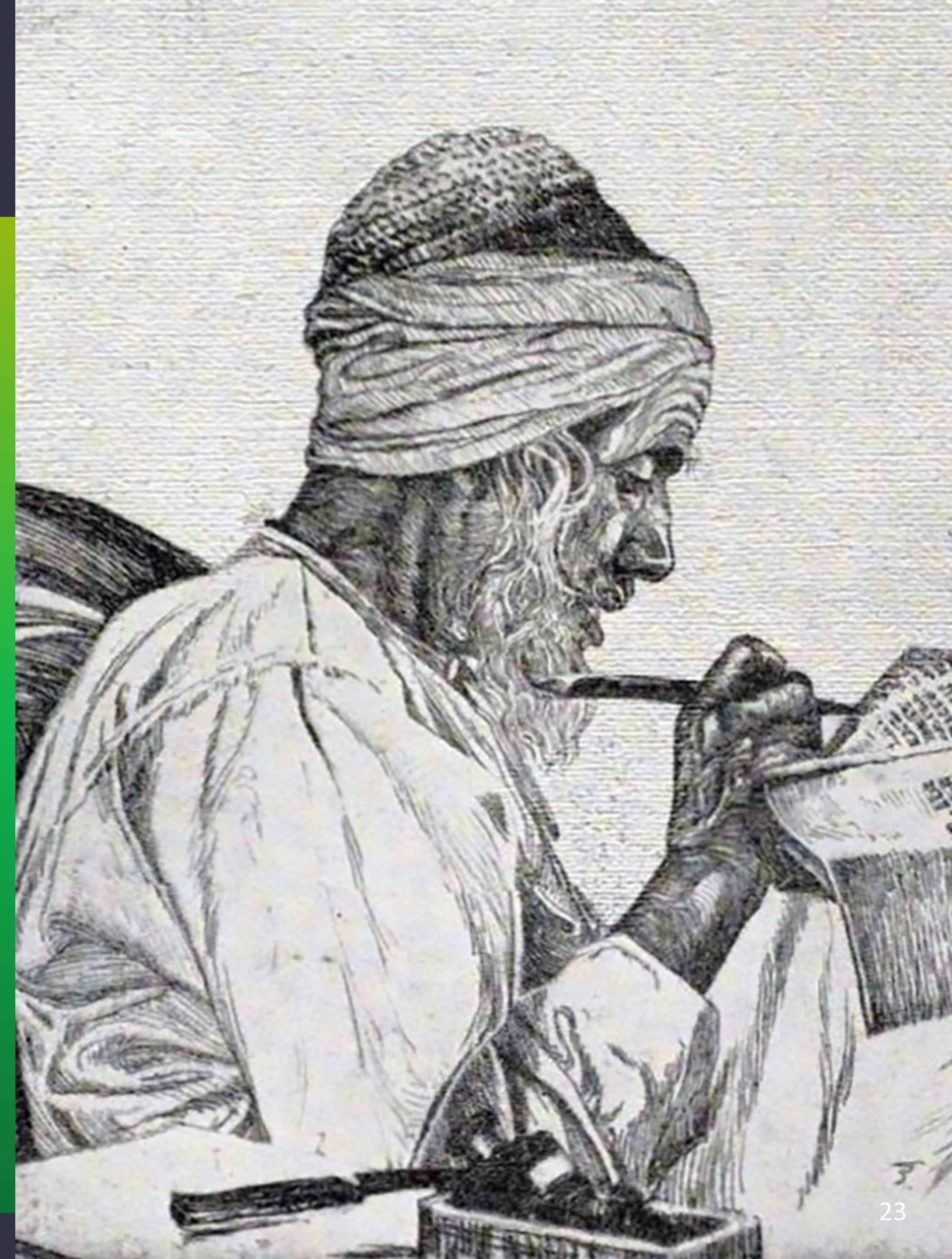


HOW DID THEY COPY?



HOW DID THEY COPY?

- Everything was copied by hand
- It was a meticulous process that was taken very seriously.
- The copies were always “peer reviewed” to catch any issues with the copying process.



**GREAT! SO DO ALL THE COPIES
MATCH?**

- The answer is no.
- There are 138,612 words in the New Testament.
- However, there are 400,000 variations between the different manuscripts we have.

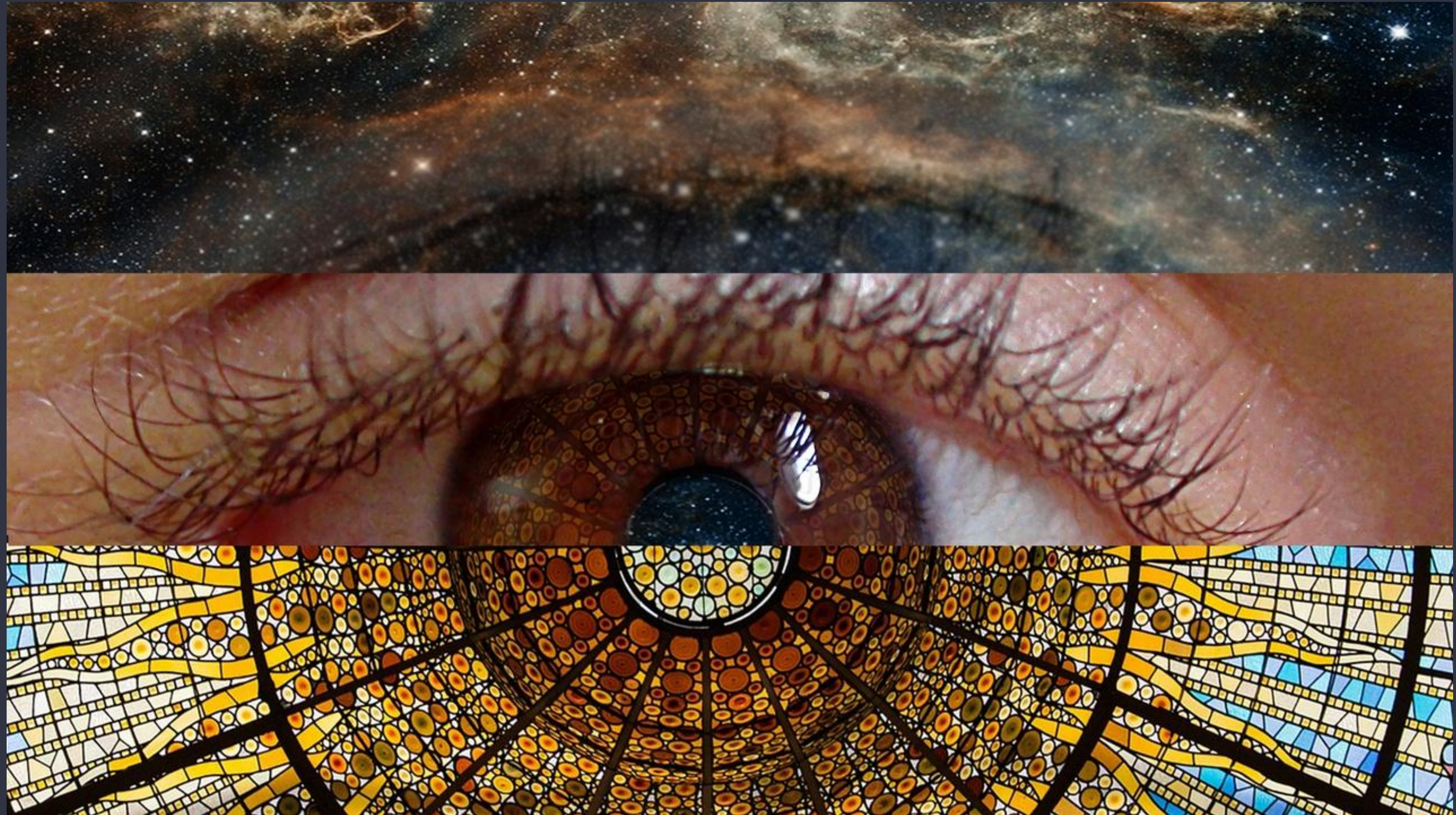


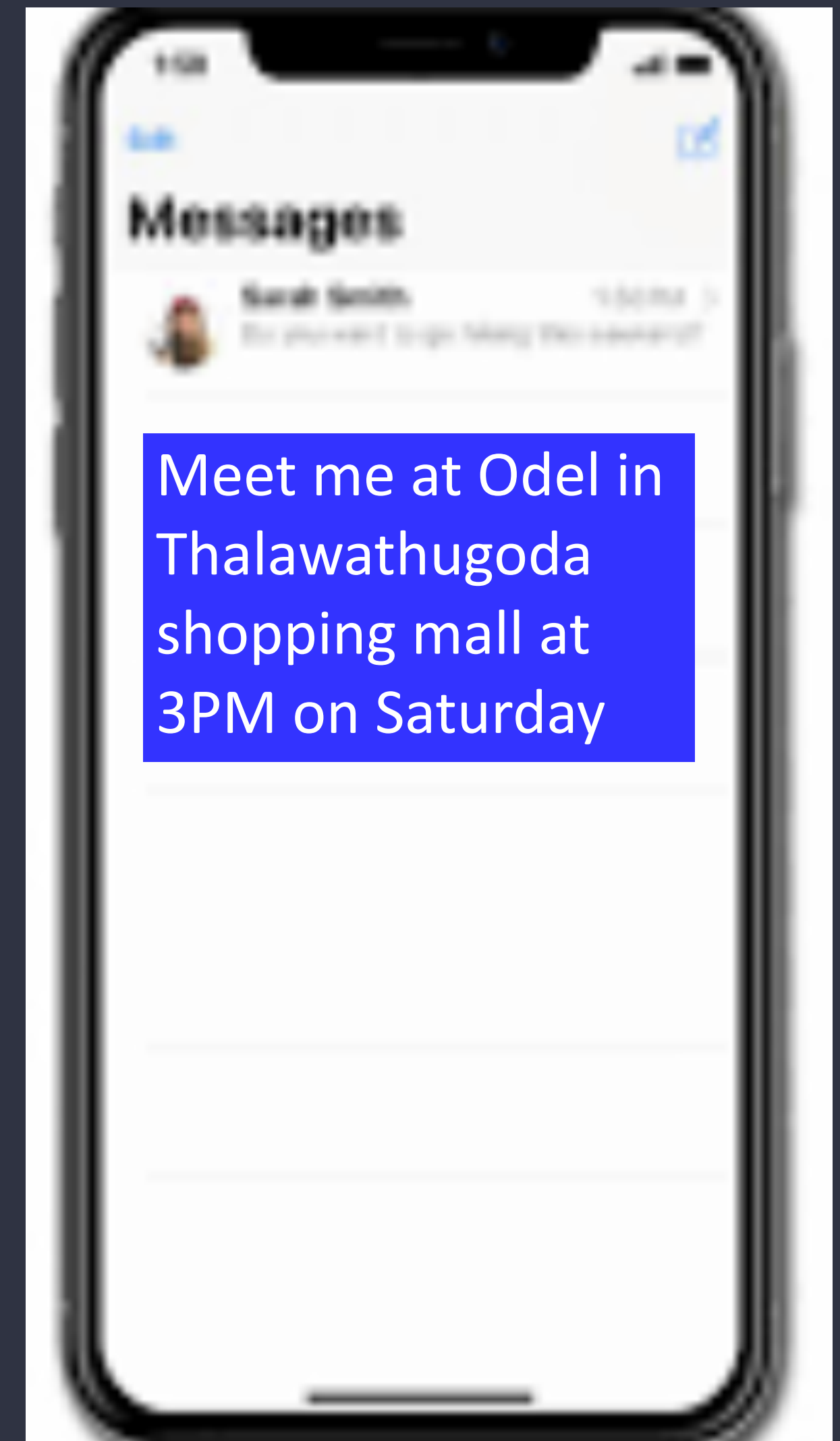
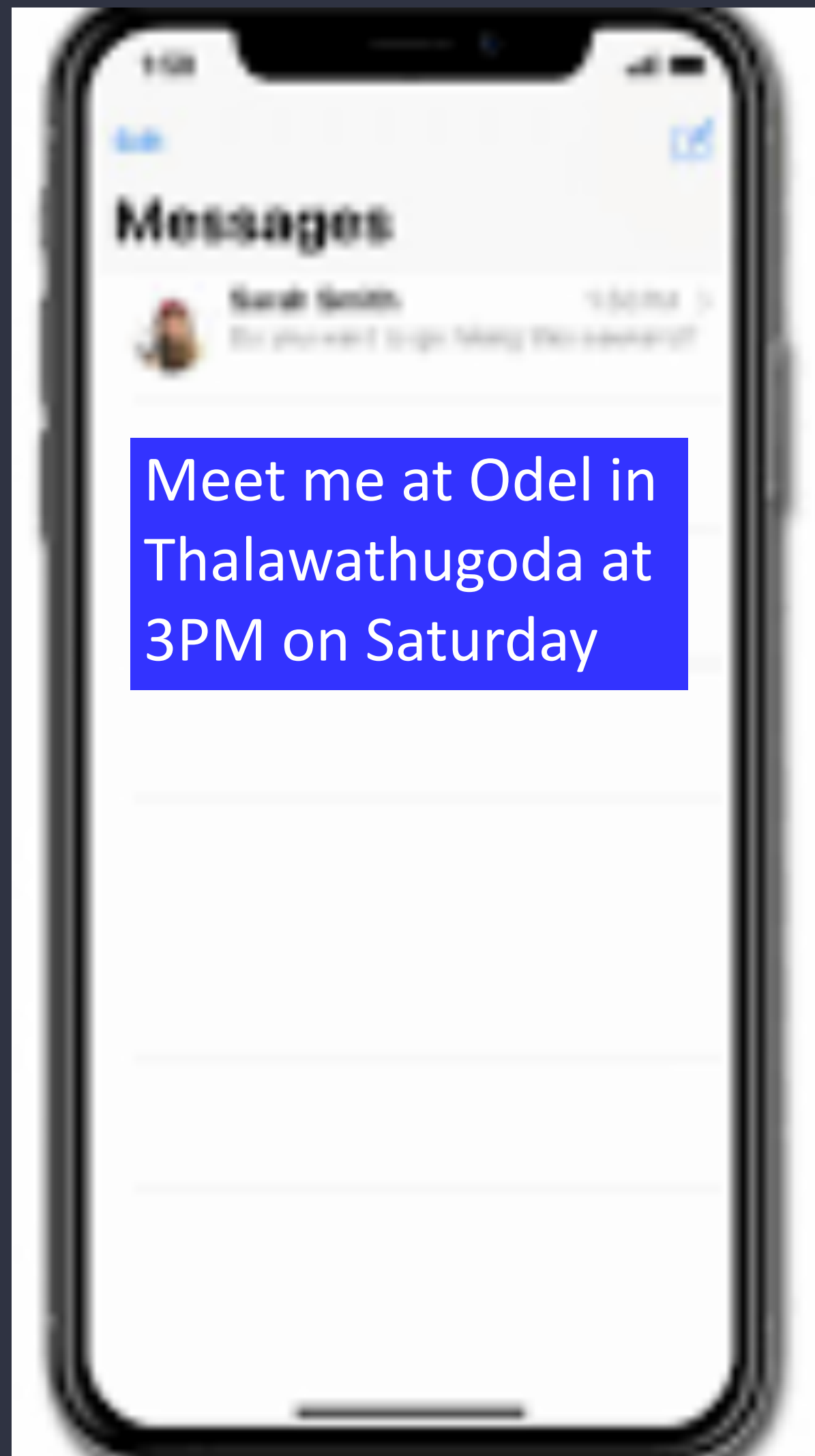
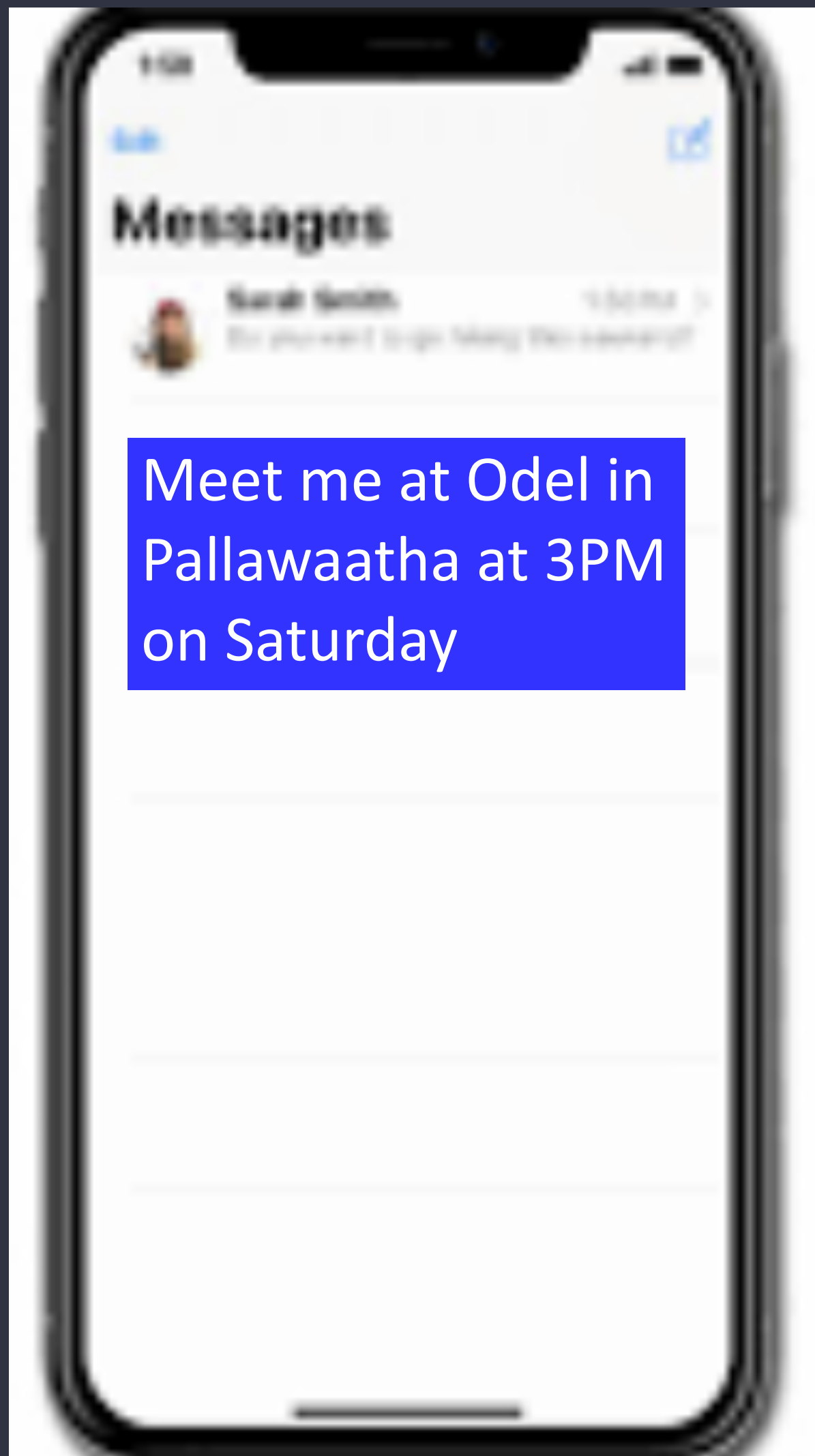
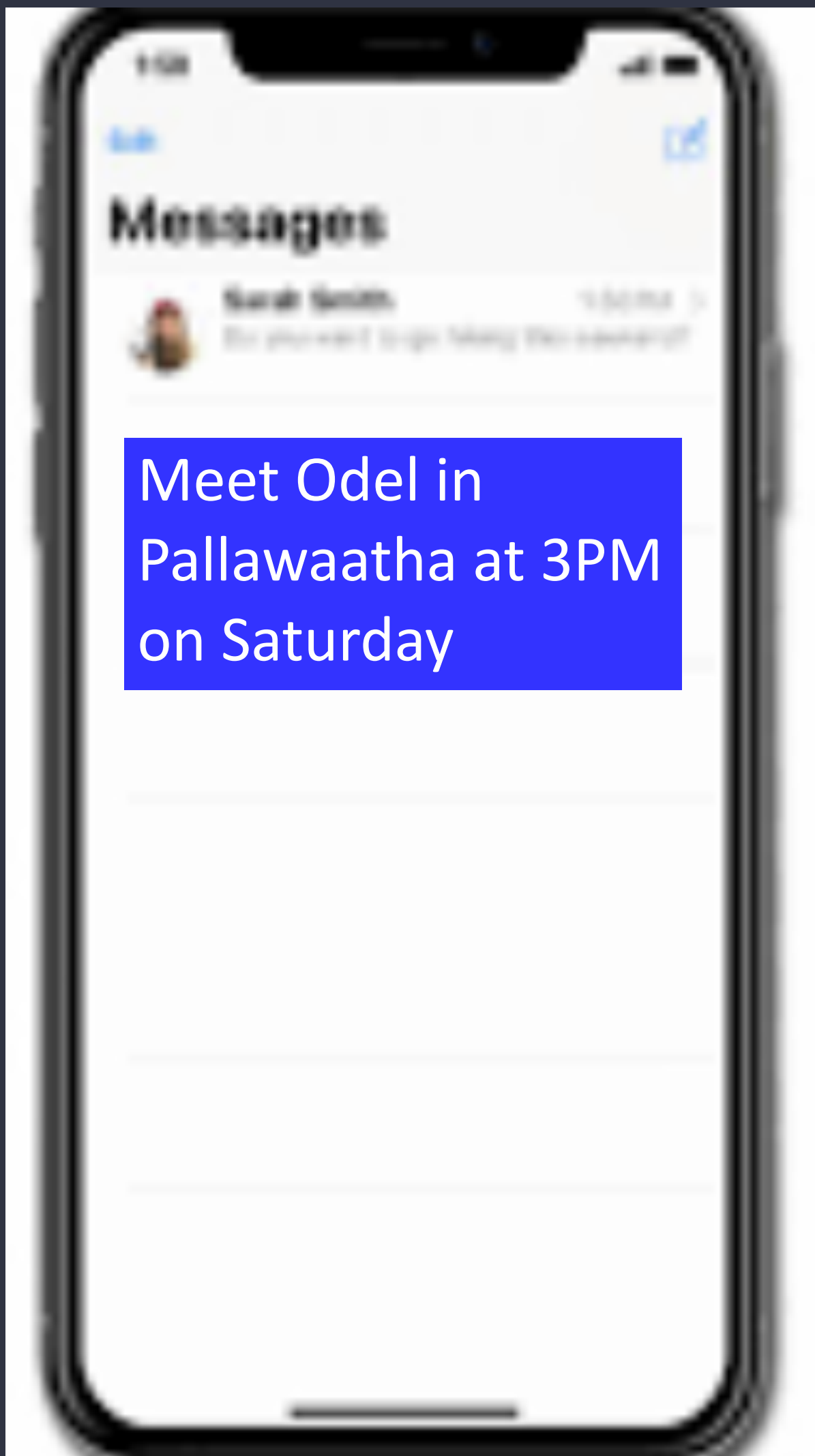
**More the manuscripts, more
the variants!**

Quantity vs. Quality

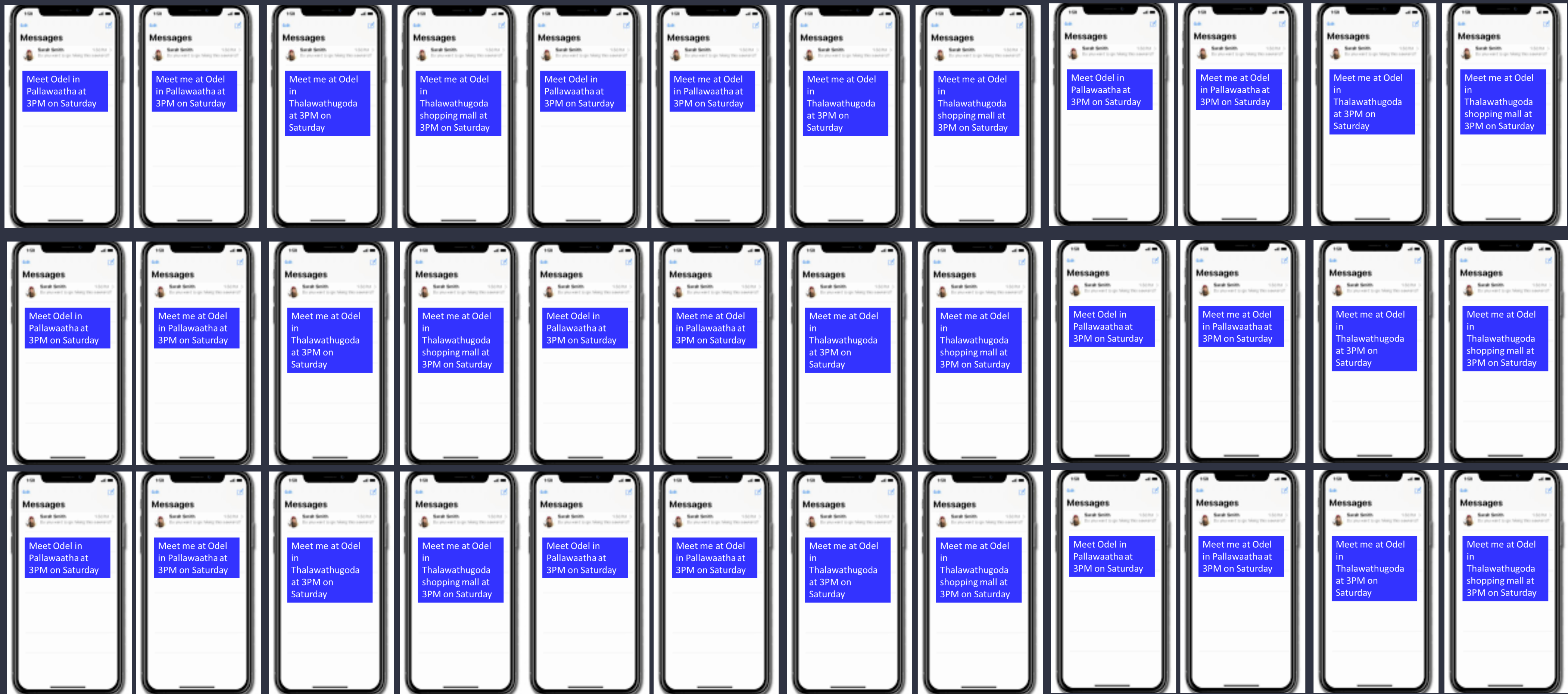
A variation is where there is a difference for one part of text, with one or more manuscripts..

GETTING CLOSER TO THE TRUTH





There are so many variants in those 4 messages.
But the message has not changed



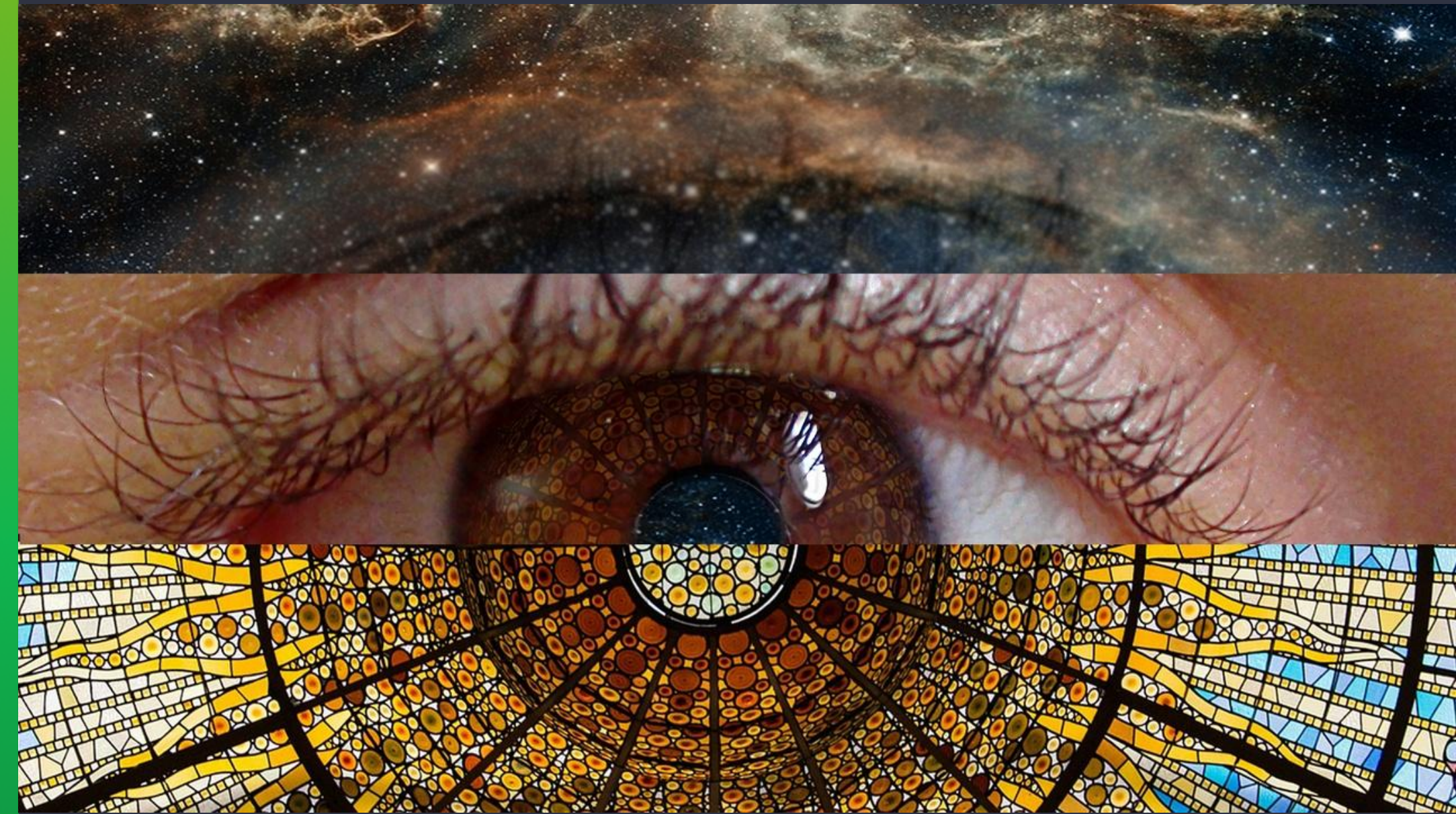
More the copies, more the variants.

However more the copies, the closer we get to the truth

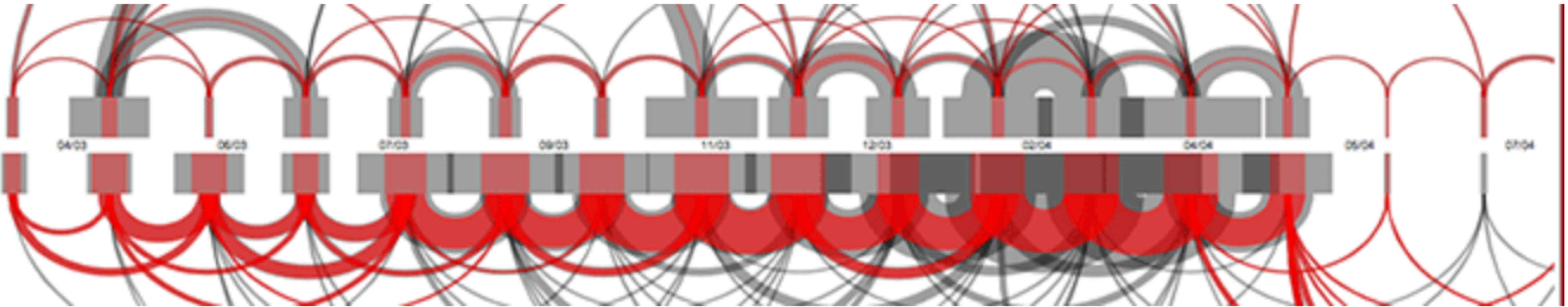
We have close 25,000 odd copies of copies to compare and contrast

TEXTUAL CRITICISM

- This method allows the interpreters to compare word for word, passage for passage across
 - Time (dating of manuscript or fragment)
 - Language (Greek, Latin, Syriac)
 - Geographies (Europe, Africa, Asia)
- Identify all the differences
- Identify what is the likeliest original message



TEXTUAL CRITICISM



The Devil

is in the

details

**70-80% are spelling
differences**

**Minor differences
in synonyms**

**Meaningful
difference unlikely
in the autograph**

**Meaningful
difference likely in
the autograph**

FALSE IDEAS ABOUT INERRANCY



BIBLE IS ONLY INERRANT ON SPIRITUAL MATTERS

- The Bible is inerrant (truthful) in the areas of faith and practice
 - This means that the scriptures can made false statements about other contents, claims and recordings e.g. Noah's Ark, Jesus walking on Water, Jonah in the belly of a big fish
 - The Bible does not restrict itself to what it makes statements about e.g. there are 600,000 men who left Egypt for instance.
 - 2 Tim 3:16 – all Scripture is God breathed. Ps 12:6 – all words are pure.
 - Jesus and Apostles did not make such distinctions and qualifications and we need to be all err.

BIBLE IS ONLY INERRANT ON SPIRITUAL MATTERS

The Bible cannot be separated
from history.

Real people, Real Events, Real Names
in Real Times.

INERRANT IS TOO HIGH A STANDARD

- God's word as recorded by the original authors in the original manuscripts were error free.
- Denying this reality is dangerous as it undermines both God and man.
- It also places us in a dangerous place of "who determines what is right and wrong"
- We soon find ourselves, **humans, being the final arbiter of truth**

INERRANT IS TOO HIGH A STANDARD

In the garden of Eden was man wanting to define what is the right vs wrong, not submit to God's revelation.

INNOCENT TILL PROVEN GUILTY



INNOCENT TILL PROVEN GUILTY

- **The Bible is true even**

- **Without being exhaustive**
 - E.g. the details of the childhood of Jesus
 - E.g. the silent years of Paul after his conversion
- **When there is no external evidence to back a biblical claim**
 - E.g. Jericho was not destroyed
- **When it uses ordinary language to describe complex process**
 - Setting of the sun or the falling of rain
- **When it is not precise with the numbers**
 - During OT time, decimal point precision was not required
 - Rounding, approximations
- **When using loose quotations “ ... ”**
 - Zach 12:10 (God speaking), John 19:37 – John writing.
- **Copyist errors**
 - 2 Chron 22:2 (KJV – Ahaziah 42 years), 2 Kings 8:6 (22 years)

INNOCENT TILL PROVEN GUILTY

- **The Bible is true even**

- **Assuming the Unexplained Is Unexplainable**
 - E.g. Historians believed Moses didn't write the Pentateuch because literacy came after Moses' time.
- **Partial reports are False reports**
 - E.g. Peter's confession of Christ. Matt 16:16, Mk 8:29, Lk 9:20. Ex. 20:8-11 with Deut. 5:12-15 (10 commandments)
- **Same event different accounts**
 - Matt 28:5, one angel at tomb. Jn 20:12 – two angels
 - Temptations of Jesus (Matt / Luke reverse order of temptation 2 and 3, Mark gives a short account)
- **Presuming the Bible approves all records**
 - 2 Sam 11:4 – David's sin
- **When the Bible uses metaphors, hyperboles**
 - I am the door, pluck out your eye



Q&A