

The Bible

A Historical Miracle

Hebrews 5:11-6:1

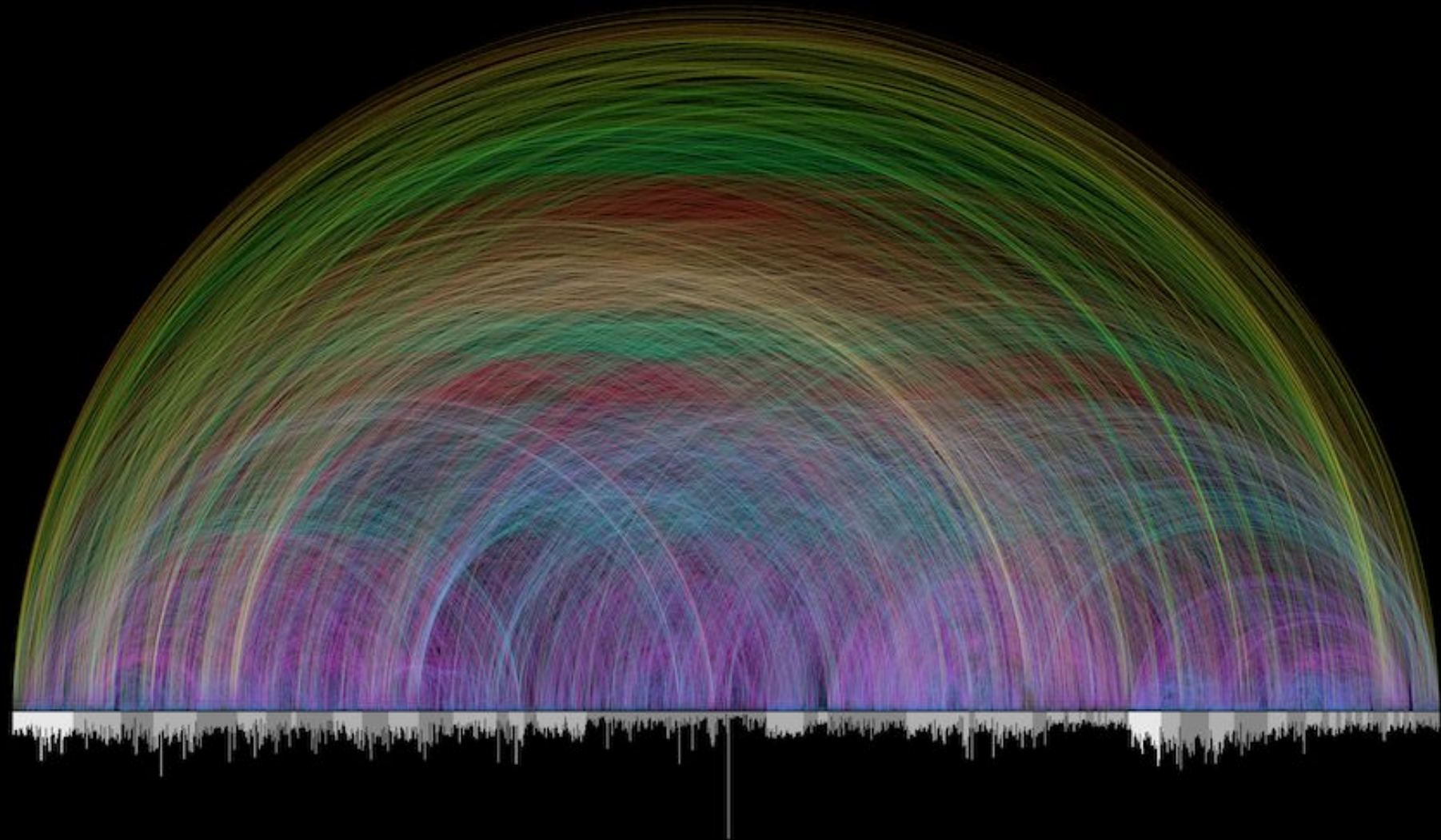
About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

Hebrews 5:11-6:1

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,





Today's Topics

- How did we get the Bible?
- Can we trust the Bible?
- Address myths and objections.

Old Testament

- Accepted organically (Joshua 24:26, Daniel 9:2)
- Words from God were tested by:
 - Fulfilled prophecy (Deut. 18:21-22)
 - Consistency (Deut. 13:1-3, Isaiah 8:20)

New Testament

- Gospels
 - Written in the first century
 - Reflect conventions of biography and history
- Acts
- Epistles
- Revelation

Original

Church 1

Church 2

Church 3

Church 4



Canon

- Recognized vs Chosen
- God-breathed text, written by an apostle or someone taught by them, and is consistent with the testimony of the rest of scripture.

Canon

- Most books were agreed upon very early
- Didoche and Diatessaron
- The Church Fathers confirm the Gospels and most epistles
- Council of Nicea (325)
- Council of Trent (1545-1563)

Inerrancy of Scripture

The scriptures are perfect in their original manuscripts and are exactly what God intended the church to use as a guide for how we order our lives and conform them to the commands and purposes of God.

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, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Objection

“How can we know that the Gospels are accurate and not just made up or embellished?”

Reliability of the Gospels

- Verisimilitude
 - Common names
 - Locations
 - Chronistic and regional knowledge
- Authorial attribution
- Criterion of embarrassment



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Myth

“Maybe we can trust the words of Jesus, but the Apostles were simply writing about their own opinions.”

“When the writers of the NT are talking about scripture, they’re only talking about the OT, not the epistles.”

Apostolic Authority

- Galatians 1:1
- Galatians 1:11-12
- Ephesians 2:19-20
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- 2 Peter 3:15-16

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

2 Peter 3:15-16

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters.

2 Peter 3:15-16

There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Myth

“Even if these books are the right books, and the Gospels are reliable accounts of Jesus’ life, we still can’t know for certain what those original manuscripts said. They could have been changed over time.”

Original

Church 1

Original

Church 1



Original

Church 1

Church 2

Church 3

Church 4



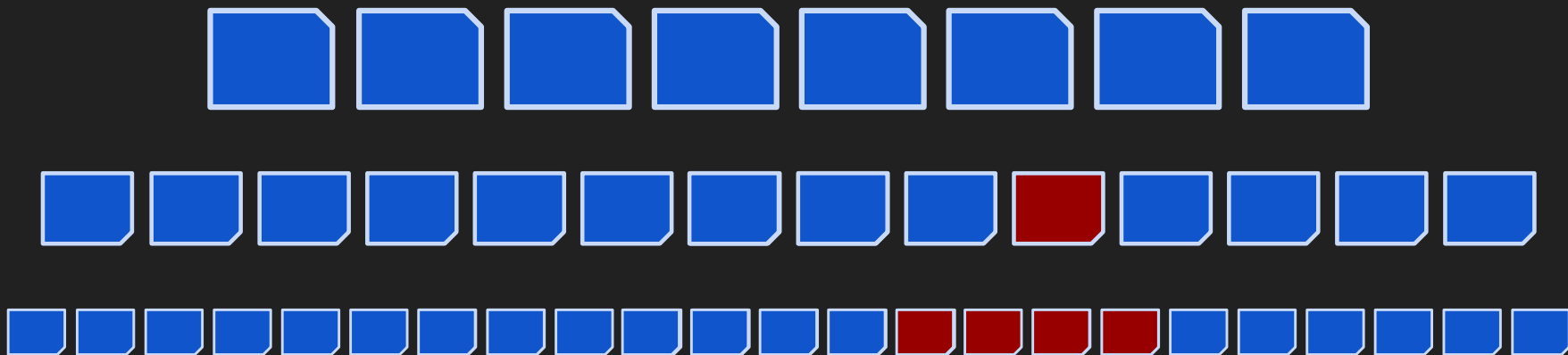
Original

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Manuscript Support

- Average number: 10
- Josephus: 50
- Tacitus: 10-20
- The Iliad: 645
- The NT:

Why is this important?

- Call the Skeptic.
- Ignite our love.
- Anchor us in doubt.

Intercession

- What questions and doubts do I have about the Bible?
- Who do I know that can help me think and pray through these questions?
- Pray: “Lord, show me the beauty of your word.”
- Read Psalm 119.