

DID GOD REALLY SAY?

Pastor Ron Milne

Genesis 3:1 | Examining the Evidence

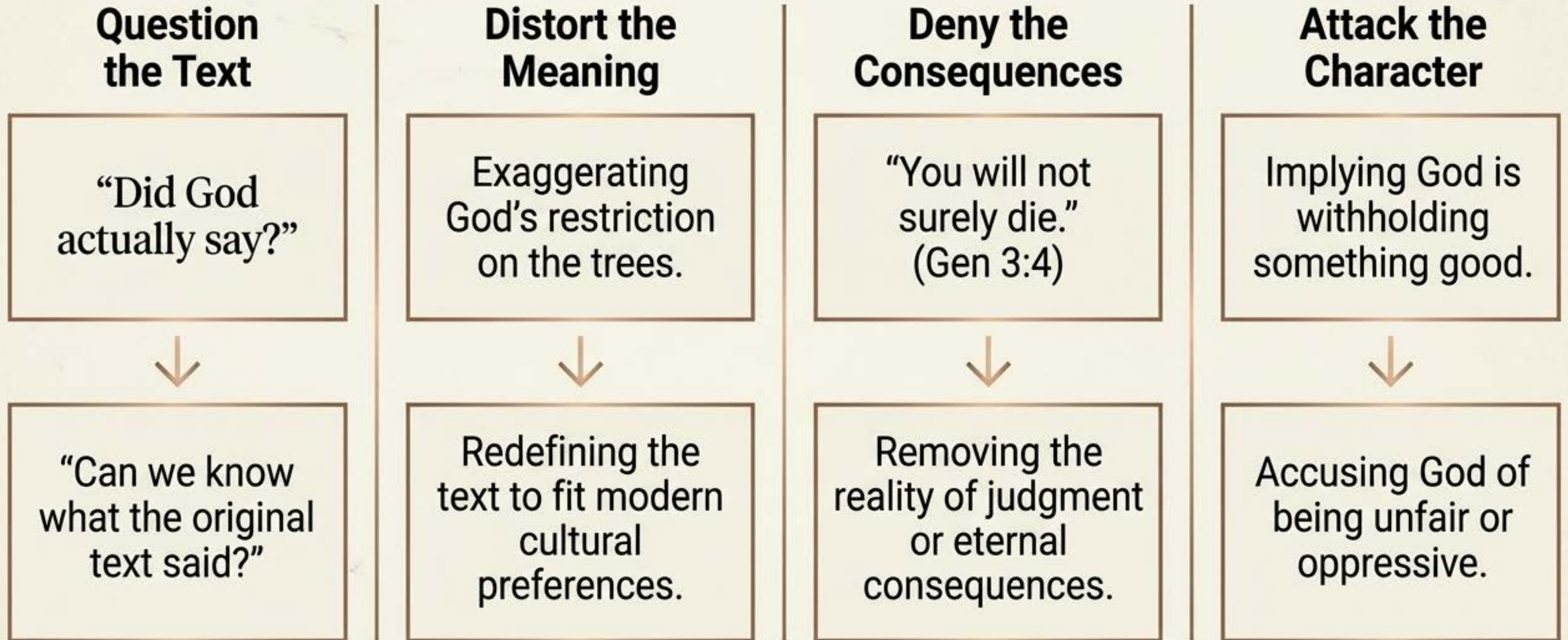
**“Did God
actually
say...?”**

— Genesis 3:1

The first recorded words of Satan are not a denial of God's existence. They are an attack on God's Word. The fall of mankind began with doubt concerning what God had spoken.

From the garden until today, the strategy remains: if people doubt God's Word, they will eventually doubt God Himself.

A Strategy Unchanged Since the Garden



Scripture's Claim About Itself



TRUTH

Jesus did not merely say God's Word contains truth. He said it IS truth.

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." – John 17:17

Flawless

"Every word of God is flawless." (Psalm 12:6)

Perfect

"The law of the LORD is perfect." (Psalm 19:7)

Defining the Foundation



INERRANT (Truthfulness)

The Bible contains no errors in the original writings. What God inspired is completely true.



INFALLIBLE (Reliability)

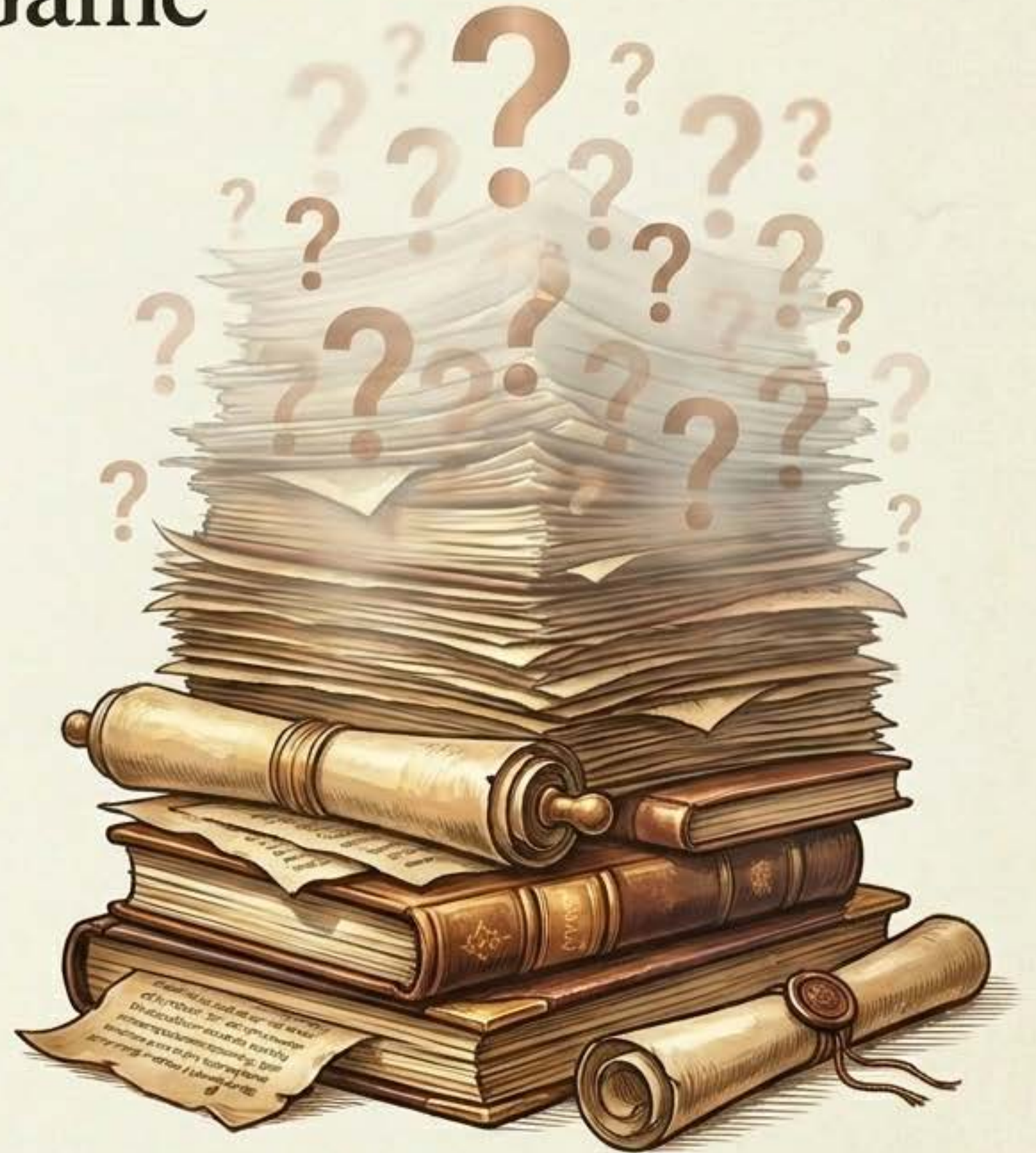
The Bible cannot fail in accomplishing God's purpose. It is completely trustworthy in all it teaches.

“It is impossible for God to lie.” – Hebrews 6:18

The Myth of the Telephone Game

Many assume the Bible was copied so many times over centuries that we cannot possibly know what it originally said.

The historical data tells the exact opposite story.



Unparalleled Textual Support

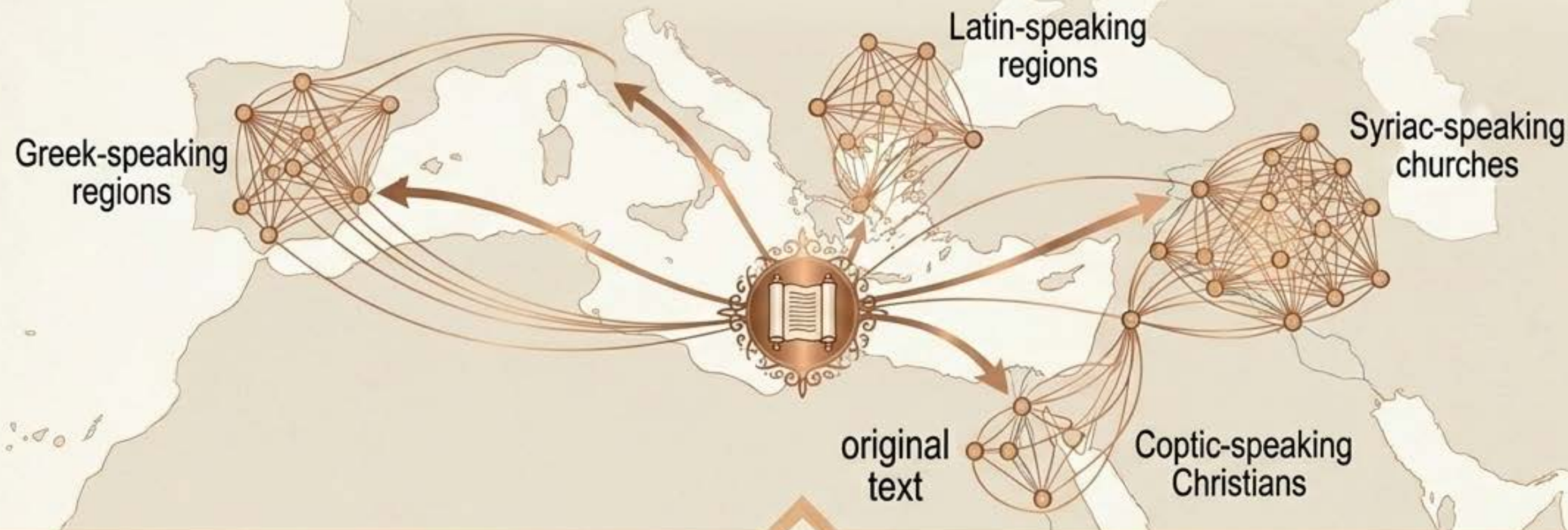
- 1 **Julius Caesar:** ~10 manuscripts
- 2 **Thucydides:** <10 major manuscripts
- 3 **Tacitus:** ~20 manuscripts
- 4 **Homer's *Iliad*:** ~1,800 manuscripts (None within 400 years of writing)
- 5 **New Testament:** 5,800+ Greek / 20,000+ other ancient languages

“The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible.”

— Sir Frederic Kenyon, former director of the British Museum

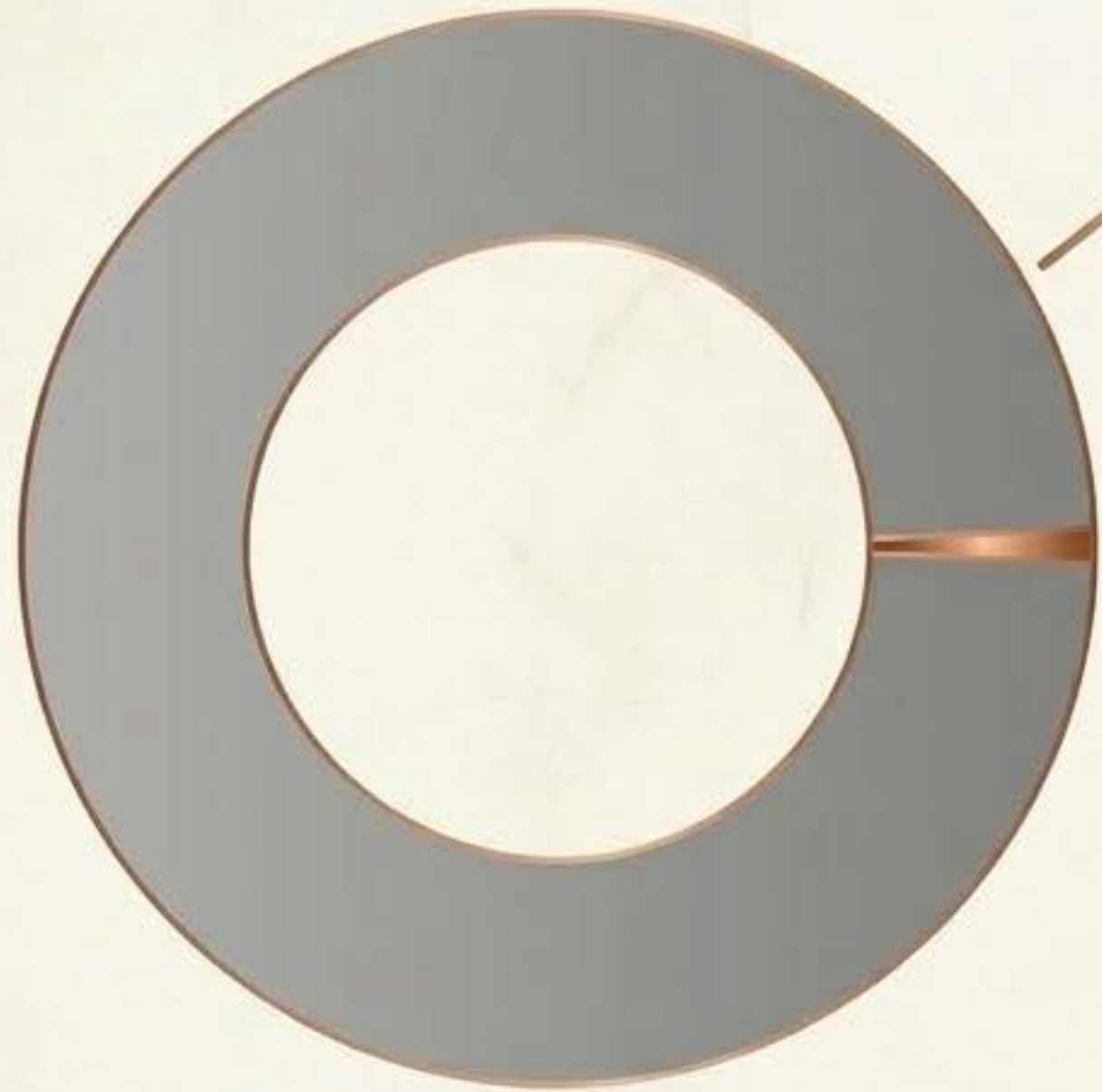
Protected by Providence and Diversity

Concept: Data-Redundancy. Hand-copying didn't corrupt the text; geographical spread protected it.



Core Insight: Because manuscripts were copied simultaneously across thousands of miles, intentional corruption of the entire Bible became virtually impossible. One fragile chain can be broken; thousands of decentralized witnesses cannot.

The Anatomy of Textual Variants



The vast majority of variants are simply **spelling differences**, word order changes, or minor copyist mistakes.

Variations that affect **meaning**.

No major Christian doctrine depends upon a disputed textual reading.

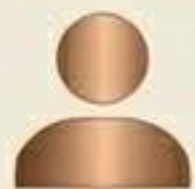
The Ultimate Test of Divine Origin



Ancient religions relied on vague, changing prophecies. God established an absolute, testable standard for Israel.

The Law: If a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord and the word does not come to pass, the prophet is false. (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

Biblical prophecy was testable because it involved:



Specific people



Specific nations



Specific places



Specific historical events

Naming Kings Before They Are Born

539 BC: Cyrus the Great conquers
Babylon and freed the Jews.

The Prophecy

8th Century BC:
Isaiah prophesies a ruler
named Cyrus will allow
exiles to rebuild Jerusalem.
(Isaiah 44:28)

539 BC: Cyrus the Great conquers
Babylon and frees the Jews.

Historical Fulfillment

Over a century before his birth, God gave the king's exact name, his role, and his precise actions. No human author can naturally know this.

Foretelling the Rise and Fall of Empires



Babylon

Medo-
Persia

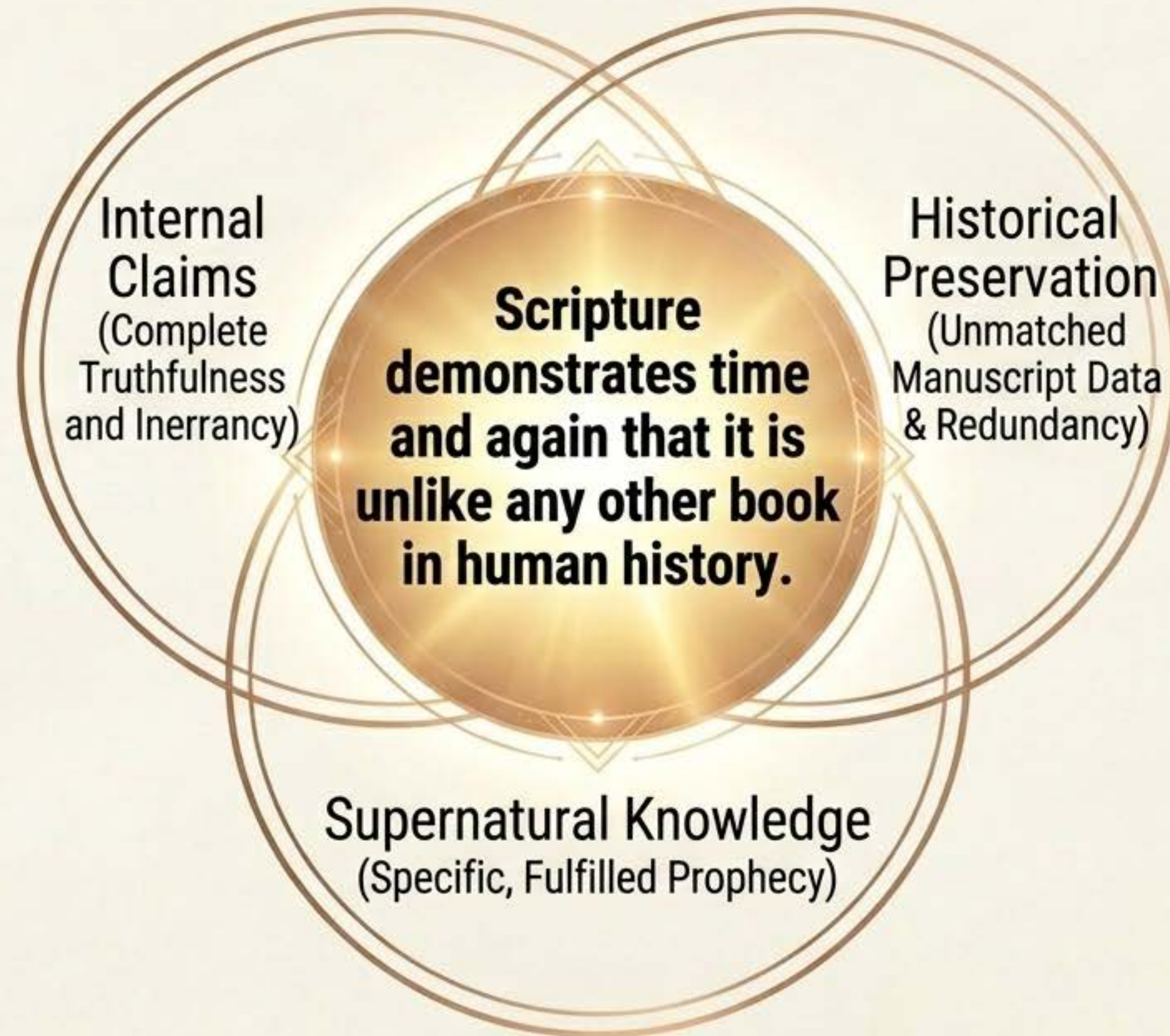
Greece
(Alexander the
Great & his 4
generals)

Rome



The prophecies regarding Greece (Daniel 8) are so specific and detailed that liberal scholars assumed they had to be written after the fact. Yet Jewish history and Jesus Himself (Matthew 24:15) validate Daniel as ancient prophetic Scripture.

The Verdict on Scripture



More Than An Intellectual Issue

If God has truly spoken, His Word carries authority over our beliefs, our morality, our eternity, and our relationship with Christ.

Every person eventually builds their life on some authority: culture, feelings, popular voices, or the Word of God.

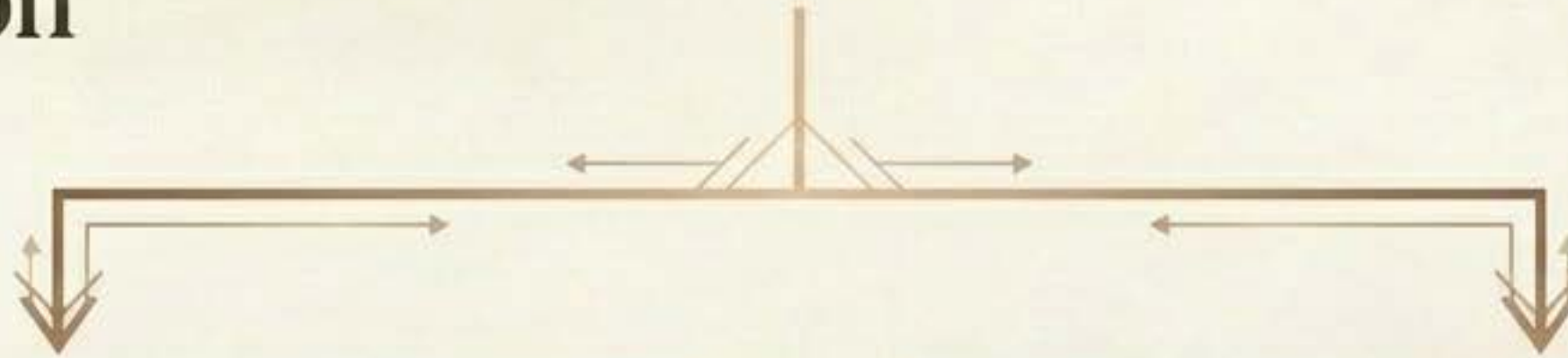
The Core Question

The question is not simply ‘Can the Bible be trusted?’

The deeper question is, ‘Will I trust the God who has spoken?’

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” — Matthew 24:35

Your Foundation



For the Seeker

Turn from sin and place your faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.
(John 20:31)

For the Believer

Will you stand firmly upon God's Word even when the culture questions it? Will you allow it to shape your priorities and your life?

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” — Isaiah 40:8

Coming up next: The Reliability of the Gospels, Biblical Canon, and Transformed Lives.