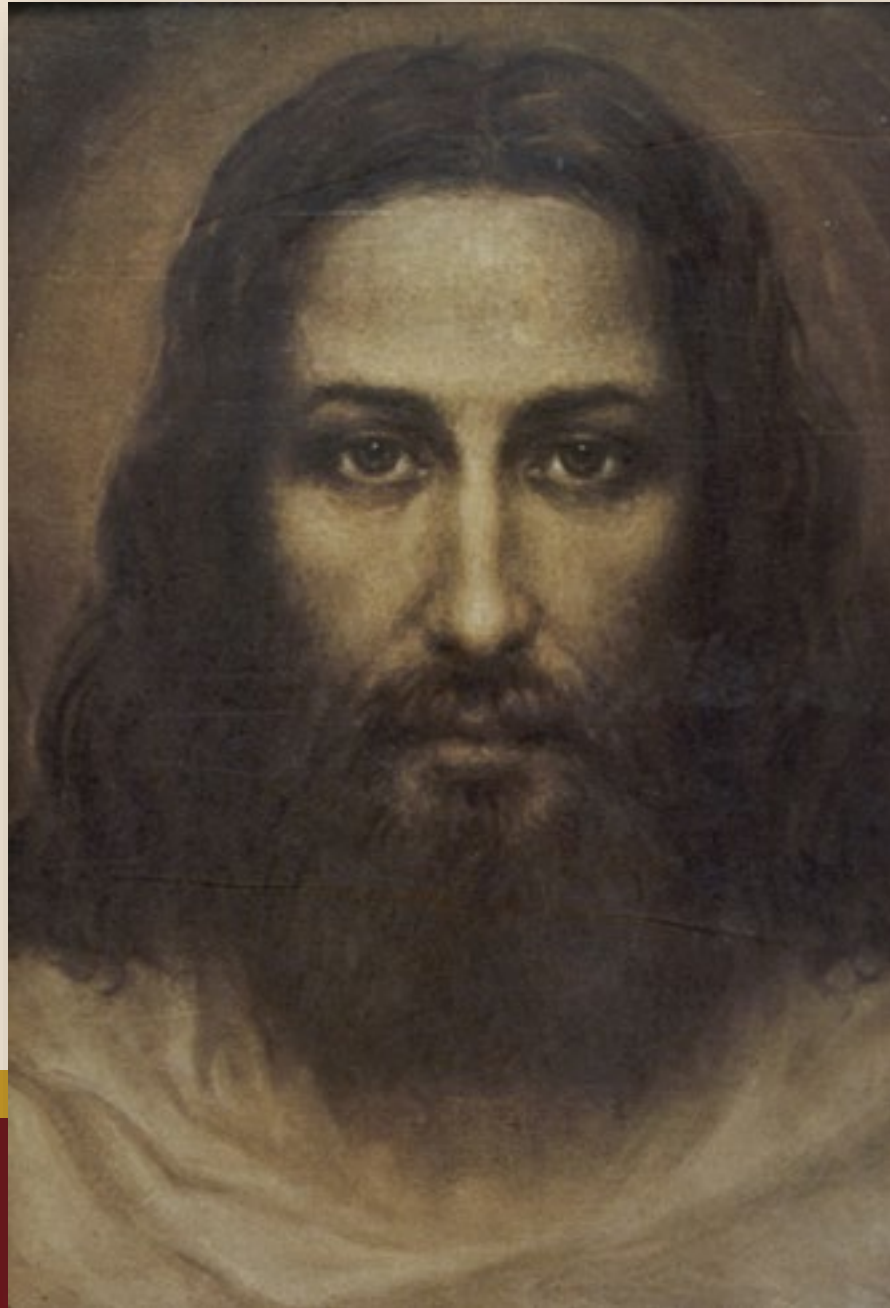


‘His Testimony is True’ – The Historicity and Reliability of the Gospels for Catechesis

Fr Marcus Holden, Episcopal Vicar
for Evangelisation and Catechesis



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PENGUIN  CLASSICS

MIKHAIL BULGAKOV

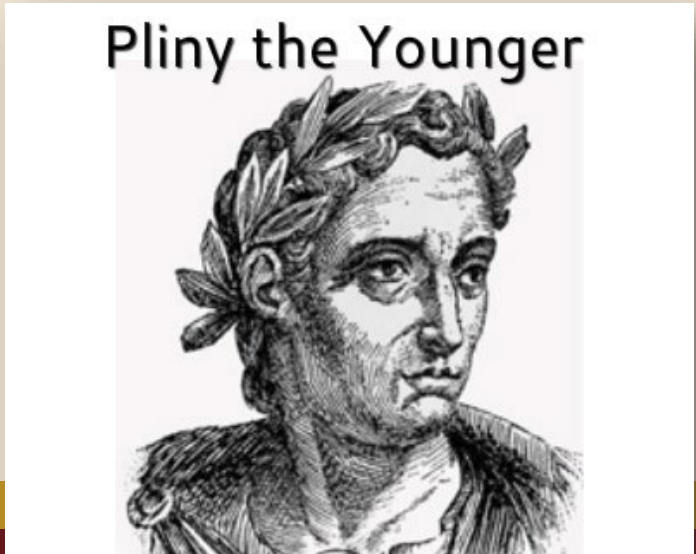
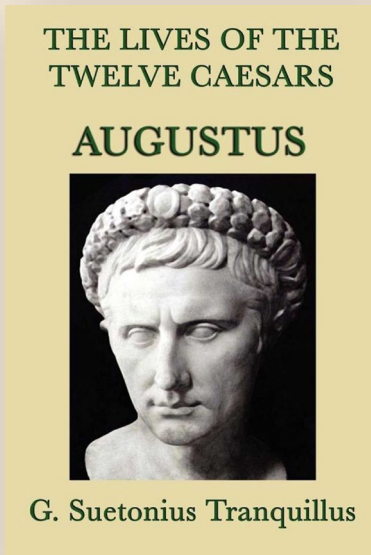
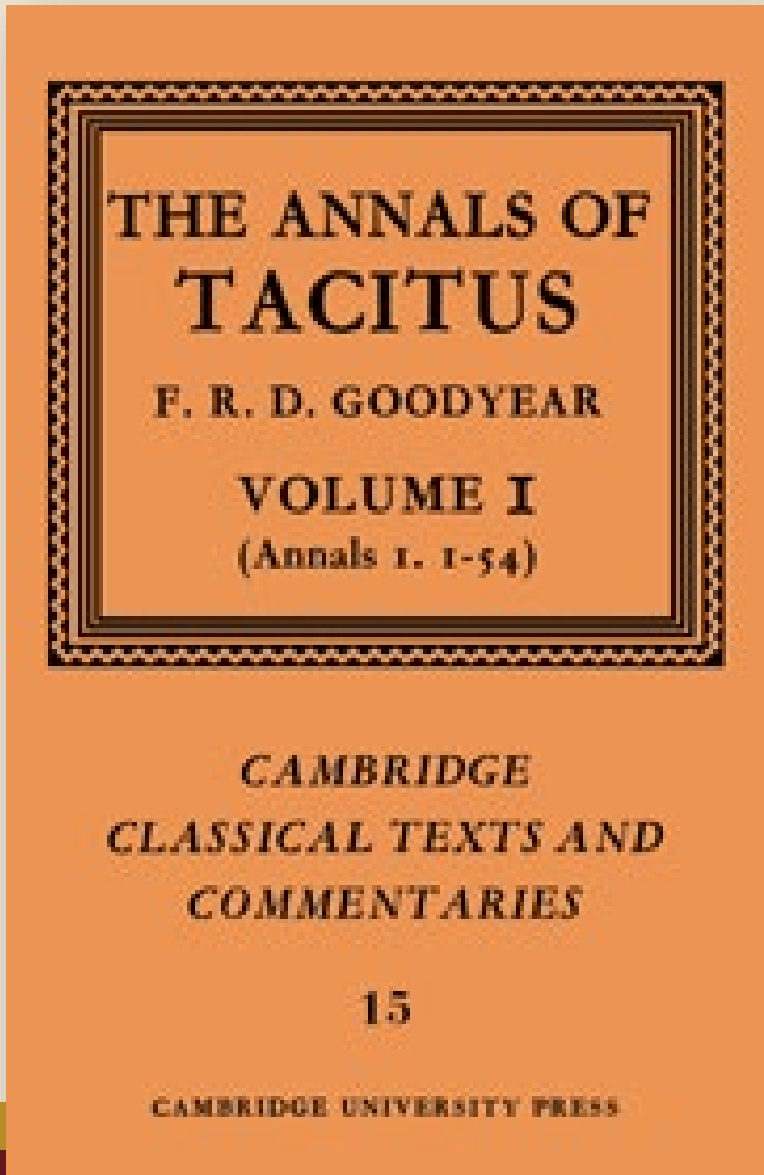
THE MASTER AND MARGARITA



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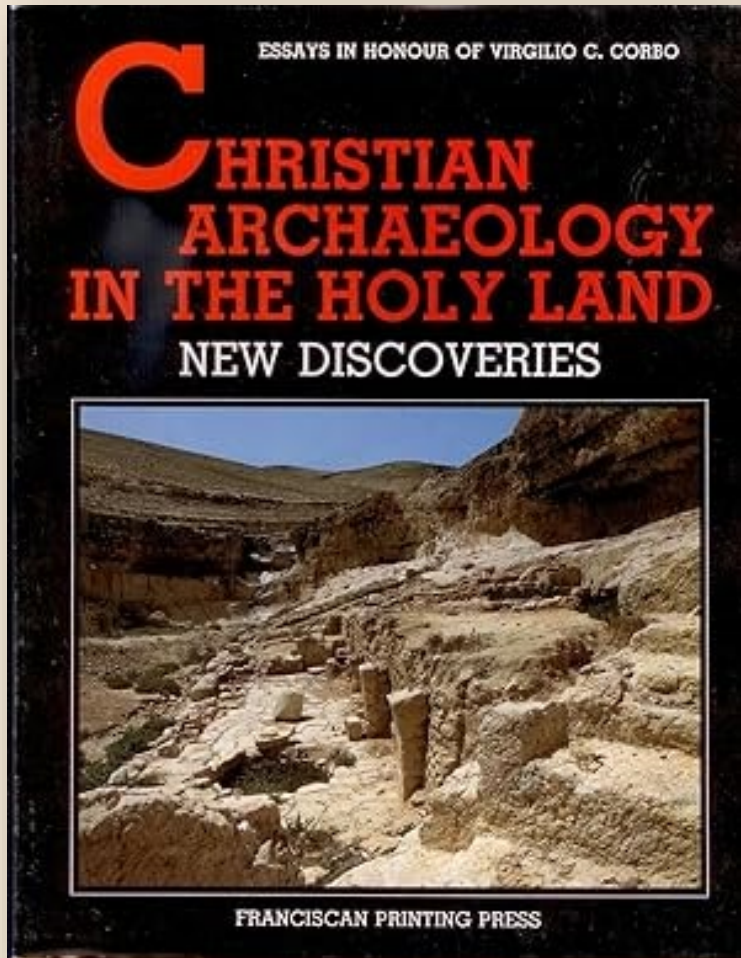
- Any outside evidence?
- So long ago?
- So many differences in the texts?
- Did they really intend to tell us about historical events?
- Can we trust the authors?
- How do we know they were copied correctly and not changed?
- Alternative accounts of the events?
- Other hidden gospels, which gospels are the real ones?



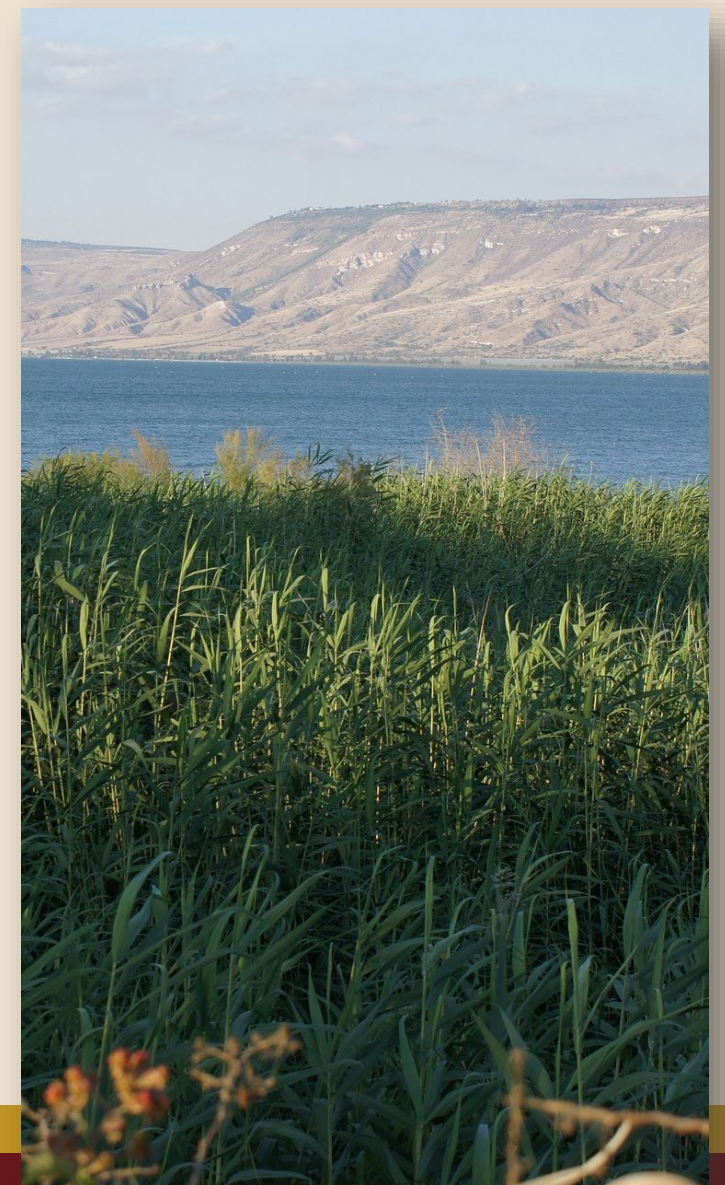
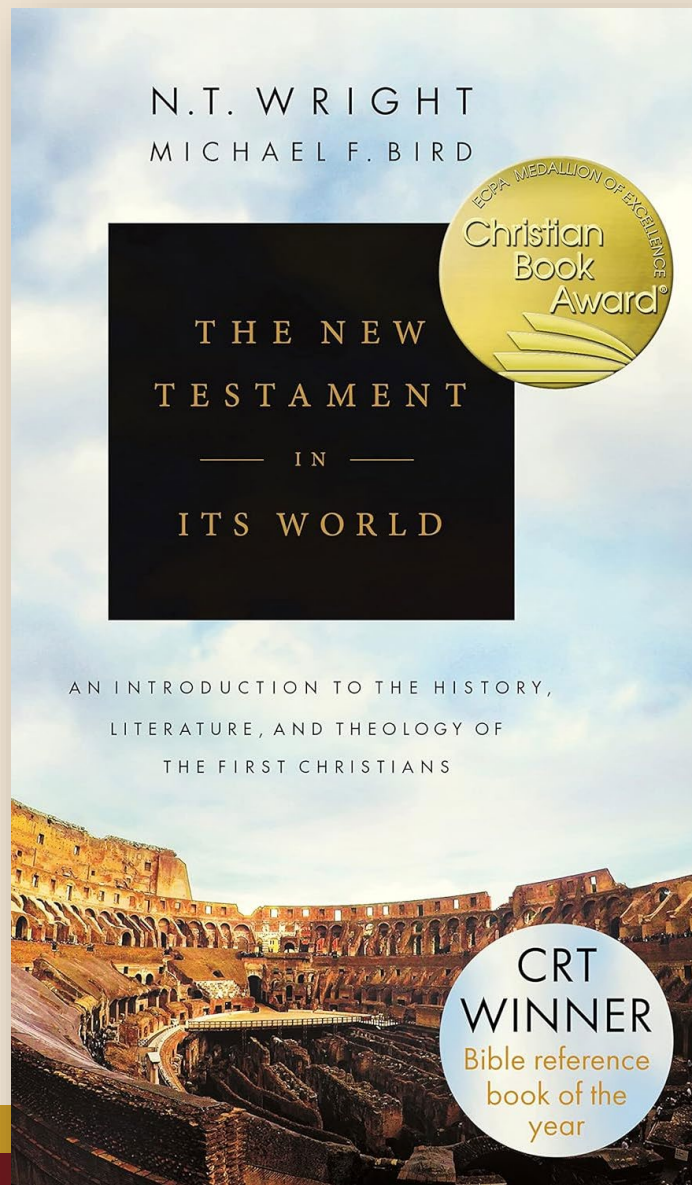
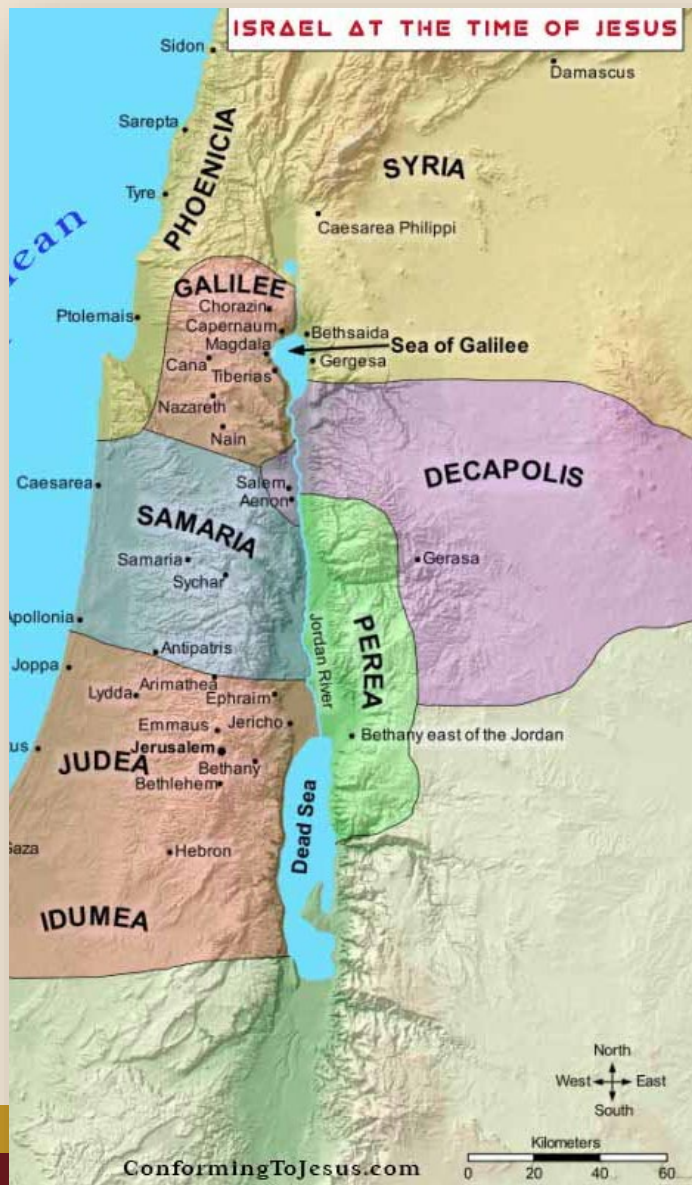


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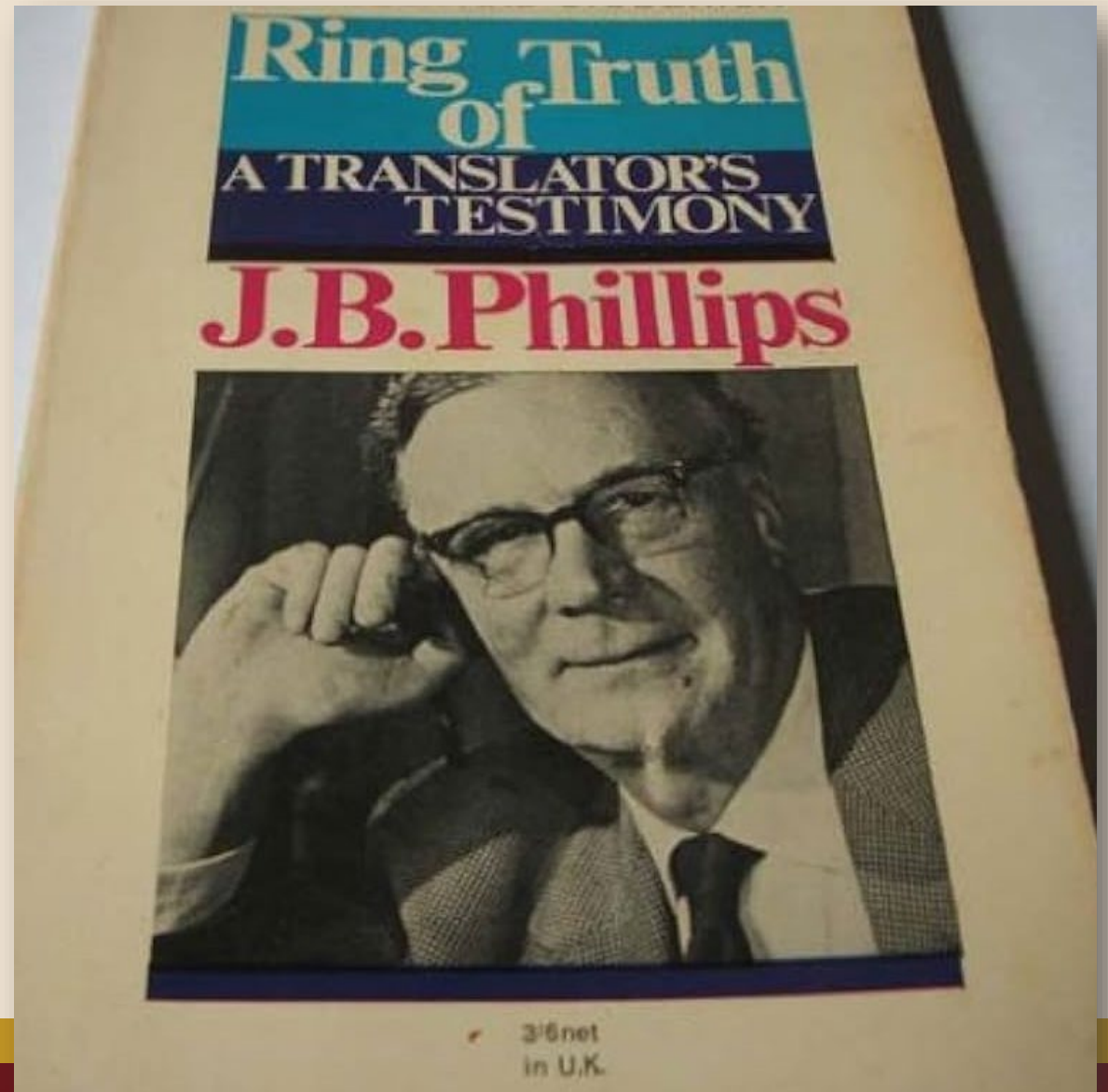




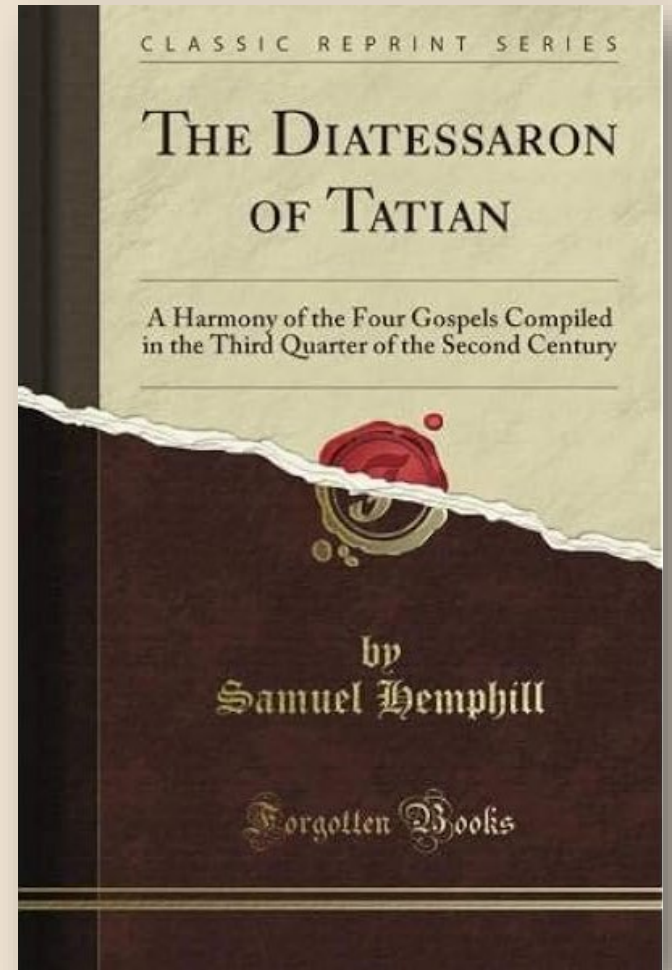
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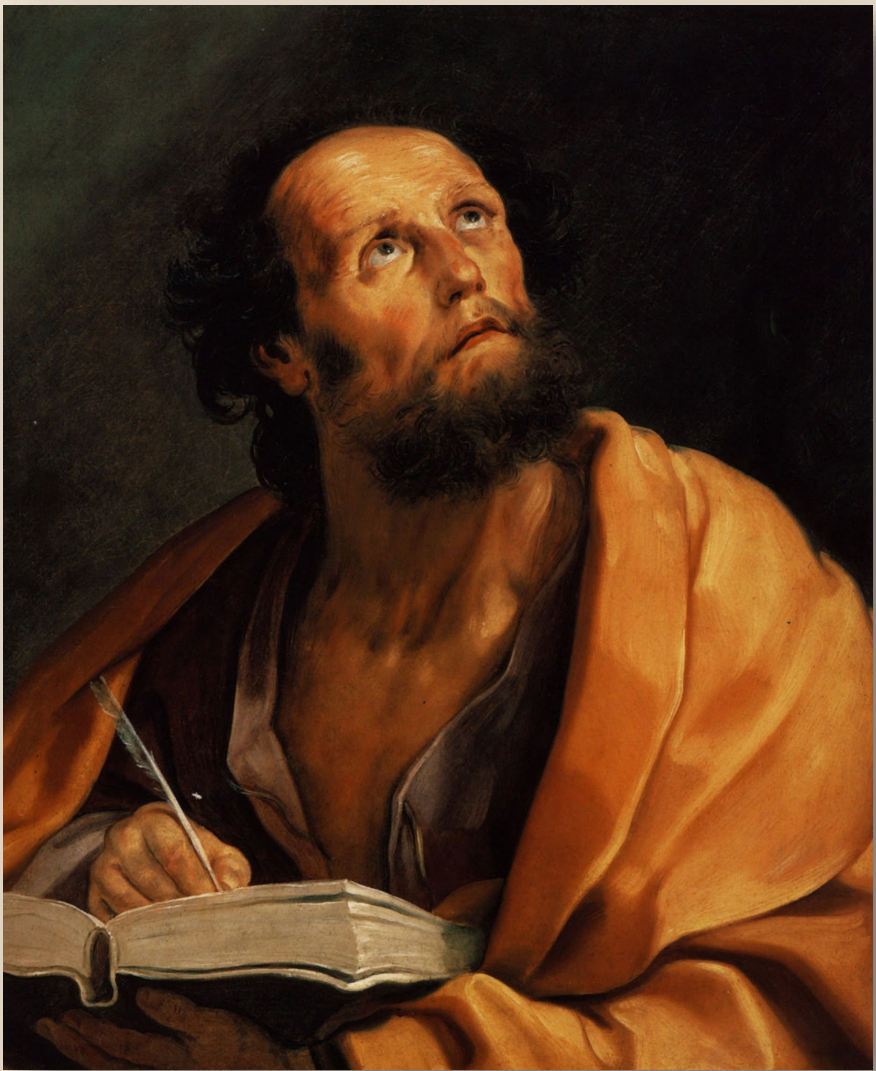


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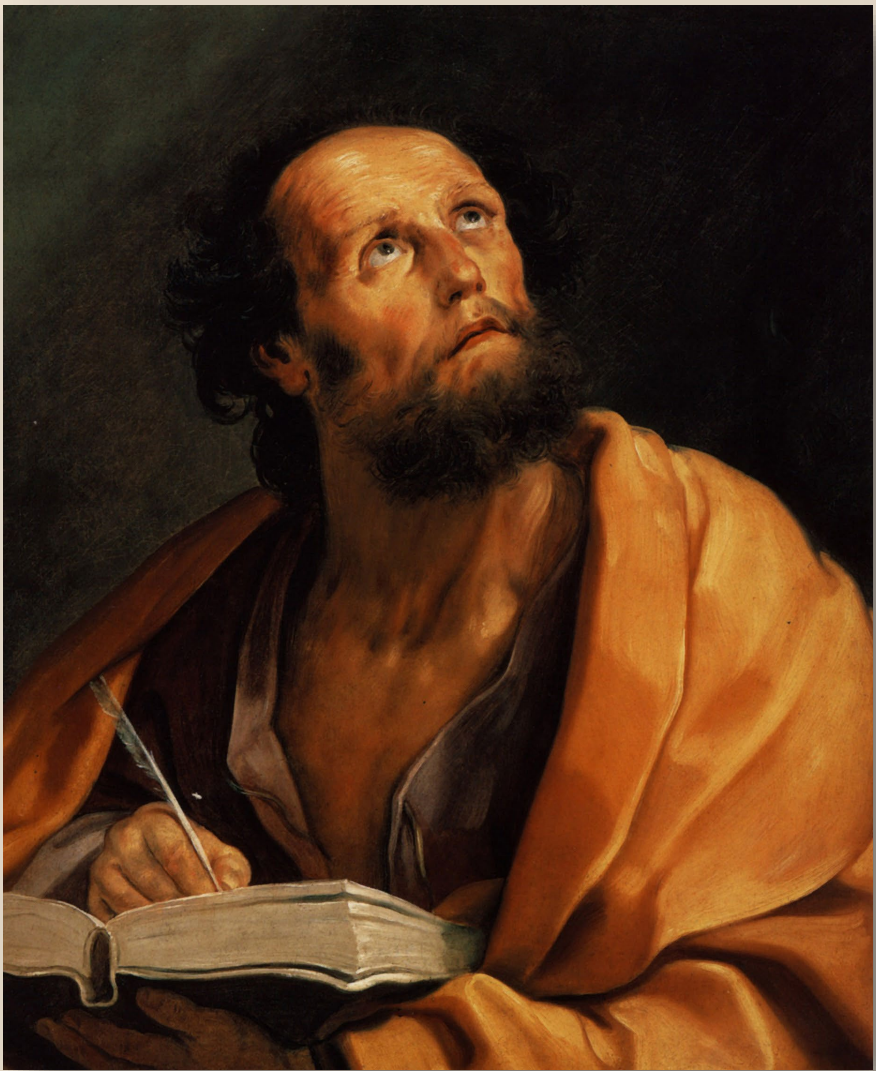




5th century BC Heroditus – ‘My duty is to report all that is said, but I am not obliged to believe it all alike.’

He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. John 19:35





*For we did not follow cleverly
devised myths when we made
known to you the power and coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were
eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

2 Peter 1:16



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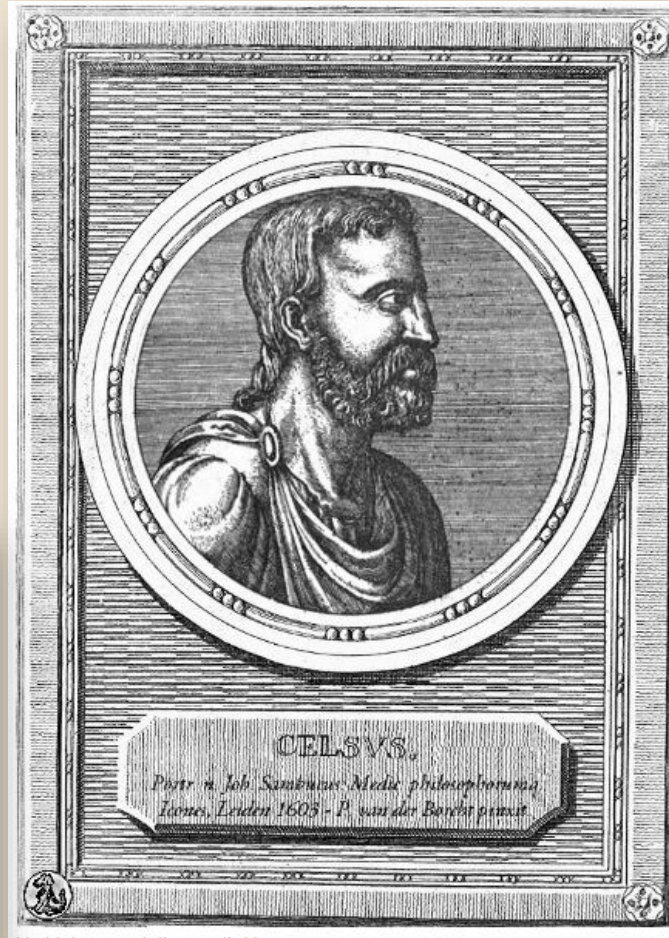


Julian the apostate

- *“Thou hast conquered, O Galilean!”*



*Died in battle in
363, fighting the
Persians.*



*For the king himself
knoweth of these things,
before whom also I speak
freely; for I am persuaded
that none of these things
are hidden from him, for
this thing was not done in
a corner. Acts 26*





The Twelve Jewish Apostles

1. Andrew - Crucified
2. Bartholomew - beaten then crucified
3. James, son of Alphaeus - Stoned to death
4. James, son of Zebedee - Beheaded
5. John - Boiled in oil, but when that failed he was exiled for his faith; died of old age
6. Judas (not Iscariot) - Stoned to death
7. Matthew - speared to death
8. Peter - Crucified upside down
9. Philip - Crucified
10. Simon - Crucified
11. Thomas - Speared to death
12. Matthias - Stoned to death

There is only one reason these Jews were willing to suffer such terrible persecution for Yeshua's name, because they had seen the **MESSIAH CRUCIFIED & THEN RISE FROM THE DEAD**, and the Truth was worth dying for.



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The Twelve Jewish Apostles

Authorship and Dating of New Testament Books

Book	Author	Approximate Date Written
Matthew	Matthew	A.D. 50-60
Mark	Mark (for Peter)	A.D. 60
Luke	Luke	A.D. 58-60
John	John	A.D. 85-90
Acts	Luke	A.D. 61-62
Romans	Paul	A.D. 56/57 or 58
1 Corinthians	Paul	Spring A.D. 56
2 Corinthians	Paul	Autumn A.D. 56
Galatians	Paul	A.D. 48 or Autumn A.D. 49
Ephesians	Paul	A.D. 60
Philippians	Paul	A.D. 61 or Spring A.D. 62
Colossians	Paul	A.D. 60 or Autumn A.D. 61

Authorship and Dating of New Testament Books		
Book	Author	Approximate Date Written
Matthew	Matthew	A.D. 50-60
Mark	Mark (for Peter)	A.D. 60
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John	John	A.D. 85-90
Acts	Luke	A.D. 61-62
Romans	Paul	A.D. 56/57 or 58*
1 Corinthians	Paul	Spring A.D. 56
2 Corinthians	Paul	Fall A.D. 56
Galatians	Paul	A.D. 48 or Fall A.D. 49*
Ephesians	Paul	A.D. 60
Philippians	Paul	A.D. 61 or Spring A.D. 62*
Colossians	Paul	A.D. 60 or Fall A.D. 61*
1 Thessalonians	Paul	A.D. 51
2 Thessalonians	Paul	A.D. 51
1 Timothy	Paul	Fall A.D. 62
2 Timothy	Paul	Fall A.D. 67
Titus	Paul	A.D. 64 or Summer A.D. 66*
Philemon	Paul	A.D. 60 or Fall A.D. 61*
Hebrews	Unknown	A.D. 64-68
James	James the brother of Jesus	A.D. 45-50
1 Peter	Peter	A.D. 63-67
2 Peter	Peter	A.D. 63-67
1 John	John	A.D. 90
2 John	John	A.D. 90
3 John	John	A.D. 90
Jude	Jude the brother of Jesus	A.D. 60s or 70s
Revelation	John	A.D. 90s

Dates followed by an asterisk (*) are based on the calculations of New Testament scholar and author Harold W. Hoehner. A complete chronology of his calculations of the Apostolic age can be found in H. Wayne House, *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 129-32.
 Figure 2-Authorship and Dating of New Testament Books. H. Wayne House and Timothy J. Demy, *Authorship and Dating of New Testament Books*. © 2011 H. Wayne House and Timothy J. Demy. All Rights Reserved.



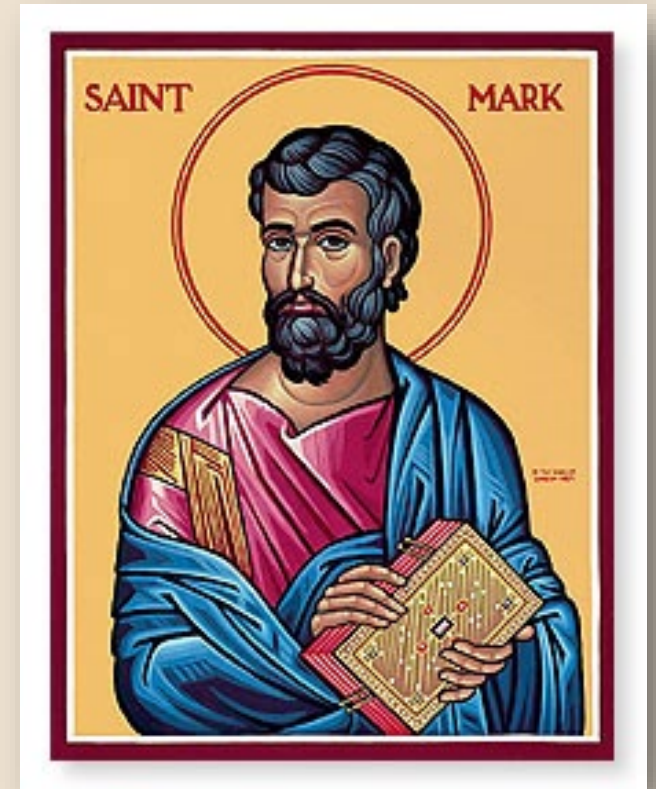
1 Thessalonians	Paul	A.D. 51
2 Thessalonians	Paul	A.D. 51
1 Timothy	Paul	Autumn A.D. 62
2 Timothy	Paul	Autumn A.D. 67
Titus	Paul	A.D. 64 or Summer A.D. 66
Philemon	Paul	A.D. 60 or Autumn A.D. 61
Hebrews	Unknown	A.D. 64–68
James	James (of Jerusalem)	A.D. 45–50
1 Peter	Peter	A.D. 63–67
2 Peter	Peter	A.D. 63–67
1 John	John	A.D. 90
2 John	John	A.D. 90
3 John	John	A.D. 90
Jude	Jude (brother of James)	A.D. 60s or 70s
Revelation	John	A.D. 90s

Book	Author	Approximate Date Written
Matthew	Matthew	A.D. 50–60
Mark	Mark (for Peter)	A.D. 60
Luke	Luke	A.D. 58–60
John	John	A.D. 85–90
Acts	Luke	A.D. 61–62
Romans	Paul	A.D. 56/57 or 58*
1 Corinthians	Paul	Spring A.D. 56
2 Corinthians	Paul	Fall A.D. 56
Galatians	Paul	A.D. 48 or Fall A.D. 49*
Ephesians	Paul	A.D. 60
Philippians	Paul	A.D. 61 or Spring A.D. 62*
Colossians	Paul	A.D. 60 or Fall A.D. 61*
1 Thessalonians	Paul	A.D. 51
2 Thessalonians	Paul	A.D. 51
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Titus	Paul	A.D. 64 or Summer A.D. 66*
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Dates followed by an asterisk (*) are based on the calculations of New Testament scholar and author Harold W. Hoehner. A complete chronology of his calculations of the Apostolic age can be found in H. Wayne House, *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 129-32.
 Figure 2—Authorship and Dating of New Testament Books. H. Wayne House and Timothy J. Demy, *Authorship and Dating of New Testament Books*. © 2011 H. Wayne House and Timothy J. Demy. All Rights Reserved.



'I shall not hesitate also to put into ordered form for you, along with the interpretations, everything I learned carefully in the past from the elders and noted down carefully, for the truth of which I vouch. For unlike most people I took no pleasure in those who told many different stories, but only in those who taught the truth. Nor did I take pleasure in those who reported their memory of someone else's commandments, but only in those who reported their memory of the commandments given by the Lord to the faith and proceeding from the Truth itself. And if by chance anyone who had been in attendance on the elders arrived, I made enquiries about the words of the elders—what Andrew or Peter had said, or Philip or Thomas or James or John or Matthew or any other of the Lord's disciples, and whatever Aristion and John the Elder, the Lord's disciples, were saying. For I did not think that information from the books would profit me as much as information from a living and surviving voice..'
(Papias, c.60-130 AD)



‘Our Saviour's works, moreover, were always present: for they were real, consisting of those who had been healed of their diseases, those who had been raised from the dead; who were not only seen whilst they were being healed and raised up, but were afterwards constantly present. Nor did they remain only during the sojourn of the Saviour on earth, but also a considerable time after His departure; and, indeed, some of them have survived even down to our own times.’
(Quodratius, early 2nd century)





THE JOHN RYLANDS FRAGMENT

P⁵²

Oldest fragment
of the New Testament

EARLY
SECOND
CENTURY
AD

JOHN 18:31-32

ΟΙ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΟΙ ΗΜΕΙΝ ΟΥΚ ΕΞΕΣΤΙΝ
ΑΠΟΚΤΕΙΝΑΙ ΟΥΔΕΝΑ ΙΝΑ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ
ΤΟΥ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΠΛΗΡΩΘΗ ΟΝ ΕΙ- ΠΕΝ
ΣΗΜΑΙΝΩΝ ΠΟΙΩ
ΘΑΝΑΤΟ ΗΜΕΛΛΕΝ ΑΠΟ-
ΘΗΣΚΕΙΝ ΙΣΗΛΘΕΝ ΟΥΝ ΠΑΛΙΝ ΕΙΣ
ΤΟ ΠΡΑΙΤΩ- ΡΙΟΝ Ο ΠΙΛΑΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ
ΕΦΩΝΗΣΕΝ ΤΟΝ ΙΗΣΟΥΝ
ΚΑΙ ΕΙΠΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ
ΣΥ ΕΙ Ο ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΙΟΥ- ΔΑΙΩΝ

DISCOVERED
IN EGYPT
AT OXYRHINCUS



recto

verso

CA. 117-138 AD

Papyrus

JOHN 18:37-38

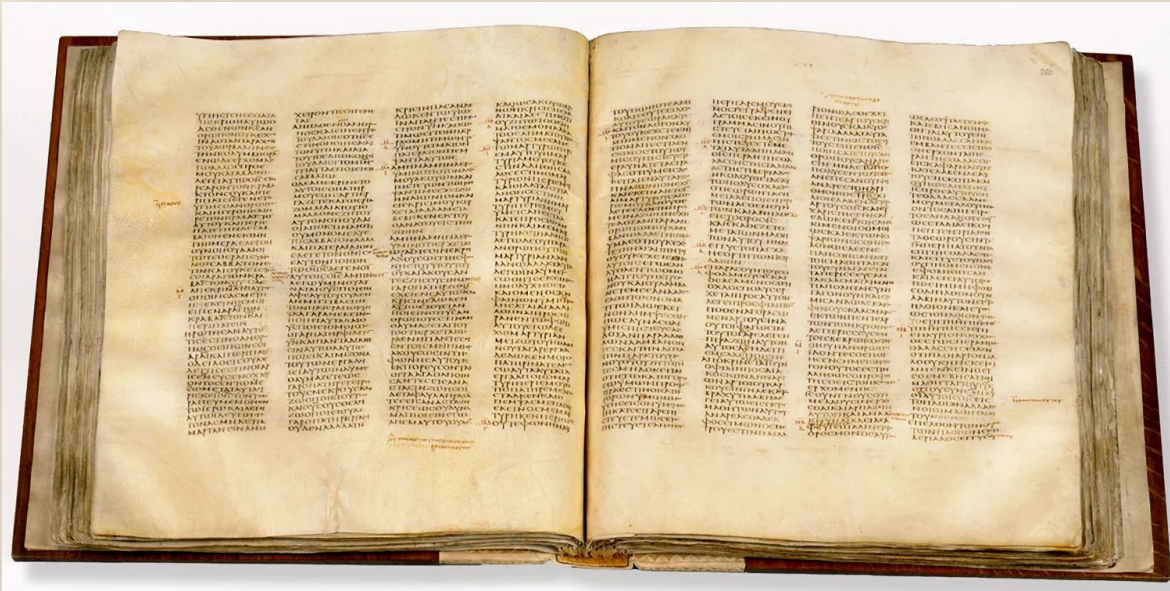
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΕΙΜΙ ΕΓΩ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΓΕΓΕΝΗΜΑΙ
ΚΑΙ (ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΤΟ) ΕΛΗΛΥΘΑ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ
ΚΟΣΜΟΝ ΙΝΑ ΜΑΡΤΥ- ΡΗΣΩ ΤΗ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ ΠΑΣ
Ο ΩΝ ΕΚ ΤΗΣ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑΣ ΑΣ ΑΚΟΥΕΙ ΜΟΥ ΤΗΣ
ΦΩΝΗΣ ΛΕΓΕΙ ΑΥΤΩ Ο ΠΙΛΑΤΟΣ ΤΙ ΕΣΤΙΝ
ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΤΟ
ΕΙΠΩΝ ΠΑΛΙΝ ΕΞΗΛΘΕΝ
ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΙΟΥ- ΔΑΙΟΥΣ
ΚΑΙ ΛΕΓΕΙ ΑΥΤΟΙΣ
ΕΓΩ ΟΥΔΕΜΙΑΝ ΕΥΡΙΣΚΩ ΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΑΙΤΙΑΝ

John Rylands
University Library,
Manchester UK

 **EPIC**
ARCHAEOLOGY
EXCAVATING THE TRUTH OF THE PAST



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New Testament: Date-Ranges of Earliest Fragments

NEW TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER ¹	EARLIEST FRAGMENT ²	NUMBER of PAPYRI		VATICANUS ³	SINAITICUS ³	ALEXANDRINUS ³
		< 399 ce	> 400 ce	c. 325 ce	c. 350 ce	c. 450 ce
1 Thessalonians	175-300	3	1	X	X	X
Galatians	175-300	1	1	X	X	X
1 Corinthians	175-300	3	5	X	X	X
2 Corinthians	175-300	2	2	X	X	Partial
Romans	175-300	5	5	X	X	X
Philippians	175-300	2	1	X	X	X
Philemon	200-300	1	1	-	X	X
Ephesians	175-300	3	-	X	X	X
Gospel of Mark	225-350	2	1	X	X	X
James	200-250	4	2	X	X	X
Gospel of Matthew	150-200	11	12	X	X	Partial
1 Peter	200-400	1	2	X	X	X
Gospel of Luke	175-250	6	4	X	X	X
Hebrews	175-300	4	4	Partial	X	X
Acts	250	7	7	X	X	X
2 Peter	200-400	1	1	X	X	X
2 Thessalonians	300	2	-	X	X	X
Colossians	175-300	1	1	X	X	X
Jude	200-400	2	1	X	X	X
Gospel of John	125-160	19	11	X	X	Partial
1 John	200-400	1	1	X	X	X
2 John	200-400	-	1	X	X	X
3 John	200-400	-	1	X	X	X
Revelation	150-200	4	3	-	X	Partial
1 Timothy	350	-	-	-	X	X
Titus	200	1	1	-	X	X
2 Timothy	350	-	-	-	X	X

NOTES:

1: There is a great deal of debate even among scholars regarding both the chronological arrangement and authorship of the books and letters of the New Testament.

2: All dates are common era, c.e. (aka A.D.)

3: These are codices ("books" sewn on one edge), and are the earliest, best, most complete known examples of the New Testament.

Also note, a dash indicates no record of the book/letter and an "X" indicates the full text is available (some with an occasional missing verse).

*Chart Created by Fr. Erik Weaver, Springfield, MO (C) 2013, FatherErik@gmail.com
Personal & educational use granted.*



Author	Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap (years)	No. of copies
Homer	Iliad	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 years	643
Herodotus	History	480-425 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,350	8
Thucydides	History	460-400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300	8
Plato		400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300	7
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,000	10
Livy	History of Rome	59 B.C. – A.D. 17	4 th Cent. (partial) mostly 10 th Cent.	c. 400 c. 1,000	1 partial 19 copies
Tacitus	Annals	A.D. 100	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,000	20
Pliny the Younger	Natural History	A.D. 61-113	c. A.D. 850	c. 750	7
New Testament		A.D. 50 -100	c. A.D. 114 (fragment) c. A.D. 200 (books) c. A.D. 250 (most of NT) c. A.D. 325 (complete NT)	+50 100 150 225	5366



The Early Church Father's References to the Books of the New Testament

	Clement of Rome	Justin Martyr	Polycarp	Didache	Papias	Barnabas	Hermas	Aristides	Muratorian Fragment	Athenagoras	Lyons	Clement of Alexandria	Hippolytus	Irenaeus	Tatian	Theophilus	Origen	Tertullian	Cyprian	Ignatius	Eusebius	
Date A. D.	95	100	110	125	130	140	150	175	175	177	177	180	200	200	200	200	230	240	250	250	275	Date A. D.
Matthew																						Matthew
Mark																						Mark
Luke																						Luke
John																						John
Acts																						Acts
Romans																						Romans
1 Corinthians																						1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians																						2 Corinthians
Galatians																						Galatians
Ephesians																						Ephesians
Philippians																						Philippians
Colossians																						Colossians
1 Thessalonians																						1 Thessalonians
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1 Timothy																						1 Timothy
2 Timothy																						2 Timothy
Titus																						Titus
Philemon																						Philemon
Hebrews																						Hebrews
James																						James
1 Peter																						1 Peter
2 Peter																						2 Peter
1 John																						1 John
2 John																						2 John
3 John																						3 John
Jude																						Jude
Revelation																						Revelation



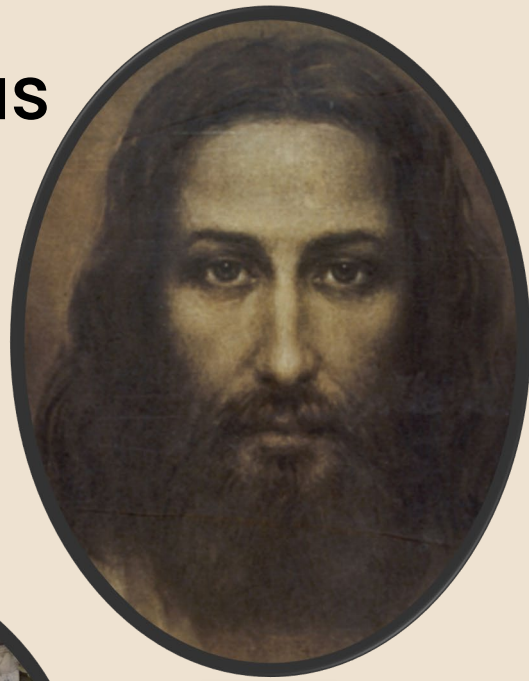
The Researchers Library of Ancient Texts VOLUME 2

The Apostolic Fathers

Includes Clement of Rome,
Mathetes, Polycarp, Ignatius, Barnabas,
Papias, Justin Martyr & Irenaeus



Jesus



John

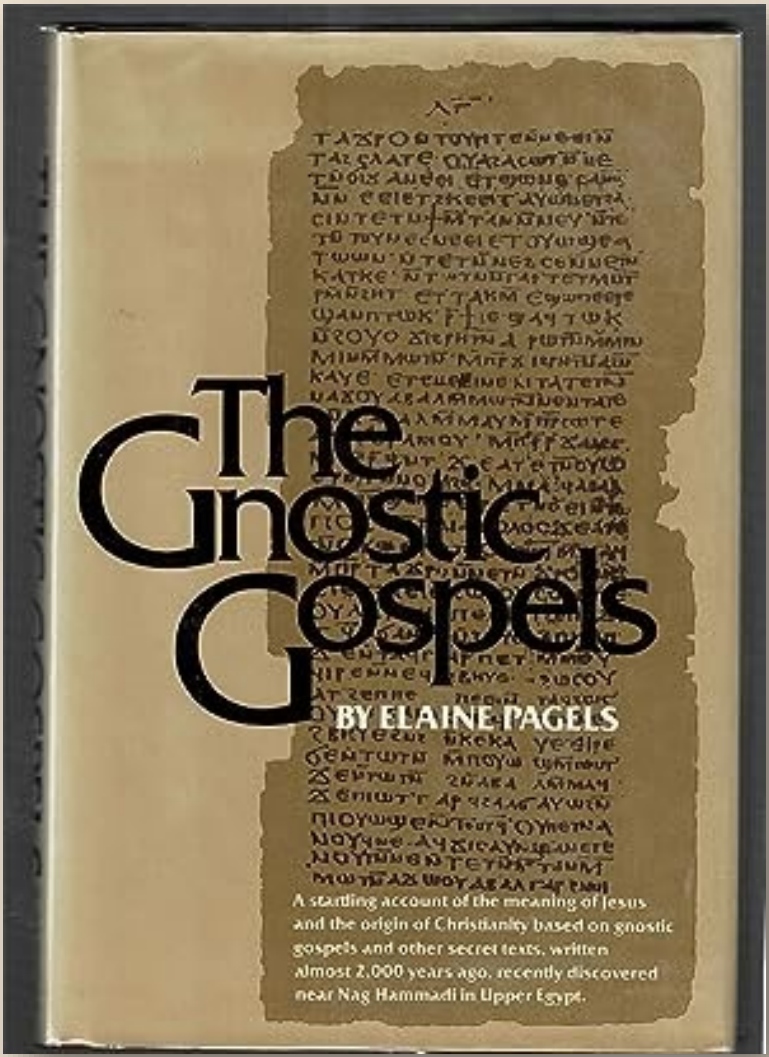
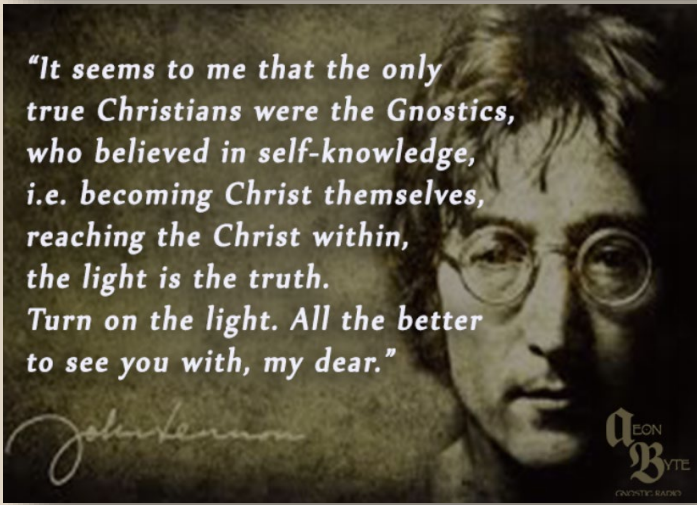
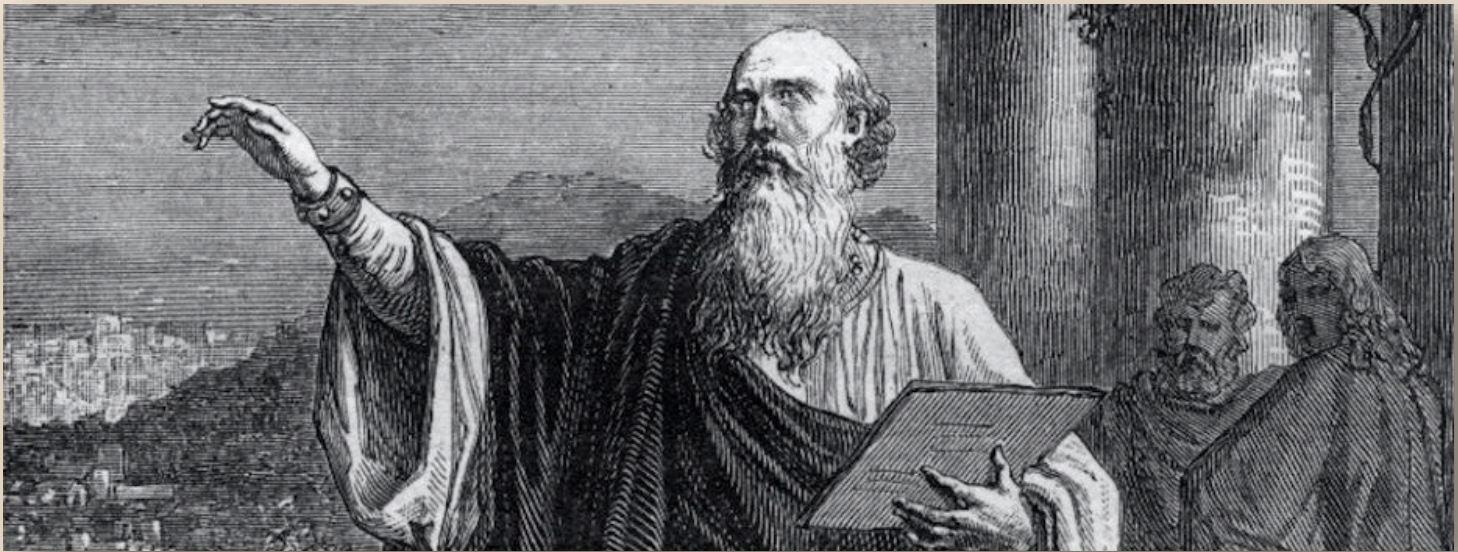


Polycarp



St Irenaeus





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For we, brethren, receive both Peter and the rest of the apostles as Christ Himself. But those writings which are falsely inscribed with their name, we as experienced persons reject, knowing that no such writings have been handed down to us.

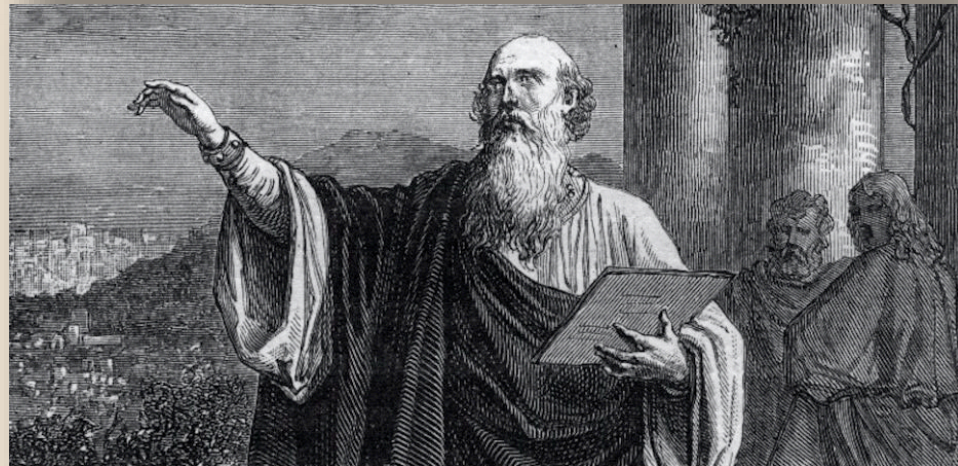


ST. IRENAEUS

ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
WRITERS



Against the
Heresies
Book 3



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