

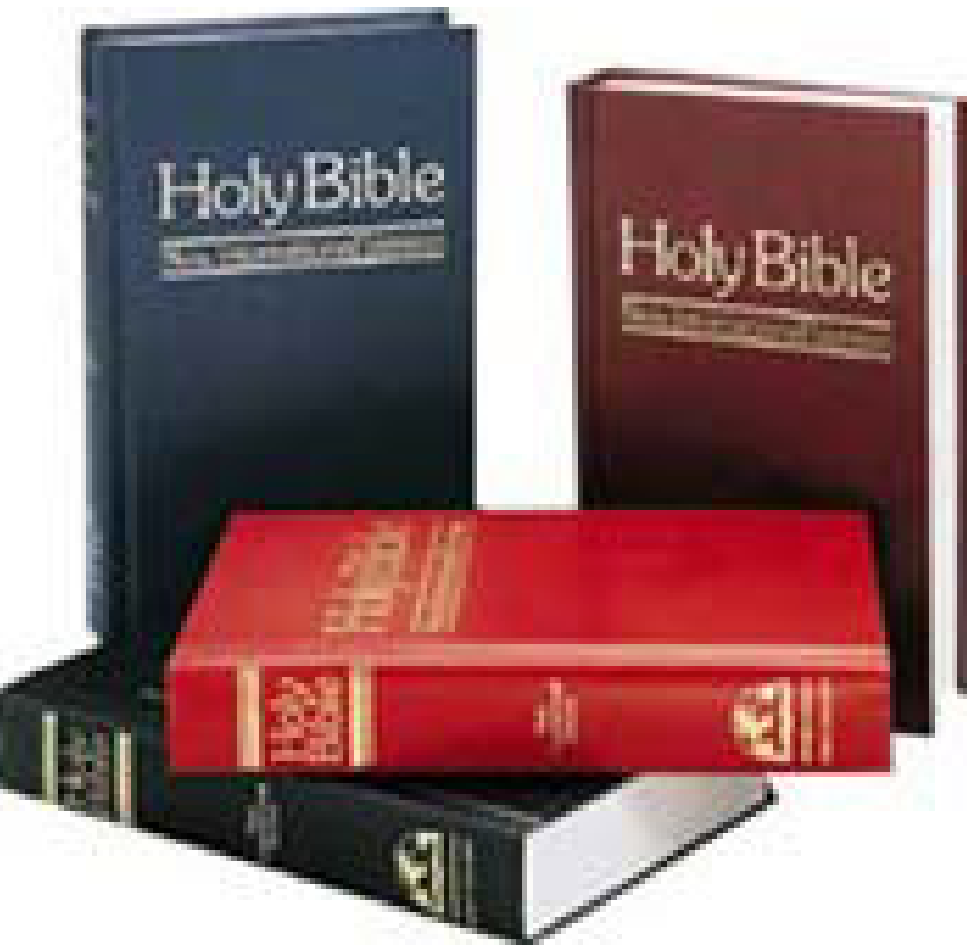
# Church History Literacy

## History of the English Bible Part 2

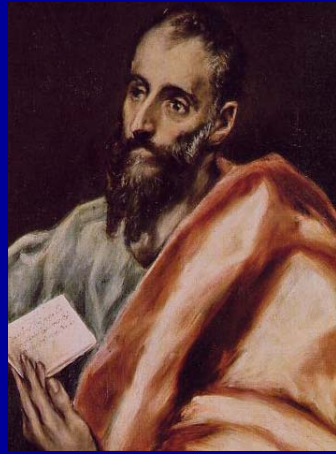
### Lesson 62

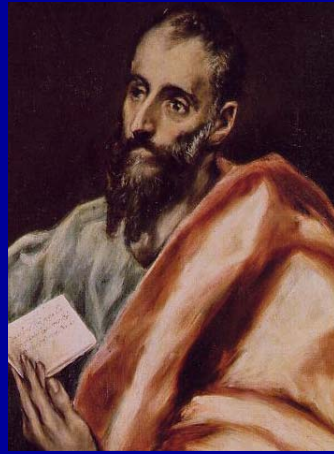
*Biblical-Literacy.com*

© Copyright 2007 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.

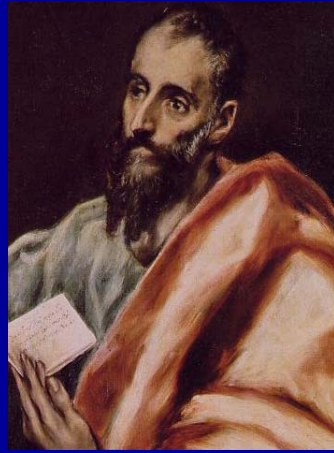


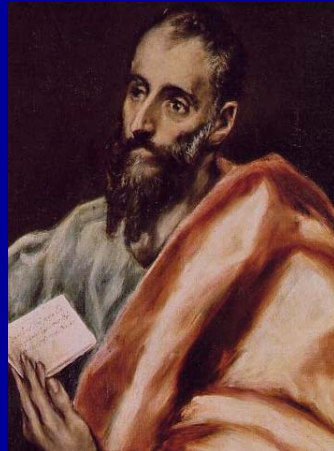
Are these  
reliable?





2000 years

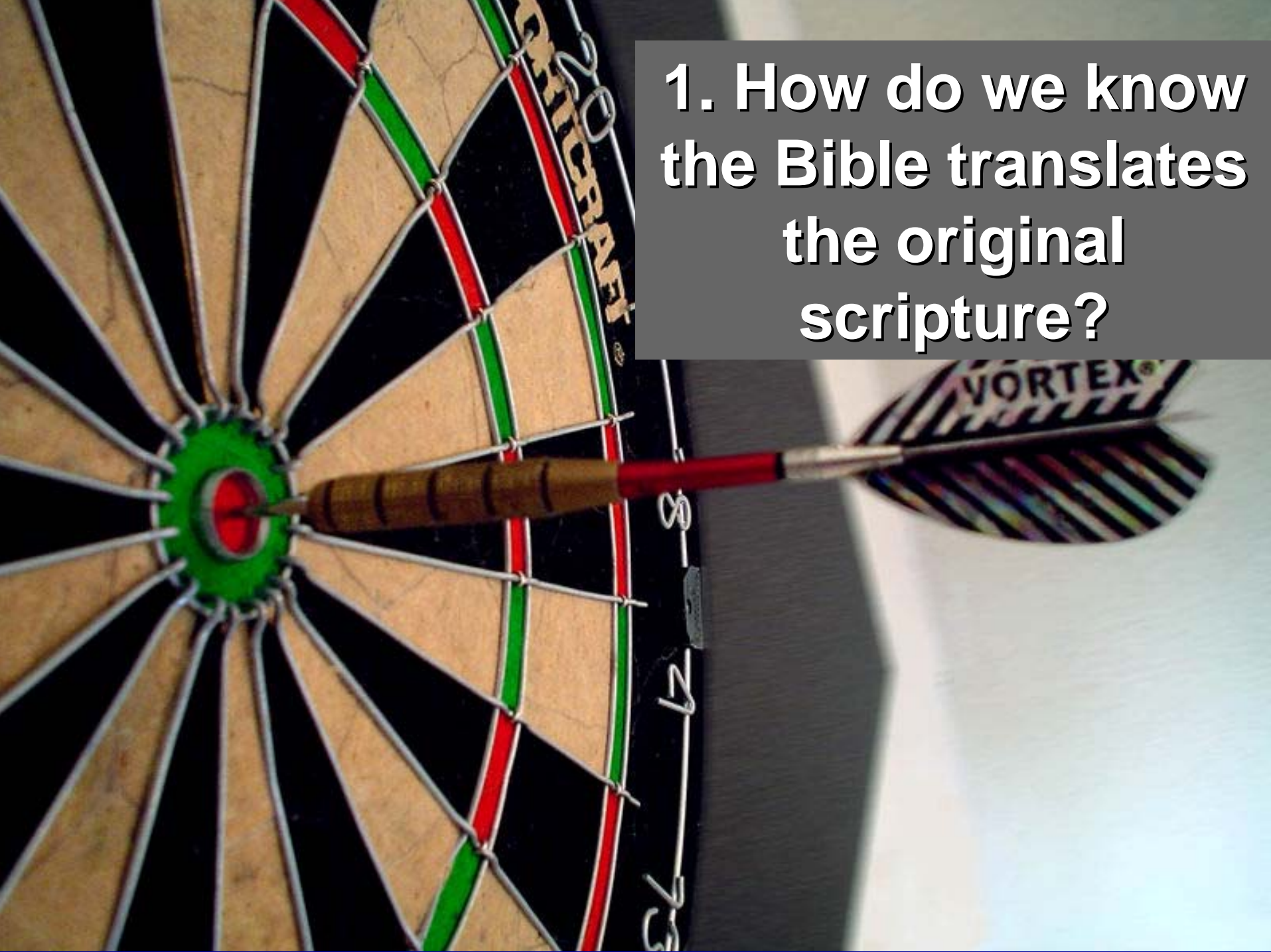




3500 years



**1. How do we know  
the Bible translates  
the original  
scripture?**

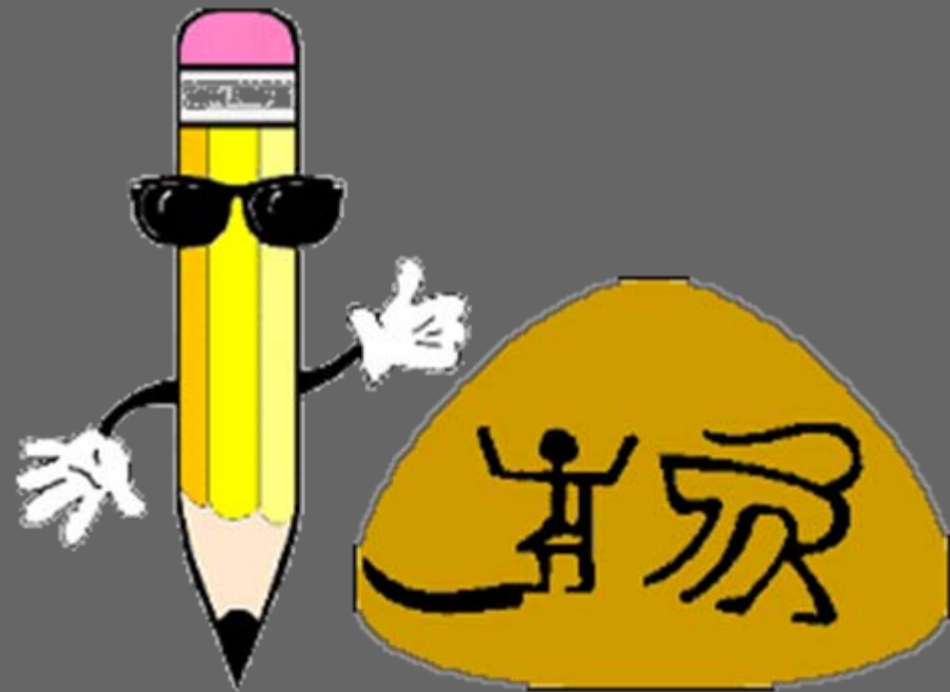






1. How do we know the Bible translates the original scripture?

2. How do we know the Bible translates the original scripture **properly**?



Let's start with  
the history of  
writing



**Syria**

**Iraq**

**Iran**

**Lebanon**  
West Bank  
Gaza Strip

**Jordan**

**Kuwait**

**Egypt**

**Saudi Arabia**

**Bahrain**  
**Qatar** **Dubai**

**UAE**

**Oman**

**Yemen**



Lebanon  
West Bank  
Gaza Strip

Jordan

Syria

Iraq

Nippur

Kuwait

Iran

Egypt

Saudi Arabia

Bahrain  
Qatar  
Dubai

UAE

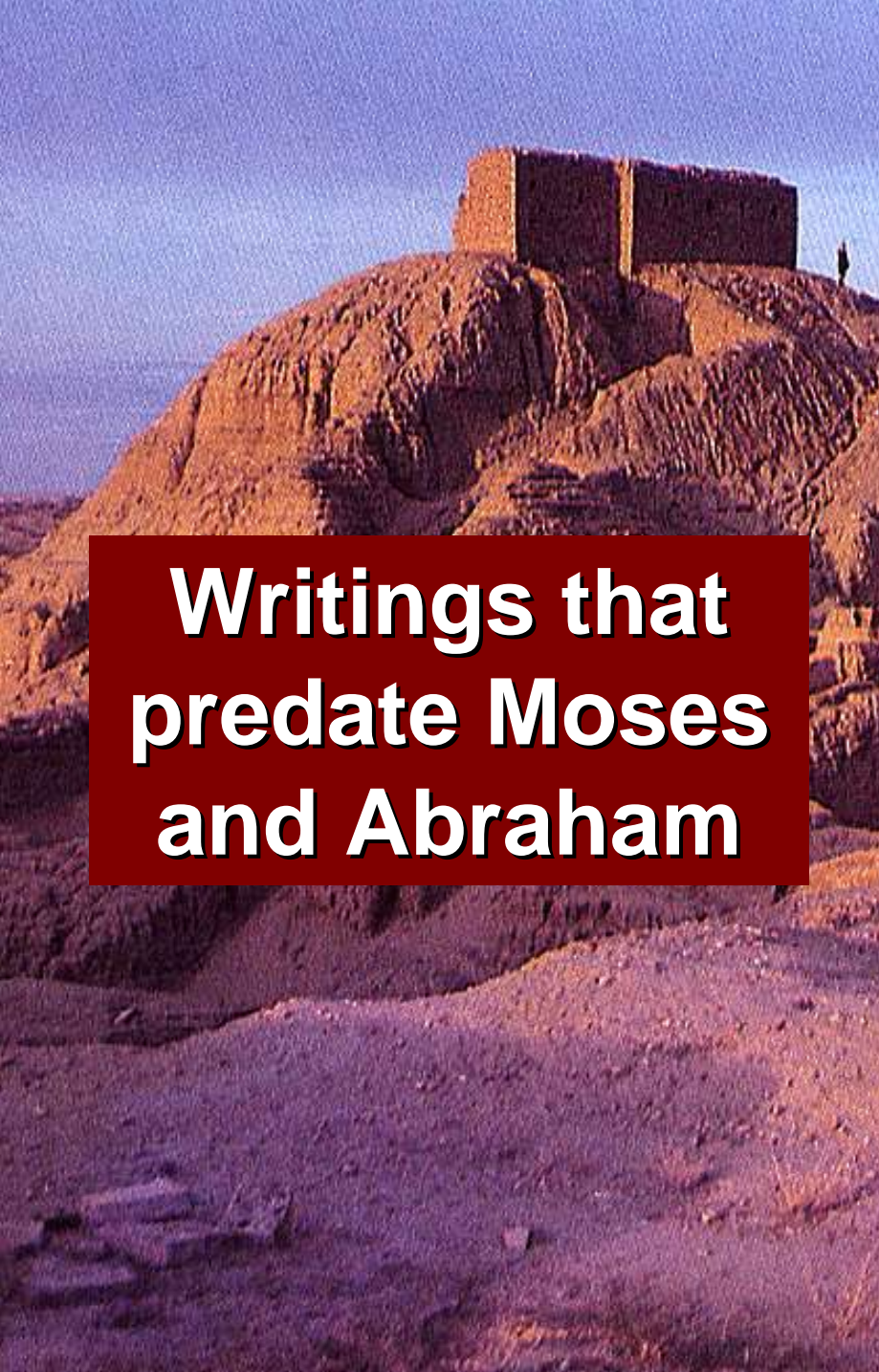
Oman

Yemen





**Writings that  
predate Moses  
and Abraham**



**Writings that  
predate Moses  
and Abraham**



People wrote on:



People wrote on:



Clay  
tablets

# People wrote on:



Clay  
tablets



Animal  
skins

# People wrote on:



Clay  
tablets



Animal  
skins



Papyrus



Papyrus



# Papyrus

- Grew 5' - 9' tall all over Nile Valley

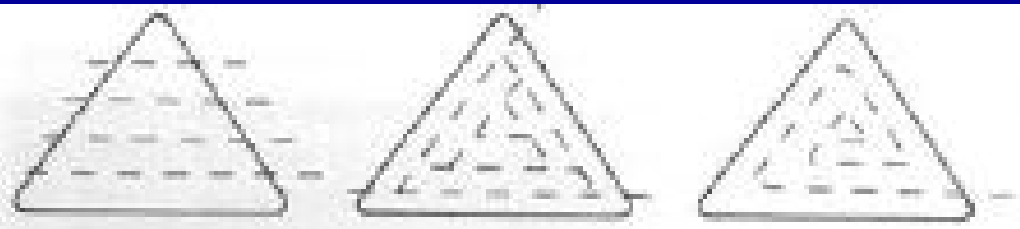


# Papyrus

- Grew 5' - 9' tall all over Nile Valley
- Peel it and cut the pith (center part)

# Papyrus

- Grew 5' - 9' tall all over Nile Valley
- Peel it and cut the pith (center part)

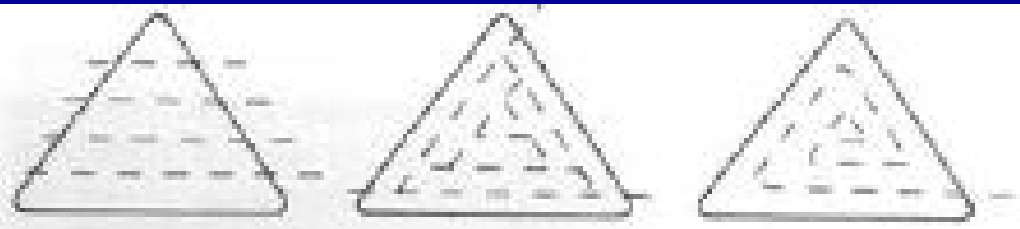


# Papyrus

- Grew 5' - 9' tall all over Nile Valley

- Peel it and cut the pith (center part)

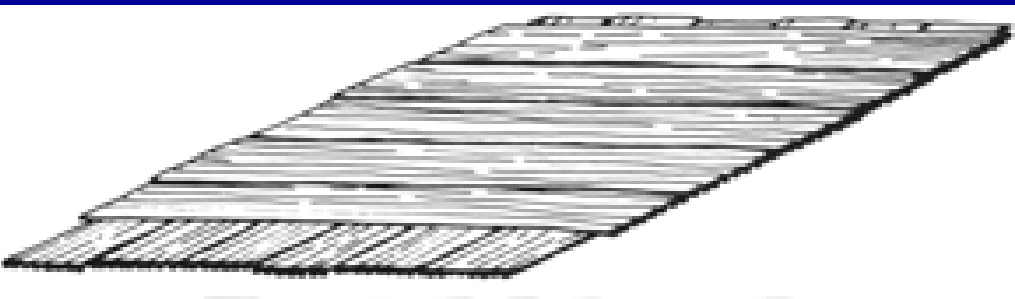
- Lay one mat then a 2d on top at right angle



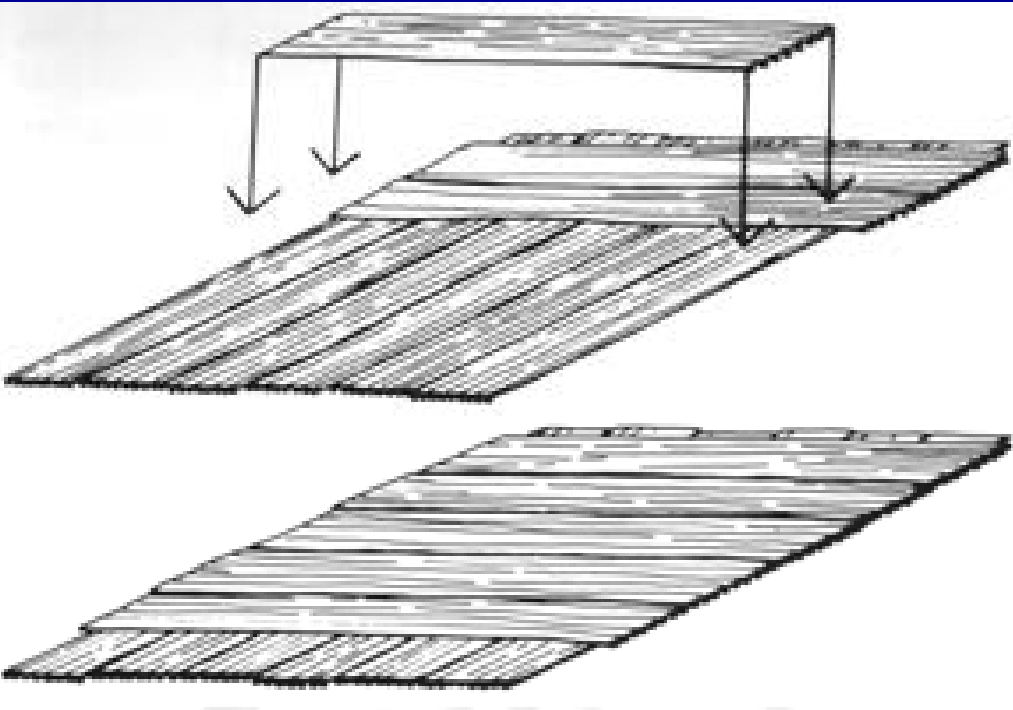


# Papyrus

- Grew 5' - 9' tall all over Nile Valley
- Peel it and cut the pith (center part)
- Lay one mat then a 2d on top at right angle



# Papyrus



- Grew 5' - 9' tall all over Nile Valley
- Peel it and cut the pith (center part)
- Lay one mat then a 2d on top at right angle

# Papyrus Scroll



# Papyrus Scroll (Latin: *volumen*)



# Papyrus Scroll

(Latin: *volumen*)  
("something rolled up")



# Papyrus Scroll

(Latin: *volumen*)  
("something rolled up")

- Max. 35' long



# Papyrus Scroll

(Latin: *volumen*)

(“something rolled up”)

- Max. 35' long
- Generally written on one side



# Papyrus Scroll

(Latin: *volumen*)

(“something rolled up”)



- Max. 35' long
- Generally written on one side
- Rots easily in wet climate; goes brittle in dry climate





**“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.”**

**2 Tim. 4:13**

# Parchment (animal skin)



# Parchment (animal skin)

- stretch, scrape and dry skin under tension



# Parchment (animal skin)

- stretch, scrape and dry skin under tension
- does not rot in wet climate, or go brittle in dry climate



# Sheets made up a “codex”



## **Last Week:**

the King James Version was translated  
from the Greek and Hebrew

## **Last Week:**

the King James Version was translated  
from the Greek and Hebrew

## **This Week:**

Where did those Greek and Hebrew  
manuscripts come from?





Desiderius  
Erasmus and  
the “received  
text”



Erasmus



# Erasmus

- 1st edition 1516



# Erasmus

- 1st edition 1516
- Oldest Greek manuscript 1100's



# Erasmus

- 1st edition 1516
- Oldest Greek manuscript 1100's  
(consider 1 Jn 5:7-8)



# Erasmus

- 1st edition 1516
- Oldest Greek manuscript 1100's (consider 1 Jn 5:7-8)
- Hebrew manuscripts were “Masoretic texts”

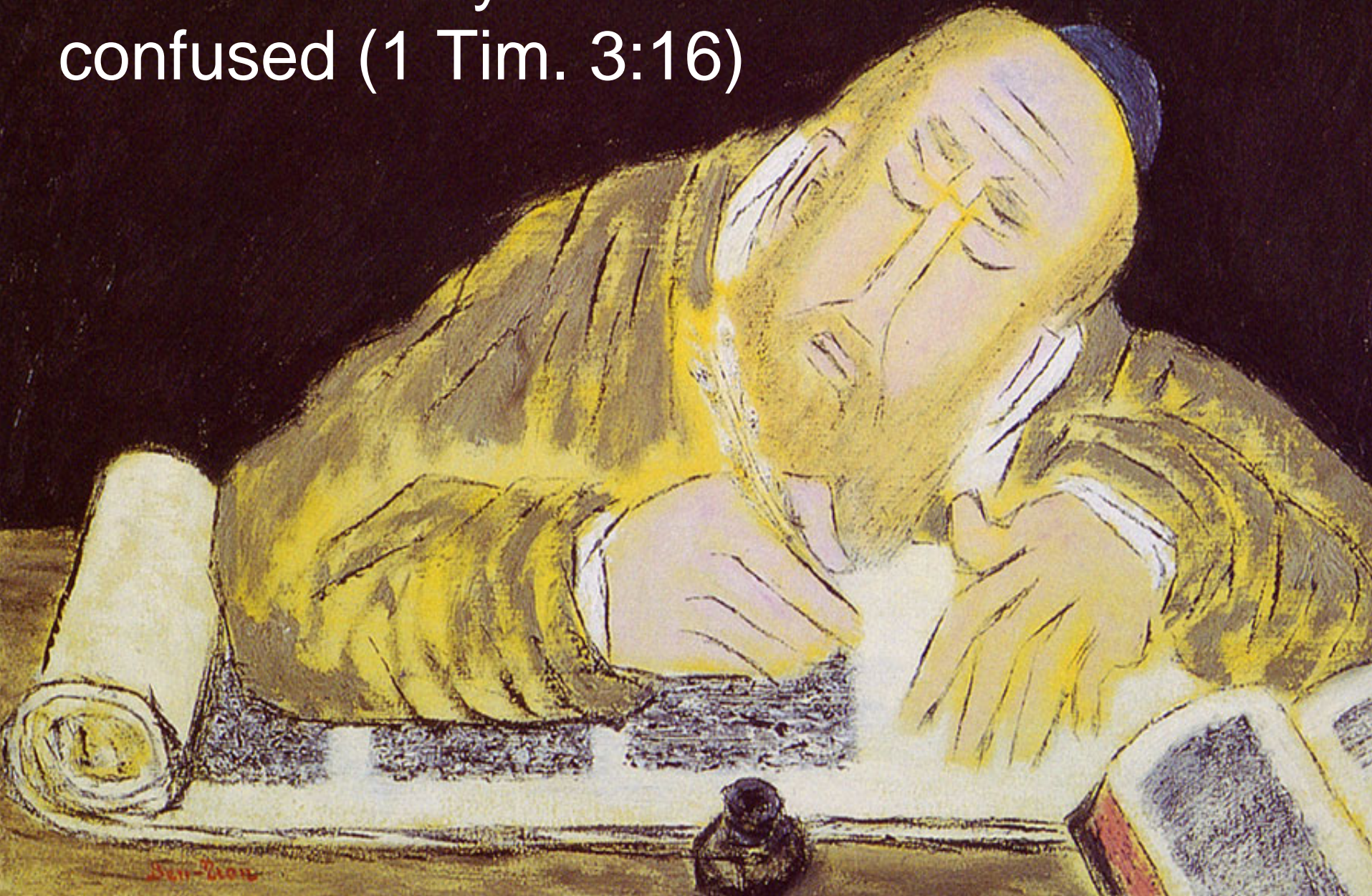
# History of “variant readings”



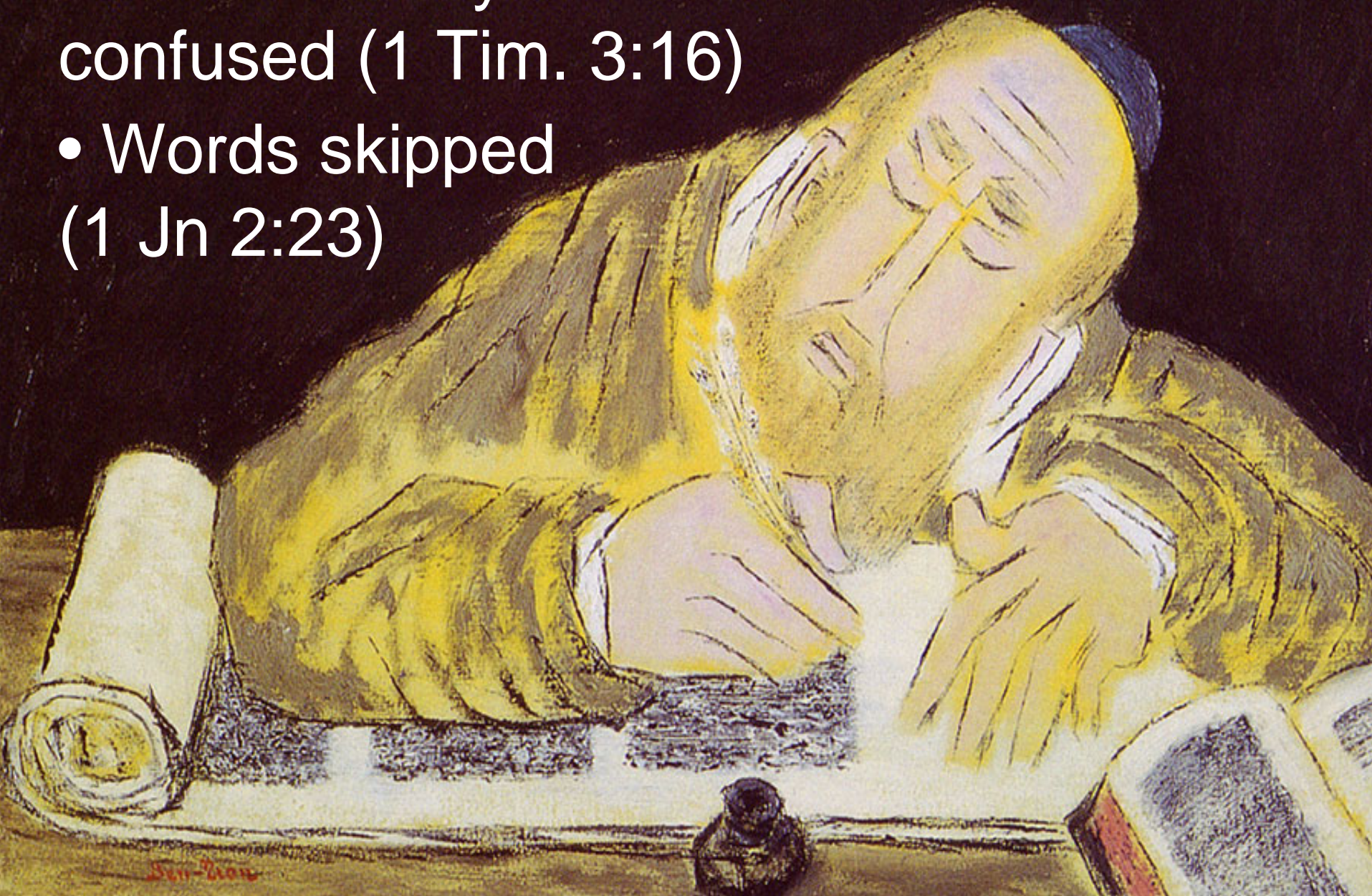
Van Gogh



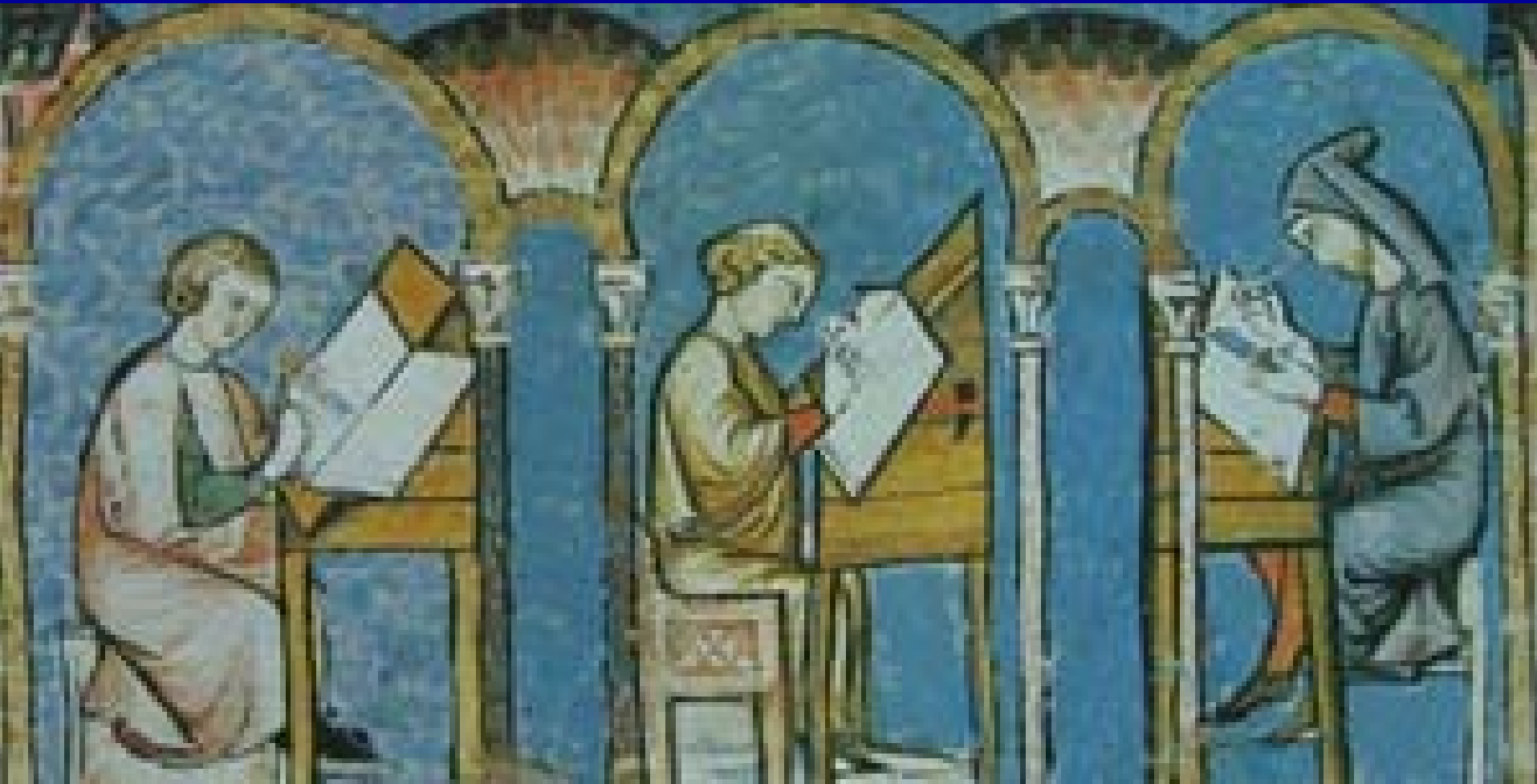
- Letters easily confused (1 Tim. 3:16)



- Letters easily confused (1 Tim. 3:16)
- Words skipped (1 Jn 2:23)



# Scriptorium variants



# Scriptorium variants

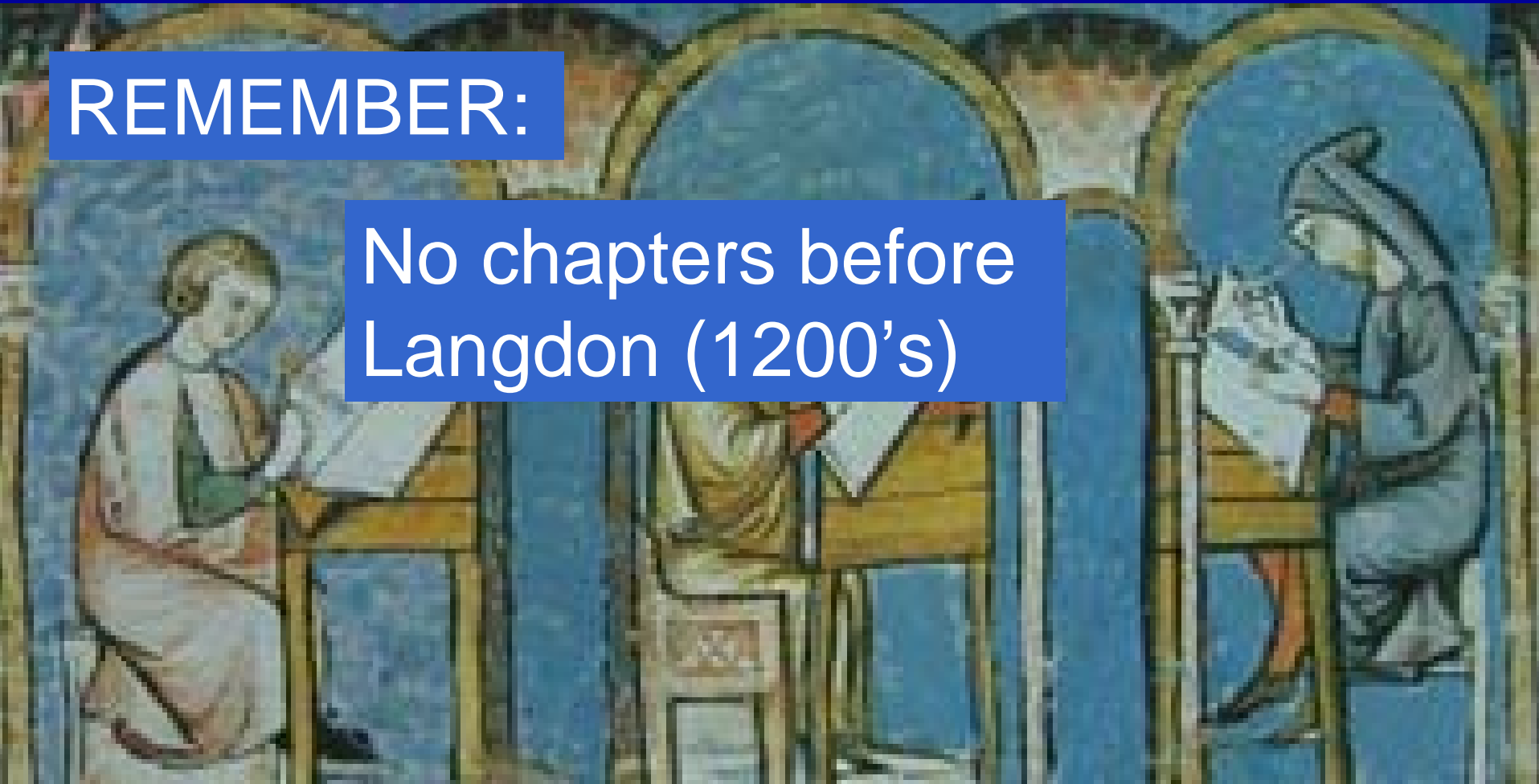
REMEMBER:



# Scriptorium variants

REMEMBER:

No chapters before  
Langdon (1200's)

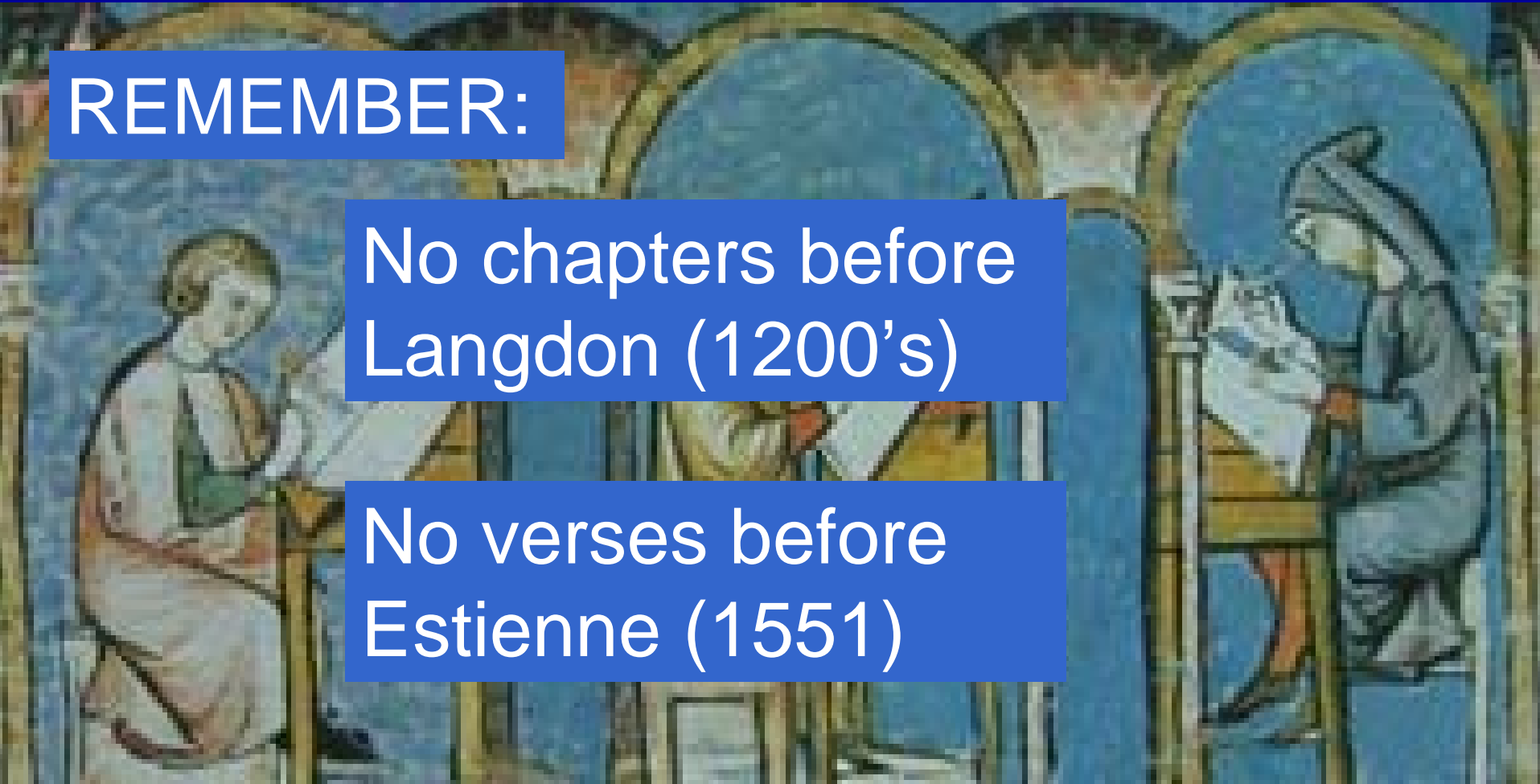


# Scriptorium variants

REMEMBER:

No chapters before  
Langdon (1200's)

No verses before  
Estienne (1551)



# Improvements over the *Textus Receptus* (“Received Text”)



Constantin  
von  
Tischendorf



# St Catherine's monastery Mt. Sinai

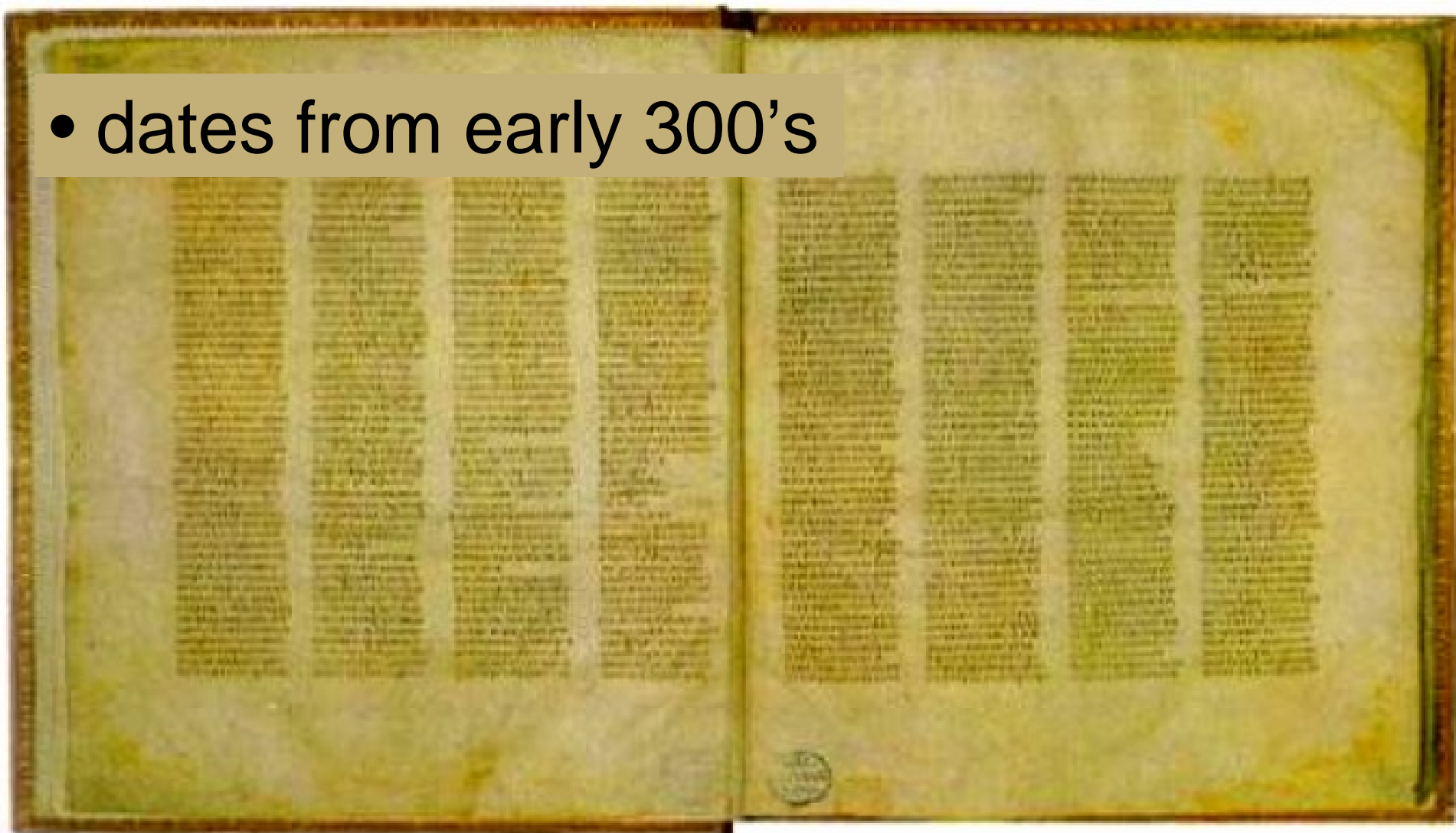


# Codex Sinaiticus (Ⲙ)



# Codex Sinaiticus (Ⲙ)

- dates from early 300's



# Codex Sinaiticus (Ⲙ)

- dates from early 300's
- Likely ordered by Constantine



# Codex Vaticanus

John Rylands  
fragment (p52)



ΟΙ ΕΥΧΕΣ ΑΝ ΤΙΣ  
ΟΥΔΕΝΑ ΙΝΑ ΟΛ  
ΠΕΝ ΟΥΜΩ ΝΕΙ  
ΕΝ ΚΑΝΟΝΙΝ  
ΟΙΟΝΟΤ  
ΚΑ ΕΙΤΕ  
ΑΕΕ

# John Rylands fragment (p52)

- Oldest piece of New Testament (125ish!)



# John Rylands fragment (p52)

- Oldest piece of New Testament (125ish!)
- Front - Jn 18:31-33





# John Rylands fragment (p52)

- Oldest piece of New Testament (125ish!)
- Front - Jn 18:31-33
- Back - Jn 18:37-38



# John Rylands fragment (p52)

- Oldest piece of New Testament (125ish!)
- Front - Jn 18:31-33
- Back - Jn 18:37-38
- 2 1/2 " x 3 1/2"



VERY VERY FEW  
QUESTIONS REMAIN

VERY VERY FEW  
QUESTIONS REMAIN

Acts 6:8

# VERY VERY FEW QUESTIONS REMAIN

Acts 6:8

John 7:53-8:11

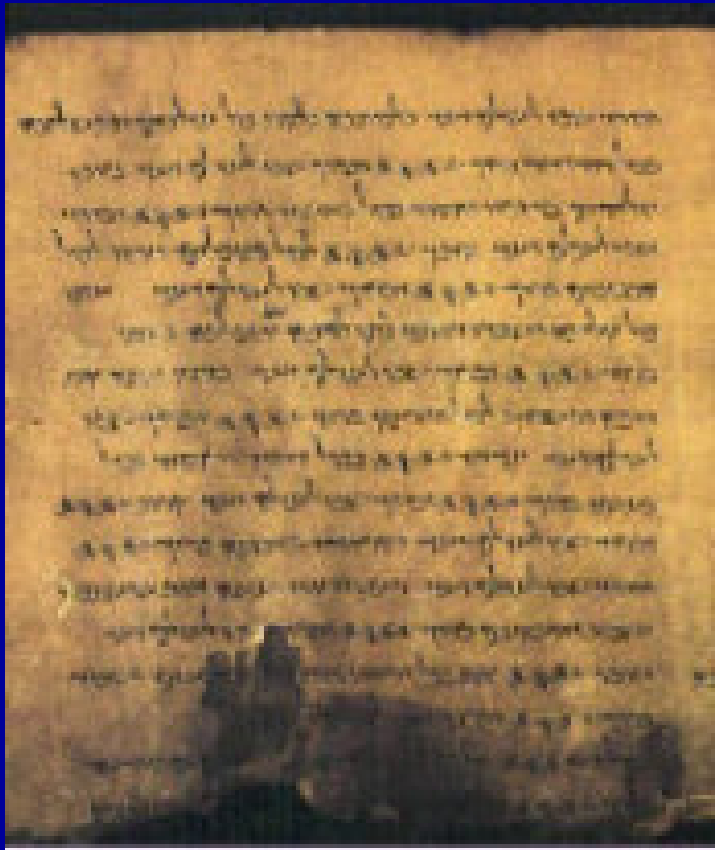
# VERY VERY FEW QUESTIONS REMAIN

Acts 6:8

John 7:53-8:11

Mark 16:9-20

# Still to come:

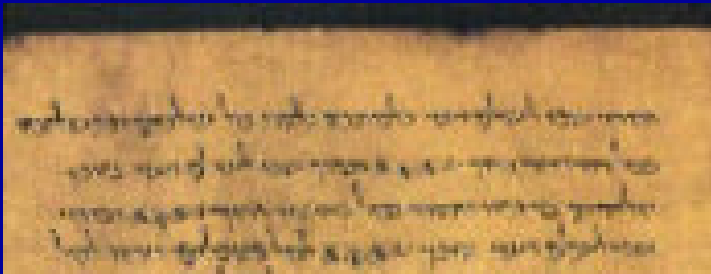


Hebrew Text

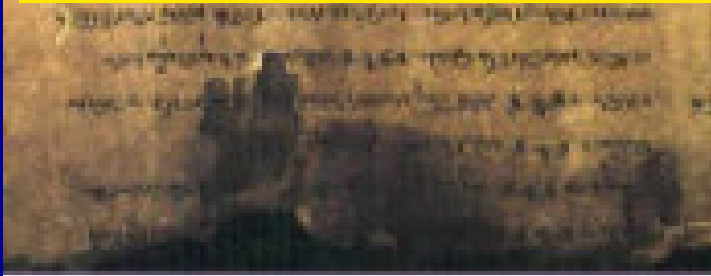


Dead Sea scrolls

Still to come:



**PLUS: Our various English versions of the Bible**



Hebrew Text

Dead Sea scrolls





UUS TESTAMENT  
JA  
PSALMID

HOLY  
BIBLE

Das Neue Testament  
Le Nouveau Testament  
Il Nuovo Testamento  
The New Testament

DET NYE  
TESTAMENTI  
DAS NEUE  
TESTAMENT  
THE NEW  
TESTAMENT

புத்தொகை

新约全书

New  
Testament  
+  
Psalms  
Prayers

New  
Testament  
+  
Psalms  
Prayers

New  
Testament  
+  
Psalms  
Prayers



# Points for Home

# Points for Home

- The reason we have a Bible is because God wanted to communicate with us.

# Points for Home

- The reason we have a Bible is because God wanted to communicate with us.
- The God who made us and wants us to understand Him and His redemptive history in Jesus Christ has secured His word for us through the ages.