

**Can You Believe
The Bible?**

by **Vince LaPoint**
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IS THIS GOD'S WORD?

- 1. Do we have an accurate copy of the original Bible documents?**
- 2. Do the original Bible documents tell the truth?**

HOW DO WE KNOW

we have an accurate copy of the original OT?

Before 1947:

- earliest OT portions: ~AD 800
- more complete MSS: ~AD 980

Dead Sea Scrolls:

- copies now over 1000 years older
- word for word identical in more than 95% of the text – other 5% is spelling variations, pen slips

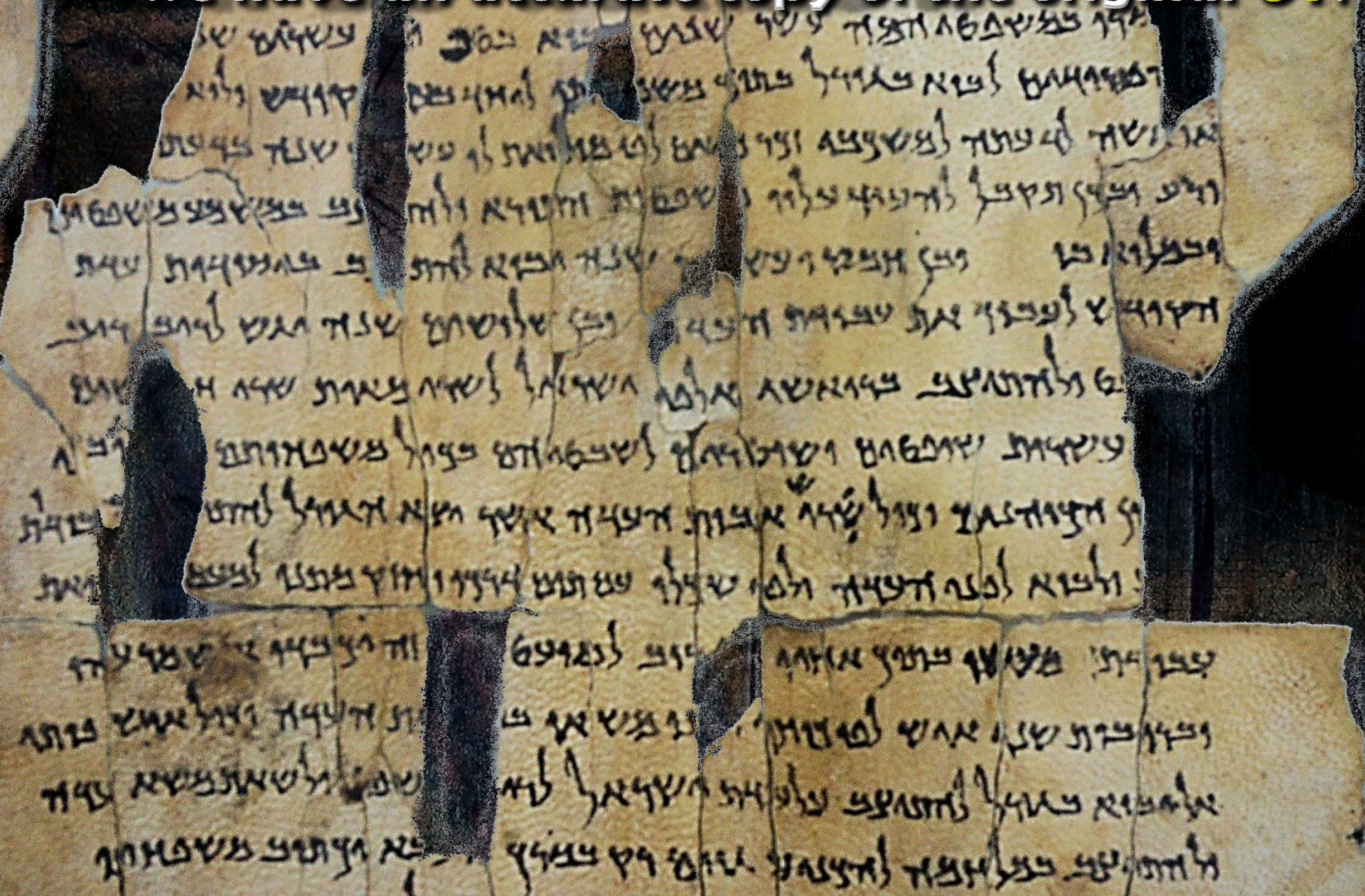
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we have an accurate copy of the original OT?



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“Mathematically, it is one chance in 750,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 that this accuracy is mere circumstance.”

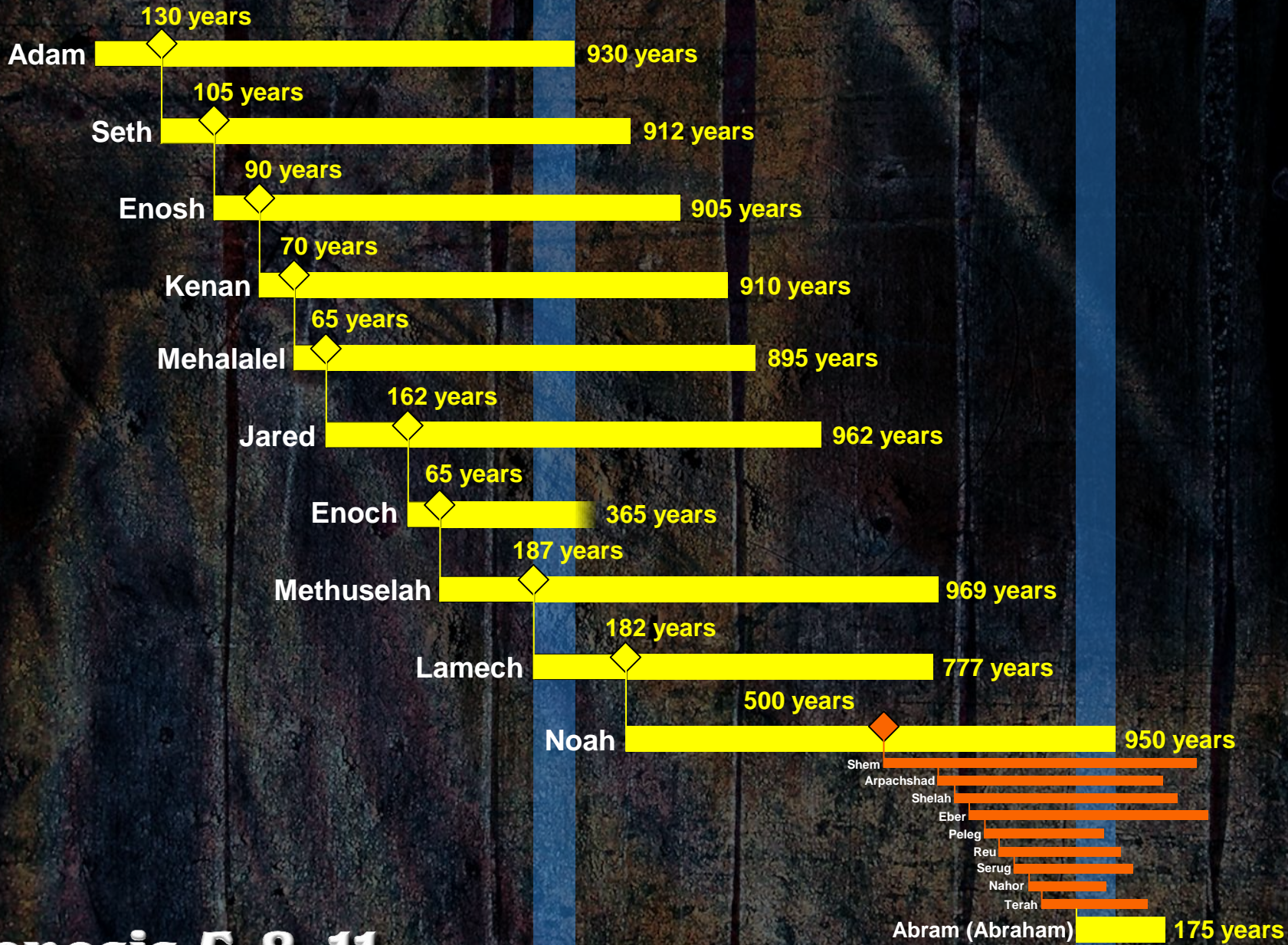
- Professor Robert Wilson

HOW DO WE KNOW

we have an accurate copy of the original OT?

“It may safely be said that no other work of antiquity has been so accurately transmitted.”

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Genesis 5 & 11

HOW DO WE KNOW

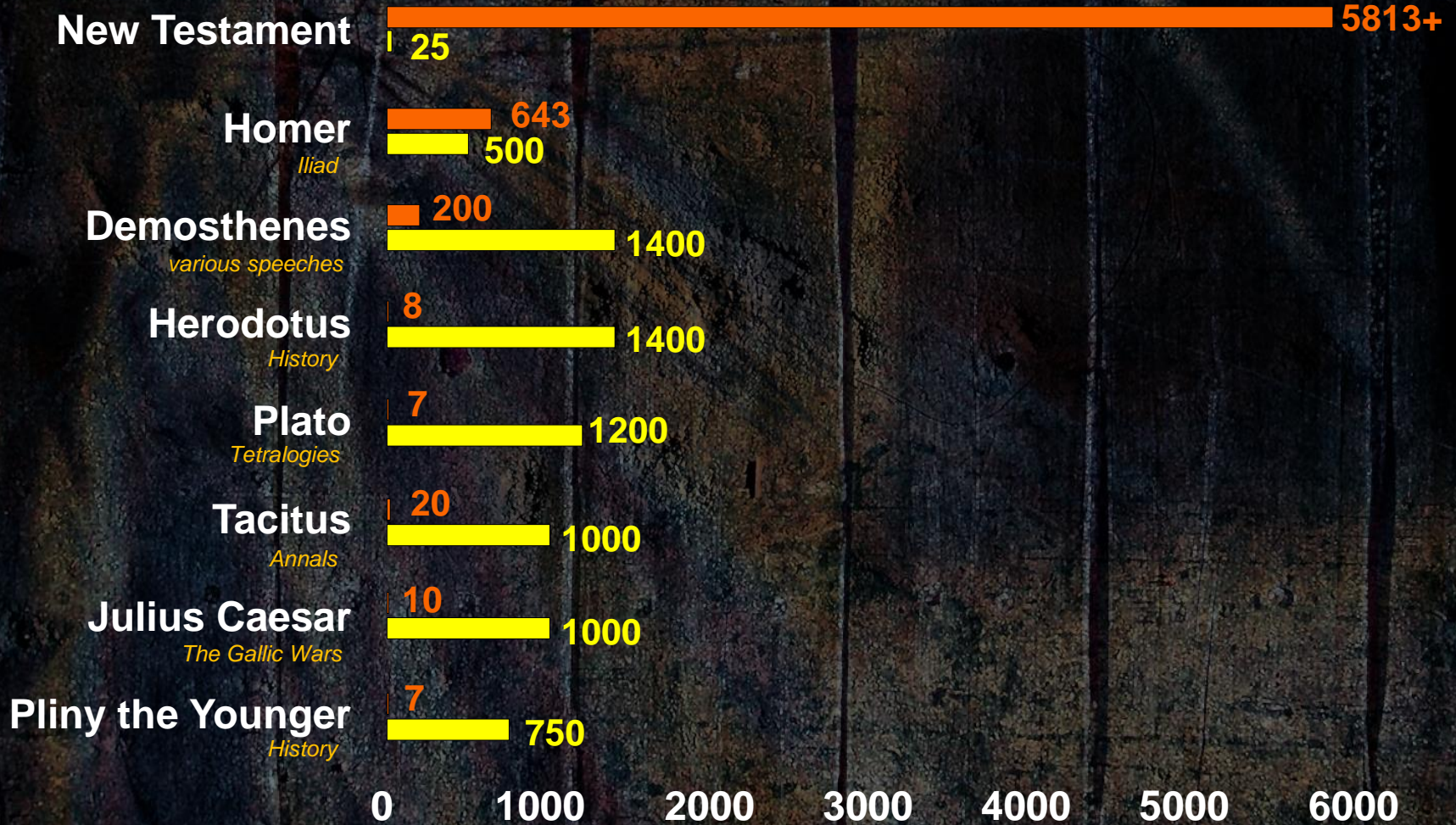
we have an accurate copy of the original **NT**?

- 1. MORE Manuscripts**
- 2. EARLIER Manuscripts**
- 3. MORE Accurately Copied**
- 4. MORE Abundantly Supported Manuscripts**

RELIABILITY OF NT DOCUMENTS

Manuscript Copies

Time Gap (in years)



How do we know what the original said?

ORIGINAL
MANUSCRIPT



COPY 1



COPY 2



COPY 3



COPY 4

Copy 1: For the Son of man is come to oave that which was lost.

Copy 2: For the Son of man is come to sove that which was lost.

Copy 3: For the Son of man is come to sae that which was lost.

Copy 4: For the Son of man is come to sav that which was lost.

Original: For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

The NT Documents Have Far Fewer Variations Than This Example

HOW DO WE KNOW

we have an accurate copy of the original **NT**?

- 1.** 43% of 8,000 NT verses in Manuscripts from 2nd Century
- 2.** Over 36,000 quotations from early church fathers
- 3.** In addition to the 5,800+ Greek, there are over 19,000 manuscripts in other languages
- 4.** Total manuscripts stack over a mile high (compared to 4 feet for classical Greek authors).

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1. Do we have an accurate copy of the original Bible documents? **YES!**

2. Do the original Bible documents tell the truth?

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Prophecy
Archeology
Changed Lives

DANIEL 2

verses 32-33

This image's head
was of fine gold

its chest and
arms of silver

its belly and
thighs of bronze

Its legs of iron

its feet partly of iron
and partly of clay



verses 34-35

"You watched while
a stone was cut out
without hands,
which struck the
image on its feet of
iron and clay, and
broke them in
pieces. ...

"And the stone that
struck the image
became a great
mountain and filled
the whole earth.

DANIEL 2

- 37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;
- 38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all--you are this head of gold.
- 39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.
- 40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.
- 41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with
- 42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.
- 43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.
- 44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
- 45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold--the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

DANIEL 2

written 6th Century B.C.E.

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

DANIEL 2

verses 37-43

verses 134-35

NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
~ 620 BC
King Nebuchadnezzar II

MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE
~ 550 BC
King Cyrus The Great



"You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ...

"And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 8

²⁰ The ram which you saw, having the two horns - they are the kings of **Media** and **Persia**.

Isaiah 44

²⁸ Who says of **Cyrus**, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem ...

DANIEL 2

verses 37-43

verses 134-35

NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
~ 620 BC
King Nebuchadnezzar II

MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE
~ 550 BC
King Cyrus The Great

GRECO-MACEDONIAN EMPIRE
~ 359 BC
Alexander The Great



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Daniel 8

²¹ And the male goat is the king of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.

²² As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

DANIEL 2

verses 37-43

verses 134-35

NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

~ 620 BC

King Nebuchadnezzar II

MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE

~ 550 BC

King Cyrus The Great

GRECO-MACEDONIAN EMPIRE

~ 359 BC

Alexander The Great

ROMAN EMPIRE

~44 BC

The Reign of the Caesars

TEN KINGS / KINGDOMS

Mankind's

Final World Power



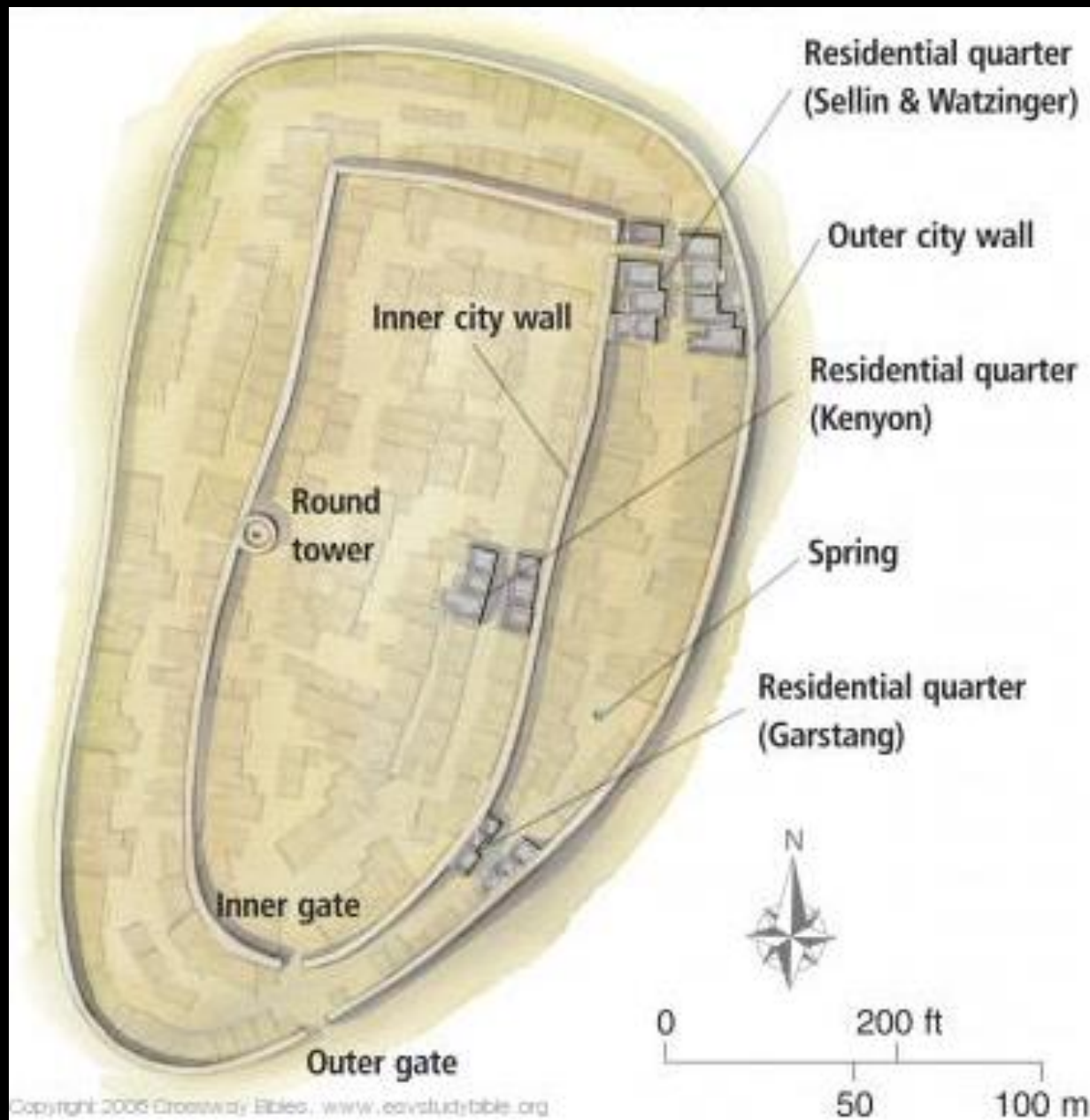
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2. Do the original Bible documents tell the truth?

Prophecy ✓
Archeology
Changed Lives



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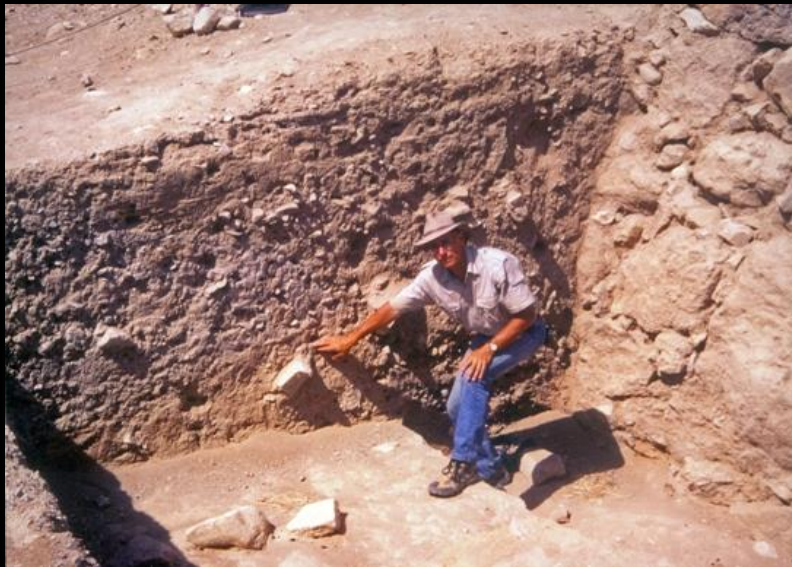
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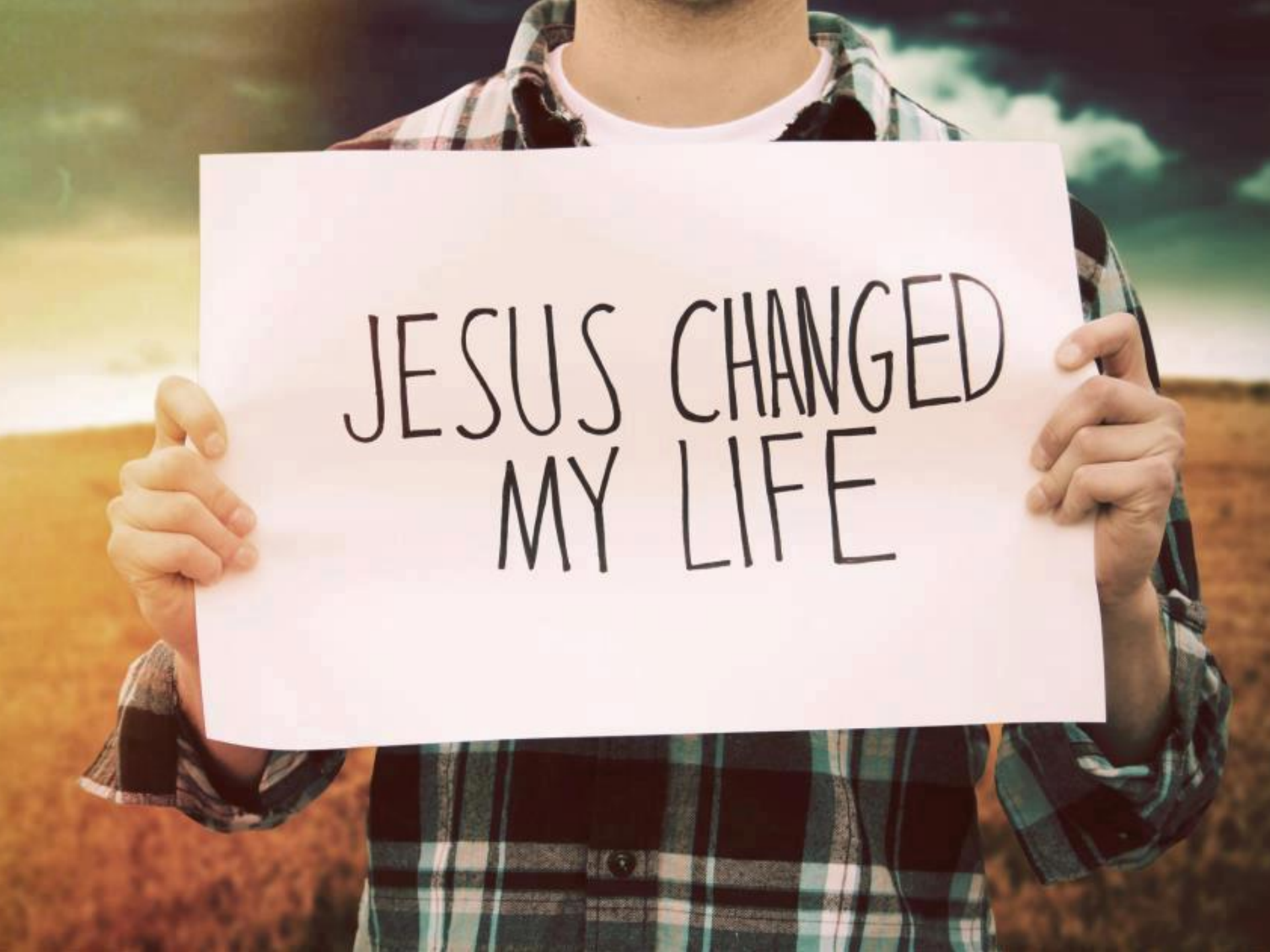
**The city was burned
(Joshua 6:24)**

2. Do the original Bible documents tell the truth?

Prophecy ✓

Archeology ✓

Changed Lives

A person wearing a plaid shirt is holding a white sign with the text "JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE" written in black, hand-drawn capital letters. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with a green sky and a brown ground.

JESUS CHANGED
MY LIFE

2. Do the original Bible documents tell the truth?

Prophecy ✓

Archeology ✓

Changed Lives ✓



Yes! You Can

Believe The Bible

Vince LaPoint
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