



5

REASONS
I BELIEVE THE
BIBLE

A red-bordered sign with a large black number 5 and text about reasons for believing the Bible. The sign is mounted on a white brick wall with four black screws. The top half of the sign features a large black number 5. The bottom half contains the text "REASONS I BELIEVE THE BIBLE" in black and red capital letters.

5

REASONS
I BELIEVE THE
BIBLE

#1:

**I believe the Bible
because I'm a Christian**



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Billions and Billions of Demons

Richard C. Lewontin

JANUARY 9, 1997 ISSUE

The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark

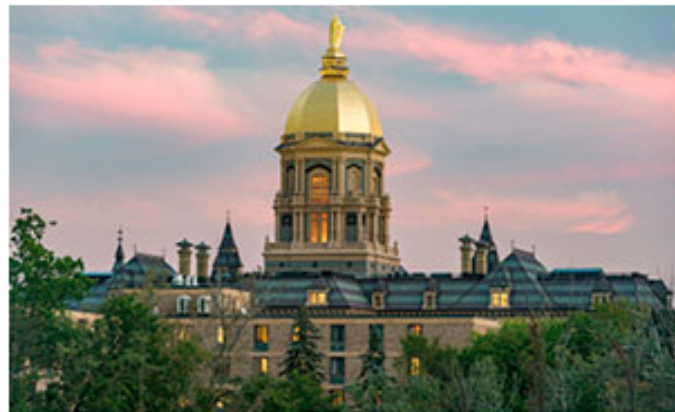
by Carl Sagan

Random House, 457 pp., \$25.95

“But the Solar System!” I protested.

“What the deuce is it to me?” he interrupted impatiently: “you say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or my work.”

—Colloquy between Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

Call for Fellows for 2020-2021

The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study (NDIAS) seeks applicants for its residential fellowship program from scholars, scientists, and artists with interdisciplinary projects on core issues that affect our ability to lead valuable, meaningful lives. New for 2020-2021, the NDIAS

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science *in spite* of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, *in spite* of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, *in spite* of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door. The eminent Kant scholar Lewis Beck used to say that anyone who could believe in God could believe in anything. To appeal to an omnipotent deity is to allow that at any moment the regularities of nature may be ruptured, that miracles may happen.”

Irrational Atheism

Not believing in God isn't always based on reasoned arguments—and that's okay.



Tuncay/Flickr



“It [Atheism] pictures the universe as a natural system, a system not guided by intelligent design and not traversed by spirits; a universe that can be explained by science, because it consists of material objects operating according to physical laws . . . Ironically, this is similar to the totalizing worldview of religion – neither can be shown to be true or false by science, or indeed by any rational technique . . .”



“Whether theistic or atheistic, they are all matters of faith, stances taken up by tiny creatures in an infinitely rich environment . . . I have taken a leap of atheist faith . . . The idea that the atheist comes to her view of the world through rationality and argumentation, while the believer relies on arbitrary emotional commitments is false.”

- Crispin Sartwell in article “Irrational Atheism” published in the Atlantic



2 Timothy 3:14-16

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...



#2:

I believe the Bible
because it's powerful





Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”



Isaiah 40:8

“The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of our God will stand forever.”



2 Corinthians 4:2

“... we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.”



#3:

**I believe the Bible
because it makes
sense of the world**

“I believe in Christianity as I
believe the sun has risen: not
only because I see it, but by it I
see everything else.”

C.S. Lewis





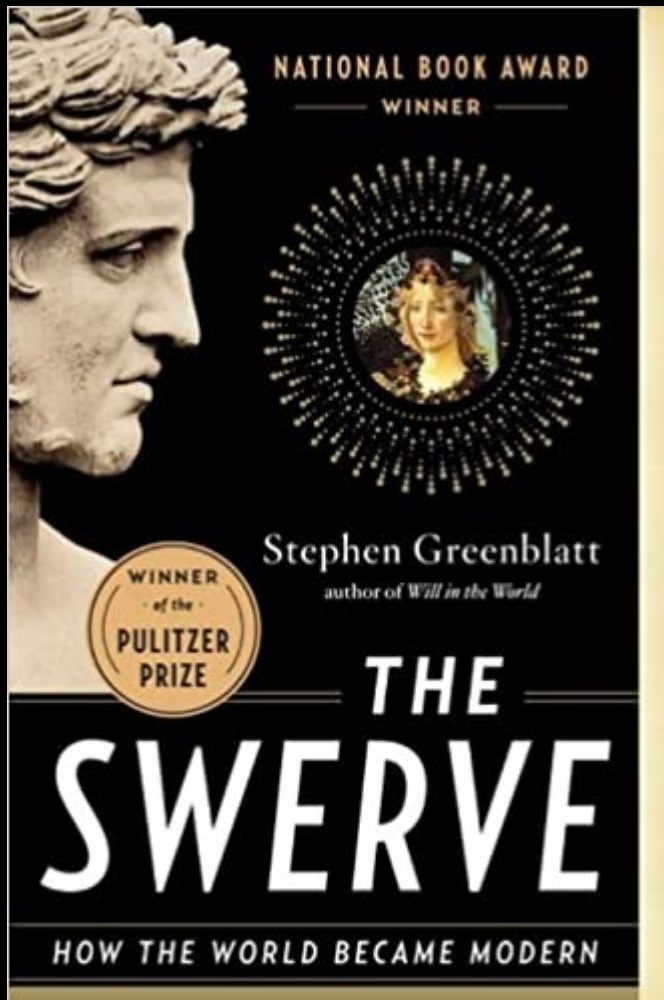
#4:

**I believe the Bible
because there's a
lot of evidence**



“As ancient historian Paul Maier of Western Michigan University states, many things the ancient world are based on one source—a single source.”

<http://augustinecollective.org/a-qa-with-gary-habermas/>

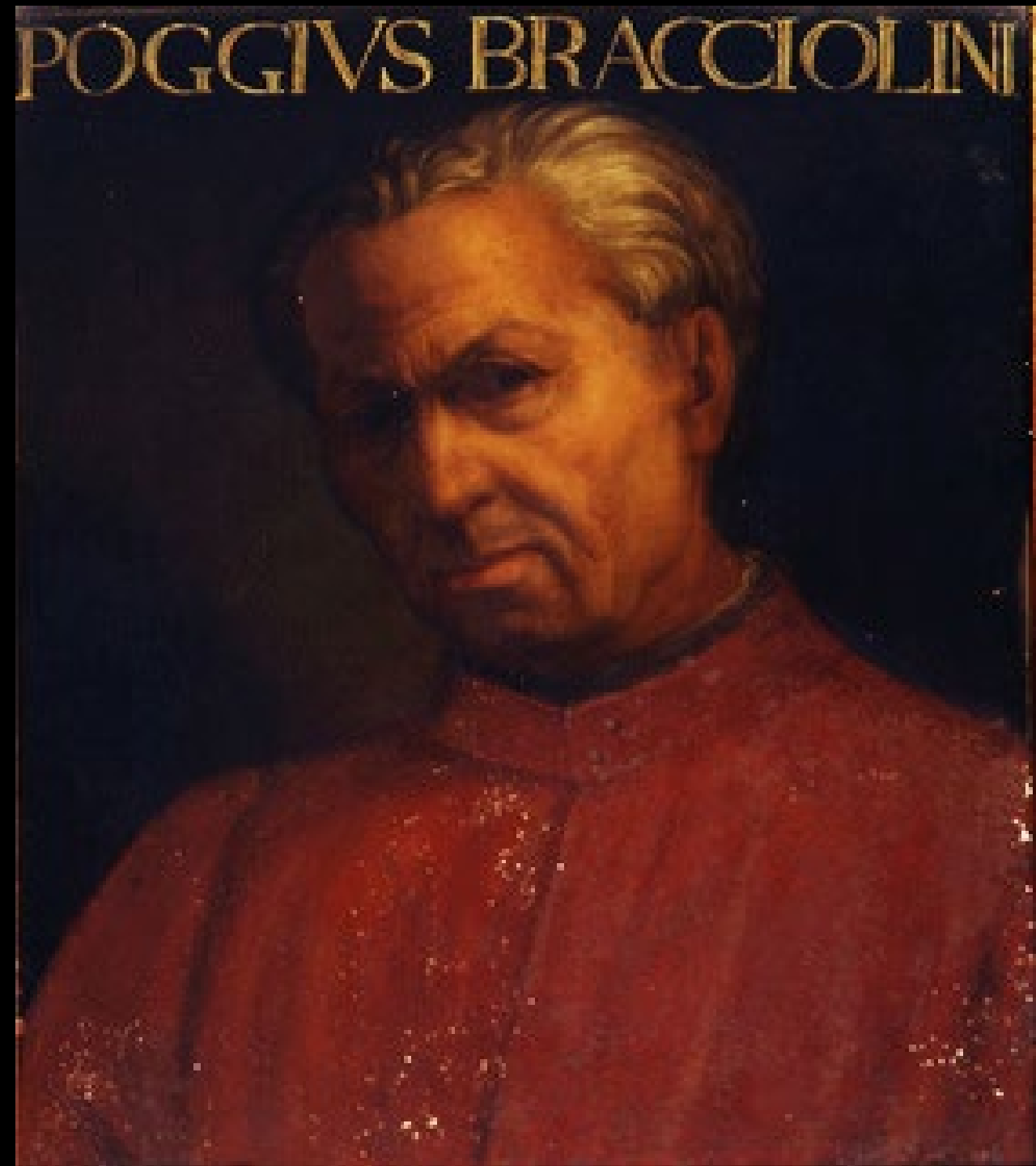
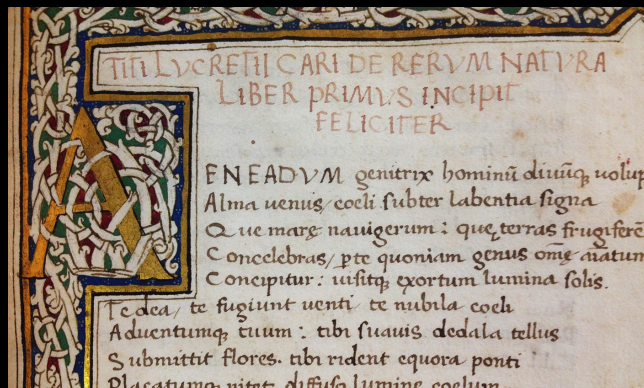


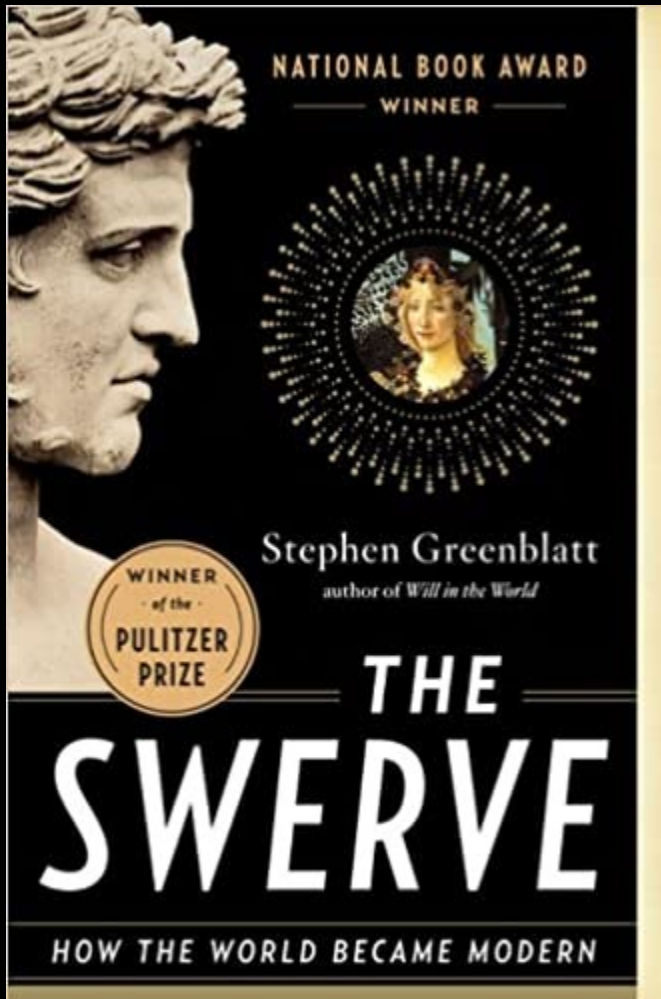
“This is a story then of how the world swerved in a new direction. The agent of change was not a revolution, an implacable army at the gates, or landfall on an unknown continent When it occurred, nearly six hundred years ago, the key moment was muffled and almost invisible, tucked away behind walls in a remote place. There were no heroic gestures, no observers keenly recording the great event for posterity, no signs in heaven or on earth that everything had changed forever. A short, genial, cannily alert man in his late thirties reached out one day, took a very old manuscript off a library shelf, saw with excitement what he had discovered, and ordered that it be copied. *That was all; but it was enough.*”

Greenblatt, Stephen. The Swerve: How the World Became Modern . W. W. Norton & Company. Kindle Edition.

In January of 1417, Italian scholar Poggio Bracciolini discovered the only surviving copy at that time of the mostly forgotten poem by Lucretius “On the Nature of Things” – Lucretius was a poet who died about 50 years before Jesus was born. Poggio sent his discovery to his friend Niccolò de' Niccoli (inventor of the *italic* script) to make a copy.

(two older copies were discovered later, both dating to the ninth century)





Greenblatt calls Poggio “the midwife to modernity.” All this based on a manuscript of Lucretius, a manuscript no longer in existence.

A single copy of a lost poem revived and undergirded an entire school of philosophical thought, helping to usher in modernity.

*Rembrandt painting from 1653 of
Aristotle and the bust of Homer.*



Alexander the Great:

Alexander's death several histories were written of him, but all are lost. All we have are references in later works. One of the best later works is by Lucius Flavius Arrianus (AD 86-160) writing 400 years after the events he was describing.



This is the oldest copy of a work from Aristotle. This copy was made in the mid 9th century, over 1,200 years after the original would have been produced.

[illegible]

Homer (From the University of Chicago):

The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* . . . the two poems are generally presumed to have been composed sometime from the **eighth century BCE (or earlier) to the mid-seventh century BCE and written down by the mid-sixth century BCE**, likely in conjunction with performances at the Panathenaia Festival in Athens. The earliest surviving example of Homeric papyri is from the **third century BCE**, about the time that scholars in Alexandria produced a relatively stable text that was subsequently used by scribes to produce copies. Over 1,000 manuscripts of Homer's works exist, **far more than for any other ancient author** and many more of the *Iliad* than the *Odyssey*.



HERE'S AN OVERVIEW:

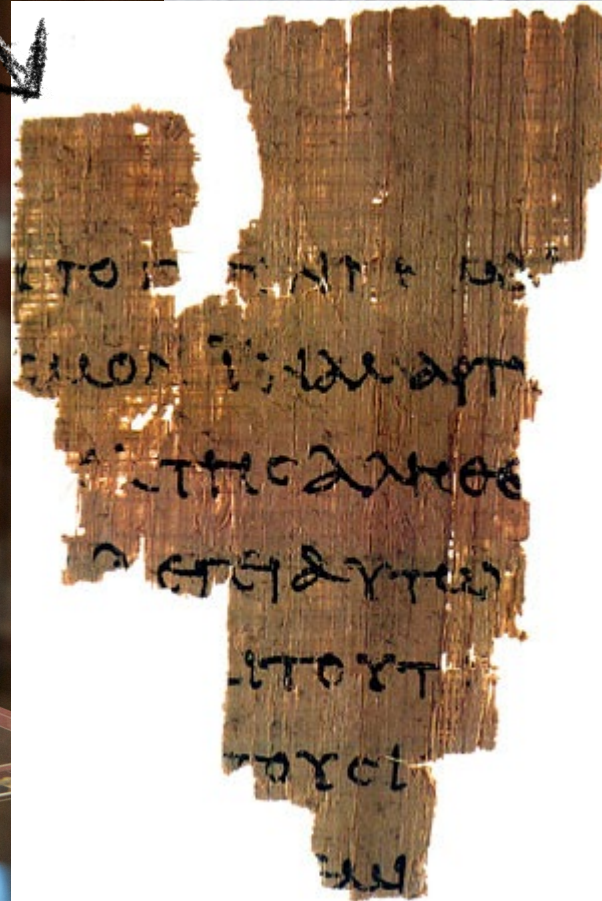
- Homer composed his famous poems around 8th/7th Century BCE
- The poem was passed down orally
- It was likely written down in the mid 6th century BCE
- The oldest existing copy is from the 3rd Century BCE
- So, there's a 200 year gap from its composition to when it's first written, and a 500+ year gap before our first existing copy.
- There are 1,000 copies in existence today





How does the New Testament compare to Homer's poetry?

First, there are N.T. manuscripts that get back far closer to the original.



**Our oldest fragment
of the NT is “P52” –
from John’s gospel –
it is dated between
100-175 (CE)**



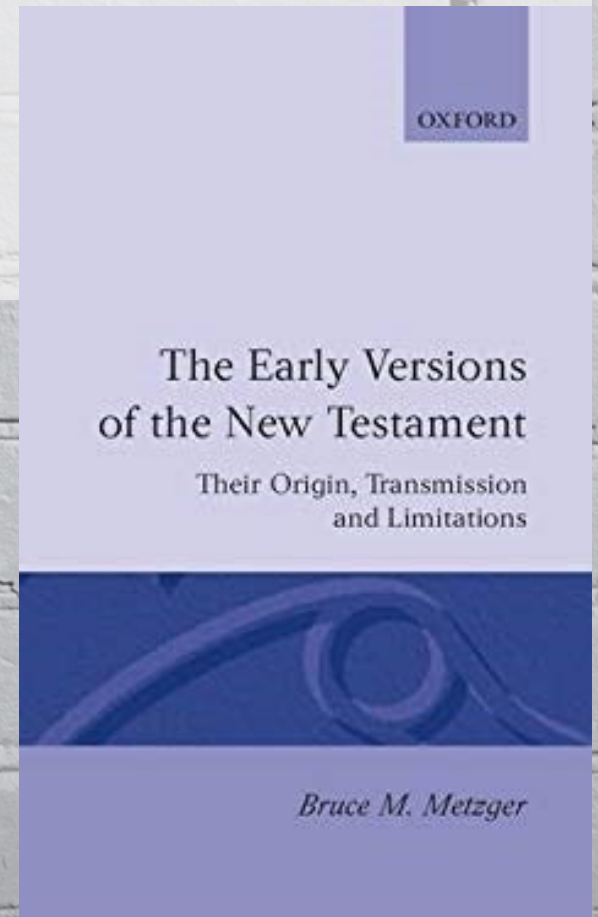
How does the New Testament compare to Homer's poetry?

First, there are N.T. manuscripts that get back far closer to the original.

Second, we have thousands of copies in Greek (5,500 compared to 1,000).

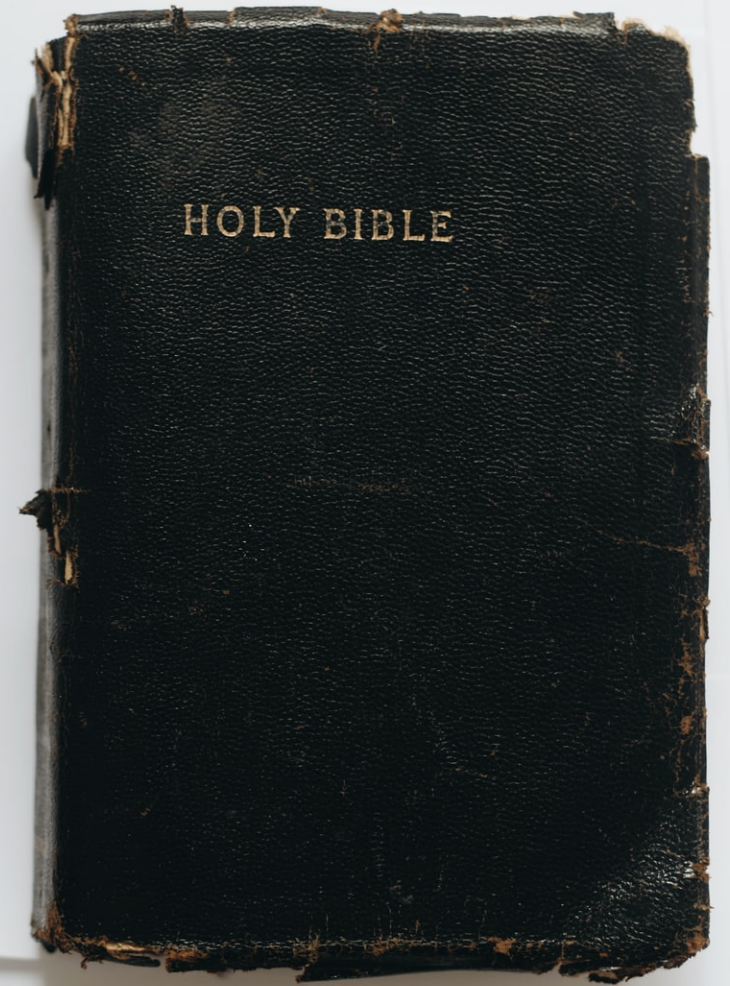


**Third, we have the N.T.
translated into other
languages very
early.**



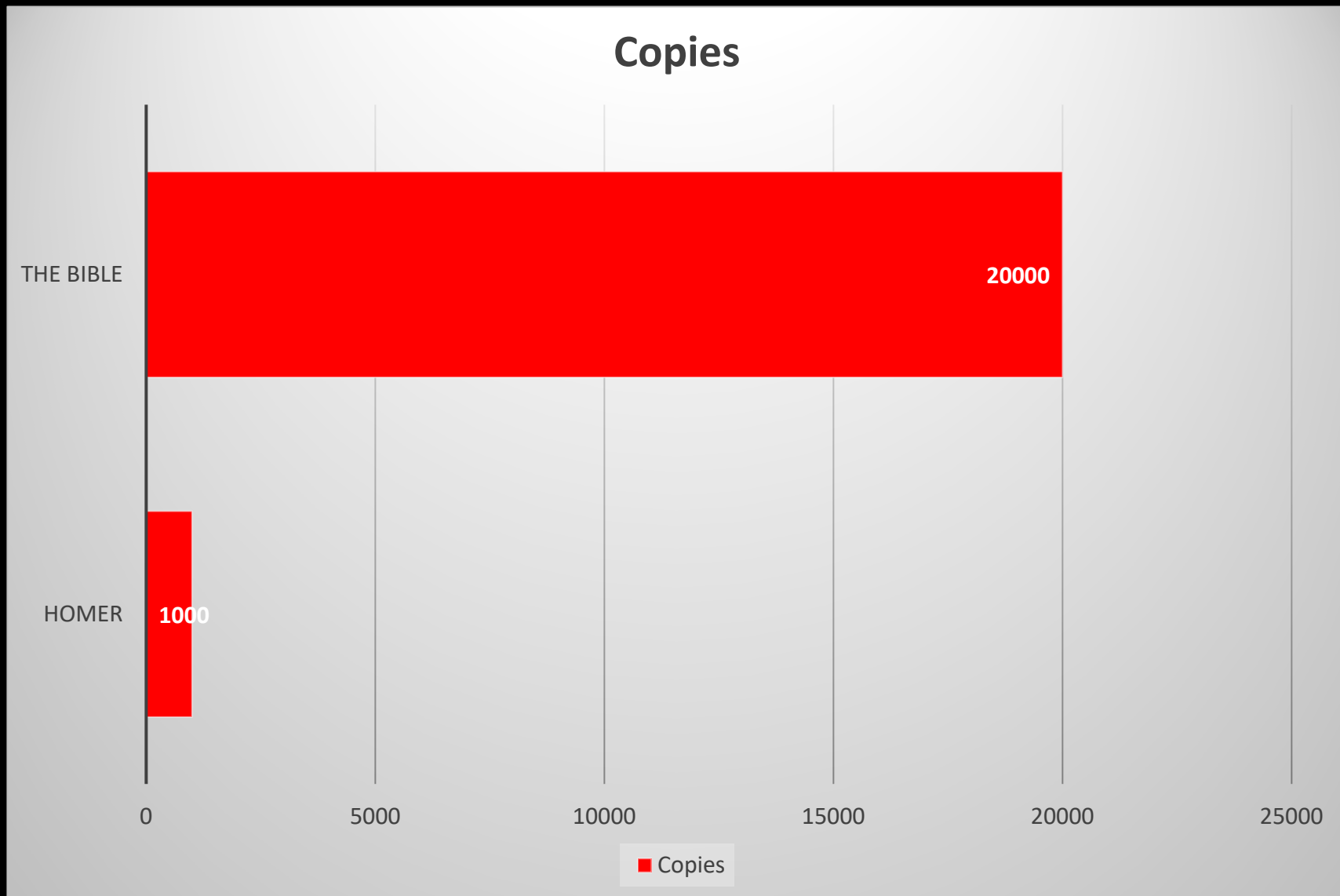
HOMER & THE BIBLE:

- **We have well over 20,000 ancient copies of the New Testament in Greek and other languages.**
- **Earliest NT fragment from within 100 years of the original writing.**
- **Compare this with 1,000 ancient copies of Homer's writings with a 500-year gap between the original and the oldest existing fragment.**



The Bible →

Homer →



the "Home Gap"



← what was
going on with
the N.T. in
its first 500
years?

The "Homeric Gap"

Latin translation

AD 180

↑
N.T. completed of
at end of
1st century



By the 4th
century both
Augustine & Jerome
would complain
at too many
Latin editions!

The "Homes Gap"

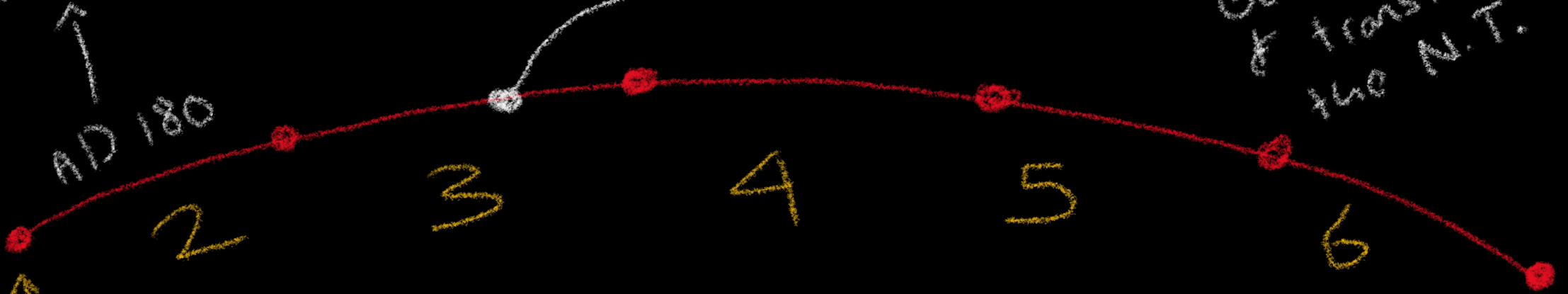
* 5 or 6 versions
in Syriac in
first 6 centuries
church

AD c. 360
Ulfilas creates
alphabet for
Gothic language
& translates
the N.T.

Latin translation

AD 180

N.T. completed
at end of
1st century



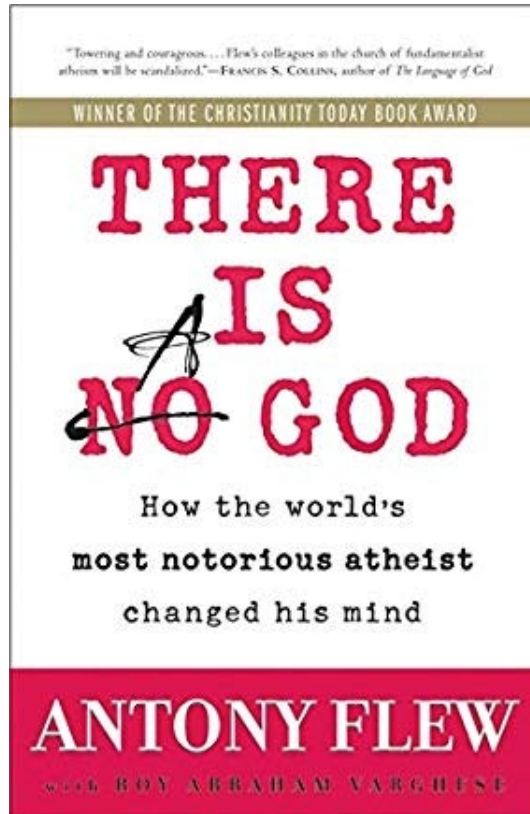


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REASONS
I BELIEVE THE
BIBLE

#5:

I believe the Bible
because Jesus rose
from the dead



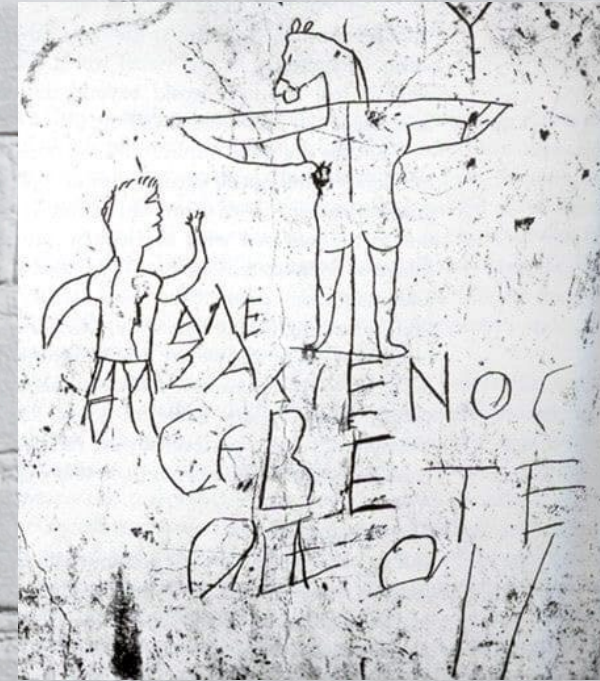
“The evidence for the resurrection is better than for claimed miracles in any other religion. It’s outstandingly different in quality and quantity.”
Anthony Flew





1 Corinthians 15:3-5

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.



Graffiti from the 2nd
century with message:
"Alexamenos worships
his god."



5

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