



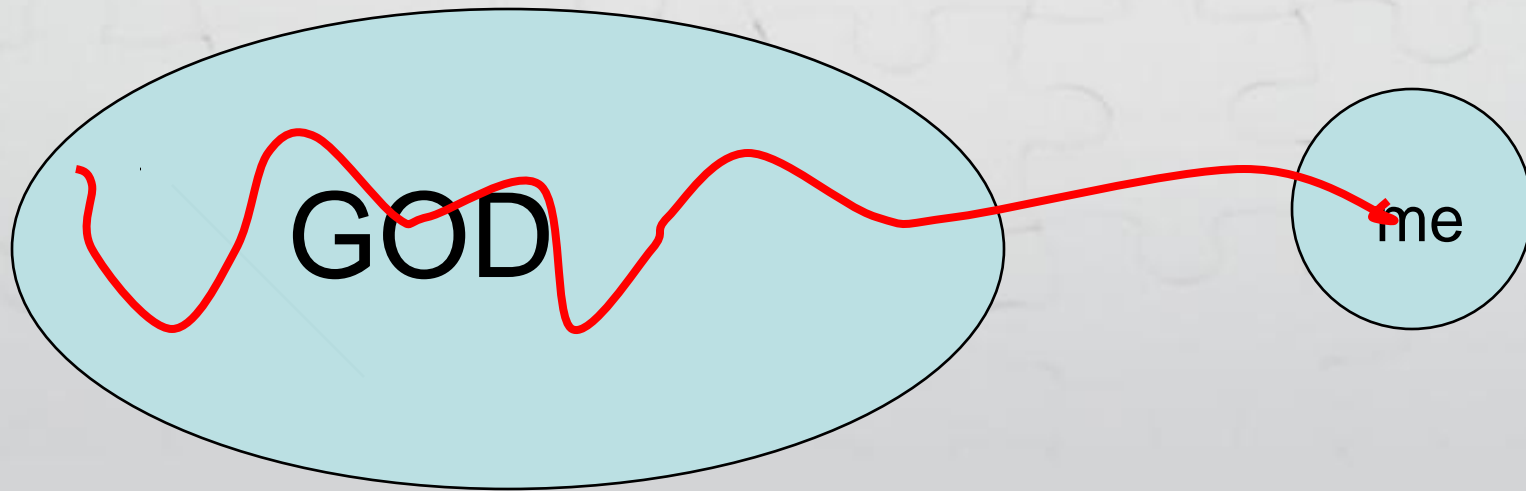
Is the Bible reliable?

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

God communicates with us, Spirit to spirit

I Corinthians 2: 9 ff.

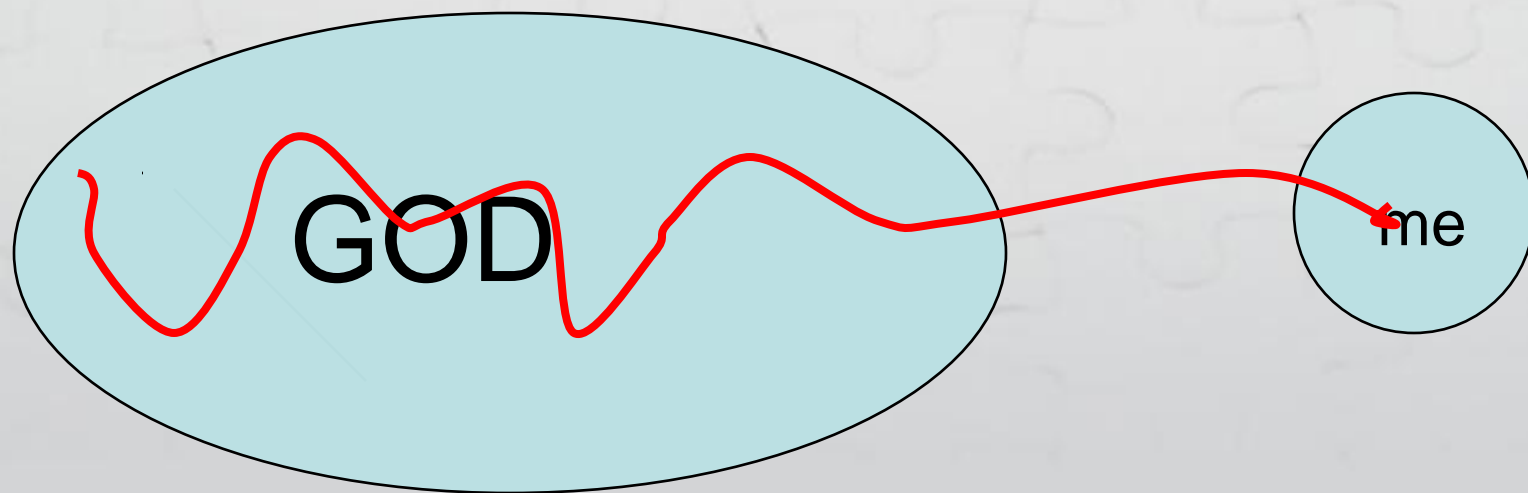
“...we have the mind of Christ.” -I CO 2: 16



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

God has also communicated
to us in writing

“All Scripture is God-breathed and
is useful...” -2 Timothy 3:16

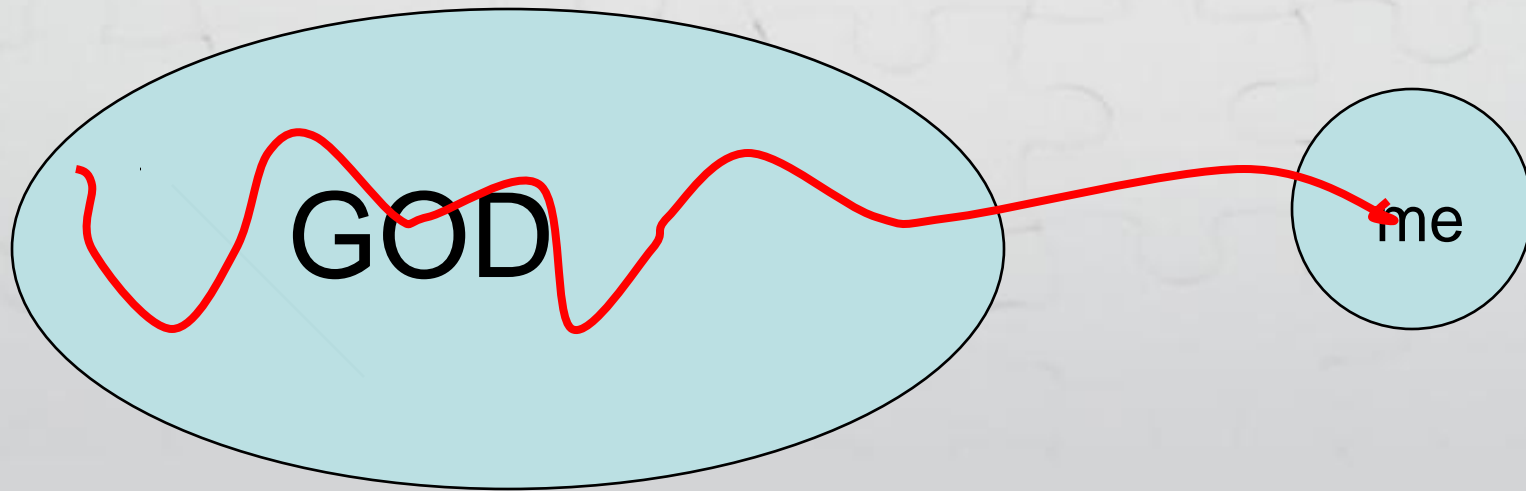


G O D Q U E S T I O N S

God is consistent, age to age

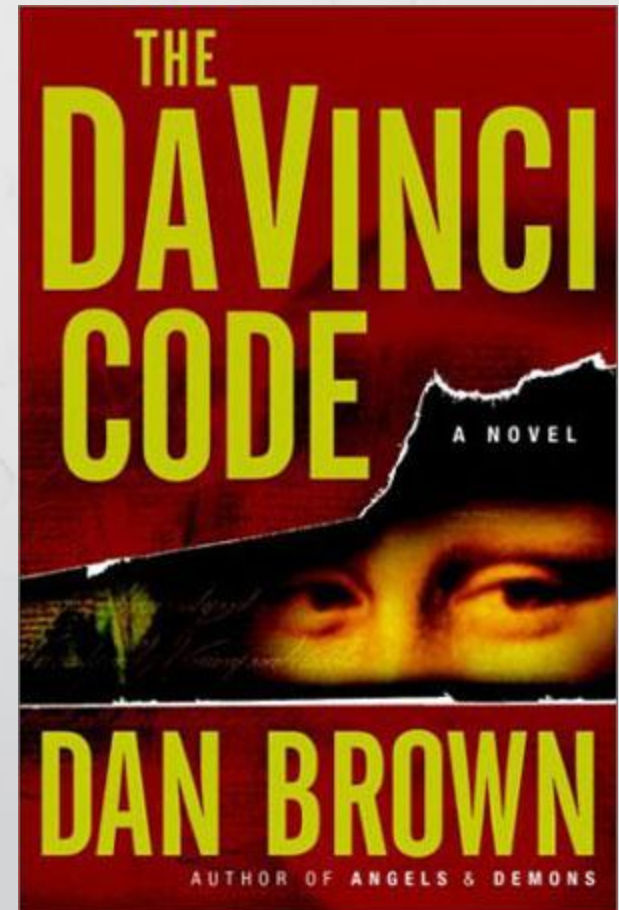
“The Scripture cannot be broken...”

-John 10: 35



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

“Is the Bible we have today really the original writings—or have they been tampered with?”



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

If the Bible is to be trusted,

...it must be

A. Authentic: Faithful to the original
revelation

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

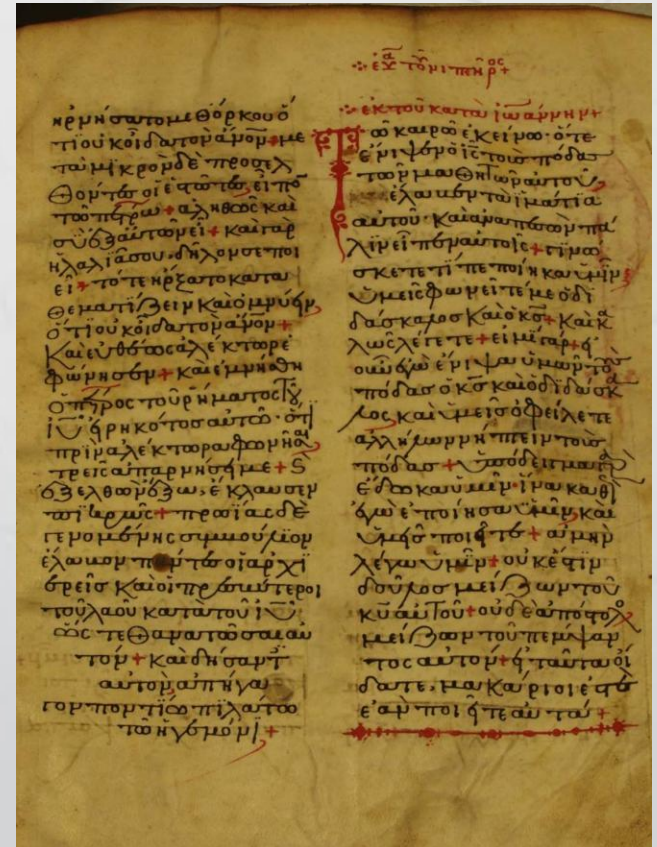
Testing authenticity

Is the autograph still available?

What's the condition of the manuscripts?

-how close in time to the autograph

-how consistent they are

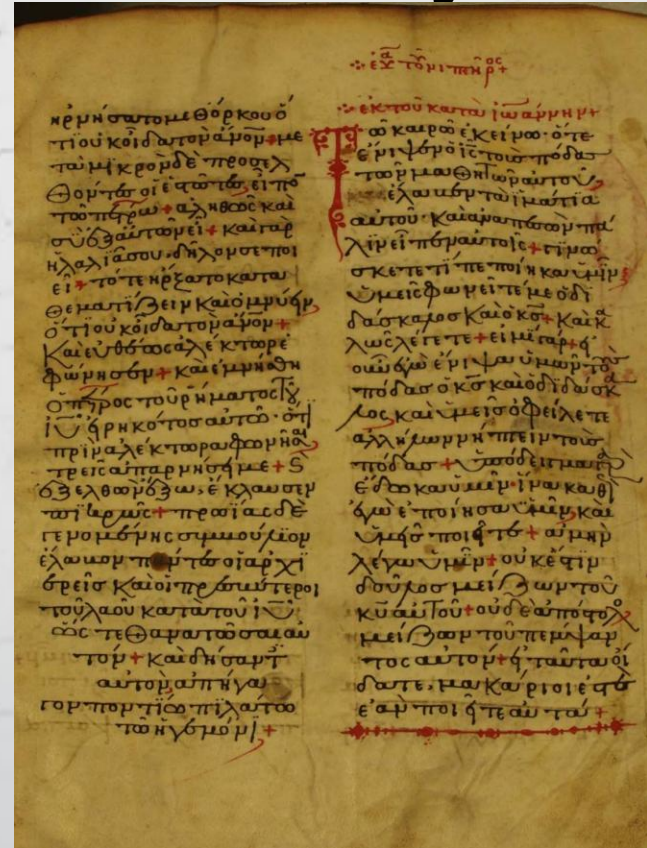


G O D Q U E S T I O N S

1. Manuscript Authority



The Iliad



The New Testament

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

Manuscript Authority



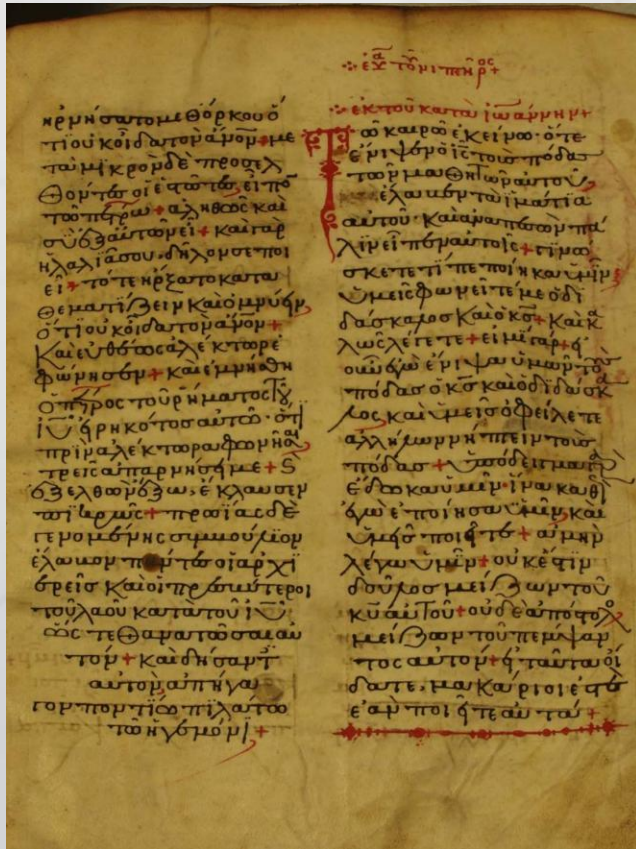
The Iliad

MSS #: 650

Earliest: 1000 years
after Homer

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

Manuscript Authority



New Testament

MSS #: 5664

Earliest portions: 40

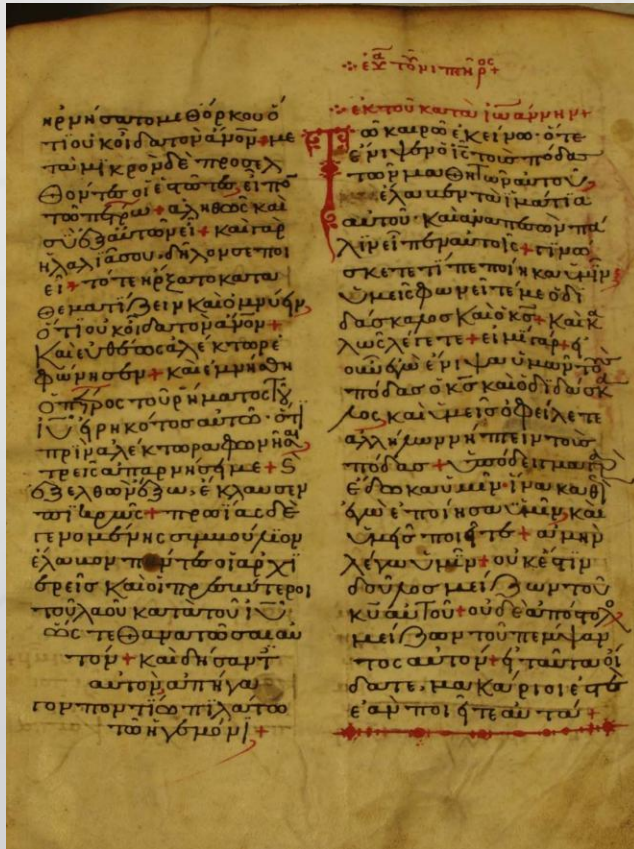
years after originals

Earliest complete: 100-

200 years later

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

2. Collection Reliability



New Testament

- 5664 MSS = 99.5% match
- Virtual consensus about the 27 books from the start

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

If the Bible is to be trusted,

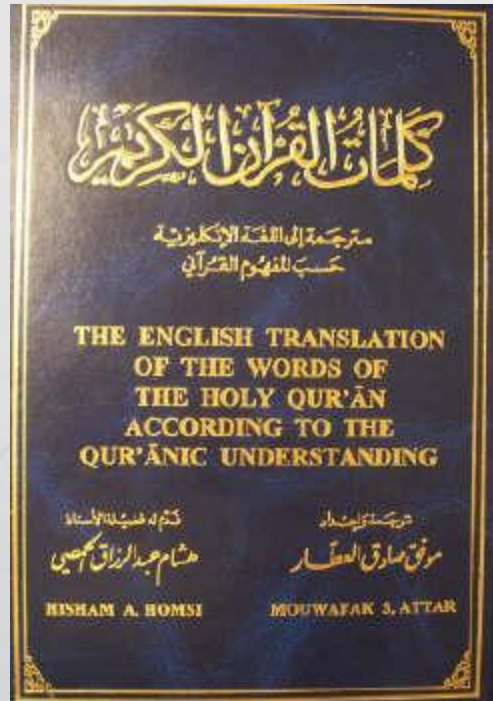
...it must be

A. Authentic: Faithful to the original
revelation

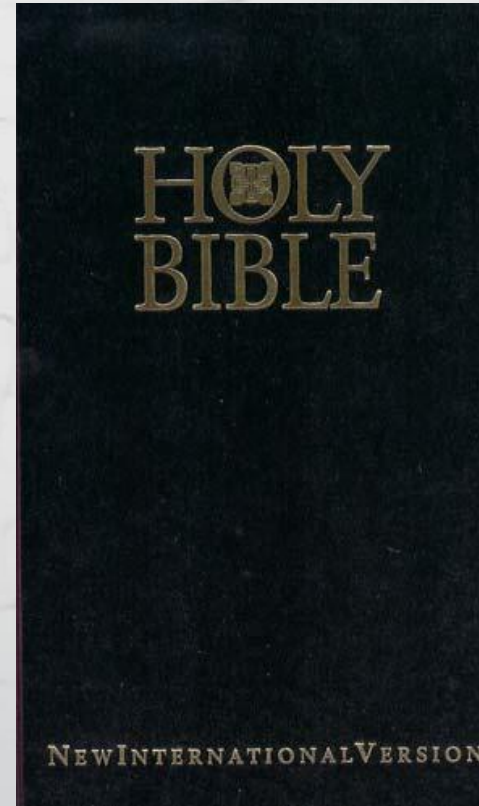
B. Consistent

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

Consistency



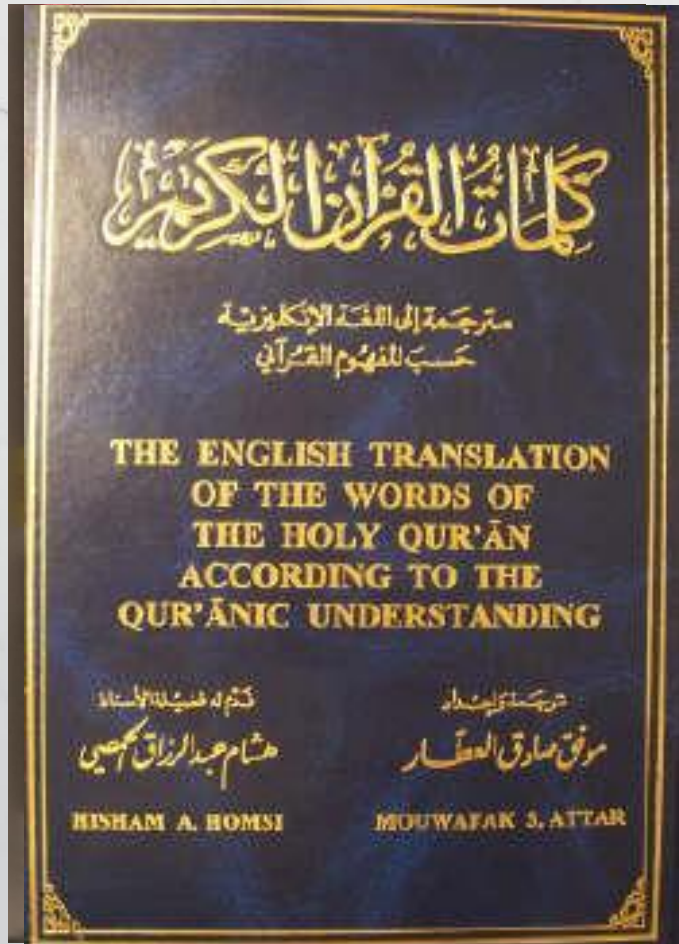
The Qur'an



The Bible

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

Abrogation in the Qur'an



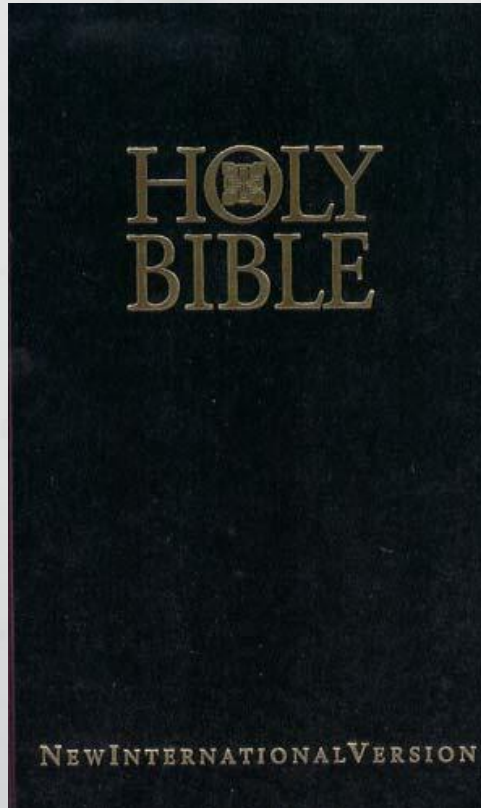
The Qur'an

“There is no compulsion in religion.” (2: 256)

“Slay the idolaters where you find them.” (9: 5)

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

Consistency in the Bible



[Jesus said:] “..and
the Scripture
cannot be broken.”

-John 10:35

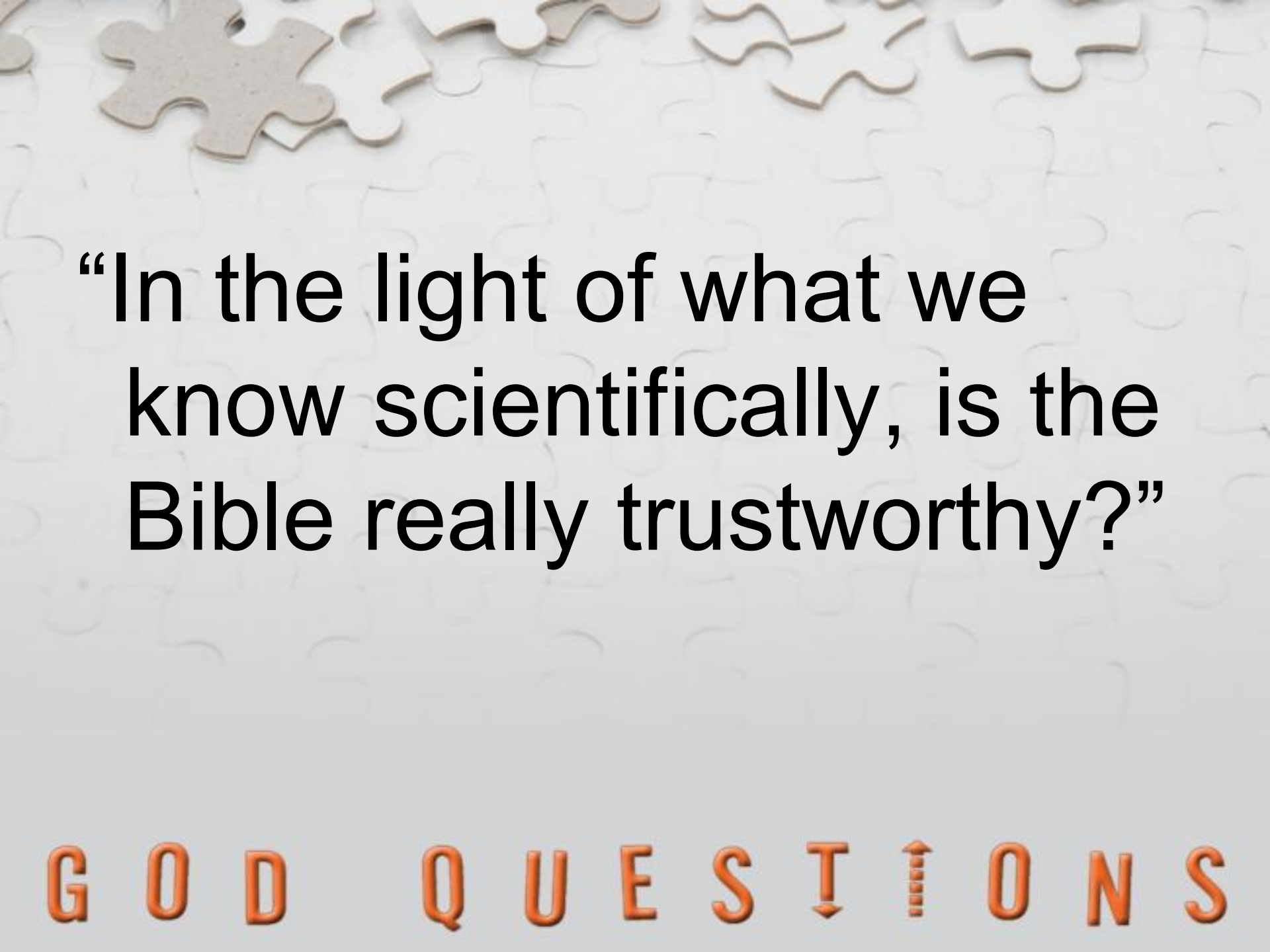
G O D Q U E S T I O N S

Fulfillment of predictive ceremonies

Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration, or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things there were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

-Colossians 2: 16-17

G O D Q U E S T I O N S



**“In the light of what we
know scientifically, is the
Bible really trustworthy?”**

G O D Q U E S T I O N S



If the Bible is to be trusted,

...it must be

A. Authentic: Faithful to the original revelation

B. Consistent

C. Trustworthy

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

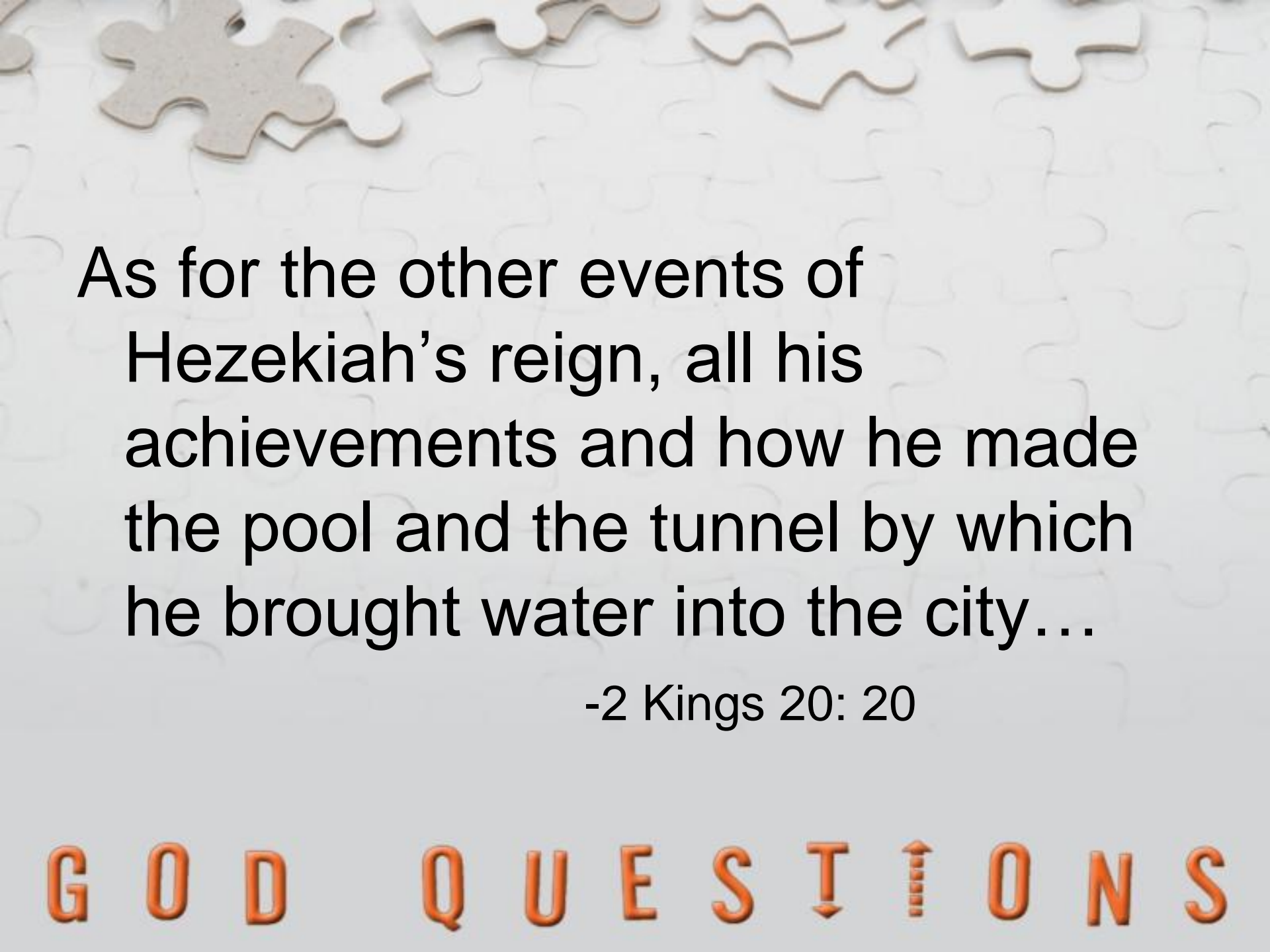
1. Archaeological evidence

“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament tradition.”

-William F. Albright



G O D Q U E S T I O N S



As for the other events of
Hezekiah's reign, all his
achievements and how he made
the pool and the tunnel by which
he brought water into the city...

-2 Kings 20: 20

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

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Jerusalem Tunnel Linked to Bible

Stefan Lovgren
for National Geographic News
September 11, 2003

Researchers using sophisticated radio-dating techniques have concluded that a tunnel running under ancient Jerusalem was indeed constructed around 700 B.C., during the reign of King Hezekiah, just as it is described in the Bible.

The tunnel, which is about 500 meters (550 yards) long, brings water from the Gihon Springs, located some 300 meters (330 yards) outside the walls of old Jerusalem, to the Siloan Pool inside the ancient city. It was built to protect the city's water supply during an Assyrian siege.

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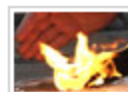
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Structures described in the Bible are notoriously difficult to date. While some are poorly preserved or hard to identify, others are off limits to scientists because of political reasons. The age of the Jerusalem tunnel had been in dispute, with dissident scientists arguing it is not as old as the Bible suggests.

The new research should put those doubts to rest. The biblical text appears to present an accurate historical record of the tunnel's construction. It is one of the longest ancient



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Archaeological evidence

“Critics of Biblical accuracy are pre-archaeological...and quite antiquated.”

-William F. Albright

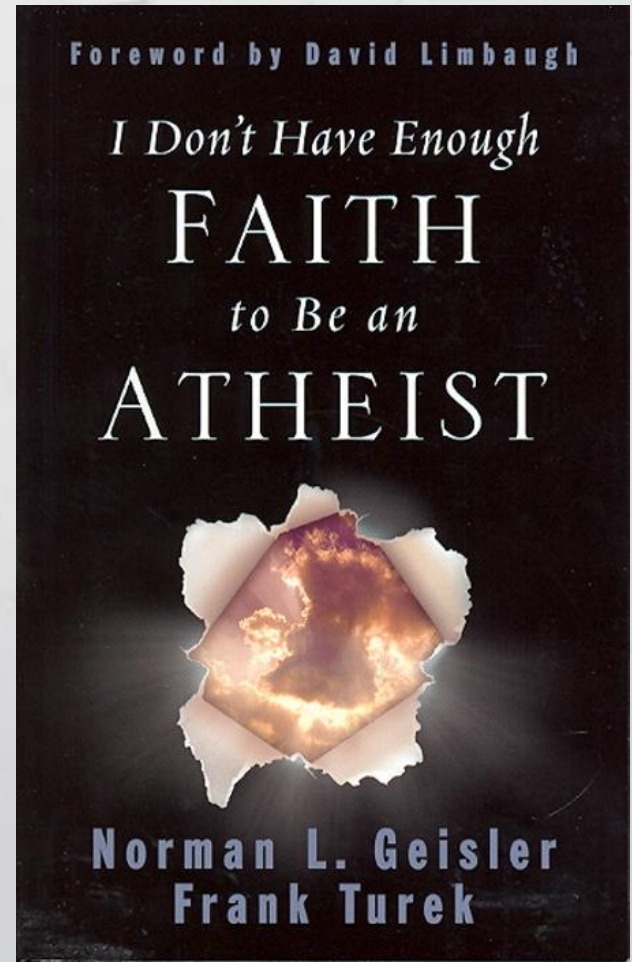


G O D Q U E S T I O N S

2. Predictions and prophecies

“The Bible is the only is the only book in the world that has precise, specific predictions that were made hundreds of years in advance and that were literally fulfilled.”

-Dr. Norman Geisler



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

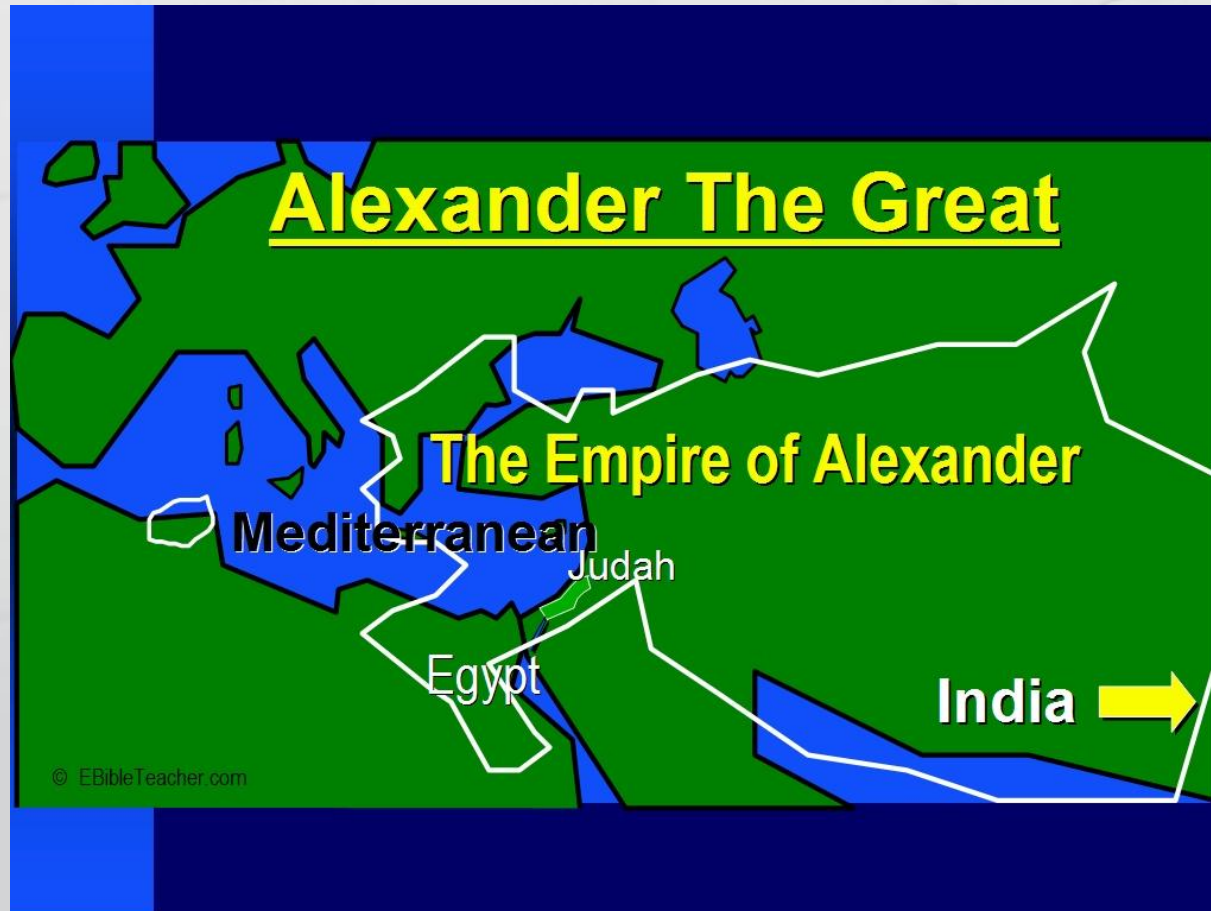
2. Predictions and prophecies

Suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground...The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off... -Daniel 8: 5, 8

The shaggy goat is the king of Greece.

-Daniel 8: 21

G O D Q U E S T I O N S



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

2. Predictions and prophecies

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The shaggy goat is the king of Greece.

-Daniel 8: 21

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

3. Geological evidence

[On the sixth day] God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

-Genesis 1: 25

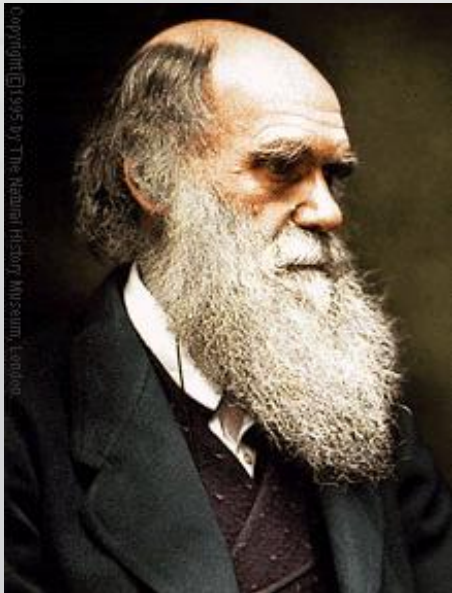
G O D Q U E S T I O N S



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

The fossil record

“The fossil record shows the sudden appearance of nearly all the animal phyla—and they appear fully formed...”

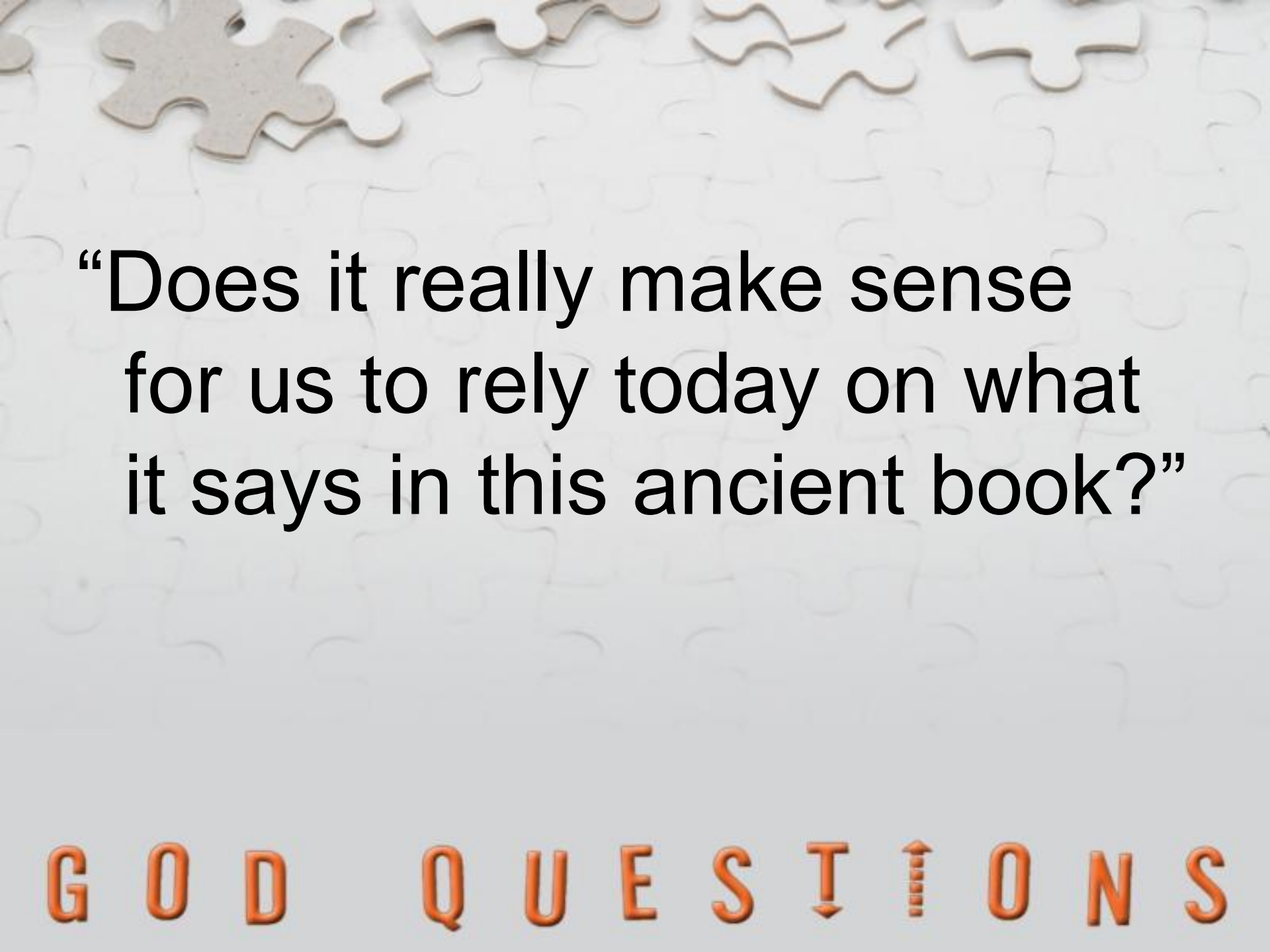


250,000 fossil species



David Raup

G O D Q U E S T I O N S



**“Does it really make sense
for us to rely today on what
it says in this ancient book?”**

G O D Q U E S T I O N S

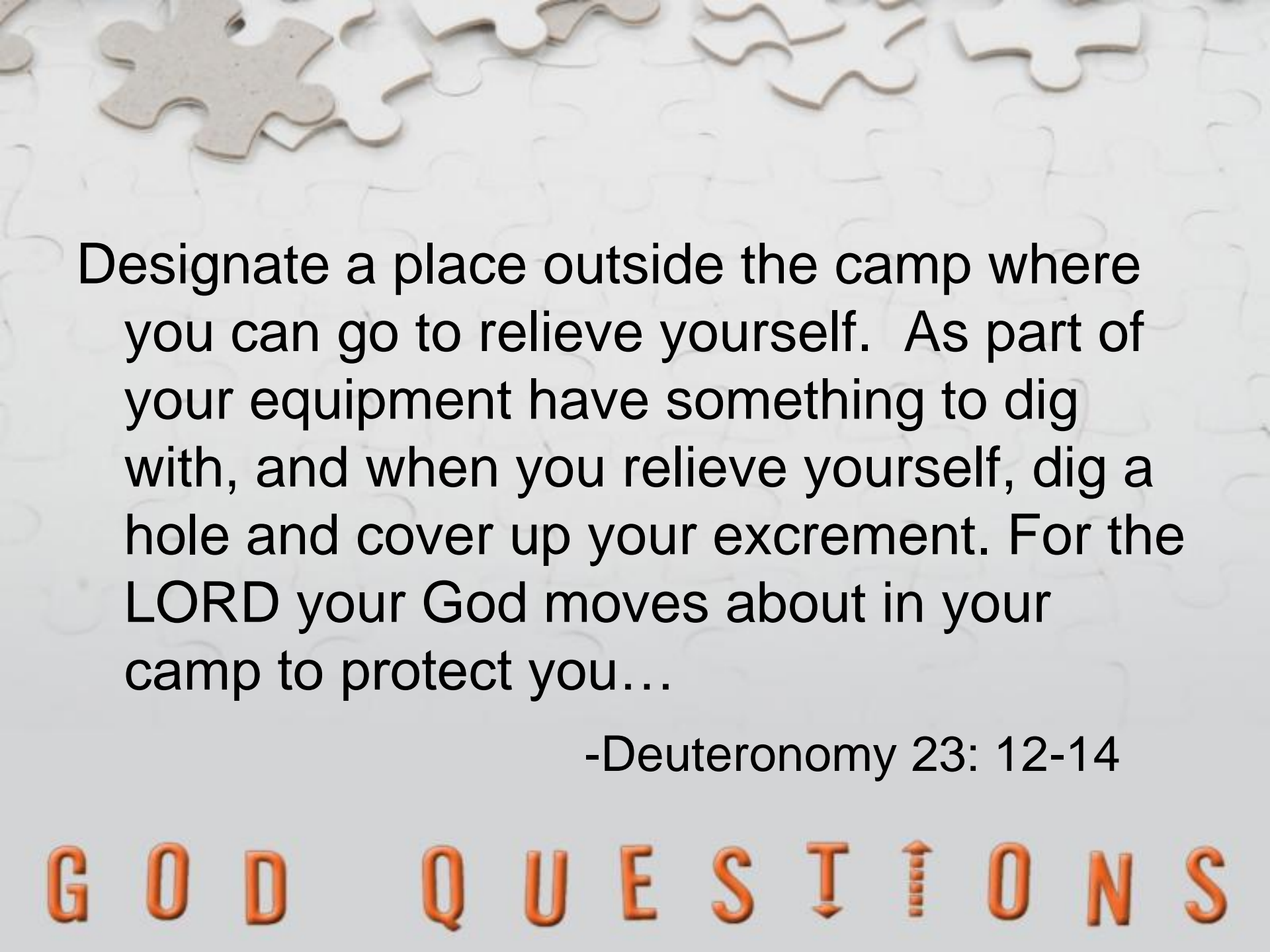


If the Bible is to be trusted,

...it must be

- A. Authentic: Faithful to the original revelation
- B. Consistent
- C. Trustworthy
- D. Reliable for us today

G O D Q U E S T I O N S



Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement. For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you...

-Deuteronomy 23: 12-14

G O D Q U E S T I O N S



G O D Q U E S T I O N S

*“The sanitation laws
made the Jews
safe...”*

-Mary Douglas, renowned
anthropologist



G O D Q U E S T I O N S



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