A man with a long white beard and a head covering, likely a scribe or prophet, is shown writing on a scroll with a quill pen. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light filtering through a grid-like structure.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

**GOD HAS PRESERVED
HIS WORDS FOR US!**

**MEN WROTE DOWN GOD'S
WORDS AS GIVEN BY THE H.S.**

**GOD GAVE MEN HIS
WORDS ...**

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

**ALL of these concepts are
under relentless attack!**

ORIGIN?

PRESERVATION?

ACCURACY?

TRUTHFULNESS

**Historically there
have been MANY
enemies of the
scriptures,**

Jews / Rome / Catholics /
Muslims / Joseph Smith / the
Watchtower

TODAY: Modern Atheists /
Agnostics & modernist /
Denominationalism

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE



WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

IT IS ALL FROM GOD!

(Not the product of man)

IT HAS BEEN PRESERVED!

(Not lost or embellished over time)

IT IS STILL ACCURATE!

(Not altered or corrupted over time)

ITS WORDS ARE TRUE!

(Not fallible or inaccurate in its claims)

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

IT IS ALL FROM GOD! *(Not the product of man)*

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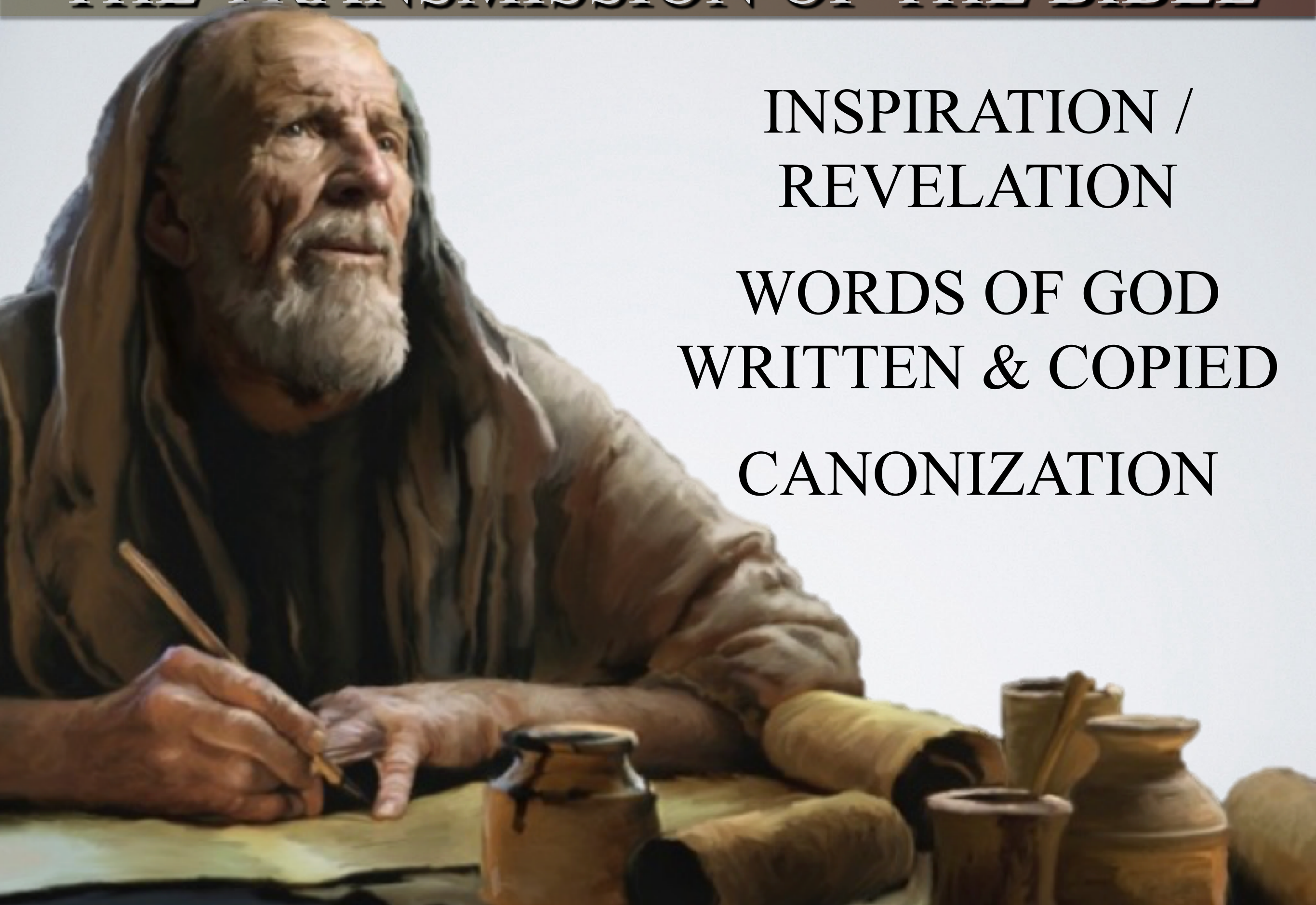
- If God is, and He is able to create the universe, would He not have the power to reveal Himself, and His will for His creation, and then preserve that revelation?
- ▶ **POWER & WILL** - Isaiah 45:18; Rom 1:18-20; 16:26; Acts 17:23-31
- ▶ **DESIRE & CLAIM** - He has revealed what He wants us to know - Deut. 29:29; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 3:5; Titus 2:11,12; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; 2 Pet 1:3
- ▶ **TRUSTWORTHINESS** — Promised to preserve His word - Luke 21:33; 1 Peter 1:22-25

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

INSPIRATION /
REVELATION

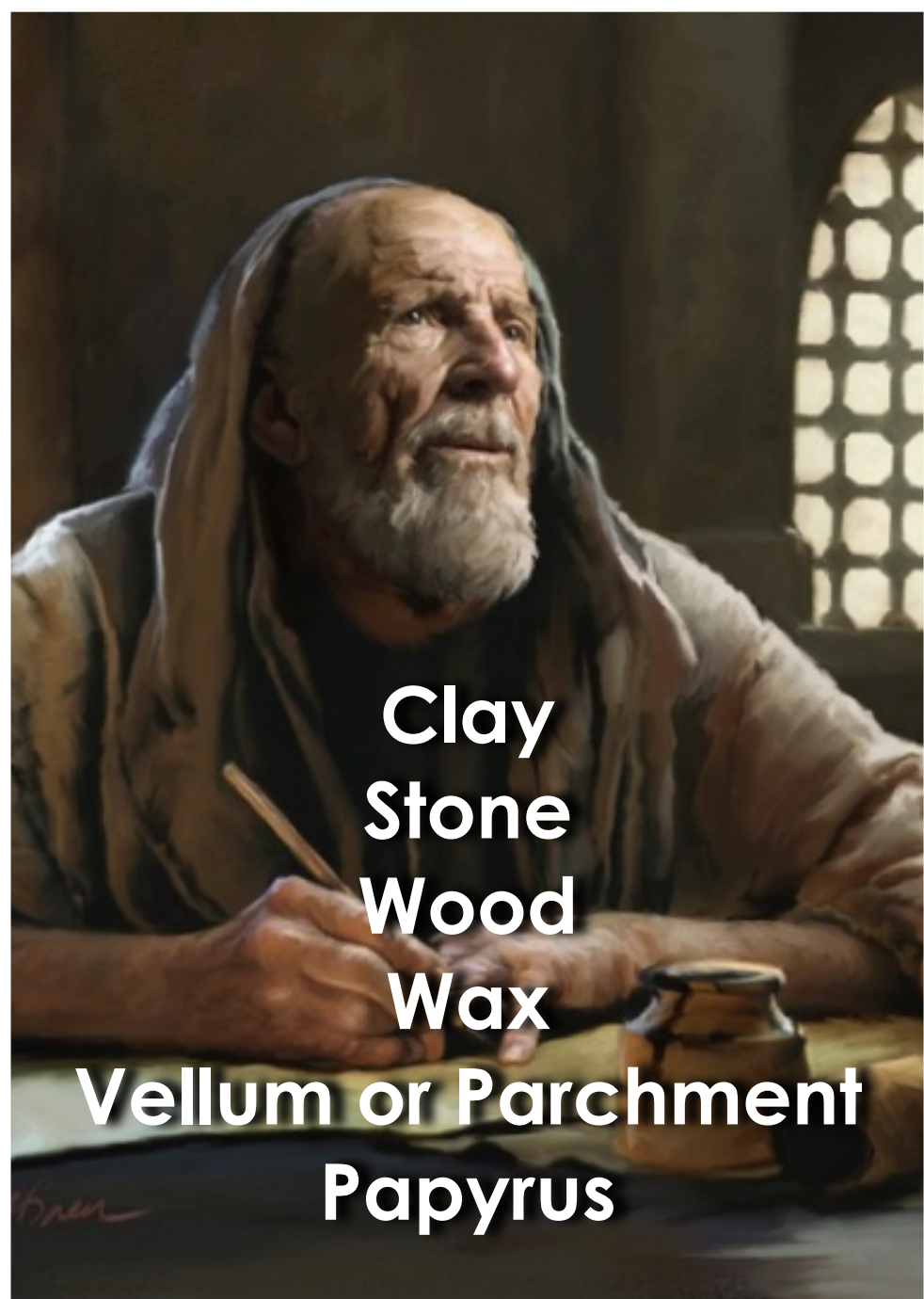
WORDS OF GOD
WRITTEN & COPIED

CANONIZATION



THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



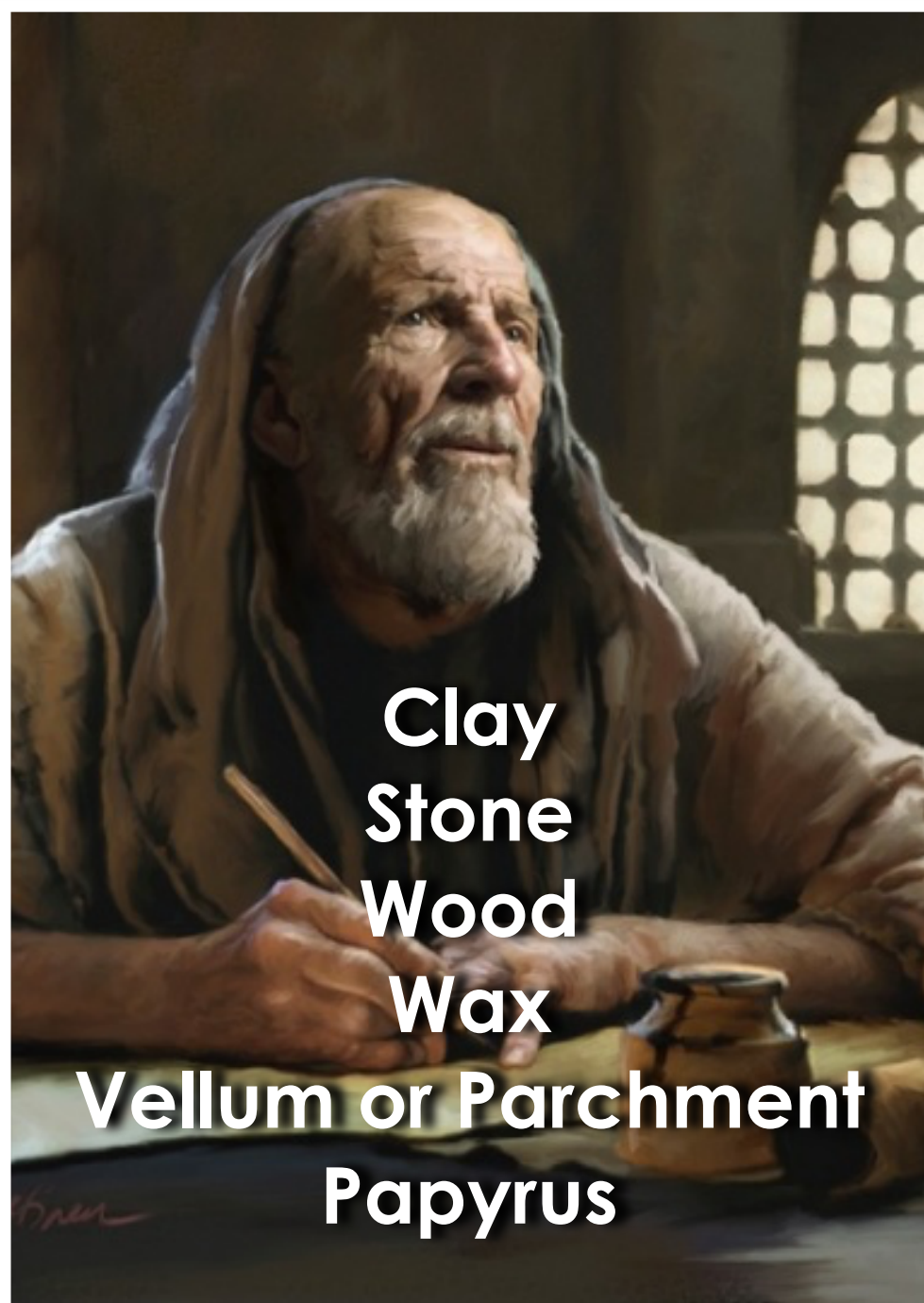
Clay
Stone
Wood
Wax

Vellum or Parchment
Papyrus

- Writing was clearly present in Mesopotamia and Egypt prior to the time of Abraham, (before the fifth Dynasty, 2500 BC.)
- Sumerian Cuneiform tablets / Tokens - 3500 BC (Temple tablets 2100 BC in the Ur of Chaldees / Sumerian flood narrative, 2100 BC)
- Egyptian Hieroglyphics, 3500 BC (teachings for Kagemni and Ptah-Hetep, 2700 BC)

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



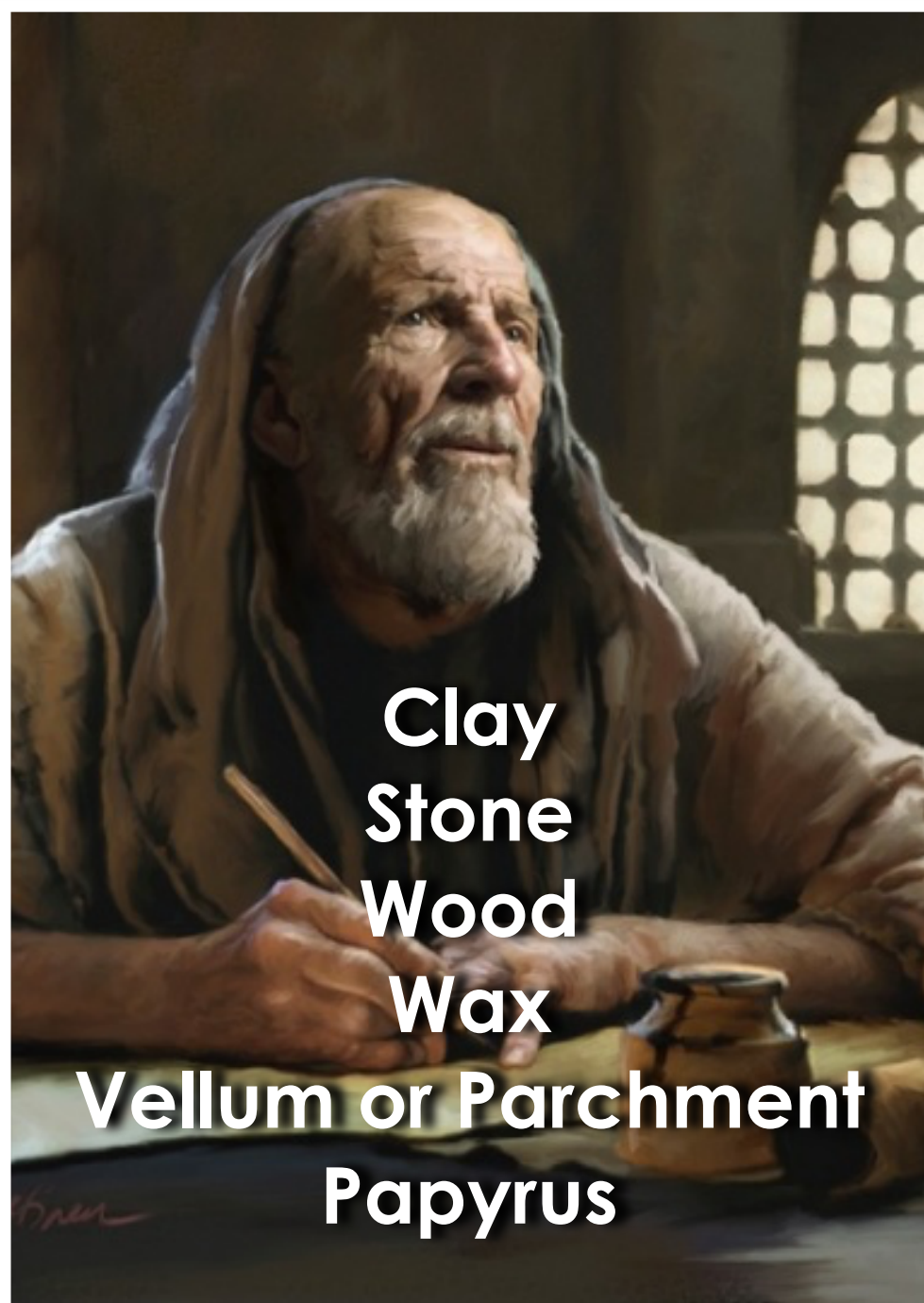
Clay
Stone
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Wax

Vellum or Parchment
Papyrus

- For a considerable time, God orally communicated with man (Patriarchal Age, Gen. 2-Ex. 20, about 2,500 years).
- The first person mentioned in the Bible as writing down God's communiqué was Moses, who lived about 1500 BC.
- Moses was “educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and was a man of power in words and deeds” (Ex 17:14; Acts 7:22)

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



Clay
Stone
Wood
Wax

Vellum or Parchment
Papyrus

- Verbal communication is MUCH more subjective than written communication.
- Written communication insures the accuracy of the communication and is much easier to reproduce and preserve.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



Deuteronomy 31:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, ²⁵ that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: ²⁶ “Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



Isaiah 30:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever:

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



Deuteronomy 17:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING



Jeremiah 30:2–3 (NKJV)

² “Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³ For behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’ ”

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

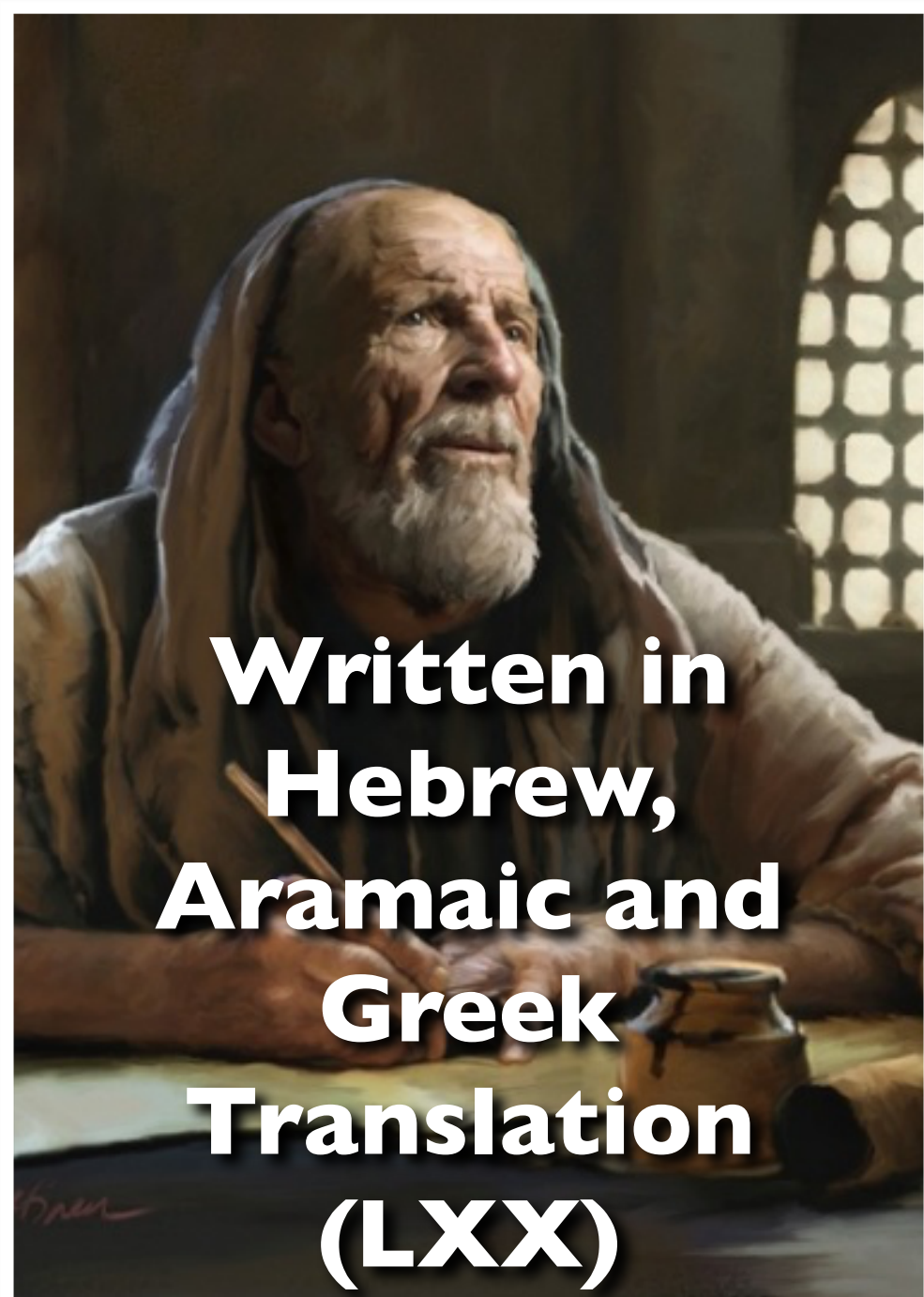
THE WRITING OF THE O.T.



- Moses is the author of the first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy).
- The Bible itself contributes six distinct writings to Moses (Ex. 17: 14; 24: 4; 34: 27, 28; Num. 33: 2; Dt. 31: 9, 24; 32: 1-43, cp. 31: 22).
- The books of law came first, then the prophets, until it grew into the collection we now know as the Hebrew scriptures.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

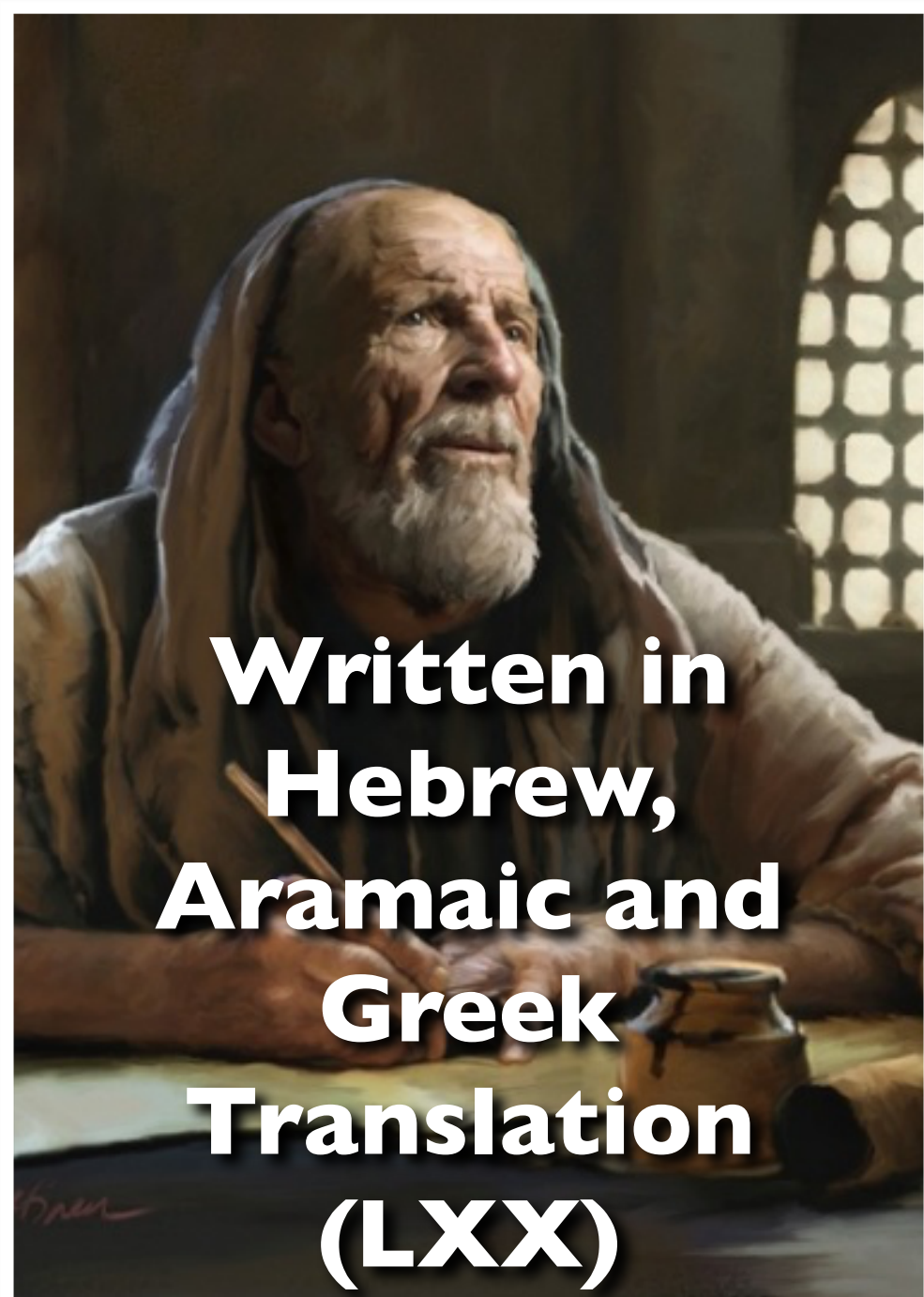
THE COPYING OF THE O.T.



- Masorites produced an official text in A.D. 500.
- There are other manuscripts that confirm the accuracy of the Masoritic Text.
 - Samaritan Pentateuch: 400 B.C.
 - Septuagint Greek: 280 B.C.
 - Dead Sea Scrolls: 0 A.D.
 - Latin Vulgate: 400 A.D.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE O.T.



- Quotations from pre-Christ writings confirm the text.
- The New Testament accepts the Old Testament as authentic, confirming the traditional authors, quoting from at least 320 different passages, and confirming the supernatural events cited in the Old Testament.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE WRITING OF THE N.T..



- Written in Koine Greek, also known as Hellenistic Greek (4th century BC - 4th century AD)
- Koine Greek was the most widely spread language of the times due to the empire of Alexander the Great.
- Writers: Matthew; Mark; Luke; John; Paul; James; Jude

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE WRITING OF THE N.T..



Ephesians 3:3–4 (NKJV)
³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE WRITING OF THE N.T..



2 Peter 3:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE WRITING OF THE N.T..



2 Peter 3:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE WRITING OF THE N.T..



1 John 1:3–4 (NKJV)

³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T..



- By around A.D. 100, revelation completed (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19).
- No autographs exist today!
- Immediately upon completion of these writings, copies were made (cf. Col. 4:16; I Thess. 5:27).

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T..



Colossians 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T..



1 Thessalonians 5:27– 28 (NKJV)

²⁷ I charge you by the Lord
that this epistle be read to
all the holy brethren. ²⁸

The grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ *be* with you.
Amen.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

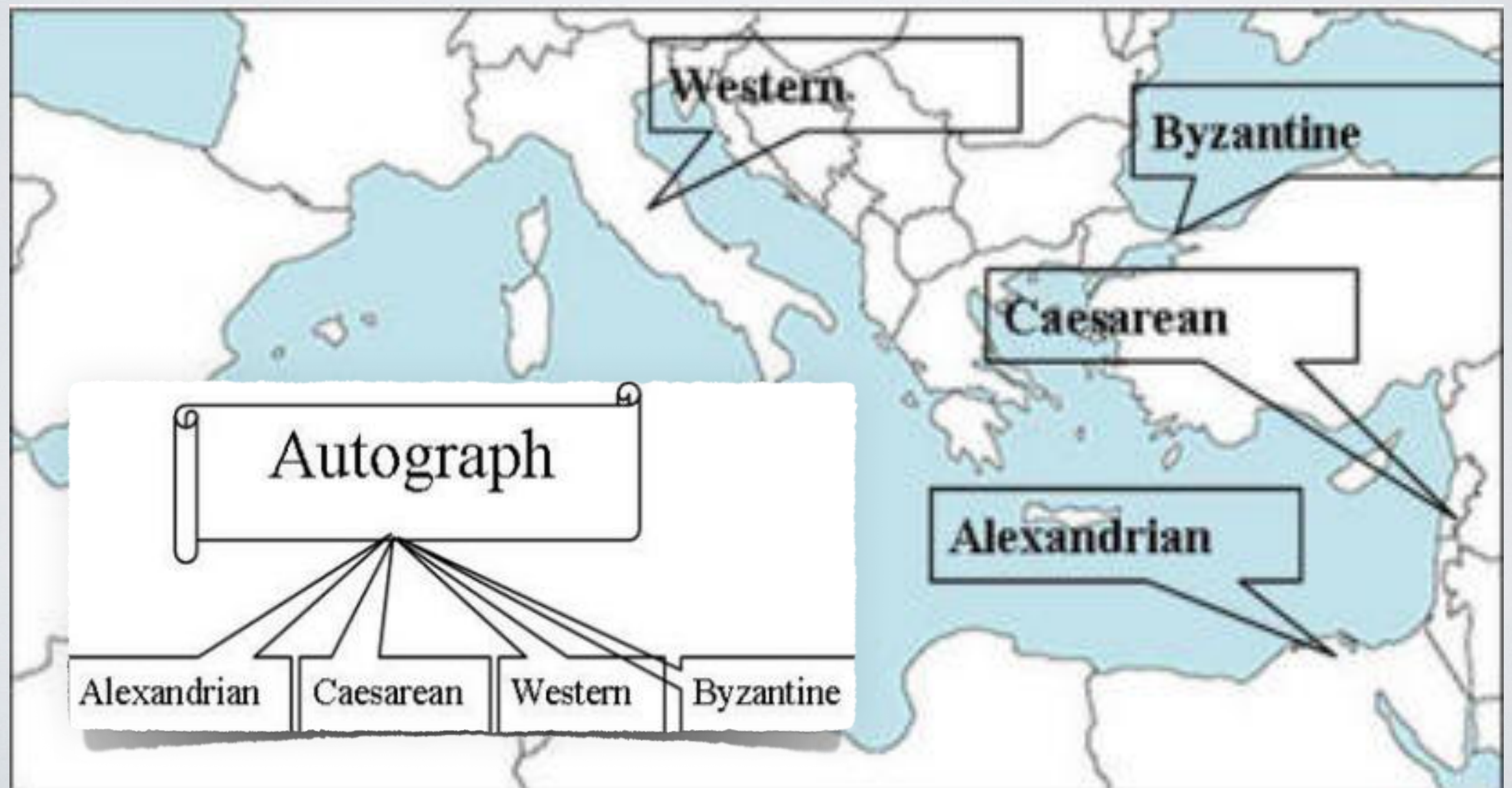
THE COPYING OF THE N.T..



- The only means of duplication until the fifteenth century was by manual handwriting. (in A.D. 1454 Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press)
- The earliest copies of these autographs were written in the original language & called manuscripts - (nearly 6,000)

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T.



THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T..



- There are over 5,780 Greek manuscripts of New Testament text available to us today.
- Over 2,200 Lectionaries (Books used in worship that cite the Bible).
- Ancient Versions – 9,000 manuscripts

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T..



- Church "Fathers" – ca. 36,000 citations –
- Scholars say that all but four verses of the entire New Testament text could be reconstructed from the citations of the early Church Fathers alone!

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

THE COPYING OF THE N.T..

| Writer | Gospels | Acts | Pauline Epistles | General Epistles | Revelation | Total |
|---------------|---------|-------|------------------|------------------|------------|--------|
| Justin Martyr | 268 | 10 | 43 | 6 | 3 | 330 |
| Irenaeus | 1,038 | 194 | 499 | 23 | 65 | 1,819 |
| Clement Alex. | 1,017 | 44 | 1,127 | 207 | 11 | 2,406 |
| Origen | 9,231 | 349 | 7,778 | 399 | 165 | 17,922 |
| Tertullian | 3,822 | 502 | 2,609 | 120 | 205 | 7,258 |
| Hippolytus | 734 | 42 | 387 | 27 | 188 | 1,378 |
| Eusebius | 3,258 | 211 | 1,592 | 88 | 27 | 5,176 |
| Totals | 19,368 | 1,352 | 14,035 | 870 | 664 | 36,289 |

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

Considered Canonical When Written



1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.


THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

Considered Canonical When Written




| The Incorrect view | The Correct view |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Church is the Determiner of Canon | The Church is the Discoverer of Canon |
| The Church is the Mother of Canon | The Church continues via the Canon |
| The Church is the Magistrate of Canon | The Church is the Minister of Canon |
| The Church is the Regulator of Canon | The Church is the Recognizer of Canon |
| The Church is the Judge of Canon | The Church is the Witness of Canon |
| The Church is Master of Canon | The Church is Servant of Canon |

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

A detailed oil painting depicting a scribe in a historical setting. The scribe, with a focused expression, is shown from the chest up, wearing a simple tunic. He is seated at a desk, writing on a large, unrolled scroll with a quill pen. His right hand is positioned over the scroll, while his left hand rests on the desk. The desk is cluttered with various items: several other scrolls are rolled up and stacked nearby, and a small, dark, rounded vase holds a collection of quills. The lighting is warm and directional, coming from the upper left, which casts soft shadows and highlights the textures of the parchment, the scribe's clothing, and the fine details of his features and the quill. The overall mood is one of quiet concentration and the solemnity of the task of preserving knowledge.

Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)
35 Heaven and earth will pass
away, but My words will by no
means pass away.


THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

A detailed painting of a scribe's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. The scene is set in a room with a scroll and a vase of quills in the background.

1 Peter 1:23–25 (NKJV)

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,*” ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.


THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

A detailed oil painting of a scribe's hands writing on a scroll. The scribe is wearing a white robe and a watchful expression. The background is dark and atmospheric, with a scroll resting on a wooden surface and a small jar containing quills visible on the right.

Romans 15:4 (NKJV)

⁴ For whatever things were written before
were written for our learning, that we
through the patience and comfort of the
Scriptures might have hope.


THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

A detailed oil painting depicting a scribe in a historical setting. The scribe, with a beard and wearing a simple tunic, is seated at a desk, focused on writing with a quill pen on a large, unrolled scroll. His hands are weathered and his expression is one of concentration. On the desk, there is a small, dark inkwell, a wooden galleypen, and a small jar containing several quills. The background is softly blurred, showing a window with light streaming in, creating a warm, golden light across the scene. The overall mood is one of quiet dedication and the sacredness of the task.

Do you accept the Bible as God's
word & tremble (Isaiah 66:2)

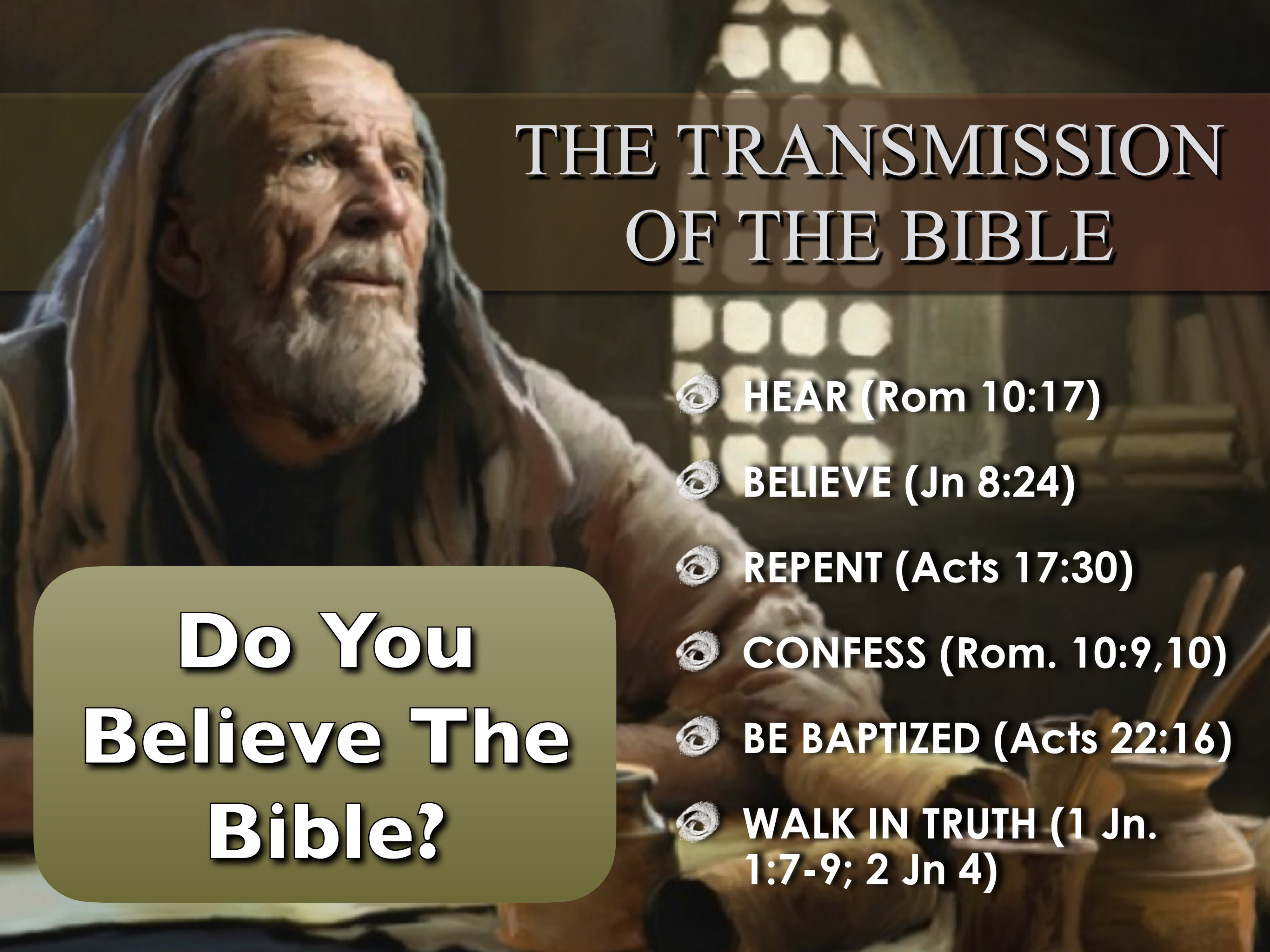
Ken Feltner

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

A detailed oil painting depicting a scribe in a historical setting. The scribe, wearing a brown robe, is shown from the side, focused on writing with a quill pen on a large, unrolled scroll. The scroll lies on a wooden desk. In the background, another scroll is rolled up. To the right, a small earthenware jar holds several quills. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the textures of the parchment and the scribe's hands.

God's word will judge us - Are You
Ready? (John 12:48)

Ken Feltner



THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

**Do You
Believe The
Bible?**

- 👁️ **HEAR (Rom 10:17)**
- 👁️ **BELIEVE (Jn 8:24)**
- 👁️ **REPENT (Acts 17:30)**
- 👁️ **CONFESS (Rom. 10:9,10)**
- 👁️ **BE BAPTIZED (Acts 22:16)**
- 👁️ **WALK IN TRUTH (1 Jn. 1:7-9; 2 Jn 4)**



THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

Charts by Don McClain

Preached September 5, 2021

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Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Our Website: w65stchurchofchrist.com

2 Peter 1:12–15 (NKJV)

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.