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Module 3: The Word

**Authority, Sufficiency, Inerrancy
and Infallibility**

1. The Authority of Scripture

Authority is the Bible's right to command belief and/or action, because of its inspiration, canonicity, inerrancy, and infallibility.



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“We Christians are forbidden to introduce anything on our own authority, or to choose what someone else introduces on his own authority. Our authorities are the Lord’s apostles, and they in their turn choose to introduce nothing on their own authority. They faithfully passed on to the nations, the teaching which they had received from Christ.”

–Tertullian



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2. The Sufficiency of Scripture

Scripture is sufficient in that it is the only inspired, inerrant, and therefore final authority for Christians for faith and godliness, with all other authorities being subservient to Scripture.



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2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



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2 Timothy 3:16-17

Although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.



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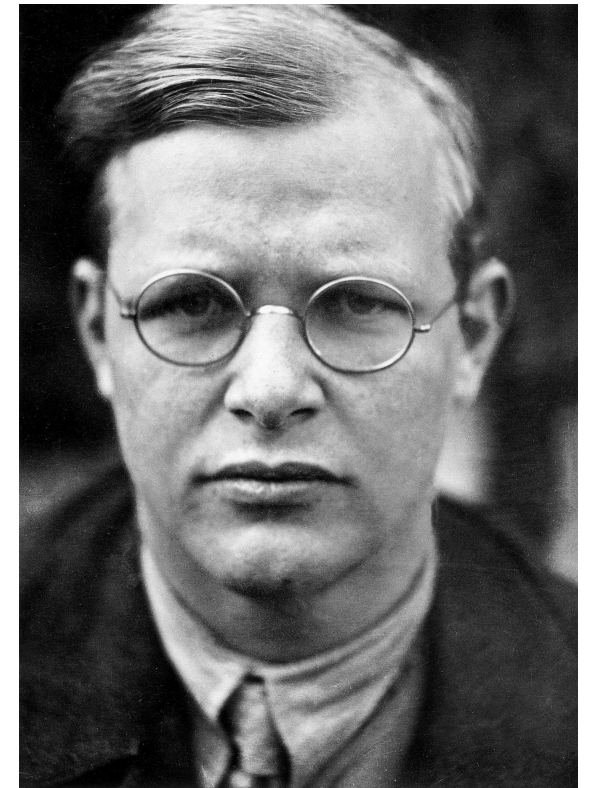
Westminster Confession of 1646

“The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.”



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[The Scriptures are sifted] “through the sieve of one’s own experience, despising and shaking out what will not pass through; and one prunes and clips the biblical message until it will fit in a given space, until the eagle can no longer fly in his true element, but with clipped wings is exhibited as a special showpiece among the usual domesticated animals.”



**Dietrich
Bonhoeffer**

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3. The Inerrancy of Scripture

This refers to the original documents or autographs. It's the belief that they were recorded without any error or deviation from God's intended wording or meaning.



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What is Inerrancy Based on?

1. The Character of God



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What is Inerrancy Based on?

1. The Character of God
2. It was taught by Christ and the Apostles



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What is Inerrancy Based on?

1. The Character of God
2. It was taught by Christ and the Apostles
3. It is the historic position of the Church



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What is Inerrancy Based on?

1. The Character of God
2. It was taught by Christ and the Apostles
3. It is the historic position of the Church
4. It is fundamental to all other doctrines



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The doctrine of inerrancy is fundamental to:

- Our Discipleship
- Our Witness
- Our Freedom



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According to Barna Research:

- 25% make their moral and ethical choices based on the Bible.
- 20% base their choices on whatever “feels right.”
- 10% make choices based on whatever will minimize conflict.
- 8% rely on what parents taught them in terms of values and principles.



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According to Barna Research:

- Only **14%** of born-again adults, (or 1 out of every 7), rely on the Bible as their moral compass, and believe that moral truth is absolute!



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4. The Infallibility of Scripture

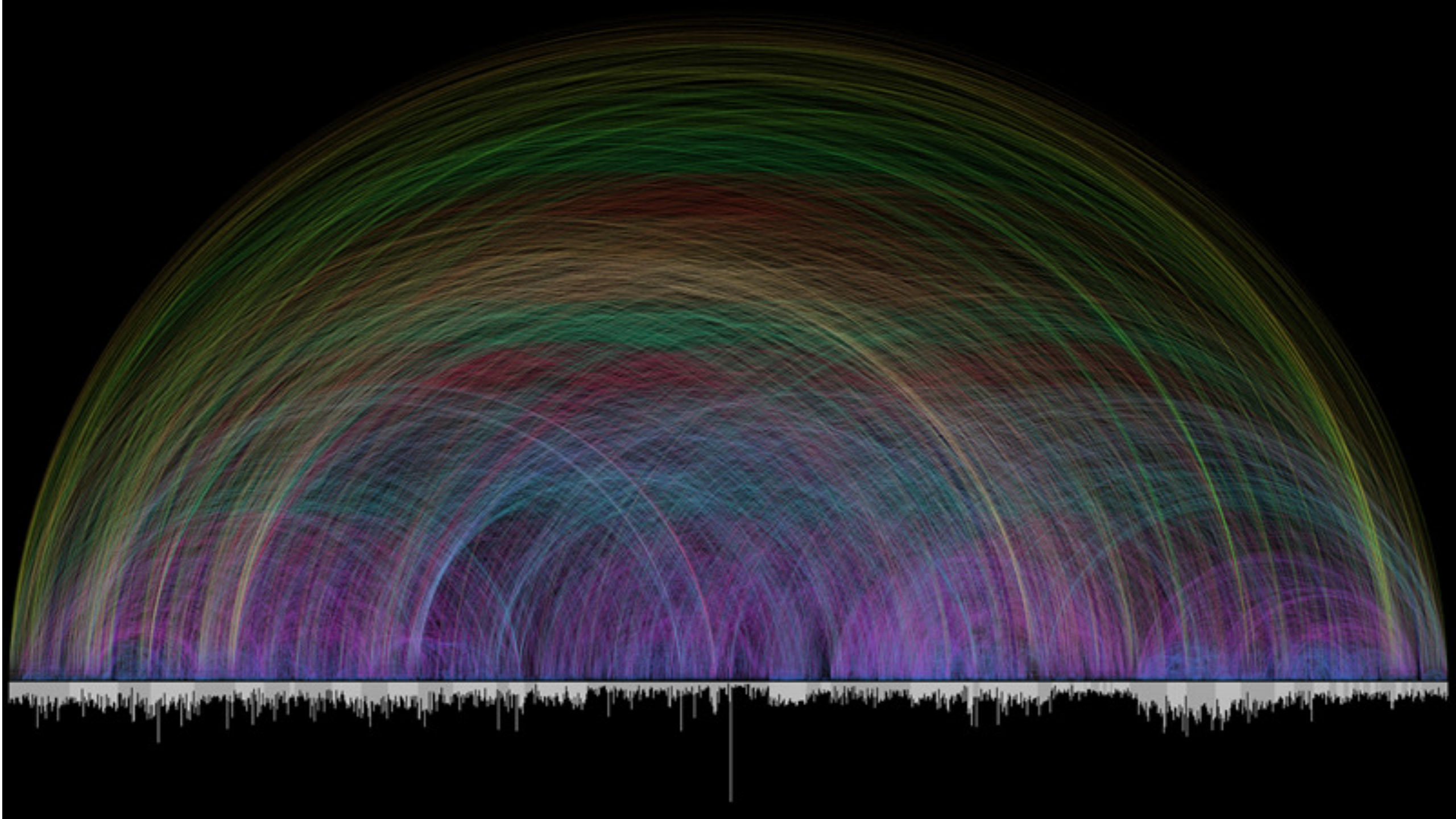
Infallibility is very close to inerrancy in that it's also without error. But in addition to having been properly recorded, it also means that the content of the Bible won't lead us into error—that it's true and trustworthy in all matters it addresses. It wasn't just transmitted accurately, but its message is accurate objectively, historically, scientifically, and morally.

The Uniqueness of Scripture

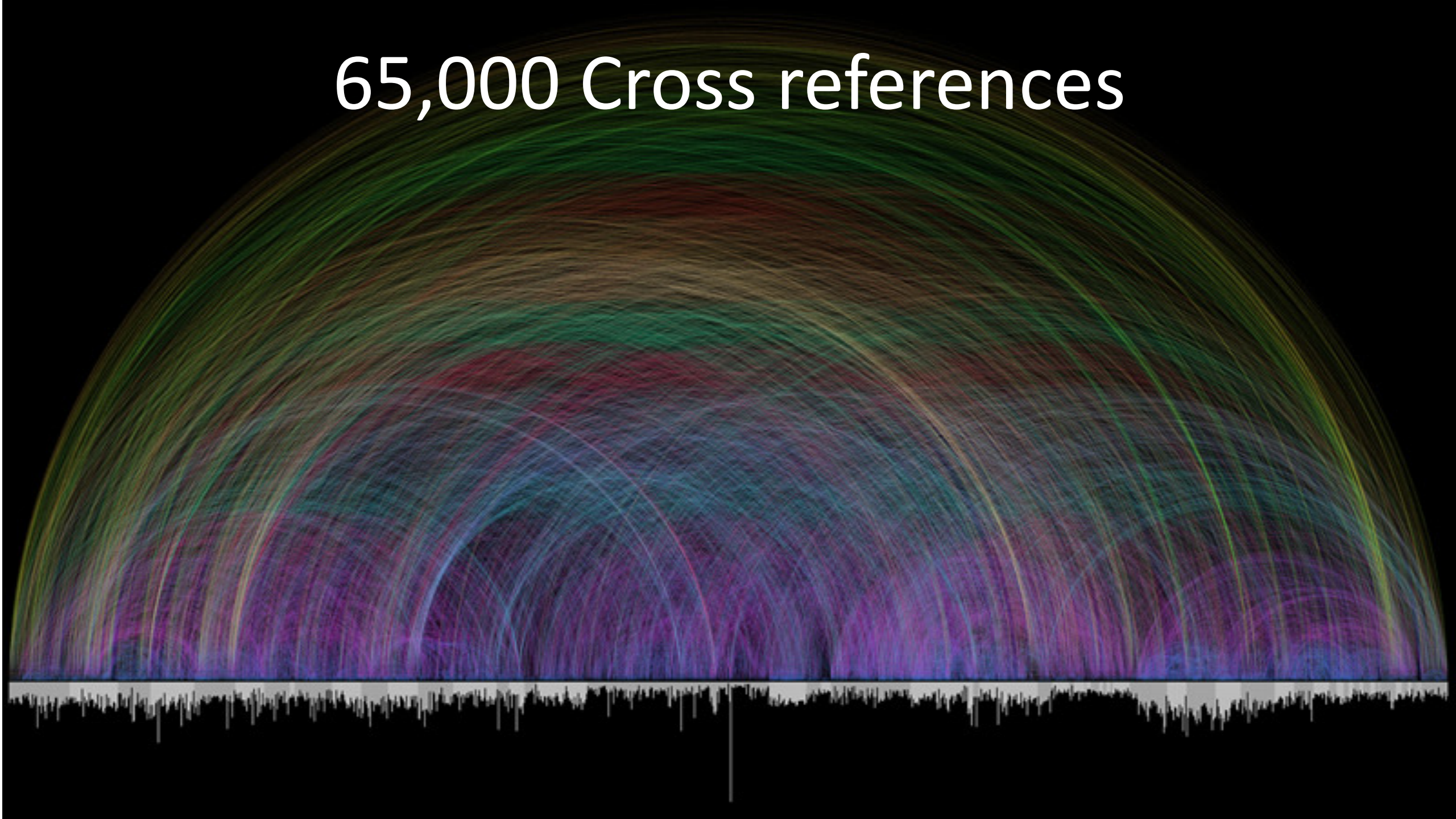
- Coherence & Continuity
- Circulation
- Translation
- Survival through time, persecution, and criticism.
- Teachings
- Influence on literature.
- Influence on civilization.



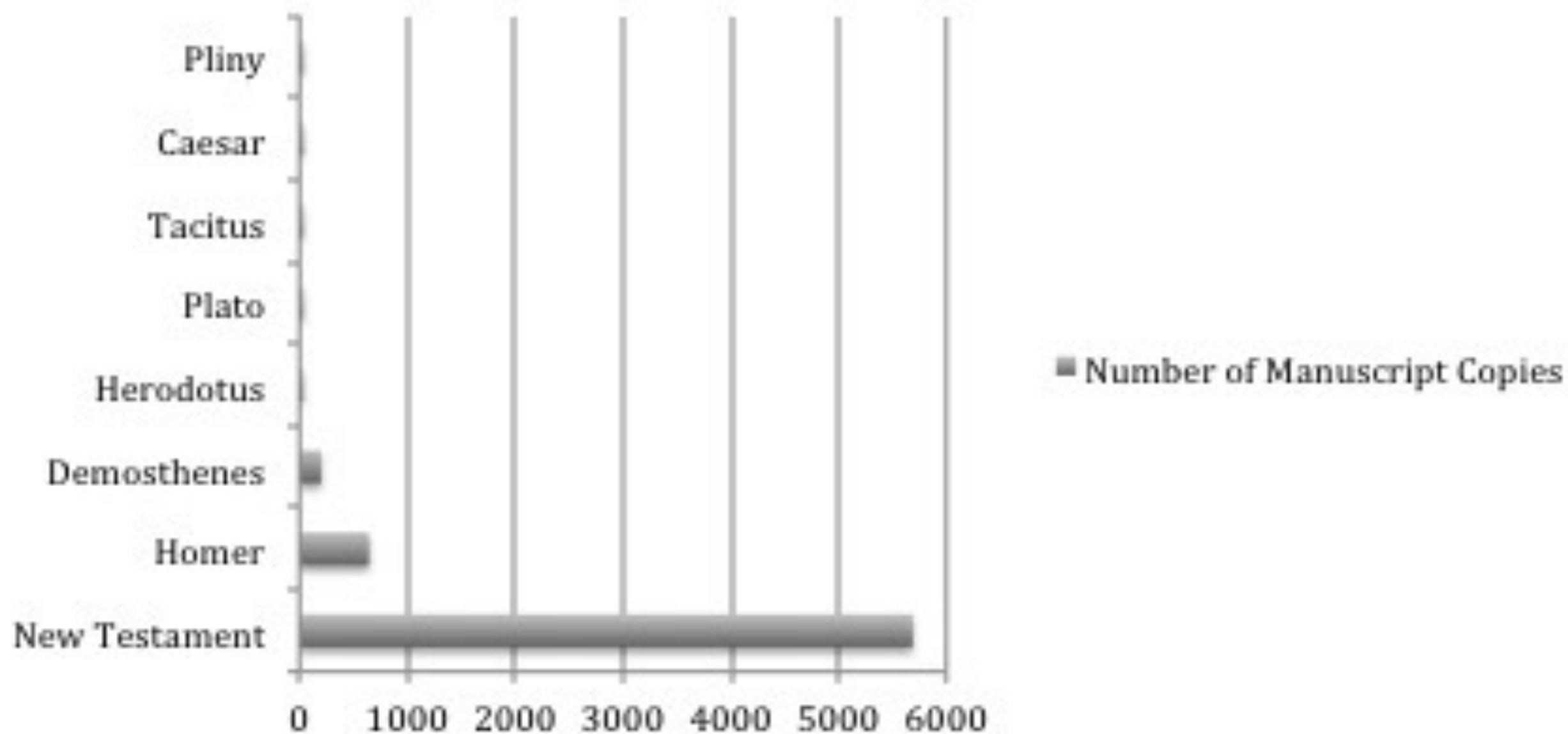
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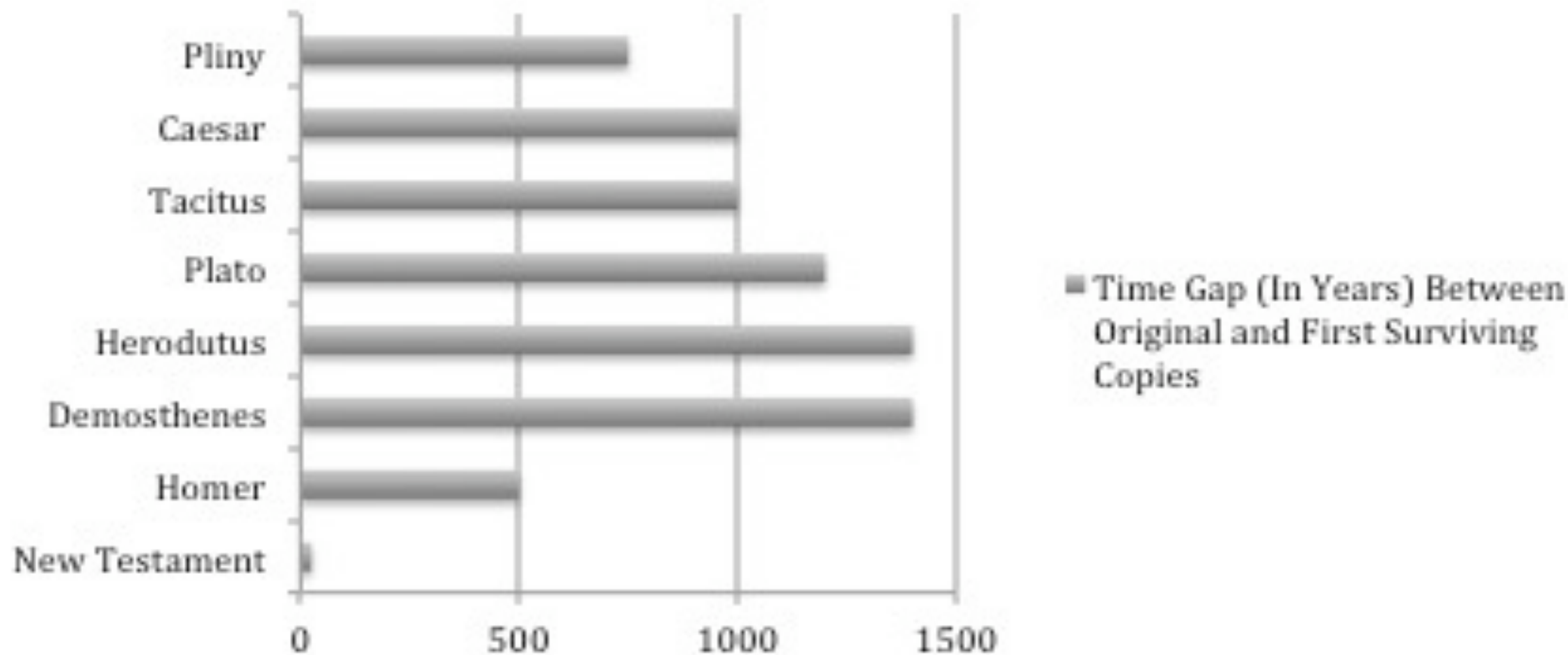
65,000 Cross references



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Infallibility Issues That Have Been Raised

1. Seeming Scientific Problems



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Infallibility Issues That Have Been Raised

1. Seeming Scientific Problems
2. Seeming Inaccuracies due to Literary Devices



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Infallibility Issues That Have Been Raised

1. Seeming Scientific Problems
2. Seeming Inaccuracies due to Literary Devices
3. Seeming Contradictions, Paradoxes, & Mysteries



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“As I have dealt with one apparent discrepancy after another, and have studied the alleged contradictions between the biblical record and the evidence of linguistics, archaeology, or science, my confidence in the trustworthiness of Scripture has been repeatedly verified and strengthened by the discovery that almost every problem in Scripture that has ever been discovered by man, from ancient times until now, has been dealt with in a completely satisfactory manner by the biblical text itself—or else by objective



**Dr. Gleason
Archer**

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Infallibility Issues That Have Been Raised

1. Seeming Scientific Problems
2. Seeming Inaccuracies due to Literary Devices
3. Seeming Contradictions, Paradoxes, & Mysteries
4. Seeming Moral/Ethical Problems



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Infallibility Issues That Have Been Raised

1. Seeming Scientific Problems
2. Seeming Inaccuracies due to Literary Devices
3. Seeming Contradictions, Paradoxes, & Mysteries
4. Seeming Moral/Ethical Problems
5. Seeming Endorsement of Sin



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Quote on the Old Testament

“We have been given practical proof of our reverence for our own Scriptures. For, although such long ages have now passed, no one has ventured either to add, or to remove, or to alter a single syllable; and it is an instinct with every Jew, from the day of his birth, to regard them as the decrees of God, to abide by them, and, if need be, cheerfully to die for them.”

—Flavius Josephus, 1st Century Historian



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Quote on the Old Testament

“To be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”

—John Warwick Montgomery: Lawyer, Professor, and theologian



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1. The authors of the Bible attest to its authenticity and inspiration.
2. Jesus attests to it.
3. The texts themselves attest to each other.
4. Non-Christian historians attest to it.
5. The archeological discoveries attest to it.
6. The fulfillment of prophecies attest to it.
7. The disciples attest to it.
8. The early church fathers attest to it.
9. The ancient manuscripts attest to it.
10. Official legal reports of Jesus' time attest to it.
11. And billions of changed lives attest to it.

