

Is the Bible Trustworthy?

Some thoughts...

Why do people believe?

- Somehow, we know that our lives have meaning.
- True meaning requires two things:
 1. Existence beyond the grave
 2. A power that separates good from evil.

Why do people believe something?

- Society, culture, family
 - It is easy to passively blend into culture
- It helps me cope / feel better
 - Alcohol and opiates do this too (for a while)
- It is true
 - But how do I know my belief is true?

Finding Truth...

...in a world of counterfeits



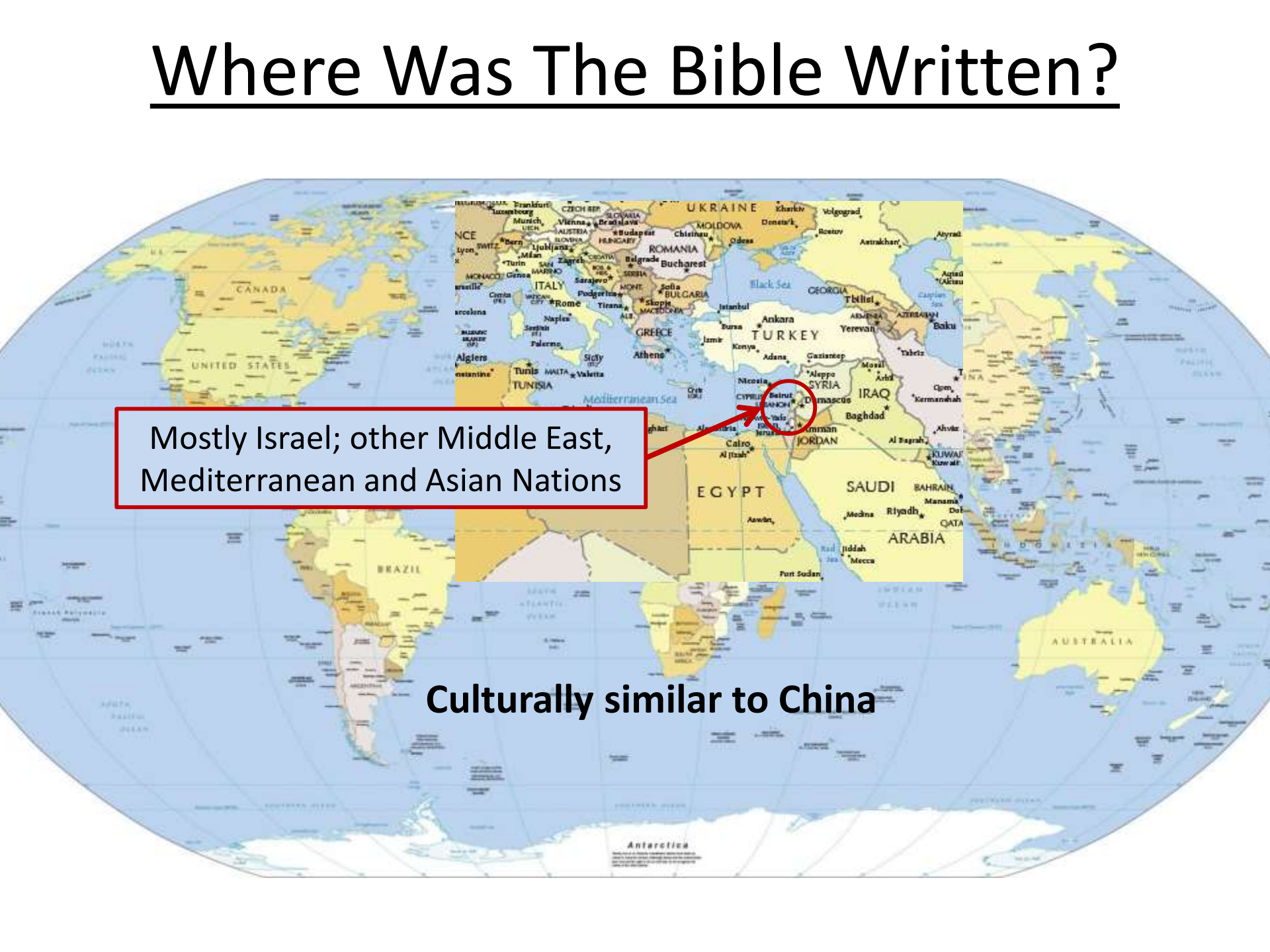
Why should I believe the Bible?

- The Bible is Important
- The Bible is Accurate
- The Bible makes Bold Claims

The Bible is Important

- Written in ancient Middle East
- The most popular book in world history
- The most widely translated book in the world
- Accepted in all cultures
- Trusted by scholars throughout history

Where Was The Bible Written?

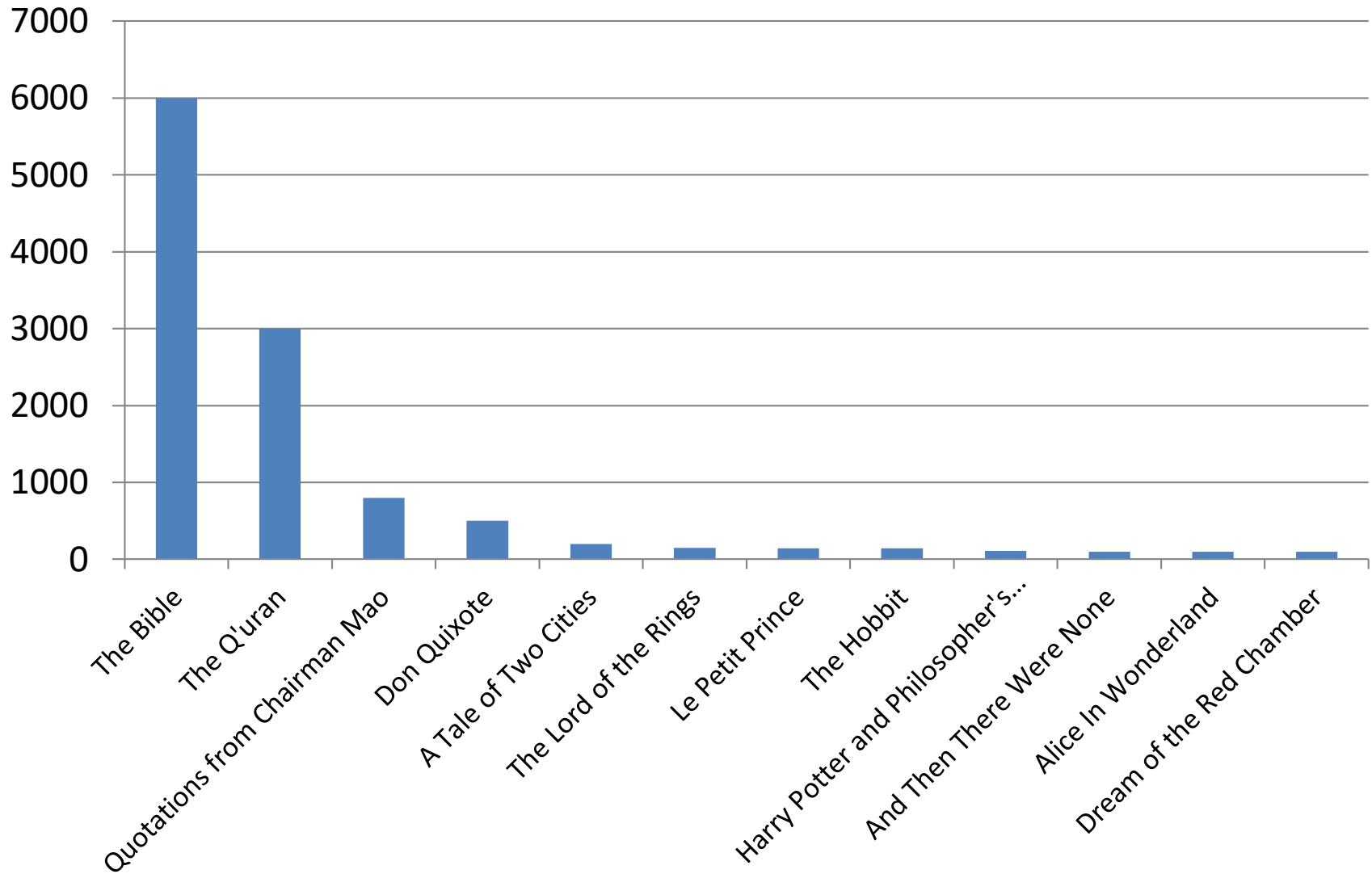
A world map showing the locations where the Bible was written. A red rectangular box is drawn around the Middle East region, and a red arrow points from the text inside the box to the area of Israel and surrounding nations. The map includes labels for major countries and cities across the globe.

Mostly Israel; other Middle East,
Mediterranean and Asian Nations

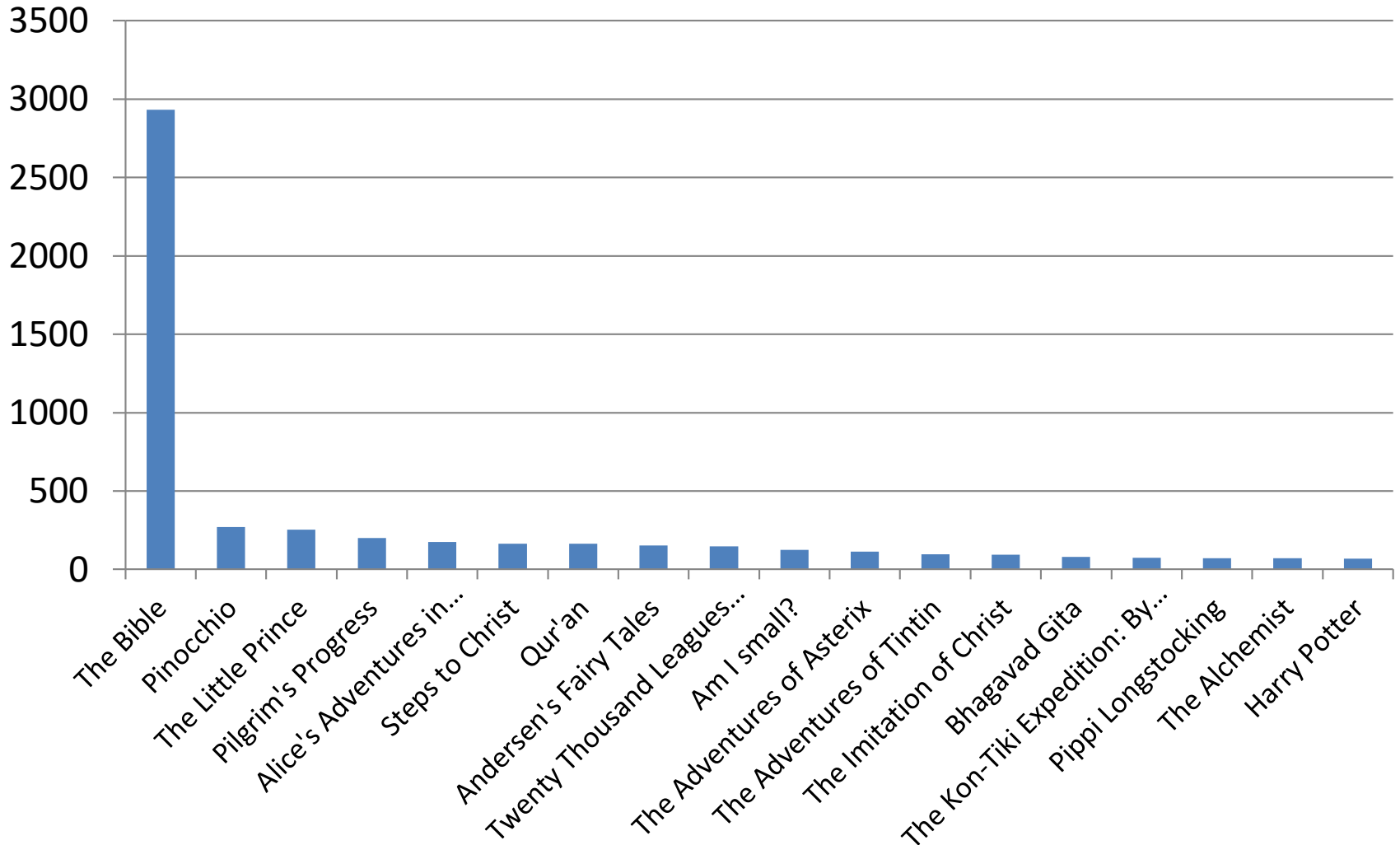
Culturally similar to China

Most Popular Books in World History

■ Million Copies



World's Most Translated Books



Accepted in All Cultures



A few famous Bible-believers

- Sir Francis Bacon – inventor of scientific method
- Johannes Kepler – defined laws of planetary motion
- Galileo Galilei – influential physicist, astronomer, scientists
- Blaise Pascal – mathematician, developed calculus
- Isaac Newton – defined rules of gravity, etc.
- Francis Collins – leader of Human Genome Project (first to map DNA)
- Andrew Pinsent – Physicist, co-inventor of creation of the Large Electron-Positron Collider at CERN
- Copernicus, Boyle, Pascal, Faraday, Maxwell, Kelvin, etc.

The Bible is Important

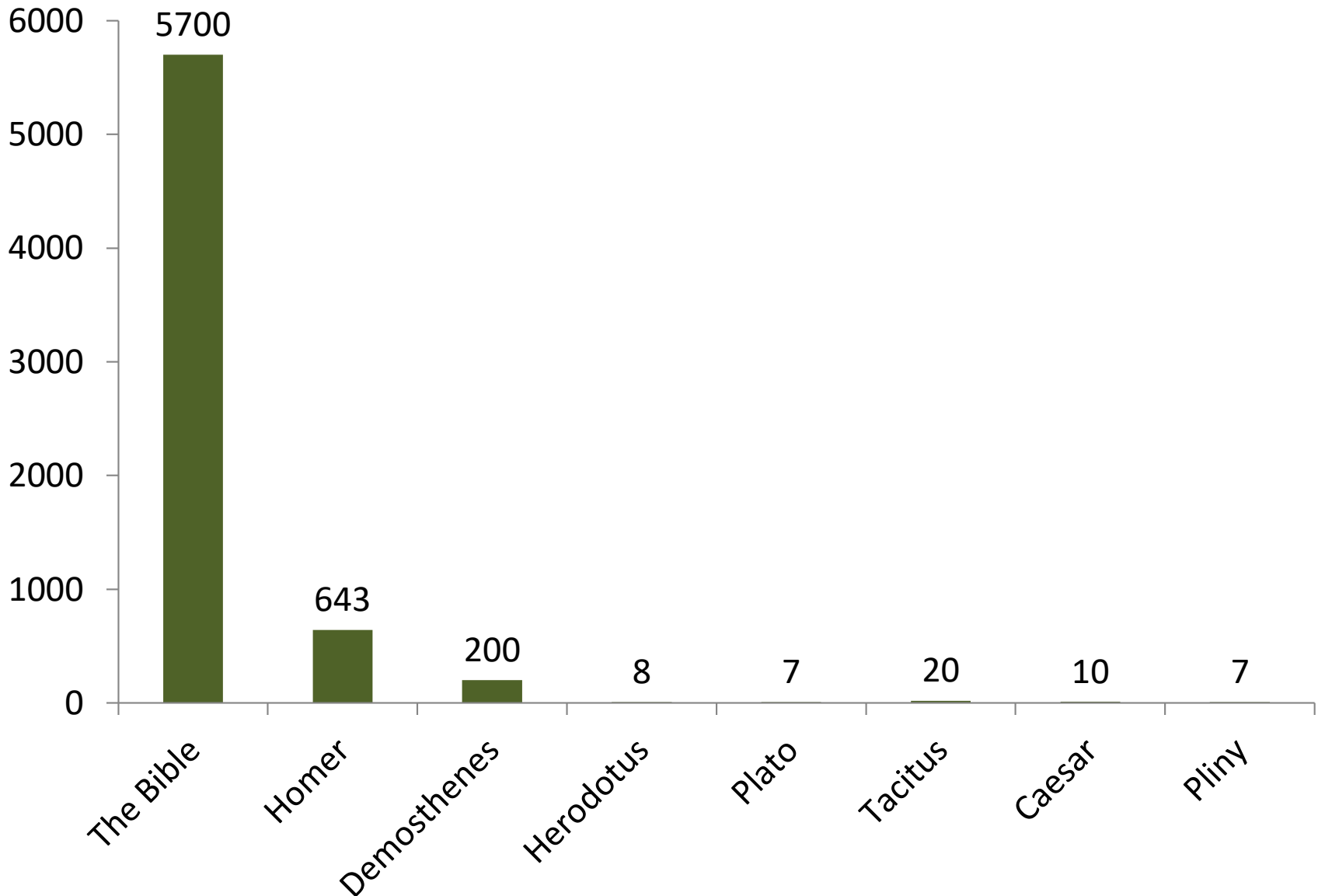
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Everyone should understand the message of the most popular, widely translated, globally influential book in world history

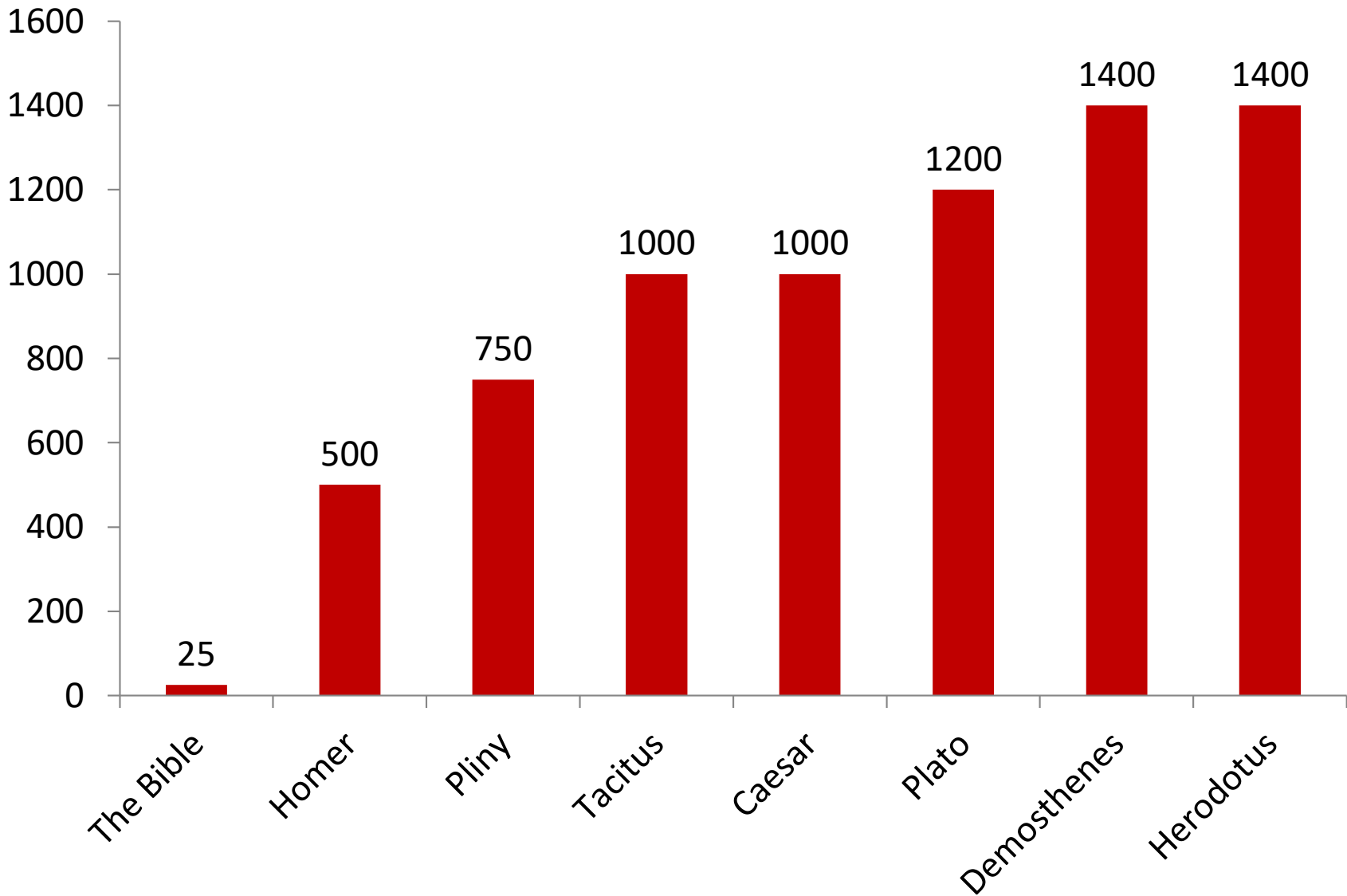
The Bible is Accurate

- Thousands of ancient manuscripts
- First-person accounts (not legends)
- Detailed reports of actual events (not simply rules and philosophy)
- Matches archaeology / history
- A consistent, unified message
- Detailed, accurate prophecies
- Matches human experience

Original Copies of Ancient Books



Time Gap Between Events and Writing



Detailed, eye-witness accounts

- Eye-witness accounts
 - **Matthew 14:19-21** > 5000 witnesses to Jesus' creation of food
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3-6** > 500 witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
- Detailed reporting of actual events
 - **John 21:11** > 153 Fish
 - **Mark 4:37,38** > Jesus sleeping on a cushion

Would you write this?

- **Mark 14:35,36** > “take this cup from me”
- **Mark 15:34** > “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- **Mark 16:1,4,5** > “the women...”

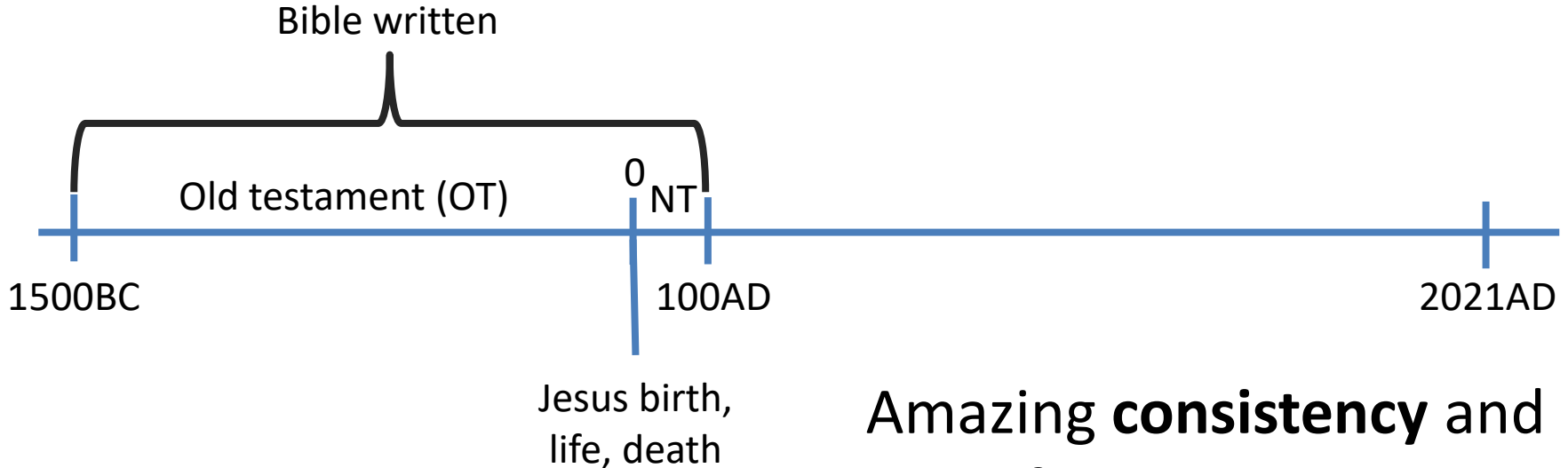
Over 25,000 historical Bible sites have been discovered by Archaeology



Large M
named Tell es-Sultan, notice cars for scale

Bible Writers and Timeline

- Bible was written:
 - Over 1600 years: 1500BC to 100AD
 - 40 separate writers in three languages
 - Kings, fishermen, prophets, a doctor...



Amazing **consistency** and **unity** from cover to cover!

Detailed, Accurate Prophecies

- **Isaiah 44:24,28**

- Written about 700BC before Cyrus was born and while the temple was standing
- Ezra 1:1-3 written 150 years later (538BC)

- **Daniel 9:25,26**

- Written about 600BC. Predicts that 483 lunar years between decree to rebuild Jerusalem and Messiah
- Nehemiah 2:1,6-8 Artaxerxes writes decree in 444BC
- Jesus rides into Jerusalem in 33AD.

- **Over 300** specific prophecies about Jesus

Real Human Experience

- **Genesis 12:2,12,13** > Abraham lies
- **Mark 14:69-71** > Peter denies
- **Romans 3:23** > Everyone sins

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The Bible Claims

- came from God
- is eternally important
- is a personal message to each of us
- reveals the truth about God
- reveals the purpose of man

The Bible Claims

- came from God

2 Peter 1:21

2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible Claims

- came from God
- is eternally important

Isaiah 40:8

Matthew 24:35

Psalms 119:89

The Bible Claims

- came from God
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- is a personal message to each of us

Hebrews 4:12

Psalms 119:105

The Bible Claims

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Romans 11:33,34

Isaiah 55:8,9

Hebrews 1:1-3

The Bible Claims

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Jeremiah 9:23,24

Isaiah 43:7

Psalms 103:11

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 - Hebrews 11:6 faith is required
 - John 1:46 “come and see”

Study Plan

<u>Date</u>		<u>Topic</u>
11-Sep	1	Is the Bible Trustworthy?
18-Sep	2	Did God Really Create the World?
25-Sep	3	If God is good, why does suffering exist?
9-Oct	4	Why is evil so widespread and powerful?
16-Oct	5	Why is Israel so important?
23-Oct	6	Who is God?
30-Oct	7	What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?
13-Nov	8	What does it mean to take a "step of faith?"
20-Nov	9	Do the Old and New Testaments fit together?
27-Nov	10	Why did Jesus perform miracles?
4-Dec	11	What did Jesus really say?
11-Dec	12	Is death the end (or the beginning)?

Lessons are here:

[https://www.gen2rev.life/
PowerPoint/PPT_Files/](https://www.gen2rev.life/PowerPoint/PPT_Files/)

and here:

[https://www.gen2rev.life/
PowerPoint/PDF_Images/](https://www.gen2rev.life/PowerPoint/PDF_Images/)