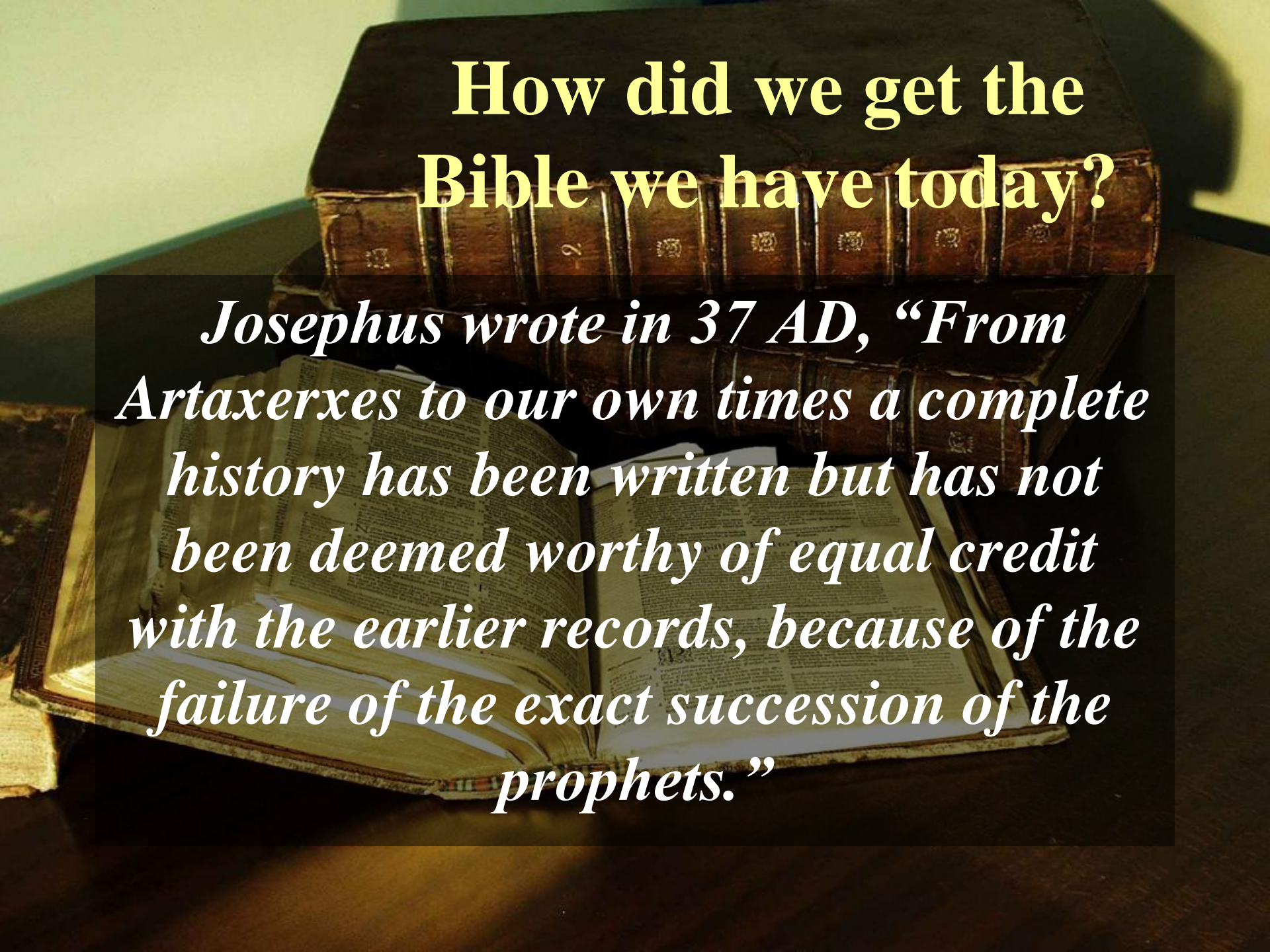


An open antique Bible with several closed ones behind it. The open Bible shows two pages of dense, handwritten text. The right page has a heading that reads "The first Epistle of Paul to Timotheus." The text is arranged in two columns per page. The paper is aged and yellowed. The binding is dark brown leather with visible wear and decorative elements. The background is dark and out of focus.

**THE BIBLE:** *How  
did we get it and how  
can we trust it?*

A stack of several old, leather-bound books is shown. The top book is closed, and the others are partially visible underneath. In the foreground, one book is open, showing its pages which appear to be filled with text. The books are resting on a dark surface, possibly a table or desk. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the texture of the leather and the aged paper.

# How did we get the Bible we have today?

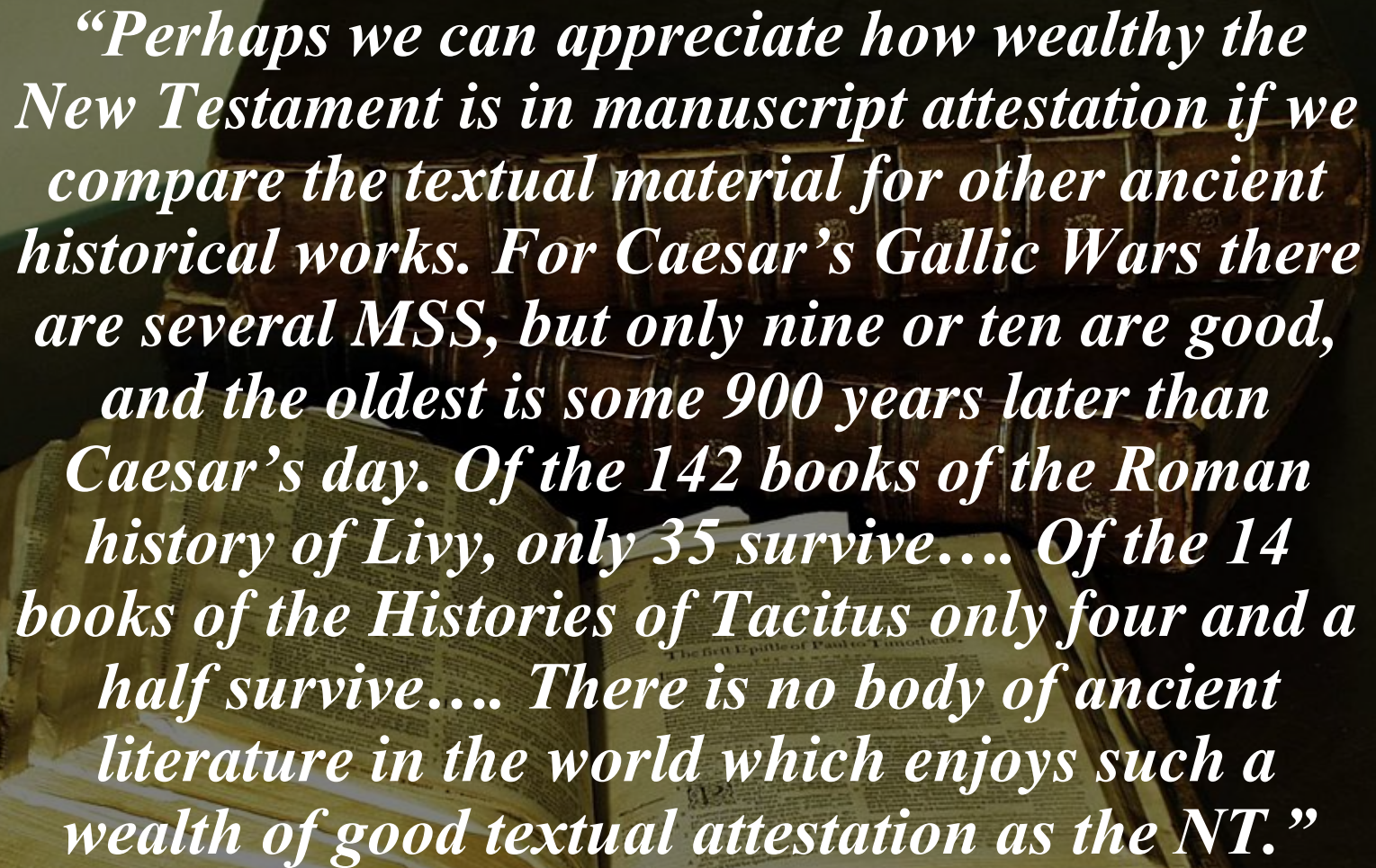
*Josephus wrote in 37 AD, “From Artaxerxes to our own times a complete history has been written but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets.”*

# How did we get the Bible we have today?

- *Was the book verifiably written by an Apostle or by one who had close contact with the apostles and/or Christ?*
- *Was the writer confirmed by acts from God?*
- *Did the writings teach a message about God consistent with what had been revealed?*
- *Was it accepted by the people of God initially and over time?*

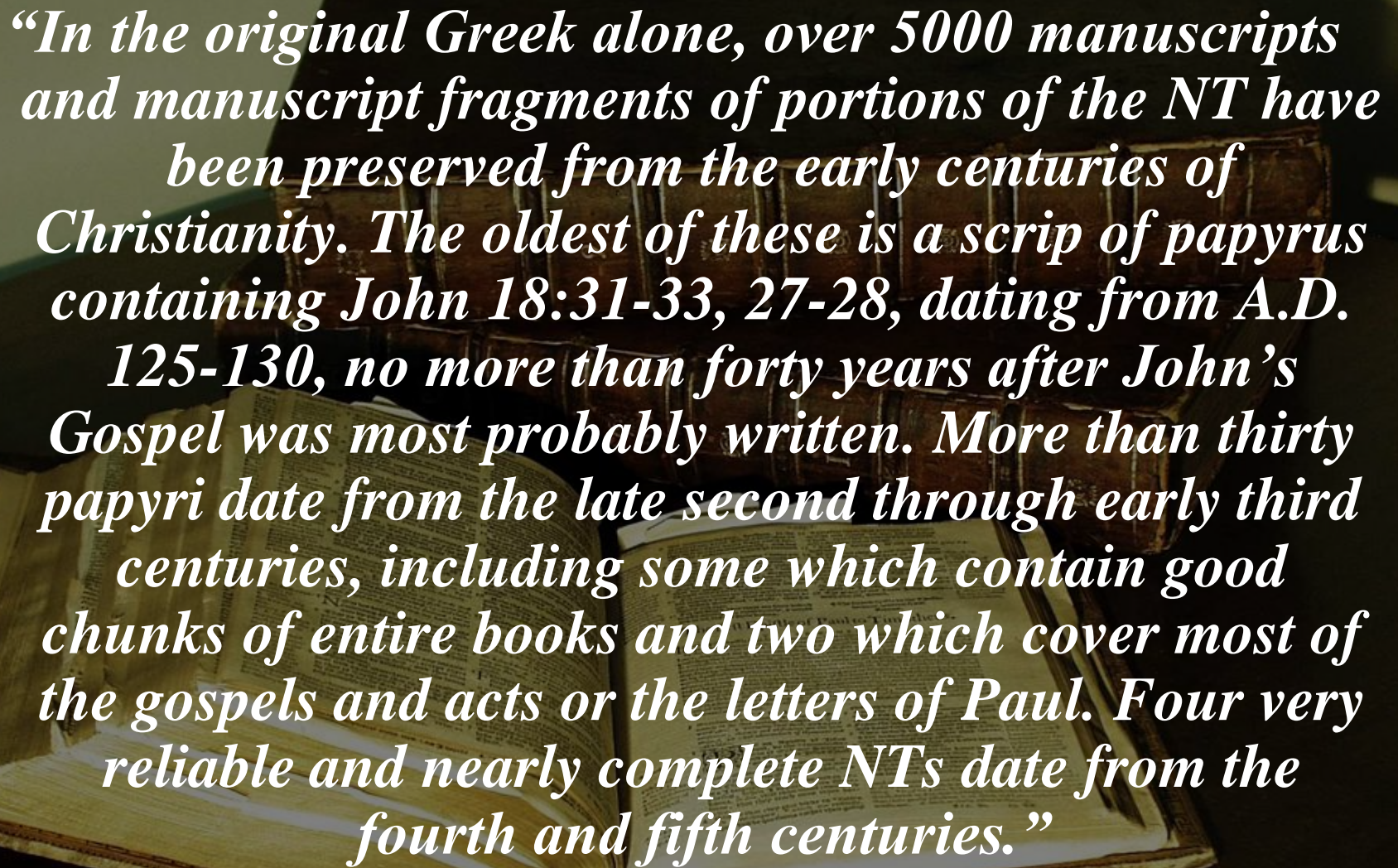
# How many copies of the original manuscripts do you have?

- *5,300 known Greek manuscripts of the NT alone.*
- *10,000 manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate.*
- *9,300 early quotations.*
- *Total = >24,000 Manuscripts.*



*“Perhaps we can appreciate how wealthy the New Testament is in manuscript attestation if we compare the textual material for other ancient historical works. For Caesar’s Gallic Wars there are several MSS, but only nine or ten are good, and the oldest is some 900 years later than Caesar’s day. Of the 142 books of the Roman history of Livy, only 35 survive.... Of the 14 books of the Histories of Tacitus only four and a half survive.... There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the NT.”*

*- F.F. Bruce, Books and Parchments, 178.*

An open book with text overlaid on it. The text is in a white, serif font with a slight shadow, making it stand out against the darker background of the book and the surrounding area. The book is open, showing two pages with some text visible. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or a bookshelf.

*“In the original Greek alone, over 5000 manuscripts and manuscript fragments of portions of the NT have been preserved from the early centuries of Christianity. The oldest of these is a scrip of papyrus containing John 18:31-33, 27-28, dating from A.D. 125-130, no more than forty years after John’s Gospel was most probably written. More than thirty papyri date from the late second through early third centuries, including some which contain good chunks of entire books and two which cover most of the gospels and acts or the letters of Paul. Four very reliable and nearly complete NTs date from the fourth and fifth centuries.”*

*--William Lane Craig; Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics, 193-194.*

# How accurate are the copies?

The background of the slide features a stack of several old, leather-bound books. The books are dark brown with visible wear and tear. In the foreground, one book is open, showing its pages. The text on the pages is small and dense, typical of an old manuscript or printed text. The overall lighting is warm and slightly dim, highlighting the texture of the leather and the aged paper.

- *Only 1 word in 1000 is open to question.*
- *10,400 credible variants: Changes in spelling, grammar...*
- *Only 400 variants have any bearing on the meaning of the passage.*
- *In 40 variants the sense of the sentence actually changed.*

The background of the slide features a stack of several old, leather-bound books. The books are arranged vertically, with the top one being the most prominent. The leather is dark brown and shows signs of age and wear. The spines of the books are visible, with some having gold-leaf lettering or decorative elements. In the foreground, an open book lies flat, showing its pages which are yellowed with age. The text of the open book is partially visible, appearing to be a historical or theological text. The overall lighting is warm and somewhat dim, creating a sense of antiquity and scholarly atmosphere.

# How accurate are the copies?

*BB Warfield, Princeton Theological Seminary, "The New Testament is unrivaled among ancient writings in the purity of its text as actually transmitted and kept in use." Introduction to Textual Criticism of the New Testament, 12-13.*