

**Central Assembly & Marshfield Assembly
Israel Tour
April 29 - May 8, 2020**

Group Leaders: Pastor Jim Bradford and
Pastor Doug Sampley

Instructor: Dr. Wave Nunnally

Registration/Deposit due: October 30, 2019 (\$400)

Next Informational Meeting: August 18, 2019

Fuel FOR
THE flame



Church:

*How can you know
the Bible
is
God's Word?*

#1 Textual Support: the Old Testament



The Aleppo Codex



Geza Vermes, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, page xiv, 3rd edition

“With this newly discovered material at their disposal, experts...are in a position to prove that it [the text of the Bible] has remained virtually unchanged for the last 2000 years.”

The Katef Hinnom Silver Scrolls



Numbers 6:24-27

The LORD bless you, and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

"So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

24 The LORD bless you, and keep you;

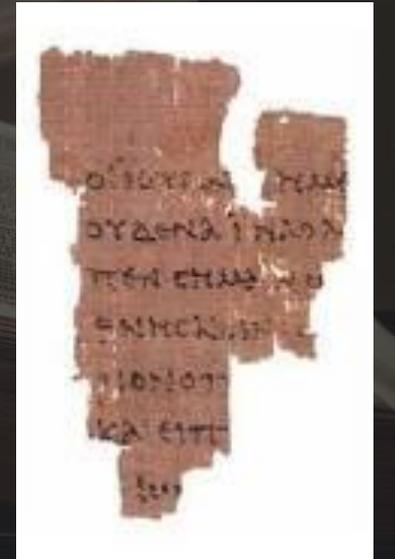
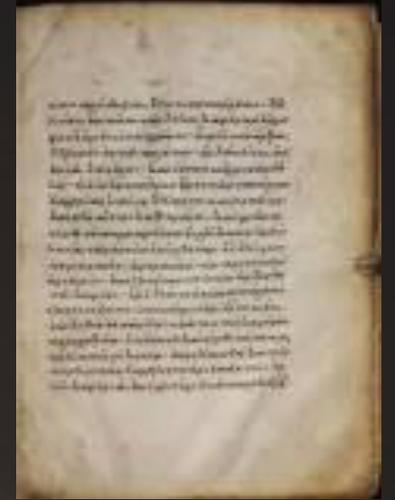
25 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

27 "So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them." (Num 6:24-27 NAS)

Textual Support The New Testament

- 24,000-plus ancient manuscripts of the NT
- 1,800 copies of Homer's *Iliad* (400-year gap)
- 109 copies of Herodotus' *Histories* (1,350-year gap)
- 9 copies of Thucydides' *Peloponnesian War* (200-year gap)
- 210 copies of Plato's *Tetralogies* (1,300-year gap)
- 251 copies of Caesar's *On the Gallic War* (950-year gap)
- 32 copies of Tacitus' *Roman Annals* (950-year gap)



How can you know the Bible is God's Word?

#2 The Unity of Scripture

- The nature of God
- The nature of Scripture
- The “Way of Salvation”

The Nature of God

Old Testament

- Psalm 55:19 God...the one who sits enthroned from of old...with whom there is no change...
- Psalm 102:27 But Thou art the same, and your years will not come to an end.
- Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age, I shall be the same...
- Malachi 3:6 For I, the LORD, do not change.

Nature of God

New Testament

James 1:17 Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Nature of Scripture

Old Testament

Psalm 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled
in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but
the word of our God stands forever.

The Nature of Scripture

New Testament

Matthew 5:18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

The “Way of Salvation”

Old Testament

Genesis 15:6 Then he [Abraham] believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Habakkuk 2:4 But the righteous will live by his faith.

The “Way of Salvation”

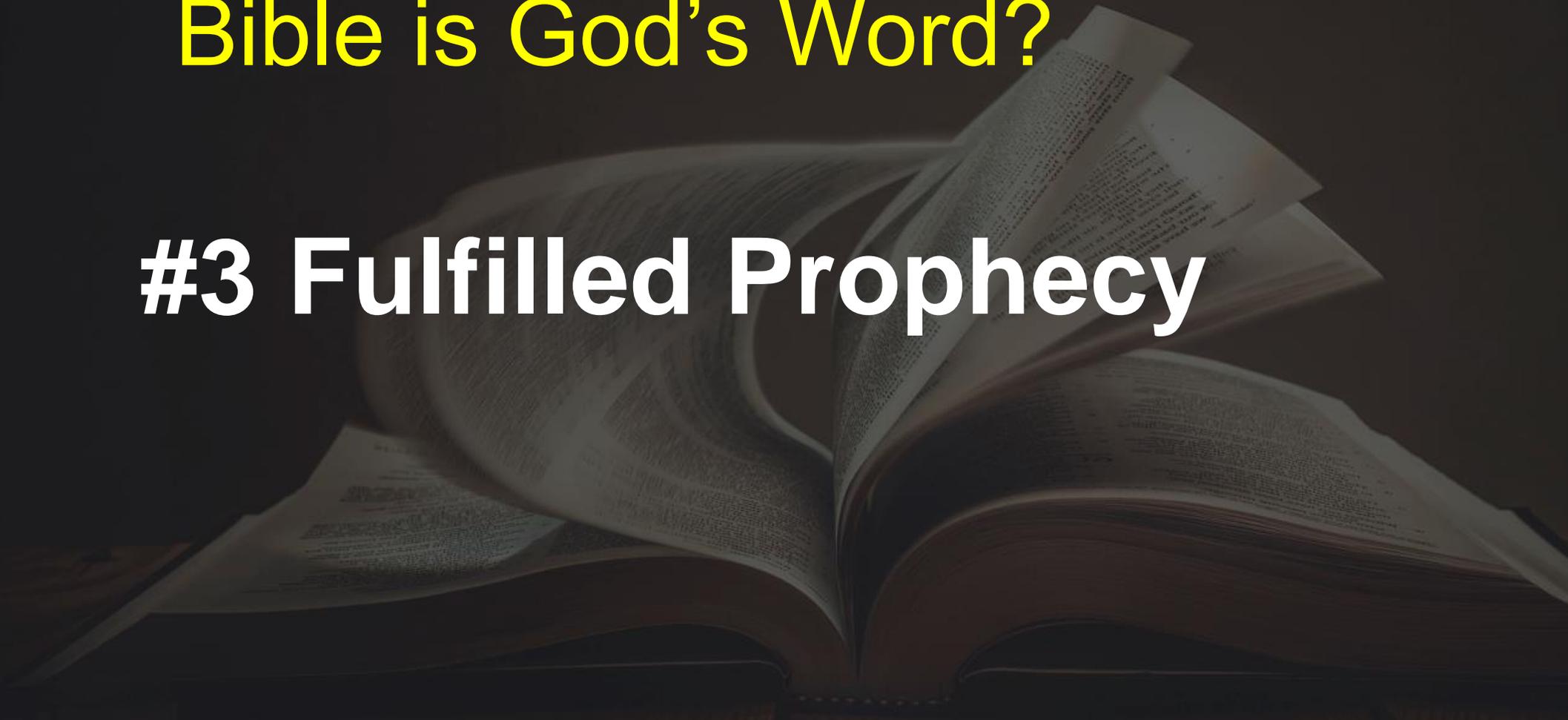
New Testament

Acts 15:9 ...and God made no distinction between us [Jews] and them [Gentiles], cleansing their hearts by faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

How you can know the
Bible is God's Word?

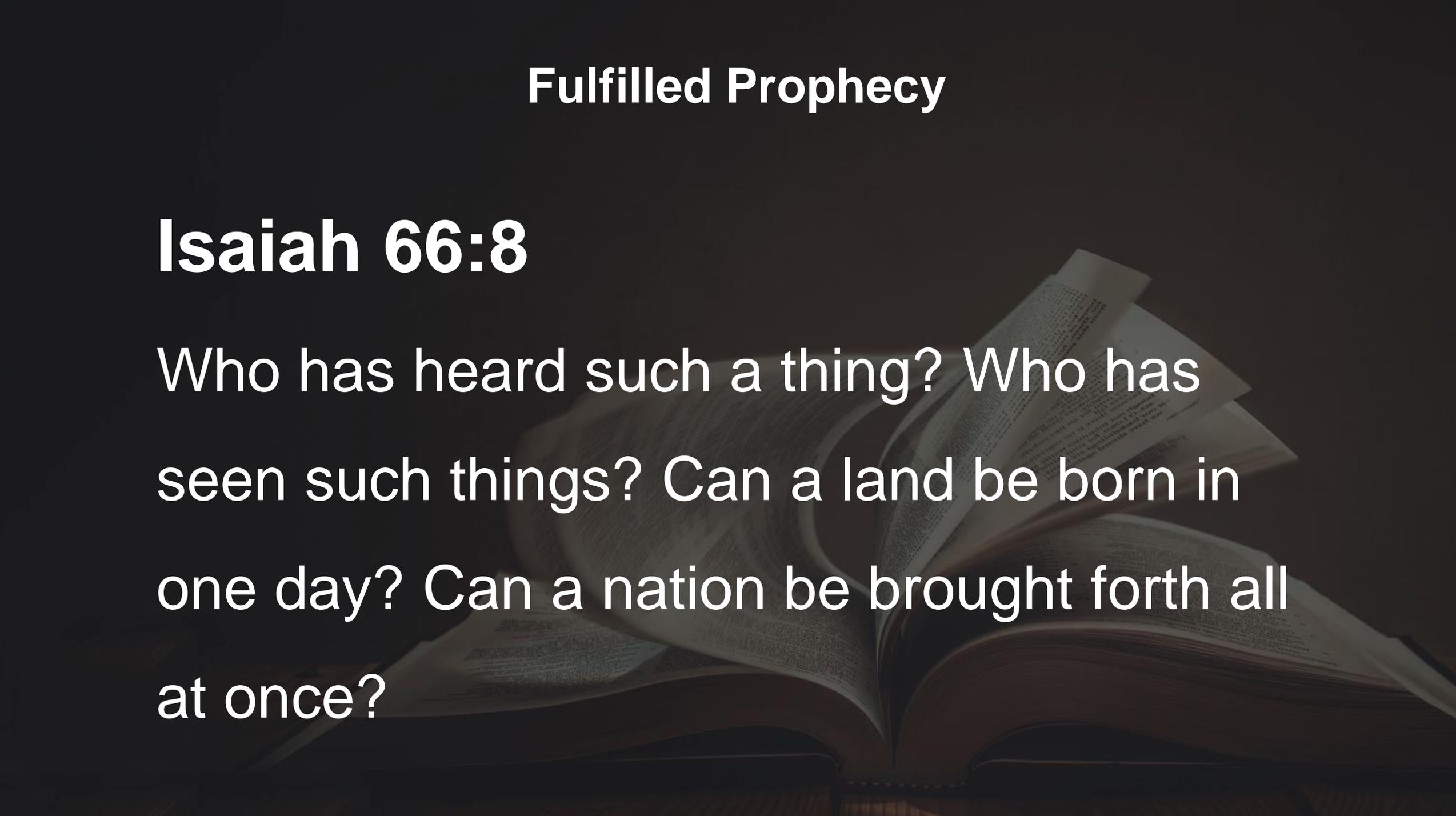
#3 Fulfilled Prophecy



Fulfilled Prophecy

Isaiah 66:8

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once?



Fulfilled Prophecy

Jeremiah 25:11

And this whole land shall be a desolation and a horror, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD, "When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place."¹¹ For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Fulfilled Prophecy

2 Chronicles 36:20-23

And those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon...until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah...until seventy years were complete.

²² Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia-- in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah.

The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, saying,

²³ "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

Fulfilled Prophecy

The Cyrus Cylinder (British Museum)



Matthew 24:1-2

And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

² And He answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

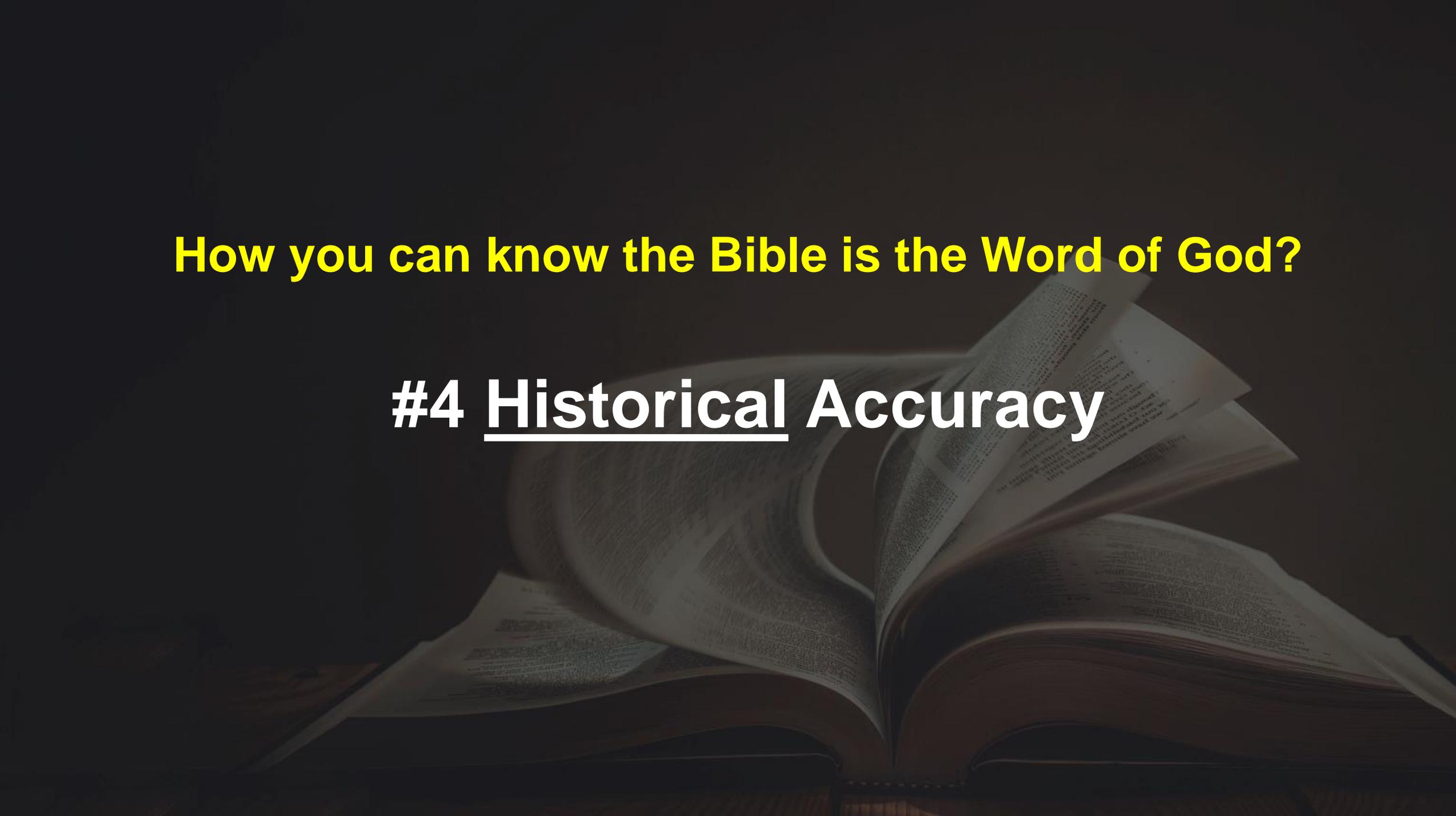






How you can know the Bible is the Word of God?

#4 Historical Accuracy

An open book with text on the pages, serving as a background for the text.

Historical Accuracy

Judges 16:29-30

²⁹ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.

³⁰ And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it.

Philistine Temple at Tel Qasile



Historical Accuracy

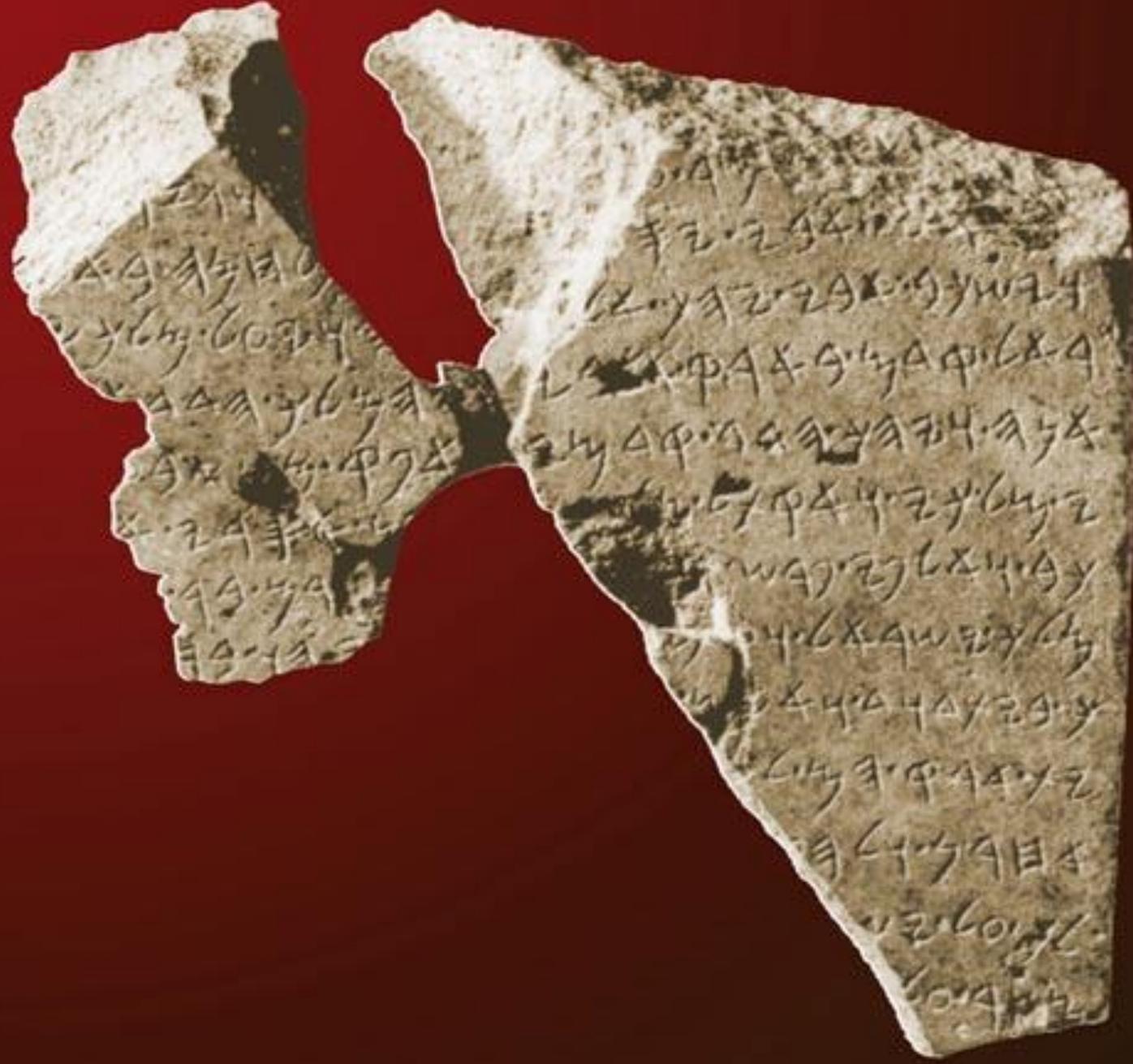
Philistine Temple at Gath



Historical Accuracy



**The Beit David/
Tel Dan Inscription**



Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, Jerusalem

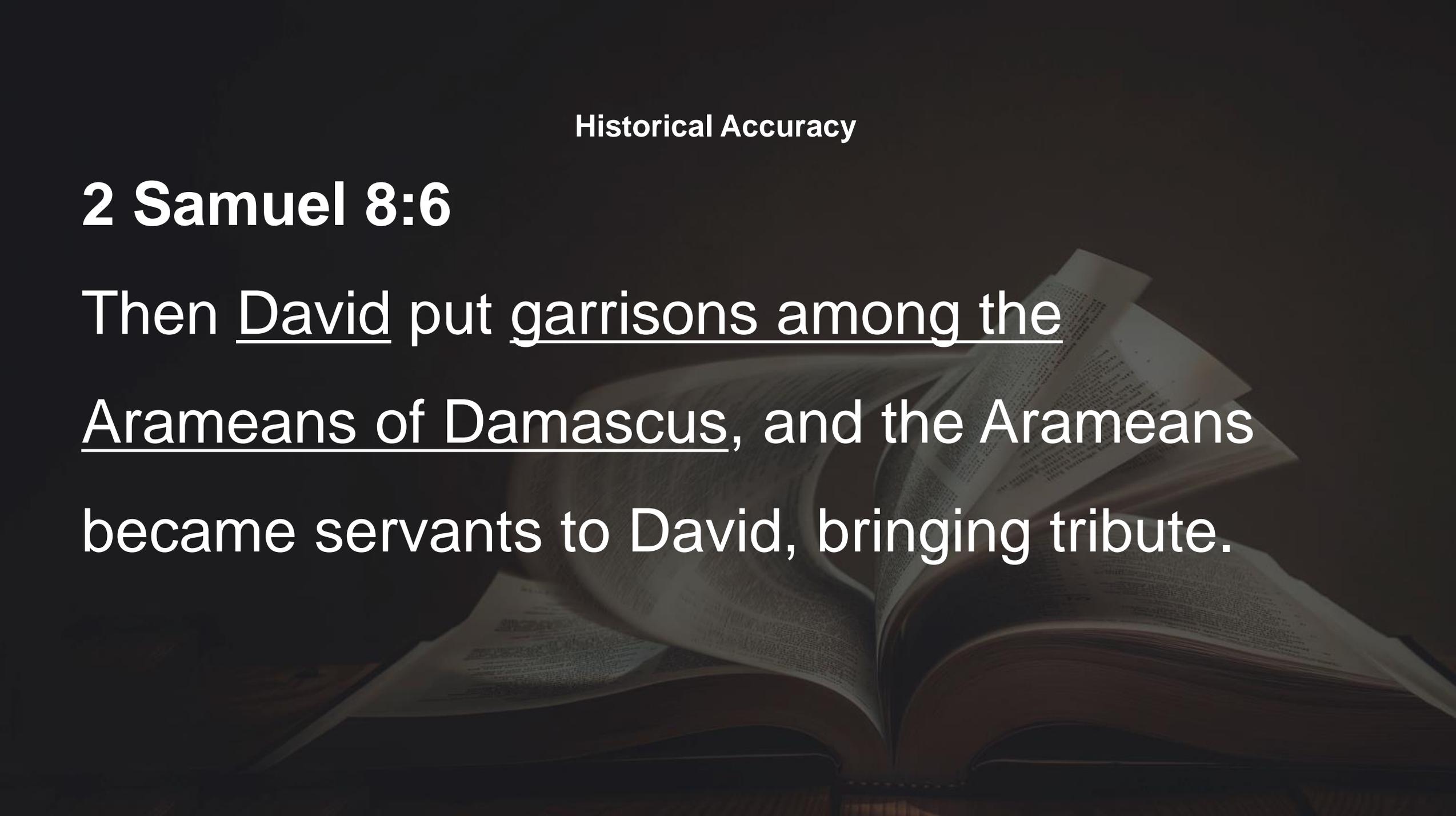
Historical Accuracy

3. . . . Now the king of Israel had penetrated
4. into my father's land before. [But then my god] Hadad made me king

Historical Accuracy

2 Samuel 8:6

Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute.



Historical Accuracy

1 Kings 20:34

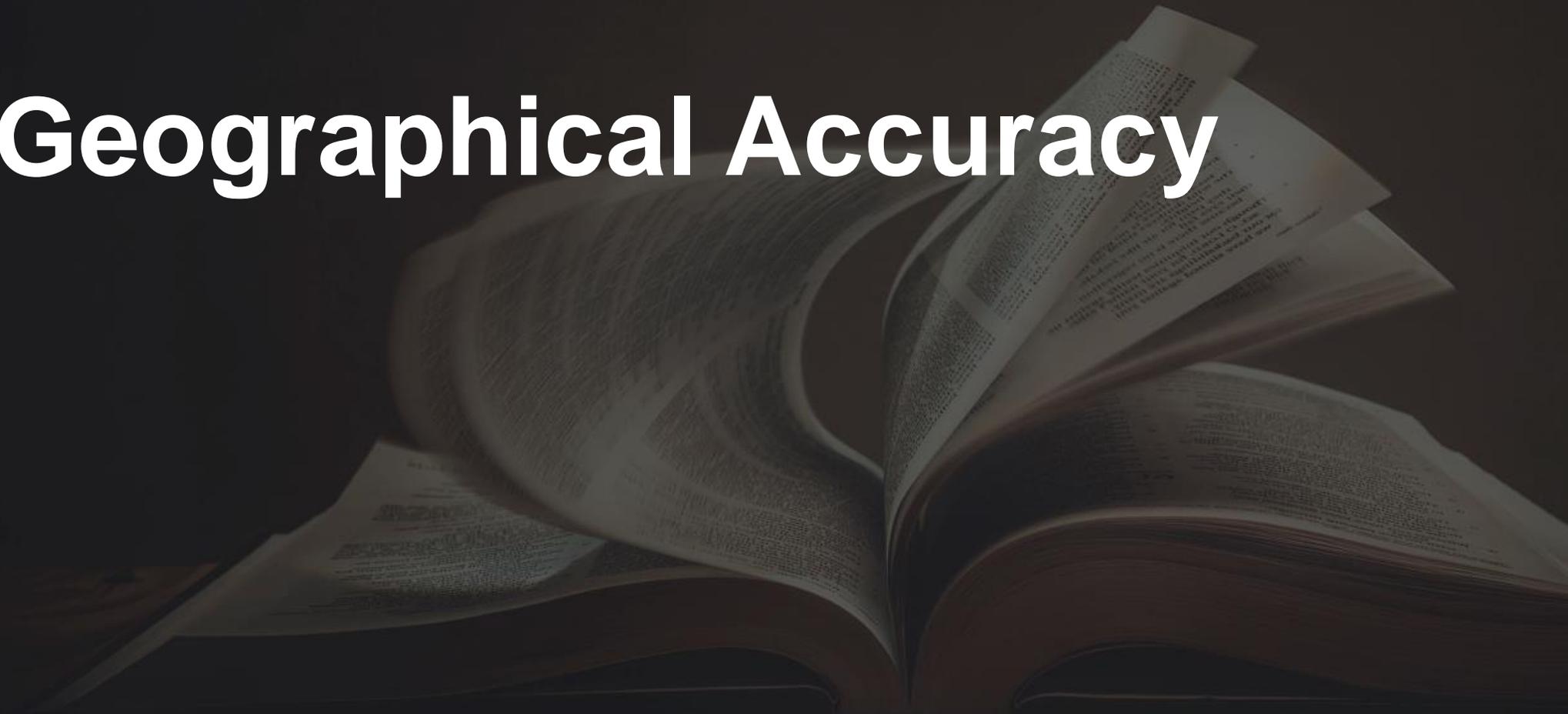
Ben-hadad said to him [Ahab]

"The cities which my father took from your father I will restore, and you shall make marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria."

6. . . . and I [Hazael] killed 70 kings who had harnessed thousands of chariots
7. and thousands of cavalry. [And I killed Jo]ram son of [Ahab] (see 2 Kings 8:16-19)
8. the king of Israel, and I killed [Ahazi]yahu [=Ahaziah] son of [Joram the Ki]ng of
9. the House of David (see 2 Kings 8:25-9:26). And I made [their towns into ruins and turned
10. [their land into [a desolation]...

How you can know the Bible is God's Word?

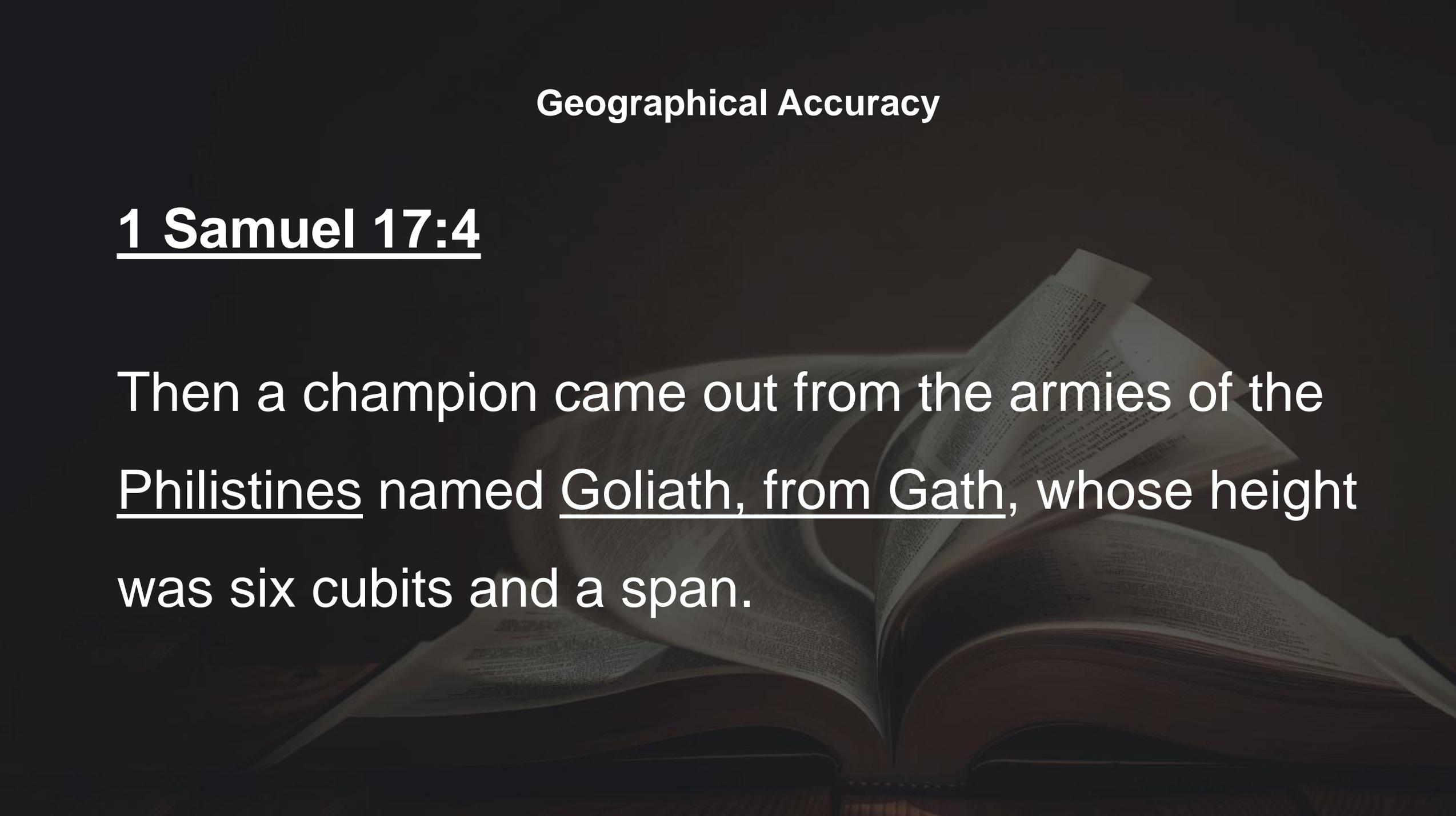
5 Geographical Accuracy

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, slightly angled. The pages are filled with text, and the central gutter is visible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the depth of the text. The background is dark, making the white text of the Bible stand out.

Geographical Accuracy

1 Samuel 17:4

Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.





ΚΟΥΥΗΗΘΑ









Geographical Accuracy

Acts 12:19, 21-23

And [Herod] went down from Judea to Caesarea...

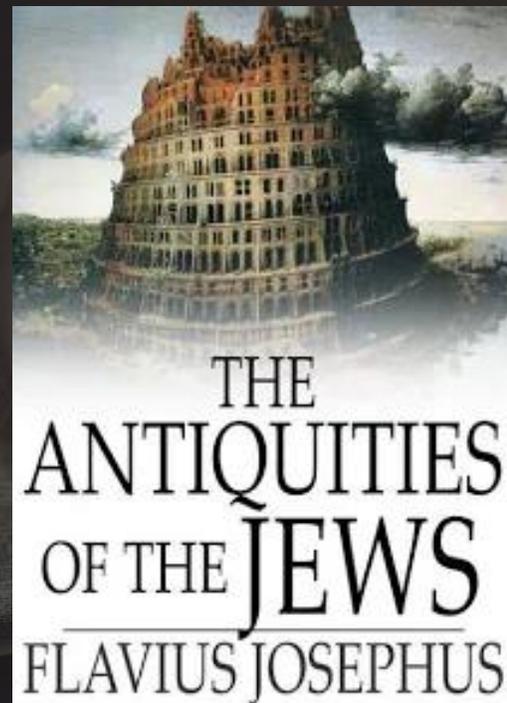
²¹And on an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and *began* delivering an address to them.

²² And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

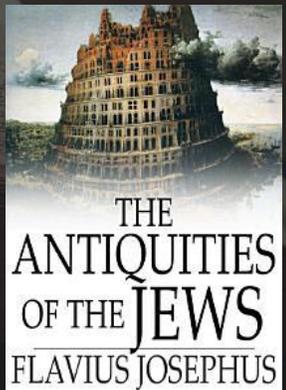
²³ And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

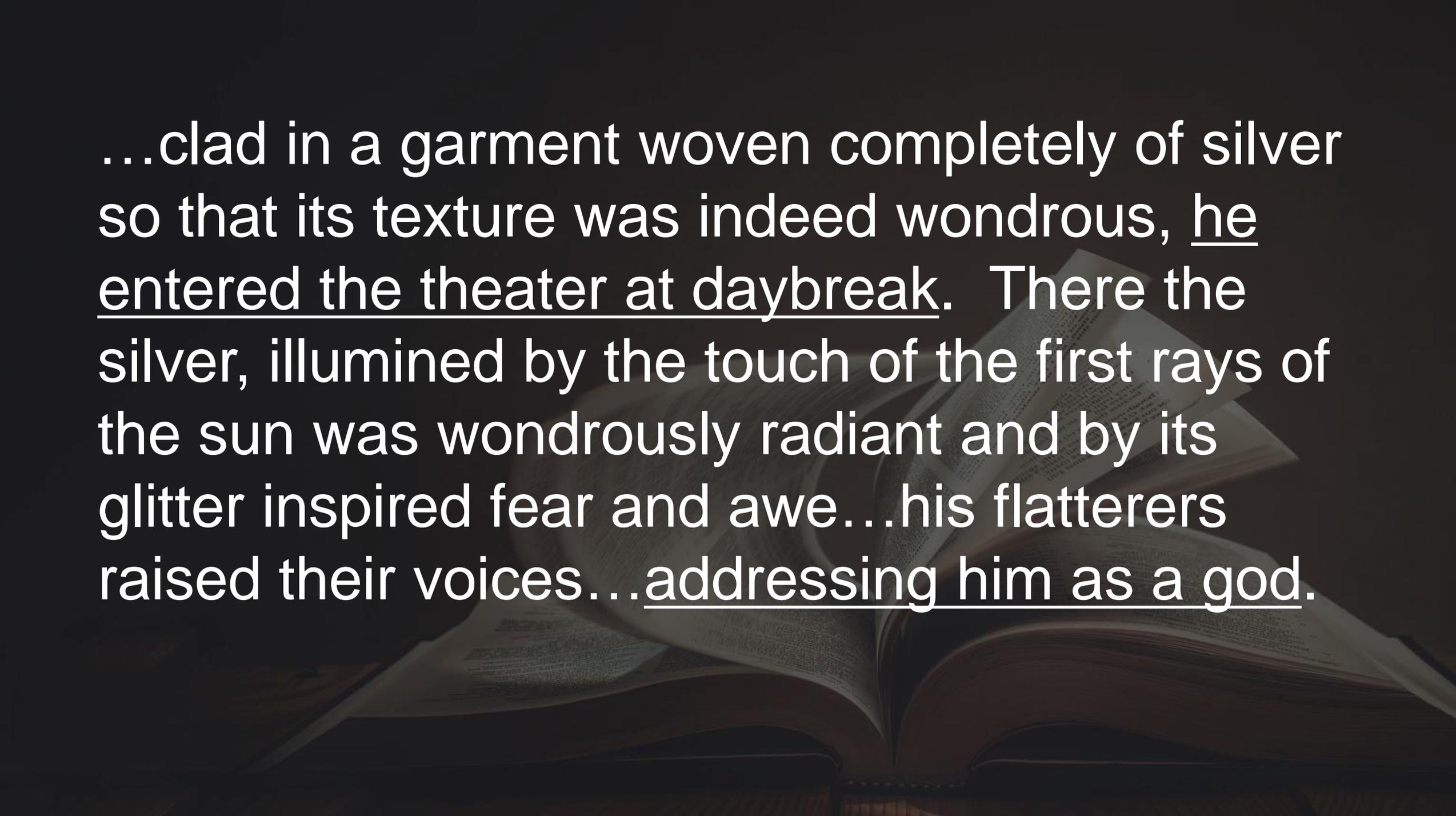
Geographical Accuracy

Antiquities of the Jews 19:343-351



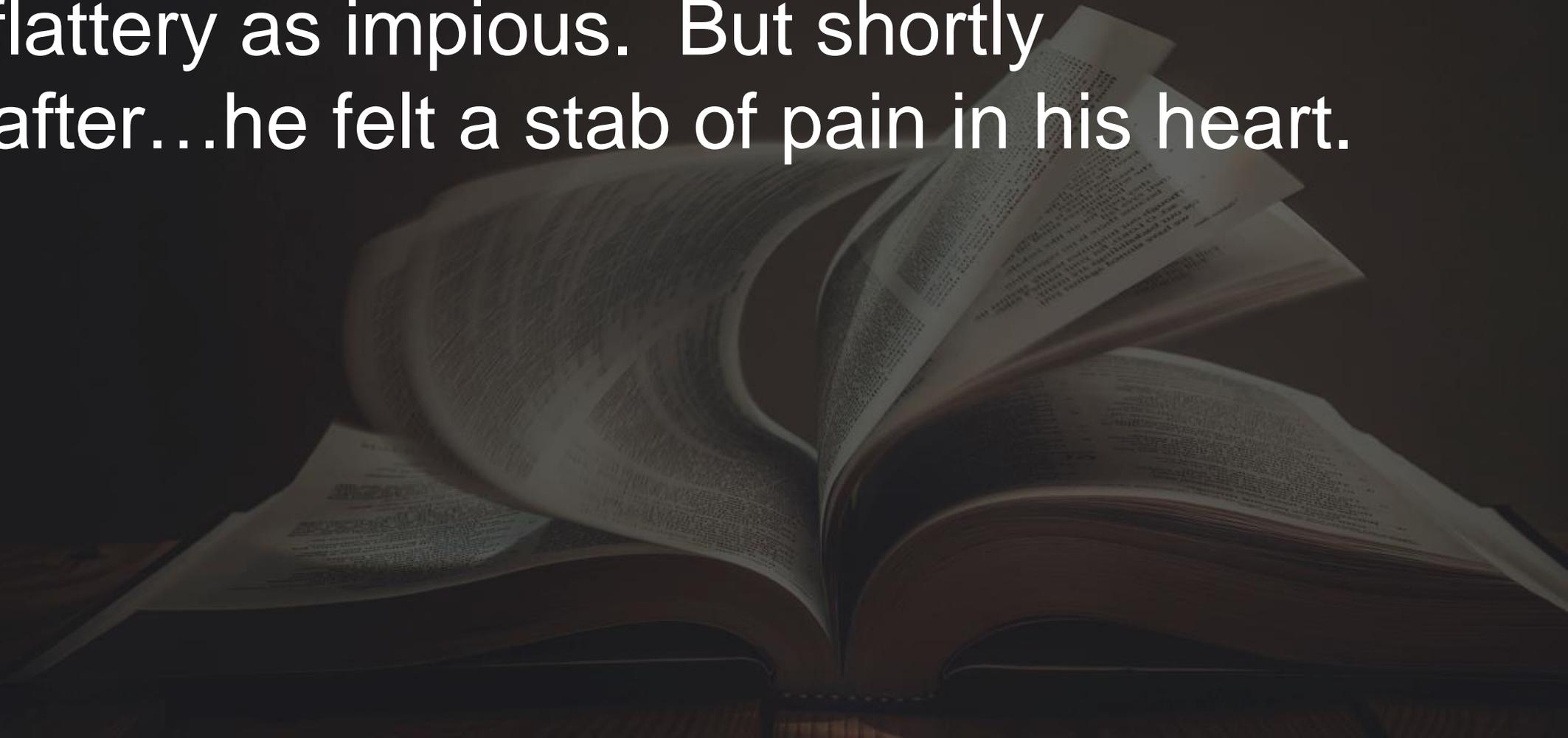
Agrippa ["Herod"] came to the city of Caesarea... there were gathered a large number of men who held office or had advanced to some rank in the kingdom.

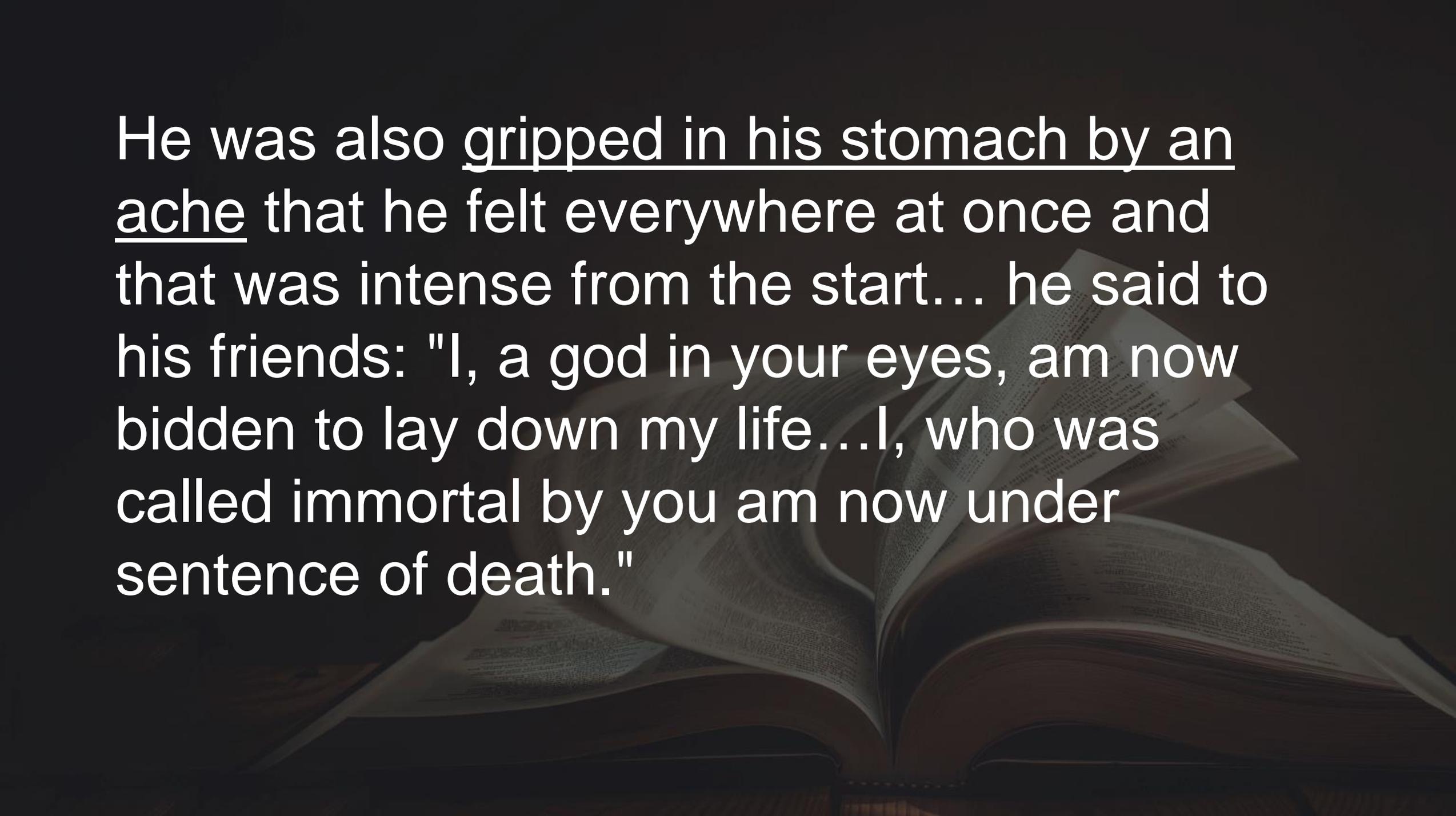


The background of the image is a dark, grayscale photograph of an open book. The pages are slightly curved, and the text on them is mostly illegible due to the low contrast and focus. The book is centered in the frame, and the text overlay is positioned over the upper and middle portions of the pages.

...clad in a garment woven completely of silver so that its texture was indeed wondrous, he entered the theater at daybreak. There the silver, illumined by the touch of the first rays of the sun was wondrously radiant and by its glitter inspired fear and awe...his flatterers raised their voices...addressing him as a god.

The king did not rebuke them nor did he reject their flattery as impious. But shortly thereafter...he felt a stab of pain in his heart.



The background of the image is a dark, grayscale photograph of an open book. The pages are slightly blurred, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the paper and the spine of the book. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

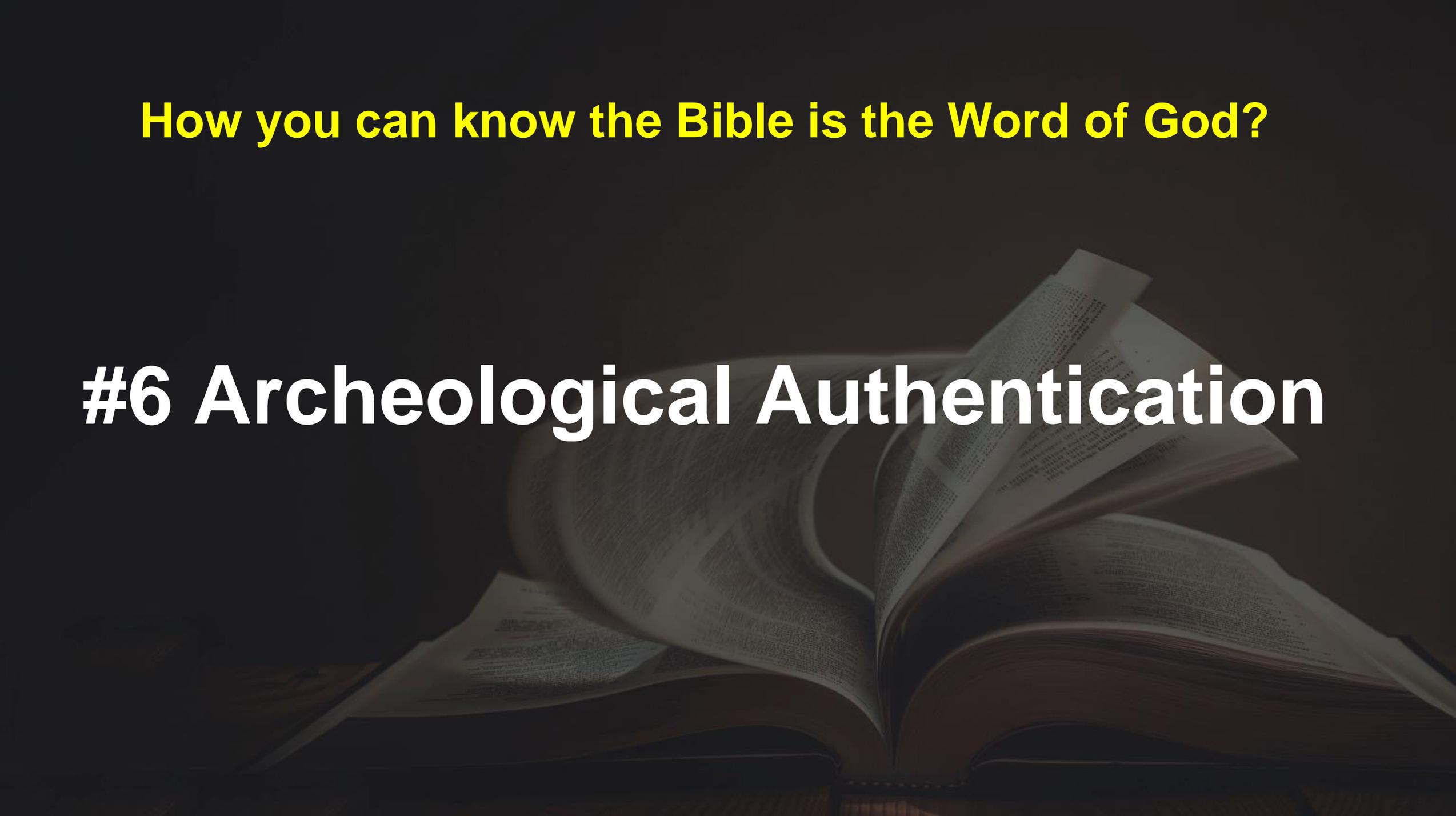
He was also gripped in his stomach by an ache that he felt everywhere at once and that was intense from the start... he said to his friends: "I, a god in your eyes, am now bidden to lay down my life...I, who was called immortal by you am now under sentence of death."

Exhausted after five straight days by the pain in his abdomen, he departed this life...

(Antiquities 19:343-351; cf. also Tacitus, Roman Annals 12.23.1 [no details]).

How you can know the Bible is the Word of God?

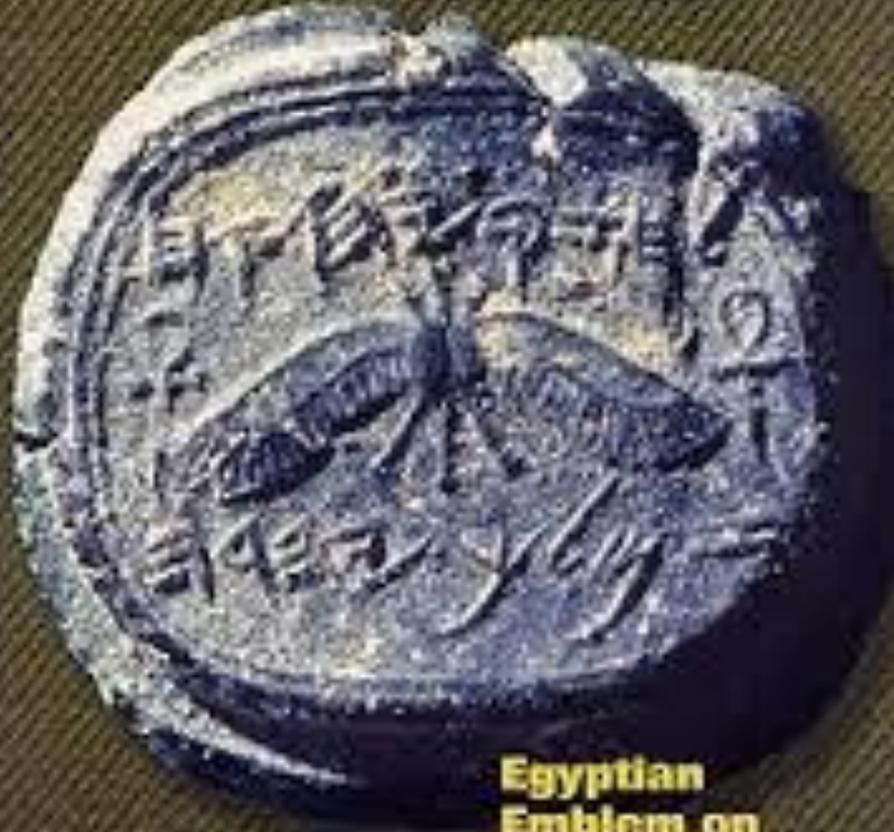
#6 Archeological Authentication

An open book with text on the pages, serving as a background for the text.



www.biblicalarchaeology.org

Biblical Archaeology Review



**Egyptian
Emblem on
Hezekiah's
Seal**





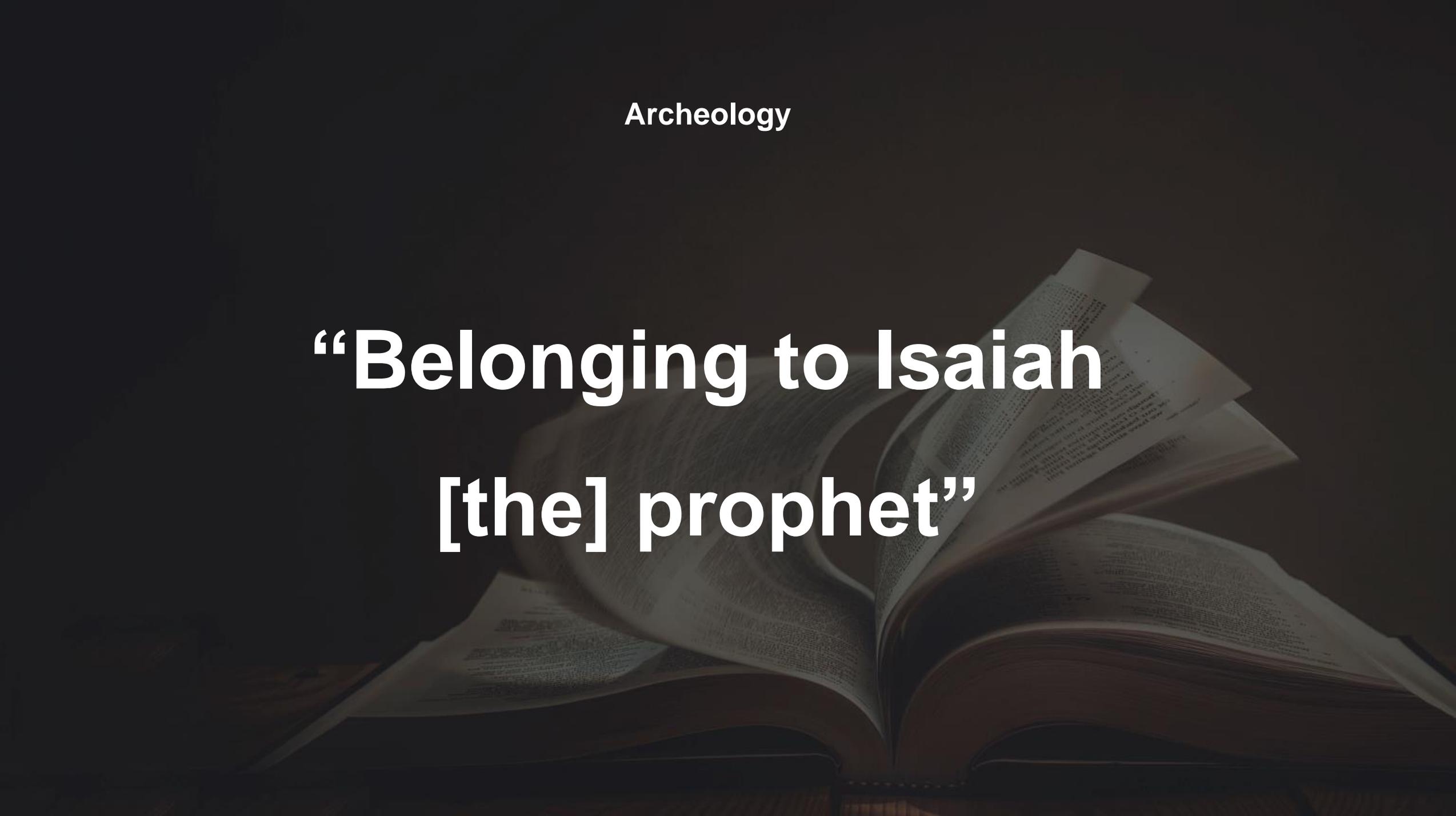
Archeology

- “Belonging to Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz, the King of Judah”
- Strong Egyptian connection: Winged sun disc, ankh symbols
(Isa. 30:2; 36:6)



Archeology

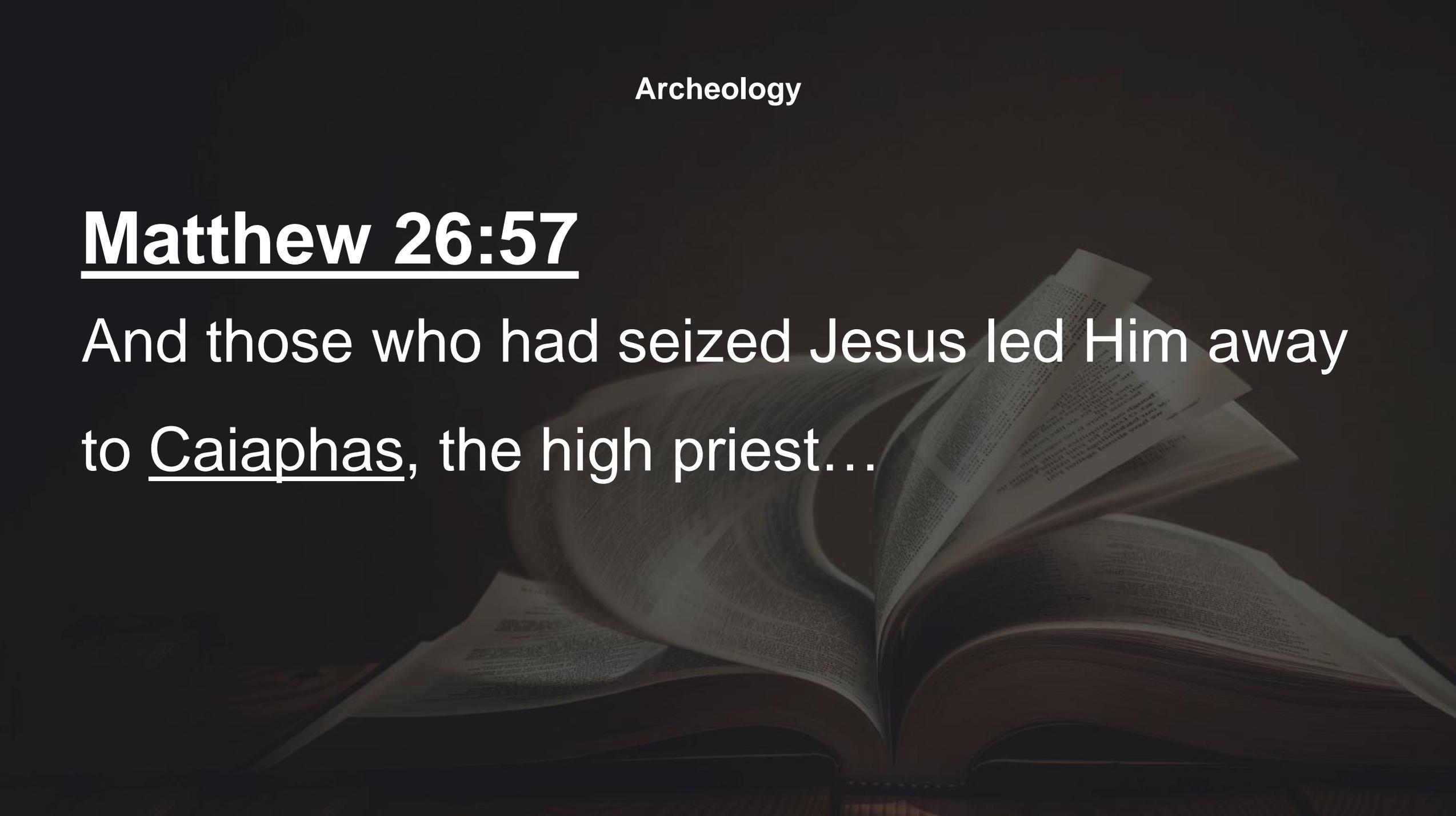
**“Belonging to Isaiah
[the] prophet”**

An open book with text on the pages, serving as a background for the title. The pages are slightly aged and the text is small and dense. The book is open, showing the gutter in the center. The overall tone is dark and scholarly.

Archeology

Matthew 26:57

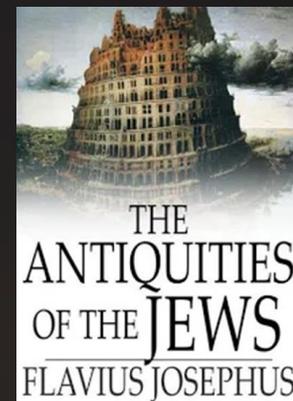
And those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest....



John 11:49-50

But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish."

Archeology



Josephus *Antiquities of the Jews* 18:29

Nero...sent Valerius Gratus to be procurator of Judea...

This man deprived Ananus of the high priesthood,
and...Joseph Caiaphas was made his successor.

When Gratus had done those things...Pontius Pilate came
as his successor.

لله والاكتفاء بالقليل. مما أدى في نهاية الأمر إلى ولادة دين جديد - المسيحية.

بدأ نشاط يسوع في الحليل وخاصة في منطقة بحيرة طبريا. فقد بَشَّر في هذه المنطقة وعلم في الكنس وفي أماكن عامة وحتى أنه صنع العجايب. فَبِيل عيد الفصح في العام ٣٠ ميلادية. قام بالرحيل إلى اورشليم مع تلاميذه. لقد أدت نشاطاته المؤجحة في الهيكل وما حوله في نهاية الأمر إلى سجنه. محاكمته وصلبه. وكما تروي أسفار العهد الجديد. وهي المصدر الوحيد لنشاطه وشخصيته. فقد كان يسوع يعرف ما سيحدث في المستقبل وقصد مصيره عن سابق علم ومعرفة.

العصر الروماني لمبكر / العصر اليهودي / عصر الهيكل الثاني
٦٣ قبل الميلاد حتى ٧٠ ميلادية

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Informational text and a diagram of the sarcophagus, including a cross-section view.

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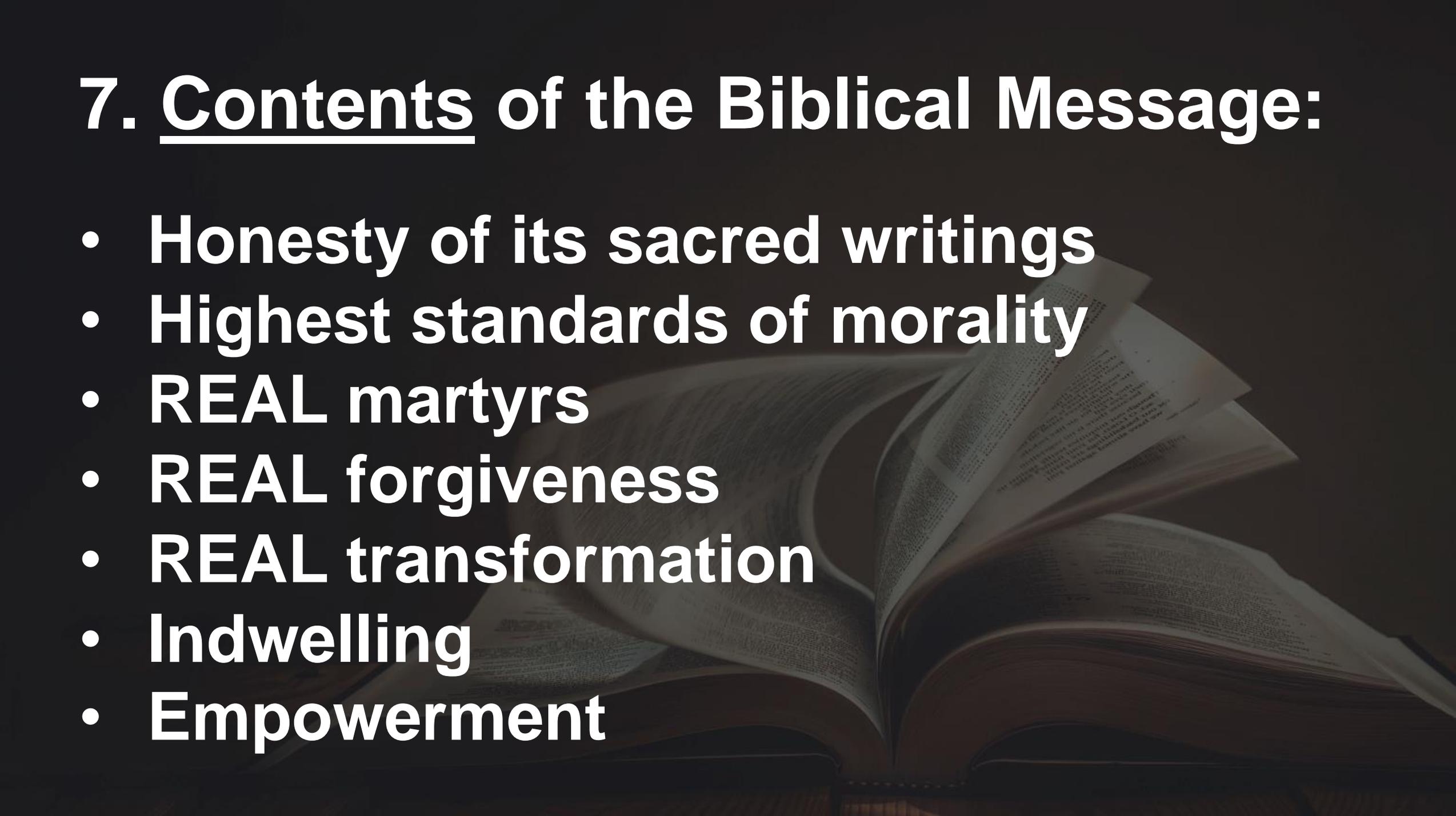
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7. Contents of the Biblical Message:

- **Honesty of its sacred writings**
 - **Highest standards of morality**
 - **REAL martyrs**
 - **REAL forgiveness**
 - **REAL transformation**
 - **Indwelling**
 - **Empowerment**
- 

Conclusions

- Based on the amount and age of the ancient copies...
- Based on the unity of its message...
- Based on its verifiable, fulfilled prophecies...
- Based on its historical accuracy...
- Based on the literary, geographical, and archeological verification of its contents...
- Based on its unique contents...