

# “Setting the Record Straight.”

A message series delivered by  
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## Part 2

### Facts about scripture

- Papyrus: plants from marsh areas of the Nile delta region; used to make earliest writing material, the “paper” of ancient times
- Parchment: animal skins used as writing material
- The “canon” (the agreed upon set of New Testament writings) was established mid-Second Century. Criteria for acceptance:
  - Apostolic connection
  - Theological Unity, congruence
  - Wide-spread use
- The Council of Nicea, a meeting of the church leaders (bishops), took place in 325 A.D. At this meeting, these leaders discussed and debated to co-eternal existence with the Father. Of the nearly 320 leaders, only two voted against the creed we use today. There was **no debate** on the recognized “canon” of scripture, as it had been established long before.
- The Gnostic writings appeared much later and were universally rejected by the church leaders well in advance of the Council of Nicea and thereafter.

### Scripture reliability compared to other ancient writings

Tacitus	“Annals of Imperial Rome” written in 116 A.D. Earliest manuscripts: Books 1-6 850 A.D. Books 7-10 lost Books 11-16 1000 A.D.
Josephus	“The Jewish War” written in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century A.D. Earliest manuscripts: 9 Greek from the 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , and 12 <sup>th</sup> C.
Homer	“The Iliad” written 800 B.C. Earliest manuscripts: 650 from circa 250 A.D
The New Testament	Earliest manuscript: small section of John Ch 18 from 100 A.D. 99 papyral documents from 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D. 5,500 Greek manuscripts from 200-1000 A.D. 18,000-25,000 complete translations into other languages 86,000 citations from early church fathers