

Welcome to the
Connecting Class

Connecting with God

Connecting with His Church

Connecting with His World

Through

Exposition of light in Scripture

Experience of life in community

Expression of love in ministry

apttoteach.org

**O.T.
written**

**N.T.
written**

**93% of all
Biblical MSS
are dated after
900 C.E.**

1500 B.C. 1000 B.C. 500 B.C. 500 C.E. 1000 C.E. 1500 C.E.

Codex Sinaiticus 331 C.E.

Codex Vaticanus 350 C.E.

Codex Alexandrinus 450 C.E.

Codex Sinaiticus

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Two mistakes that we can make in viewing the Bible.

***Naïve supernatural
view***

***Faith without critical
thinking***

***A good heart is the
key to truth
A critical mind
indicates a hard heart.***

***Personal faith shapes
the facts.***

***Narrow natural
view***

***Critical thinking
without faith***

***Modern critical
thinking & science are
the keys to truth.***

***Personal faith is not
dependent upon
historical facts.***

Reasons for & the Meaning of events.

*Natural
Forces*

*Divine
Forces*

Event or Text

Historian

Theologian

*Human
interpretations*

*Special
Revelation*

Mistakes that both Liberals and Conservatives tend to make.

- ✓ ***Respecting only the data that fits the desired conclusion.***
- ✓ ***Failing to respect the power of assumptions and presuppositions.***
- ✓ ***Demanding a level of certainty that is unrealistic.***
- ✓ ***Placing too much confidence in modern views of truth.***

How are we to respond to to

***Liberal
Historical Critical
Scholarship***

***when it discredits the authority of
the Bible?***

What do they see?

"Mom"

Money

A competitor

A meal

A mate

**The
Grand Prize
winner**



provided by Edward's Dairyman

**It all
depends
on who
you are**



The size of the mesh in a fishing net will determine what is caught.

Science is like a large mesh net.

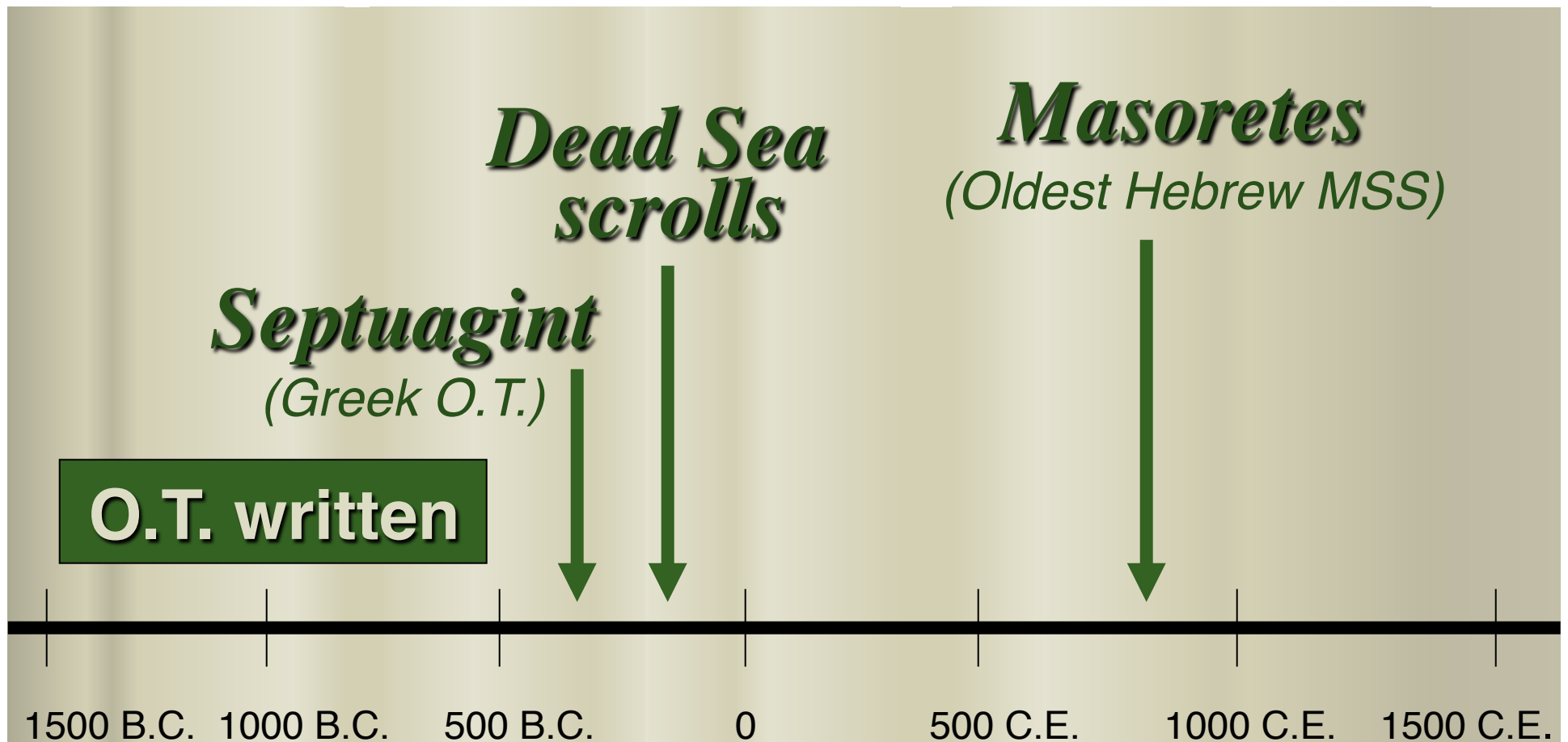
It is limited in what kind of truth it can catch.

Assumptions of the Liberal Historical Critic.

- ✓ The supernatural or “God factor” is not something the historian can identify.
- ✓ Only natural historical explanations are permitted.
- ✓ ***There is no truth beyond what can be explained naturally.***
- ✓ ***We must explain everything naturally even if we have to use imaginary data or distort the hard data.***

1 Corinthians 1:20-21

“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God **the world through its wisdom did not come to know God**, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”



**What is the source of our
Old Testament?**

The Hebrew Scriptures



The Pentateuch
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy



Prophets



Writings

Traditional date of Pentateuch

1200 BC

Critical date of Pentateuch

900 - 500 BC



**The Biblical
claim of Mosaic
authorship**

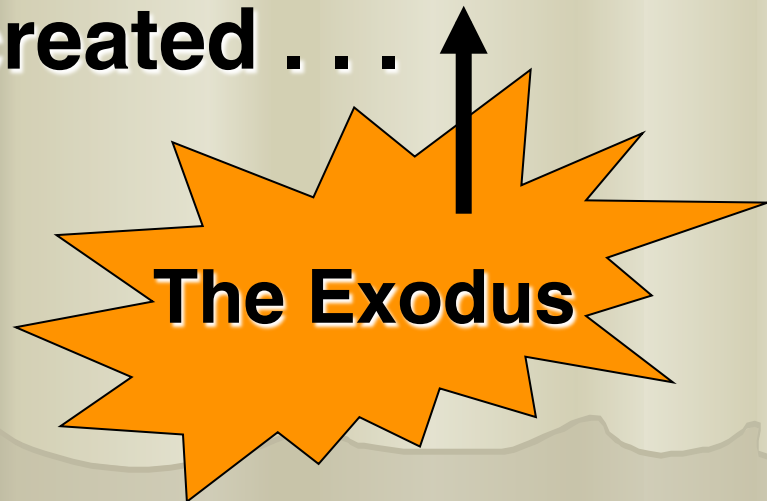
- ✓ Repeated stories
- ✓ Internal inconsistencies
- ✓ Moses = most humble
- ✓ Moses' death
- ✓ Late words

*How do **Conservatives** understand the formation of the Old Testament?*

- ✓ **The Jews** (including Jesus) accepted as authoritative a text that has been passed down to us by the Masaretes (Scribes of the 5th to 11th cent.)
- ✓ **The Dead Sea Scrolls** indicated that the text had been faithfully preserved.
- ✓ **There is little information** on how the Hebrews came to recognize their inspired texts.

*How do **Historical Critics** understand the origin of the Pentateuch?*

The evolving Jewish community with its traditions and social-psychological needs for security and meaning created . . .



. . . a series of texts over time by unknown sources (J,E,D,&P).

The Historical Critical explanation of the Old Testament.

- ✓ It is generally assumed that the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible represent three periods of writing.

Pentateuch - Prophets - Writings

- ✓ **The Pentateuch was written by 4 sources.**
 - J** - 850 Jehovah (works through people)
 - E** - 750 Elohim (works through miracles)
 - D** - 621 Deuteronomy
 - P** - 500 Priestly emphasis over the Prophets

Genesis 21

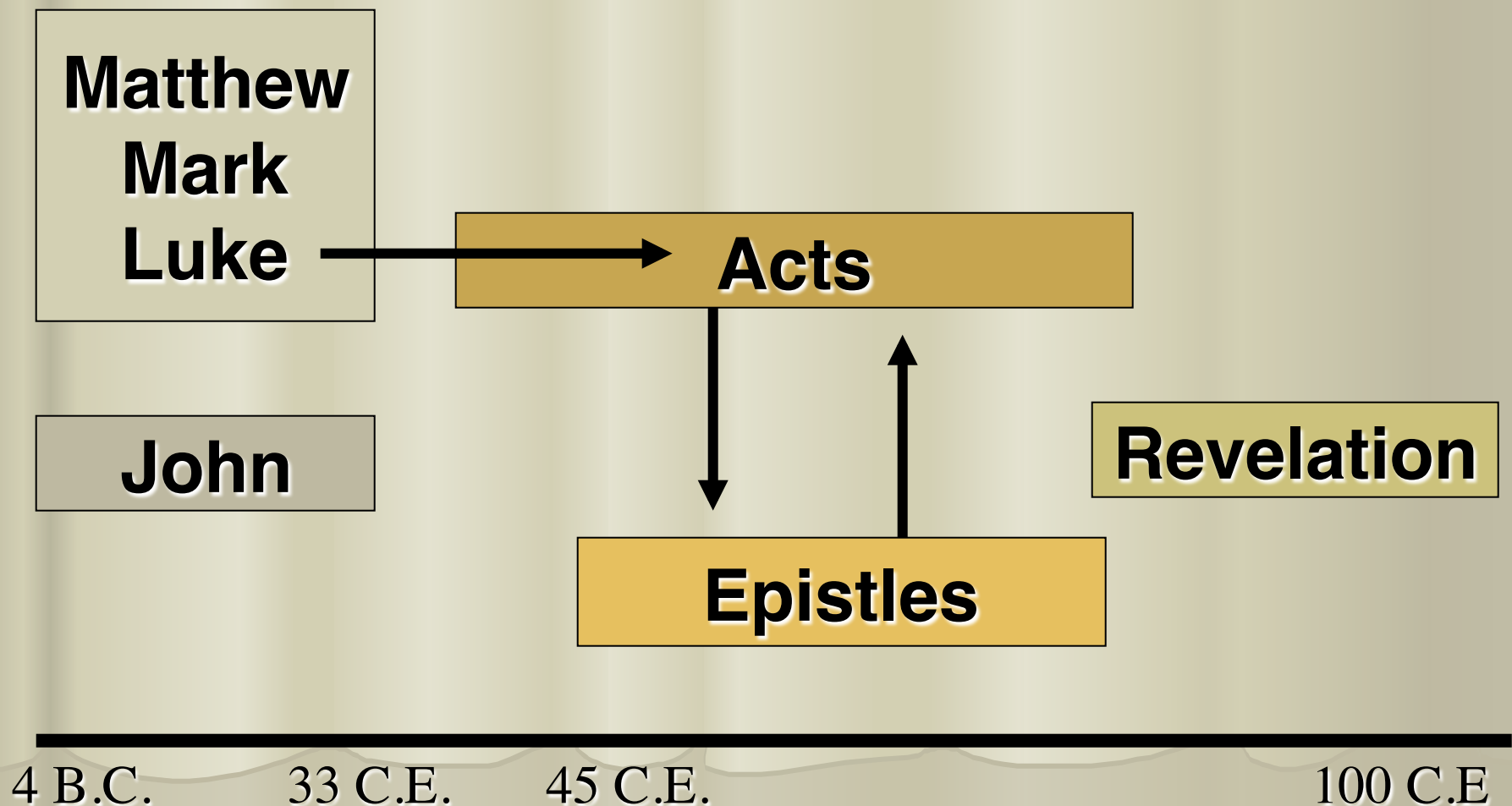
"¹ Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. ² So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. ⁴ Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Sarah said, ""God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." ⁷ And she said, ""*Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.*" ⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking. ¹⁰ Therefore she said to Abraham, ""Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac."

J E P

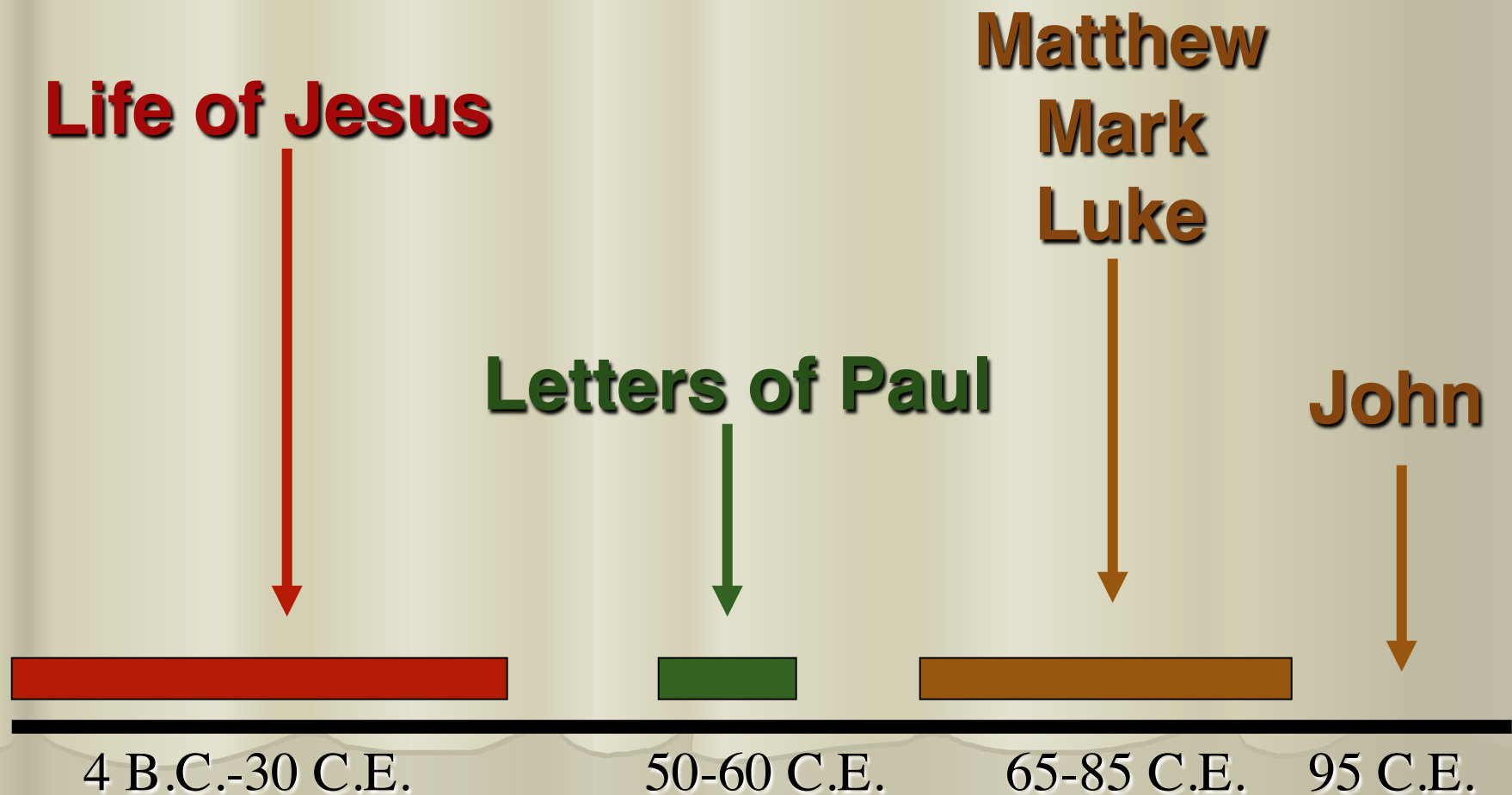
Evidence that Moses was responsible for the Pentateuch.

- ✓ **The Scriptural testimony** - Ex.17:14; Josh.1:7; Jn.5:46; Rom.10:5
- ✓ **Eye witness details** - Exodus, Egypt, etc.
- ✓ **Use of Egyptian words.**
- ✓ **Foreign viewpoint of Canaan** (desert, weather, flora, & fauna)
- ✓ **Archaic customs in Genesis** - oral deathbed will.
- ✓ **Archaic Hebrew words.**

The structure of the New Testament



The time line of the New Testament



How do evangelical Christians understand the origin of the N.T.

- ✓ The NT documents were identified fairly soon after they were written as inspired by God's Spirit through Apostles or their close associates.
- ✓ The N.T makes claims inspiration.

II Tim.3:16-17 “**All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Historical Critical explanations for the Gospel.

**Greco-Roman
Culture**

**Jewish
tradition**

**Need for
security**

***Jesus as...
the Christ***


**Holy
Spirit**

**Mystery
Cults**

**Social-political
circumstances**

**Personal
Psychological
experiences**

The Historical Critical explanation of the New Testament.


**The
historical
Jesus . . .**

**. . . became
the Christ
of faith . . .**

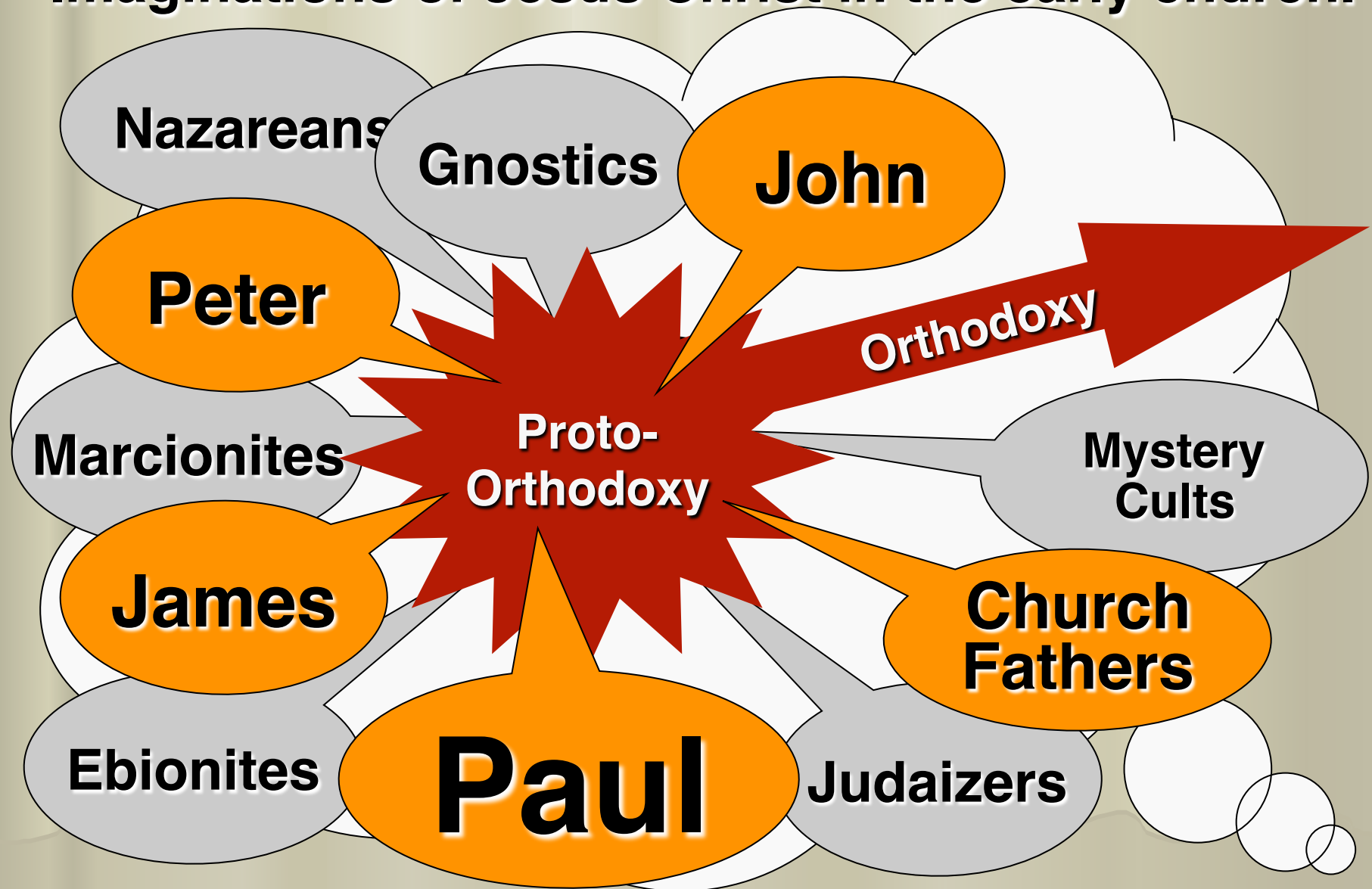
**. . . recorded
in the
Gospels.**

**We know
very little
about
Jesus.**

**There were
competing
Imaginations of
Jesus Christ in
the early church.**

**The Gospels
were written to
support the
theology of the
early church.**

The Historical Critics believed there were competing Imaginations of Jesus Christ in the early church.



II Peter 1:16

“We did not follow **cleverly
invented stories** when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

The weaknesses of the Historical Critical method.

- ✓ It is an infant “**creative**” science.
 - ✓ It is influenced by **fads**.
 - ✓ It has a poor **track record**.
- ✓ Its **presuppositions** are too restrictive.
 - ✓ It refuses to admit its own **bias**.
 - ✓ It make **too much** of **too little**.
- ✓ It wants to have its cake and eat it to.

“It is not merely that the Bible isn’t read from the *perspective* of faith, it isn’t even read from the perspective of the *possibility* of faith.” To make matters even more difficult for those of faith, many institutions of higher learning aggressively socialize students with unqualified or justified pressure from expressions like, “obviously,” “of course,” “everyone now knows,” “all scholars agree that.”

Eta Linnemann (a former eminent historical critique)

The Da Vinci Code

Where is it inaccurate?

- ✓ **The role of Constantine in shaping Christianity is fictitious.**
- ✓ **The Church did not suppress false gospels.**
- ✓ **Gnostic gospels were late and had little impact on Christianity.**
- ✓ **Mary as the bride of Jesus is without any historical merit.**

The Jesus Seminar

What do we know about the historical Jesus?

- ✓ **If a statement has a parallel outside the Gospels it could not be of Jesus.** It was imported as past Jewish culture.
- ✓ **If a statement seems to support a unique Christian doctrine it could not be of Jesus.** It was imported as propaganda.
- ✓ **If a statement is supernatural it could not be true.** Miracles were the imagination of the early church in its desire to create a Christ figure.
- ✓ **If a statement is found in only one source or inconsistent with the culture it could not be of Jesus.**

Luke 11:52

“Woe to you experts in the law, because **you have taken away the key to knowledge**. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

It is reasonable to believe the N.T. writers were speaking the truth.

- ✓ They included embarrassing details about themselves.
- ✓ They included embarrassing details and difficult saying of Jesus.
- ✓ They left in demanding saying of Jesus.
- ✓ They distinguished Jesus' words from their own.
- ✓ They included events related to the resurrection that they would not have invented.
- ✓ They challenge their readers to check their facts.
- ✓ They describe miracles as historical events.
- ✓ They abandoned their long-held beliefs to follow their message.

The unnatural origin of Christianity.

- ✓ **Its origin is dramatic, fast and certain (not evolved).**
- ✓ **The doctrine of the resurrection was established early.**
- ✓ **It started in an obscure corner of the Roman empire.**
- ✓ **Jesus' ministry was short, local, and without writing.**
- ✓ **The hostility against Christianity was unusual in Rome.**
- ✓ **It was dangerous to be a Christian.**

Big questions for critics!

***How honest and secure are you
in your conclusions?***

***How do you explain the
“resurrection of Jesus”?***

***What basis for your soul’s hope
do you have that is better or more
certain?***

What should be our posture toward Liberal Historical Critical challenges?

- ✓ **Be informed.** Get your facts straight.
- ✓ **Be humble.** Don't be afraid to admit you don't have all the answers.
- ✓ **Be reasonable.** Recognize where you have a point to make and where they may have a valid point.
- ✓ **Don't demand too much.** Realize that faith does not demand absolute certainty but reasonable probability.

Psalm 22:16

“For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; **they pierced** my hand and my feet.” .

wrak = **they pierced**

~~(LXX)~~ **y**rak = **elike a lion (MT)**