



TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR CHRISTIANS

Answering the Disputed Text of the Woman Caught
in Adultery, John 7:53 - John 8:11

Questions Anyone?

...from CRU Text Tough Questions Campaign

- Eternal suffering versus a few hours on the cross?
- Why does God take people away (death or leaving)?
- How do I answer a teacher denying the Bible?
- How do we deal with persecution in the real world?
- How can Jesus be fully God & fully man?
- What is God's plan for bringing my ex-girlfriend back?
- Why did God make the Earth finite?
- Why Nazis?
- Do people who commit suicide go to heaven?

Overview

- Why Deal with Impossibly Tough Questions (& How)
- 4 Step Approach to Epistemology
- Prototype Question: Can Scripture Be Trusted?
 - What Is the Pericope Adulterae?
 - Cannon and Disputed Text (Mark 16 vs John 8)
- Dealing With the Next Question

Answer not a fool according to his folly,
lest you be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly,
lest he be wise in his own eyes.

...

Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 26:4-5; 12

A Bit About You & Me

- Why Engage In Tough Questions at All?
- Questions from My Journey ...*Intellectual or Emotional?*
 - Questions from My Friends
 - Facebook Skeptics
 - Conversations With Dad
- What About Your Journey? ...*Remember Mind Games?*

Where We Are Heading

- Text Tough Questions to CRU
- People Come to College To Learn... (yeah, right)
Presuppositional Apologetics in Postmodern Epistemology
- Real Discipleship Versus Pat Answers
- Getting You Engaged In Responding ...*because your friends don't really give a flip what I think anyway...*
- Building Real Momentum ...*using CRU resources, study other answers, use the community of leaders around you...*

Some Impossibly Tough Questions

- Is the Scripture Reliable, Since it Was Written Over 400 Years After Jesus And Manipulated By Rome?
- Can God Make A Rock So Big He Can't Lift It?
- Where Did Cain & Able Get Wives?
- Why Would A Loving God Send People To Hell?
- Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?
- Creation in 6 Days in Light of Science, Really?!

Approach To Epistemology

...It's like kissing!

- Learning is Boring, Practice Makes Perfect!
- *Is the Scripture Reliable, Since it Was Written Over 400 Years After Jesus And Manipulated By Rome?*
- #1 Know The Actual Question
- #2 Make a Serious Investigation of Truth
- #3 Separate Data from Conjecture In Research
- #4 Dealing Honestly With The Results

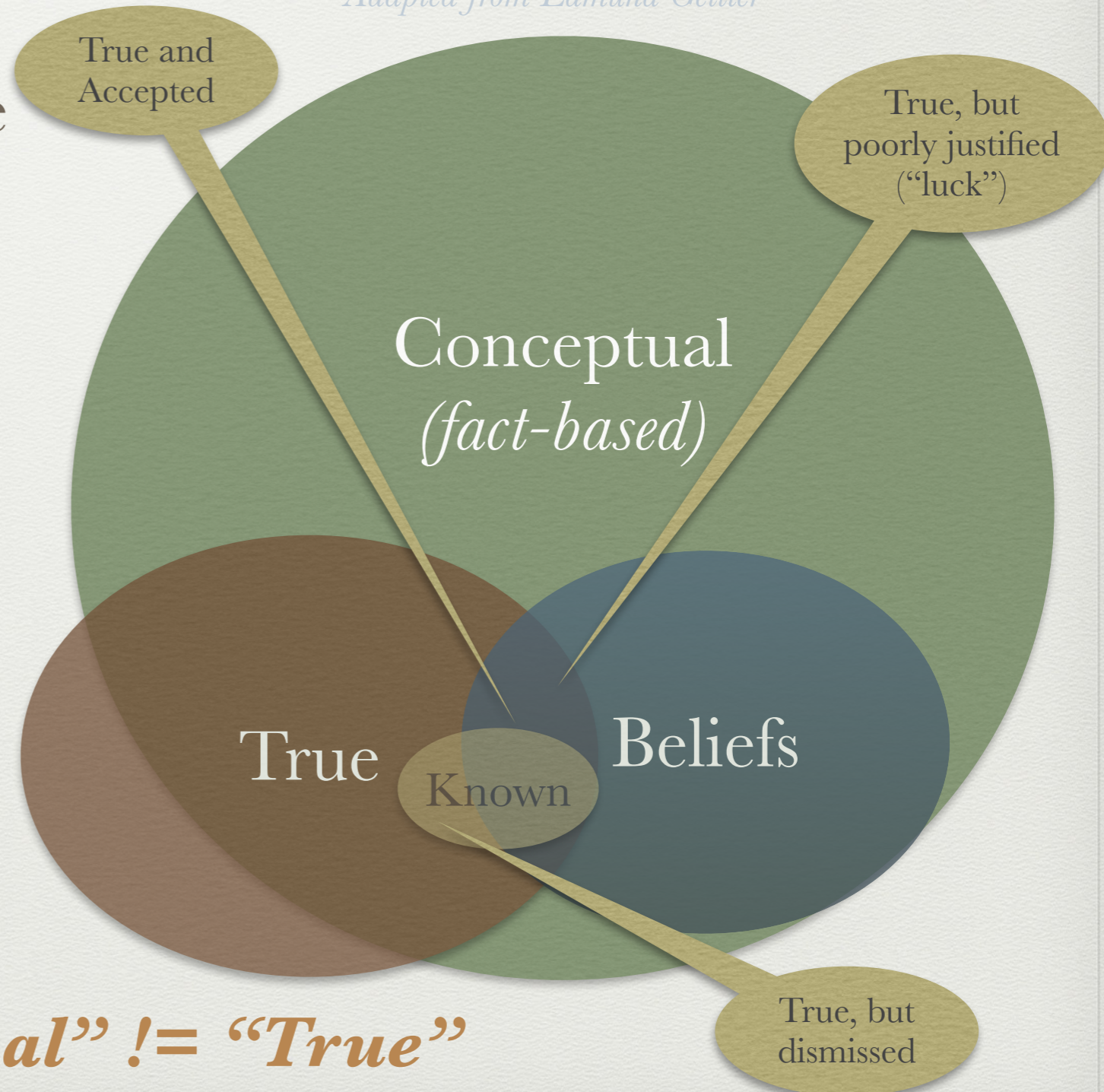
Step #1: Know the Actual Question!

Decompose the question into logical parts. Get to the question behind the question. See if you can identify the assumptions, worldview, and straw man arguments. Why is this question important at all (maybe not to you, but to the person asking you)?

What is an “Answer”?

Adapted from Edmund Gettier

- More Than One Response
 - Emotional Question
 - Intellectual Question
 - Conceptual Question
- Do we HAVE to Know?
- Knowing Vs Believing



IMPORTANT: “Factual” \neq “True”

Dealing With The Straw Man

- A Straw Man Cannot Respond
- Prevailing Assumptions are Unstated, Embedded Within
 - Can you rely on an unreliable book?
 - Give me the answer you can't give me?
 - There are no “good people”
 - Science opposed to Religion (?) ...*don't you recall that the religious leadership tried to claim the Earth is flat!?*
- There is **ALWAYS** a Question Behind The Question!

Step 2: Make a Serious Investigation of the Truth

Before I can use Scripture to answer my questions, I need to prove to myself that I understand what the Scriptures are saying and that I can trust the Scriptures to answer any question at all.

Know the Truth, Be Set Free

—*Jesus*

Pop Quiz:

Does anyone know the “if...then” in this famous statement?

Pericope Adulterae: Historical Issue

- Highly Disputed Passage (John 7:53-John 8:12)
- About the Cannon
 - What is the Latin Vulgate? (382-405 AD)
 - What is the Council of Trent? (1554-1563)
 - Why does it Matter? Whose Authority?
- Casting Doubt and “Misquoting Jesus” (Ehrman)

Timeline of the Cannon



Jesus born

Crucified & Risen (+30)

Most N.T. written (+30)

Citations by church leaders, derived works, Roman Empire has numerous churches, external records, and massive persecutions (Clement ~90 AD, Ignatius ~110 AD)

Diatessaron, Apostle's Creed, etc (~150-180AD)

Nearly complete cannon listed by Origen (late 100's AD) & Eusebius (late 200's AD)

Gnostic Gospels, organized church councils refute and issue creeds (Nicea, 325 AD)

Theodisius (381 AD)

Temple Destroyed (70 AD)

Marcion's "cannon" (140 AD)

Latin Vulgate

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time from orig	#Copies	Accuracy
Lucretius	55 or 53 B.C.	~1050 A.D.	1100 yrs	2	----
Pliny	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	----
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	1100 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000	10	----
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
N.T.	<100 A.D.	~130 AD	<100 yrs	5686	99.5%

What Constitutes A Disputed Text?

She kissed him.

He kissed her.

John kissed Candace.

- Greek Word Order Variation
- Spelling of Names, Places, and Typos (generally)
- A Spurious Sentence (mostly a few words)
 - Scribal Mark, Comment, or Correction
 - Example: Comma Johanneum, 1 John 5:7-8
- Only 2 MAJOR New Testament Disputed Passages

http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/manuscript_evidence.html

53 They went each to his own house,¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

John 7:53; 8:1-6

7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

John 8:7-12

Step #3: Separate the Data From Conjecture

Can I identify how my emotions affect my view of the data? Do I know enough from the information provided to really draw an opinion at all? If I can draw an opinion, can I put a level of confidence on that opinion?

Let's Chat About It...

- How do you Feel About This Text?
- What Issues Arise?
- Knowing the Law (the dude, the sinner judges, etc.)
- How Does It Fit with John 7? (find some verses)
- Is There Anything New Here?
- Are You Bothered By The Footnote (ESV) or Lack Thereof (NKJV)? What About Study Bible Notes?

Contents of the Pericope

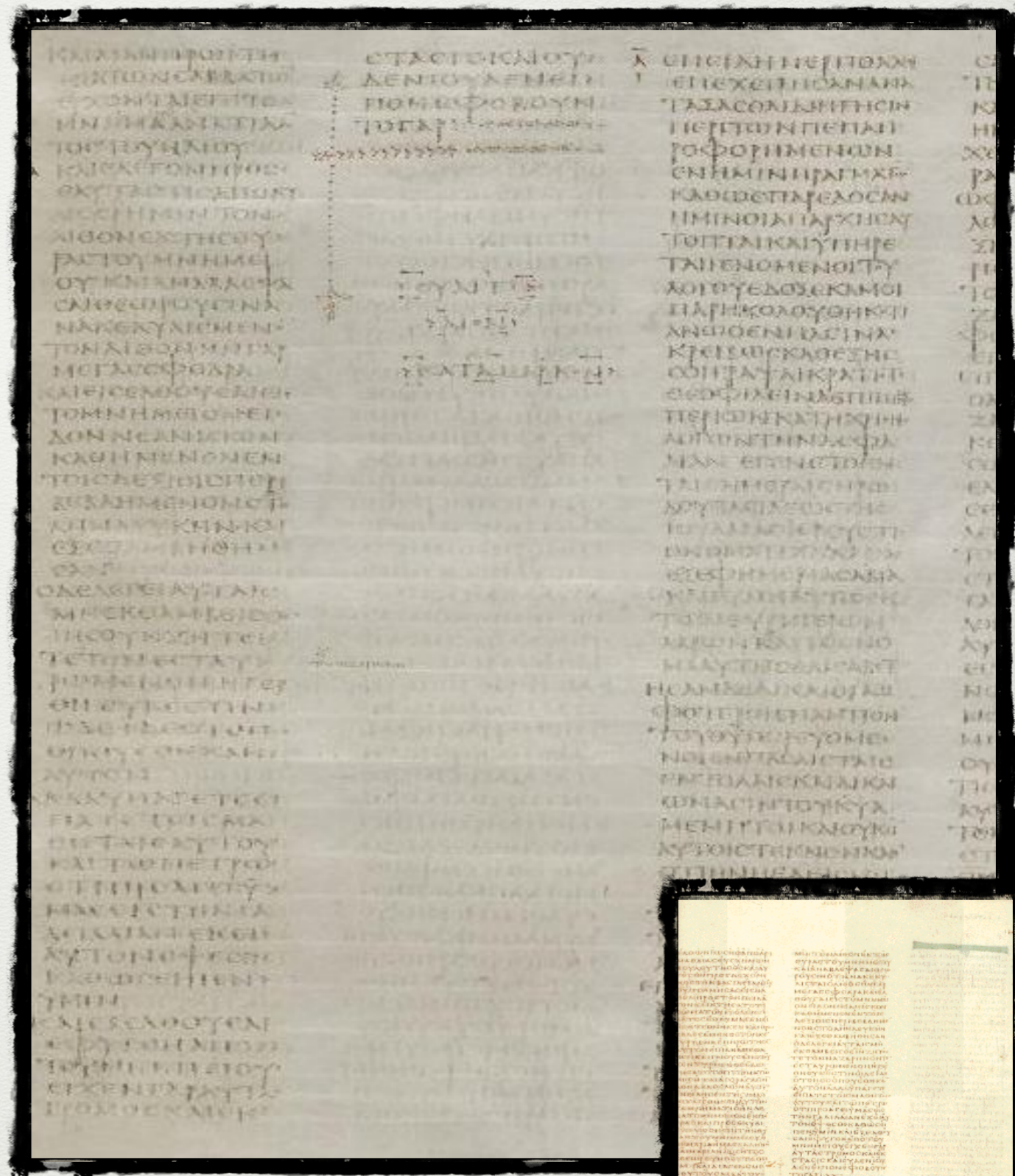
- Issue: Lack of Evidence in Early Greek Manuscripts
- Consistency with John 7
 - Requirement for Multiple Witnesses
 - Righteous Judgement, Authority and Knowledge of the Religious Leadership Regarding the Law
- Matthew 12 and Luke 7 are also consistent, So?
- No New Doctrine, Impression of Jesus (literacy)

Comparison to Mark 16

- Lack of Evidence versus Disputed Evidence
 - Manuscripts with and without space (next slides)
 - Early Direct Quotations and Fragments
 - Variations in Placement and Readings
 - Missing End Page (Mark) vs Variant Middle (PA)
- In each case, the same evidence used for Mark 16 authenticity works against inclusion of the Pericope.

Mark 16 in Codex Sinaiticus (330-360 AD)

Shows place, sufficient for
the ending, with marks
inciting a known source that
is not included. One of two
major texts demonstrating
this characteristic.



(Vaticanus inset)

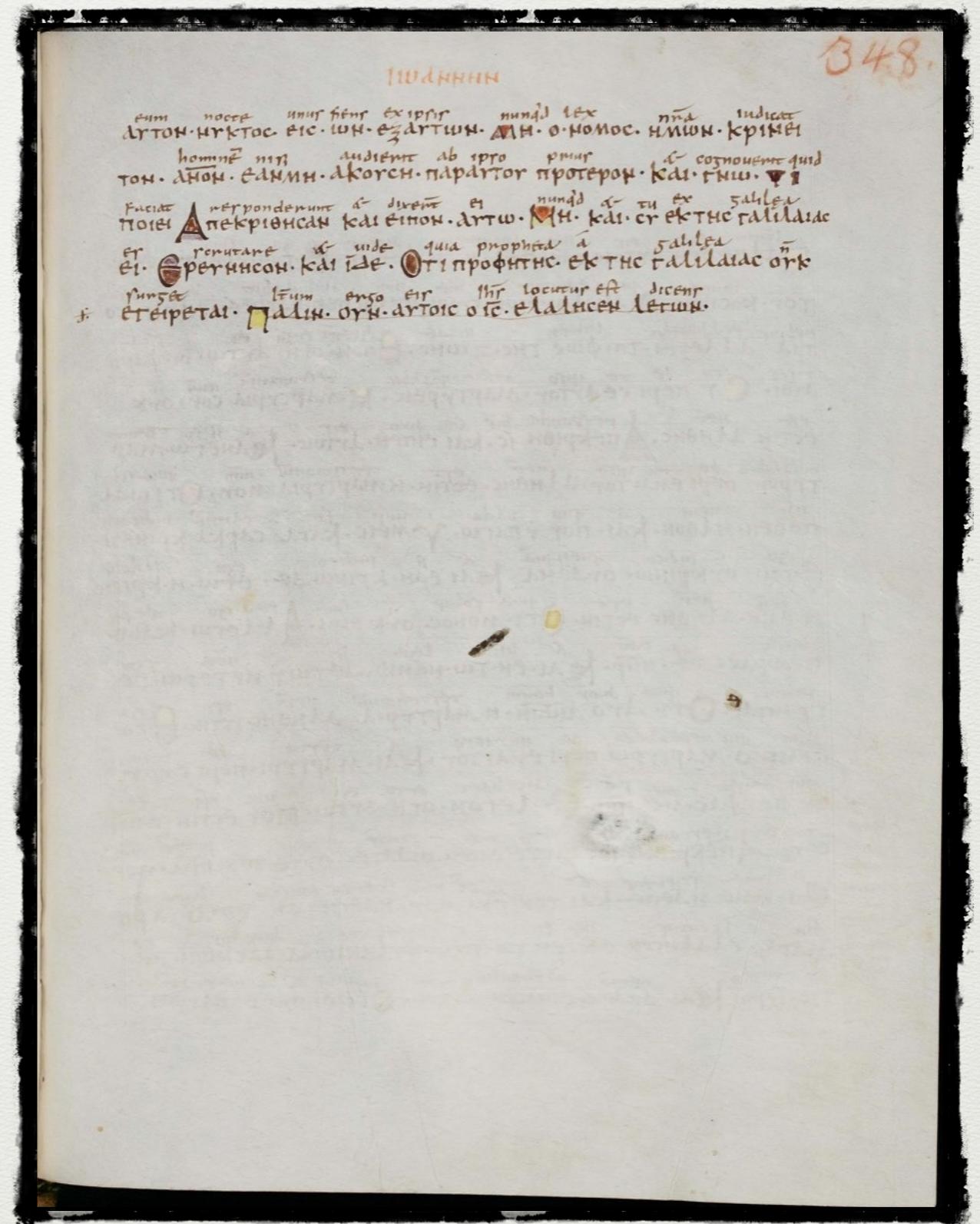
The Diatessaron by Tatian (~160 AD)

Includes the ending of Mark 16, Excludes the Pericope in John 8. Inconclusive on it's own (based on the purpose of the document) but insightful nonetheless.



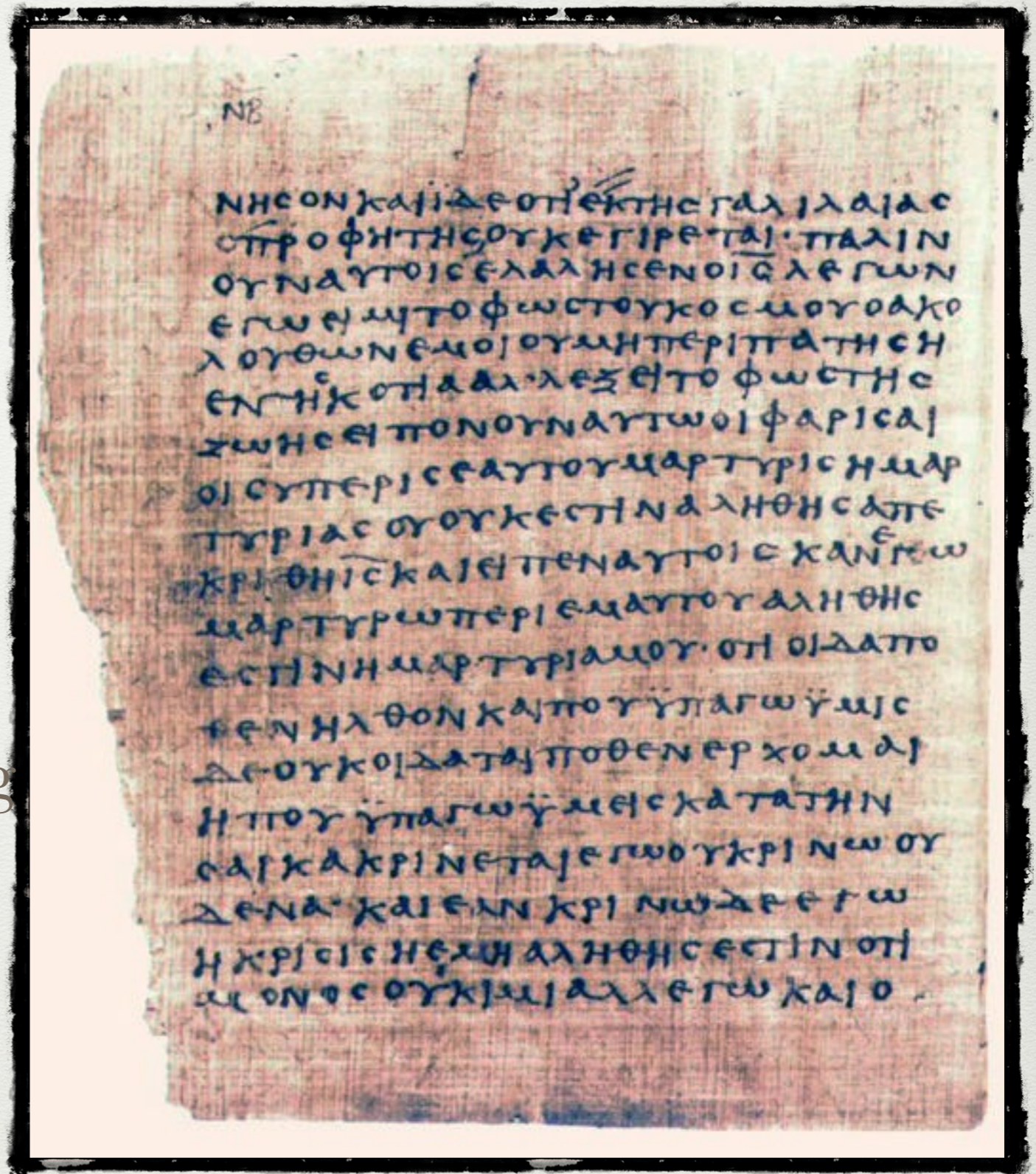
John 7/8 in Codex Sangallensis (~850 AD)

Contains space, with critical marks, showing possible variant reading at the junction of John 7 & 8. One of several early Greek texts that question the placement, length or authenticity of the Pericope.



John 7/8 in Papyrus 66 (100-150 AD)

Contains the text of John 7:52 with John 8:12 showing no break or diacritical marks. One of many early Greek texts entirely lacking the Pericope.



37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ... 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, 51 “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” 52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.” ... 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 7:37-52; John 8:12

Opinions of Scholars

- Evidence of Historical Accuracy & Credibility
 - Reference by Papias (~150 AD) [Luke 7:36 alternative?]
 - Augustine, Answering the Omission (354-430 AD)
 - Appearance of Eyewitness Account + Early Quotations
- Conservatives (Wallace) and Liberals (Ehrman) *¡Agree!!!?*
- Short Epistle Appended to John / Luke?
- Leftover Lukian Loose Leaf?

Step #4: Deal Honestly With the Results

Acts 17:11 “[the Bereans] received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

Is the data really relevant? Is my question overcome by other information I discovered along the way? (example: Job)

Being Berean About This

- Authenticity of Scripture
 - The Whole is Supported by the Few Disputes
 - The Inspiration of the Originals, Not The Copies!
 - Approaching Skeptical Ignorance with Integrity
- Pre Augustinian (Pre-Catholic) Christian Beliefs
- No Fear in Investigating the Truth!
- A Comforting Text Affirmed, But Not Canonical?

We believe the Bible, consisting of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety, is the only divinely inspired, inerrant, objectively true, and authoritative written Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The divine inspiration of Scripture extends to each word of the original manuscripts, but not to the various copies or translations of Scripture. The Bible should be interpreted literally, grammatically, contextually, and historically.

Berean Statement of Faith, Article #1

Next Question?

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“Now if the Holy Spirit has purposely neglected to teach us propositions of this sort as irrelevant to the highest goal (that is, to our salvation), how can anyone affirm that it is obligatory to take sides on them, that one belief is required by faith, while the other side is erroneous? Can an opinion be heretical and yet have no concern with the salvation of souls? ...**the intention of the Holy Ghost is to teach us how one goes to heaven, not how heaven goes.**”

—Galileo

Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany (1615)