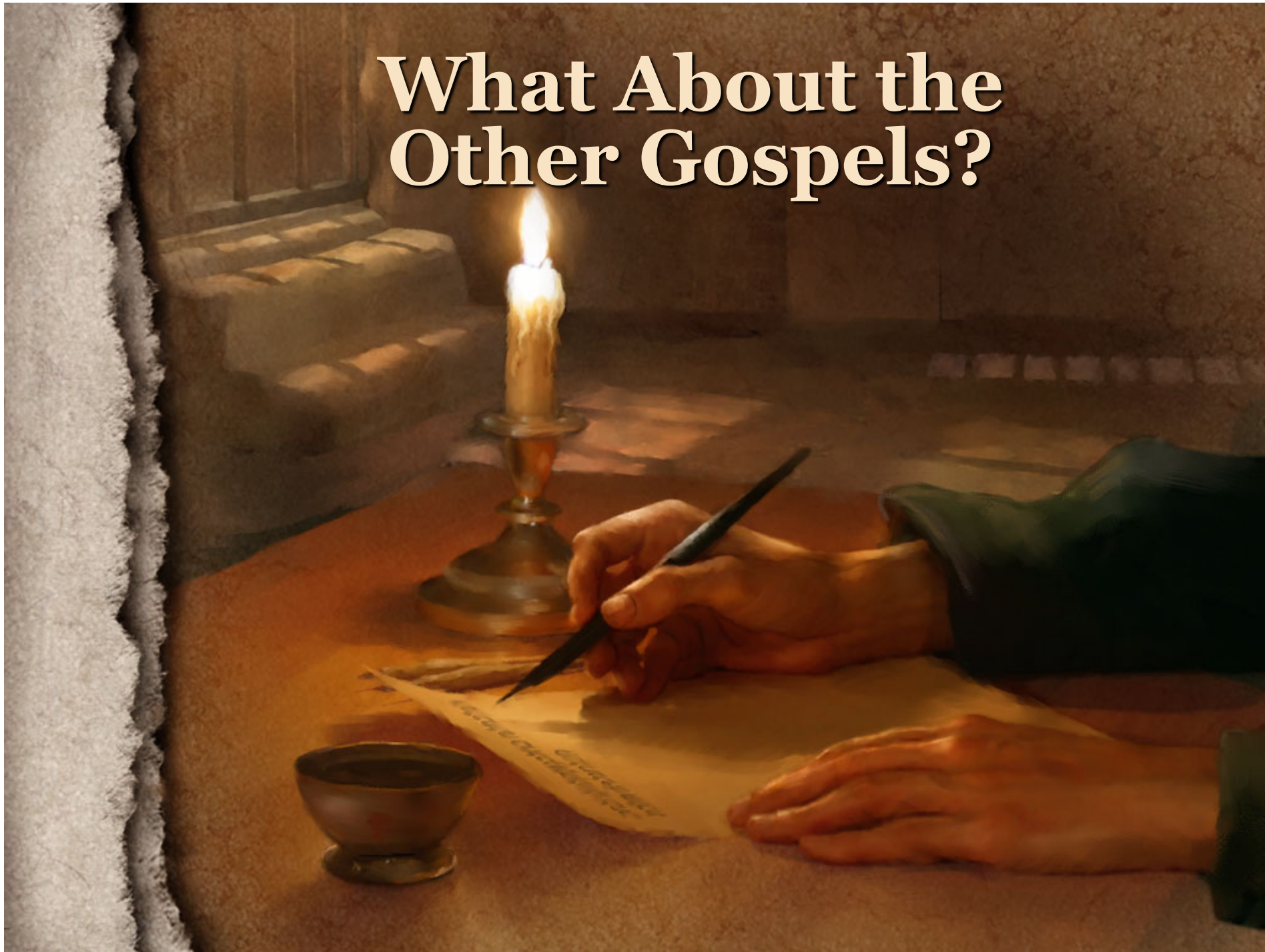


# What About the Other Gospels?





**How Many Gospels  
Were There?**

A background image showing a person's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is visible, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface, possibly a desk or table. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

# DVC – More Than Eighty Gospels!

Jesus Christ was a figure of staggering influence... Understandably, His life was recorded by thousands of followers across the land... More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John among them.



**Reality – A Lot  
Fewer Than Eighty!**

A background image showing a person's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is on the desk, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface with a parchment-like texture.

## Factual Errors in This Statement

There are several historical errors in Teabing's account. As we will see in a later chapter, Jesus' words and deeds were by no means recorded 'by thousands' during his lifetime; on the contrary there is no evidence that anyone recorded the facts of his life while he was still living.

A person is shown from the side, writing on a piece of parchment with a quill pen. A lit candle in a brass holder provides light. A small glass sits on the desk. The background is a textured, brownish wall.

# Factual Errors in This Statement

Nor were there eighty Gospels considered for inclusion in the New Testament. And Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are not ‘among’ those that were included in the New Testament – they were the only ones included.

Bart Ehrman

*Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code*, page 48

A person is shown from the side, writing on a piece of parchment with a quill pen. A lit candle in a brass holder provides light. A small glass of ink sits on the desk. The background is a textured, brownish wall.

# Factual Errors in This Statement

As I've already indicated, Teabing is wrong to assert that there were eighty other Gospels vying for a place in the New Testament. The reality is we don't even *know* how many other Gospels were written; we certainly do not have eighty available to us today, although there are at least a couple of dozen that we know about.

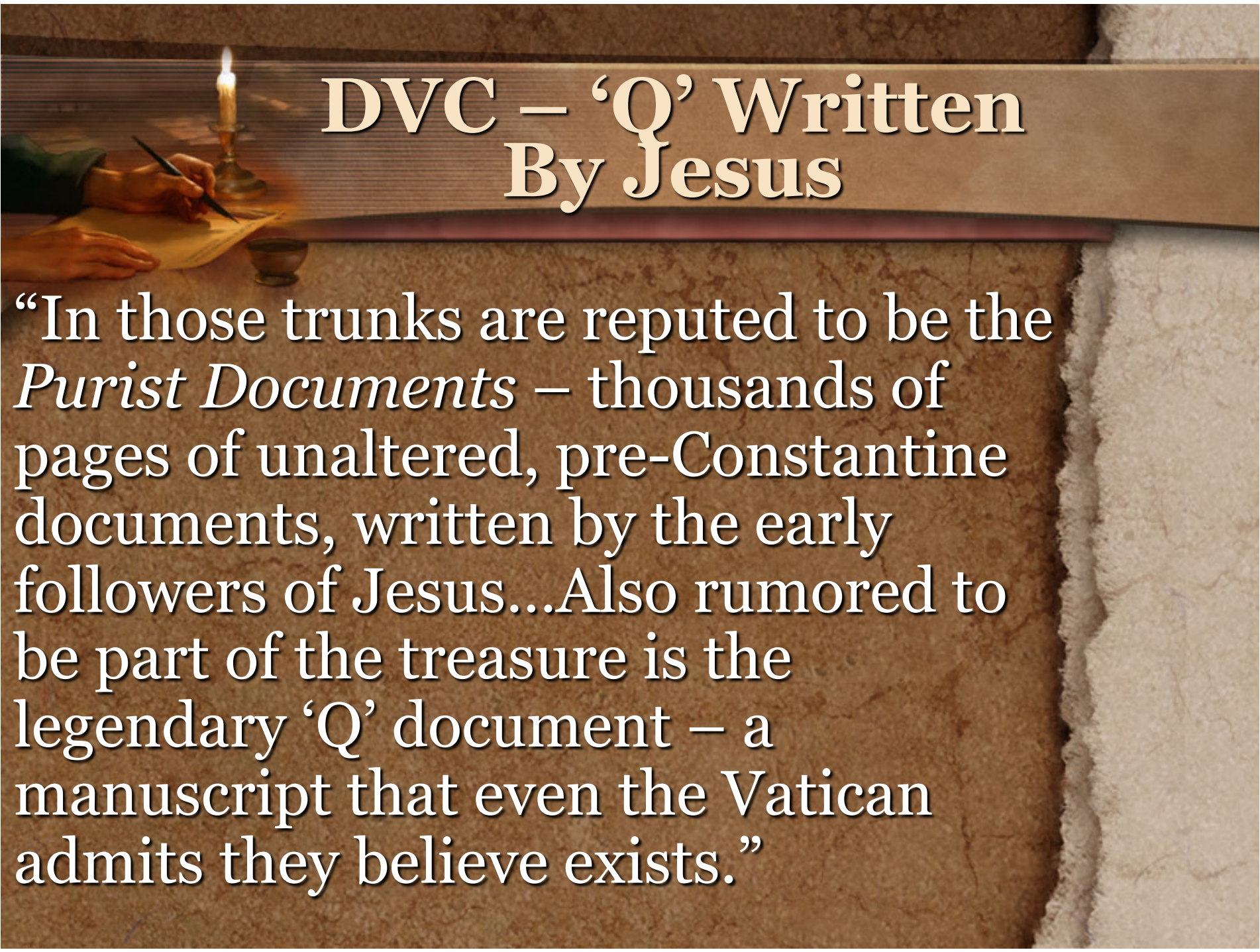
Bart Ehrman

*Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code*, pages 48-49



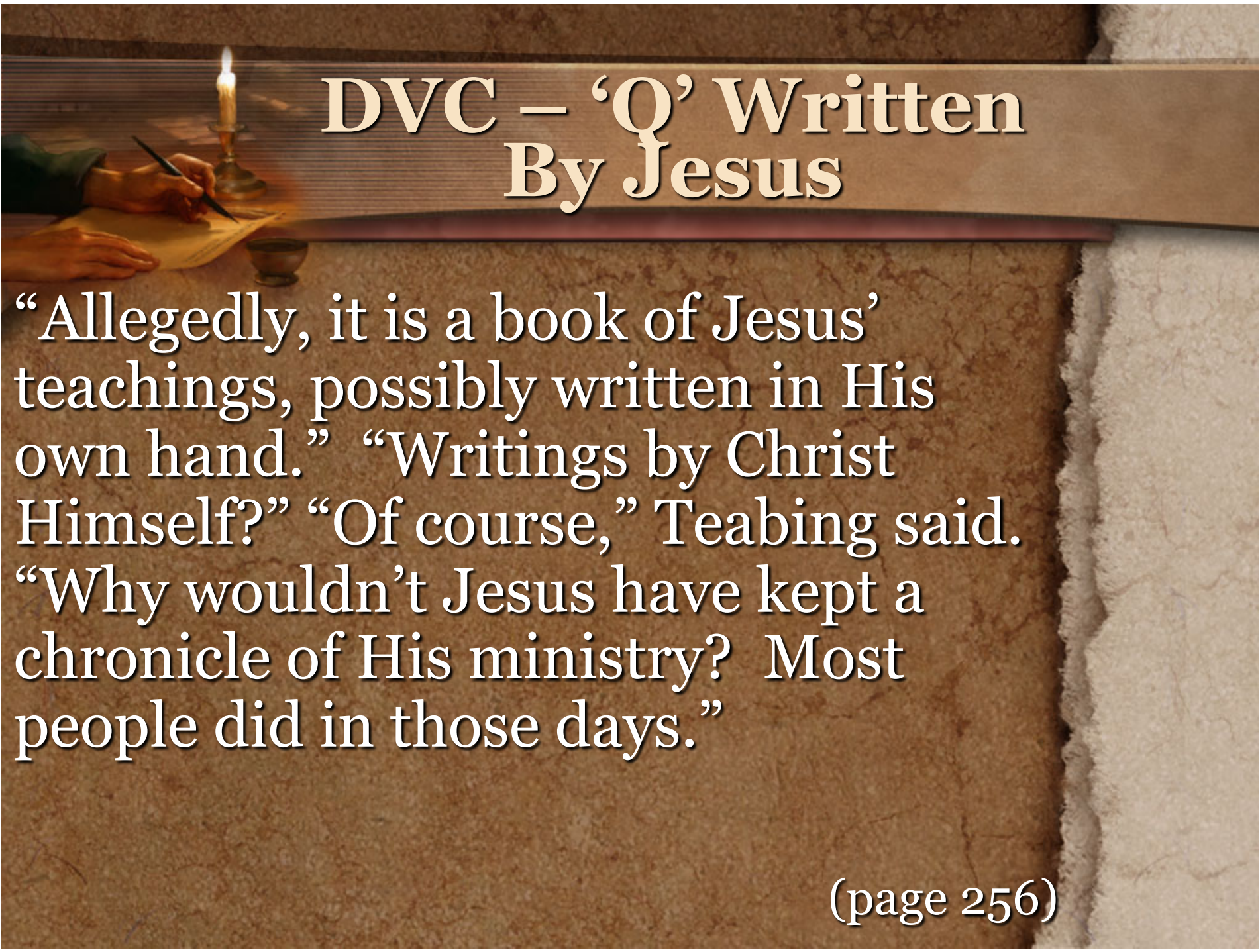
# Q, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Nag Hammadi Texts



A person's hands are shown writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a brass holder provides light. A small glass sits on the desk. The background is a textured, brownish surface.

## DVC – ‘Q’ Written By Jesus

“In those trunks are reputed to be the *Purist Documents* – thousands of pages of unaltered, pre-Constantine documents, written by the early followers of Jesus...Also rumored to be part of the treasure is the legendary ‘Q’ document – a manuscript that even the Vatican admits they believe exists.”

A background image showing a person's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is on the desk, casting a warm glow. The scene is set against a textured, brownish background.

## DVC – ‘Q’ Written By Jesus

“Allegedly, it is a book of Jesus’ teachings, possibly written in His own hand.” “Writings by Christ Himself?” “Of course,” Teabing said. “Why wouldn’t Jesus have kept a chronicle of His ministry? Most people did in those days.”

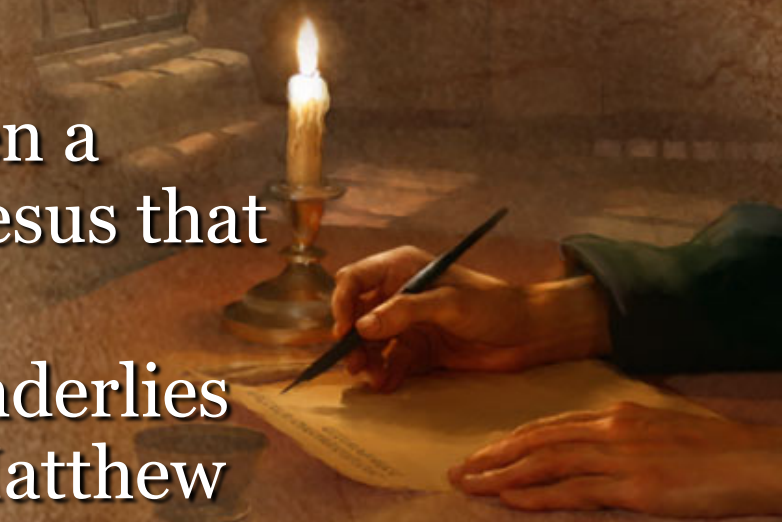
(page 256)



# The 'Reality' About 'Q'

## 'Q' - A Hypothetical Collection of Sayings of Jesus

- 'Q' is an abbreviation for the German word 'Quelle', which means 'source.'
- 'Q' is a hypothetical document
- 'Q' is not thought to have been written by Jesus
- 'Q' is thought to have been a collection of sayings of Jesus that circulated
- Some scholars think it underlies many sayings found in Matthew and Luke





# The Dead Sea Scrolls

A background image showing a person's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is on the left, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on this image.

## DVC – Dead Sea Scrolls Contain Gospels

“Fortunately for historians,” Teabing said, “some of the Gospels that Constantine attempted to eradicate managed to survive. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950’s hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert...Of course the Vatican, in keeping with their tradition of misinformation, tried very hard to suppress the release of these scrolls.”

(page 234)



# The Reality About The Dead Sea Scrolls

## The Dead Sea Scrolls – A Collection of Jewish Writings

- The Dead Sea Scrolls were originally found in 1947 – not the 1950's
- The Dead Sea Scrolls make no mention of Jesus or Christianity at all
- The Vatican in no way tried to suppress the release of the Dead Sea Scrolls







# The Nag Hammadi Texts

A person's hands are shown writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder provides light, and a small bowl is visible on the desk. The background is a textured, brownish surface.

## DVC – Nag Hammadi Texts Contain Original Gospels

“Fortunately for historians,” Teabing said, “some of the Gospels that Constantine attempted to eradicate managed to survive... And, of course, the Coptic Scrolls in 1945 at Nag Hammadi. In addition to telling the true Grail story, these documents speak of Christ’s ministry in very human terms. Of course the Vatican, in keeping with their tradition of misinformation, tried very hard to suppress the release of these scrolls.”

(page 234)



# The Reality About The Nag Hammadi Texts

# The Nag Hammadi Texts – Gnostic Writings

- The documents at Nag Hammadi were books, not scrolls
- Constantine did not try to destroy these texts – we have no record of imperial book burnings!
- These documents make no mention of the Grail at all



# The Nag Hammadi Texts – Gnostic Writings

- The Vatican in no way tried to suppress the release of these documents
- These documents do not speak of Christ in “very human terms.” In fact, they were rejected by the early church because they denied the real humanity of Christ!





# A Brief Overview of Gnostic Writings

# A Brief Overview of Gnostic Writings

- Gnostic writings were not a uniform collection or canon
- Gnostic Gospels and writings include *The Gospel According to Thomas*, *The Gospel of Judas*, *The Infancy Gospel of Thomas*, *The Gospel of Peter*, *The Apocalypse of Peter*, *The Gospel of Mary*, *The Gospel of Philip*, etc.



# A Brief Overview of Gnostic Writings

- Contrary to the claims of DVC, the Gnostic writings are clearly later than the writings of the New Testament. All of the books of the New Testament were written prior to 100 AD, while almost every Gnostic Gospel was a product of the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century.





# A Brief Overview of Gnostic Writings

- The specific disciple or follower of Christ who are the “heroes” and “villains” in each of these writings differ from the specific disciples or followers who are the “heroes” or “villains” in the other Gnostic writings



# A Brief Overview of Gnostic Writings

- These writings did have a common overarching set of beliefs on the world, God, humanity, salvation, and Christ.
- The Gnostic beliefs on these topics stood in sharp contrast to the beliefs of orthodox Christianity and the apostolic writings that had been accepted by the Church





# A Closer Look at Gnostic vs. Christian Beliefs

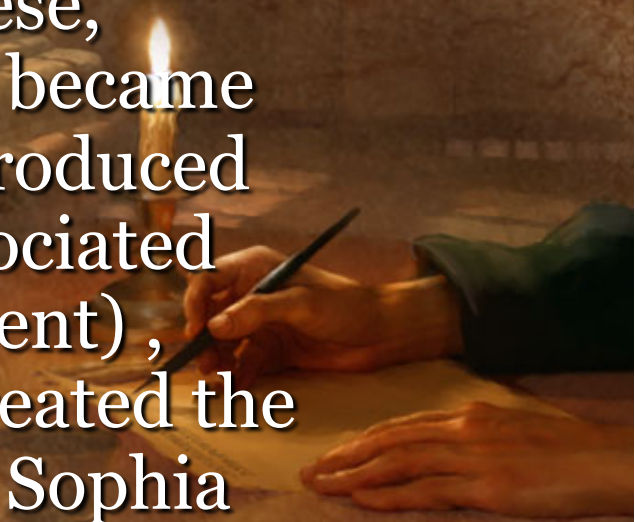
# The World

- Gnostic – the material world is inherently evil, and stands in unalterable opposition to the world of the spirit, which is good
- Christian – the material world was created by God and was good, but now struggles under the curse because of man's sin.



# God (Gnostic View)

The True God is completely spirit and can have no contact with matter, which is inherently sinful. In eternity past God created other divine emanations, who themselves paired off and produced offspring. Eventually one of these, usually called Sophia (wisdom) became separated and spontaneously produced another divine being (often associated with the God of the Old Testament), who with help of his minions created the material world and imprisoned Sophia within it.

A person's hands are shown writing in a book with a quill pen. A single lit candle provides the light, casting a warm glow on the scene. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an ancient or historical setting.

# God (Christian View)

There is only One True God, the Triune Father, Son, and Spirit, Who made the material world, Who loves that world, called it good, and Who became truly human to work salvation for fallen humanity



## Humanity (Gnostic View)

Sophia is trapped within some human bodies, who thus have the divine spark within them and can be saved. Other humans who do not have this spark are simply material like animals and will cease to exist when they die



# Humanity (Christian View)

All humans are created in God's image, and human bodies are an inherent part of what it means to be human. All humans are loved by God, and all humans will be bodily resurrected after death – some to eternal life and others to eternal destruction





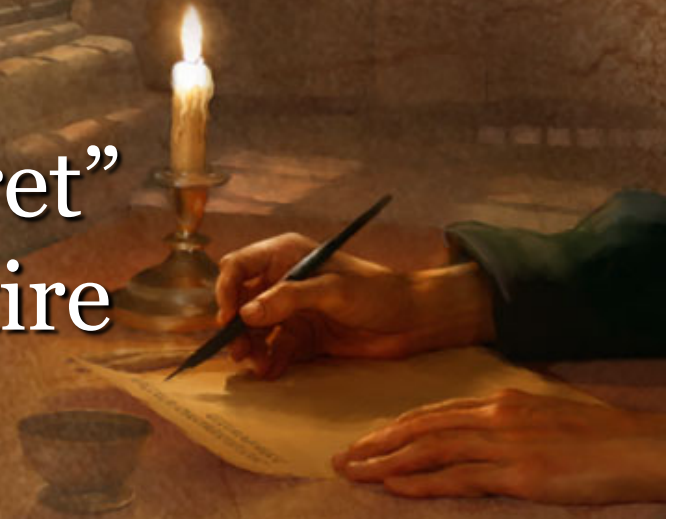
## Revelation (Gnostic View)

God had revealed secret knowledge to specific apostles, and this knowledge had been passed on in secret to the later Gnostics. Often the Old Testament played little or no part in Gnostic revelation



# Revelation (Christian View)

God had revealed Himself in both the writings of the Old Testament, and openly to all the apostles in the New Testament. This revelation was not “secret” but was given to the entire church to know and understand



## Salvation (Gnostic View)

The divine spark can only be saved and escape this material world through knowledge. It must learn where it came from, how it got here, and it can be delivered through gnosis (knowledge)



# Salvation (Christian View)

Salvation came through the very physical life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man. Those who have true faith in Christ are saved, and will one day be bodily raised from the dead



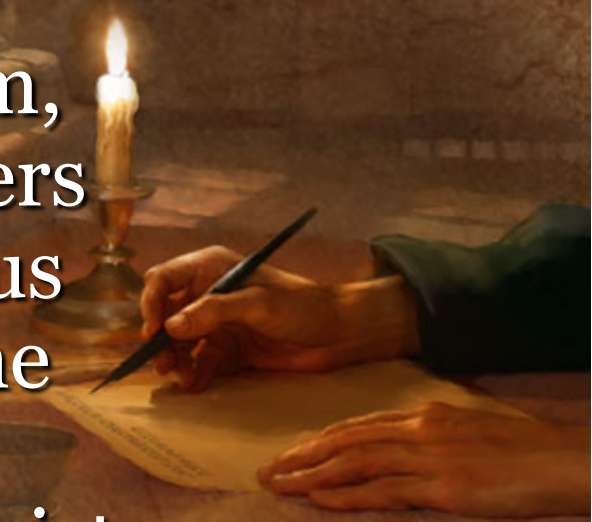
# Jesus Christ (Gnostic View)

Christ came from out of this world to bring this gnosis (knowledge) so that those with the divine spark could learn it and be saved



# Two Gnostic Views on Jesus Christ

- Docetists - Jesus only appeared to be human, but was not really flesh and blood.
- Adoptionists - the Divine Christ came upon or in the human Jesus at his baptism, and then taught his followers the truth. He then left Jesus prior to the crucifixion. The human Jesus suffered and died, but not the divine Christ.




# Jesus Christ (Christian View)

Jesus Christ was truly God and truly man. He was the Eternal Son of God, one with the Father, but was truly born of the virgin Mary and was true flesh and blood human. Jesus Christ was God Incarnate – God in human flesh.



# Why Were the Gnostics and Their Texts Rejected?

- Their texts often contradicted one another and accepted Christian writings
  - The texts were not written by the apostles whose name they bear
  - Their texts contained bizarre incidents and ideas
  - The Gnostics and orthodox Christians had two sets of incompatible beliefs
- 
- A person's hands are shown writing on a scroll with a quill pen. The scene is lit by a single candle in a glass holder on a wooden desk. The background is a textured, brownish wall.





# When Were the Gnostics and Their Texts Rejected?

A background image showing a person's hands writing in a book with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is visible, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden desk with a small bowl nearby. The overall aesthetic is historical and scholarly.

## Incipient Gnosticism Was Rejected During NT Times

<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and **our hands have touched**-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

1 John 1:1

A background image showing a person's hands writing in a book with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is on the desk, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface with a parchment-like texture.

## Incipient Gnosticism Was Rejected During NT Times

<sup>20</sup> Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and **the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge (gnosis),** <sup>21</sup> which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

A background image showing a person's hands writing in a book with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is on the desk, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface with a parchment-like texture.

## Incipient Gnosticism Was Rejected During NT Times

<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

A background image showing a person's hands writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder is on the desk, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface, possibly a desk or table. The overall tone is historical and scholarly.

## Incipient Gnosticism Was Rejected During NT Times

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in **bodily** form...

A person's hands are shown writing on a scroll with a quill pen. A lit candle in a holder provides light, and a small bowl is visible on the desk. The background is a textured, parchment-like surface.

## Incipient Gnosticism Was Rejected During NT Times

<sup>20</sup> Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup> **"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"**? <sup>22</sup> These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

A person's hands are shown writing in a book on a desk. A lit candle in a holder provides light, and a small bowl is visible on the desk. The background is a textured, brownish surface.

## Incipient Gnosticism Was Rejected During NT Times

<sup>23</sup> Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their **harsh treatment of the body**, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Colossians 2:8-9; 20-23

# Early Fathers Who Rejected the Gnostics

- Justin Martyr – died c. 165
- Irenaeus – c. 180 AD
- Tertullian – c. 155-230



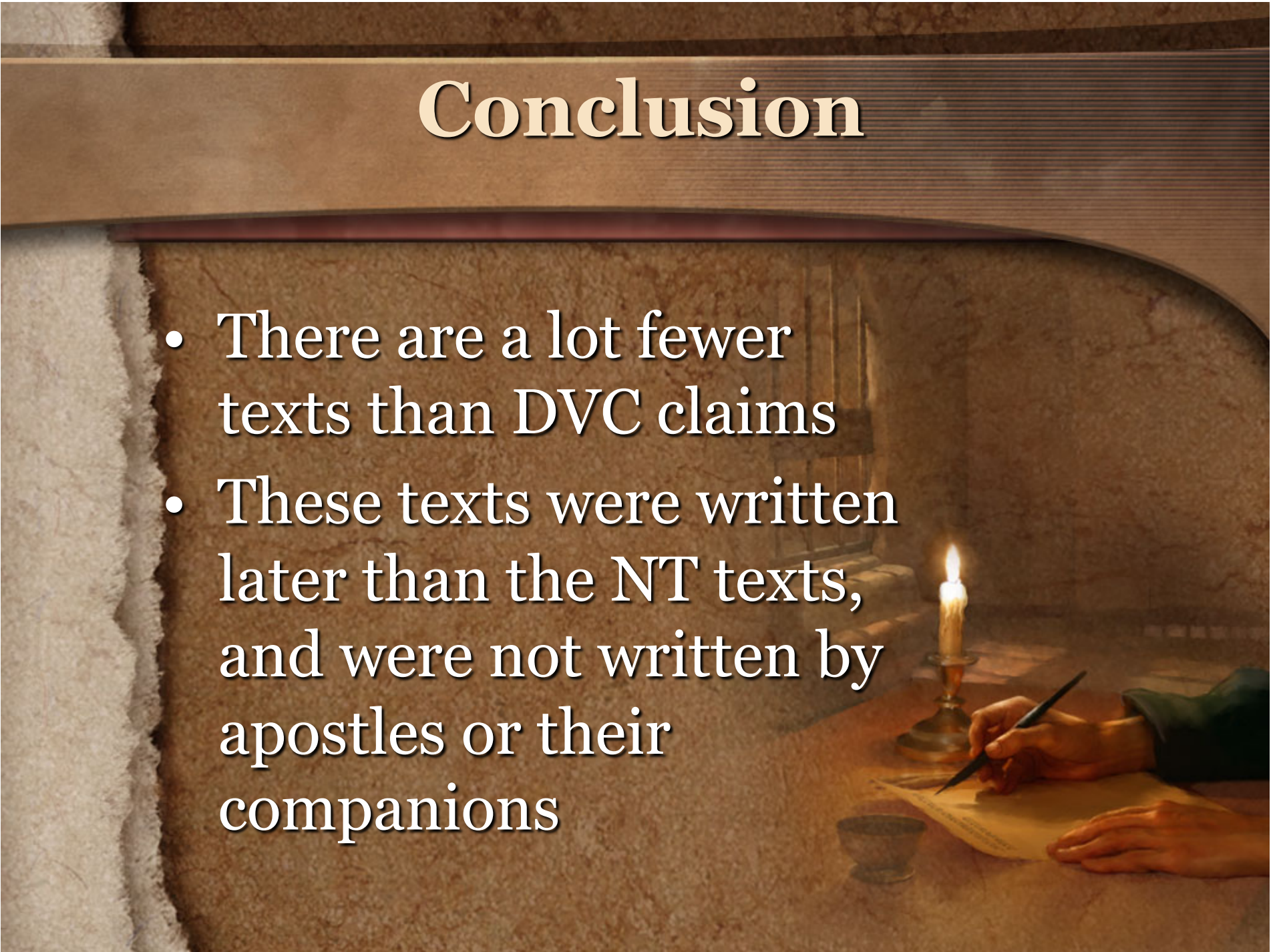




# Conclusion

# Conclusion

- There are a lot fewer texts than DVC claims
- These texts were written later than the NT texts, and were not written by apostles or their companions



# Conclusion

- These texts are not historically accurate, but contain bizarre and fanciful events
- The ideas contained in these texts contradict orthodox Christianity
- The Gnostics were consistently rejected from the middle of the first century on, long before the time of Constantine

