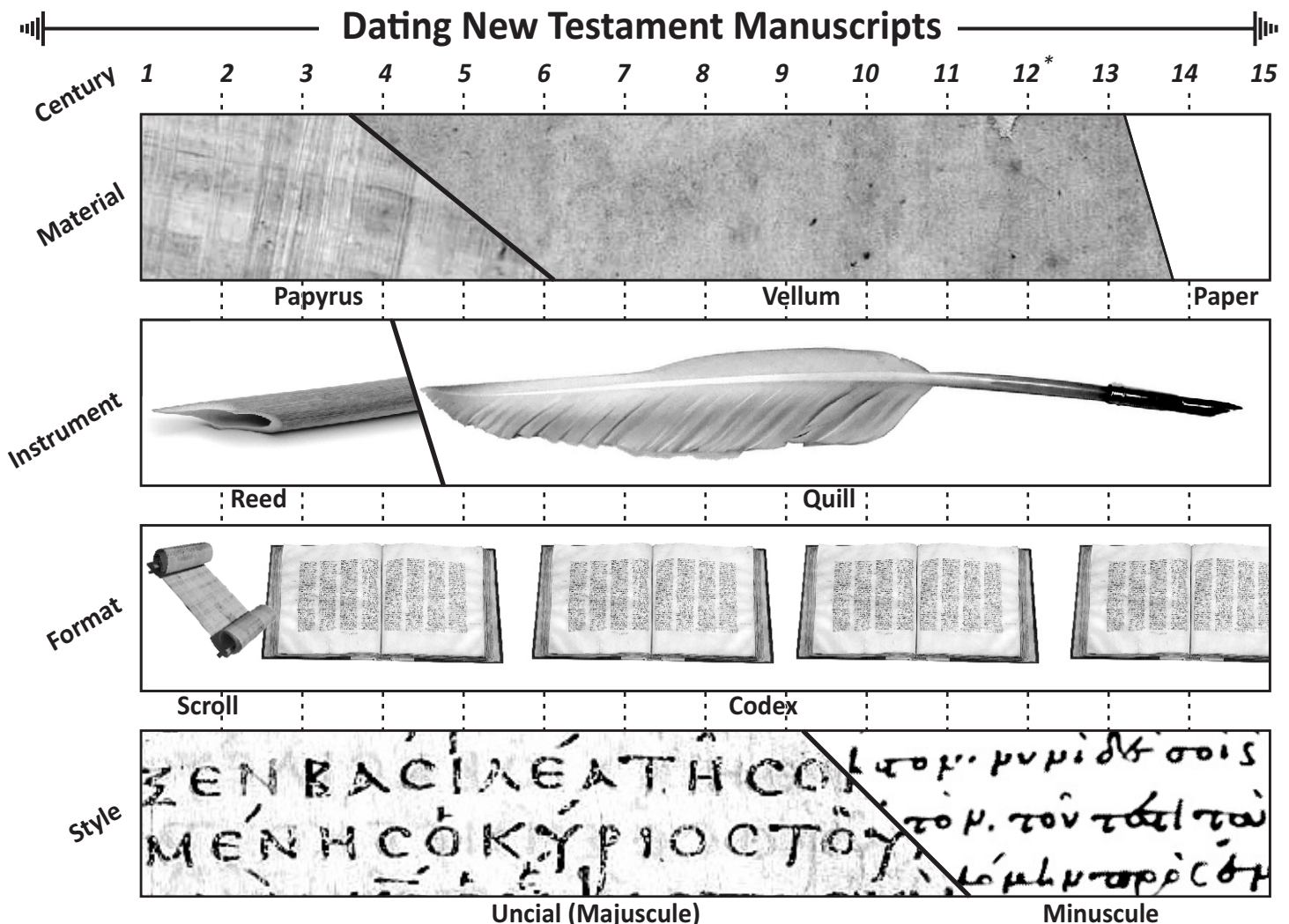


The History of the Bible

TRANSMISSION - NEW TESTAMENT

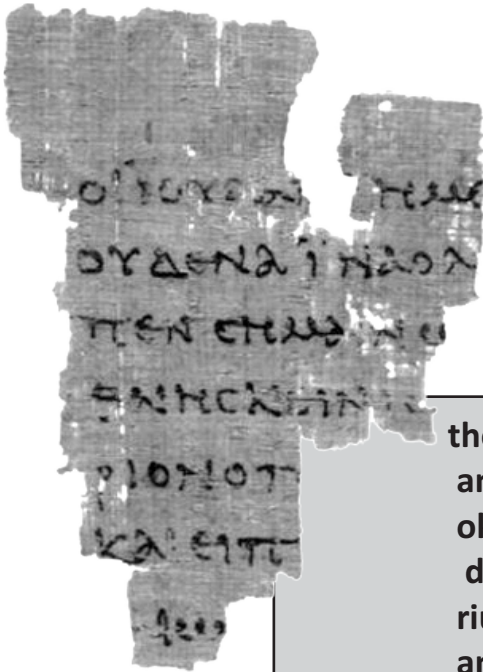
Transmission: The process of copying the ancient Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament manuscripts in order to preserve them and ensure large distribution, making them available for future generations.

Materials	Instruments	Format	Style
<p>Papyrus – a paper, originally made in ancient Egypt, made from the grainy stem of a water plant.</p> <p>Vellum – a parchment paper made from dried and treated animal skin, usually lambskin or calfskin. Vellum would be durable, but stiff.</p>	<p>Reed – a writing instrument made from a sharpened reed plant. (See 3rd John 13)</p> <p>Quill – a pen made from a bird feather. It was the primary writing instrument from the 6th – 19th centuries. It is more delicate than a reed, making it difficult to use on papyrus, but suitable for vellum.</p>	<p>Scroll – (Greek ‘Biblos’) a collection of sheets (usually papyrus) glued and rolled into a single document.</p> <p>Codex – from the Latin word “caudex,” it came to describe a collection of folded, trimmed and bound vellum papers.</p>	<p>Uncial/Majuscule – the earliest form of handwriting in Greek New Testaments. Majuscules are large block letters with no punctuation or spaces between words. Think of this as “all capitals.”</p> <p>Miniscule – by approximately the 8th Century, the use of smaller (lower case) lettering was becoming more common. This style allowed for word spacing, punctuation and sometimes paragraph divisions.</p>



* Chart adapted from “Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism” by Harold Greenlee.

P52 or 'Saint John's Fragment'

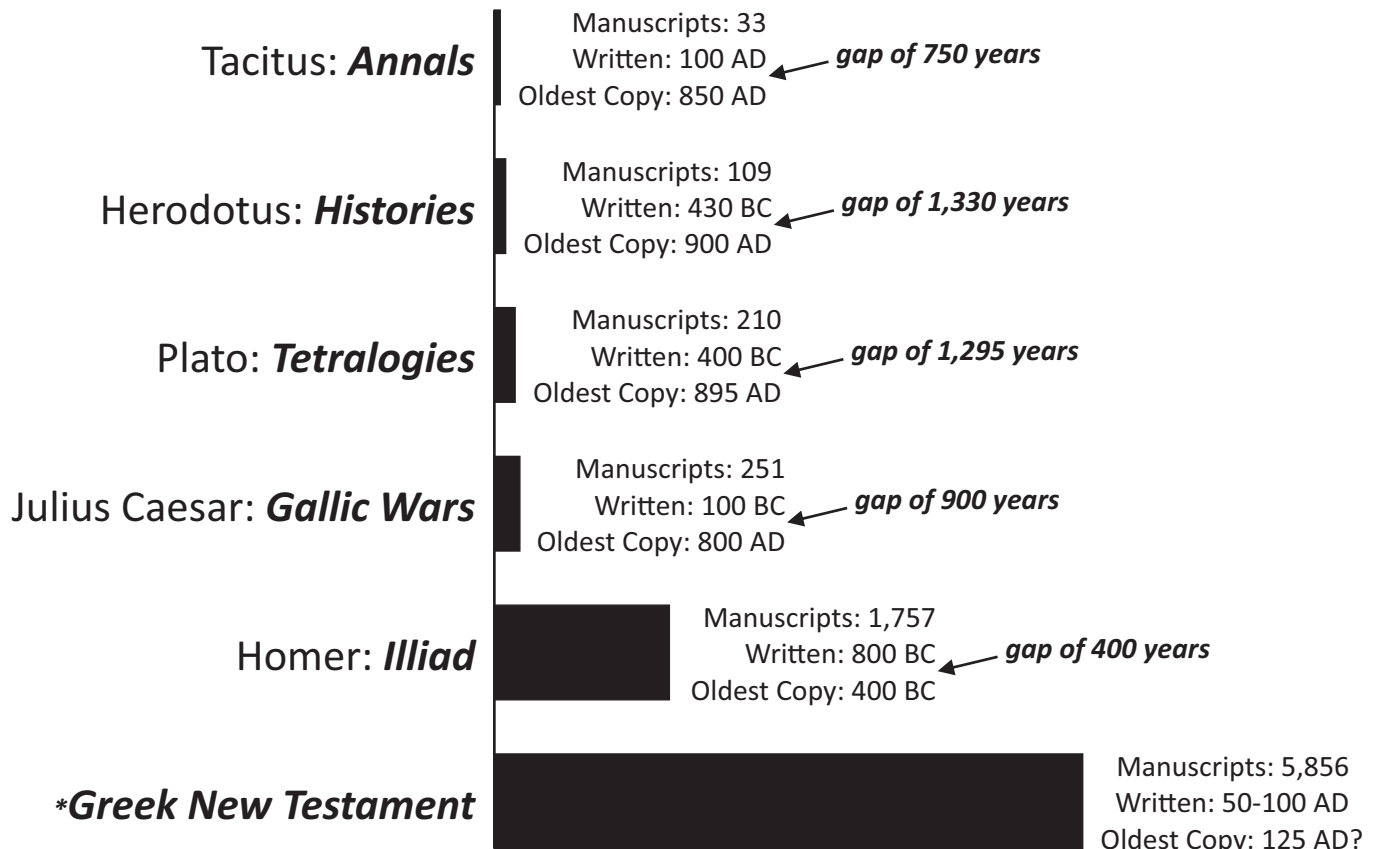


Discovered in a collection of papyri in Egypt in 1920, P52 (Rylands Library Papyrus 52) is likely the oldest known fragment from the New Testament. The recto (front side, seen here at actual size) contains portions of John 18:31-33 while the verso (back side) contains portions of John 18:37-38.

The age of P52 is a matter of debate, but most scholars agree it pre-dates 200 AD and made be **as old as about 115-125 AD** - within a few decades of the autograph.

the Jews, "For us it is not permitted to kill anyone," so that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spoke signifying what kind of death he was going to die. Entered therefore again into the Praetorium Pilate and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Thou art king of the Jews?"

The New Testament's Reliable Record



gap of about 40 years

* This does not include roughly 18,000 ancient New Testament manuscripts in other languages.

** Chart adapted from "A Visual Theology Guide to the Bible" by Tim Challies and Josh Byers.