

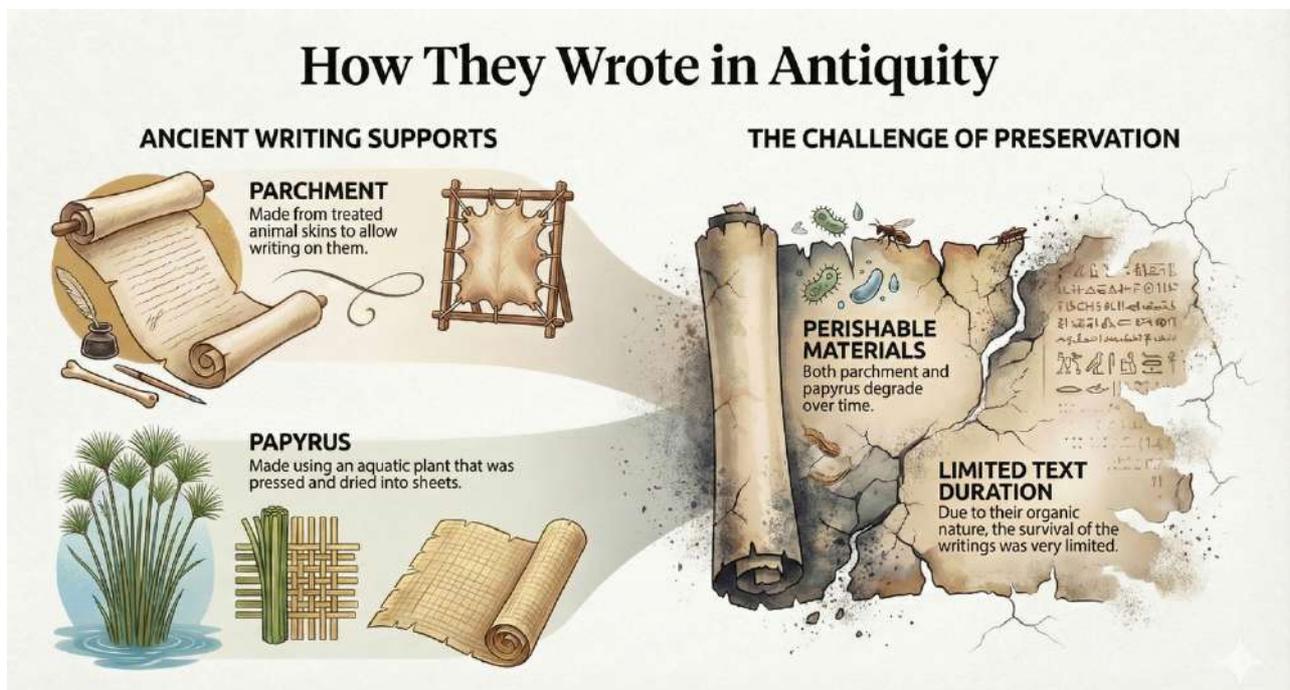
PART ONE: KNOWING THE BIBLE

CHAPTER 5 HAS THE BIBLE BEEN MANIPULATED THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES?

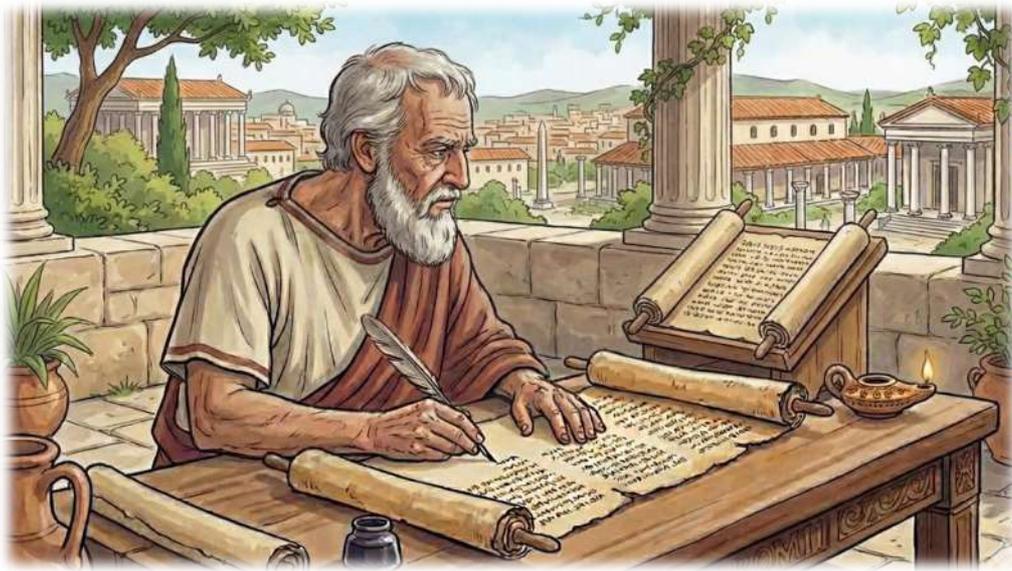
From a written work we can have two things:

- 1.-**The original text** written by its author in his own handwriting (we call this text *autograph*).
- 2.-A **copy** made by another person.
Copies may have been made from the same original text or from a copy.

In ancient times, thousands of people wrote books and texts. The reality is that we do not preserve a single *autograph* (original text written by the author himself) of any old work. The reason is simple: books were written on materials that soon degraded and rotted: parchment (animal skins) or papyrus (plants). That is why no *autograph* text from antiquity has survived (and therefore no biblical *autograph*, neither from the Old Testament nor from the New Testament, has survived to the present day).



How, then, did the works of antiquity come down to us? All of them have come down to us through handwritten copies made of the original texts; and then copies of those copies, and copies of copies... until the invention of the printing press (around 1440 AD)



A person copying an original text

Many say, "Then if we don't have the original of Matthew's Gospel (the papyrus or parchment that Matthew originally wrote) but only copies and copies of the copies... Surely changes and manipulations have been introduced over the centuries."

This is exactly what many people think: "The various copies have been mutilating, changing and manipulating the original texts. We are not sure that we possess the writings as they were composed by the original authors."

Is this true? It turns out that to study these questions there is the so-called "Textual Criticism". **It is the science that allows the original text to be reconstructed from copies.** It uses a totally reliable scientific methodology, based on a rigorous discipline. Thanks to his methodology we are sure that the copies we have of some old books have accurately transmitted the original text as it was written by the author.

"Textual Criticism" has been concerned with studying the Bible. And what he has discovered is incredible! The Bible is a unique case in the history of the books of antiquity: by applying scientific methodology, it has been shown that the Bible strictly meets all the rigorous criteria that indicate that there has been no manipulation or alteration in the transmission of copies. Moreover, the Bible is the text of antiquity that we are most fully sure of preserving as it was written by the original authors.

As it is a broad and very interesting topic, I encourage you to watch a documentary on YouTube where these things are explained in more depth (referring to the New Testament). You have it in a link that you will find below this PDF. Look at it for data and proof of the perfect assurance that the Bible copies we have have transmitted to us the original text as it was written.

The video is in Spanish, but you can turn on subtitles in your language (or find some way to translate it)