

# APOLOGETICS

## IN ONE LESSON

↑  
almost

Ai1L.net

### **Lesson 12**

Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels

# Key Takeaways (review)

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1

Paul focuses on an **intuitive argument** for God's existence using knowledge that everyone has

2

Romans 1 says that resistance to a belief in God is a choice based on an **anti-God bias**

3

The bias against a belief in God is based on **unrighteousness**

## Lesson

5. Is the New Testament from Eyewitnesses?
6. Eyewitness Memory
7. The Primacy of the Primary Sources
8. Jesus the Rabbi (Ancient Teaching Methods)
9. How Not to Start a Religion
10. “Christians believe by ‘faith’, not facts”
11. Evidence for God that Everyone Has (Romans 1:18-23)

## Source

- Named eyewitnesses  
(not community development)
- Eyewitness recollections  
(not corrupted memories)
- Diligently vetted sources  
(not haphazardly chosen)
- Ancient Rabbi  
(not an ad-hoc process)
- Jesus’ resurrection  
(not an easy to believe message)
- The fact of the resurrection of Jesus  
(not a belief without evidence)
- God  
(not a naturalistic process)

Walter

Mia

Harry

Aiden

Luna



Helen

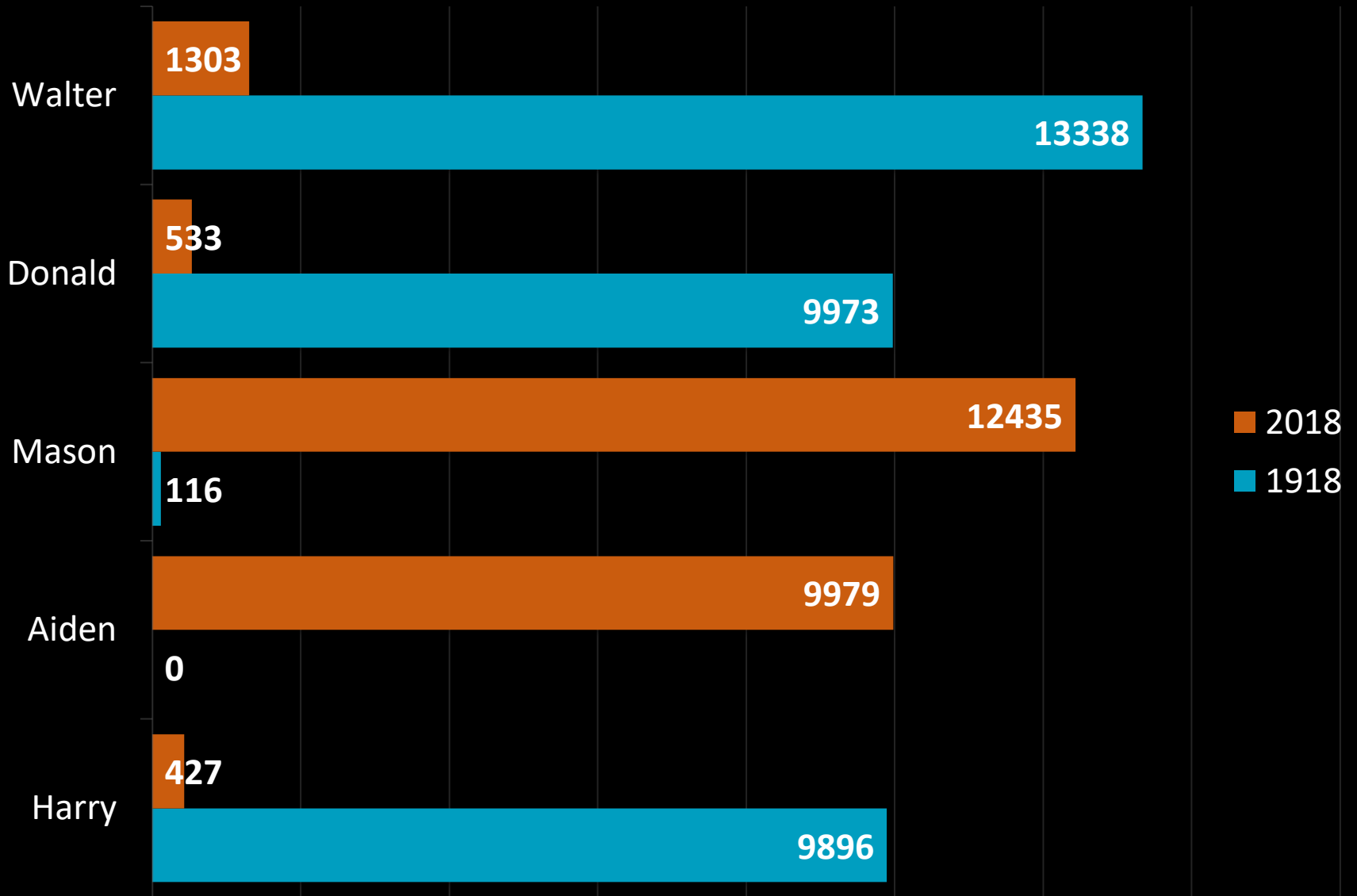
Mildred

Mason

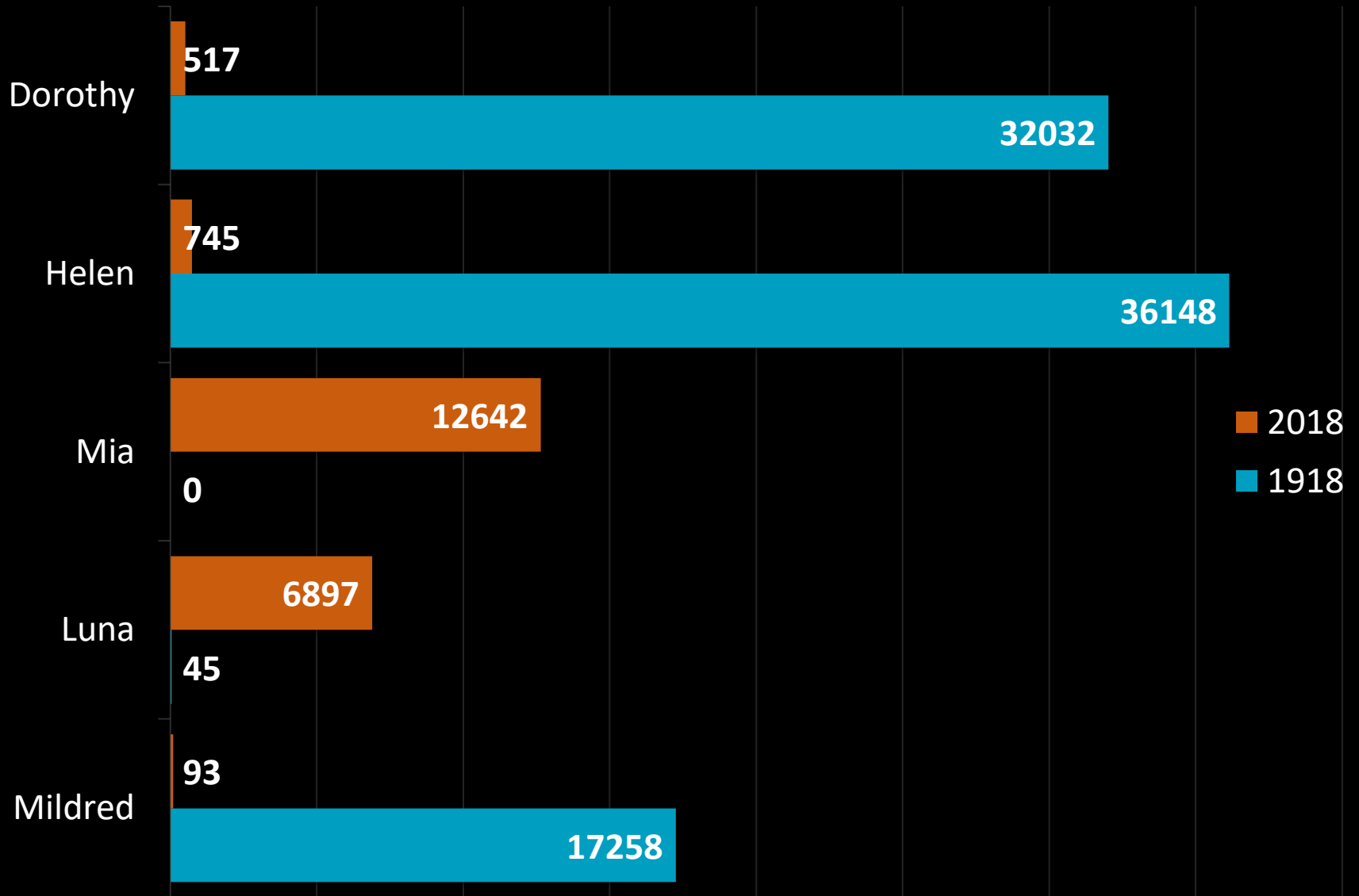
Dorothy

Donald

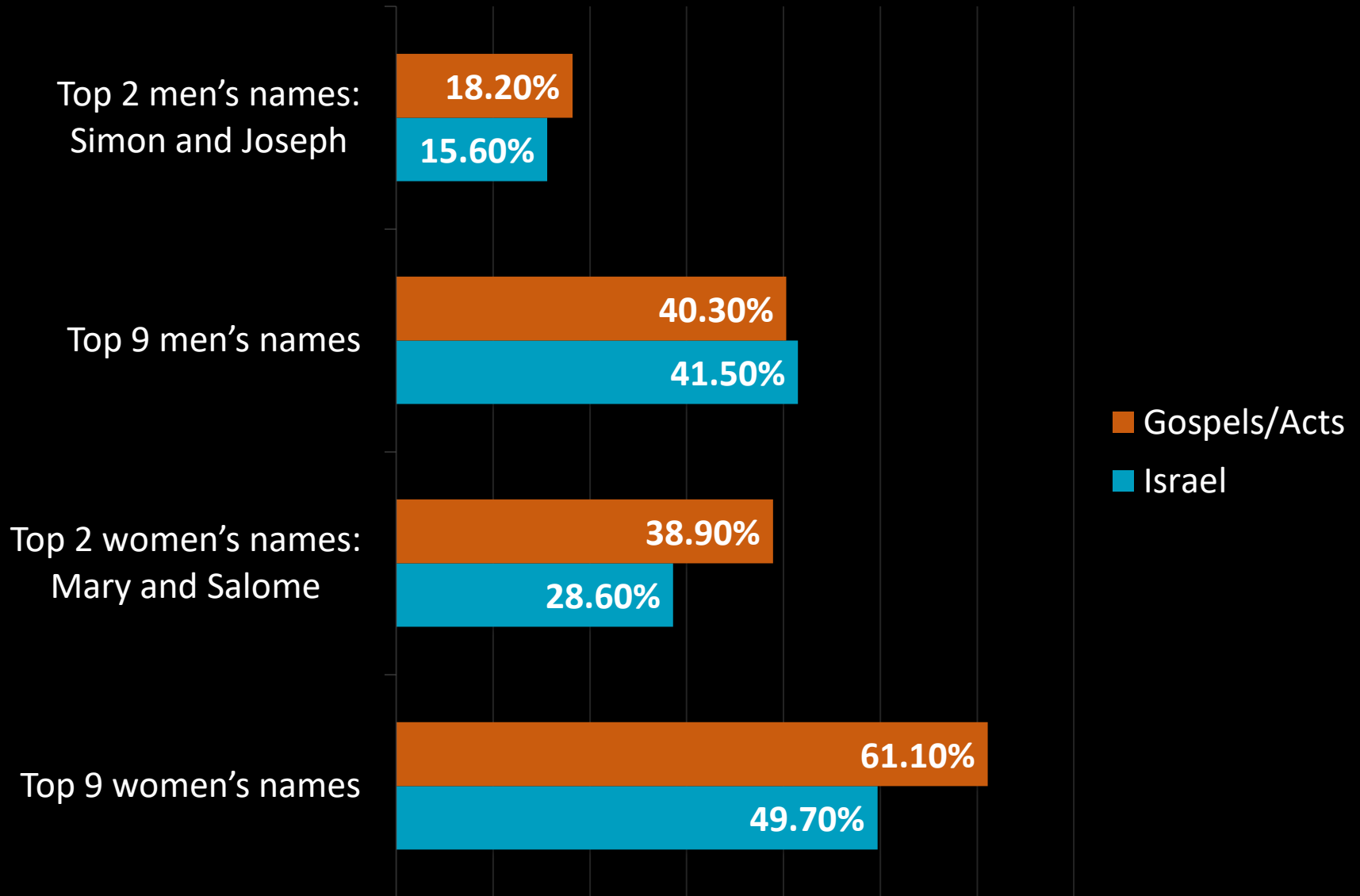
# Male Names



# Female Names

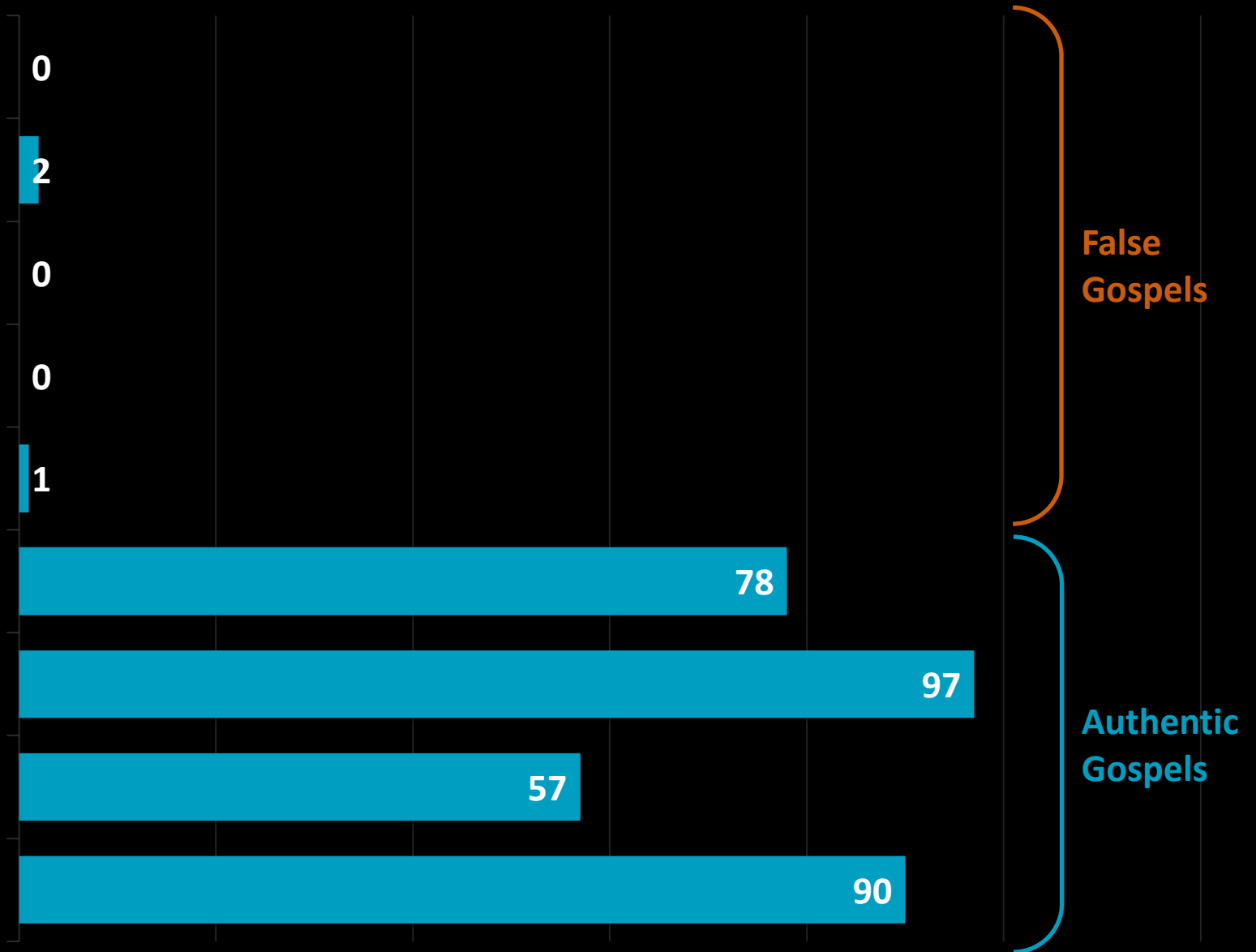


# People Names (in the 1<sup>st</sup> century)

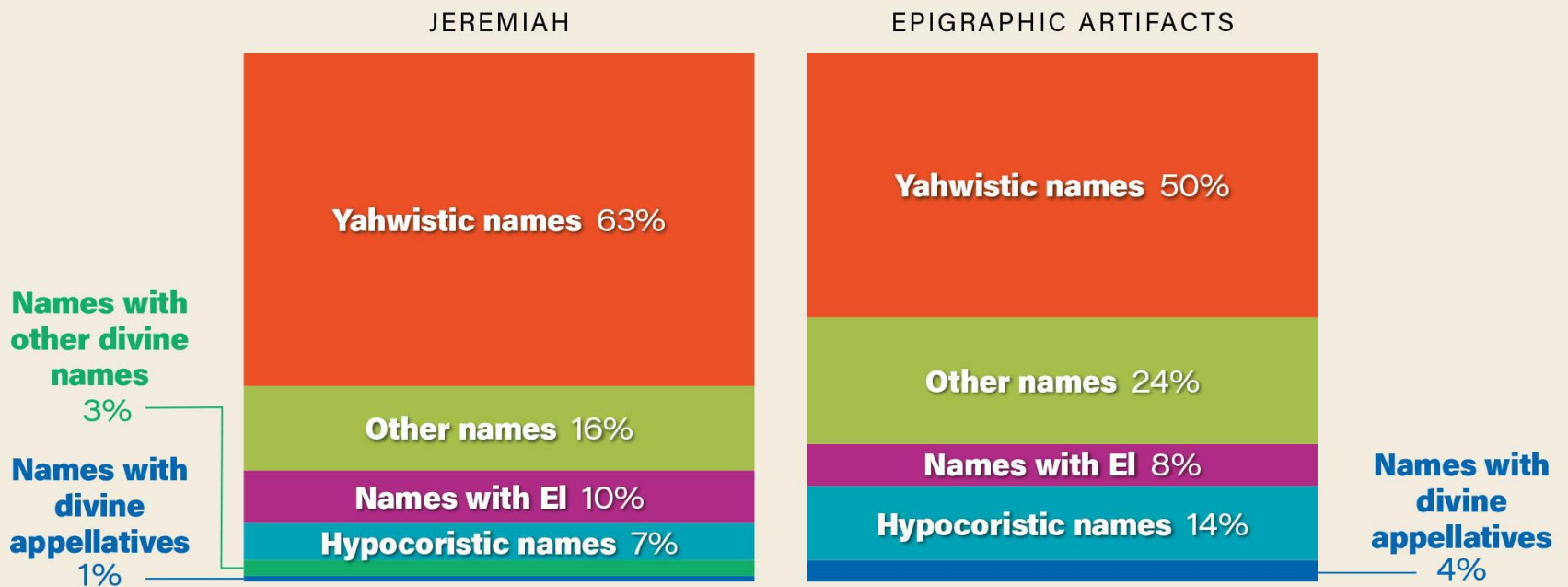




# Number of Place Names



The distribution of the different groups of Judahite names in the Book of Jeremiah and the epigraphic record of the Iron Age II.



# IDEA IN BRIEF

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| What? | Show that the Gospel accounts include coincidental details associated with eyewitness testimony         |
| Why?  | So that we can show that the Gospel accounts are unlikely to be fabricated                              |
| How?  | By examining subtle (undesigned) facts that align across multiple Gospel accounts and fit like a puzzle |

1

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet (read John 13:1-15)?

2

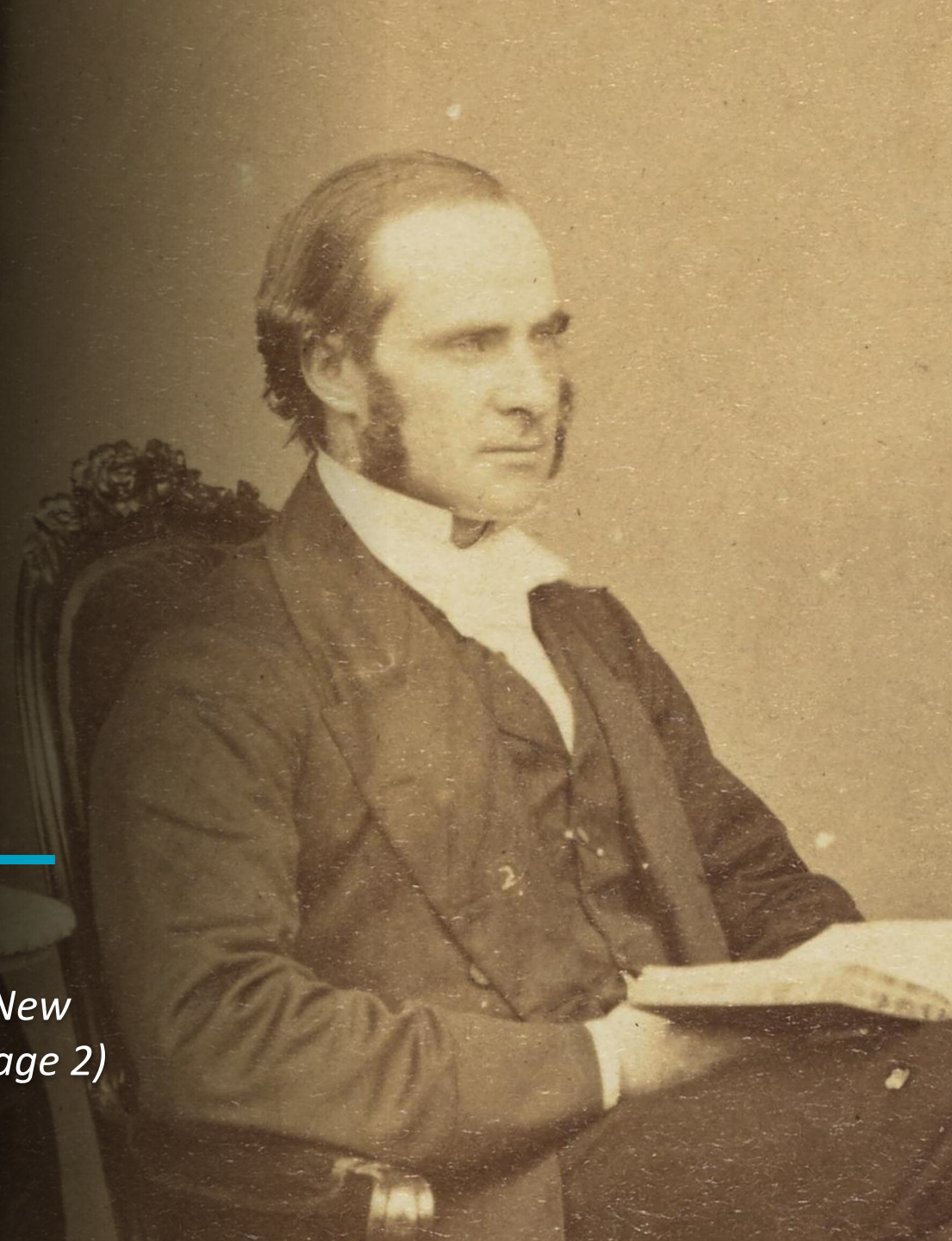
What “cup” is Jesus talking about in  
John 18:10-11?

“Undesignedness  
must be apparent in  
the coincidences, or  
they are not to the  
purpose.”

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**JAMES JOHN BLUNT**

*Undesigned Coincidences in the New  
Testament, Acts and Josephus (page 2)*



“It is not necessary that any fact be proved by direct evidence. **You may consider both direct evidence and circumstantial evidence as proof.**”

# Indiana Pattern Jury Instructions

CRIMINAL

FOURTH EDITION

1

**INDIANA JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

*Instruction No. 12.0100*



LexisNexis

“Circumstantial evidence ... may **have an advantage because it comes from several different sources,** which can be used as a check on each other.”

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**CRIMINAL MODEL JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS**  
*2.240 DIRECT AND  
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE*

Massachusetts  
District Court

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Criminal Model  
Jury Instructions

**January 2020**

Published by the Massachusetts Trial  
Court Law Libraries



“An undesigned coincidence is a **notable connection between two or more accounts or texts that doesn't seem to have been planned** by the person or people giving the accounts.”

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**LYDIA MCGREW**

*Hidden In Plain View*



“Despite their apparent independence, the items **fit together like pieces of a puzzle.**”

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**LYDIA MCGREW**

*Hidden In Plain View*



3

Jesus says that his servants will not fight (John 18:36). However, John also records that Jesus' disciples fought with those that came to arrest him (John 18:10-11).

4

Why would Jesus repeatedly ask Peter “do you love me more than these” in John 21:15-17?

5

Why were “many coming and going  
in Mark 6:30-31?

6

Jesus makes a point in Luke 22:25-27 that the one who serves is greater than the one who “reclines at the table.”

7

Jesus tells Pilate that he is the king.  
Why would Pilate want to let him go  
given that looks like an act of  
sedition?

8

Mark says that Joseph of Arimathea “took courage” to ask Pilate for the body. Why was he considered courageous?



9

Mark 6:7 says that Jesus sent out his disciples “two by two”. Why might this be significant?

10

Herod spoke to his servants about Jesus; how might Luke have found out about this conversation?

11

How did there just so happen to be  
a nearby tomb for Jesus?

12

Why did Jesus ask Philip where to find food in John 6:1-5?

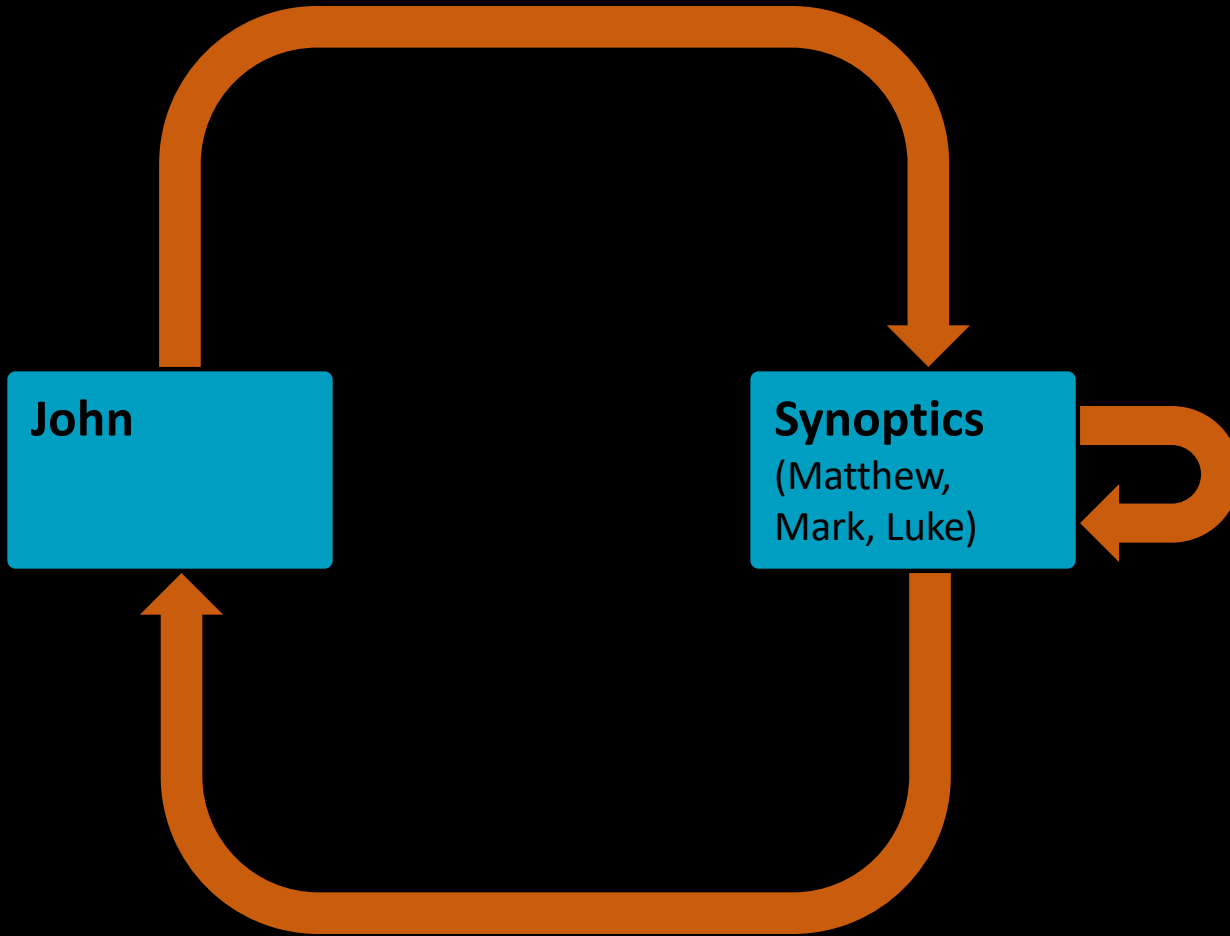
**Questions 5-8**  
John explaining the Synoptics

**John**

**Synoptics**  
(Matthew,  
Mark, Luke)

**Questions 9-12**  
Synoptics explain each other

**Questions 1-4**  
Synoptics explaining John



# Key Takeaways

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1

**Circumstantial evidence is valid**; and has the advantage of coming from different sources

2

**The Gospels include many “undesigned coincidences”** which are difficult to explain if they were made up

3

Differences between the Gospel accounts give support to them including **independent accounts**