

# #2 The Bible is Inspired

## 1. Old Testament

- a. language
  - i. Hebrew
  - ii. Aramaic
- b. layout
  - i. 39 books
    - 1. History
    - 2. Poetry
    - 3. Prophecy
- c. reliable transmission
  - i. Masoretic text (10<sup>th</sup> century)
  - ii. scribal argument
    - 1. Only master scrolls were used for duplication
    - 2. Scribes were highly trained (noble profession)
    - 3. Held in training until age 30
    - 4. Ceremonial washing before copying Scripture
    - 5. Any time the name of God was written a sanctification prayer was said. (6,824 times in the NASB)
    - 6. Memorization was a problem so they visually confirmed the letters one by one
    - 7. Each letter was counted and compared to master
    - 8. Each word was counted and compared to master
    - 9. The middle letter in each scroll was located and compared to the master
    - 10. If there is one mistake, the scroll was discarded
  - iii. Dead Sea Scrolls (time capsule)
    - 1. Discovered between 1947 and 1956
    - 2. The fragments comprise roughly 850 distinct documents
    - 3. 30% are fragments of Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)
    - 4. Genesis (18+3?), Exodus (8), Leviticus (17), Numbers (12), Deuteronomy (31 + 3?), Joshua (2), Judges (3), Samuel (4), Kings (3), Isaiah (22), Jeremiah (6), Ezekiel (7), Twelve (10 + 1?), Psalms (39 + 2?), Proverbs (2), Job (4), Song of Solomon (4), Ruth (4), Lamentations (4), Ecclesiastes (3), Esther (0), Daniel (8 + 1?), Ezra-Nehemiah (1), Chronicles (1)
    - 5. F.F. Bruce said of this discovery: “The new evidence confirms what we had already good reason to believe—that the Jewish scribes of the early Christian centuries copied and recopied the text of the Hebrew Bible with the utmost fidelity.”

## 2. New Testament.

- a. Language
  - i. Greek
- b. layout
  - i. 27 books
    - 1. History
    - 2. Epistles
    - 3. Prophecy
- c. reliable transmission
  - i. massive number of manuscripts

1. Uncial manuscripts (show them a picture of codex)
  - a. All-capital Greek letters
  - b. 306 manuscripts dating to as early as the third century
  - c. Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus (both around ad350)
2. Minuscule manuscripts
  - a. Cursive writing emerged in ad800
  - b. 2,856 manuscripts
3. Lectionaries
  - a. Contain NT Scripture in the sequence that it was to be read in the early churches at appropriate times of the year
  - b. 2,403 manuscripts
  - c. Total Greek Manuscripts = 306 + 2856 + 2403 = 5,565 (according to Bruce Metzger)
4. Also their are ancient translations
  - a. Approximately 10,000 copies of the Latin Vulgate
  - b. 9,300 copies in Ethiopic, Syriac, and Aramaic.
  - c. Grand Total = over 24,000 manuscripts
- ii. early date (show chart to compare against other literature)
  1. The John Rylands papyri manuscript found in Egypt, which is a small portion of the Gospel of John, is dated from ad117-138. This means that we have a manuscript within nearly 30 years of the autograph.
  2. complete manuscript from ?? century
- iii. textual criticism

### 3. You can trust the Bible.

- a. It claims to be inspired
  - i. 2 Timothy 3.16-17; 2 Peter 1.19-21; 2 Peter 3.15-16
- b. Eye Witnesses
  - i. Luke 1.1-3; 2 Peter 1.16; 1 John 1.3
- c. It just works! (It changes lives)
  - i. There is an old story about an atheist who challenged a Christian to a debate. The Christian responded, if you can provide me with one person who has been delivered from alcoholism, drug addictions, sexual perversion, violence, or another significant vice by atheism then I will debate you. And I will bring a dozen who have drastically changed as a direct result of their belief in the Bible.
- d. A conspiracy (It is indestructible)
  - i. Antiochus Epiphanes
  - ii. Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus (Diocletian)
    1. The Roman Emperor Diocletian, following an edict in ad 303, thought he had destroyed every hated Bible. He erected a column over the ashes of a burnt Bible to celebrate his victory. Twenty-five years later, the new emperor, Constantine, commissioned the production of fifty Bibles at the expense of the government!
  - iii. Voltaire
    1. In the eighteenth century, the noted infidel, Voltaire, forecast that within a century there would be no Bibles left on the earth. Ironically, fifty years after he died, the Geneva Bible Society used his old printing press and his house to produce stacks of Bibles. The Bible is today available in far more languages than any other book.
- e. It is historical
  - i. Archeology
  - ii. Corroborative evidence for Jesus

1. Tacitus, Josephus, Pliny the Younger,
- f. Detecting the fingerprints of God
  - i. medical insight far ahead of its time
  - ii. predictive prophecy
    1. Daniel 9
    2. Jesus predicts the future
- g. Why would you die for a lie? (martyrdom)

#### 4. Translations.

- a. for this class we will be using the NASB but you should be able to follow along in just about any translation though the wording will be a bit different
- b. also, we have offered Hebrew and Greek here on Sunday nights