

An open Bible is shown, resting on a wooden surface. The pages are aged and yellowed, with visible text in two columns. A red bookmark is placed in the center. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a church interior with a window and a framed picture on the wall.

Is the Bible the
Word of God ?



The Word of God - two part series

1. Is the Bible the Word of God ?

2. What should my attitude be
towards the Bible ?

Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God ?

- Is it the Truth ?
- Is it inspired ?
- Is it authoritative ?
- Is it trust worthy ?
- Can I base my life upon it?

I mean the Bible you hold in your hand

Questions...

- Is the Bible I hold in my hand an accurate representation & translation of the original copy (Autograph)?
- Is the original copy reliable, authoritative and trustworthy with respect to the matters it speaks of: ethics, history, science, philosophy and facts.?
- In other words: Is it the Truth ?

Let's weigh the evidence



Is the Bible the Word of God ?

- **Internal Evidence**
 - Inspiration by God
 - Human writers
- **Textual Preservation**
 - Manuscripts – Quantity, Quality, Dates
 - The scribes
- **External Evidence**
 - Archaeology
 - Fulfilled Prophecies
 - Science - cosmology
- **Reliable Testimonies**
 - The Biblical writers
 - Jesus

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**What does the Bible says
about itself ?**

All scripture is inspired by God

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- **All scripture is inspired by God** and is[a] useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Inspired by the Holy Spirit

- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but **prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

God inspired, human writer

¹¹ saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "**What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches** which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

- Revelation 1:11

The Law of Moses – came from God

- Exodus 17:14
- 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, **‘Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered** and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.’
- Exodus 34:27
- 27 Then the Lord said to Moses, **‘Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.’**

The autograph kept carefully.

- Deuteronomy 31:23-25
- 23 The Lord gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: 'Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.'
- 24 After **Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end**, 25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord:

Prophet and scribe recorded God's words

Jeremiah 36: 1-7

- In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, **this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord:** 2 'Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. 3 Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.' 4 So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and **while Jeremiah dictated all the words the Lord had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll.** 5 Then Jeremiah told Baruch, 'I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the Lord's temple. 6 So you go to the house of the Lord on a day of fasting and **read to the people from the scroll the words of the Lord that you wrote as I dictated.** Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns. 7 Perhaps they will bring their petition before the Lord and will each turn from their wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the Lord are great.'

Gospel: Eyewitness accounts

1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who **from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers** of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, **to write to you an orderly account**, most excellent Theophilus

- Luke 1:1-3

Paul's writing recognised as scriptures

- **2 Peter 3:15-17**
- 15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother **Paul also wrote** to you with the wisdom that God gave him.
- 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other **Scriptures**, to their own destruction.
- 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.

Writers reported what God said..

- Genesis 2:18 **The Lord God said**, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'
- Genesis 3:13 Then the **Lord God said** to the woman...
- Genesis 3:22 And **the Lord God said**...
- **Thousands of “the Lord said”...**

It is eternal

Ps 119

89 Your word, Lord, is **eternal**;

it **stands firm** in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations;

you established the earth, and it endures.

91 Your laws endure to this day,

for all things serve you.

It is perfect, trustworthy, right

Psalms 19:7-8

7 The law of the Lord is **perfect**,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are **trustworthy**,
making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are **right**,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

It is the Truth

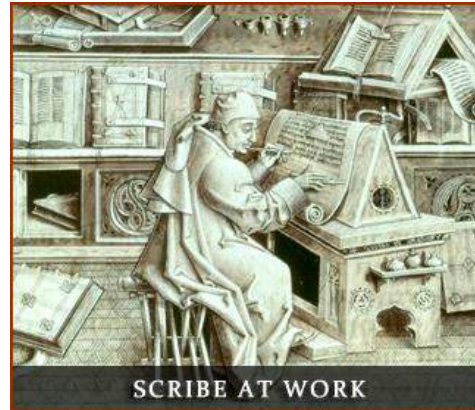
John 17:17

17 Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.**

Bible transmission in ancient times



Inspiration



Autograph



Manuscript Transmission
Copies of the autograph

Joshua copied the law...continual transmission

- Joshua 8:31-32
- 31 as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses – an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. 32 **There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses.**

The King is to make a copy

- Deuteronomy 17:18
- 18 When he takes the throne of his kingdom, **he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law**, taken from that of the Levitical priests.

Devoted scribe taught the law faithfully...

- Ezra 7:9-11
- 9 He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. 10 For Ezra had **devoted himself to the study** and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

Is the Bible the Word of God ?

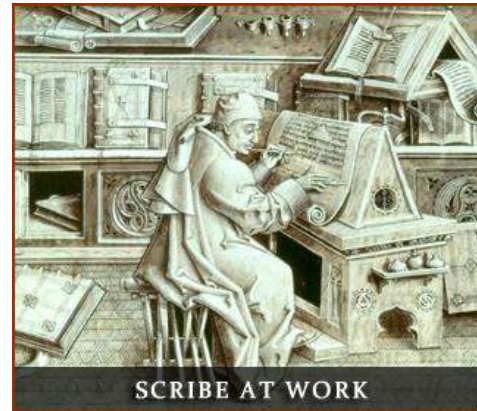
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**Do we have a accurate
copy of the Bible ?**

Bible transmission in ancient times



Autograph



Manuscript Transmission
Copies of the autograph

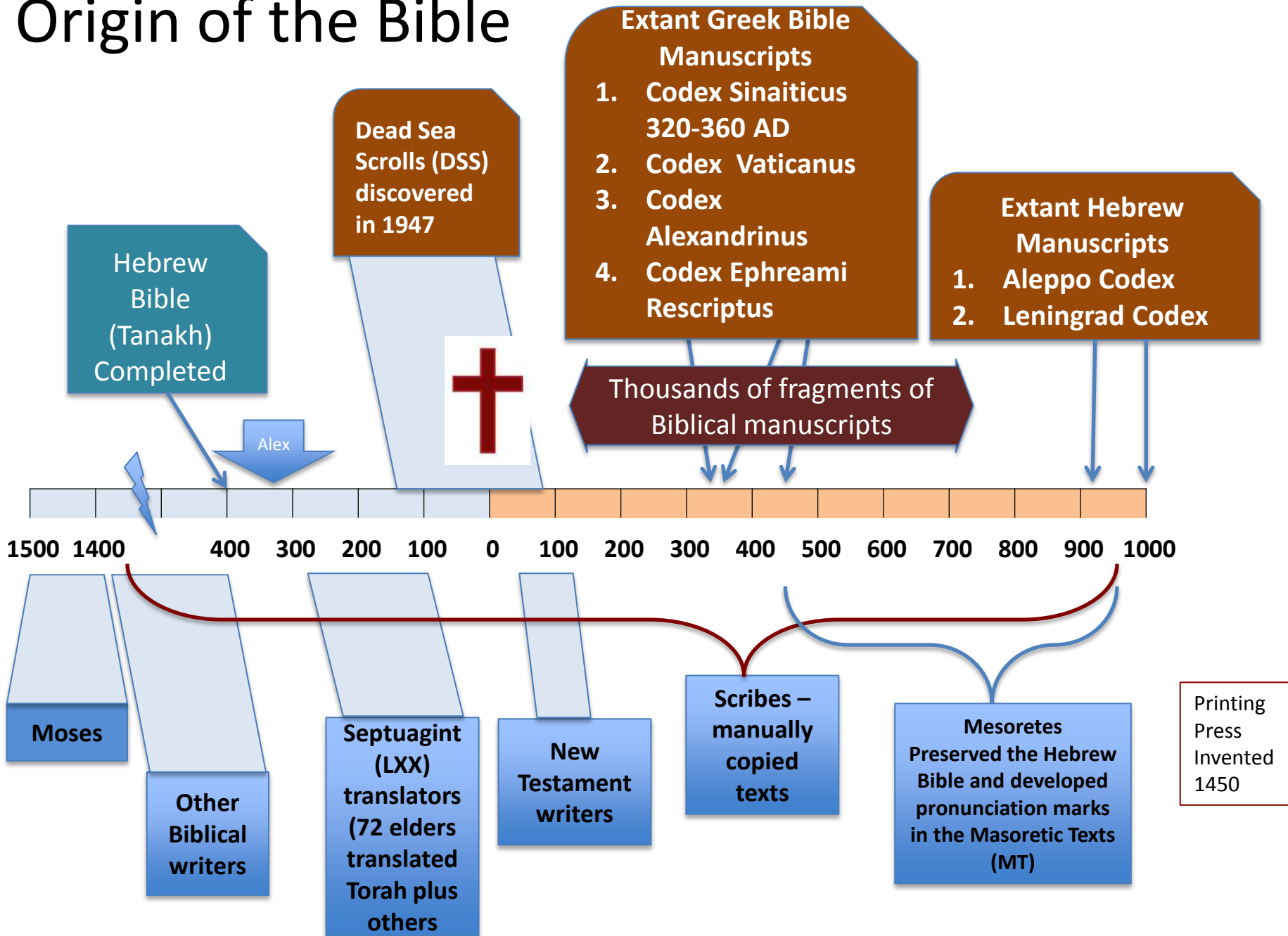
First printed Bible - Printed by Johannes Gutenberg, in Mainz,
Germany, in the 1450s.

No printing before this – all documents hand copied.

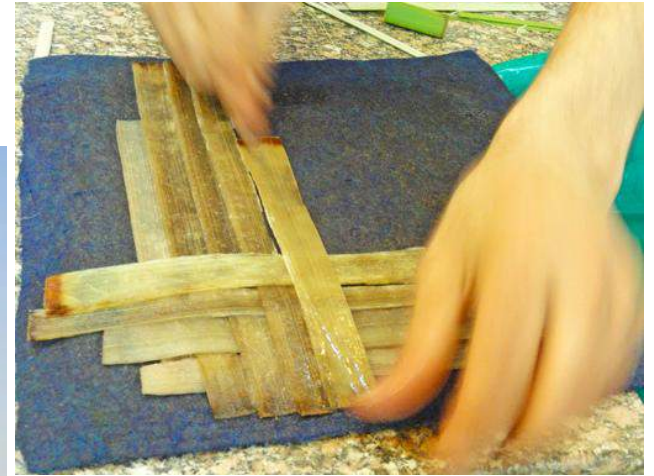


Thought Experiment...

Origin of the Bible



Papyrus - does not last



Vellum – Goat Skin - last longer

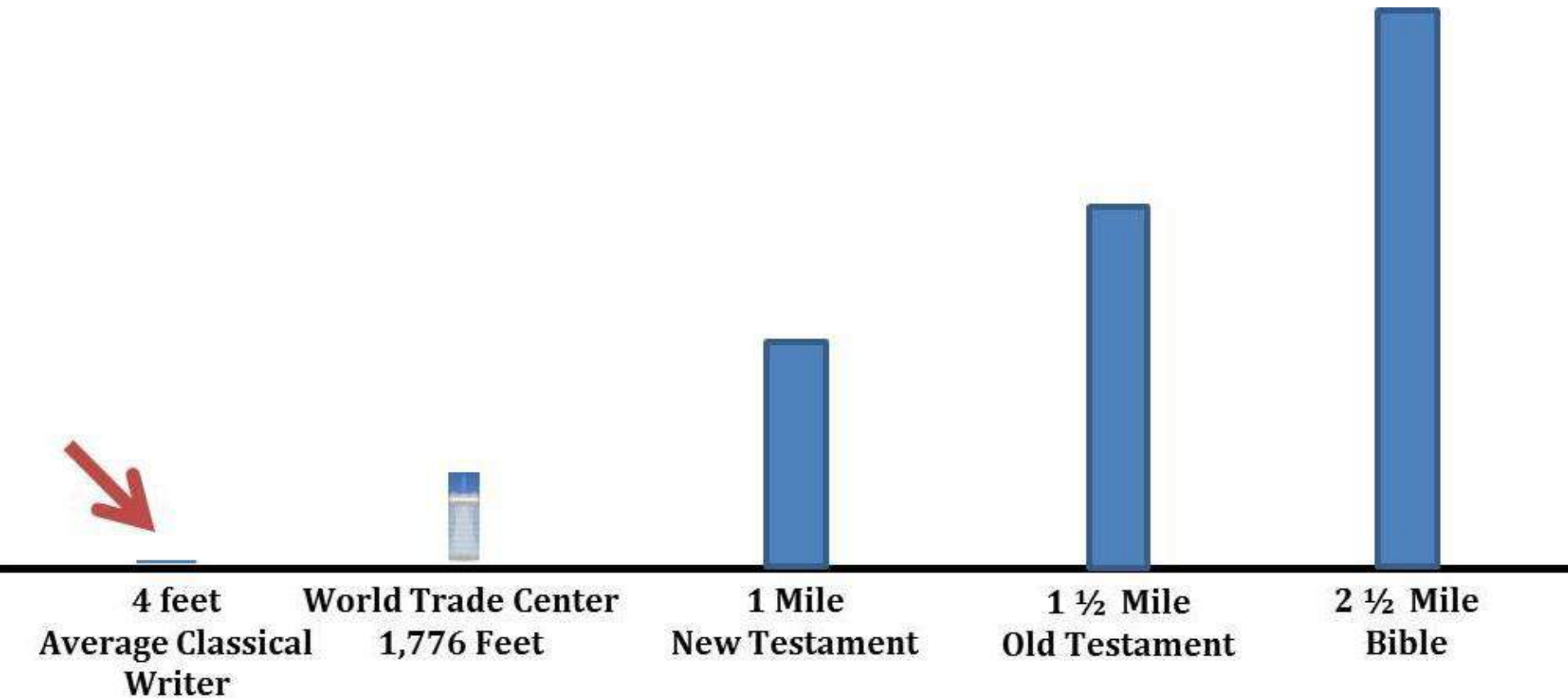
אמכל ואכלה
לכח תחצותו ותשור ונעשלוט ואח
וזב צורה וצתב בצטא וישלול השצורו עורפ ויעשה אל ויהג
ושאודי על צתב ותכלודר ורשמוד תחתיו ויעשה נעדרת לא וצ
עליו ולא העט נעדרת לא תשוע
על לב וצורו רשונות פעולת צמא אע אל ואח עור אלודת ראב
וצר אשאת אחיות תפסות אשור לא נעשו אער עצור וקסות וצול חפ
צורה נפורה עול נאחץ נרחק אוש עתו אפצרות אפאטאט
אנ אעשנא
שעו אל אפדלכ ודחוקת צצחך קרובת נעדרת ולא ורחק
ולא תאחר נחת צמא ושוער ולישראל תכארת

New Testament Compared to other Ancient Literature

Author	Literary Work	Gap from Original	Ms Copies
• Plato	<i>Dialogues</i>	1,250 yrs	20
• Homer's	<i>Illiad</i>	500 yrs	643
• Herodotus	<i>The Histories</i>	1,350 yrs	8
• Aristotle	Assorted Works	1,400 yrs	5
• Thucydides	<i>Peloponnesian Wars</i>	1,300 yrs	8
• Aristophanes	Assorted Works	1,300 yrs	10
• Sophocles	Assorted Works	1,400 yrs	193
• Julius Caesar	<i>The Gallic Wars</i>	950 yrs	10
• Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	1,000 yrs	20
• Pliny (Ygr)	<i>History of Rome</i>	750 yrs	7
• Suetonius	<i>The Twelve Caesars</i>	900 yrs	8

NT Writers - Greek NT Manuscripts - 30-300 yrs - 5,700+

Bible manuscripts vs other classical writers

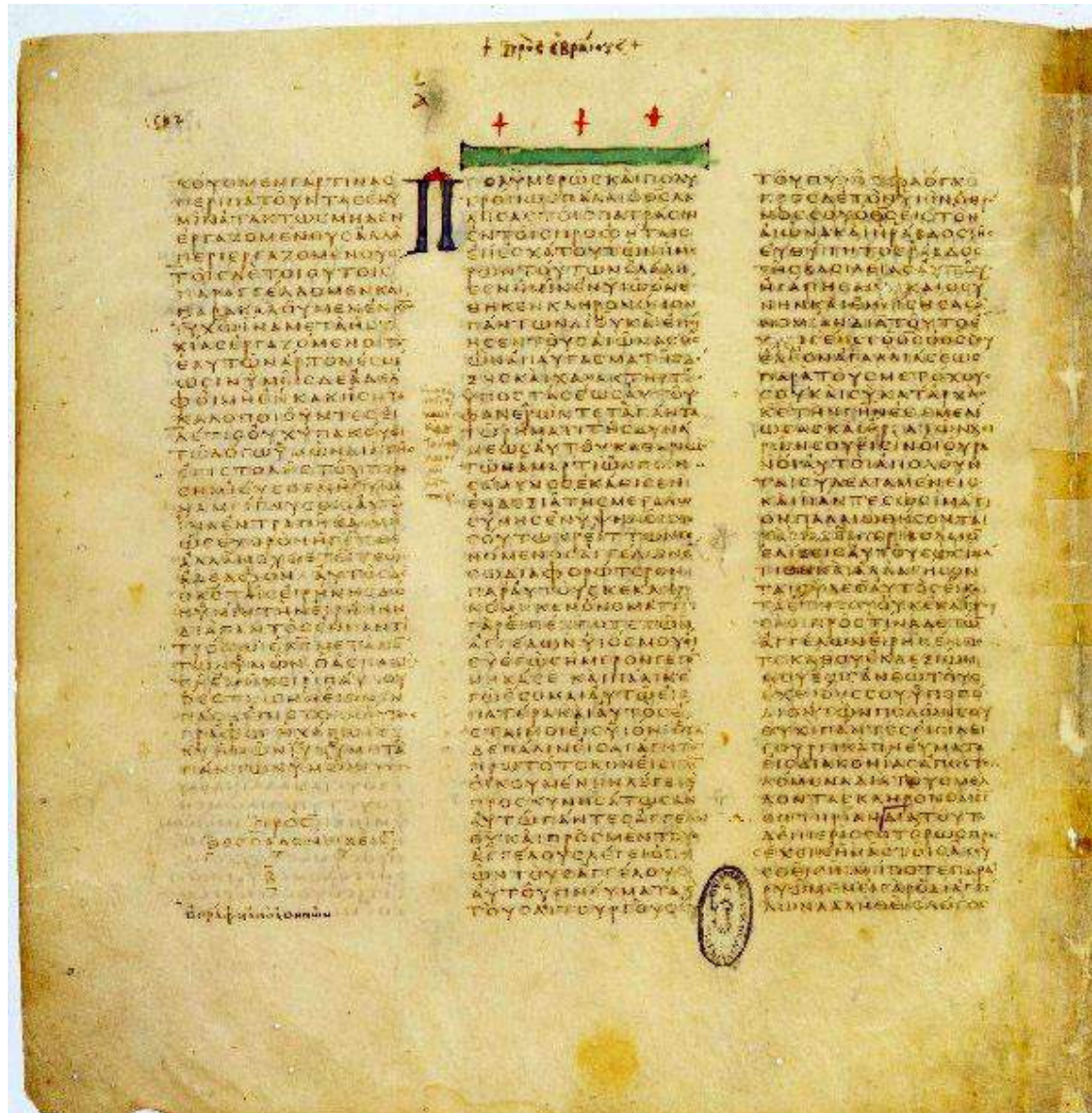


Codex Sinaiticus ca. 320-360 AD

(Greek Bible)

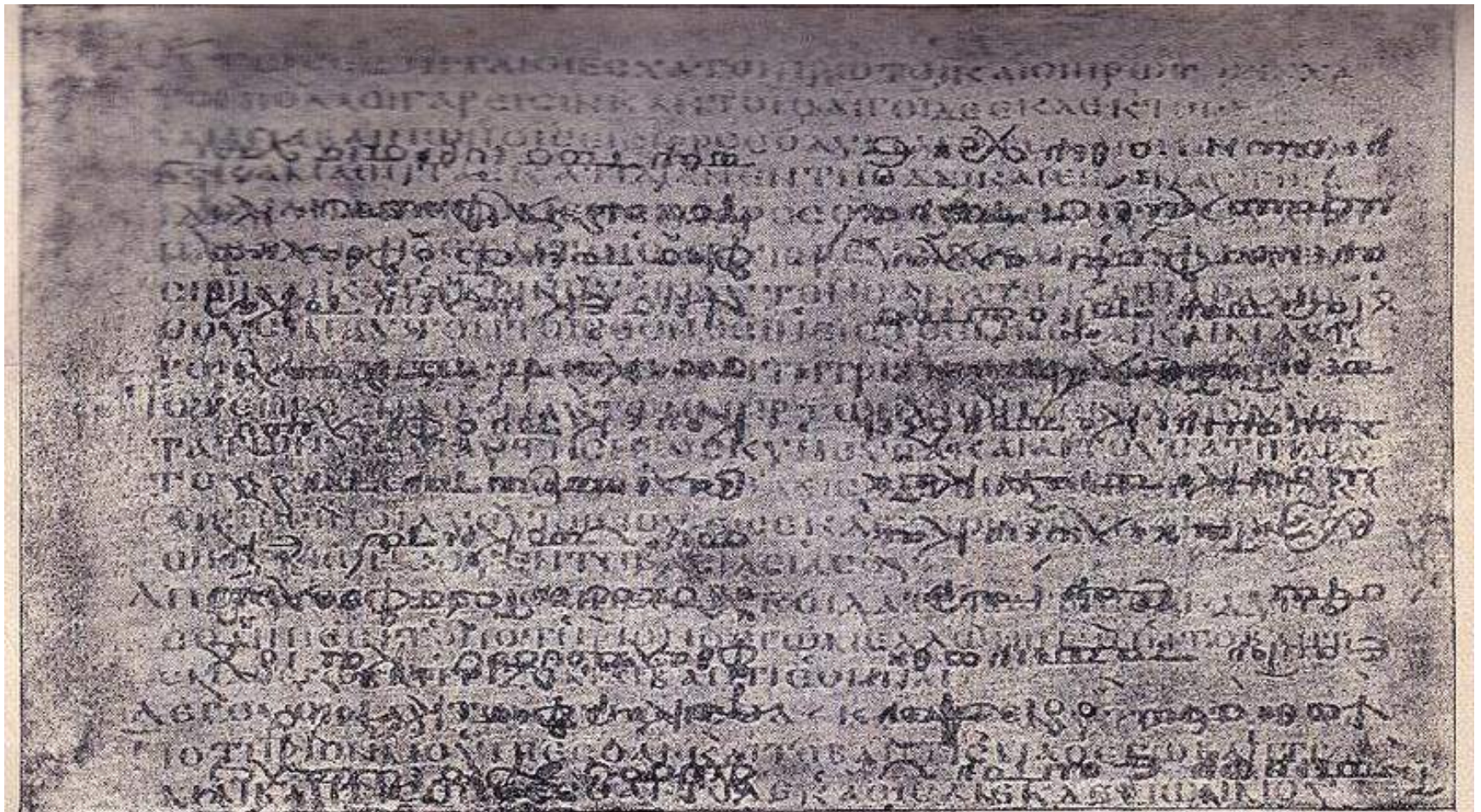


Codex Vaticanus AD 4th Century (Greek Bible)



[illegible]

Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus (5th Century)

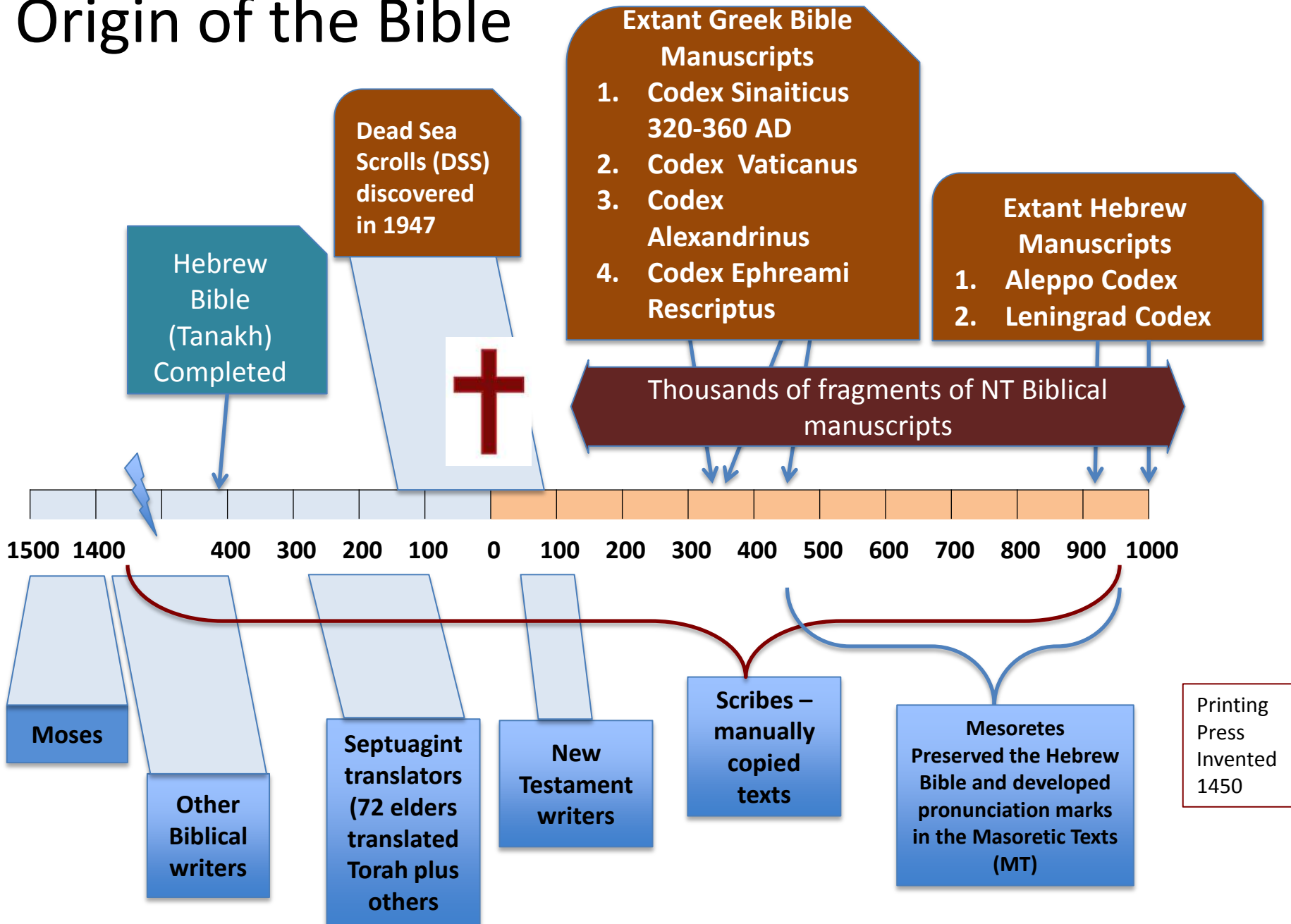


Leningrad Codex c AD1008

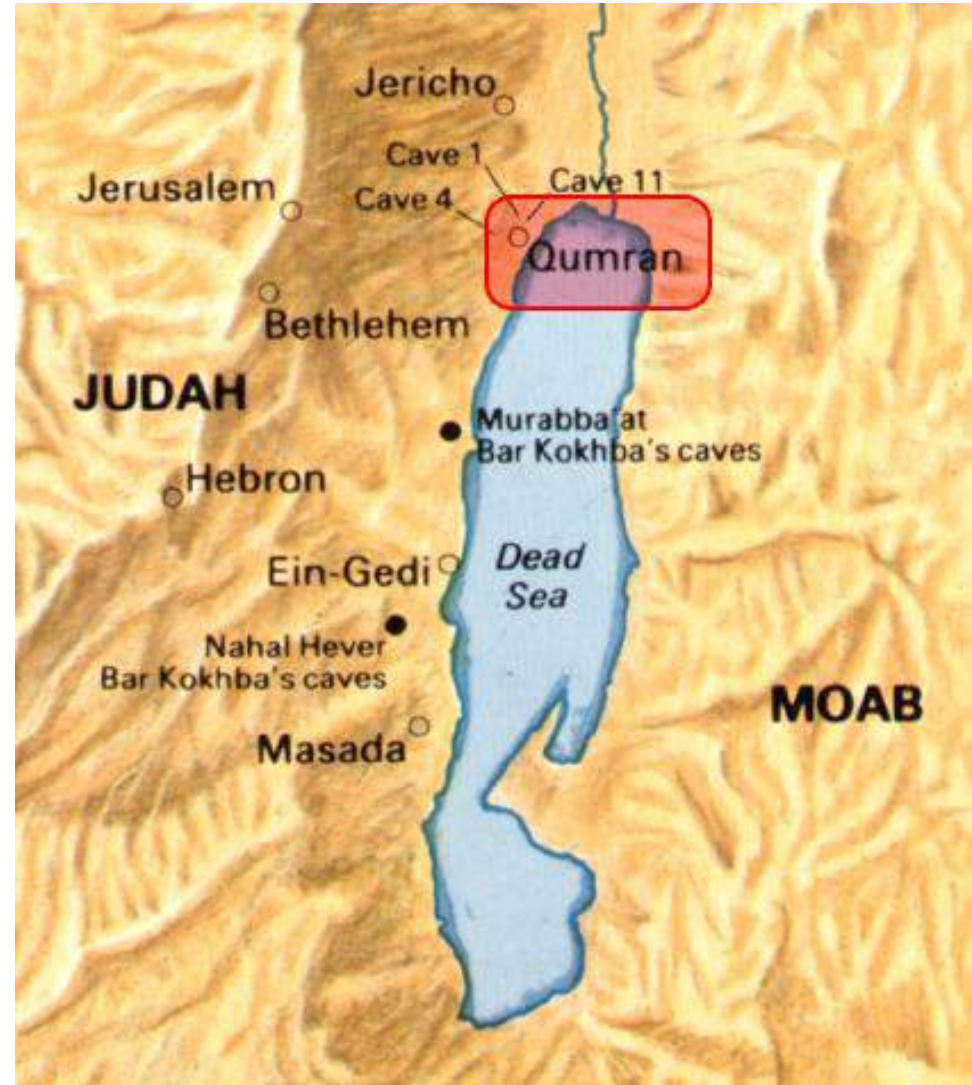
Oldest Complete Hebrew Bible



Origin of the Bible

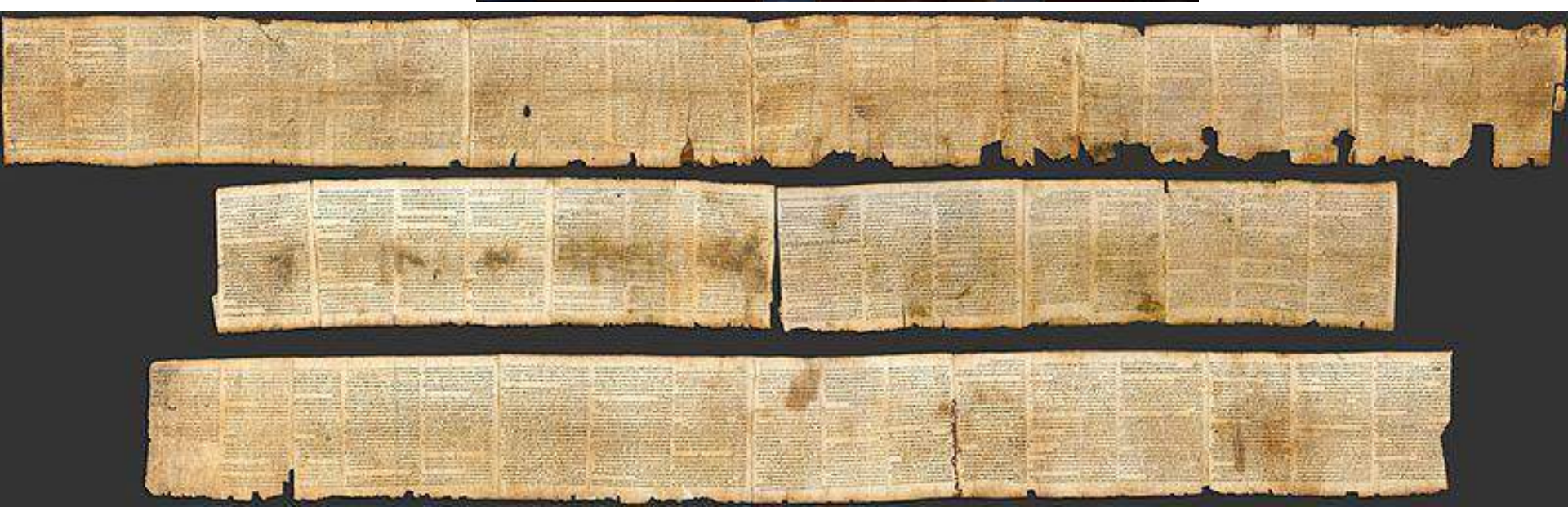


Dead Sea Scroll discovery 1946-7





The Great Isaiah Scroll

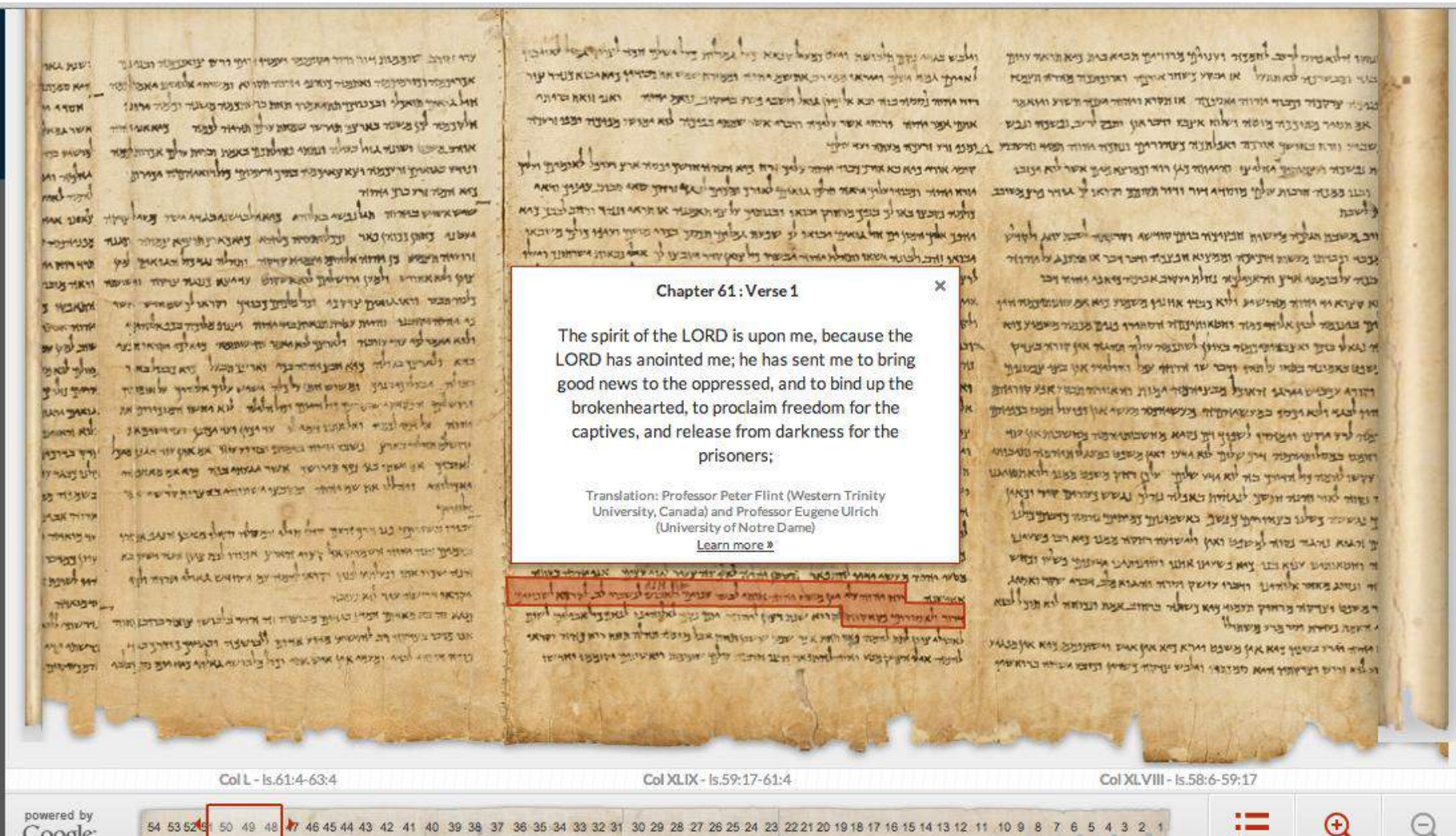


Jesus Read the Scroll

Luke 4

17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: **18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

This is what Jesus read....



Source: <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah>



10 Rules of the Scribe

1. **Ritual cleansing/bathing before writing God's name**
2. **They must say each word aloud while they were writing.**
3. **No copying from memory, must have a manuscript**
4. **Scrolls must have equal amounts of columns**
5. **Letters, words, paragraphs and columns are counted**
6. **Parchment/Papyrus must be lined before starting**
7. **Each column must extend downwards 48 to 60 lines**
8. **Must be reviewed with in 30 days of copying.**
9. **Old/errant copies of Scripture are ritually destroyed**
10. **Being aware of the conscious presence of God**

Thought Experiment...

- Now follow these rules.
- Collect many copies
- Reconstruct the original content

Reliability: Copy Accuracy

Before discovering the Dead Sea Scrolls, scholars translated the English Old Testament from Hebrew manuscripts (Masoretic Text) that dated from 900 AD (Aleppo Codex) and later, 1300 years from the end of the Old Testament (400 BC). How accurate was the copying process during the 1300 year interval?

Dead Sea Scrolls



125 BC

**Aleppo Codex
Masoretic Text**



900 AD

Closed interval by 1000+ years



95% identical to Masoretic Text

- **5% difference is due to spelling differences, word order and minor scribal error which effects no major doctrine**

How accurate was the transmission ?

“The Scrolls demonstrate that your Bible is 99% accurate. We are confirming the Word of God and getting to that 1% of readings that are difficult. ..”



Prof Peter Flint is an editor of the largest intact Dead Sea Scroll: The Great Isaiah Scroll.

Is 53:11 - a meaningful difference

← → ↺ 🏠 dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah#53:11

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Chapter 51: Verse 16

Chapter 53: Verse 11

Out of the suffering of his soul he will see light, and find satisfaction. And through his knowledge his servant, the righteous one, will make many righteous, and he will bear their iniquities.

Translation: Professor Peter Flint (Western Trinity University, Canada) and Professor Eugene Ulrich (University of Notre Dame)

[Learn more »](#)

DSS adopted in latest translations

- **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) (1989)**

Is 53

11 Out of his anguish he shall see **light**;^[a] he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one,^[b] my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Footnotes:

- Isaiah 53:11 Q Mss: MT lacks light
- Isaiah 53:11 Or and he shall find satisfaction. Through his knowledge, the righteous one

- **Revised Standard Version (RSV) (1946)**

Is 53

11 he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities.

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External Evidence - Archaeology

- Again and again archaeological discoveries have verified the accuracy of the historical and cultural references in the Bible. The more they dig, the more it confirms the Bible.
- “It is important to note that Near Eastern archaeology has demonstrated the historical and geographical reliability of the Bible in many important areas.”

E.M. Blaiklock, The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology.

Visit to Holy Land



Jerusalem



Overlooking the temple mount



Ruins around the temple



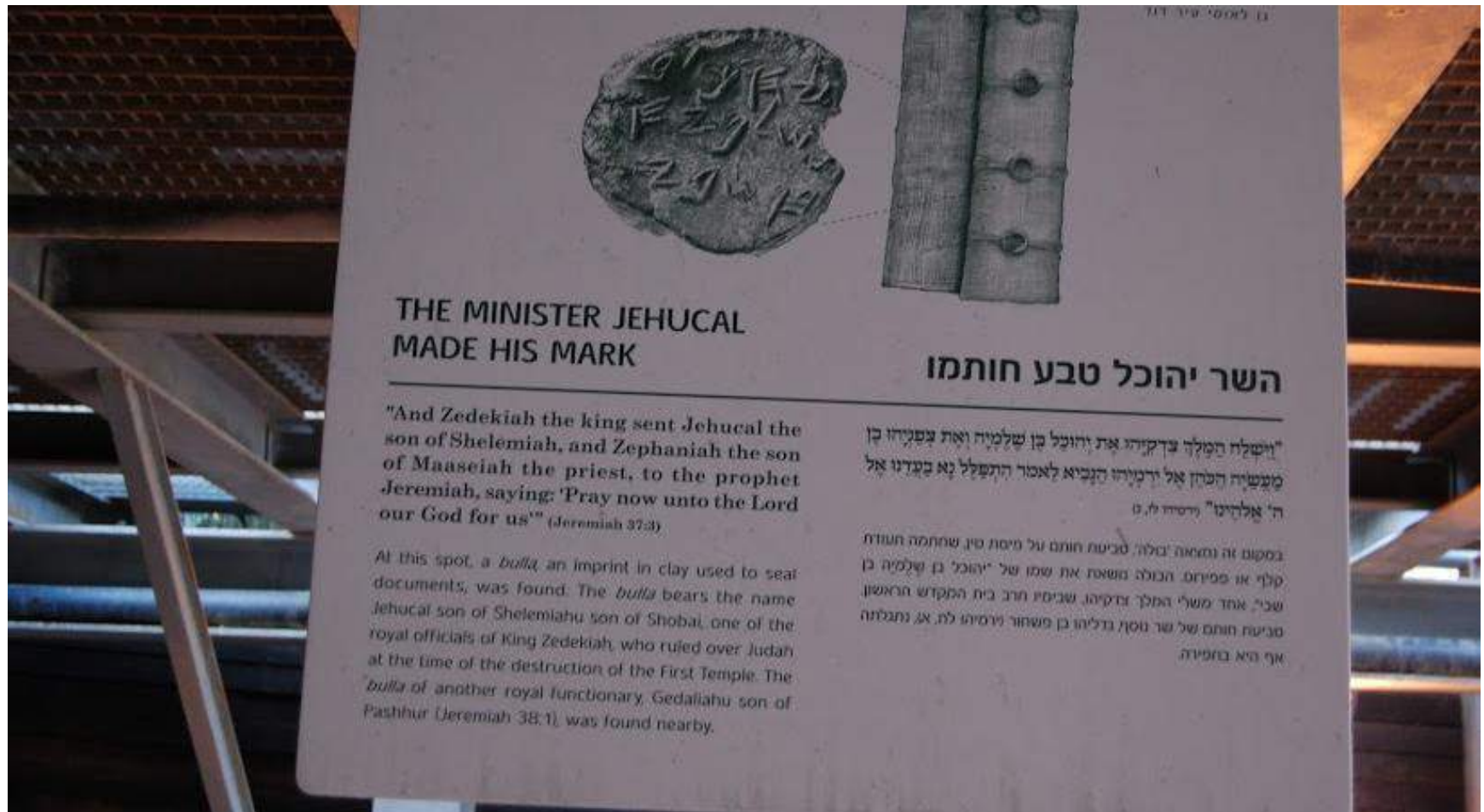
City of David



Water tunnel



Linked to Biblical references







Reign of the Kings

Kings of Judah and Israel

Israel

Jeroboam (930-909 BC)
Nadab (909-908 BC)
Baasha (908-886 BC)
Elah (886-885 BC)
Zimri (885 BC)
Tibni (885-880 BC)
Omri (885-874 BC)*
Ahab (874-853 BC)*
Ahaziah (853-852 BC)
Joram (852-841 BC)*
Jehu (841-814 BC)*
Jehoahaz (814-798 BC)
Joash (798-782 BC)*
Jeroboam II (793-753 BC)*
Zechariah (753 BC)
Shallum (752 BC)
Menahem (752-742 BC)
Pekahiah (742-740 BC)
Pekah (752-732 BC)*
Hoshea (732-722 BC)*

Saul
David*
Solomon*

Judah

Rehoboam (933-916 BC)
Abijah (915-913 BC)
Asa (912-872 BC)
Jehoshaphat (874-850 BC)
Jehoram (850-843 BC)
Ahaziah (843 BC)
Athaliah (843-837 BC)
Joash (843-803 BC)*
Amaziah (803-775 BC)
Uzziah (787-735 BC)*
Jotham (749-734 BC)*
Ahaz (741-726 BC)*
Hezekiah (726-697 BC)*
Manasseh (697-642 BC)*
Amon (641-640 BC)
Josiah (639-608 BC)
Jehoahaz (608 BC)*
Jehoiakim (608-597 BC)*
Jehoiachin (597 BC)*
Zedekiah (597-586 BC)

*Biblical kings confirmed by extra biblical history and/or archaeology

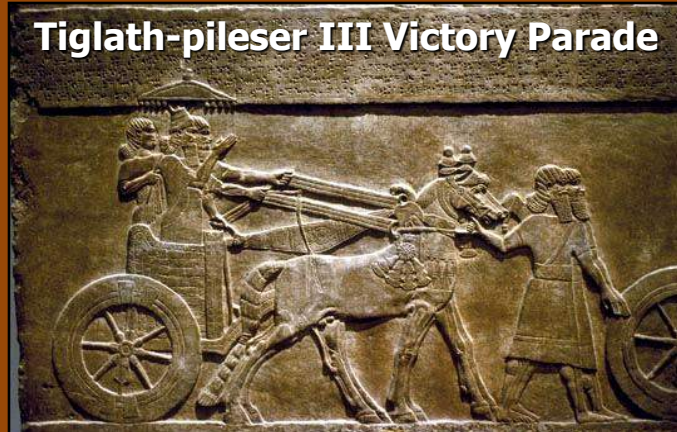
Kings of Assyria

Though Assyria had limited power from 1300-1000 BC, only the time period when Assyria had significant contact with Israel will be listed. The Assyrian Empire fell to Babylon at Nineveh in 612 BC.

- **Tukulti-Ninurta II (890-884 BC)**
- **Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BC)**
- **Shalmaneser III (858-824 BC)**
- **Shamsi-Adad V (823-811 BC)**
- **Adad-nirari III (810-783 BC)**
- **Shalmaneser IV (782-773 BC)**
- **Ashur-dan III (772-755 BC)**
- **Ashur-nirari V (754-745 BC) 2 Kings 13:5?**
- **Tiglath-pileser III (Pul) (744-727 BC) 2 Kings 15:19, 29*+**
- **Shalmaneser V (727-722 BC) 2 Kings 17:3-6*+**
- **Sargon II (722-705 BC) Isaiah 20:1*+**
- **Sennacherib (704-681 BC) 2 Kings 18:13*+**
- **Esarhaddon (680-669 BC)+ 2 Kings 19:37*+**
- **Ashurbanipal/Osnapper (668-627 BC) Ezra 4:10*+**

***Those named in the Bible who are mentioned in extra biblical history or archaeology**

+Mentioned in the Bible by name



Kings of Babylon

This list of kings is not exhaustive, it reflects the Neo-Babylonian Empire of the 11th Dynasty. Babylon fell to the Persian Empire in 539 BC (Daniel 7:4). A full list of kings since the 8th century BC can be found in Ptolemy's *Canon of Kings*.

- Nabopolassar (626-605 BC)
- **Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC) Daniel 1:1*+**
- **Evil-Merodach (562-560 BC) 2 Kings 25:27*+**
- **Nergal-Shar-usur (560-556) Jeremiah 39:3*+**
- Labashi-Marduk (556 BC)
- Nabonidus (556-539 BC)
- **Belshazzar (co-regent) Daniel 5:22*+**

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Ishtar Gate, Babylon (Iraq)

Kings of Persia

The Persian Empire fell in 330 BC to Alexander the Great's much smaller Greek army (Daniel 7; 8:3, 20-21).

- **Achaemenes (700-675 BC)**
- **Cyrus I (640-600 BC)**
- **Cyrus II (559-530 BC)* +**
- **Cambyses II (530-522 BC)**
- **Darius I (522-486 BC)* +**
- **Xerxes I (486-465 BC)* +**
- **Artaxerxes I (465-424 BC)* +**
- **Darius II (424-404 BC)**
- **Darius III (336-330 BC)**



**Limestone Wall Relief of Darius I and Xerxes
(Persepolis, Iran)**

***Those named in the Bible who are mentioned
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Kings of Egypt

An exact listing of Egyptian kings is difficult, with the margin of error being up to 100 years. Only those kings associated with biblical events/figures beginning with Joseph will be listed.

- **Sesostris II (1880-1874 BC) (Joseph)**
- **Sesostris III (1874-1855 BC)**
- **Tuthmosis III (1479-1425 BC) (early exodus)**
- **Amenhotep II (1427-1400 BC)**
- **Ramesses II (1279-1213 BC) (late exodus)**
- **Shoshenq I (945-924 BC) 1 Kings 14:25*+**
- **Taharqa (690-664 BC) 2 Kings 19:9*+**
- **Tantamani (664-656 BC)**
- **Necho II (610-595 BC) 2 Kings 23:29-35*+**
- **Hophra/Apries Jeremiah 44:30*+**

The historian Herodotus (5th century BC):

"So when **Apries [Hophra] leading his foreign mercenaries...had reached the city of Memphis, they [Apries and Amasis] engaged in battle."**

~*Histories*, 2.161ff

***Those named in the Bible who are mentioned in extra biblical history or archaeology. +Mentioned by name in the Bible**



Tablet from Abydos depicts King Hophra/Apries offering libation to a god

Jezebel Seal



While excavating in Samaria, Israel, the Oriental Institute of Chicago unearthed building structures and temples built to Asherah and Baal, which was commonly associated with Jezebel (1 Kings 18:19). Among these finds was an ornate seal which reads **"JZBL"** (Jezebel).

This seal appears to be consistent with 1 Kings 21:6-8 which reveals that Jezebel, wife of Ahab, was **accustom to sealing documents** for her husband (1 Kings 21:25).

Archaeology confirms Biblical reliability

- "I know of no finding in archaeology that's properly confirmed which is in opposition to the Scriptures. The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen." - Dr Clifford Wilson, formerly director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology (quote obtained from: Archaeologist Speaks Out)
- "Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible's historical accuracy. In every case where its claims can thus be tested, the Bible proves to be accurate and reliable." - Dr. Jack Cottrell, The Authority of the Bible (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979), pp. 48-49.

Archaeology confirms Biblical reliability

- "In every instance where the findings of archaeology pertain to the Biblical record, the archaeological evidence confirms, sometimes in detailed fashion, the historical accuracy of Scripture. In those instances where the archaeological findings seem to be at variance with the Bible, the discrepancy lies with the archaeological evidence, i.e., improper interpretation, lack of evidence, etc. -- not with the Bible." - Dr. Bryant C. Wood, archaeologist, Associates for Biblical Research [1]
- "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical description has often led to amazing discoveries." - Dr. Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, (New York: Farrar, Strous and Cudahy, 1959), 136.

Archaeology confirms Biblical reliability

- "The reader may rest assured that nothing has been found [by archaeologists] to disturb a reasonable faith, and nothing has been discovered which can disprove a single theological doctrine. We no longer trouble ourselves with attempts to 'harmonize' religion and science, or to 'prove' the Bible. The Bible can stand for itself."
- - Dr. William F. Albright, eminent archeologist who confirmed the authenticity of the Dead Sea Scrolls following their discovery

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Prophetic Fulfilments

300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of **Jesus Christ**.

“The very dimension of the sheer **fulfilment of prophecy of the Scriptures** should be enough to convince anyone that we are dealing with a supernatural piece of literature....God has himself planted within the scriptures an internal consistency that bears witness that this is his Word.”

R.C. Sproul,

A prophecy by Isaiah (740-680 BC)

Is 44: 28- 45: 1

who says of **Cyrus**, “He is my shepherd
and will accomplish all that I please;

he will say of Jerusalem, ‘Let it be rebuilt,’

and of the temple, ‘Let its foundations be laid.’

‘This is what the Lord says to his anointed,

to **Cyrus**, whose right hand I take hold of

to subdue nations before him

and to strip kings of their armour,

to open doors before him

so that gates will not be shut:

Fulfilment of prophecy (ca 529 BC)

- **2 Chronicles 36:21-23**
- 21 The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfilment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.
- 22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:
- **23 ‘This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up, and may the Lord their God be with them.”’**

Cyrus the Great

Below is the 6th century BC tomb at Pasargadae (Iran) of the biblical figure "Cyrus" prophesied by Isaiah (45:1) 150 years before his birth. He would eventually bring liberation to the Jewish captives in Babylon before his death in 529 BC. According to 1st century BC Greek historian, Strabo, Alexander the Great visited the tomb before his death. The tomb inscription reads:



**"Oh man, I am Cyrus,
who founded the
empire of the Persians
and was king of Asia.
Grudge me not
therefore this
monument."**

Cyrus Cylinder

Persian clay cylinder (6th century BC) written in Babylonian cuneiform describes King Cyrus's victory over Babylon and his permission of free worship. The cylinder declares that:

- Cyrus allowed the **return** of foreign gods to their own land
- The **rebuilding** of destroyed cities and religious buildings (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Isaiah 45:1-13; Ezra 1:1-3; 6:1-5)
- The cylinder is considered the **"first charter of human rights."**

"I returned to sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been in ruins for a long time, the images which to live therein and established for...

them permanent sanctuaries. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned them to abitations."

~Cyrus



Jesus' Prophecy

- “Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ”Do you see all these things?“ he asked. **“I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down”** (Matt.24:1-8 NIV).
- See also Lk.21:5-6.



Siege of Jerusalem AD 70



Arch of Titus

– depicts siege of Jerusalem



Temple Mount today...



Is the Bible the Word of God ?

- **Internal Evidence**
 - Inspiration by God
 - Human writers
- **Textual Preservation**
 - Manuscripts – Quantity, Quality, Dates
 - The scribes
- **External Evidence**
 - Archaeology
 - Fulfilled Prophecies
 - Science - cosmology
- **Reliable Testimonies**
 - The Biblical writers
 - Jesus

Quiz: Which statement is true ?

A or B ?

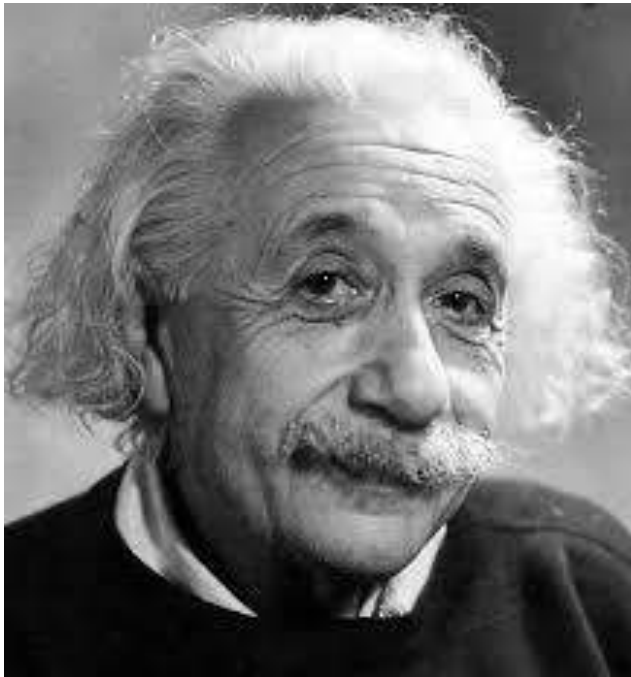
- A. The universe has always existed.
- B. The universe had a beginning.



Don't worry – He got it wrong too.

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}R g_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu},$$

Einstein field equations



“His Biggest Blunder”

The universe has a beginning...

The Origin of the universe

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Time has a beginning...

- 2 Timothy 1:9
- 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus **before the beginning of time,**
- Titus 1:2
- 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before **the beginning of time,**

The heavens stretches out...

Psalm 104:2

- The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; **he stretches out the heavens** like a tent

Isaiah 51:13

- that you forget the Lord your Maker, **who stretches out the heavens** and who lays the foundations of the earth that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction?

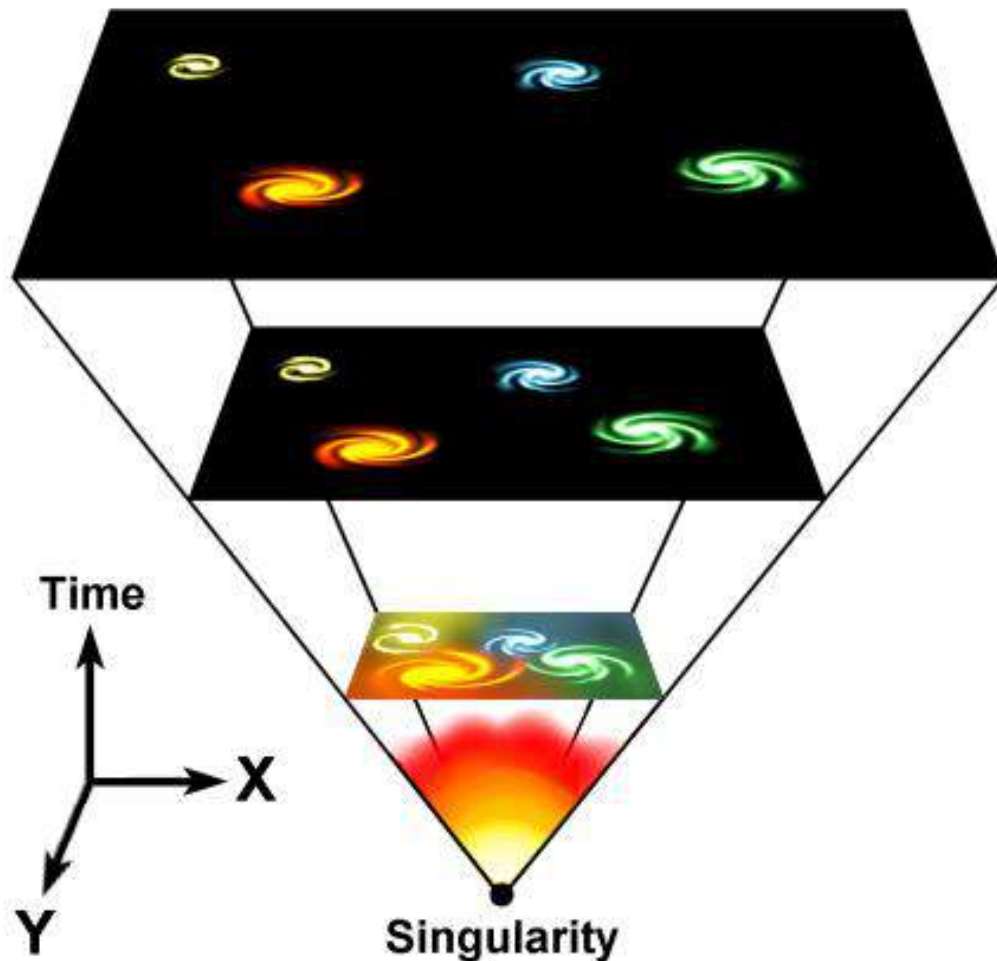
Jeremiah 10:12

- But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and **stretched out the heavens** by his understanding.

Zechariah 12:1

- The Lord, who **stretches out the heavens**, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person, declares:

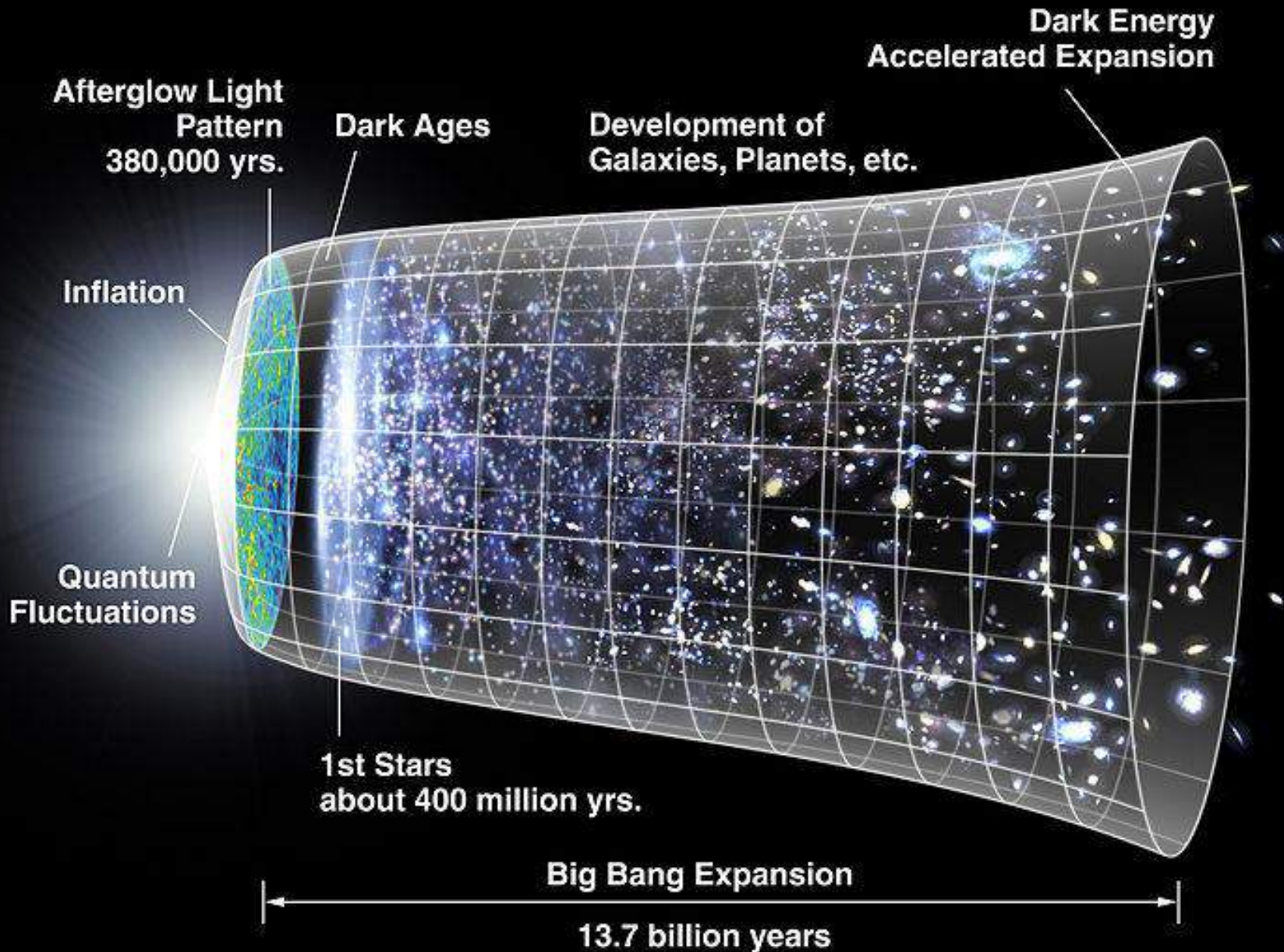
The big bang cosmology...



Space-time,
Mass-Energy
had a beginning

13.7 billions
yrs ago

The beginning of spacetime, mass-energy



"Now we see how the **astronomical evidence supports the biblical view** of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the **astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same**: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy."

Robert Jastrow (September 7, 1925 – February 8, 2008) was an American astronomer, physicist and cosmologist. He was a leading NASA scientist, populist author and futurist.



P. C. W. Davies,



'What caused the big bang?' . . . One might consider some supernatural force, some agency beyond space and time as being responsible for the big bang, or one might prefer to regard the big bang as an event without a cause. It seems to me that we don't have too much choice. **Either . . . something outside of the physical world . . . or . . . an event without a cause.**

Allan Sandage

“Here is evidence for what can only be described as a supernatural event. There is no way to predict this in physics as we know it. It is truly supernatural, that is, outside our understanding of the natural order of things, and by this definition a miracle”

Allan Rex Sandage (June 18, 1926 – November 13, 2010) was an American astronomer. He was Staff Member Emeritus with the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California.[2] He is best known for determining the first reasonably accurate value for the Hubble constant and the age of the universe. He is also the discoverer of the first quasar. He was one of the most influential astronomer of the 20th century



Isaac Newton:

- This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent Being. [...] This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of his dominion he is wont to be called "Lord God" παντοκράτωρ [pantokratōr], or "Universal Ruler". [...] The Supreme God is a Being eternal, infinite, [and] absolutely perfect.[6]

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The Biblical writers

- 2 Peter 1:16
- 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty.

Gospel: Eyewitness accounts

1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who **from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers** of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, **to write to you an orderly account**, most excellent Theophilus

- Luke 1:1-3

Integrity of the writers

- The new testament writers were willing to die for their beliefs.
- The Biblical writers were men of highest integrity – they reported truthfully. E.g.:
 - Peter denied Christ three times
 - King David committed adultery and murder.
 - Evil deeds of the kings.

Jesus' Confirmation

- Mt 5: 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

- Matthew 5:18
- King James Version (KJV)
- 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Jot

Tittle

Yod
(Y)

Tet
(T)

Chet
(Ch)

Zayin
(Z)

Vav
(V)

He
(H)

Dalet
(D)

Gimel
(G)

Bet
(B/V)

Alef
(silent)

Ayin
(silent)

Samech
(S)

Nun
(N)

Nun
(N)

Mem
(M)

Mem
(M)

Lamed
(L)

Khaf
(Kh)

Kaf
(K/Kh)

Tav
(T)

Shin
(Sh/S)

Resh
(R)

Qof
(Q)

Tsadeh
(Ts)

Tsadeh
(Ts)

Feh
(F)

Peh
(P/F)

Jesus Primarily Used a Translation

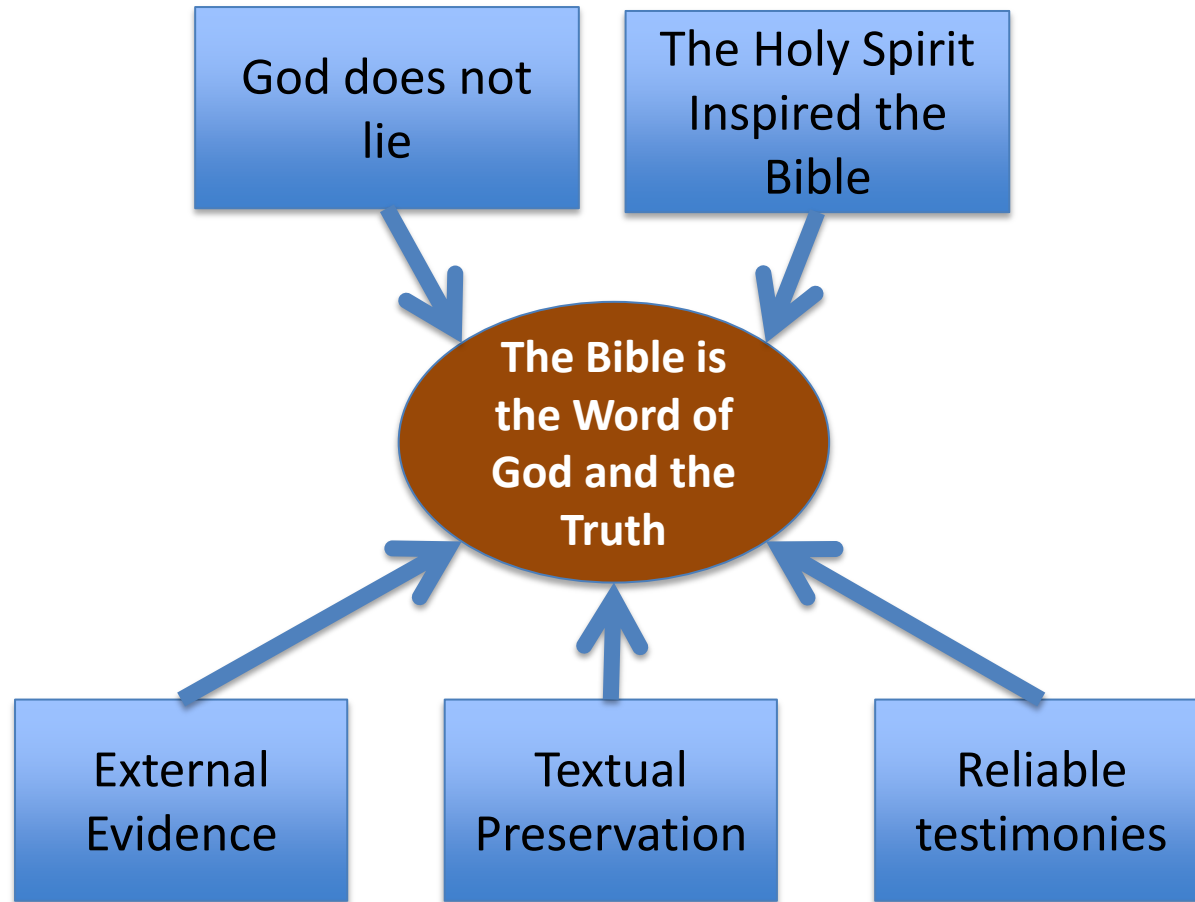
- **Jesus Primarily Used a Translation**
- Jesus and the Apostles: studied, memorized, used, quoted, and read most often from the Bible of their day, the Septuagint.
- Since Matthew wrote primarily to convince the Jews that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed their promised Messiah, it follows as a matter of course that his Gospel is saturated with the Hebrew Scriptures. Yet, when Jesus quotes the Old Testament in Matthew, He uses the Hebrew text only 10% of the time, but the Greek LXX translation—90% of the time!
- Amazingly, Jesus and Paul used the LXX as their primary Bible.

The New Testament quoted from a translation (the Septuagint)

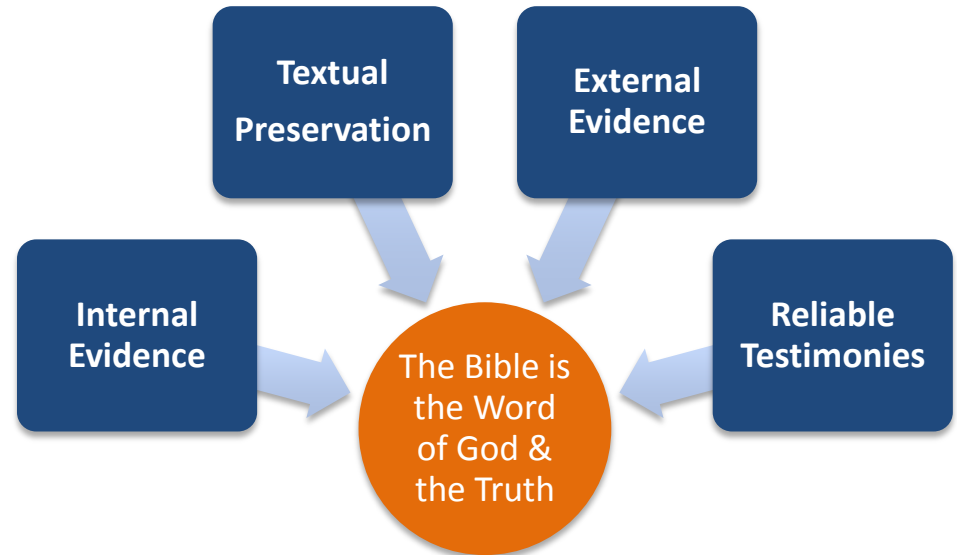
- Of the places where the New Testament quotes the Old, the great majority is from the Septuagint version.
- Authors Archer and Chirichigno list 340 places where the New Testament cites the Septuagint but only 33 places where it cites from the Masoretic Text rather than the Septuagint
- (G. Archer and G. C. Chirichigno, Old Testament Quotations in the New Testament: A Complete Survey, 25-32).

Inductive & Deductive Reasoning..

For a reason-base faith



Faith: Belief, trust & commitment based on sufficient evidence (beyond reasonable doubt , not with absolute certainty).



Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

I believe...

- The Bible (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the Word of God.
- It is inspired by God and completely without error (historically, scientifically, morally, and spiritually) in its original writings/meanings.
- The Bible reveals the being, nature, and character of God, especially His will for the salvation of human beings through Jesus Christ.
- The Bible is therefore our supreme and final authority in all matters that it addresses.

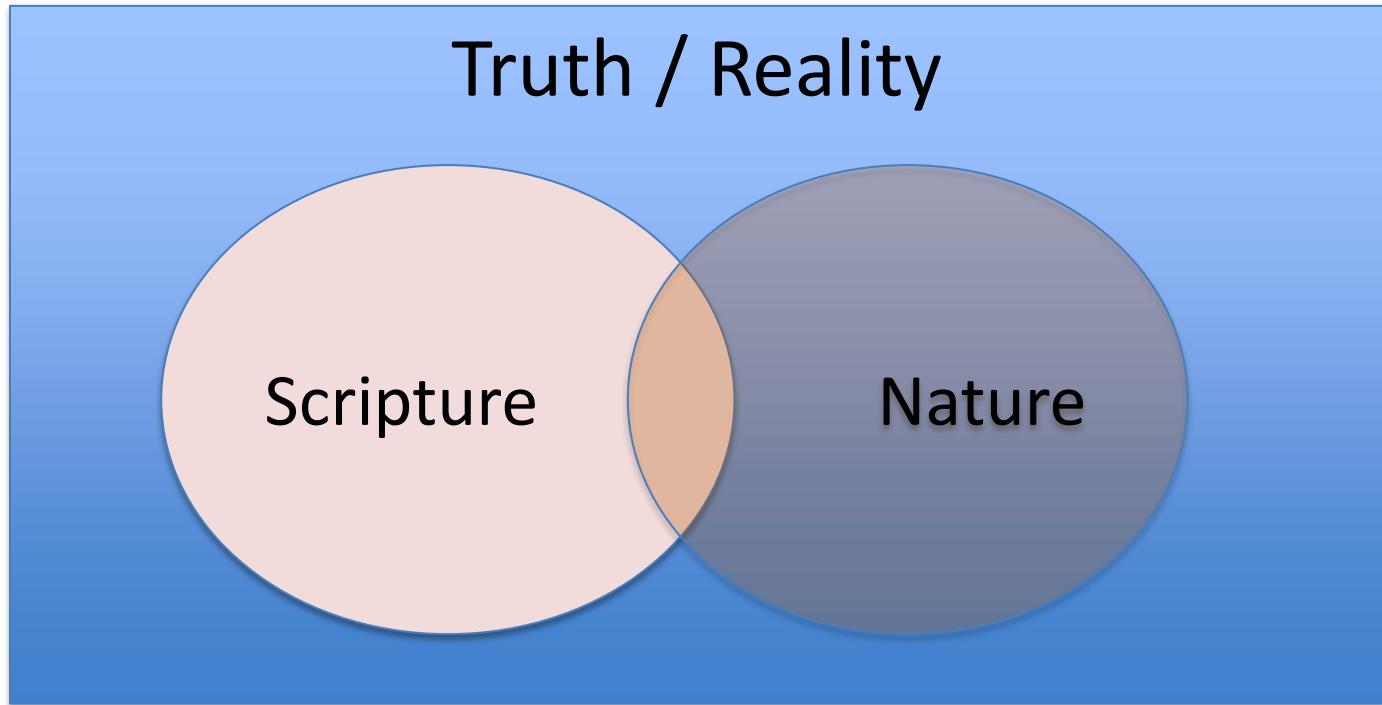
Discussion

Q&A

Discussion Questions

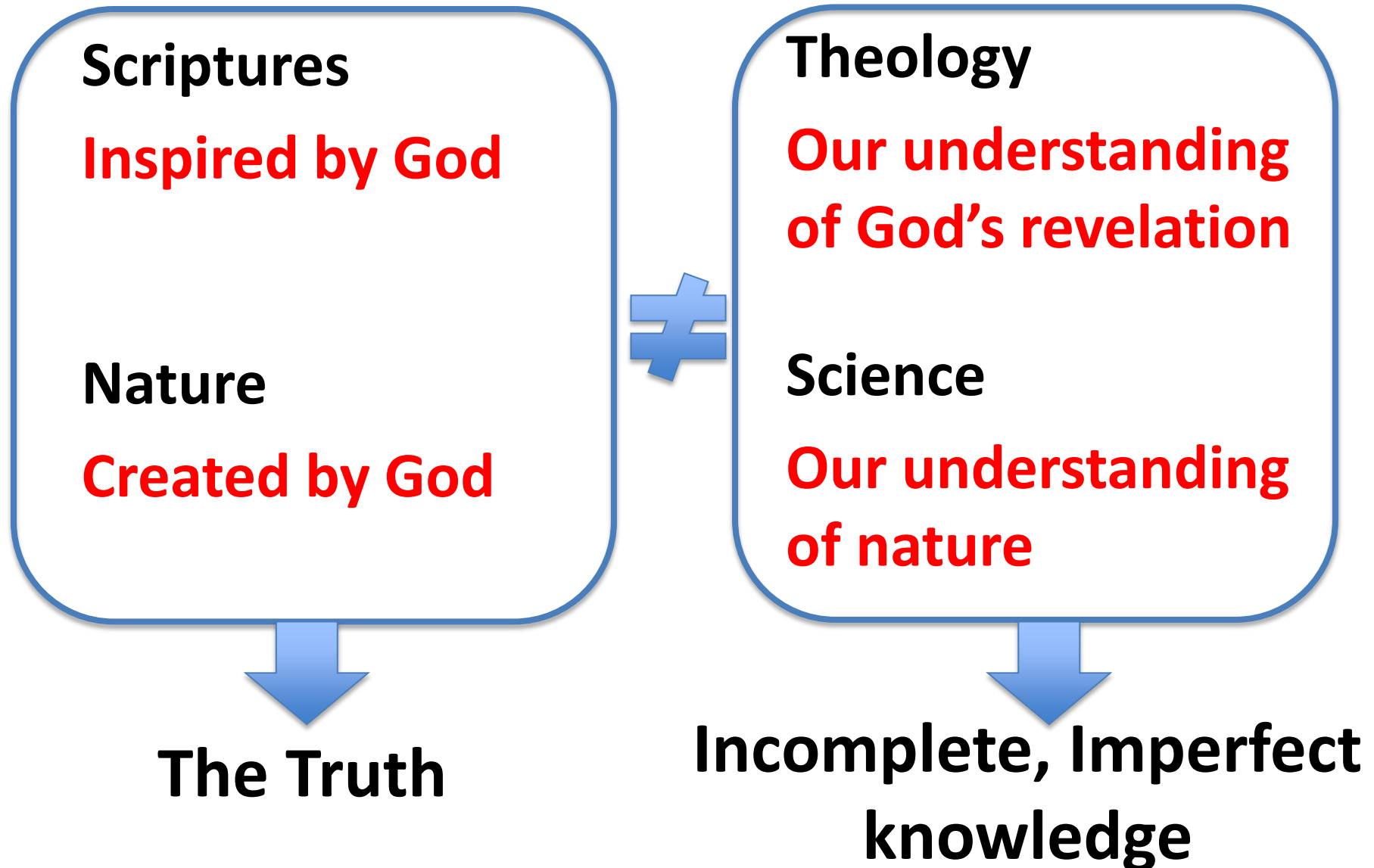
1. Do you ever have doubts about the reliability and accuracy of the Bible?
2. What evidence do you find most convincing to support the claim that the Bible is the inspired word of God and the truth?
3. What are some personal implications to you if the Bible is the inspired word of God and the truth?
4. How would you response if you were presented with a scientific theory that contradicts the Bible?

Book of nature and book of scripture



Properly understood, God's Word (Scripture) and God's world (nature), as two revelations (one verbal, one physical) from the same God, will never contradict each other.

When science contradicts the Bible ?



St Augustine

“In matters that are so obscure and far beyond our vision, we find in Holy Scripture passages which can be interpreted in very different ways without prejudice to the faith we have received.

In such cases, we should not rush in headlong and so firmly take our stand on one side that, if further progress in the search of truth justly undermines this position, we too fall with it.

That would be to battle not for the teaching of Holy Scripture but for our own, wishing its teaching to conform to ours, whereas we ought to wish ours to conform to that of Sacred Scripture.”

Nature is meant to lead us to God – but people can suppress the truth

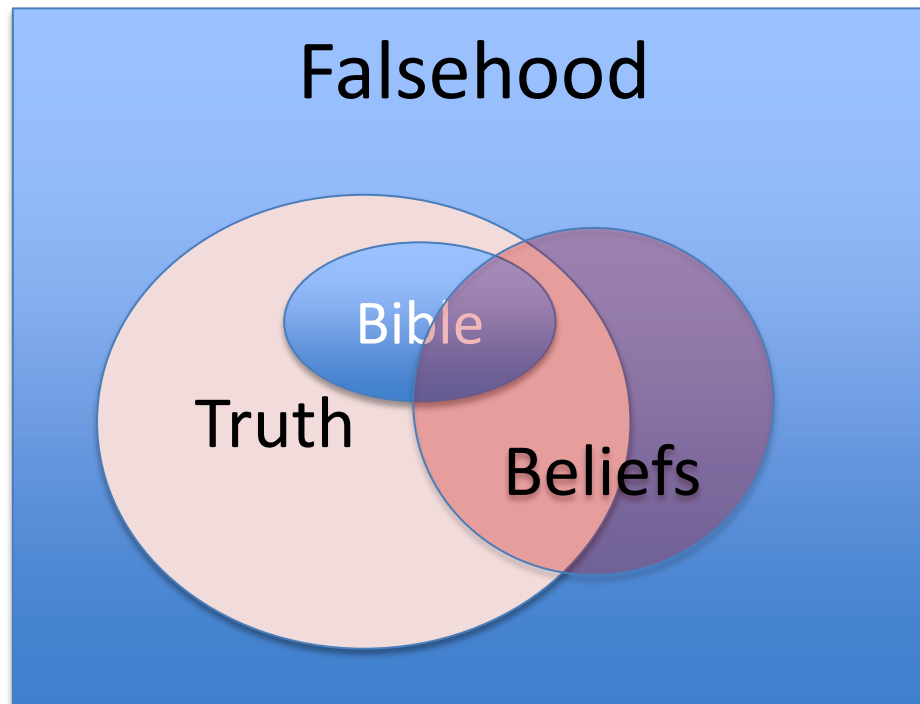
Rom 1:19-21

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – **his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made**, so that people are without excuse.²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Beliefs vs truths

"Faith is good only when it engages truth; when it is made to rest upon falsehood it can and often does lead to eternal tragedy."

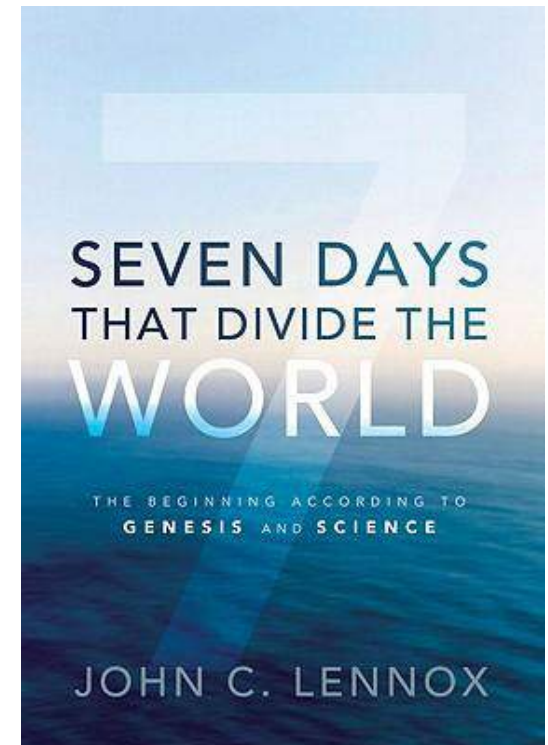
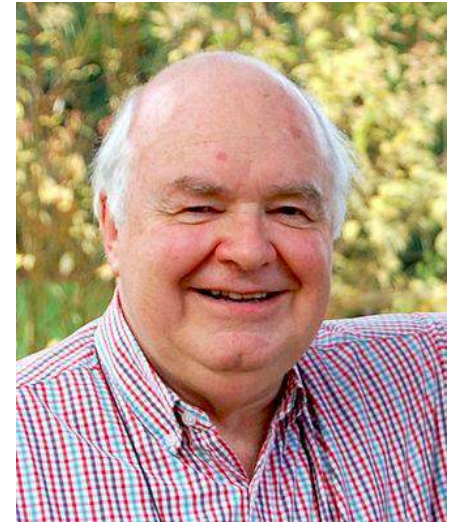
– A. W. Tozer



When science contradicts the scripture

John Carson Lennox is a British mathematician, philosopher of science and Christian apologist who is Professor of Mathematics[1] at the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow in Mathematics and Philosophy of Science at Green Templeton College, Oxford University.

He is also Pastoral Advisor of Green Templeton College and Fellow of Wycliffe Hall. He is a leading voice explaining the relationship between science and religion.



Our understanding vs Scriptures

“It is Scripture that has the final authority, not our understanding of it. It is a sad spectacle, and one that brings discredit on the Christian message, when those who profess to believe that message belie their profession by fighting amongst themselves or caricaturing others, rather than engaging in respectful discussion through which all sides might just learn something. “

John Lennox

Avoiding extremes...

“The Galileo incident teaches us that we should be humble enough to distinguish between what the Bible says and our interpretations of it.”

“The first is the danger of tying interpretation of Scripture too closely to the science of the day, as the fixed-earthers did [...] The opposite danger is to ignore science.”

John Lennox

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 - The Biblical writers
 - Jesus
 - Yourself

For Seekers:

An experiment in search of truth

- Read the Bible for yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to the truth.
- Come to a personal conviction about the Bible.

John 16:12-13

12 'I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13

But when he, the **Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

For Believers: A Covenant with God

“I will govern my life, my beliefs and my behaviour in accordance to the Bible, rejecting what is contrary”

