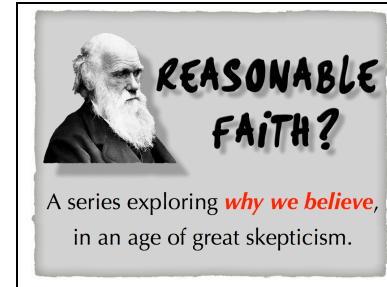


Biblical Manuscripts: (note: these are individual manuscripts):

Magdalene Ms (Matthew 26)	1st century	50-60 AD	coexistent(?)
John Rylands (John)	90 AD	130 AD	40 years
Bodmer Papyrus II (John)	90 AD	150-200 AD	60-110 years
Chester Beatty Papyri (NT)	1st cen.	200 AD	150 years
Diatessaron by Tatian (Gospels)	1st cen.	200 AD	150 years
Codex Vaticanus (Bible)	1st cen.	325-350 AD	275-300 years
Codex Sinaiticus (Bible)	1st cen.	350 AD	300 years
Codex Alexandrinus (Bible)	1 st - 3 rd century	400 AD	350 years



Can the Bible Be Trusted? Part 1

After all those thousand of years of transmission, how do we know the Bibles we have even *resemble* the original manuscripts?

And what if the *originals* were full of historical error?

How can I trust the Bible?

1. The Evidence of ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

HOW WE GOT THE NEW TESTAMENT

The originals (“autographs”) (50-90 AD)



Papyrus manuscripts (early copies-- 90 to 300 AD)



Uncial manuscripts (300-800 AD)

Written in large caps on thick material, often antelope skins. Also called “Codex”. ↓

Miniscule manuscripts (800-1400 AD)

Written in cursive handwriting, many thousands of these exist.

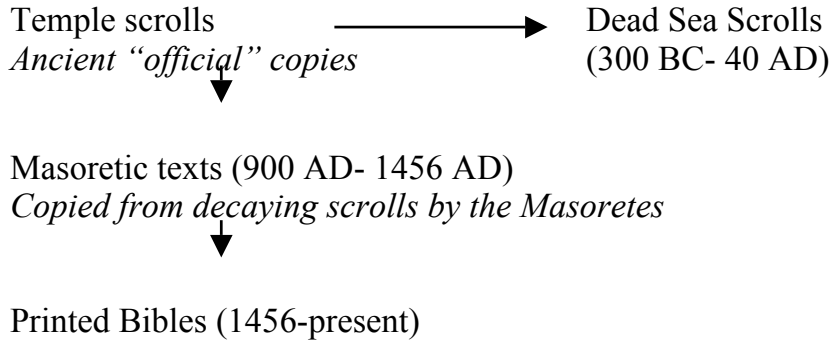


Printed Bibles (1456-present)

So how do I know my Bible reflects the original text?

- The discovery of the Codex Sinaiticus (340 AD)
- The discovery of the Codex Ephraimi Rescriptus (345 AD)
- The discovery of the Codex Vaticanus (325 AD)
- The discovery of papyrus fragments (as early as 60 AD!)
...and further discoveries each year confirm my Bible's accuracy!

HOW WE GOT THE OLD TESTAMENT



So how do I know my Bible reflects the original text?

- The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Conclusions from manuscript evidence:

- The Bible has better manuscript evidence than _____ ancient book
- Only about _____ of the text is in doubt. _____ doctrinal teaching is affected.
- The remaining interval between the date of writing and the earliest manuscript evidence is *"so small as to be negligible"*

Sir Frederick Kenyon, the Director of the British Museum, said:
"The last foundation or any doubt that the scriptures have come down to us as they were written has been removed."

The Time Gap And The Number Of MSS:

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Copies (extent)
Secular Manuscripts:				
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Thucydides (History)	460 - 400 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	?
Aristotle (Philosopher)	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	5
Caesar (History)	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Pliny (History)	61 - 113 AD	850 AD	750 years	7
Suetonius (Roman History)	70 - 140 AD	950 AD	800 years	?
Tacitus (Greek History)	100 AD	1,100 AD	1,000 years	20