

BIBLE HISTORY & RELIABILITY

A Scripture study
by
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(Study # 11)

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PREFACE

Do you, dear reader, truly believe the Scriptures? For if you do not believe the Bible then you cannot genuinely believe in the God of the Bible or the Son of God (Saviour) as revealed in the Bible. I must therefore be blunt and say; if you do not believe the Bible you are not a Christian. However, whether you are a Christian or not, I am sure this study can help you.

The Bible exists to enable us to know God, to bring us God's message with His offer of salvation, to instruct, reprove, correct, and to bring us to repentance and new life in Him.

Read: 2Tim. 3: 16-17, and John 3:16-17.

I find though, that many Christians know very little of, nor understand, our Bible's history.- Knowing Bible history increases our belief and trust in the Bible's inspiration, accuracy, and reliability. Many do not know about, or think about, the lives which were lost in the process of bringing us the Bible, especially our Bible in English.

We need also to note that there are many views on how Scripture should be interpreted or believed. The majority of Christians believe the entire Bible is inspired by God. However, even in this group there are many divisions.

Some believe all of the Bible should be taken literally.

Others believe that all should be taken literally, except where the context shows that the content is symbolic.

Others believe that the Bible should be interpreted in a spiritual or symbolic manner, with just moral lessons for our common good.

There are of course many areas of Scripture, which are considered contentious. There are areas where sincere Christians hold to interpretations which can be quite different to those held by other equally sincere Christians. This does not however mean that we should turn away in despair, for it is our duty to study and diligently search for the truth. The Scriptures teach us that we are to study, so that we are fully persuaded in our own minds as to what the Scriptures actually say, such as in Romans 14: 5, when speaking of the Sabbath issue, it reads; *"One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. **Let each be fully convinced in his own mind**"*.

The best way to arrive at Scripture truth is by comparing Scripture with Scripture.

Whatever your views may be, I urge you to read this study on Bible history prayerfully and with an open mind.

We now live in the last days in which there is a famine of the **hearing** of the Word of God as was predicted in Amos 8:11. - There are a number of modern corrupted bibles in circulation mostly due to the teachings of Westcott & Hort. Bibles which attempt to discredit the Deity of Christ, the virgin birth, even the sinlessness of Jesus. They also have a huge number of omissions, additions and alterations, but more of that later. In most "Christian" churches today ministers use, preach, and push these corrupted scriptures to be used by their flock. This means that there is indeed now a drought of the **hearing** of the true Word of God.

So, what is the Christian to believe regarding the accuracy of Scripture, its reliability and contents? Firstly, God never intended to give us the **full answer** to every question. God has however, in His wisdom given us a written record of **all that is necessary** for us to know. If we are to accept this written record as found in the Bible, we must know and believe its reliability and truth. Therefore, we need to look at as much as God has revealed to us, as possible, for God does not call us just to read the Bible; nor just listen to the reading of it; He calls us to actively use it, and that requires us to **study** it! (2 Tim. 2:15.)

May God bless you with understanding and trust in his precious Word.

ENDURANCE OF GOD'S WORD

Over the centuries there have been many attempts to destroy/change/belittle/pervert/ deliberately mistranslate or add or subtract from God's Holy Word. A lot of these changes are with us today. We can however take comfort in the knowledge that we have still available at this time an accurate translation in English of His Word. When I say accurate, I don't mean it is perfect word for word. There are always problems in translating from one language to another. It is not always possible to get the exact meanings of every word. So when translators are unable to get the exact meaning, the honest God fearing ones will use whatever meaning is closest based on their current knowledge of the language and the context in which the word is found. Since the KJV was written the knowledge of many of the ancient languages has increased considerably. The English language, as with all languages, undergoes changes at an almost daily rate. Therefore when reading the Bible we need to be aware of language changes and make the appropriate allowances. And yes, there are some copiest errors in all translations/versions mostly in numerals but they make no difference to the overall message. When honestly translated without deliberate additions, omissions, or alterations the Bible remains the accurate and Holy Word of God.

Now the question arises, "Do we have an accurate translation of the Scriptures with us today"? Well God has promised that we will always have His Word with us. - Here are a couple of references.

Psm. 12:6,7. reads:

⁶*The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.*
⁷*You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.*

Psm 119:160.

The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgements endures forever.

Our Lord Jesus Christ vouched for the authenticity and reliability of the Old Testament (LXX) then in use by His recorded words, and those of His disciples, in the New Testament. More recent copies of the LXX and subsequently all existing Bibles however do contain a few copiers and translators errors (mainly in numerals). Some of these copiers errors are caused by smudges or insect makings on the older manuscript, but none change the overall message of Scripture.

2 Tim. 3: 16,17,

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work".

2 Pet. 1: 21,

'For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit'.

Rom. 15: 4,

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

John 1:1. *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'*

We then find God telling us that the believer needs the written word in order to survive.

Luke 4:4. ⁴But Jesus answered him, saying, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but **by every word of God.**' "

Not every verse, chapter, or page, but by **Every Word**.

James 1 :21-22. *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls. But be **doers of the word**, and **not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves.*

2 Tim. 2 :15 **Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

The reason His Word endures is because God loves us and wants us to know Him, and the believer needs his guidance.

God's Words in both the Old and New Testaments are our reliable guide to find out all we need to know about God, His love for us, the meaning of life, how we got here & why we are here.

Then we have;

Amos. 8:11,12

¹¹ " **Behold, the days are coming,**" says the Lord GOD, " That **I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.**
¹² **They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it.**

God has said in Psm. 12:6,7.and many other places that he would preserve His Word through every generation.- Since Moses we have never been without God's true word and never will be.

Yet Amos 8:11 tells us that **there will be a famine of the hearing of God's Word**. That famine is with us today. Many false preachers today preach to itching ears Philosophy/ Prosperity Gospel and other issues rather than Scripture.

People today are going from church to church & denomination to denomination trying to hear the preaching of God's Word only to find in so many places it has been corrupted.

For the majority of all churches of every denomination are preaching from corrupted scriptures, giving false messages.

The Scriptures however give the following warnings.

Prov. 30

⁵ **Every word of God is pure;** He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

⁶ **Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you,** and you be found a liar.

Rev. 22:

¹⁸ **For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;**
¹⁹ **and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

Yet in spite of this people dare to change the Scriptures.

For today the majority of all churches of every denomination are preaching from corrupted scriptures, giving false messages.

Many of the most accepted new Versions omit more than 180 portions of Scripture plus many alterations & additions. This is mostly due to the influence of B.F.Westcott (1825-1901) and F.J.A.Hort (1829-1892) , but more on them later.

The Bible in English

In 600 AD the Catholic Church ruled that Latin was the only language allowed for Scripture.

Caedmon translated parts of the Bible into Anglo- Saxon in 680 AD.

In 1382 AD, -John Wycliffe, produced the first copy of the **whole** Bible in English (Completed by John Purvey in 1388 A.D.), hand written & translated from the Old Latin Vulgate which used the **Received Text**, (also called The **Textus Receptus**) all 80 Books which included The Apocrypha. The Greek language Septuagint that Jesus Christ read and quoted from was no longer readily available, though still used in the Greek Orthodox Churches.-- Most of our modern Bibles today are based on the **Alexandrian Text** as used by Westcott & Hort. **The Alexandrian Text is derived from approximately 5-10% of all manuscripts.** Whereas the Received text (called by Westcott & Hort, "The Syrian Text") as used in the KJ & NKJ versions is comprised of 90-95% of all Manuscripts. - More on Westcott & Hort later.

It is said that because Wycliffe had dared to print the Bible in English (based on the Received Text). The Pope 44 years after Wycliffe's death, ordered that his bones be dug up, crushed, and scattered in the river.

John Hus who was a follower of Wycliffe, opposed Rome and their threat to execute anyone who possessed a non-Latin Bible, and in **1415**, - **Hus**, was burned at the stake, with Wycliffe's manuscript Bibles used as kindling for the fire.

In 1455 AD, Gutenberg, with the newly invented printing press produced the first book ever printed; the Gutenberg Bible in Latin.

In 1516 Erasmus published the first **Printed edition of the Greek New Testament**. (Based on the Received Text.) Then between 1516 & 1526 he produced four more printed editions of the Greek text.

In 1517, - Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses of Contention to the church door at Wittenberg.

Foxe's "Book of Martyrs" records that in that same year (**1517**), seven people were burned at the stake by the Roman Catholic Church for the crime of teaching their children to say the Lord's Prayer in English rather than Latin.

In 1526,- William Tyndale (Who studied under Erasmus at Cambridge University) printed the New Testament in English using the 1516 Greek/Latin Erasmus Text as used by Martin Luther, as his source. – Tyndale was incarcerated for 500 days before being strangled and burned at the stake in 1536.

In 1535,- Myles Coverdale (a disciple of Tyndale) finished translating the Old Testament and in 1535 printed the first complete Bible in the English language.- Known as the Coverdale Bible, or Great Bible.

In 1550, Stephens published a similar text to that of Erasmus, incorporating the verse divisions as they appear in the K.J & NKJ Versions.

The **King James Version (KJV)**, commonly known as the **Authorized Version (AV)**, was begun in 1604 and completed in 1611. The translation was done by 47 scholars, all of whom were members of the Church of England. This was the third translation into English to be approved by the English Church authorities. The first was the Great Bible commissioned in the reign of King Henry VIII (1535), and the second was the Bishops' Bible of 1568.

English Revised Version (E.R.V.) printed in the 1880's would become the first English language Bible to replace The King James Bible with the absence of the 14 Apocryphal books.

The **King James** publishers removed the Apocrypha from their Bibles in 1885.

Up until the **1880's** every Protestant Bible (not just Catholic Bibles) had 80 books, not 66. "The Apocrypha" were part of virtually every printing of the Tyndale-Matthews Bible, the Great Bible, the Bishops Bible, the Protestant Geneva Bible, and the King James Bible until their removal in the **1880's**. The original **1611** King James contained the Apocrypha, and King James threatened anyone who dared to print the Bible without the Apocrypha with heavy fines and a year in jail

There have now been many translations into English, some of which are questionable.

A couple of the worst & most inaccurate must be the so called "Gay Bible" and the "Aussie Bible".

The English language (as with all languages) is constantly changing, so there is nothing wrong with making a new translation to keep up with the language changes, or when new reliable manuscripts are found, as long as they keep as much as possible to a literal word for word translation from the best reliable manuscripts.

A manuscript copy being the oldest does not necessarily make it the best. For it is well attested that from earliest times there were false and altered manuscripts in circulation. However the early church in general (particularly the Byzantine Church) were quick to reject them. These false manuscripts received little use and because of that preserved better.

The Byzantine Church were Greek speaking and it was easy for them to carefully copy the scriptures again in Greek as each copy began to wear out. Hence older copies of the Greek either wore out or were deliberately destroyed.

- Apocrypha

- The following explanation of the Apocrypha has been copied from; <https://www.answers.com/topic/apocrypha> with thanks, and more info is available at that site.

The Religion Book:

Apocrypha

Between 90 and 98 ce, Jewish scholars met at Jamania and established the criteria for the books of the Hebrew Bible that would later be adopted as part of Christianity's official biblical canon-the "canonical books." Criteria of antiquity, language, and moral integrity were established. Books that failed to meet the criteria came to be called "apocryphal."

The word is a Greek plural neuter adjective meaning "hidden." As a literary term it was first applied to books containing esoteric wisdom deemed too sensitive for the uninitiated. Hence, it was a term of honor among scholars. However, after the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem in 70 AD, its meaning gradually evolved to mean "spurious" or even "heretical."

When it came time for the New Testament canon to be "fixed" at the Council of Hippo in 393 AD, the criteria were established that each book had to have been written by an apostle or someone close to an apostle, and each had to have been traditionally used in public worship.

The term "apocryphal" is now applied to books not included in the official canon of the Bible, but often included, especially in Protestant Bibles, as a section between the Old and New Testaments. Such writings include additions to the book of Esther, the Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men, Psalm 151, and the books of Baruch, Bel and the Dragon, Ecclesiasticus, 1 and 2 Esdras, Letter of Jeremiah, Judith, 1-4 Maccabees, Prayer of Manasseh, Susanna, Tobit, and Wisdom of Solomon. - Orthodox, Roman, and Protestant churches differ regarding the importance and content of these sections.

Jerome, writing in the early fifth century, was probably the first to use the term "Apocrypha" to describe non-canonical books. He believed apocryphal books should be read for edification but not "for confirming the authority of church dogmas." Because of their acceptance in church tradition, he felt compelled to include them in his famous Latin Bible, The Vulgate, which became the official translation of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the Greek Orthodox Church, all but four books of the Apocrypha were accepted as canonical. After the Reformation of the sixteenth century, most Protestants generally ignored the Apocrypha. Martin Luther added the Apocrypha to the end of his German translation while commenting, "These books are not held equal to the sacred Scriptures but are useful and good for reading." That statement probably marked the beginning of the end for the study of the Apocrypha in most Protestant circles. Because they were placed together in a group, they were easy to remove, and most Protestant Bibles do not contain even a mention of such books.

Sources: Douglas, J. D., ed. The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1974. The Lost Books of the Bible and the Forgotten Books of Eden. Cleveland, OH: World Syndicate Publishing, 1926. May, Herbert G., and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

Bible Dictionary and Concordance:

Apocrypha

("hidden")

Name given to a group of Jewish writings that date from approximately 300 B.C. to A.d. 70. Today the OT Apocrypha is a term denoting the 13 works contained in the oldest Greek codices of the OT but not in the Hebrew Bible. "Apocrypha" does not refer to "hidden" secrets, as in Daniel 12:9-10 and Ezra 14:44-48, but to extracanonical documents. Roman Catholics contend these works are "Deutero-canonical" and inspired; they are consequently to found in the Catholic Bible. Protestants and Jews do not consider them canonical, even though some books, like Ecclesiasticus, are often acknowledged as authoritative and even inspired. All the books were written in a Semitic language and in Palestine, except for the Wisdom of Solomon and II Maccabees, composed in Greek, probably in Alexandria.

The Letter of Jeremiah was written long before 100 B.C. The original was composed sometime around 300 B.C. Containing only 72 or 73 verses, the work, influenced by Jeremiah 10:1-16, is an exhortation not to fear or worship idols.

Tobit was probably composed around 180 B.C. and is a romantic story teaching that God does indeed help those faithful to his laws.

Judith, composed about 150 B.C., is a story about how Judith beheaded the Assyrian general, Holofernes, and delivered her nation. The author intended to exhort Jews to be obedient to Torah and reject evil, especially as represented by an invading enemy.

I Esdras (also known as III Esdras following the Septuagint where Ezra and Nehemiah are taken as I and II Esdras) was written sometime between 150-100 B.C.; it is a deliberate attempt to rewrite II Chronicles 35:1-36:23, Ezra, and Nehemiah 7:38-8:12. II Esdras 3:1-5:6 are independent of the OT. Notable features of the book are the elevation of Ezra as "high priest", the celebration of the Temple, and the preoccupation with Zerubbabel.

II Esdras (also known as IV Esdras or the Apocalypse of Ezra) is a Jewish apocalyptic work originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic (but known only in translation) not long after the destruction of the Second Temple. Facing the problem of Israel's suffering, it answers that while the world was created for Israel, Israel had sinned and must therefore pass through a period of purgation.

Prayer of Manasseh, a penitential psalm supplementing II Chronicles 33:11-13. Written in the 1st century B.C.

Additions to Esther are six expansions to the Book of Esther in its Greek form. The date for these additions is clearly pre-70 A.D., but may have been appended in different years between 167 to 114 B.C. or sometime in the 1st century B.C. The authors of these additions added color to the story, provided an apology for Judaism, and – most importantly – supplied the theological words and ideas conspicuously absent in Esther.

The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men, Susanna and Bel and the Dragon are three additions to the Book of Daniel, dated between 165 and c. 100 B.C. *The Prayer of Azariah* turns the reader's attention to the Jews facing martyrdom and away from the wicked king; it stresses that there is only one God and that he is just. *Susanna* is a tale about a beautiful woman saved by Daniel when he cross-examined two elders and revealed that they were lying. *Bel and the Dragon*

preserve two stories. One describes how Daniel proved that the food offered up to the idol Bel was in fact eaten by the priests; the other how Daniel destroyed an idol but was saved by Habakkuk with the aid of angels.

Baruch, which dates from the 1st or 2nd centuries B.C., is composite. It opens with an acknowledgement that Jerusalem was destroyed because of Israel's sins and with a plea for God's forgiveness, then moves through a poetic celebration of wisdom, to a description of how the lament from Jerusalem was heard.

Ecclesiasticus (Ben Sirach), probably composed around 180 B.C., by a conservative teacher in Jerusalem, is an apology for Judaism and a critique of Greek culture. Typical themes are the reverence of the Temple, the Torah and the belief in the one God who is just and merciful.

The Wisdom of Solomon, perhaps written in the 1st century B.C., is a blend of Israelite and Jewish wisdom traditions with Greek and Egyptian ideas. Wisdom is clearly personified.

I Maccabees, composed near the end of the 2nd century B.C., celebrate the military exploits of the Maccabees up to the rule of John Hyrcanus. The author is pro-Hasmonean, but does not articulate the importance or value of martyrdom. This document is a major source for studying the history of 2nd-century Palestine.

II Maccabees, written in the latter part of the 2nd century or the early decades of the 1st century B.C., is an epitome of a lost five-volume history by Jason of Cyrene. Much more theologically oriented than *I Maccabees*, *II Maccabees* stresses the resurrection of the body, the efficaciousness of martyrdom, and the revelatory dimension of miracles. It is anti-Hasmonean. Two letters introduce the epitome: the first, probably authentic, was composed around 124 B.C., in a Semitic language, and is an appeal to celebrate the festival of Hanukkah; the second letter, probably inauthentic, dates between 103 and 60 B.C. and may have been composed in Greek.

See also entries on the individual books.

End of Copy

Manuscripts

Bible manuscripts are derived from two main sources, being The “Textus Receptus” & “Alexandrian”.

The first represents about 90 percent of all manuscripts going by the titles of the “Textus Receptus”, “Received Text”, “Byzantine Text”, “Imperial Text”, “Traditional Text”, “Reformation Text”, “Majority Text”, “Syrian Text”, or “Antioch Text”. This first group which I will now collectively call the “Received Text” has been derived from manuscripts originating from many European countries. It has been found that the text of nearly 4,000 manuscripts from the above group agree almost perfectly with each other. The above comprised the Greek New Testament which was in general usage throughout the greater part of the Byzantine Period (AD 312-1453). The “Received Text” is in harmony with the “Italic Bible (AD157)”, the “Old Latin Vulgate” (AD 157), *(The Old Latin Vulgate was of the Received text type and is not to be confused with the later Roman Catholic Latin Vulgate)*, and The Codex W & Codex A from around 450AD, the Peshitta Syriac Version from AD 150,- Translated from the Byzantine and the vast majority of extant Manuscripts which were preserved through the Greek speaking Byzantine Empire. It was also known as the “Traditional Text”. All surviving manuscripts from this group were produced at a much later date than the surviving Alexandrian Manuscripts - It is due to the later date of the available Alexandrian manuscripts that modern scholars base their new versions on the “Alexandrian Text” Which we will deal with next - However, in recent times a large number of fragments from the 2nd century AD containing many readings from the “Received Text” have been found, and this shows the earlier existence of the “Received Text”.

The above comprised the Greek New Testament which was in general usage throughout the greater part of the Byzantine Period (AD 312 - 1453)

The Byzantine/Syrian translation from the Greek, . Omits; James, Peter, Epistles of John, Jude & Revelation. - Contains Mark 16: 17 - 20, which some modern Bible versions delete. (2 copies made in 4th century still exist).

The Greek Text is in close harmony with the Syrian Peshitta.

The Greek speaking Byzantium Empire escaped a lot of the Muslim & Roman suppression of the New Testament manuscripts from around the 4th to 7th century. Their copies of the New Testament in the common Greek (Koine) language were preserved and kept right up to the 15th century when the printing press was invented.

It has been found that the text of nearly 4,000 Manuscripts from the above group agree almost perfectly with each other.

Just as God had preserved the Hebrew Bible through the Hebrew speaking Jews, so He preserved the Greek New Testament through the Greek speaking Byzantine Empire. The “Traditional Text” was the New Testament as accepted by the early Christians.

The Received Text was compiled by Desiderius Erasmus in 1516 from five Manuscripts (From the Traditional Text) from the 10th to 15th century which were accepted at the time as being the only accurate & reliable Greek New Testament Manuscripts available.

From the 6th Century and until 1881 the Traditional Text/Received Text was universally accepted by the Church as being the only acceptable true copy of the original New Testament manuscripts. All others including the Alexandrian were rejected. It is significant that Erasmus is recorded as having spent some time in Rome and had correspondence with three Popes yet when compiling the Received Text he did not use the Codex Vaticanus which was available and later used by Westcott & Hort.

The King James (printed 1611) and later The New King James (1979) Bibles were translated into English from this Received Text .

Thousands more manuscript portions (including the Dead Sea Scrolls) have been found since 1611 (after the printing of the KJV.) , some dated from 350-380 A.D.. Of these 90-95% agree with the five Greek Text Manuscripts of the 10th to 15th Century used by Erasmus. This shows that it was the accepted text in the early church. These later finds were used as justification for the printing of the NKJV.

Many writings from the early church fathers have been preserved and frequently quote the Bible in their writings. – The Received Text agrees with the vast majority of the 86,000 + citations from Scripture by the early church fathers up to AD400. This shows that the Received Text was in existence and highly regarded from earliest times. An example can be found in the writings of Tertullian (AD200), Cyprian (AD 248-258) and Tertionius (AD 390) when quoting Rev. 22:14 they use the words “Do His Commandments” and not “Wash their robes” as found in the Alexandrian texts.

The reason given by the Roman Catholic Church for the burning of so many bibles in the Middle Ages was that they were not the Roman Catholic version. – In 1490 Torquemada caused many Hebrew Bibles and more than 6,000 volumes to be burnt in an Auto da fe at Salamanca. It is indeed a miracle that so many copies of the Received Text have survived to the present day.

The second group of manuscripts are known as the “Alexandrian Text”, which covers “Vaticanus”, “Sinaiticus”, manuscripts and Minority text and Egyptian Text. - They represent only 5-10% percent of all Greek manuscripts, and in many cases they do not agree with each other.

The “Vaticanus Manuscripts” from the 4th century were found in the Vatican in 1481.

Huge portions are missing, including the entire book of Revelation.

The “Sinaiticus Manuscript” was found in St. Catherine’s Monastery near Mount Sinai in 1859 and dates back to AD350. – It contains most of the New Testament and also includes, “Shepherd of Hermes”, and “Epistle of Barnabas. It has a large number of omissions and a number of alterations made during the 6th and 7th centuries.

This group is very unreliable. – The Alexandrian Texts generally tend to minimise Jesus’s virgin birth, His Deity, the Trinity, and more. For an example, the N.I.V in Luke 2:33 reads; “*The **child’s father** and mother marvelled at what was said about Him*”.

While the N.K.J.V. reads;

“*And **Joseph** and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him*”. (**Joseph was not the father of Jesus**).

There are a number of translations/versions of the Bible currently available. Most contain an accurate large portion of God’s Word. However most also now contain deliberate alterations, additions, and deletions of words, and verses.

At least two are still very accurate though still having some faults.

For we find even in the best translations there is also some instances where an odd poorly (not necessarily wrongly) translated word can cause confusion. For instance, the K.J.V. has a number of words of which the meaning has changed since it first went to print. A couple of examples are; publican has become tax collector, and charity has become love. Then, in some instances, a number of different though similar words from the Greek have all for some reason been translated into the one English word.

For example, the word Hell has been used in the KJ.V & N.K.J.V & some others, in place of The Unseen World. – The Grave – The Pit - Sheol - Gehenna – The Lake of Fire, and some others. (See Study#9) Although I would call this bad translation, it still makes no difference to the overall message.

The New Testament was written between about 35 A.D., and 98 A.D. - Moses was the author of the first five books of the Bible, and the Apostle John was the author of the last book. Old Testament Bible authors sometimes used scribes to write for them. If the author died, the scribe would on occasion close the book with some details of the authors death.

Before 200 A.D. the Greek text of the New Testament was translated into Latin and Syriac, but all **original** manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments have worn out or been destroyed. This is mainly due to persecution of the early church, which also involved the deliberate destruction of Bibles. During Diocletian's reign in Rome, around about 300 A.D., he waged a ten-year hunt for, and destruction of Christian literature. Eusebius (264- 340 A.D.), Church historian and bishop of Caesarea, makes mention of this in his writings, and states, how that later under Constantine, new copies were made. At the present time, **some** of the most ancient of the Old and New Testament manuscripts containing all or part of the Bible still in existence are; -

The Dead Sea Scrolls, (Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), which were found in 1947 AD and contained the complete book of Isaiah, and fragments of every book of the Hebrew Bible, with the exception of Esther. Scholars dated these as having been written between 150 BC and 70 AD.; this makes them the oldest portions of Old Testament Scripture now available. There were also many other fragments of valuable historical and religious documents which Scholars have dated as being written between the last century BC., and the first century AD.

The Old Testament portions of the Dead Sea Scrolls so far translated into English are in very close harmony with our modern Bibles.

Between about 1895 and 1905 AD In central Egypt, a large number of manuscripts, part manuscripts, and other historical, business, and personal documents were found. Among which, were some valuable historical documents dating back as far as 2000 BC. Most however, were found to belong to the period between 300 B.C. and 300 AD. The later ones contained a number of early Christian writings, including fragments of John's Gospel, which scholars have dated as early second century. There were also portions of the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, which were dated, early third century. - There was also a large portion of Paul's epistles, which scholars placed at about 200 AD. It contained Romans, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, & 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

The Old Syriac, A Byzantine/Syrian translation from the Greek, Made in mid. second century A.D. Omits; James, Peter, Epistles of John, Jude & Revelation. - Contains Mark 16: 17 - 20, which some modern Bible versions delete. (2 copies made in 4th century still exist)

The Old Latin, Made in mid. second century A.D. - Translated from the 3rd. Century B.C. Septuagint. Includes the New Testament with the exception of Hebrews, James & 2 Peter. (About 40 copies made in 3rd to 4th Cent. A.D. now exist).

The Vulgate, A revision of the 'Old Latin'. By Jerome- 382 – 404 A.D. (8th Cent. Copy of complete Bible now at Florence) - - (More than 8,000 Manuscripts exist today)

- The Coptic** An Egyptian translation. - Made in the second century A.D. Some copy portions made in 3rd to 4th cent. A.D. still exist.
- The Peshitta Syriac,** Made in 464 A.D. (Dated) - - A simplified form of the Old Syriac. (More than 350 copies still exist) Now in the British Museum.
- The Codex Sinaiticus,** Made about 330 A.D. - Was found in 1844. Contained Parts of Septuagint Old Testament & the complete New Testament, plus, Epistle of Barnabus, & portion of the Shepherd of Hermas. – It is the only ancient manuscript which contains the entire New Testament, but with some omissions - Now in the British Museum.
- The Vaticanus,** Made about 380 A.D. - Incomplete, Used extensively by Westcott & Hort for their modern translations. -- Now in the Vatican Library. *(There are a number of areas where Codex Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are in disagreement).*
- The Alexandrian,** A Greek text from the previous two. - Made about 450 A.D. – Contains most of the Bible. - Now in the British Museum.

Due largely to the influence of B. Wescott & F. Hort the last three are used as the main source in most modern Bible versions, the exception being the King James & New King James versions, which rely more on the Received text (Textus Receptus), the traditional text of the Greek speaking churches. These were taken from the Old Latin Vulgate and what is known as the Byzantine or Syrian text, & a multitude of other ancient manuscripts containing parts of the Bible as well as other ancient manuscripts that refer to various manuscripts documents and portions of them, including The Dead Sea Scrolls. - The earliest New Testament manuscript copies currently available, date from the second century A.D. There are however, numerous, reliable New Testament quotes from a number of older sources, which date back as far as 100 A.D - There are many other, ancient manuscript copies, and portions of Scripture still in existence, which also support the authenticity and reliability of God's Word. The oldest portions of them being; The Old Testament, = Approx. 150 B.C. & the New Testament = Approx. 100 to 250 A.D.

Westcott & Hort

B.F. Westcott (1825-1901) and F.J.A. Hort (1829-1892) initiated the modern school that favours the Alexandrian Text over the Received text. They were both Cambridge professors and both ordained as Anglican priests. They had strong leanings towards Roman Catholic doctrine and tradition and towards the Theory of Evolution. Both were very hostile towards the Received Text. Hort was only 23 years old and had not yet studied textual criticism when he described the Received Text as "Villainous" and "Vile". They had a major influence on the Revised Version of 1881. They asserted that because existing manuscript copies of the Alexandrian Text were older than the existing copies of the Received Text they were therefore more reliable. Most modern versions have followed their lead and gone with the Alexandrian Text.

Rather than saying more about them it is better that I let you judge from their own words as found in their diaries. So, here are their own words.

Extracts from the letters of Westcott & Hort

1847 Jan., 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Westcott: "After leaving the monastery we shaped our course to a little oratory...It is very small, with one kneeling-place; and behind a screen was a 'Pieta' the size of life (*i.e. a Virgin and dead Christ*)...I could not help thinking on the grandeur of the Romish Church, on her zeal even in error, on her earnestness and self-devotion, which we might, with nobler views and a purer end, strive to imitate. Had I been alone I could have knelt there for hours." (Life, Vol.I, p.81).

1848 July 6th - Hort: "One of the things, I think, which shows the falsity of the Evangelical notion of this subject (baptism), is that it is so trim and precise...no deep spiritual truths of the Reason are thus logically harmonious and systematic...the pure Romish view seems to me nearer, and more likely to lead to, the truth than the Evangelical...the fanaticism of the bibliolaters, among whom reading so many 'chapters' seems exactly to correspond to the Romish superstition of telling so many dozen beads on a rosary...still we dare not forsake the Sacraments, or God will forsake us...I am inclined to think that no such state as 'Eden' (I mean the popular notion) ever existed, and that Adam's fall in no degree differed from the fall of each of his descendants" (Life, Vol.I, pp.76-78).

Aug. 11th - Westcott: "I never read an account of a miracle (in Scripture?) but I seem instinctively to feel its improbability, and discover some want of evidence in the account of it." (Life, Vol.I, p.52).

1850 May 12th - Hort: "You ask me about the liberty to be allowed to clergymen in their views of Baptism. For my own part, I would gladly admit to the ministry such as hold Gorham's view, much more such as hold the ordinary confused Evangelical notions" (Life, Vol.I, p.148).

1851 Dec. 29,30th - Hort: "I had no idea till the last few weeks of the importance of texts, having read so little Greek Testament, and dragged on with the villainous Textus Receptus. Think of that vile Textus Receptus leaning entirely on late MSS.; it is a blessing there are such early ones" (Life, Vol.I, p.211).

1858 Oct. 21st - Further I agree with them in condemning many leading specific doctrines of the popular theology as, to say the least, containing much superstition and immorality of a very pernicious kind...The positive doctrines even of the Evangelicals seem to me perverted rather than untrue...There are, I fear, still more serious differences between us on the subject of authority, and especially the authority of the Bible" (Life, Vol.I, p.400).

1860 Apr. 3rd - Hort: "But the book which has most engaged me is Darwin. Whatever may be thought of it, it is a book that one is proud to be contemporary with. I must work out and examine the argument in more detail, but at present my feeling is strong that the theory is unanswerable." (Life, Vol.I, p.416).

1864 Sept. 23rd - Hort: "I believe Coleridge was quite right in saying that Christianity without a substantial Church is vanity and dissolution; and I remember shocking you and Lightfoot not so very long ago by expressing a belief that 'Protestantism' is only parenthetical and temporary. In short, the Irvingite creed (minus the belief in the superior claims of the Irvingite communion) seems to me unassailable in things ecclesiastical." (Life, Vol.II, p.30,31).

Oct. 17th - Hort: "I have been persuaded for many years that Mary-worship and 'Jesus'-worship have very much in common in their causes and their results." (Life, Vol.II, p.50).

1867 Oct. 17th - Hort: "I wish we were more agreed on the doctrinal part; but you know I am a staunch sacerdotalist, and there is not much profit in arguing about first principles." (Life, Vol.II, p.86).

1890 Mar. 4th - Westcott: "No one now, I suppose, holds that the first three chapters of Genesis, for example, give a literal history - I could never understand how any one reading them with open eyes could think they did - yet they disclose to us a Gospel. So it is probably elsewhere."

Westcott & Hort were very influenced by the teachings of Origen (AD 185 - 254). Origen was a brilliant man who had studied heathen and Greek philosophy. Though a brilliant man he was corrupted with these worldly philosophies which he sought to introduce to the church. He did not believe in a literal interpretation of scripture, but believed it should all be spiritualized including the creation account in Genesis. He produced the "Hexapla" a parallel Old Testament in six columns.

It Contained;

1. The Hebrew Bible.
2. Hebrew transliterated into Greek characters.
3. A Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible by Aquila, a convert to Judaism. It was rejected by Christians due to its treatment of the prophecies concerning Christ.
4. A Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures by Symmachus the Ebionite. It Paraphrased the Scriptures. - The Ebionites were a Jewish sect which accepted Jesus as a prophet but denied His Deity.
5. The Septuagint (LXX), a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures by 72 Jewish Scholars between BC 265 & 246.
6. A Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture by a Theodotion, a Hellenistic Jew.

The "Hexapla" is evidence that corruption and "Modern Versions" were around during the early history of the Church.

New Testament & Cannon

The New Testament was written between about 35 A.D., and 98 A.D.

The section under “Manuscripts” (page 11) deals with where the New Testament is sourced from.

Eusebius, Church historian, 264 – 340 A.D. recognised the 27 books of the New Testament, the same as we have today.

Athanasius, -Bishop of Alexandria around 315 A.D. recognised the specific canon of the 27 New Testament books that we still recognise today.

The New Testament canon was "fixed" at the Council of Hippo in 393 AD, the criteria were established that each book had to have been written by an apostle or someone close to an apostle, and each had to have been traditionally used in public worship.

The Council of Carthage, - In 397 A.D. gave its formal ratification to the above 27 books as The New Testament.

When reading the first four New Testament books, (The Gospels), we need to be aware of the fact that they cover the pre-church period. Up to the crucifixion of Jesus the Old Covenant was still in force. - Jesus and the disciples were all Jews and as such were bound by the old Mosaic law until the New Covenant/Testament came into effect.

A new covenant is a testament or will. - Just as we make a will to take effect after our death so Jesus Will, His New Testament, came into effect after his death.

We have to be careful as to how we apply Jesus words from the Gospels, remembering that He was a Jew living under the Mosaic Law, speaking to Jews under the Law. Jesus mission until his resurrection was primarily to the Jews only with the “Gospel of the Kingdom”. This Kingdom message was put on hold at his death, but will be re-instituted again after the Rapture of the Church. Now under the effect of Jesus’s Will (The New Testament through His blood) Christians are no longer under the Law, but under Grace (unmerited favour). The old Law was fulfilled and annulled on the Cross.(See Study # 3.).

Old Testament

About 2,600 years after the creation of Adam; that is, around 1532 BC: The first **written** Word of God: “The Ten Commandments” was delivered to Moses.

The writing of the 39 books of **the Old Testament was commenced about 1532 BC**, (at the time of the Exodus)(see Study# 1) Shortly after 1532 BC, Moses commenced writing the first five books of the Old Testament (Dates calculated in my Study # 1.), and according to the Jewish Historian, Josephus, **was completed in 424 BC**, It was written in Hebrew and Aramaic.

Though Moses commenced the writing of the Bible, altogether 40 different writers, all under God’s direction, wrote it.

Between about 250 & 200 BC, the Old Testament, 39 Canonical books (plus 14 Apocryphal books which were written between 424 BC and 250 BC) were translated by 70 scholars, from its Hebrew and Aramaic into Greek. It became known as the ‘Septuagint’ (later also as LXX), and was in common use in Jesus day. Jesus read from it. (Luke 4: 16–21.)

Jesus and the Disciples quoted from it, so vouching for its inspiration, authority, and accuracy. –

(Note; Neither Jesus nor any of His disciples ever quoted from the Apocrypha.)

The following are some examples you can read from Matthew alone.

Mat. 1: 21,23 / 2: 5,6,17,18 / 3: 3 / 4: 4,7-10 / 5: 21,27,31,38,43 / 12: 1-8 / 13: 14-17 / 15: 7-9 / 16: 4 / 19: 3-9,16-19 / 21:1-5,13,16,42 / 22: 28-33,37-46 / 24: 15 / 26: 31.

The Apocrypha was dropped from the **Hebrew Canon**, which was **ratified. 100 AD.** --The Hebrew Bible now is based on The Masoretic Text. For information on The Masoretic Text go to ;

<https://theorthodoxlife.wordpress.com/2012/03/12/masoretic-text-vs-original-hebrew/>

About AD 200, Hebrew scholars “retranslated” the LXX and this work became known as The Hebrew Bible or the Masoretic Text. It is believed that the reason for this “translation” was that Christians had been quoting prophecies etc. from the LXX, which clearly referred to Jesus Christ. Therefore, they made this “translation”, leaving out a number of such references and altering others, so this is a very corrupted version and as such should not be used, or relied upon in any way by Christians.

English Translations / Versions of Septuagint

For a long time the only **English translation** of the Septuagint readily available was the 1851 translation by Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton, and updated at Calvin College in May 2000, and this seems to be still the most popular. A revision of it called “*The Apostles' Bible*” was released in January 2008, but I have not examined that.

Other version now available are;

The Apostolic Bible

The “Orthodox Study Bible” which was released in early 2008,

The “NETS” (New English Translation of the Septuagint). Published 2009.

Please note; Most, if not all English translations of the Septuagint contain copiers errors, particularly in numerals. The worst of these are found in the genealogies in Genesis but they do not change the overall message of Scripture.

Prophetic Proof

There is a considerably large amount of prophecy in the Bible. Yes, there are many non-biblical prophets, and probably the best known of these is Nostradamus. The big difference between the Bible prophets and non- Bible prophets is that the non-Biblical prophets all make many mistakes, or false prophecies, whereas the bible prophets have made no mistakes. There are still Bible prophecies to be fulfilled, such as The Rapture of the Church, The 7 year Tribulation, The Millennium, and associated prophecies, (These are touched on in Study # 1.). Then there are prophecies currently in the process of fulfilment, such as, the return of the Jews to Israel, The formation of a United Europe, Russia's power growth and preparation for its attack on Israel, and the current fighting in the Middle East, which is the forerunner of the Rapture.

I could go on and list a large number of prophecies, which have all been literally fulfilled, but feel this is unnecessary here. Instead, I will list here just some of the prophecies which were **literally fulfilled** by Jesus Christ at his first advent.

Just some of the prophecies literally fulfilled by Christ

Prophecy	Text	Fulfilled
Born in Bethlehem	Mic. 5: 2.	Luke 2:11
Born of a Virgin	Isa. 7:14. & 9: 6-7.	Mat. 1:18-25
A Nazarene	Isa. 11: 1	Mat. 2: 23.
Entry into Jerusalem	Zech. 9:9	Mat.21: 1-11
Suffering of Jesus	Isa. 53.	Mat. 27.
Crucifixion events	Psm. 22: 1-18	Mat. 27
Resurrection	Psm. 16: 10,11.	Mat. 28: 5,6.
Son of God	Psm. 2: 7	Heb. 5: 2.
Prophet	Deut. 18: 15-19	Acts. 3:22, 23.
Priest	Psm. 110: 4.	Heb.7: 17-21.
King	Psm. 45: 6,7.	Heb. 1: 8,9.

Just as these prophecies were literally fulfilled, so all the future prophecies will also be literally fulfilled.

Please note; The word "Rapture" is not a Biblical word. The word is the Latin translation of "caught up" as found in 1 Thess. 4: 17 and other places.

Non Biblical Proofs

The Didache, written about 100 AD, has 22 quotes from Matt. & references to Luke, John, Acts, Rom. Thess. 1 Pet., and refers to ‘The Gospel’ as a written document.

The Epistle of Barnabas, written about 100 AD, gives quotes from Matthew, John, Acts, and 2 Peter.

Polycarp, in his letters to Philipppians about 110 AD, quotes from Philipppians & 1 Pet. & other New Testament portions.

Ignatius, in his letter, written about 110 AD, and just before his martyrdom, quotes from Matt., 1 Pet., & 1 John.

Justin Martyr in his writing entitled ‘Apologies’, written 141 AD, gives reference to the New Testament books of, Acts, Revelation, and eight of the Epistles.

The Rylands Papyrus, Which was written approx. 150 AD, contains John 18: 31-33, & 37.

Irenaeus, a pupil of Polycarp, in his writings about 165 AD, quotes most of the New Testament books, and refers to them as Scripture.

Origen. In his writings, before his death in 254 AD, is said to have quoted 5,745 passages from **all** the books of the New Testament.

Josephus, - Jewish Historian, in his work ‘Antiquities of the Jews’, written about 93 AD, makes reference to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Tacticus, - Roman Historian, 61 – 171 AD, writing in his ‘Annals’ Book 15 describes the fire of Rome, and how Nero falsely accused the Christians for it. He wrote in his last major work, titled “*Annals*”, written c. 116–117 C.E, reads;

“Neither human effort nor the emperor’s generosity nor the placating of the gods ended the scandalous belief that the fire had been ordered [by Nero]. Therefore, to put down the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits and punished in the most unusual ways those hated for their shameful acts ... whom the crowd called “Chrestians.” The founder of this name, Christ [Christus in Latin], had been executed in the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius Pilate ... Suppressed for a time, the deadly superstition erupted again not only in Judea, the origin of this evil, but also in the city [Rome], where all things horrible and shameful from everywhere come together and become popular”.

Eusebius, Church historian, 264 – 340 AD., recognised the 27 books of the New Testament, the same as we have today.

Athenasius, the Bishop of Alexandria, in 315 AD:, gave recognition to the 27 books of the New Testament, which today are recognised as the canon of New Testament scripture.

Jerome Catholic Priest, in 382 - 404 AD Translated the Septuagint (all 80 books) into Latin, known as the Vulgate. Though the Vulgate contains corruptions, which favour Catholic beliefs it still remains very close to the original, and the overall message remains the same.

No other literature has been so carefully copied, translated and preserved as the Scriptures. – Compare that record with the following. –

Homer’s ‘Iliad’, was written approx. 850 B.C., yet the earliest copies available are dated 1300 A.D.

Plato’s ‘Tetralogies’, was written approx. 400 B.C., yet the earliest copies available are dated 900 A.D.

Caesars ‘Gallic Wars’, was written approx. 60 B.C., yet the earliest copies available are dated 900 A.D.

Biblical Time Spans & Dates

When reading the following section; to understand how BC dates are arrived at, prior to the building of Solomon's temple (967 BC) go to Study # 1.

Please also note that all times in the Bible are comprised of 30-day months and 360-day years. That is to say, the Bible uses Lunar months. - To convert Lunar (Biblical) years to our Solar (Sidereal) years multiply by 0.9856, or to convert Sidereal to Biblical, divide by 0.9856.

Now according to my calculations, (See Study # 1).

Adam was created - 4162 BC according to the N.K.J.V

Methuselah was born in 3485 BC “ “ “ “ “ “ .

Noah was born 3121 BC. He was 600 Biblical or 591 Sidereal years old at the time of the Flood.

The flood occurred in 2530 BC.

The birth of Abraham, was 2241 BC.

The Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah was 2142 BC.

The birth of Isaac was 2143 BC

The Birth of Jacob, (Whom God renamed Israel), was 2083 BC

The Birth of Joseph was 1994 BC

The Birth of Job, (or Jobab), (Great grandson of Esau), was about 1950 BC.

400 Biblical years of Egyptian Servitude, 1926 BC to 1532 BC.

The Birth of Moses, 1610 BC.

The Exodus, The giving of the 10 Commandments, and commencement of the writing of the Old Testament, 1532 BC.

The building of Solomon's Temple commenced 967 BC.

The period of Solomon's reign, 970 to 928 BC.

Bible Longevity

The Bible gives very long life spans for the early inhabitants of the Earth.

Originally, mankind was designed to live forever, but sin changed that. The right to the Tree of life, and with it eternal life, was removed. (See Study # 12) - Adam, lived for 930 years, and seven generations later Methuselah managed to live to 969. Then two generations after that, Noah lived to 950. However, by this time, sin had taken its toll on the human genetic code, and the generations after the flood began to live for shorter and shorter times.

We find in Genesis 6: 3; *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."* So God at the time of the Flood decreed that man's average age would drop to 120. Then by the time of David (about 1000 BC) it had been reduced to the current 70. Of course, modern medications enable us to frequently live a bit longer.

Psalms 90:10 reads;

¹⁰ *The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

In the future however, with access renewed to the Tree of Life, mankind will again enjoy eternal life. Should the future Tree of Life be literal or figurative of Jesus, the outcome will be the same.

Science & the Bible

Man in his 'wisdom' believes 'science' should have precedence over God's Word.

Well the Scriptures never pretend, nor were they intended, to be a scientific textbook. – There is, never the less, a number of scientific statements contained therein and they are completely accurate.

Until the 15th Century, in the times of Columbus and Magellan, those who refused to take the Scriptures at face value believed that the world was flat. Many believed it was supported on the back of a giant turtle, an elephant, or held up by Atlas or some such thing.

Those who chose to believe the wisdom found in the Scriptures, could see the truth as recorded by Job about 1800 B.C., and later incorporated into the Old Testament, in Job 26: 7-10, which reads, *'He stretches out the north over empty space; **He hangs the earth on nothing.** He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. **He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters,** at the boundary of light and darkness'.* – Read also, Job, chapters 38 and 39, and Eccl. 1:7.

Job 28:25 reads; *"To establish a **weight for the wind,** And apportion the waters by measure".* But maybe Galileo told Job about that when he "discovered" that air has weight in AD1630.

Isa. 40: 22, written about 700 B.C., reads, 'It is **He who sits above the circle of the earth'** David, writing about 900 B.C., in Psm. 104, refers to the wonders of God's creation. – Please read it. And Luke 17; 30-36 written about, 50AD, records the words of Jesus Christ;

³⁰ *Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.* ³¹ *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.* ³² *Remember Lot's wife.* ³³ *Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.* ³⁴ *I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.* ³⁵ *Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.* ³⁶ *Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."*

In this prophecy of Jesus return, we are shown that this event will take place during the day in some parts of the Earth, and at night on other parts of the Earth. – **This shows a revolving spherical Earth.**

Hebrews 11:3 written around 60AD reads; *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were **not made of things which are visible.***

Yet it was not until the 19th century that Science established the fact that everything we can see is made of atoms, which are **invisible** to the naked eye.

It is only in recent times that ship builders discovered that the ideal measurements needed to ensure a ships stability, was that **its length should be six times its width.** Yet in Genesis 6:14-15, we read;

¹⁴ *Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.* ¹⁵ *And this is how you shall make it: The **length of the ark** shall be **three hundred cubits,** its **width fifty cubits,** and its height thirty cubits.*

Can we be so foolish as to think that it is just coincidence that God got the measurements right? -

These measurements were given to Noah around 2531 BC according to the NKJV and written into the Bible by Moses around about 1535 BC.

David's son (The Preacher) wrote about 850BC, in Ecclesiastes 1:5-7

⁵*The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose.*⁶*The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit.*⁷*All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.*" Again it was another of Galileo's "discoveries" in AD1630 that the winds have circuits.

I'm sure David's son did not learn it from Galileo.

Then we have the Genetic Code.

The DNA Genetic code in each of our cells is made up of four chemicals that scientists abbreviate as A, T, G, and C. These are arranged in the human cell like this: CGTGTGACTCGCTCCTGAT and so on. There are three billion of these letters in every human cell!! - The nucleus (centre) of every cell in our bodies (with the exception of our red blood cells) contains our Genetic code in its DNA, and recent research has revealed that it is far more complex than previously imagined. This code is marvellous **proof of highly intelligent design**, something that would be absolutely impossible to come about by mere chance. Only a fool could say that such a wondrously designed code could have simply evolved.

Scientific Flaws

In the field of geology, we also have the very unscientific way that scientists argue in circles, dating organisms by the rocks they are found in, and dating rocks by the organisms they contain.

The British geologist, R.H.Rastall, admits this when he says, *“It cannot be denied that from a strictly philosophical standpoint geologists are here arguing in a circle. The succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain.”*

(“Geology” – Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1956, x, 168.) - These same geologists would have us believe that all these fossils appear in the rocks in a set progressive order, starting with the so-called simpler life forms from the older rocks, to the higher life forms in the newer rocks. In reality, this is rarely the case. – Their reason for grasping at these straws must surely be that they are prepared to believe anything, no matter how feeble, rather than believe the Bible.

The alternative of course, is to believe God’s record as revealed in the Bible, and as accepted by sincere Jews, Christians and Muslims.

By the way, the Bible does not claim that the world was created 6,000 years ago as some Christians & scientists state it does. God did not start His (six day) acts of preparing the earth for mankind until verse 3 of Genesis one. Verse 3 commences with the words “ **Then GOD said**” or equivalent in other versions, as do all the six creative acts which were to prepare the Earth for mankind. Verses 1 & 2 show that the earth had already been created some time before, *“In the beginning”*. We can have no way of knowing when this was. It could have been days before or it could have been thousands, or millions of years before the events of the following verses. It appears God wants us to accept Verses 1&2 simply on the basis of faith, not knowledge. The Genealogy however, as revealed in the Bible, does show that Adam (not the world), was created around 6½ to 7½,000 years ago. This subject is covered in Studies # 1 & 12

Man in his ‘wisdom’ says, “There is no God”, and believes that we all came into existence by the chance creation of life, and by chance evolution, or ‘survival of the fittest’, from the lowest to highest forms of life. - Yet, in spite of the extravagant claims of evolutionists, there never has been one proven case of any creature kind evolving into another kind. God has put a lock on each kind, - We read in Gen. 1: 24, *‘Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to **its kind**: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to **its kind**”; and it was so’*. And in, 1 Cor. 15: 39, we read, *‘All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds’*.

All kinds have been given the in-built ability to adapt to environment, diet, etc. Genetic faults also may cause variations within kinds. This however is not evolution; (just adaptation), they remain within the same kind.

What “Science” calls Species may very well differ from what the Bible refers to as Kinds.

Men say that because we cannot see God, then He does not exist. Yet they tell us about all the gasses, dust, atomic particles or whatever, that came together and kicked off their big bang theory, but cannot tell us where they came from. Nor can they tell us from where the endless space came from that housed them, and now the whole universe. It all had to have a beginning; but the Bible simply tells us that God is eternal, (no beginning, nor end), and He created all things. Though many ‘scientists’, claim that everything has come about as the result of evolution. The considerable lack of evidence for this should be enough for people to question this hypothesis. It takes a lot more faith to believe that everything randomly evolved from nothing, than it does to believe God created everything perfectly.

Some people put great faith in carbon 14 dating methods, which are used by many to claim extravagant ages for historical relics. But; - consider the following; -

C¹⁴ dating of a **living** mollusc shell showed it to be **2,300 years old**.

(‘Science’, vol. 141 (1963), pp. 634-637.)

C¹⁴ dating of a **freshly killed** seal showed it had **died 1,300 years before**.

(‘Antarctic Journal’, vol. 6 (Sept. – Oct. 1971), p.211.)

C¹⁴ dating of a **living snails shell** showed it had **died 27,000 years before**.

(‘Science’, vol. 224 (1984), pp. 58 – 61.)

The fact is that there are many factors, present and past, natural and unnatural that can, and does dramatically affect the outcome of carbon 14 dating.

In 1912, Charles Dawson put together parts of a jawbone of an ape, some teeth, and fragments of a modern human skull. He claimed it to be the ‘missing link’, and it became known as ‘Piltdown Man’, and ‘Dawn Man’. Our ‘scientists’ were fooled by this, and accepted it, until tests carried out in 1953 revealed it for the fake it is.

Likewise, the Java ‘Ape Man’ held sway from 1891 to 1923, when the skullcap was found to be that of a gibbon.

Then we have ‘Neanderthal Man’. A skeleton of a stooped man found in 1908 was used to establish a so-called ‘missing link’; i.e. ‘man’s bent over stature, before walking upright’. This was accepted until 1957, when Dr. W.L.Straus Jr., of Johns Hopkins, Medical University examined it. He found it to be the skeleton of an everyday (equivalent to modern) man, except he had a greater than usual brain capacity, and had been afflicted with severe arthritis.

So called Cro-Magnon Man had a brain capacity of 1450cc. Modern man ranges around 900 to 1500cc . He had a skull exactly like Charles Darwin.

Nebraska Man was created from a tooth. The tooth was later identified as a pigs tooth.

So much for the accuracy and reliability of atheistic ‘scientists’.
Give me the proven truth and reliability of God’s Scriptures any day!

For further information on these subjects go to:

<https://www.heraldofhope.org.au/free-resources>

https://www.deeptruths.com/articles/big_lie_exposed.html

<https://nwcreation.net/evolutionfraud.html>

<https://www.answersingenesis.org>

<https://www.alwaysbeready.com/bible-evidence>

May God bless you with a deep belief, trust and understanding of His Word.

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