

THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BIBLE

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× *Introduction*

Christianity is built on two basis:

- × 1. Jesus Christ the Son of God the founder of Christianity
- × 2. The Holy Bible the book of Christians

BRIEF ABOUT THE BIBLE

- ✘ **The Old Testament** (39 Books + 7)

- ✘ starting with Moses (~1400-1450 BC)and ending with Malachi(~425 BC)

(Some books in **Hebrews** , but others after the exile in **Aramaic**)

- ✘ **The New Testament**

- ✘ **27 Books.**(between ~ 45-97 AD in Greek)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIBLE:

- ✘ It is one unit , one aim regardless of the different writers ~ 40 ,
- The long span of time ~ 1500 years
- Different cultures of the writers
- Inspiration:
- One aim all through the bible ““Salvation of the human race through the blood of Jesus Christ.”
- It is Logic : starts with the creation of the existing heaven and earth and ends with the new heaven and earth where the humans will live forever

IS OUR COPY OF THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

- ✘ There are 2 main areas to be tested
- ✘ **1. Internal evidence :**
- ✘ Are all the writings represent true history ?
- ✘ Are all the stories of bible true?
- ✘ Did all the prophecies of the OT fulfilled?
- ✘ Are all the events and places real?
- ✘ Does the bible follow a logical order?
- ✘ Are there any cover ups on the faults and sins of the main characters of the bible?

IS OUR COPY OF THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

- ✘ **2. The external evidence:**
- ✘ Do we have any historical evidence that the bible in our hand is the same as was written by the writers?
- ✘ Are the archaeological discoveries proof the facts of the Bible?

IMPORTANT TERMS TO REMEMBER:

- ✘ ***Autographs***: The original texts were written either by the author's own hand or by a scribe under their personal supervision.
- ✘ ***Manuscripts***: Until Gutenberg first printed the Latin Bible in 1456, all Bibles were *hand copied* onto papyrus, parchment.
- ✘ ***Translations***: When the Bible is translated into a different language it is usually translated from the original Hebrew and Greek

IMPORTANT TERMS TO REMEMBER:

- × Papyrus and Parchment
- × *papyrus*. This highly durable reed from the Nile Valley was glued together much like plywood and then allowed to dry in the sun.
- × *parchment*. This was made from the skin of sheep or goats, and was in wide use until the late Middle Ages when paper began to replace it.

THE EXTERNAL EVIDENCE:

- × 1. *Manuscripts:*
- × 2. *Translations:*
- × 3. The fathers writings

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT- MANUSCRIPTS:

- ✘ **1. *The Dead Sea Scrolls*:** (The Dead Sea Scrolls date around the time of Jesus copied by the Qumran community, a Jewish sect living around the Dead Sea.) date from 200 B.C. - 70 A.D. and contain the entire book of Isaiah and portions of every other Old Testament book but Esther.
- ✘ **2. *Geniza Fragments*:** portions the Old Testament in Hebrew and Aramaic, discovered in 1947 in an old synagogue in Cairo, Egypt, which date from about 400 A.D.

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT- MANUSCRIPTS:

× 3. *Aleppo Codex*

contains the complete Old Testament and is dated around 950 A.D. (Massorettes.)

× 4. *Codex Leningradensis*:

× The complete Old Testament in Hebrew copied by the last member of the Ben Asher family in A.D. 1008.

THE OLD TESTAMENT- TRANSLATIONS

- ✘ **1. *the Aramaic Targums***: 400 B.C. The OT began to be translated into Aramaic- In the first century, *Aramaic* was still the commonly spoken language “*maranatha.*” is an example.
- ✘ **2. *The Septuagint***. 250 B.C. The OT was translated into Greek. The Septuagint was often used by New Testament writers when they quoted from the Old Testament.
- ✘ ***Chester Beatty Papyri*** : 100-400 A.D.
- ✘ ***Codex Vaticanus*** and ***Codex Sinaiticus*** ~350AD

THE NEW TESTAMENT - MANUSCRIPTS

- ✘ The oldest manuscripts were written on *papyrus* and the later manuscripts were written on leather called *parchment*
- ✘ 1. "*p 52*" -125 AD and contains a small portion of John 18.
- ✘ 2. *Bodmer p 66* -200 A.D - contains a large part of the Gospel of John.
- ✘ 3. *Chester Beatty p 46* – 200AD contains the Pauline Epistles and Hebrews

THE NEW TESTAMENT - MANUSCRIPTS

- ✘ **4. *Chester Beatty p 45*** -250-300 A.D. contains portions of the four Gospels and Acts.
- ✘ **5. *Codex Sinaiticus*** -350 A.D-contains the entire New Testament and almost the entire Old Testament in Greek.
- ✘ **6. *Codex Vaticanus***-350 A.D-is an almost complete New Testament.

THE NEW TESTAMENT -TRANSLATIONS

- × *1. Old Latin translation -195AD*
- × *2. The Old Syriac - 300 A.D - Syriac.*
- × *3. The Coptic Versions- 300 A.D- Coptic was spoken in four dialects*
- × *4. The Latin Vulgate - 380 A.D- by St. Jerome*
- × *5. Other early translations of the Bible were in Armenian, Georgian, and Ethiopic, Slavic, and Gothic*
- × *6. The first English translation-1380 A.D*

THE NEW TESTAMENT - MANUSCRIPTS

- ✘ 1. There are 5,664 Greek manuscripts some dating as early as 125 A. D. and an complete New Testament that dates from 350 A. D.
- ✘ 2. 8,000 to 10,000 Latin Vulgate manuscripts.
- ✘ 3. 8,000 manuscripts in Ethiopic, Coptic, Slavic, Syriac, and Armenian

WRITINGS OF THE FATHERS

- ✘ the complete New Testament could be reproduced from the quotes that were made from it by the early church fathers in their letters and sermons.