

#### **Myth or Reality?**

"We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (2 Peter 1:16)

#### **Myth or Reality?**

"We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:19-21)

#### **Myth or Reality?**

The only way the Bible is relevant for today is:

- 1) It can be trusted as coming from God.
- 2) If it's true, both historically and spiritually.

### **Myth or Reality?**



### **Myth or Reality?**

The Bible was written over 2,000 years ago, over a 1,500-year timespan, over 40 generations, by more than 40 writers from every walk of life, on 3 different continents, and in 3 different languages.

Can such a set of documents compiled from ancient times, copied thousands of times before the age of printing still be reliable and accurate, not to mention worth trusting our whole lives to?



# The Integrity of the Biblical Text <u>Textual Transmission</u>

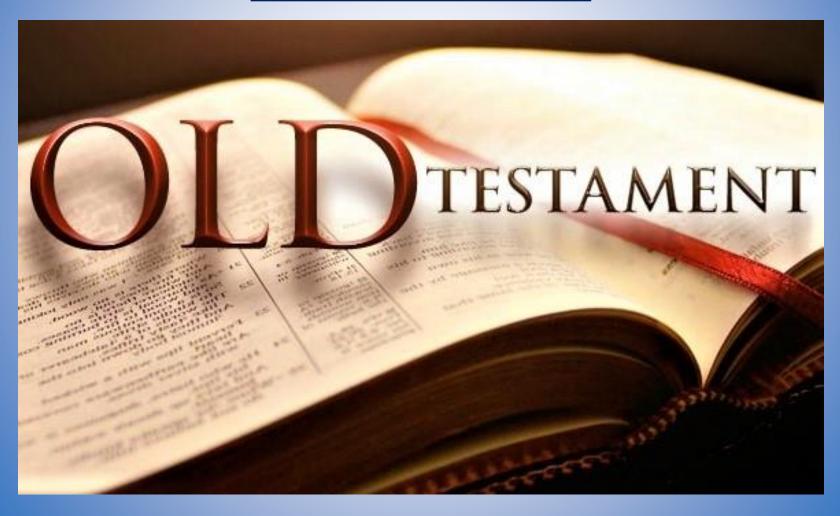


# The Integrity of the Biblical Text <u>Textual Transmission</u>



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Hebrew Scribe (Masorete)

#### **Textual Transmission**



"Jews preserved the Old
Testament as no other
manuscript has ever been
preserved. With their
massora, they kept tabs on
every letter, syllable, word
and paragraph."

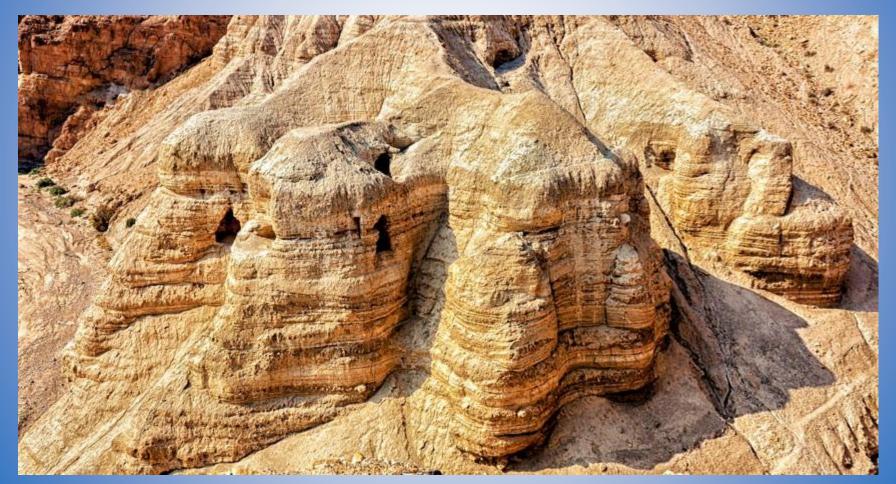
Bernard Ramm

#### **Textual Transmission**



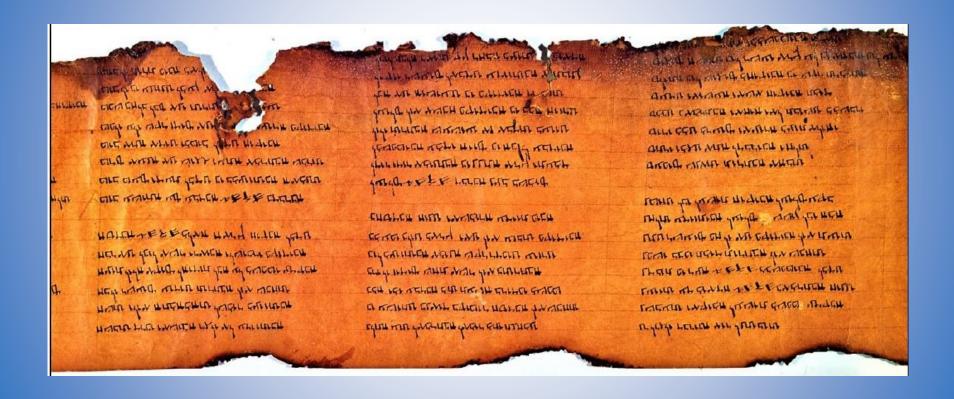
"They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity—scribes, lawyers, masoretes."

Bernard Ramm



The Dead Sea Scrolls

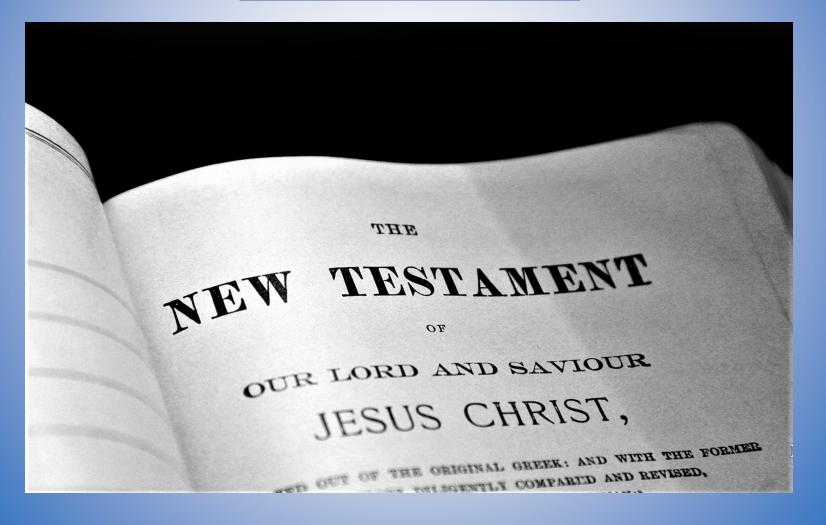
#### **Textual Transmission**



#### The Dead Sea Scrolls



The Septuagint (LXX)



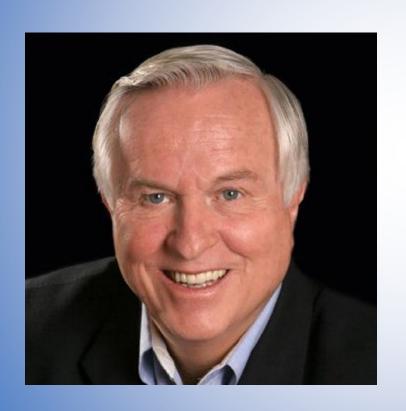
#### **Textual Transmission**



"There is more evidence for the reliability of the text of the New Testament as an accurate reflection of what was initially written than there is for any ten pieces of classical literature put together."

Josh McDowell

#### **Textual Transmission**



"It is also in better textual shape than the thirty-seven plays of William Shakespeare written in the 17th century, after the invention of printing."

Josh McDowell

#### **Textual Transmission**

#### The numbers don't lie:

- 5,686 known Greek manuscripts
- 10,000 Latin translations
- 9,300 Syriac, Coptic, and Aramaic translations
- Almost 25,000 ancient copies of the NT.

Text	Written	Earliest Co.	Time Span	No. Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1,000 yrs.	10
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1,200 yrs.	7
Tacitus	100 AD	1,100 AD	1,000 yrs.	20
Herodotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1,300 yrs.	8
Sophocles	496-406 BC	1,550 AD	1,400 yrs.	193
Euripides	480-406 BC	1,100 AD	1,500 yrs.	9
Aristotle	384-322 BC	900 AD	1,400 yrs.	49
Demosthenes	383-322 BC	1,100 AD	1,300 yrs.	200

Text	Written	Earliest Co.	<b>Time Span</b>	No. Copies
Homer	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs.	643



p52 (John 18:31-33; 37-38), 125 A.D.

Text	Written	Earliest Co.	Time Span	No. Copies
Homer	900 BC	400 BC	500 yrs.	643
p52	96 AD	125 AD	29 yrs.	
New Test.	40-100 AD	400 AD	300 yrs.	24,986

#### **Textual Transmission**

#### **Beliefs about New Testament textual transmission:**

- The preservationist view.
  - The Textus Receptus & Majority Texts
    - KJV, Tyndale, YLT
- The restorationist view.
  - Critical/Eclectic Text (Nestle-Aland)
    - ESV, NASB, NIV, etc.

#### **Textual Transmission**

2,17-3,4

ΚΑΤΑ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ

KATΆΊΩANNHN μος πῶς δύναται 'ἄνθρωπος γεννηθῆναι γέρων ὤν'; μὴ

Zch14,21 μου οίκον έμπορτου. 17 εμνήσθησαν οι μαθηταί αὐτοῦ 22 Ps69.10 ὅτι γεγραμμένον Ἐστίν· Τ ὁ ζῆλος τοῦ οἴκου σου κατα-A . . φάγεταί με.

11!.23!; 6,30 Ex 7,9

18 Άπεκρίθησαν ούν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι καὶ εἶπαν αὐτῶ τί το σημεῖον δεικνύεις οἡμῖν ότι ταῦτα ποιεῖς; 19 ἀπεκρίθη χ Ίησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· λύσατε τὸν ναὸν τοῦτον καὶ οἐν τρισίν ἡμέραις έγερῶ αὐτόν. 20 εἶπαν οὖν 'οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι· τεσσεράκοντα καὶ εξ ἔτεσίν οἰκοδομήθη ὁ ναὸς οὖτος, καὶ σὺ ἐν τρισὶν ἡμέραις ἐγερεῖς αὐτόν; 21 ἐκεῖνος δὲ έλεγεν περί-τοῦ νασῦ τοῦ σώματος αὐτοῦ. 22 ὅτε οὖν Γήγέρθη ἐκ νεκρῶν, ἐμνήσθησαν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ὅτι τοῦτο ἔλεγεν, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν τῆ γραφῆ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ Γον είπεν ὁ Τησοῦς.

12,16; 14,26; 20,9

23 Ώς δὲ ἡν ἐν τοῖς Ἱεροσολύμοις ἐν τῷ πάσχα οἐν.τῆ έορτῆ, πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ θεωροῦντες αὐτοῦ τὰ σημεῖα ἃ ἐποίει 24 αὐτὸς δὲ ΓΙησοῦς οὐκ έπίστευεν ξαύτὸν αύτοῖς διὰ τὸ αύτὸν γινώσκειν πάντας 25 καὶ ὅτι οὐ χρείαν εἶχεν ἵνα τις μαρτυρήση πέρὶ 'τοῦ

11!.18!; 3,2; 4,48; 6,2,14; 7,31; 11,47 |

Mc2,8! L5,22; 16,15! JosAs 23,8 1Sm 16,7

Mc 12,14 · 2,23! Act

άνθρώπου· αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐγίνωσκεν τί ἦν ἐν τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ. Ήν δὲ ἄνθρωπος ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων, Νικόδημος ὄνο- 3 3 την δὲ ἄνθρωπος ἐκτῶν Φαρισαίων, Νικοσημος υνυμα αὐτῷ, ἄρχων τῶν Ἰουδαίων· 2 οὐτος ῆλθεν πρὸς αύτὸν νυκτὸς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ραββί, οἴδαμεν ὅτι ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἐλήλυθας διδάσκαλος: ούδεὶς γὰρ δύναται ταῦτα τὰ σημεῖα ποιεῖν α σὸ ποιεῖς, ἐὰν μὴ ἡ ὁ θεὸς μετ' αὐτοῦ. 3 ἀπεκρίθη Τ΄ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω Μι 18,3 - 1Ρ1,23 1 Ι , σοι, έὰν μή τις γεννηθῆ ἄνωθεν, οὐ δύναται ίδεῖν τὴν 4,7!· Jc 1,17! βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ. 4 Λέγει πρὸς αὐτὸν °[ό] Νικόδη-

17 εμνησθησαν δε Α Κ. Ν. Ρ. Γ. Δ. Θ. 050 f 1.13 33. 565. 700. 892. 1241. 1424 M c r l vg syh | και εμνησθησαν Ws it boms | txt \$66.75 x B L Y 579 co | Τοτι \$66.75 Ws 050 • 18 ° 975 L • 19 ° B • 22 ° ηνεστη Ws | ° ω A K N P Ws Γ Δ Θ Ψ f 1.13 33. 565. 579. 700. 892. 1241. 1424 M txt p66.75vid x B L 050. 083 • 23 ° B • 24 ° ο Ιησους X A K N P Wa Г A O Y f 1.13 33. 565. 579. 700. 892. 1424 M; Or 1 - 083 e f boms 1 txt \$\pi 66.75vid B L '050. 1241; Oriem | "eauton P66 x2 A° K N P W8  $\Gamma$   $\Delta$   $\Theta$   $\Psi$  050. 083  $f^{1.13}$  33. 565. 892. 1241. 1424 9 sv; Ors - 975 579 txt x\* A\* B L 700

¶ 3,3 TO NANA Of 13 33. 579. 12211 pm 1 txt \$66.75 BK LWs Г Ф 050. 083 f 1 565. 700. \*892. 1241. 1424. 1844 pm • 4 ° \$266.75 B L N'W O Y 050. 579. 12211 pm ; txt X-A K Г Δ f1.13 565, 700, 892, 1241, 1424 pm

δύναται είς την κοιλίαν της μητρός αύτοῦ δεύτερον είσελθέῖν καὶ γεννηθῆναι; 5 ἀπεκρίθη Τ΄ Ιησοῦς ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω σοι, έὰν μή τις Γγείνηθη έξ ὕδατος καὶ πνεύματος, ού δύναται (είσελθεῖν είς) την βασιλείαν (τοῦ θεοῦ). 6 τὸ γεγεννημένον ἐκ τῆς σαρκὸς σάρξ ἐστιν, καὶ τὸ γεγεννημένον ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος πνεῦμά ἐστιν. 7 μὴ θαυμάσης ὅτι εἶπόν σοι δεῖ ὑμᾶς γεννηθῆναι ἄνωθεν. 8 τὸ πνεῦμα όπου θέλει πνεῖ καὶ τὴν φωνὴν αὐτοῦ ἀκούεις, άλλ' οὐκ οίδας πόθεν έργεται καὶ ποῦ ὑπάγει τοὕτως ἐστὶν πᾶς ὁ γεγεννημένος ἐκ Τ τοῦ πνεύματος. 9 Άπεκρίθη Νικόδημος καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ πῶς δύναται ταῦτα γενέσθαι; 10 ἀπεκρίθη Ίησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῶ· σὰ εἶ ὁ διδάσκαλος τοῦ Ίσραὴλ καὶ ταῦτα οὐ γινώσκεις: 11 ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω σοι ότι δ οἴδαμεν λαλοῦμεν καὶ δ έωρἀκαμεν μαρτυροῦμεν, καὶ τὴν μαρτυρίαν ἡμῶν οὐ λαμβάνετε. 12 εἰ τὰ ἐπίγεια είπον ύμιν και ού πιστεύετε, πῶς ἐὰν είπω ὑμιν τὰ ἐπουφάνια πιστεύσετε; 13 καὶ οὐδεὶς άγαβέβηκεν είς τὸν ούρανὸν εί μὴ ὁ ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καταβάς, ὁ υίὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου<sup>Τ</sup>. 14 Καὶ καθὼς Μωϋσῆς ὕψωσεν τὸν ὄφιν ἐν τῆ έρήμω, ούτως ύψωθηναι δεῖ τὸν υίὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, 15 ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων 'ἐν ἀὐτῷ' Τ ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον. 16 οὕτως γὰρ ἡγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν Τ τὸν μονογενή ἔδωκενι ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόλη-

παι άλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον. 17 οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς

τὸν υἱὸν Τ εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἵνα κρίνη τὸν κόσμον, ἀλλ' ἵνα

Ez36,25-27 1K.6,11;

8.14: 14.17 Eccl 11.5 Sir

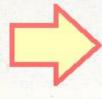
32 - 5,19; 8,26.38.40; 15,15 1J1,1-3 · L22,67! Sap 9,16 1K 15,40!

6,62 Prv 30,4 E4,9s · 20,17 Bar 3,29 4Esr 4,8 31 Sap 18,15s - 1,51! 8,28; 12,32.34 Is 52,13 36 JosAs 8,10 R 5,8 · 18; 1,14.18 1J4,9 cf H 11,17! R 8,32 5,24! ' . . 18,15; 12,47 L9,56app -

4'2 1 3 4 966 j 1 1 3 4 2 % • 5 To B L N f13 33. 1424 | renatus fuerit lat; Orlat | r(3) 1ιδειν \*\* aur boms / των ουρανων \*\* e • 8 T(5) του υδατος και \* it sysc • 12 <sup>Γ</sup>πιστευετε \$75,050.083.579.12211 aur ff<sup>2</sup> l vg<sup>mss</sup> bopt • 13 <sup>T</sup>o ων εν τω ουρανω Ac (- o ων A\*) K N Γ Δ Θ Ψ 050 f 1.13 565: 579. 700. 892, 1424. 1844. 12211 M latt 'syc.p.h bopt; Epiphpt | txt -\$\phi^{66.75} x B L T Ws 083. 086. 33. 1241 co; Eus Epiphpt 9892. 1241. 1424. 1844. 122112 90 ; COUTED 579 ; txt D75 B T W5 083. 122111 aur c 1 r1 <sup>2</sup>νgkt.ww | <sup>T</sup> (16) μη αποληταιαλλ \$\P63 A K N Γ Δ Θ Ψ f 13 579. 700. 892. 1241. 1424. I 844. 122111 M lat syaph boms txt p36.66,75 x B L T Wa 083. 086 f1 33. 565. 122112 a fe sye co № 16 T αυτου \$\partial 63 x2 A K L N T Γ Δ Θ Ψ.083. 086 f<sup>1.13</sup> 33. 565. 579. 700. 892. 1241. 1424. 1/2211 M latt sy; Did txt 266.75 x\* B'Ws • 17 T αυτου 263 A K N Γ Δ.Ψ 086 f13 33. 579. 700. 892. 1241. 1424. 12211 M latt sy samss ly bo autov Θ txt p66.75 x B L T W 083 f1 565 sams

#### **Textual Transmission**

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(14,31.) 17 έτάξατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν προσ-
  (4,9); 11,27 p.
J_{3,27.35}; I_{3,3}; I_{3,5}; I_{3,
     17,2. Dn 7,14.
                                                  Ίησοῦς ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς λέγων ἐδόθη μοι πᾶσς
         E 1,20-22.
Ph2,9. Ap12,10. 19 έξουσία ἐν Γοὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ [τῆς] γῆς Τ. Γπορευθέντες
                      10.5 s.
                                                 οδν μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, Γβαπτίζοντες
          Mc 16,15 s.
 Act 8,12; 14,21.
                                                  αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ νίοι
                     3,16 s.
     5,18. 1 14,28. 20 καὶ τοῦ άγίου πνεύματος , διδάσκοντες αὐτούς
                                                  τηρείν πάντα δσα ένετειλάμην δμίν· καὶ ίδοὺ έγω
                                                  μεθ' όμῶν εἰμι πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας έως τῆς συντε
 18,20. Act18,10.
  Hgg 1,13 Lxx.
                                                  λείας τοῦ αἰῶνος.Τ
                       13,39!
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#### **Other Evidence**

- Non-Christian Historians
- Church Fathers
- Archeology
- Prophecies Fulfilled



#### **Preservation and Restoration**

"[Jesus said], 'He who has ears, let him hear.'"

"This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."

'But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.'"
(Matthew 13:9, 13, 16)

#### **Preservation and Restoration**

- 1. The Bible is INFALLIBLE in its totality—it is unfailing in its purpose.
- 2. The Bible is INERRANT in its parts—it is free from error in all it affirms.
- 3. The Bible is AUTHORITATIVE—it has the right to prescribe all our beliefs and actions.

#### **Preservation and Restoration**

- 4. The Bible is SUFFICIENT—it contains all needed information for living.
- 5. The Bible is LIFE-GIVING—it provides access to and assurance of salvation.
- 6. The Bible is TRUSTWORTHY—it accomplishes what it promises.

#### **Preservation and Restoration**

- "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)
- "Scripture cannot be broken." (John 10:35)
- "'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Luke 21:33)
- "Truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." (Matthew 5:18)

