



HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE? (Part 3 & 4)

April 7, 2024
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Good morning Church! These very old copies of the Old Testament discovered in 1947-49 as one of the most important archaeological finds in history. These ancient documents were first discovered in a desolate area of 11 caves at Qumran by some Bedouin shepherds. Chasing a wayward goat into the caves, Mohammad al-Theeb the Bedouin, discovered several ancient clay jars sealed with wax. Inside the jars were scrolls of leather and papyrus. The oldest known manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible dated to the 10th century A.D. before 1947. However, the Dead Sea Scrolls include over 225 copies of biblical texts that date up to 1,200 years earlier.

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1. The **SCRIPTURES** Were Reliably **PRESERVED** Before They were **COPIED**.

- These manuscripts are ANCIENT dating to 3RD Century BC - 2ND Century AD.
- Roughly 1,000 Biblical manuscripts were found in various Judean Desert sites: QUMRAN, MASADA, and NAHAL HEVER

Sites of the Dead Sea Scrolls:

- **Qumran:** Located on the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea in the Judean Desert near Jerusalem. **Ex: The Great Isaiah Scroll** (1QIsa^a)
- **Masada:** According to Josephus, this fortress built into the cliffs of a southern Israel plateau in the 1st Century BC by the Romans.
- **Nahal Hever:** Caves found west of the town of Hebron. Nahal Hever was found with a 12 minor prophets Greek scripture scroll in 1952 in cave 8. **Ex: Micah (735 BC) & Jonah (759 BC) with a copy from 50 BC (Septuagint)**

2. The DEAD SEA SCROLLS Strongly SUGGESTS that The Bible Was Written From RELIABLE Sources.

The **Qumran community** was a group of Essene Jews who had disputed over the Jewish law that were being taught as illegitimate teachings during the 2nd Temple period; it is thought that John the Baptist might have preached in the regional wilderness near this community in the vicinity of the Hellenistic Jewish sect in the Eastern Judean Desert of the West Bank.

"No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone is sent to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 Then Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'" **Luke 16:30-31**

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." **Luke 24:27**

3. The Bible is RELIABLE because GOD Reveals It As INERRANT, INSPIRED, and INFALLIBLE.

- **INERRANT** — When we say the Bible is *inerrant*, we mean God used these human authors to pen exactly what God wanted, without any mixture of error.

Paul Feinberg, a former professor of Systematic Theology at TEDS, says "Inerrancy means that when all facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences."

"The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."
Psalms 119:160

"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
Proverbs 30:5

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness," **2 Timothy 3:16**

- **INSPIRED** — When we say that the Bible is inspired we mean that God is its definitive author.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." **John 14:26**

"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 1:20-21**

- **INFALLIBLE** — When we say the Bible is infallible, we mean that God's Word is incapable of error.

*"My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do" **Isaiah 55:11***

*"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."
Isaiah 40:8*

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." **Matthew 24:35***

Ex: En-Gedi scroll, it contains text from the Book of Leviticus, and dates at least to the third or fourth century

A fossilized scroll of the Book of Leviticus (found in 1970 at the site of a large, ancient Jewish community synagogue dating from the late 8th century BC, 2016) researchers used advanced digital scanning tools to "virtually unwrap" the scroll and see its contents, without ever touching it. A micro-computed tomography (micro-CT) scan was able to pick up traces of metal in the ink. It was an exact copy that we have today of the book of Leviticus dating before Christ in 2nd Century BC. Journal information: [Science Advances](#)

Trust your bible. It is God's inerrant, infallible and inspired word that will judge every man at the return of Jesus! Emanuel Tov says "This is quite amazing for us that in 2,000 years this text has not changed." God was indeed divinely and sovereignly protecting His Word through thousands of years of copying and translating. What we have today is what God has intended for His church to have to know Him, His Son, and keep His commands. Stay active in attending a Bible-believing church and BRING YOUR BIBLE.

