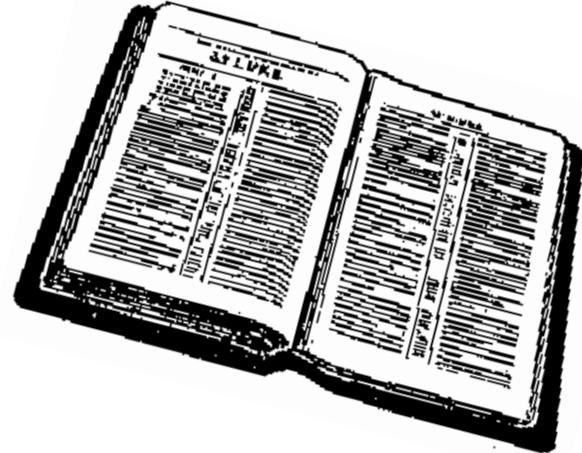


Answering questions



about the



Bible

No other book has been so . . .

vilified

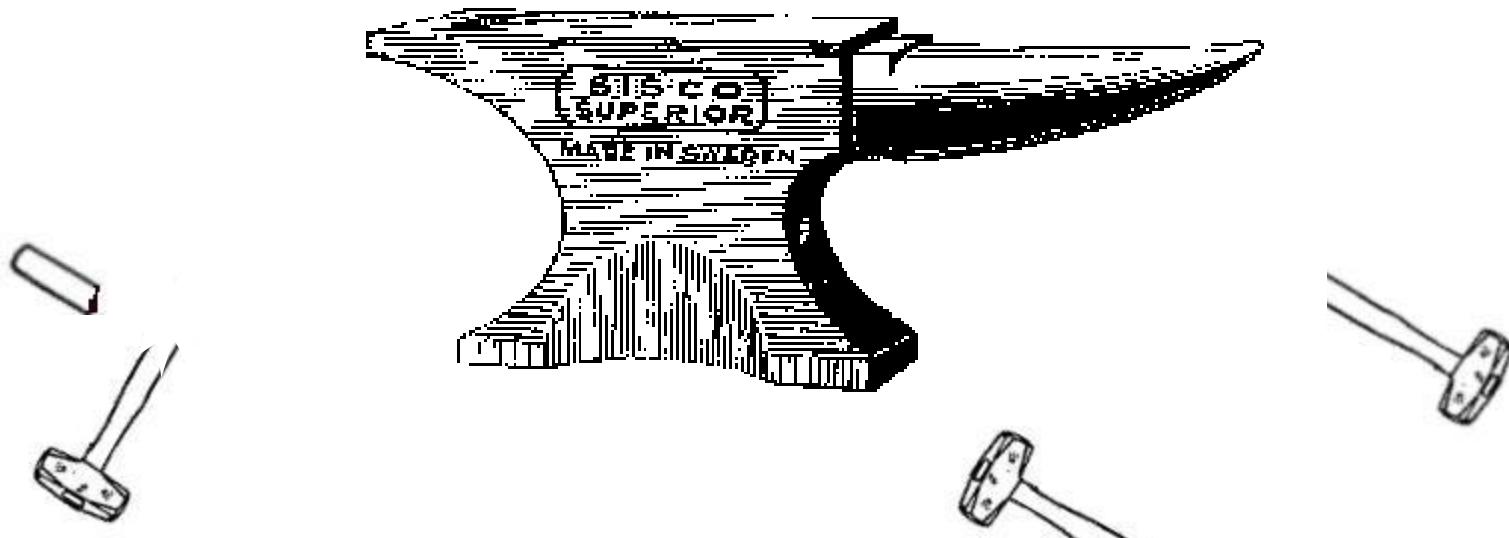
attacked

opposed

misrepresented

and yet . . .

**It has endured
through the centuries !**



the “anvil of God’s word”

1 Peter 1:23-25

You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

For, “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.”

*How can we be sure that
the books contained in
the Bible were written
at the time claimed ?*

*What proof is there that
they were written by the
authors to whom they
are attributed ?*

*Can we have confidence
in the credibility of
these writers ?*

*Since we do not have the
original manuscripts, how can
we be sure that the text has not
been seriously corrupted
during the process of copying
and transmission down
through the centuries ?*

Fact:

**We do not have the autographs
(original copies) of ANY of the
books of the Bible.**

**All that exists today are copies of
the originals - or more likely,
copies of copies.**

Printing with movable type was introduced in the 15th century by Johannes Gutenberg.



All copies made before that time were manuscripts.

***manu* = hand *script* = written**

Fact:

Scribes make
human mistakes,
manuscripts often
contain errors.



When one manuscript is
compared with another,
any different reading is
called a “*variation*.”

Fact:

**The existing manuscripts
of the New Testament**

contain over . . .

200,000 variations !

*Does this give us reason
to seriously doubt the
integrity of the text
as it now exists ?*

Witnesses to the text of the New Testament:

- 1. Greek manuscripts**
- 2. Ancient translations**
- 3. Quotations by early
Christian writers**

The number of ancient MSS of
the New Testament which have
been discovered so far is . . .

over 5,300 !

Other ancient writings:

Julius Caesar

Gallic Wars

10 good MSS

900 years after Caesar

Tacitus

Annals

10 of 16 books survive

2 MSS – 9th cent. & 11th cent.

Herodotus

History

earliest MS 1300 years
later than the original

“The New Testament writings are superior to comparable ancient writings. The records for the New Testament are vastly more abundant, clearly more ancient, and considerably more accurate in their text.”

- Norman L. Geisler

Types of Greek manuscripts

- 1. papyri**
- 2. uncials**
- 3. minuscules**
- 4. lectionaries**

Papyri

**manuscripts written on paper-like
material fashioned from the
papyrus plant**

**less durable than vellum
(animal skin)**

Uncials

**manuscripts written with
rounded, capital letters**

**some of the oldest and most
important NT MSS**

Uncial text looks like:

ΚΑΙ ΕΝΤΟΥΤΩ ΧΑΙΡΕ
ΑΛΛΑ ΚΑΙ ΧΑΡΗ ΣΟ
ΜΑΙΟΙ ΔΑΓΑΡΩΤΙΤῇ
ΤΟΜΟΙ ΑΠΟΒΗΣΕΙΑ
ΕΙΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΙΑΝΔΙΑ
ΤΗΣ ΥΜΦΝΔΕΗ ΣΕ
ΦΕΚΛΙΕΠΙΧΟΡΗ
ΑΣΤΟΥ ΠΝΙΓΙΎΧΥΚΑ
ΤΑΤΗΝ ΑΠΟΚΑΡΑ
ΚΙΑΝΚΛΙΕΛΠΙΔΗ
ΩΤΙΕΝ ΟΥΔΕΝΙΑΙ
ΣΧΥΝΘΗ ΣΟΜΑΙ
ΑΛΛΕΝ ΠΑΣΗΠΛ
ΡΗΣΙΑ ΦΩΣΤΙΛΑΝΤΟΣ
ΚΛΙΝΥΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΥΝ
ΦΙΛΟΣΤΟΙ ΙΧΕΩΝ

ΤΕΥΧΕ ΘΛΙΠΗ ΔΕΙΓΕ
ΕΛΘΩ ΦΝ ΚΛΙΕΙΔΩ
ΎΜΑΣ ΛΚΟΥΦΤΑΠ·
ΡΙ ΥΜΦΝ ΝΟΤΙΣΤΗ
ΚΕΤΕ ΕΝ ΕΝΙ ΠΝΙΜΙ
ΛΙΓΧΗ ΣΥΝΑΘΛΟΥ
ΤΕΣΤΗ ΠΙΣΤΙΤΟΥ
ΛΙΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ ΚΛΙΜΗ
ΠΙΤΥΡΟΜΕΝΟΙ ΕΝ
ΜΗΔΕΝΙ ΥΠΟΤΦΗ
ΑΝΤΙΚΕΙΜΕΝΩΝ
Η ΠΙΣΕΣΤΙ ΝΑΥΤΟΙ·
ΕΝΔΕΙΣ ΣΕΙ ΣΛΓΙΦΛ
ΛΑΣ ΥΜΦΝ ΔΕΣΩΤΗ
ΡΙΔΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΔΠ·

Uncial text looks like:

INTHEBEGINNINGWASTHEWORD
ANDTHEWORDWASWITH
GODANDTHEWORDWASGOD

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

Minuscules

**manuscripts written in a
cursive style**

not as ancient as the uncials

Minuscule text looks like:

Ἐν εἰρήνῃ τῷ κυρίᾳ δεηθέντι. Ταῦτα τὸν αὐτὸν εἰρκεῖν, ταῦτα τοὺς εἰρκεῖν τὸν σύμπανταν κόσμον ταῦτα δέχεται πολέμου ήμῶν τῷδε, ἵερωσάντος, αὐτοῦ λόγων, Διδυμούντος, εἰρήνης καὶ σωτηρίας αὐτοῦ, καὶ τὴν ἔργων τῆς χειροῦ αὐτοῦ. Ταῦτα τὸν ὄνταν αὐτοῦ πολέμου Διδυμούντος, καὶ τὸν σωτηρίας αὐτοῦ, ὥπως ὁ Φιλάνθρωπος θεὸς ήμῶν αὐτοῖς λόγων καὶ ἀμάρτιων αὐτοῖς τῶν Διδυμούντος χαρίοντος. τῷ κυρίῳ. Ταῦτα εὐπεπεῖτα εἰς θεοφυλακτὺν ήμῶν βασιλέως.

Lectionary

**a portion of scripture designed
for reading in public worship**

Vatican Manuscript

designation: B

4th century uncial

Greek of most of the OT & NT

NT terminates at Heb 9:14

now in the Vatican library

Sinaitic Manuscript

designation: ⚡ (aleph)

4th century uncial

discovered by C. Tischendorf

incomplete OT

entire NT

now in the British Library

Alexandrian Manuscript

designation: A

5th century uncial

both OT & NT -- mostly complete

(plus 1 Clement & part of 2 Clement)

some sections better than others

Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus

designation: C

5th century uncial

palimpsest (“scraped again”)

OT is incomplete

**NT contains about 5/8 of original,
portions of every book
except 2 Thes and 2 Jn**

now in Paris, France

Codex Bezae

designation: D

5th (possibly 6th) century uncial

contains 4 gospels & Acts,

plus fragment of 3rd Jn

bilingual - Greek & Latin

contains peculiarities

now in Cambridge Univ. Library

Ancient versions

over 10,000 MSS exist --

Old Latin

Vulgate - Latin, *from ancient Gk MSS*"

Old Syriac

Peshitta

many others: Gothic, Ethiopic,

Arabic, Armenian,

Slavic, etc.

Quotations

Justin Martyr	330
Irenaeus	1,819
Clement of Alexandria	2,406
Origen	17,922
Tertullian	7,258
Hippolytus	1,378
Eusebius	<u>5,176</u>
total	36,289

*“These quotations are so extensive
that the New Testament could
virtually be reconstructed from
them without the New Testament
manuscripts.”*

- J. H. Greenlee,
Intro to NT Textual Criticism

Sir David Dalrymple :

“Suppose that every copy of the New Testament had been lost or destroyed by the end of the third century, could the New Testament be collected together again from the writings of the Fathers of the second and third centuries?”

Sir David Dalrymple :

“That question roused my curiosity, and as I possessed all the existing works of the Fathers of the second and third centuries, I commenced to search, and up to this time I have found the entire New Testament, except eleven verses.”

But what about those 200,000 “variations” ?

- 1. mostly trivial: spelling,
word order, etc.**
- 2. the amazing number of
manuscripts which can be
compared**

B. F. Westcott & F. J. A. Hort,

The N.T. in the Original Greek :

*“The proportion of words
virtually accepted on all hands as
raised above doubt is very great,
not less, on a rough computation,
than seven-eights of the whole.”*

B. F. Westcott & F. J. A. Hort,
The N.T. in the Original Greek :

*“The remaining eighth therefore,
formed in great part by changes
or order and other comparative
trivialities, constitutes the whole
area of criticism.”*

B. F. Westcott & F. J. A. Hort,

The N.T. in the Original Greek :

“The amount of what can in any sense be called substantial variation is but a small fraction of the whole residuary variation, and can hardly form more than a thousandth part of the entire text.”

B. F. Westcott & F. J. A. Hort,

The N.T. in the Original Greek :

*“Since there is reason to suspect that
an exaggerated impression prevails
as to the extent of possible textual
corruption in the New Testament . . .
we desire to make it clearly
understood beforehand how much of
the New Testament stands in no
need of a textual critic's labors.”*

Restoring the New Testament text

ΚΑΙ ΕΝΤΟΥΓΩΧΑΙ
ΑΛΛΑΚΑΙ ΧΑΡΗΣΟ
ΜΑΙΟΙ ΔΑΓΑΡΟΤΙΤΡ
ΤΟΜΟΙ ΑΠΟΒΗΣΕΙΑ
ΕΙΣΣΩΤΗΡΙΑΝΔΙΑ
ΤΗΣ ΥΜΩΝ ΔΕΗ ΣΕ
ΦΣΚΛΙΕΠΙΧΟΡΗΠ
ΑΣΤΟΥ ΠΙΝCΙΥΧΥΚΑ
ΤΑΓΗΝ ΑΠΟΚΑΡΑ
ΚΙΛΑΝ ΚΛΙΕΛΠΙΔΑΙ
ΟΤΙ ΕΝΟΥ ΥΔΕΝΙΑΙ
ΣΧΥΝΘΗ ΣΟΜΑΙ
ΑΛΛΕΝ ΠΑΣΗΠΑΡ
ΡΗΣΙΑ ΦΩΣ ΠΛΑΝΤΟΤ
ΚΛΙΝΥΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΥΝ
ΦΗΣ ΣΤΗ ΗΧΟΣ ΣΙΤΟ

ΤΕΥΞ ΣΩΛΙΠΝΑ ΕΙΤΕ
ΕΛΘΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΔΩ
ΎΜΑΣ ΑΚΟΥ ΦΩΤΑΠ^{ΦΤΕΛΠΩΝ}
ΡΙΥΜ ΦΩΝ Ο ΠΙΣΤΗ
ΚΕΤΕ ΕΝ ΕΝ ΙΠΝΙΜ
Α ΤΥΧΗ ΣΥΝ ΛΘΛ
ΤΕΣΤΗ ΠΙΣΤΗ ΤΟΥ Ψ
ΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ ΚΛΙΜΗ
ΠΤΥΡΟ ΜΕΝΟΙ ΕΝ
ΜΗ ΔΕΝ ΙΥΠΟΤΩΝ
ΑΝΤΙ ΚΕΙ ΜΕΝΩΝ
Η ΤΙ ΣΕ ΣΤΗ ΝΑΥ ΤΟΙ
ΕΝ ΔΕΙ ΣΕΙ ΣΑΠΩΝ
Α ΣΥΜ ΦΩΝ ΔΕΣ ΦΩΤΗ
ΡΙΔΑ ΚΛΙ ΤΟΥ ΤΟΛΠ

Textual Criticism :

**The study of the biblical documents,
their copying, transmission, etc.**

**The purpose is the reconstruction of
the text as it was in the autographs
(original writings).**

Sometimes called “lower criticism.”

The work of “textual critics” -

study the vast number of MSS

identify scribal errors

group MSS into “families”

**by comparison, determine how the
original text read**

Major text types :

Alexandrian

Western

Byzantine (“majority”)

over 80% of MSS

Erasmus (of Rotterdam)

**1516 – 1st printed text
of Gk. N.T.**



**based on a handful of late MSS
followed by 4 later editions**

Ximenes (of Spain)

1522 – Complutensian
Polyglot



CARDINAL XIMENES.—Page 14.

Robert Estienne (of France)

a.k.a. Stephanus

1551 – 4th edition

- almost same as Erasmus' text
- contained verse divisions



The Elzevirs (Dutch family)

1633 edition –

*“You have the text now
received by all.”*

Latin: “Textus Receptus”

These early Greek texts were
made **before** the discovery
of the best and oldest
MSS now known.

1633 - 1831

textual work by many men

J. A. Bengal

J. J. Wetstein

J. J. Griesbach

Recent Greek texts

1831 - Karl Lachmann

= break from TR

followed by C. Tischendorf,

S. P. Tregelles, and others

1881 - Westcott & Hort

1898 - Nestle text (now 26th edition)

1966 - United Bible Society text

*How do we know that
we have the right books ?
(no more and no less)*

*This involves what is called the
“canon” of scripture.*

canon:

1. a rod used to measure straightness
2. that which serves to measure;
a rule, norm or standard
3. that which has been measured
and accepted

Canon :

*Those books of the Bible
which have been tested
and are accepted as being
genuine and inspired.*

The canon of the Old Testament

our Old Testament contains 39 books:

5 Law

Gen - Deut

12 History

Josh - Esther

5 Poetry

Job - Song of Sol.

5 Major Prophets

Isa - Dan

12 Minor Prophets

Hos - Mal

*"We have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another, [as the Greeks have,] but only **22 books:***

5 belong to Moses

*the prophets, who were after Moses, wrote down what was done in their times in **13 books***

*the remaining **4** books contain hymns to God, and precepts for the conduct of human life."*

- Flavius Josephus

Arrangement of the books in the Jewish OT

The Law (Torah)	The Prophets	The Writings
1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy	A. Former Prophets 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Samuel 4. Kings B. Latter Prophets 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Ezekiel 4. The Twelve	A. Poetical Books 1. Psalms 2. Proverbs 3. Job B. Five Rolls 1. Song of Songs 2. Ruth 3. Lamentations 4. Esther 5. Ecclesiastes C. Historical Books 1. Daniel 2. Ezra-Nehemiah 3. Chronicles

24 books

Arrangement of the books in the Jewish OT

The Law (Torah)	The Prophets	The Writings
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Genesis2. Exodus3. Leviticus4. Numbers5. Deuteronomy	<p>A. Former Prophets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Joshua2. Judges3. Samuel4. Kings <p>B. Latter Prophets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Isaiah2. Jeremiah3. Ezekiel4. The Twelve	<p>A. Poetical Books</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Psalms2. Proverbs3. Job <p>B. Five Rolls</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Song of Songs2. Ruth3. Lamentations4. Esther5. Ecclesiastes <p>C. Historical Books</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Daniel2. Ezra-Nehemiah3. Chronicles

23 books

Arrangement of the books in the Jewish OT

The Law (Torah)	The Prophets	The Writings
1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy	A. Former Prophets 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Samuel 4. Kings B. Latter Prophets 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Ezekiel 4. The Twelve	A. Poetical Books 1. Psalms 2. Proverbs 3. Job B. Five Rolls 1. Song of Songs 2. Ruth 3. Lamentations 4. Esther 5. Ecclesiastes C. Historical Books 1. Daniel 2. Ezra-Nehemiah 3. Chronicles

22 books

But why . . .

39 vs. 24 ?

where are the other 15 books ?

The canon of the Old Testament

Sam.	vs.	1 & 2 Sam.	1
Kgs.	vs.	1 & 2 Kgs.	1
Chron.	vs.	1 & 2 Chron.	1
Ezr./Neh.	vs.	Ezr. & Neh.	1
“The Twelve”	vs.	Hos. – Mal.	<u>11</u>
			15

*Jesus & the apostles recognized a
fixed and authoritative body of
inspired writings, called . . .*

“scripture”

Acts 17:11

*These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the **Scriptures** daily, to see whether these things were so.*

Acts 8:32

*Now the passage of Scripture
which he was reading was
this: “He was led as a sheep to
slaughter . . .”*

Rom 4:3

For what does the Scripture say? “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

2 Tim 3:16

*All **Scripture** is inspired by
God and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for
correction, for training in
righteousness . . .*

3-fold division of Old Testament scriptures:

*“These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** must be fulfilled”*

Luke 24:44

Arrangement of the books in the Jewish OT

The Law (Torah)	The Prophets	The Writings
1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy	A. Former Prophets 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Samuel 4. Kings B. Latter Prophets 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Ezekiel 4. The Twelve	A. Poetical Books 1. <u>Psalms</u> ← 2. Proverbs 3. Job B. Five Rolls 1. Song of Songs 2. Ruth 3. Lamentations 4. Esther 5. Ecclesiastes C. Historical Books 1. Daniel 2. Ezra-Nehemiah 3. Chronicles

Luke 11:50-51

“... the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah . . .”

Arrangement of the books in the Jewish OT

The Law (Torah)	The Prophets	The Writings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Genesis2. Exodus3. Leviticus4. Numbers5. Deuteronomy <p>Abel killed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Former Prophets<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Joshua2. Judges3. Samuel4. KingsB. Latter Prophets<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Isaiah2. Jeremiah3. Ezekiel4. The Twelve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Poetical Books<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Psalms2. Proverbs3. JobB. Five Rolls<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Song of Songs2. Ruth3. Lamentations4. Esther5. EcclesiastesC. Historical Books<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Daniel2. Ezra-Nehemiah3. Chronicles

**Did the “Council of Jamnia
establish O.T. canon
in 90 A.D. ?**

**No – it recognized the books
already accepted !**

The canon of the New Testament

Steps in formation of the New Testament canon:

- **selection**
- **public reading**
- **circulation**
- **collection**
- **quotation**

Roman Catholic claim :

The Bible came from the Catholic Church around the end of the 4th century.

The Councils of Hippo (393 A.D.) and Carthage (397 A.D.) and later Carthage (419 A.D.), along with the Latin Vulgate (406 A.D.) gave us the canon of Sacred Scripture.

**But there are numerous
early witnesses to the
canon of the N. T.**

Justin Martyr (100-165 A.D.)

“On the day called Sunday there is a gathering in the same place of all who live in a city or a rural district. The memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits.”

First Apology, chap. 67

Justin Martyr (100-165 A.D.)

“The apostles, in the memoirs composed by them which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us what was enjoined upon them.”

First Apology, chapter 66

refers to “memoirs” 17 times

The Muritorian Canon (c. 170 A.D.)

**Existing manuscript is fragmentary,
begins with Luke – refers to it as the
3rd gospel**

**Mentions all N.T. books except 1Jn,
1Pet, Jas, 2Pet and Heb**

Origen (c. 230 A.D.)

Quoted by Eusebius as saying that the following books were acknowledged by all Christians in his day:

4 gospels

Acts

Paul's 13 epistles

1Pet, 1Jn, Revelation

“Homologoumena” = universally accepted

Origen (c. 230 A.D.)

Also mentioned a list of books disputed by some:

Heb, 2Pet, 2Jn, 3Jn, Jas, Jd,

Epistle of Barnabas, Shepherd of Hermas,

Didache, Gospel According to Hebrews

“*Antilogoumena*” = questioned
by some

Tertullian (160 – 240 A.D.)

mentions all 27 NT books, except:

2 Pet, Jas, 2 & 3 Jn

Clement (~100 A.D.)

**73 references,
naming 14 books**

Irenaeus (140 – 202 A.D.)

Quoted all 27 books, except:

Philemon, Jude, 3 John & James

Ignatius (~107 A.D.)

Quoted from 15 books

Hermas (142 – 157 A.D.)

Referred to 14 books

Eusebius (270 - 340 A.D.)

Listed all of our 27 books as generally acknowledged except :

Jas, Jd, 2Pet, 2Jn & 3Jn

which he says were disputed by some, but recognized by the majority.

Cyril (315 - 386 A.D.)

Listed all 27 books except
Revelation, and referred to the

*“apostles and ancient bishops . . .
who have delivered these to us.”*

Athanasius

**In a letter dated 367 A.D.,
lists the 27 books exactly
as we have them today.**

Jerome (340 - 420 A.D.)

**Defined the canon as
containing the 27 books.**

Augustine (354 - 430 A.D.)

**Agreed with Jerome
on the canon.**

Recall quotations of N.T. books by early writers:

Justin Martyr	330
Irenaeus	1,819
Clement (Alexandria)	2,406
Origen	17,922
Tertullian	7,258
Hippolytus	1,378
Eusebius	5,176

**The actual wording by the
Council of Carthage was:**

***“we have received from our
fathers that these are to be
read in the churches.”***

“From the close of the second century the history of the canon is simple, and its proof clear. It is allowed even by those who have reduced the genuine apostolic works to the narrowest limits that from the time of Irenaeus the New Testament was composed essentially of the same books which we receive at the present, and that they were regarded with the same reverence as is now shown to them . . .”

- B. F. Westcott

“All the Fathers at the close of the second century agree in appealing to the testimony of antiquity as proving the authenticity of the books which they used as Christian Scriptures. And the appeal was made at a time when it was easy to try its worth.”

- B. F. Westcott

*Why do our Bibles not
contain the extra books
contained in the Roman
Catholic Bible
(the Apocrypha) ?*

Apocrypha

15 books found in various MSS

Catholic church rejects 3

combines 2 into 1

adds 4 others to OT books

leaves 7 books:

Tobit Judith I & II Maccabees

Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)

Baruch

Apocrypha

- 1. secret or mysterious**
- 2. of unknown origin;**
forged, hence spurious
- 3. unrecognized, uncanonical**

**These books have from the
earliest times of their existence
been shrouded with continual
doubt and uncertainty.**

**Christ and His apostles
frequently quoted the Old
Testament, but not from the
apocryphal books.**

Whereas the canonical books contain abundant claims of inspiration, the writers of the apocryphal books at times disclaim inspiration and infallibility.

Many esteemed Catholic scholars through the centuries (including pope Gregory the Great and “Saint” Jerome) have acknowledged that the Apocrypha should not be regarded as canonical

**The official pronouncement
which required Catholics
to accept these books
was not made until
the Council of Trent,
in 1546.**

Council of Trent:

"If anyone receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts . . . as they are contained in the Old Latin Vulgate edition . . . let him be anathema."

Exactly what is meant by

*“inspiration”, and what
evidence is there that the*

Bible is inspired ?

*(not merely the product of
human thinking)*

Views of “inspiration” :

- Bible like other great works of literature whose authors were especially gifted.
- General concepts given to the biblical writers – left to express these ideas in their own way.
- The Bible CONTAINS the word of God - must be sifted from the human element.
- VERBAL and PLENARY inspiration

**The Bible is filled with claims
that it is the word of God.**

This is “internal evidence.”

Is this of any value ?

**Old Testament writers
claimed their message
was from Jehovah.**

for example :

2Sam 23:1-2

Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse declares, and the man who was raised on high declares, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”

for example :

Hag 1:2,3

“Thus says the Lord of hosts . . .”

*“Then the word of the Lord came by
Haggai the prophet saying . . .”*

**this, or equivalent,
26 times in 38 verses !**

**N.T. writers claim that
the O.T. was inspired.**

2Pet 1:20-21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Luke 1:68-70

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel . . .

*as He spoke by the mouth of His holy
prophets from of old . . .*

1 Pet 1:10-11

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

2Tim 3:16-17

*All Scripture is inspired by God and
profitable for teaching, for reproof, for
correction, for training in
righteousness; that the man of God
may be adequate, equipped for every
good work.*

THEOPNEUSTOS

= “God-breathed”

**N.T. writers claim
that their writing
was inspired.**

1Thes 2:13

*We constantly thank God that
when you received from us the
word of God's message, you
accepted it not as the word of
men, but for what it really is,
the word of God.*

Inspiration

“*Plenary*” = completely,
in its entirety

“*Verbal*” = extending to the
very words used

Plenary

2 Tim 3:16-17

*All Scripture is
inspired by God . . .*

What about
verbal inspiration ?

Thoughts or words ?

1 Cor 2:11

Who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him?

Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

Thoughts or words ?

1 Cor 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God . . .

Thoughts or words ?

1 Cor 2:13

*which things we also speak, not
in words taught by human
wisdom, but in those taught by
the Spirit, combining spiritual
thoughts with spiritual words.*

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy

Fulfilled Prophecy

**The Bible abounds with specific,
detailed predictions made years
(sometimes centuries) before
the fulfillment.**

**This is powerful, convincing and
unassailable proof of the Bible's
divine origin !**

Jehovah's challenge :

Isa 41:21-23

*Present your case . . . declare to us
what is going to take place . . .*

Announce to us what is coming . . .

*Declare the things that are going to
come afterward, that we may know
that you are gods.*

Jehovah's challenge :

Isa 42:9

*I declare new things; before they
spring forth I proclaim them to
you.*

Jehovah's challenge :

Isa 44:6-7

There is no God besides me.

Who is like me?

*Let them declare to them the things
that are coming and the events that
are going to take place.*

**The O.T. contains over 300
prophecies regarding Jesus !**

Peter Stoner (*Science Speaks*) :

**The mathematical probability that any
man who has ever lived would have
fulfilled just **eight** of these prophecies
by random chance is:**

1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 !

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Unity and internal harmony

Unity and internal harmony

**~ 40 writers (often unknown to
one another)**

over 1500 years

**from Genesis to Revelation:
one, continuous, coherent story !**

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Unity and internal harmony
- Freedom from mistakes

Freedom from mistakes

infallible & inerrant

**this is sometimes denied by
critics of the Bible**

we will examine this later

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Unity and internal harmony
- Freedom from mistakes
- Manner of writing

Manner of writing

**Perhaps a somewhat subjective point,
but the Bible's . . .
objectivity, impartiality, brevity,
omissions, clarity, power, etc.
set it apart from human works.**

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Unity and internal harmony
- Freedom from mistakes
- Manner of writing
- Original concepts

Original concepts

Also somewhat subjective,

**but the Bible is unique among
books in this regard.**

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Unity and internal harmony
- Freedom from mistakes
- Manner of writing
- Original concepts
- Survival / continued existence

Survival (continued existence)

1 Pet 1:24-25

All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.

**There have been many attempts
by powerful forces to do away
with the Bible . . .**

but the Bible remains !

[“hammers & anvil”]

Evidences of the inspiration of the Bible :

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Unity and internal harmony
- Freedom from mistakes
- Manner of writing
- Original concepts
- Survival / continued existence
- Impact on the world

Impact on the world

all-time best seller

**influence far greater than
any book written by men !**

*Can we have confidence
in the credibility of
the N. T. writers ?*

"I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."

Professor Thomas Arnold,
chair of modern history at Oxford,
author of 3-volume *History of Rome*

“If all the evidence is weighed carefully and fairly, it is indeed justifiable, according to the canons of historical research, to conclude that the tomb in which Jesus was buried was actually empty on the morning of the first Easter. And no shred of evidence has yet been discovered in literary sources, epigraphy or archaeology that would disprove this statement.”

Dr. Paul L. Maier,
professor of ancient history,
Western Michigan University

"My faith began with and was grounded on what I thought was revealed in the Bible. When, particularly, I came to the New Testament, the Gospels and other writings of the men who had been friends of Jesus Christ seemed to me to make an overwhelming case, merely as a matter of strict evidence, for the fact therein stated ... The same approach to the cardinal test of the claims of Jesus Christ, namely, His resurrection, has led me, as often as I have tried to examine the evidence, to believe it as fact beyond dispute."

**Lord Caldecote,
Lord Chief Justice of England**

Simon Greenleaf

professor of Law, Harvard University

A Treatise on the Law of Evidence

also wrote:

*An Examination of the Testimony of the
Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence
Administered in the Courts of Justice*

His conclusion:

M, M, L & J are credible witnesses

**more evidence for the resurrection of Jesus
than for just about any other event in history**

“There exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.”

**Lord Darling,
Chief Justice of England**

Dr. Frank Morrison

**lawyer who set out to write a book
exposing the gospel account of the
resurrection as nothing but a myth**

**after careful investigation of the facts
he instead wrote a book entitled . . .**

Who Moved the Stone?

chap. 1: *The Book That Refused to Be Written*

C. S. Lewis

professor of literature, Cambridge U.
once believed Christians “*to be wrong*”
after evaluating evidence concluded. . .
other religions have “*no such
historical claim as in Christianity*”

“*I was too experienced in literary
criticism to regard the Gospels as myth.*”

Sir William Ramsey

**Scottish archaeologist and NT scholar
influenced by liberal German thinking
originally an atheist
doubted the reliability of the New Testament
extensive archaeological and historical
studies convinced him of the historical
accuracy of the New Testament.**

Sir William Ramsey

“I set out to look for truth on the borderland where Greece and Asia meet, and found it there [in Acts]. You may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment”

The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament

Sir William Ramsey

“Further study . . . showed that the book could bear the most minute scrutiny as an authority for the facts of the Aegean world, and that it was written with such judgment, skill, art and perception of truth as to be a model of historical statement.”

The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the
Trustworthiness of the New Testament

William Albright

world-renowned archaeologist

**Ph.D. thesis : defense of the German higher
criticism – biblical history mere fiction**

**after extensive study and research shocked
the world by announcing that he had
become a Christian**

William Albright

“My initially rather skeptical attitude toward the accuracy of Israelite historical tradition suffered repeated jolts, as discovery after discovery confirmed the historicity of details which might reasonably have been considered legendary.”

William Albright

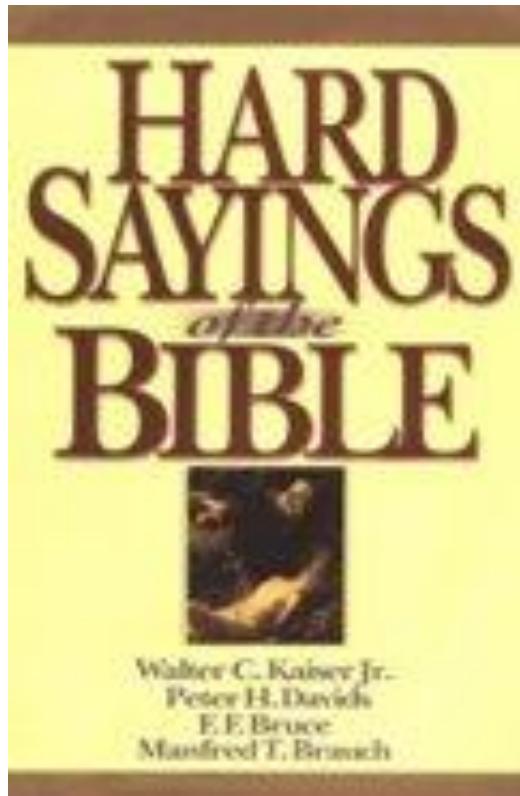
“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament.”

*Is the Bible inerrant
and infallible ?*

*“We need not force authors of
Scripture to agree on every
subject.”*

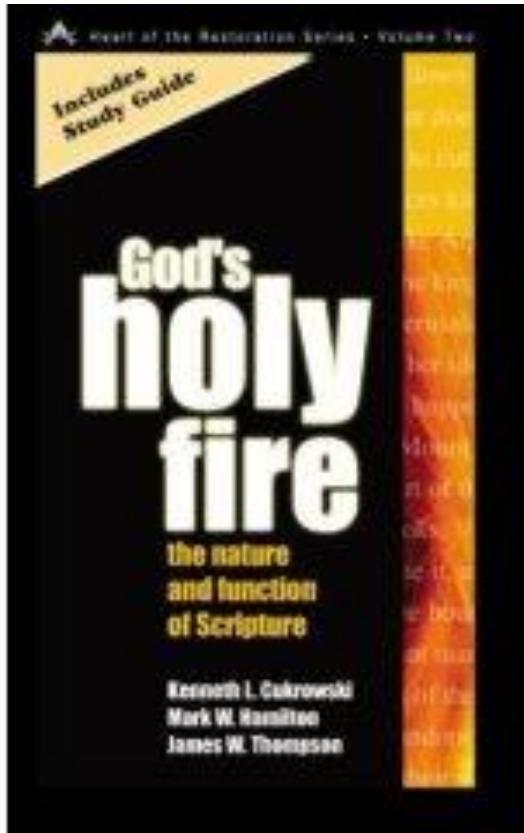
D.A. Black & D.S. Dockery

*New Testament Criticism
and Interpretation*



Concerning 1Cor 10:8 -

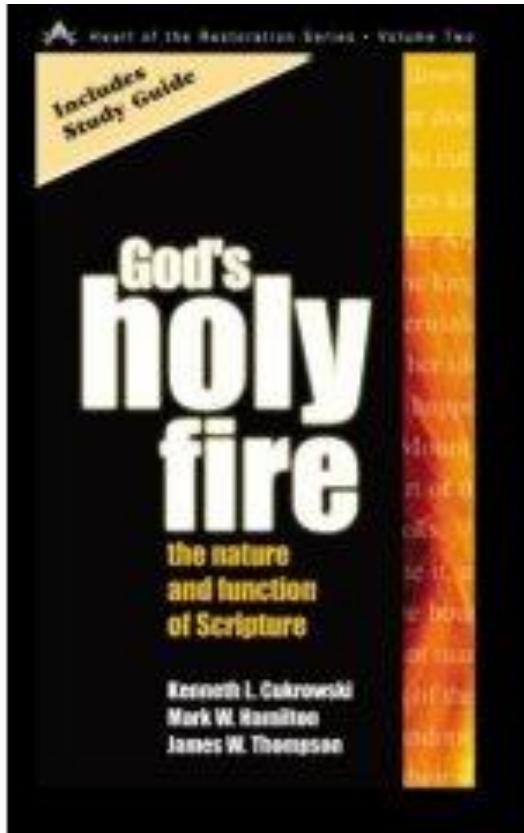
“Paul apparently makes a slip of the mind . . . he cited an example from memory and got a detail wrong.”



God's Holy Fire, the nature and function of Scripture

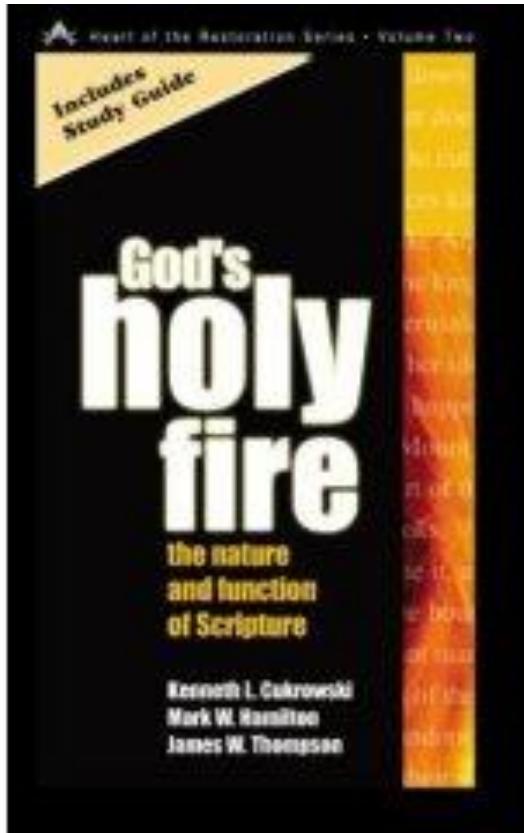
**Kenneth Cukrowski,
Mark Hamilton,
James Thompson**

**professors:
Graduate School of Theology,
Abilene Christian University**

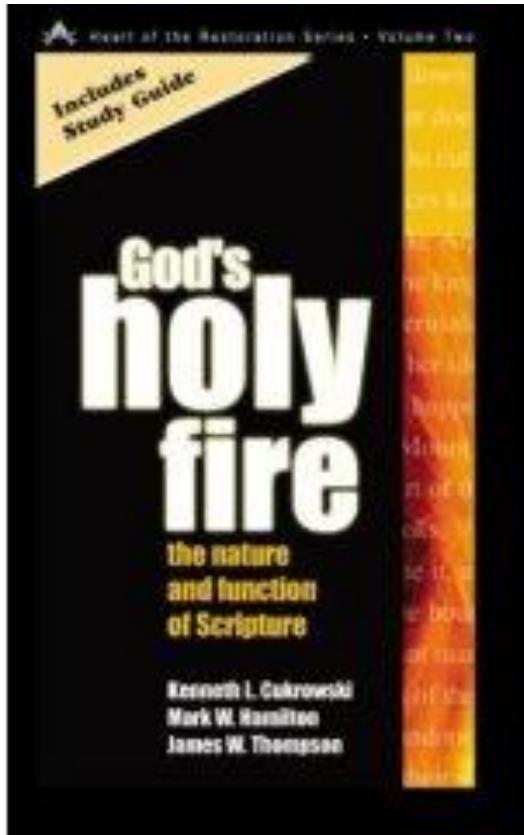


Critical of:

Well-meaning Christians who hold to Scripture as being the truthful Word of God in all that it says.



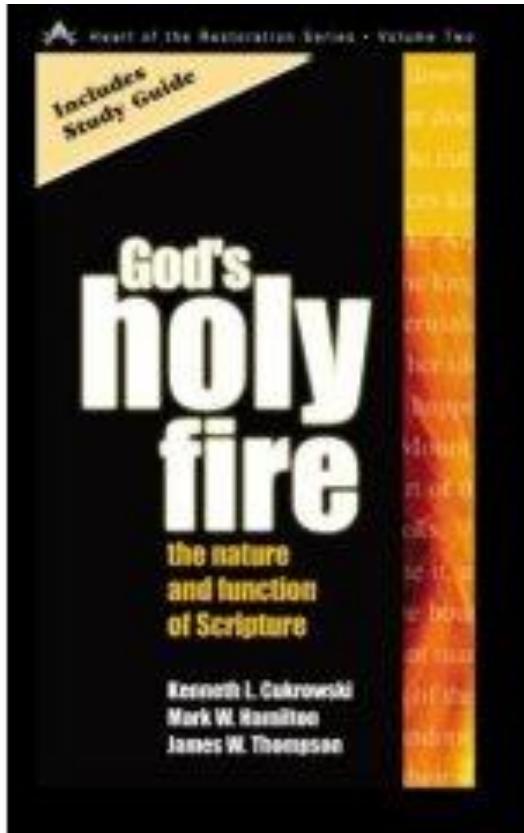
“Because the Bible has come to us through human beings, our view of the divine origin of Scripture is not a matter of mathematical certainty.”



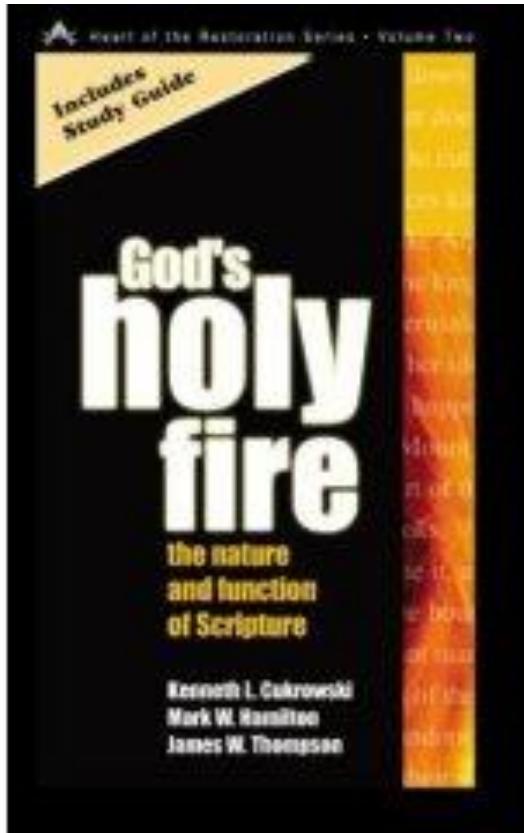
“In numerous instances in the Bible, one finds apparent inconsistencies.”

· · · · ·

“Sometimes the narrative does not correspond to the historical record.”



*"The ancient writers
worked with standards
that are not our own."*



“What is crucial for the church today is not the raw data of the history of the exodus and subsequent events, but the meaning of the story.”

Origin of “discrepancies”

1. difference of dates
2. difference of authorship
3. difference of standpoint or object
4. different methods of arrangement
5. different methods of computation
6. peculiarities of Oriental idiom
7. plurality of names or synonyms
8. diverse meanings of the same word
9. errors in manuscripts
10. imagination of critics

John W. Haley,
Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Assuming that the
unexplained is not
explainable*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Confusing our fallible
interpretations with
God's infallible
revelation*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Failing to consider the
context of a passage*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Neglecting to interpret
difficult passages in the
light of clear ones*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Assuming that accounts
that differ must be
contradictory.*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Insisting that citations
must always be
direct quotations.*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Assuming that the Bible
approves everything
that it records.*

Mistakes often made by critics :

*Failure to account for
literary devices*

(figures of speech)

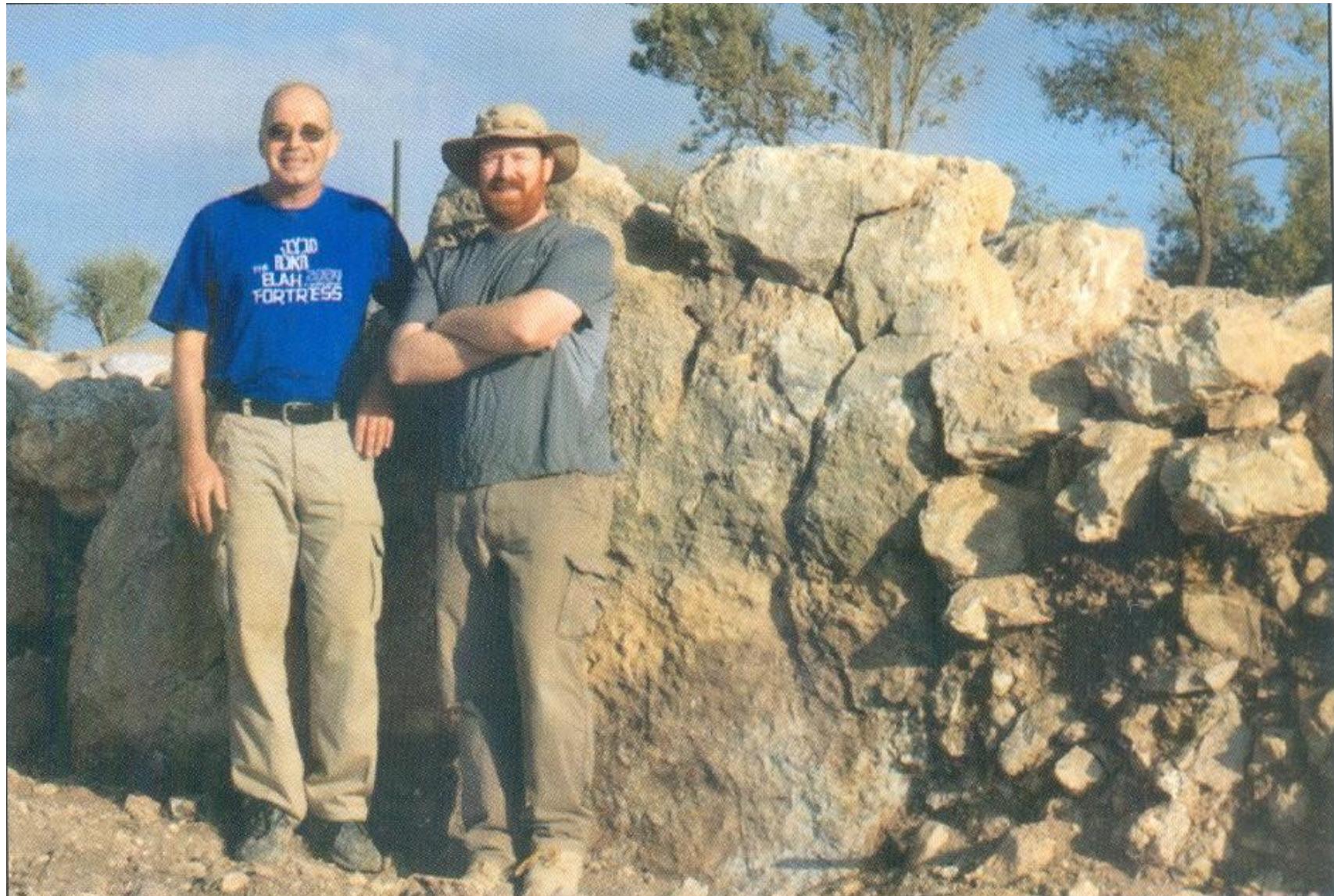
In dealing with “discrepancies”:

If at least one explanation exists which can explain the alleged error then there is no discrepancy.

*Does the Bible ever
conflict with science
or history ?*

*Why should we accept
the Bible over other
“sacred” writings ?
(e.g. the Koran)*

*What do archaeological
discoveries tell us
about the reliability
of the Bible ?*



Luke Chandler and Yosef Garfinkel



Valley of Elah

**Many such archaeological
discoveries have been
made which show:**

- ✓ the was Bible is right
- ✓ critics were wrong !

“To many people it seems remarkable that David and Solomon still remain unknown outside the Old Testament or literary sources derived directly from it. No extra-biblical inscription, either from Palestine or from a neighboring country, has yet been found to contain a reference to them.”

Kathleen Kenyon,

1987

1993 :

Tell Dan Stele

**discovered by Avraham Biran
refers to a king . . .**



“from the house of David”

Moabite Stone

aka Mesha Stele

**1868 – discovered by
Frederick Klein**

**at the site of ancient Dibon
damaged then restored
now in Louvre Museum**



2 Kings 3:4-5

Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and used to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams.

But it came about, when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

Moabite Stone :

**Mesha's own account
mentions his servitude to Omri
and his son (Ahab)
claims to have thrown off the yoke
thanks to his god Chemosh**

Bible on the Assyrian invasion

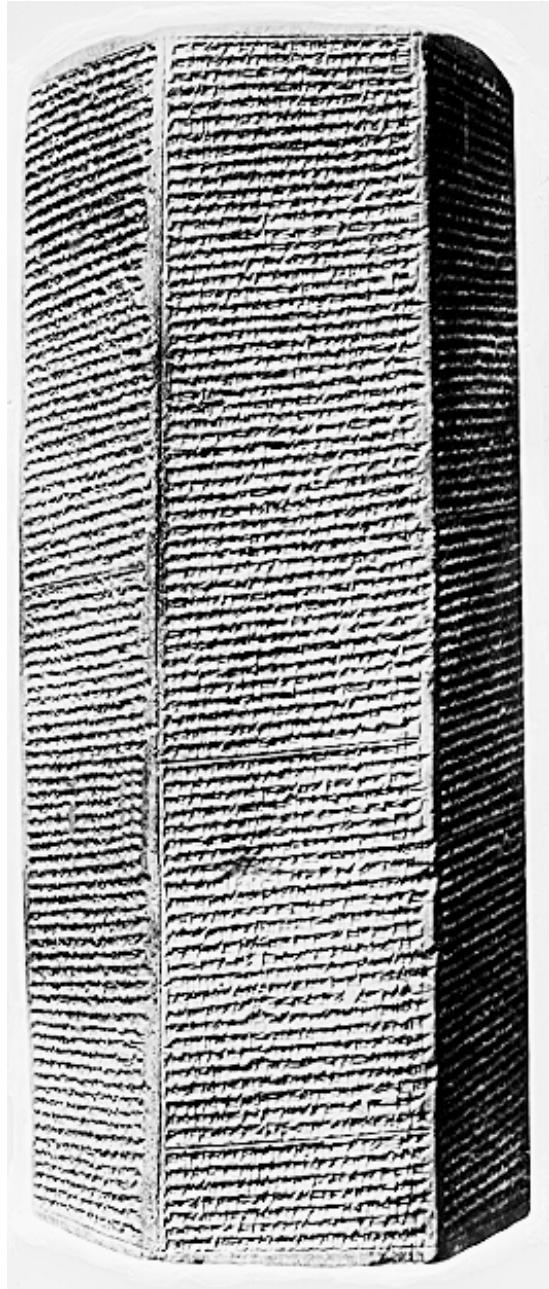
- Hezekiah paid enormous tribute to Sennacherib (king of Assyria), and yet . . .
- Sennacherib invaded Judah, captured many cities and besieged Jerusalem
- Rabshakeh's blasphemous threats
- Hezekiah & Isaiah prayed for deliverance
- God miraculously answered their prayer

Sennacherib's clay prism

aka Taylor Prism

**discovered 1830
at site of Nineveh**

**Oriental Institute Museum
(Chicago)**



Sennacherib's clay prism :

“As for Hezekiah the Judahite, who did not submit to my yoke: forty-six of his strong, walled cities, as well as the small towns in their area without number, I besieged and took them.”

“(Hezekiah) himself, like a caged bird I shut up in Jerusalem, his royal city.”

Hezekiah's tunnel

2 Kings 20:20

Hezekiah . . . made the pool and the conduit, and brought water into the city

2 Chron 32:30

Hezekiah who stopped the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them to the west side of the city of David.

Hezekiah's Tunnel

**1750 feet long
hewn from both
ends
simultaneously !**



Siloam Inscription

(Istanbul Museum)
discovered 1880

"The tunneling was completed . . . While the hewers wielded the ax, each man toward his fellow. . . there was heard a man's voice calling to his fellow. . . the hewers hacked each toward the other, ax against ax, and the water flowed from the spring to the pool, a distance of 1,200 cubits."

God's answer to Hezekiah's prayer :

that night the angel of the LORD went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians

early in the morning all were dead

Sennacherib returned to Nineveh

Sennacherib's death

Isaiah 37:7 *he shall return to his own land
I will make him fall by the
sword in his own land*

37:37-38 *he returned home . . .
was worshipping his god . . .
his sons smote him with
the sword . . . and
Esarhaddon his son
reigned in his stead.*

Sennacherib's death

[as recorded on an
Assyrian clay tablet
in the British Museum]

*"On the twentieth day of the month Tebet
Sennacherib king of Assyria his son slew
him in rebellion . . . Esarhaddon his son
sat on the throne of Assyria."*

Pontius Pilate

mentioned in the gospels
absent from archaeological
discoveries until . . .



1961 – unearthed near Caesarea,
limestone block with Latin inscription:
dedication to Tiberius Caesar from . . .

“Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea”

king Cyrus

Isa 44:28 Isa 44:28

It is I who says of Cyrus, “He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.” And he declares of Jerusalem, “She will be built,” And of the temple, “Your foundation will be laid.”

Cyrus cylinder

Akkadian cuneiform
script
discovered 1879



*“From Babylon . . . I gathered
all their inhabitants and
returned to them their
dwellings.”*

Hittites

**mentioned over 40 times in O.T.
for centuries – no record outside of
scripture**

**skeptics boldly claimed that no
such people ever existed !**

**1906 – Hugo Winckler uncovered a
library of 10,000 clay tablets
ample evidence of the Hittite empire**

Ebla tablets

discovered in 1960's

Tell Mardikh – Northern Syria

**Ebla – ancient Syrian kingdom
destroyed ~ 2250 B.C.**

17,000 tablets have been found

**shed much light on ancient times,
languages, cities, etc.**

Ebla tablets

writing centuries before Moses !

vocabulary close to Hebrew

details of law and jurisprudence

hundreds of geographical names,
including:

**Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah,
Zeboiim and Zoar**

-- cf. Gen 14:2

Ebla tablets

“Findings such as those at Ebla consistently support the Bible as a thoroughly acceptable record.”

-- Dr. Clifford Wilson,
archaeologist & bible scholar,
*Ebla Tablets: Secrets of a
Forgotten City*

Belshazzar

At one time there was no record of a character by this name in the history of the neo-Babylonian empire.

Critics of the Bible affirmed:

- 1. No such person ever actually existed or,**
- 2. If he did exist, he was never king of Babylon (Nabonidus was the last king) and,**
- 3. Nebuchadnezzar was not his father (as per Dan 5:2, 11, 13 & 18)**

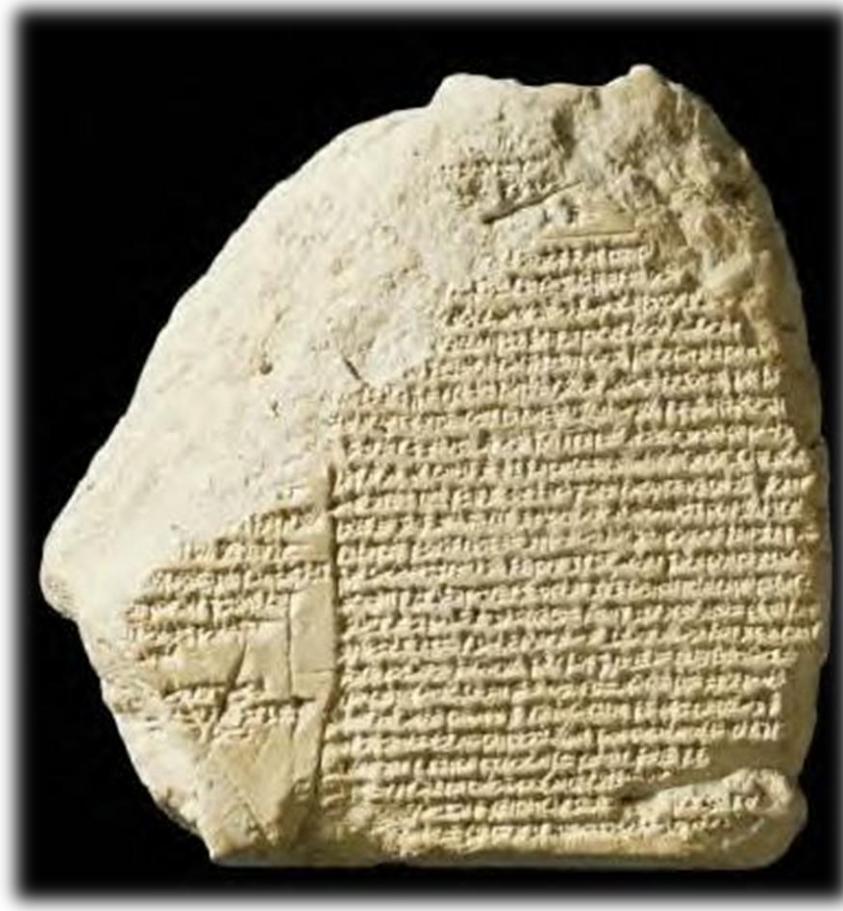
Kings of the Neo-Babylonian Empire

Nabopolassar	626 - 605 B.C.
Nebuchadnezzar	605 - 562 B.C.
Evil-Merodach	562 - 560 B.C.
Neriglissar	560 - 556 B.C.
Labashi-Marduk	556 - 556 B.C.
Nabonidus	556 - 539 B.C.

1861:

cuneiform tablet published
mentioning Belshazzar by
name as the oldest son of
Nabonidus

Discovered in 1882 . . .



The Nabonidus Chronicle

Nabonidus Chronicle :

Babylon captured by Cyrus

while Nabonidus was in Tema (in Arabia)

his son remained in Babylon

father and son were joint rulers

**Belshazzar = crown prince, entrusted
with royal power**

1924 - Verse Account of Nabonidus

(Persian) translated & published

**states that when Nabonidus left
Babylon, he “entrusted the kingship”
to his son in the 3rd year of his reign**

- British Museum,
tablet 38,299**

Rom 16:23 (written from Corinth)

*Erastus, the chamberlain of the
city saluteth you. (KJV)*

NASB: *the city treasurer*

**NIV: *the city's director
of public works***

Translation:

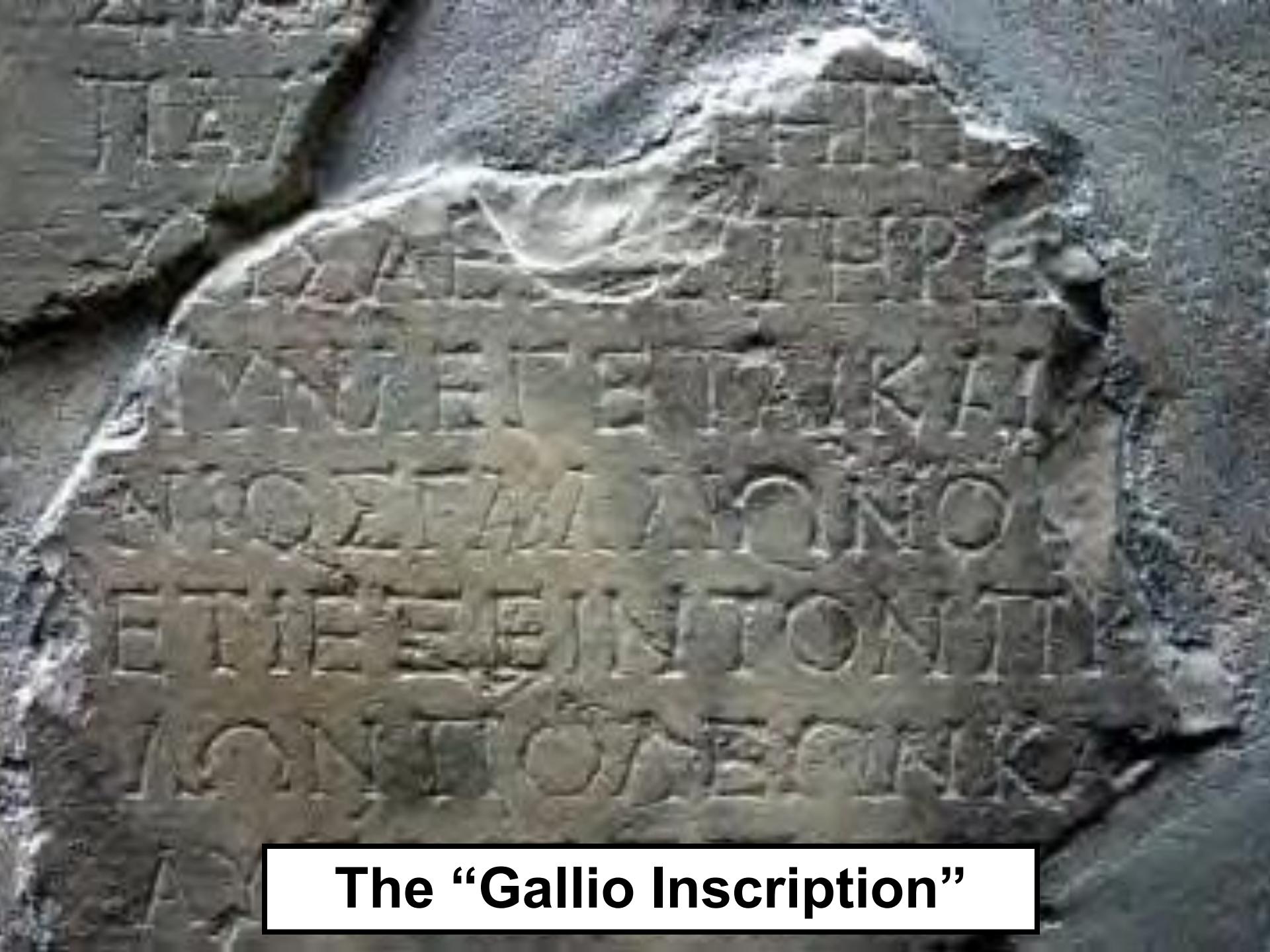
“Erastus, in return for his aedileship, laid this pavement at his own expense.”

aedilis = commissioner of
public works

The “Erastus Inscription”

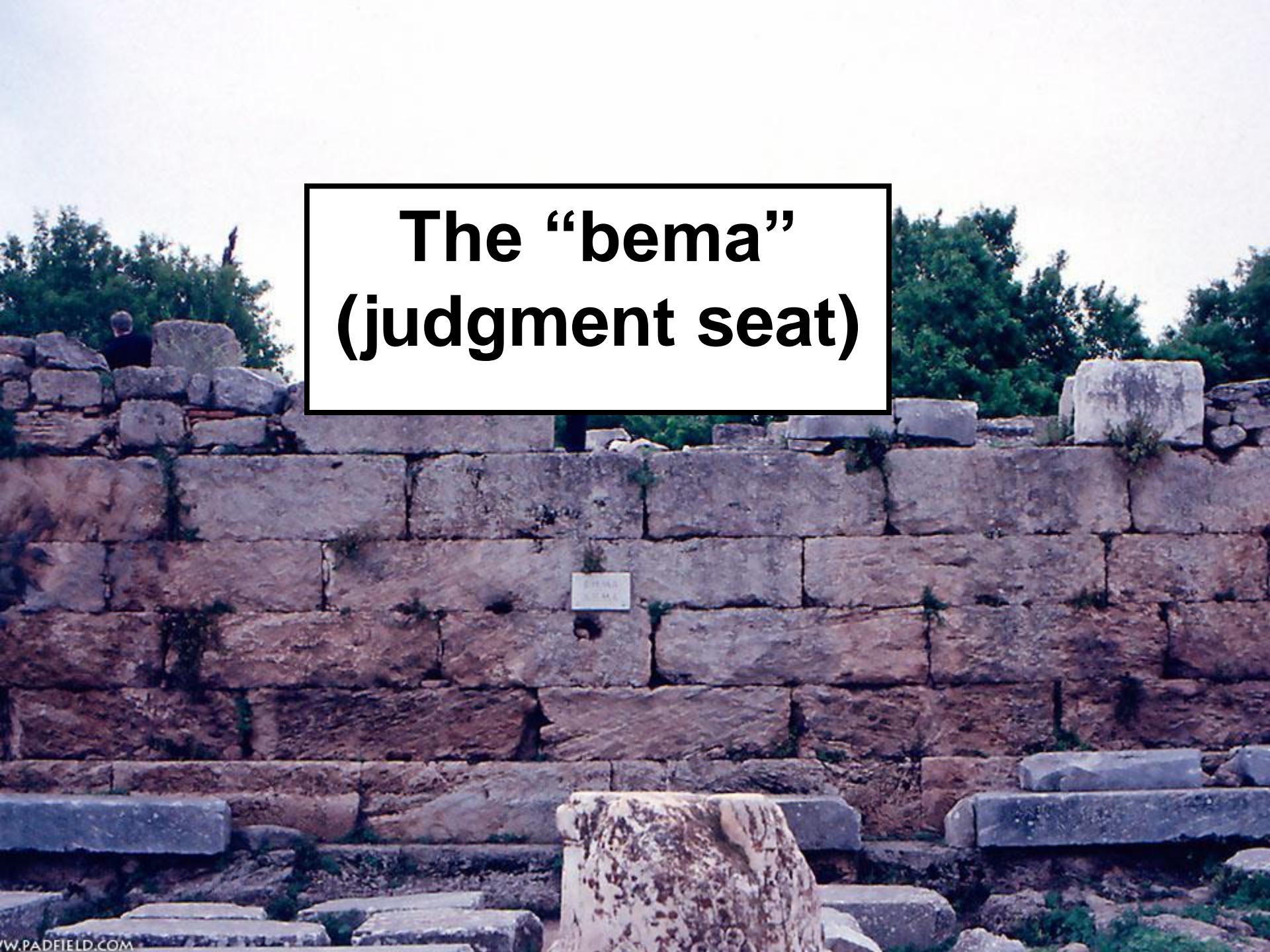
Acts 18:12

While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat.



THESE ARE THE
DOCTRINES OF
THE JEWS
IN JERUSALEM

The “Gallio Inscription”

A photograph of an archaeological site, likely the 'bema' in Ephesus. In the center, there is a raised, rectangular platform made of large, rectangular stone blocks. A small, rectangular plaque is mounted on the side of the platform. A person is standing on the left side of the platform, providing a sense of scale. The background shows dense green trees under a clear sky.

The “bema” (judgment seat)

Jericho

1930-1936 – John Garstang

1952-1958 – Kathleen Kenyon

disagreement over their findings

but . . .

**evidence of walls that collapsed
outward**

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

Nelson Glueck,
Jewish archaeologist

“In all of my archaeological investigation I have never found one artifact of antiquity that contradicts any statement of the Word of God.”

Nelson Glueck

“The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the 18th and 19th centuries, certain phases of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited.”

William F. Albright,
respected archaeologist

“Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.”

William F. Albright

*“There can be no doubt that
archaeology has confirmed the
substantial historicity of the Old
Testament.”*

William F. Albright

*What has the discovery of
the Dead Sea Scrolls
revealed about
the Bible ?*

The Dead Sea Scrolls

**greatest manuscript discovery
of the 20th century**

discovered 1947 - 1956

**located in 11 caves - near
Khirbet Qumran**

thousands of fragments

**from approximately 900 different
scrolls**

The Dead Sea Scrolls

3 categories :

Biblical (every O.T. book except Esther)

Apocryphal

Secular

mostly Hebrew (some Aramaic & Greek)

**mostly parchments (some papyrus,
1 copper)**

dates: 3rd century B.C. to 68 A.D.

Map 6 PALESTINE IN CHRIST'S TIME

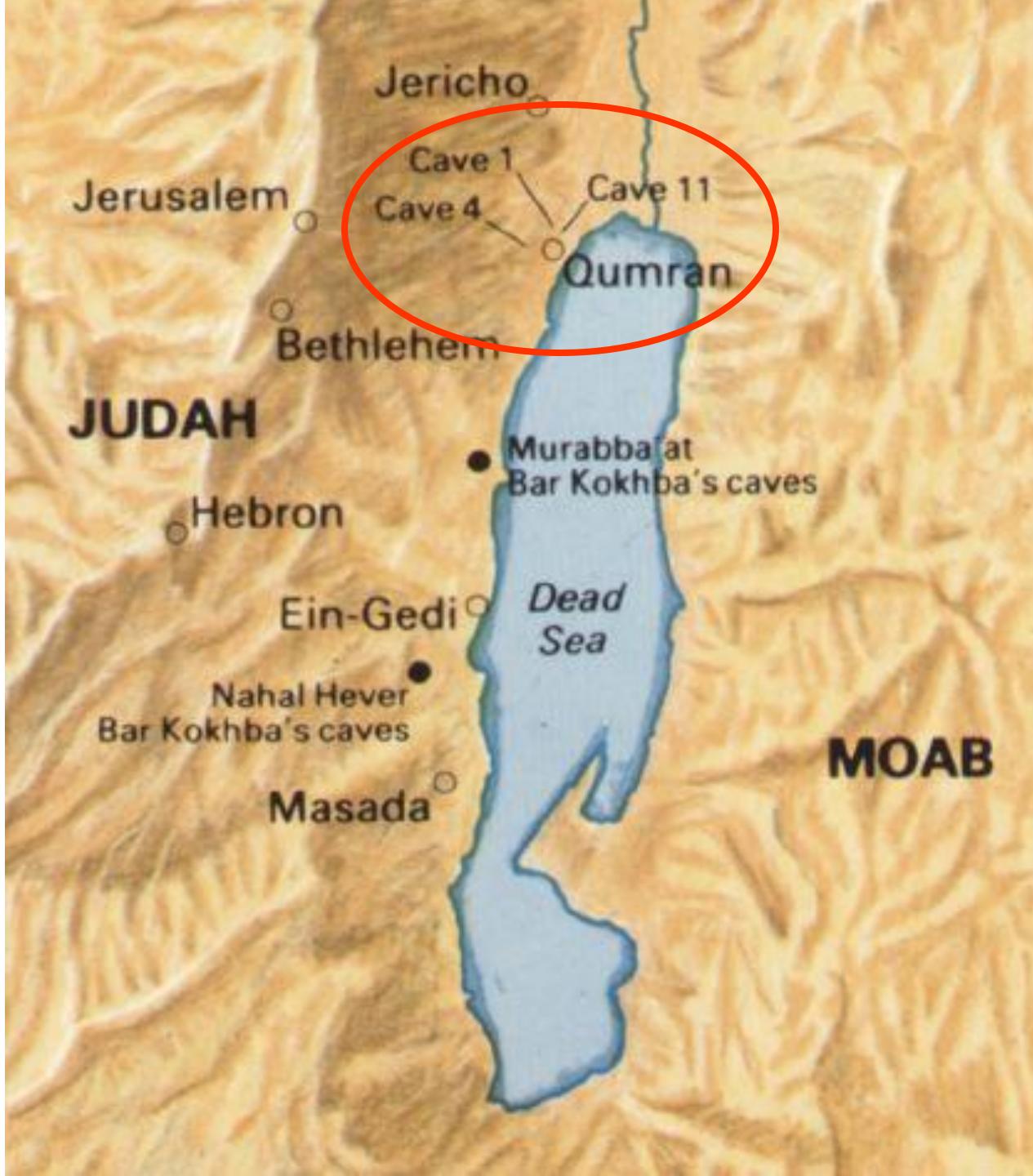
(1,742) Elevation, in feet

? Exact location questionable

0 10 20
Scale of Miles

Qumran















Shrine of the Book

Jerusalem



Great Isaiah scroll
(cave 1 100-120 B.C.)

Why are the dead sea scrolls so significant ?

1000 years older than
previously existing
O.T. manuscripts !

1948 :

“There is indeed no probability that we shall ever find manuscripts of the Hebrew text going back to a period before the formation of the text which we know as Masoretic. We can only arrive at an idea of it by a study of the earliest translations made from it.”

Sir Frederick Kenyon,
Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts

Jewish textual scholars

OT “scribes” - Ezra . . . a scribe skilled
in the law of Moses (Ezr. 7:6)

later “scribes”

Sopherim - 2nd & 3rd century rabbis

Masoretes - 7th - 10th century



“Masoretic Text”

Prior to the discovery of the
Dead Sea Scrolls . . .

oldest existing Old Testament
Hebrew manuscript =

Leningrad MS (prophets)

916 A.D. !

Earliest witnesses to O.T. text :

Masoretic Text - 10th cent. A.D.

Ancient versions

Samaritan Pentateuch - 11th cent. A.D.

Septuagint (Gk OT) - 4th cent A.D.

Targums (Aramaic paraphrases)

Quotations (N.T., Jewish writings)

Dead Sea Scrolls - 2nd century B.C.

“Even though the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were a thousand years earlier than the oldest manuscript previously known, they proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 per cent of the text. The 5 per cent of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling.”

Gleason Archer

*Since the Bible was not
originally written in English,
how can we be sure the
message has not been
distorted through
translation ?*

Original language of the Bible

**Old Testament – Hebrew
(brief portions in Aramaic)**

New Testament – Greek

Early translations

Septuagint (Greek OT) “LXX”

mid 3rd century B.C.

Old Latin (OT translated from LXX)

Latin Vulgate

(Jerome) 405 A.D.

Many others of lesser importance:

**Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopic, Armenian,
Arabic, etc.**

Vulgate (Latin) - standard version for centuries

as late as 1546 A.D. –

*“this same ancient and vulgate
edition . . . be held as authentic in
public lecture, disputation, sermons
and expository discourses, and that
no one make bold or presume to
reject it on any pretext.”*

Council of Trent

Early translation into English

**Latin into Old English as early as
the first part of the 8th century
short portions (esp. Psa & gospels)
limited circulation**

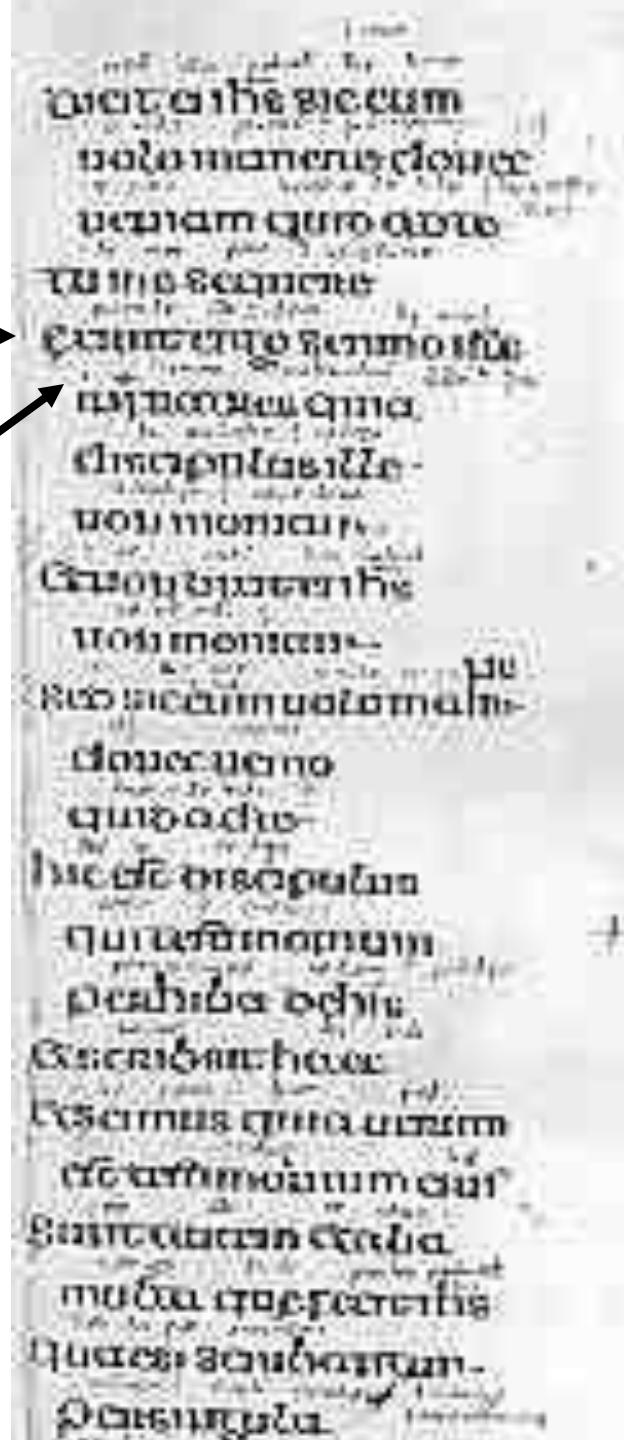
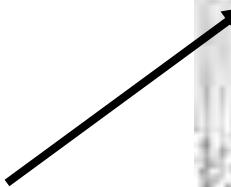
**Bede translated gospels ~ 735 A.D.
king Alfred (9th cent.) had
10 commandments translated
Lindisfarne Gospels**

Lindisfarne Gospels

early 8th century Latin

10th century Old English
interlinear gloss

now in British Library



John Wycliffe

(1328-1384)

**“Morning Star of the
Reformation”**

**1382 - 1st complete translation
of Bible into English**

translated from Vulgate

considered heresy

confiscated and burned

1388 – 2nd edition = revision (John Purvey ?)



1408 – decree by the provincial council at Oxford

“no one henceforth on his own authority translate any text of Holy Scripture into the English or any other language. . . until the translation itself shall have been approved by the diocesan of the place.”

1415 – Council of Constance :

declared Wycliffe a heretic

**ordered his body disinterred and
burned and the ashes thrown into
the river Swift**

William Tyndale

(1494-1536)

“father of the
English Bible”

1st complete translation
from Hebrew & Greek

1536 – strangled & burned



*“Lord, open the king of
England’s eyes”*

Translations following Tyndale

1535 – Coverdale

1537 – Matthews

later editions = “Cranmer Bible”

1539 – Great Bible

1560 – Geneva Bible

1568 – Bishop’s Bible

1582 – Rheims (NT) Roman Catholic

1609 – Douay (OT) Roman Catholic

Jan 16, 1604 :

**Hampton Court Conference
convened by king James I**

**to settle differences between Church
of England and Puritans**

**to examine “*things pretended to be
amiss in the church*”**

**Puritans called for a new English
translation - James approved**

1607 – project undertaken

team of 47 scholars

6 companies:

2 at Westminster

2 at Oxford

2 at Cambridge

Rules To The Translators :

*“The ordinary Bible read in
the Church, commonly called
the Bishop’s Bible, to be
followed, and as little altered
as the original will permit.”*

Rules To The Translators :

*“The old ecclesiastical words
to be kept, as the word
church, not to be translated
congregation.”*

Rules To The Translators :

*“These translations to be used,
when they agree better with the
text than the Bishop’s Bible:*

Tyndale’s, Coverdale’s,

Matthew’s [Rogers’],

Whitchurch’s [Cranmer’s],

Geneva.”

“Address to the readers” :

“Truly, we never thought, from the beginning, that we should need to make a new translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one; but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one.”

**This so-called
“authorized version”
was not widely
received at first !**

Major revisions of KJV

- 1611 3 separate printings
 15 editions in next 4 years**
- 1629**
- 1638**
- 1762**
- 1769 this is essentially what we
 have today**

English translations

following the

King James Version

2½ centuries after KJV :

Call for a new English translation

3 reasons:

- 1. evolution of the language**
- 2. better manuscripts available**
- 3. improved knowledge of
Hebrew and Greek**

February 20, 1870

**motion in the Upper House of the
Convocation of Canterbury to
begin work on revising KJV**

2 committees (27 scholars each)
leading role: Church of England, also included
Bapt., Meth., Presby., Unitarian & Congreg.

**July, 1870 - Americans invited to
participate in the project**

the result :

English Revised Version

1881 – New Testament

1885 – Old Testament

English Revised Version

**took advantage of manuscripts
discovered since 1611**

**5,788 differences with Greek text
used by KJV translators**

objective: *“to introduce as few alterations as possible into the text of the authorized version consistently with faithfulness.”*

over 36,000 changes made in N.T.

ERV revisers :

“The need and desirableness of a new revision are now almost generally admitted, at least by those who are best acquainted with the Bible in its original languages.”

ERV revisers :

“The object is to make a good translation still better, more accurate and self-consistent, and to bring it up to the present standard of Biblical scholarship”

“Volumes, instead of pages, might easily be written to illustrate the existing defects of the ‘authorized version.’ ”

ERV revisers :

“The most ardent admirers of King James Version do not claim for it perfection and infallibility. It has a very considerable number of errors, defects, and obscurities. It was the best translation which could be made in the beginning of the seventeenth century, but it can be greatly improved with the enlarged facilities of the present age.”

American participants in ERV

preferred many readings different from those made by English scholars

~ 1,000 of these incorporated in ERV

for those which were not :

- added an appendix containing those readings favored by Americans
- Americans agreed to wait 14 years before producing a translation of their own

American Standard Version

published in 1901

same as ERV, but with readings
preferred by American translators

very accurate

very literal

lacked the beauty & style of KJV

“strong in Greek, weak in English”

Revised Standard Version

1946 – NT

1952 – OT

32 scholars (20 univ. & theol. schools)

advisory board of 50

textual basis: “eclectic”

revision of ERV & ASV

mixed reception (neo-orthodox theology ?)

official version of National Council of Churches

1990 – New RSV

New American Standard Version

1963 – NT

1971 – OT

Lockman Foundation

translators anonymous at first

attempt to renew interest in ASV

at times less literal than ASV (marg. notes)

1995 – Updated edition

New King James Version

1980 – NT & Psa 1982 – OT

5th major revision of KJV

(1629, 1638, 1762, 1769)

130 scholars

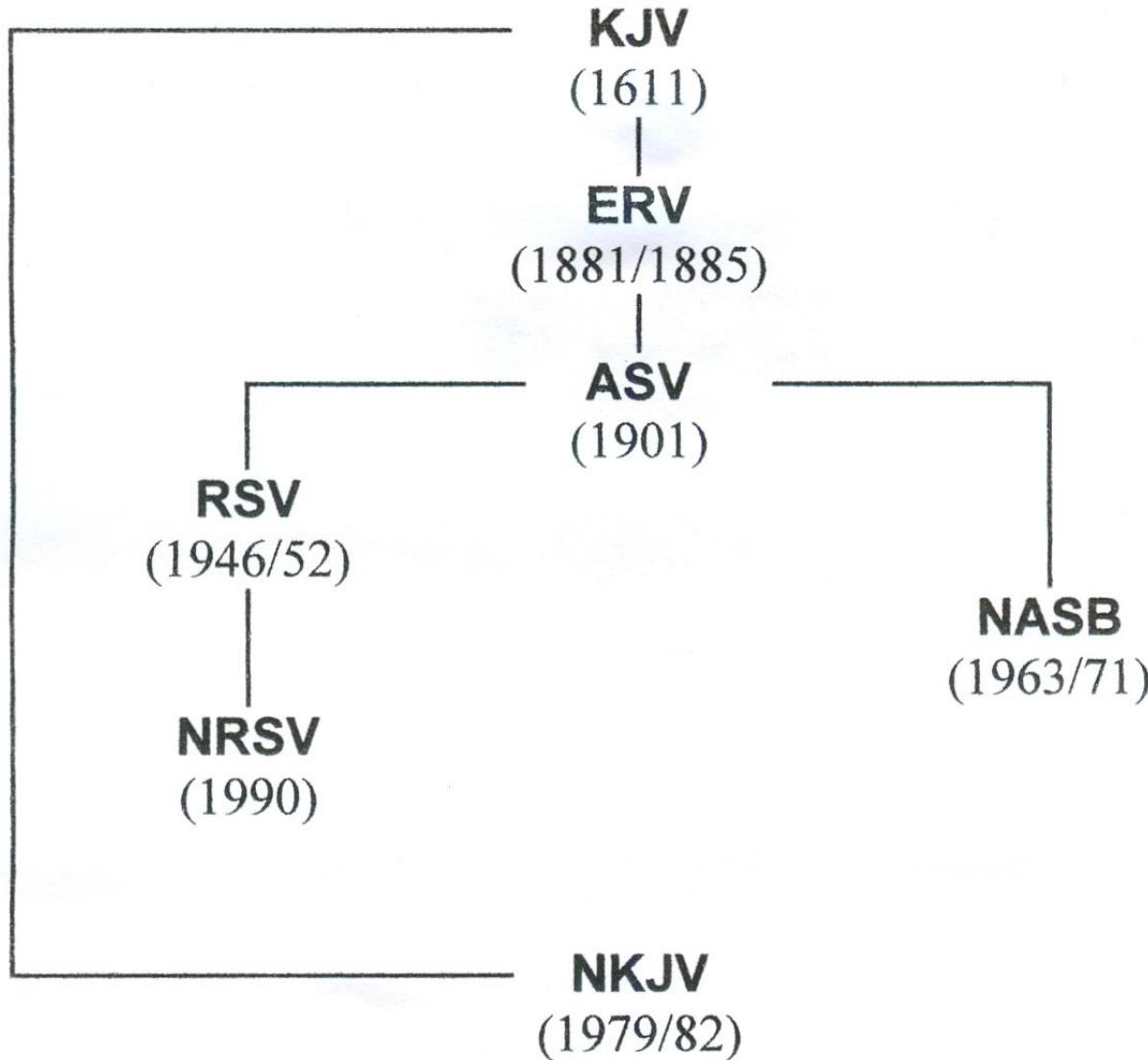
followed 1769 revision as a guide

used latest Hebrew & Greek texts

eliminated archaic wording

(“thee / thou” “-est” “-eth”, etc.)

a “family” of translations



New International Version

1973 – NT 1978 – OT

over 100 scholars (different affiliations)

“idiomatic 20th century English”

review procedure:

translating team

⇒ intermediate editorial committee

⇒ general editorial committee

⇒ committee on Bible translation

criticized by some (Calvinist leanings ?)

New English Bible

1961 – NT (350th anniversary of KJV)

new principle of translation :

not word-for-word but “sense-for-sense”

text sometimes rearranged

note: “probable reading”

1970 – OT & revised NT

widely criticized (for good reason)

1989 – Revised English Bible (further revision)

Today's English Version

a.k.a. “Good News For Modern Man”

1966 – NT

1976 – OT

“dynamic equivalence”

widely distributed

English Standard Version

2001

“an evangelical revision of the RSV”
updating archaic language

“essentially literal” translation

publishing team of over 100 people

**widely praised by conservative
scholars**

Some other translations :

The Living Bible

J. B. Phillips

The Amplified Bible

New World Translation

Jerusalem Bible

New American Bible

Berkeley Version (& New BV)

James Moffatt

Edgar Goodspeed

etc., etc., etc.

Roman Catholic

*Are some English
translations better
(more reliable)
than others ?*

Choosing a translation

- one person or group ?
- translators possibly biased ?
- type of translation ?
 - strict, literal
 - “dynamic equivalent”
 - paraphrase
- readability ?
- textual basis ?

