

Can We Trust The Bible?

Part 1

Original Texts

The closer the time span between the original writing (autograph) and the earliest dated copy, the more likely it is an accurate copy.

3 ① When was the earliest complete Hebrew OT still in existence written? What is it called?

Massoretic Text, written 900 AD. written in Hebrew.
formed the basis of our English versions of O.T.

3 ② When were the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered? When were they written?

discovered 1947, written between 150 BC - 70 AD

3. Where were the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered? Who wrote them?

Qumran, near Dead Sea in Israel

4. Was every book in the OT found in the Dead Sea Scrolls?

NO, every book but Esther

3 ⑤ Did the Dead Sea Scrolls confirm the accuracy of the Massoretic Text?

Yes!

Note chart in article "D.S.S. & Biblical Integrity"

3 ⑥ What is the Septuagint? When was it written? By who?

Greek translation of OT

written in 200 BC

- consistent with M.T.

by 70 scholars

7. Are these old texts consistent? Are there any differences?

Yes! There are differences → spelling, stylistic changes,
slips of the pen

NO doctrinal differences!

Original Texts - New Testament (NT)

4 ① How many complete Greek manuscripts exist? Where they all found in the same place?

4000 manuscripts

Found everywhere from Egypt to Italy

- 4 ② Name one nearly complete NT Greek manuscript and where it was found. Within how many years of the autograph was it written?

Codex Sinaiticus - found near Mt. Sinai

300-400 years span

3. Let's compare the NT to Homer's "The Illiad": What is the time span between the earliest copy fragment in existence to the original autograph? How accurate is this copy (meaning, how many variations are there in the copies)? (from Reliability of N.T.)

Illiad

500 yrs span

95% accuracy

N.T.

25 - 250 yr span

99.5% accuracy

- 4 ④ Do all the NT manuscripts match perfectly? If not, what percent of them is in question? What kind of variations are these?

NO, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a percent is in question, or varies

spelling, differences in phrasology

Canonicity of Old Testament

This section is discussing why our Bible contains the 39 OT books that it does and not others. How did it get decided that only these 39 books are "The Word of God" and not others?

- 6 ① What does the word, Canon, mean?

a rule or standard for anything

- 6 ② What 2 standards did a book have to meet to get included in the canon?

Inspiration by God

Recognition by Men

- 6 ③ What are the 3 sections of the OT? What books does each contain?



Law: Gen - Deut

Prophets: Joshua - Kings (former)

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, 12 minor prophets

Writings: Job - Eccl. Daniel

Ruth Ezra

Lament. Nehemiah

Esther. chron.

- 6 ④ Did Jesus recognize these books? Of the 3 OT sections, which sections did He quote from?

Yes, He quoted from all 3 sections, referenced O.T. often and affirmed it

- 7 ⑤ Did the Apostles recognize the OT? Did they quote things from the OT?

Yes, often quoted O.T.

16 What is the Apocrypha?

The additional books contained in the Catholic Bible and Eastern Orthodox Bible. There are 15 total books written after Malachi but before Jesus was born (between 400BC and 0AD).

187 What are 2 reasons for accepting the Apocrypha as scripture?

1. Some church fathers accepted them
2. Used to be included in Protestant Bibles

898 What are 4 reasons to reject the Apocrypha as scripture?

1. NO NT references to any of the books, no quotes
2. Luther admits they are not scripture
3. Excluded from Jewish Canon of OT
4. Qumran clearly didn't accept them as same as scripture