

# Answering Muslims' Objections



BY

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Part 1

Has the Bible  
Been Corrupted?



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Until a Muslim accepts  
the reliability of the  
Bible, all other arguments  
may fail.



# The Claim

The Bible in our hands is corrupt because:

- ◆ The original manuscripts are missing.
- ◆ Jews and Christians altered the text.
- ◆ The Quran contains the Bible, so there is no need for the Bible



# Christian Response:

Before you answer ask!

When was the Bible corrupted?

Only two possibilities:

- ◆ Before the Quran was collected.
- ◆ After the Quran was collected.



# Option One—Before the Quran?

CANNOT be because:

- ◆ Quran assumes the Bible is trustworthy
- ◆ Quran claims to confirm the Bible
- ◆ Quran affirms that people of the book know the truth and should be consulted.



# Testimony of the Quran

- ◆ Surah 6:34

“None can alter the word of Allah.”

- ◆ Surah 15:9

“We have sent the utterance and we will preserve it.”

- ◆ Surah 16:43-44

“Ask the people of the book.”



# Testimony of the Quran

- Sura 10:94

- فَإِنْ كُنْتَ فِي شَكٍّ مِمَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ فَاسْأَلِ  
الَّذِينَ يَقْرَأُونَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَقَدْ  
جَاءَكَ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ  
الْمُتَرَدِّينَ



# Testimony of the Quran

- Surah 10:94

“If you are in doubt regarding what We have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Book from your Lord, therefore do not doubt it.”



وَالَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ مُنْزَلٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ

بِالْحَقِّ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا لَا مُبَدِّلَ

لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ .

الأَنْعَام : 114-115 Surah 6:



# Quran says about the Bible:

...They know full well, to whom We have given the Book, that **it has been sent down from your Lord in truth**. Never be then of those who doubt.

Perfect are the words of your Lord in truthfulness and justice; **no man can change His words**; He is the All-hearing, the All-knowing.

- Cattle 6:114-115



# Jesus asserts:

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 16:17

But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.



# The Bible affirms the word does not change.

- Isaiah 40:8
- Jeremiah 1:12
- Matthew 5:18
- John 10:35
- Deuteronomy 4:2
- Revelation 22:18, 19



## Option 2—After the Quran.

Impossible because:

- ◆ By the seventh Century the Bible was widely spread in many languages.
- ◆ They would have had to collect them all and burn them to create a new Bible.



Evidence No. 1

Unity and Consistency



# Unity and Consistency

## Bible Is a Library

- ◆ 66 volumes:

- ◆ 39 Old Testament
- ◆ 27 New Testament
- ◆ 1189 Chapters
- ◆ 31,103 Verses
- ◆ 807,361 words In Hebrew and Greek

YET THEY ALL AGREE



# Historical

- ◆ Written over 1500 Year Period
- ◆ Many Generations
- ◆ 40 different Prophets and Apostles
- ◆ Different languages
- ◆ Different countries

YET THEY ALL AGREE



Evidence No. 2

Original Manuscripts



# Original Manuscripts

First two centuries 56 AD to 335 AD

24,633 Manuscripts

15 languages

Greek	5,309
Latin Vulgate	10,000+
Ethiopic.	2,000+
Slavic.	4,101
Armenian.	2,587
Syriac Pashetta	350+
Bohairic.	100
Arabic.	75

Old Latin	50
Anglo Saxon	7
Gothic	6
Sogdian	3
Old Syriac	2
Persian	2
Frankish	1



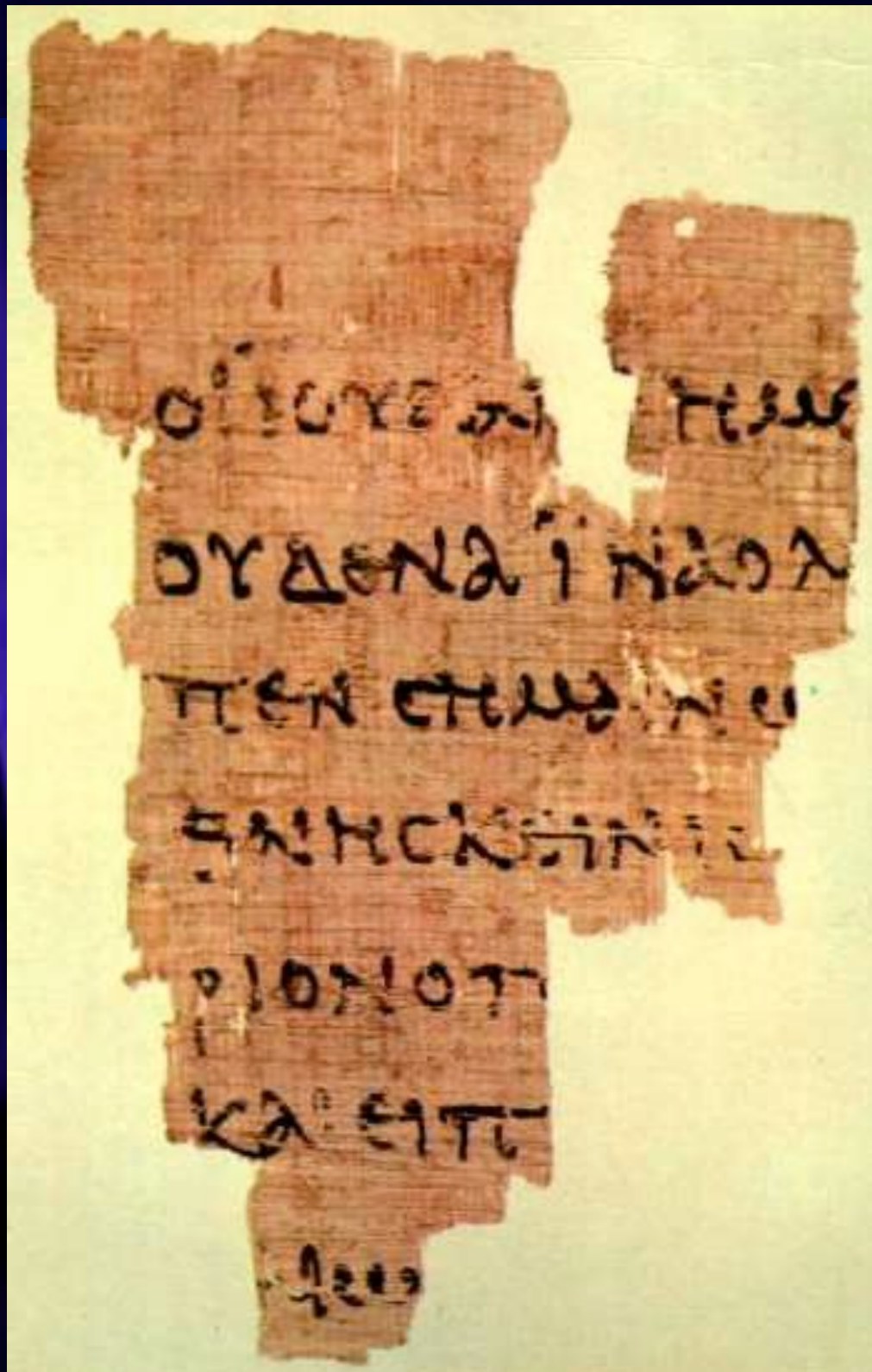
# New Testament Sources?

## Sectarian Apocryphal Fragments: 2nd - 4th Century





# Papyrus Fragments: Up to 4<sup>th</sup> Century



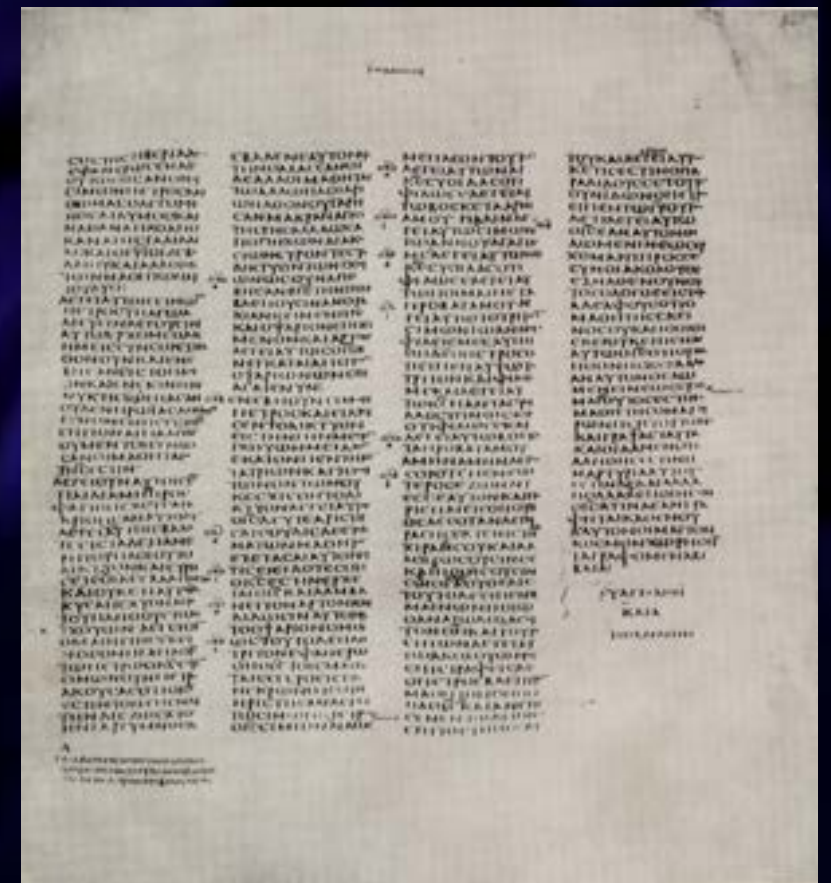


# Sinaiticus (320 AD):

- n Old/New Testament
- n 4<sup>th</sup> Century



CODEX SINAITICUS





# Leaf from Codex Vaticanus

## c. 325–350





# Vaticanus close-up in Greek c. 325–350

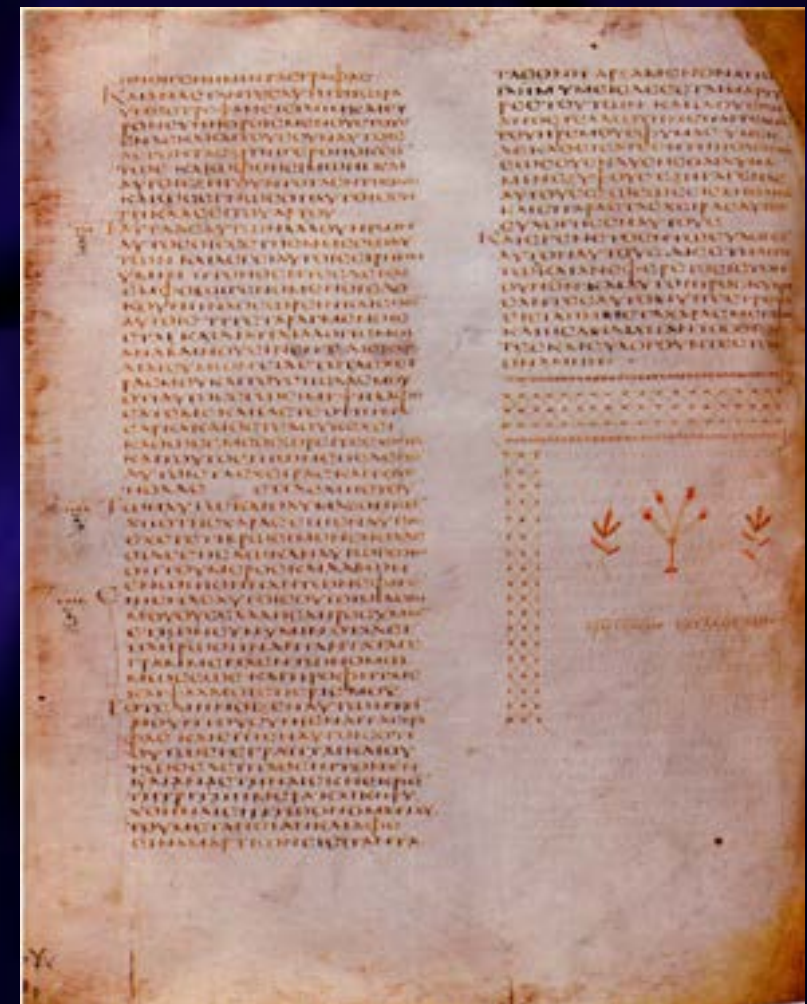
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ΣΤΕΛΛΩΤΟΝΑΓΓΕΛΟΝ



# ALEXENDRINUS



- Old & New Testament
- 5th Century





# **(4) Non-Christian Accounts:**

## **External Corroboration**

### **1) Thallus: a Greek historian**

52 AD, crucifixion, day suddenly turned dark,  
and earth tremled

### **2) Tacitus: a Roman historian**

80-84 AD, death of Christ, reign of Tiberius',  
by governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate

### **3) Josephus: a Jewish historian**

90-95 AD, death of Jesus, martyrdom of James,  
John the Baptist, resurrection

### **4) Suetonius: a Greek historian**

Expulsion from Rome of followers of Crestus,  
by emperor Claudius, (Acts 18:2)

### **5) Pliny the Younger: a Roman author and administrator**

112 AD of the Christian community in Asia Minor,  
and of their devotion to Christ



# N.T. Compared with Other Ancient Writings

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# of Copies
Pliny	61-113 B.C.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs	8
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs	8
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1,400 yrs	193
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,400 yrs	49
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
Quran	634-645 A.D.			
New Testament.	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25 yrs	24,633

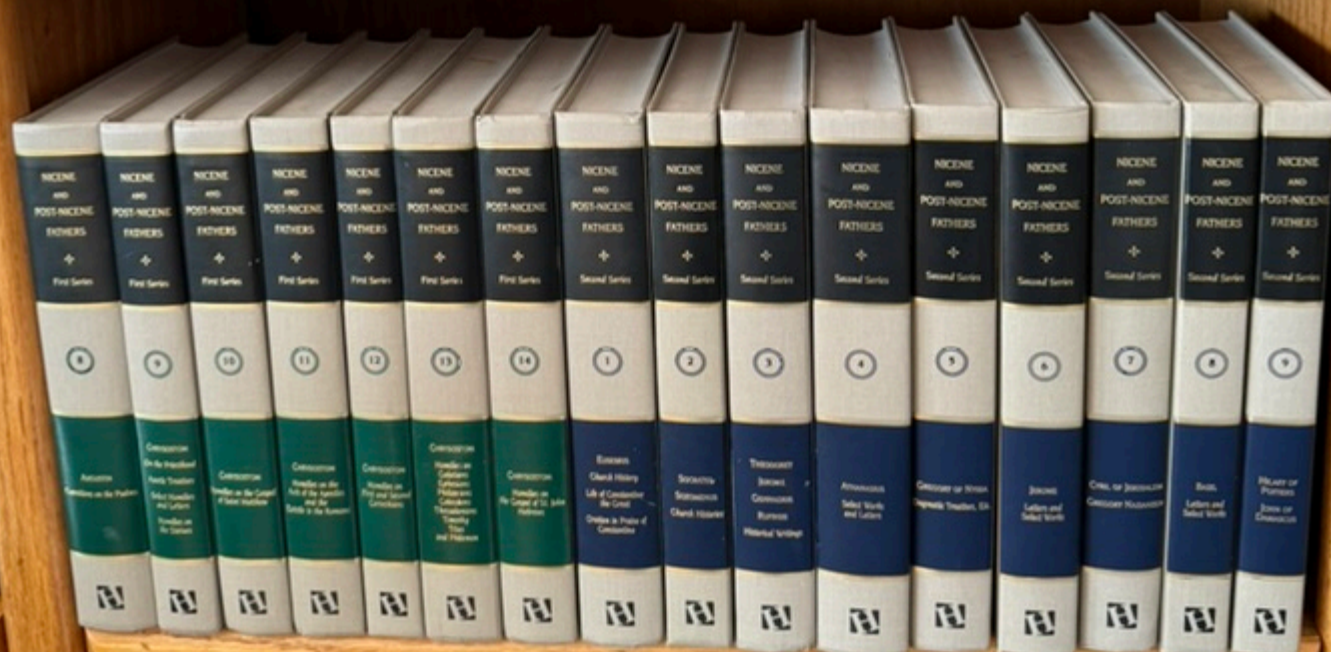
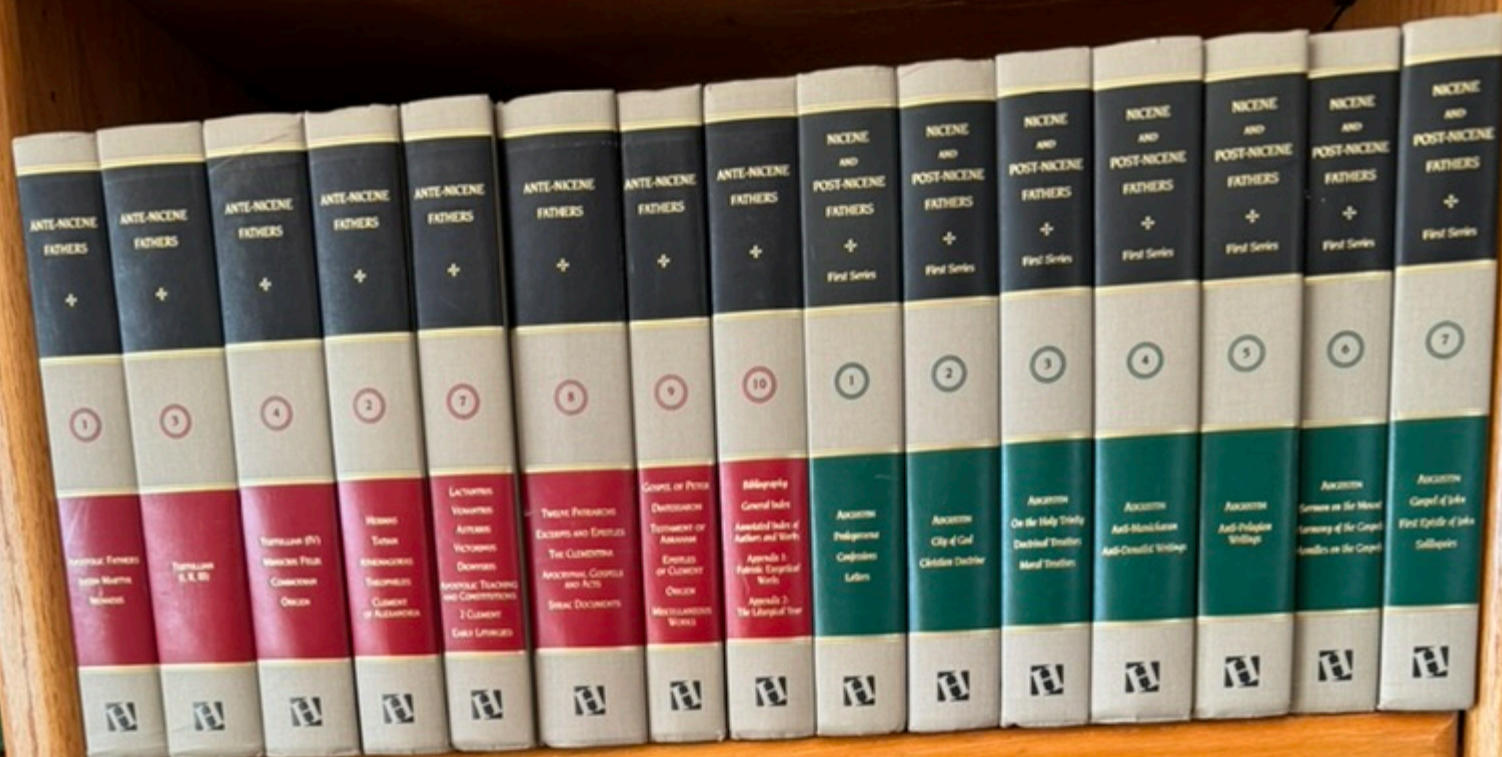


Evidence No. 3

Writings of Church

Fathers









Irenaeus, (130–200 AD)

Greek theologian

Wrote in 180 AD



## Early Patristic Quotations of the New Testament Fathers of the Church

<u>Writer</u>	<u>Lived</u>	<u>Quotations</u>
Justin Martyr	100–165 AD	330
Irenaeus	130–200 AD	1,819
Clement	88–97 AD	2,406
Origen	185–284 AD	17,922
Tertulian	160–240 AD	7,258
Hyppolytus	170–235 AD	1,378
Eusebius	260–339 AD	5,176

Total: 36,289 Quotes



Evidence No. 4

Bible Translations



# EARLY Bible Translations

19,284 translations in over 11 languages

Latin	10,000	c. 150A.D.
Syriac	350	c. 150 A.D.
Coptic	100+	3-4th century
Armenian	2,587	c. 400 A.D.
Gothic	6	4th century



Georgian/Slavic	4,101	5th century
Ethiopic	2,000	6th century
Nubian	100+	6th century
Arabic	75	8th century
Persian	2	
Frankish	1 -230 were quite early	written from 150 AD up until 6th century



# Major Translations

## Greek Bible

Septuagint a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) made in the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C.

## Latin Bible

Vulgate: Latin translation of the whole Bible in late 4th C. AD, (revised in 1592)



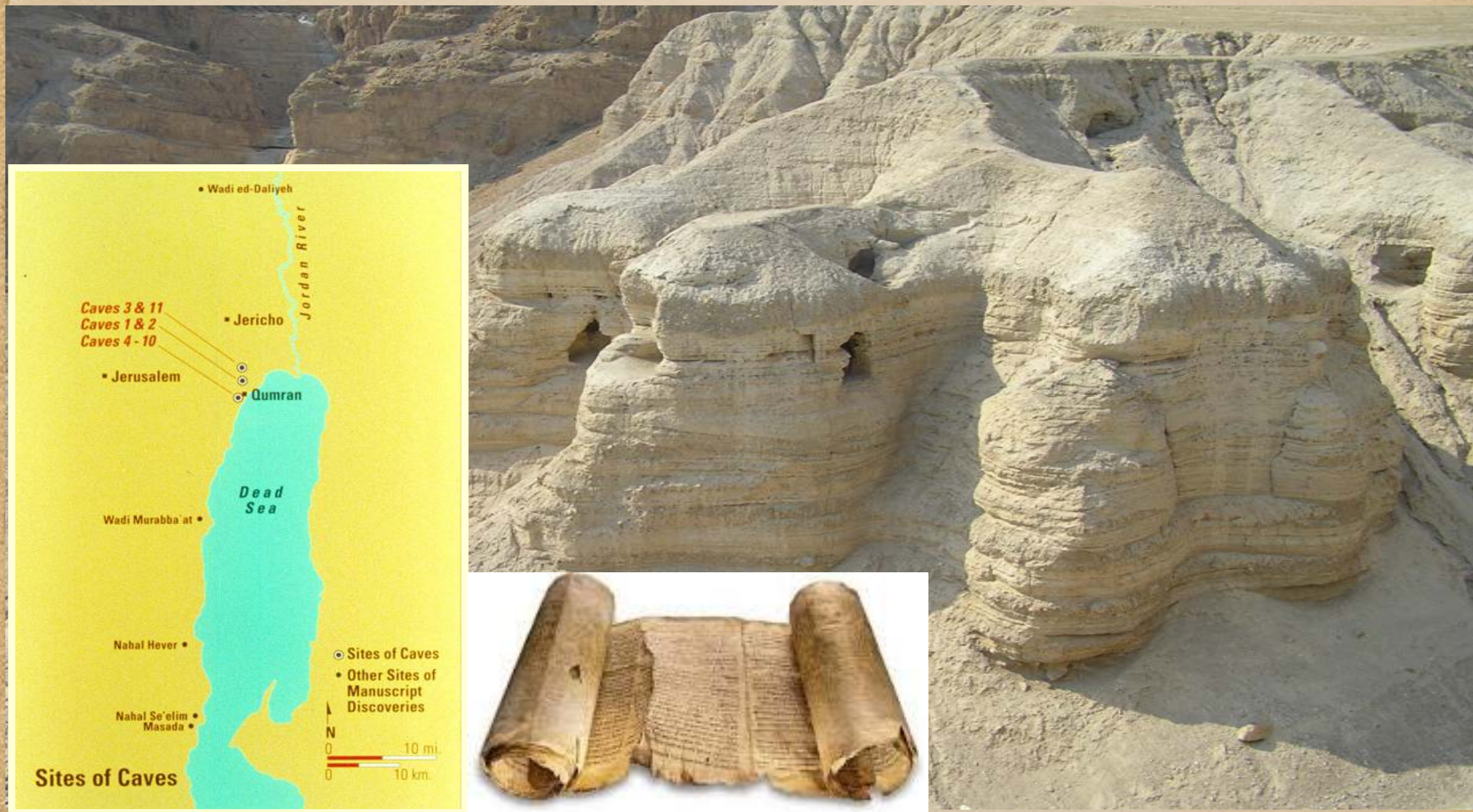
Evidence No. 5

Dead Sea Scrolls:

Ancient Manuscripts



# The Dead Sea Scrolls



972 manuscripts in 11 Qumran Caves



# Caves of the Dead Sea Scrolls



10 years, 1946-1956



## An Overview of the Dead Sea Scrolls

God promised to preserve His word in Isaiah 59:21; 40:8; Psalm 119:89, and 1 Peter 1:23-25. However, since it used to be the case that there were few Old Testament manuscripts earlier than 950 A.D., someone might be curious just how reliably the Tanakh (Old Testament) was preserved through the ages. But in 1947 a bedouin boy, Muhammad Adh-Dhib, found the answer when he threw a stone into a cave at Qumran and heard pottery break. Uncovered was a library of 500-867 scrolls from Jesus' time, 1/4 to 1/3 of them from the Bible.

Coins at Qumran show people lived there from about 135 B.C. to the Roman destruction in 68 A.D. About 200-300 people lived there at any one time. Qumran was like a monastery, for of the 1,200 graves in the cemetery, only 6 were of women and 4 of children. There were about 200-300 caves, and people lived in 30 of them. Most of the people lived in huts or tents, though.

### Beliefs of the Children of Light Jewish Sect

Scholars once confused the Essenes with inhabitants of Qumran because of their similarities. This sect, calling itself, "Children of Light", started about 200 B.C. They believed in the resurrection of the dead (like the Pharisees), practiced baptism by immersion, and had overseers similar to Christian bishops. They thought Melchizedek was a heavenly being and the wicked would be annihilated.

Their commentaries on Genesis 49:10 and Isaiah 11:1-3 show they recognized these as Messianic prophecies. Like others, the Qumran community believed the Messiah would do miracles and healings. They also believed the Messiah would personally slay the Roman Emperor. It would take years to bury all the dead from the Messiah's military victories. Thus, as the *Christian News* (11/23/1998) says, "So now we know that when Caiaphas conducted the trial of Jesus, all he had to do was get Jesus to admit that he was the Messiah. As Jesus, who has performed the predicted

miracles, made that admission, he was assumed to be guilty of treason against the emperor."

### Let's Visit Their Library

Eleven caves preserved about 95,000 fragments, 40,000 in cave 4 alone. Some non-Bible fragments are mezuzot (verses worn on arms) and phylacteries (verses worn on the forehead) from Exodus and Leviticus. Here are preserved Old Testament texts.

Book	Copies / fragments	Earliest copy	Comments
Genesis	15 / 20		1
Exodus	15 / 23	250 B.C.	
Leviticus	8 / 13		
Numbers	6 / 8	150-100 B.C.	
Deuteronomy	25 / 29	250-200 B.C.	
Parallel Torah	1		
Joshua	2		
Judges	3	50-25 B.C.	
Ruth	4	c.50 B.C.	
1,2 Samuel	4	225-175 B.C.	
1,2 Kings	3 / 4		
2 Chronicles	1	50-25 B.C.	
Ezra	1		
Nehemiah	0	-	
Esther	0	-	
Job	4	225-150 B.C.	
Psalms	27 / 36	200-100 B.C.	chap. 37
Proverbs	2	30-1 B.C.	
Ecclesiastes	2	175-150 B.C.	
Song of Solo.	4	ca.1 B.C.	possibly
Isaiah	18 / 23	120-100 B.C.	1
Jeremiah	4 / 6	225-200 B.C.	
Lamentations	4	c.50 A.D.	
Ezekiel	6		
Daniel	8	150-100 B.C.	
Hosea	3		2
Obadiah	0	-	
Jonah	3		
Micah	2	3rd century	1
Nahum	(4Q82)	50-1 B.C.	1
Habakkuk	(4Q238)		1
Zephaniah	2		Possibly
Zechariah	3		
Joel, Amos, Zeph, Malachi	(4Q78, 4Q82)	75 B.C.	
Jonah, Haggai, Zech, Malachi	(4Q76)	150 B.C.	
Total O.T.	175-200	250 B.C.	8-10
Total Other	325-667		0

972 manuscripts  
11 Qumran Caves  
1946 - 1956

- ◆ Bible Manuscripts
- ◆ Culture
- ◆ History
- ◆ Hymns
- ...etc



The complete scroll of Isaiah  
copied 100-200 years before  
the birth of Christ





[illegible]

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# The Reliability of the Bible

- Isaiah in the Qumran scrolls 100 B.C.
  - Isaiah in the Masoretic Text 900 A.D.
- 1000 Years

A careful comparison between the two texts

In Isaiah 53 there are 17 letter differences.

10 letters are changes in style of writing.

4 letters are changes in spelling.

3 letters missing in Isaiah 53:11.

Qumran: he shall see light יִרְאֶה אֹר

Masoretic: he shall see.... יִרְאֶה



Evidence No. 6

Prophecies fulfilled



Two People researched the  
OT and found prophecies  
about Christ:

- ◆ J. Barton Payne, found 574
- ◆ Alfred Edersheim found 456



At least 300 prophecies  
were fulfilled about Jesus;  
written hundreds of years  
before they happened



750 B.C. — Years before Christ was born

Prophet Isaiah wrote (Isa 7:14)

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

(This means, “God with us.”)



750 years later Jesus was born from a young virgin named Mary. We read in the book of Matthew 1:23

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means, "God with us."



Prophet Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”



Prophet Micah 5:2 ( Between 735 & 700 BC)

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. "

700 years later Jesus was born in the tiny village of Bethlehem in Palestine/Israel.



# Other Evidences: Internal Evidence

- ◆ Archeology
- ◆ History
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Changed Lives