

5. The Bible Manuscripts' Preservation

1) Dead Sea Scrolls

- Until 1947 (oldest = 9th century A.D.)
- Qumran scroll (1000 years earlier)

In 1 chapter of 166 words

- 3 words changed
- no change to meaning of text

2) Plato—1200 years later—7 manuscripts

3) Aristotle—1400 years later—7 manuscripts

4) New Testament—same time period—14,000 manuscripts

5) Historical chart illustration regarding transcriptions

6) Transcriptions versus translations and paraphrases

HOW CAN THE **BIBLE** BE GOD'S WORD **WITHOUT** **ERROR?**

8 PRIMARY QUESTIONS SERIES

Randy Pope

Five realities which make it reasonable to believe that the Bible is God's Word.

1. The Bible's historical reliability

Louis Markos, Apologetics for the 21st Century, p. 146

In order to substantiate the basic claims of Christ and the essential doctrines of Christianity, the apologist need not prove the inspiration or inerrancy of the Bible; he need only show the Bible to be reliable in its account of Jewish and Christian history.

- 1) Dates, Places, People, Storyline
- 2) Archeological discoveries

William F. Albright (Archeologist)

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

Nelson Glueck, Rivers in the desert, p. 136 (Jewish Author)

It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.

A.H. Sayce (Oxford Professor & Archeologist)

Time after time the...assertions of a skeptical criticism have been disproved by archaeological discovery, events and personages that were confidently pronounced to be mythical have been shown to be historical, and the older writers have turned out to have been better acquainted with what they were describing than the modern critic who has flouted them.

- 3) Extrabiblical writings

Jefrey Breshears (Apologet)

Viewed merely as an ancient text, it would be regarded by all serious & honest scholars as probably the most reliable historical text of the ancient world.

2. Historicity of the Resurrection

- 1) Flavius Josephus—Jewish priest and historian (1st century)

Flavius Josephus

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man [if indeed one ought to call him a man.] For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. [He was the Christ.] When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. [On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him.] And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

- 2) Historical writings regarding the disciples' martyrdom

3. The Bible's Unified Theme

- 1) 1500 years
- 2) 40 authors
- 3) 3 different languages
- 4) Different continents & cultures
- 5) Absence of contradictions

4. The Bible's Fulfilled Prophecies

- 1) Over 300 Old Testament prophecies
- 2) Mathematical Improbability
 - If Only 8 prophecies are true (1 to power of 17 (zeros))
 - Birth (Bethlehem) - sold out – 30 pieces of silver
 - Descendent of David - hands/feet pierced (crucified)
 - Betrayed by a friend - buried in rich man's tomb