

Evidence that The Bible is The Infallible Word of God
~ Ten Reasons to Believe ~

Lesson #2 • Evidence for the Reliable Preservation of the Biblical Text
• H A N D O U T •

► Instead of immediately continuing with the next group of the “Ten Reasons to Believe,” Lesson #2 will examine the evidence which shows that the Biblical text has indeed been preserved and is trustworthy as the Word of God. Since this issue has been one of the major reasons why the Bible has been vulnerable to attack over the centuries, it is important the Believers be able to defend the accuracy of the Bible. We will return to the “Ten Reasons to Believe” after we complete the examination of the evidence. The focus of this study will start with the Old Testament text.

The way the Hebrew people viewed their Old Testament scriptures is one of the main reasons the scriptures have survived without corruption over the centuries ...

Q: The 39 books of the OT are arranged under what three major divisions?

1. The _____ [also called the _____]

Name of books: _____

2. The _____ [Also called the _____]

Name of books: _____

3. The _____ [also called the _____]

Name of books _____

► These three major divisions are often referred to as the _____ [or _____ when the vowels are added.]

Q: How did the Hebrew people view their scriptures?

Deuteronomy 31:26 • "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a witness against you

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 • "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, but carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes."

Q: What do these two scriptures convey about Israel's attitude toward their scriptures?

Q: Why did the king have to make a copy of the Book of the Law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests?

Now ... to the Matter of Evidence ...

**If we are to establish the Bible as the infallible Word of God,
whose text is the same today as originally written,
then we must show evidence that there is an unbroken chain of custody
for the scriptures being handed down, generation after generation,
century after century, and from translation to translation.**

Q: Starting from when the Law was given at Mt. Sinai, how extensive, in time, is there evidence for an unbroken chain of possession?

► Note: This reference from Nehemiah gives us a glimpse into Ezra's efforts with the Great Synagogue:

Nehemiah 8:13 · On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law.

Q: Does this mean that the chain of evidence stopped with Ezra?

Q: How did the Sopherim scribes go about their work of copying scriptures?

The Sopherim's goal: _____

[A jot _____ and a tittle _____]

Using strictest of rules, these Scribes had to work from _____

Copying from memory _____

Every biblical document was _____.

That means: _____

Q: Once a document was copied how did the Sopherim proceed?

Q: If either the word or count comparison test failed, what did the Sopherim do to fix it?

Q: Was this comparison testing practiced by the Sopherim Scribes the extent of preserving the integrity and truth of the Biblical Text?

Q: How were the Sacred Scrolls made?

Q: How were the sacred scrolls maintained once they were deemed copied without error?



Q: What was the procedure once a scroll became worn?

Q: What were some of the unexpected facts that came from learning about the Hebrew system of copying the sacred scriptures?

**Considering the extreme care to preserve the sacred text
why would the Jewish people ever allow their sacred scriptures
to be translated into another language?
This will be the subject of our next lesson ...**

Next Time:
Lesson #3
Translating to Survive

