

Evidence that The Bible is The Infallible Word of God
~ Ten Reasons to Believe ~
Lesson #4 • Unshakable Evidence from the Essenes
•HANDOUT•

► We have now looked at the way the Hebrew text was meticulously copied. And how the Septuagint was created. This demonstrates that we have an unbroken chain of evidence from the time of Moses. This current study will give us another source, which will also confirm the chain of evidence remains unbroken. It comes from the people known as the Essenes who lived in a place called Khirbet Qumran.

The Essenes of Khirbet Qumran ...

Q: Where is Khirbet Qumran in relation to Jerusalem?

Q: Who were the Essenes?

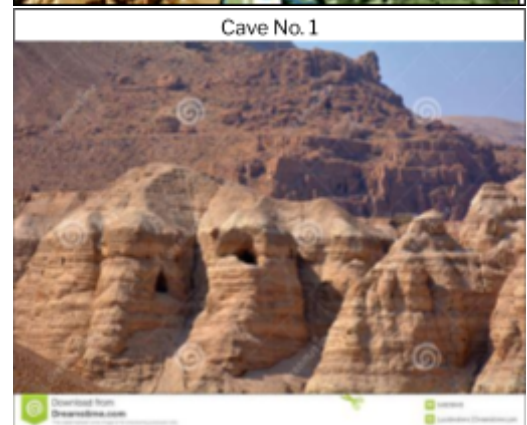
Isaiah 40:3 • "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."

Q: How long were the Essenes in Khirbet Qumran?

Q: How long were the jars containing the scrolls in the caves?

Q: What do we know about the Dead Sea Scrolls?

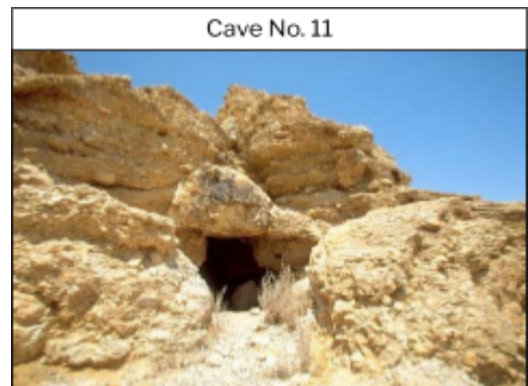
Q: What were the contents of the Dead Sea Scrolls?



Q: What did Cave No. 11 reveal?



Q: From a scholar's point of view, what was the greatest find among the Dead Sea Scroll?



Q: About 40% of the scrolls in the Qumran Caves were Hebrew text, copied and handed down from generation to generation for thousands of _____ year. In the early 1950s, Biblical scholars were permitted to analyze and compare the Hebrew text with the text of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The scholars involved in this analysis were renowned and respected Old Testament specialists. **What did all of these renowned scholars find?**

To everyone's surprise, they found that the Dead Sea Scrolls overwhelmingly matched the _____

In 1955, Millar Burrows, scholar and leading authority on the Dead Sea Scrolls wrote in the "Dead Sea Scrolls" [New York Viking Press, Page 304]:

Paleo and Modern Hebrew Aleph-bet					
Pictograph	Name	Symbol	Pictograph	Name	Symbol
𐤀	Aleph (1) א	A	𐤁	Lamed (30) ל	L
𐤂	Beit (2) ב	B	𐤃	Mem (40) מ - ם	M
𐤄	Gimmel (3) ג	G	𐤅	Nun (50) נ - ן	N
𐤆	Dalet (4) ד	D	𐤇	Samekh (60) ס	S
𐤈	Hey (5) ה	H	𐤉	Ayin (70) ע	A
𐤊	Uau (6) ו	U/Ua	𐤋	Pey (80) פ - ף	P
𐤌	Zayin (7) ז	Z	𐤍	Tzadhe (90) צ - ץ	Tz
𐤎	Chet-Heth (8) ח	Ch	𐤏	Qoph (100) ק	Q
𐤐	Tet (9) ט	T	𐤑	Reysh (200) ר	R
𐤒	Yod (10) י	Y	𐤓	Shen (300) ש	S/Sh
𐤔	Kaph (20) כ - ך	K	𐤕	Ta (400) ת	T

Gleason L. Archer, one of the world's most respected O.T. scholars wrote his conclusion after examining the Isaiah scroll and the accompanying fragments. He wrote:

Q: When Gleason Archer published his analysis of the Isaiah scrolls, what example did he give from Isaiah 53?



Here is the example of Archer's exhaustive work, using Chapter 53.

► Isaiah, Chapter 53 has _____
They found that _____ were different.
These letters were in _____ creating a difference in _____, not _____.
There was _____ major difference in verse _____:
The word _____ was added to verse.
However, the addition did not change the _____ of the passage in any way.

Q: What does this comparison mean for us, today?

Summary & Conclusion to the Analysis of the Old Testament:

Q: What does the evidence indicate regarding the reliability and trustworthiness of the Old Testament text we read today?

Q: How old and long is the unbroken chain for the Old Testament text?

Q: Do we know how the text was preserved and kept error-free?

Q: Was translating the Hebrew Text into Greek necessary and blessed by God?

Q: Did the original consonant-only Hebrew text become extinct?

Q: How did the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls affect the Old Testament's trustworthiness?

Bottom Line: God has miraculously preserved His Word and the full comprehensive meaning of His Word as we have it rendered it trustworthy and reliable.



Next Time • **Lesson #5**

**Evidence for the Reliability of the New Testament Text
Part 1 of 2**

