

## Reliability of the Bible

1. Thousands of Greek New Testament manuscripts (Almost 6000) Thousands of Manuscripts in other languages (Almost 20,000) About 25000 manuscripts all together. Each come from different time periods and from different locations and the manuscripts all agree with each other. No changes in the scriptures.
2. Old Testament – Dead Sea Scrolls predate Christ and have all the Old Testament books minus the book of Ester. Among the finds was a full Isaiah scroll. The Hebrew from that book of Isaiah matched word for word the Hebrew of today's manuscripts. Each manuscript they found provided evidence to show that the Old Testament books have not been tampered with.
3. About 70 AD the Temple was destroyed. At that time it became illegal to be a Christian. The Christians headed for the hills. Three major groups of Christians with different viewpoints – Gnostics, Western Orthodox, and Eastern Orthodox. Each had major doctrinal differences. (They had a reason to change the scriptures to match their beliefs). What is fascinating is that the Greek manuscripts each group had in their possession say the same things as the other groups' manuscripts (no changes by any of the three groups). In addition each group translated the Greek into other languages – Latin, Coptic, Aramaic etc. Their translation of the books of the New Testament agrees with the Greek manuscripts. (Again no changes in scripture).
4. Jesus taught "Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but my words will never pass away" Matthew 24:35. Isaiah stated "The grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of our God stands forever" Isaiah 40:8.

## Outline

### The Most Important Story

- a. Stories are a wonderful way to present the truth to anyone
- b. The Book of Mormon claims
  - a. That the word of God was pure when it was with the Jews
  - b. That the apostles would present the gospel in purity to the gentiles in their writings (the Bible)
  - c. That there would be a formation of the great and abominable church
  - d. That this church would alter the word of God and take away parts of the gospel
- c. The history of Christianity tells a different story
  - a. The word of God was pure from the writing of it from apostles and prophets
  - b. In 70 AD the temple was destroyed and Christianity was outlawed
  - c. The Christians went into hiding three major groups
    - i. The eastern orthodox (Greek, Aramaic, etc.)
    - ii. The western orthodox (Greek, Latin, etc.)
    - iii. The Gnostics (Greek, Aramaic, Coptic etc.)
  - d. Each group spoke different languages
  - e. Each group has differing beliefs
  - f. Each group used the same books of the Bible we have today

- i. Each had Greek copies of New Testament
    - ii. Their Greek copies from each group match each other even though each group had reason to change the scripture
    - iii. Even when each group translated their copies into other languages the meaning of the original writings was preserved
- d. Today what does that mean for us?
  - a. Thousands of Greek New Testament Manuscripts survived (About 6000)
  - b. Thousands of manuscripts in other languages (nearly 20,000)
  - c. Total manuscripts for New Testament 25000 manuscripts
- e. Old Testament proofs
  - a. Dead Sea Scrolls
    - i. Every book of the Old Testament minus book of Ester
    - ii. All predate Christ
    - iii. Hebrew matches the Hebrew of manuscripts that date after Christ
- f. Prophecies of Jesus and Old Testament Prophets have been fulfilled
  - a. Isaiah stated “The grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of our God stands forever” Isaiah 40:8.
  - b. Jesus taught “Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but my words will never pass away” Matthew 24:35.
  - c. No chance of the truth being lost because of the thousands of copies written by people who disagree with each other.
  - d. Anyone can know that the words of the prophets and apostles have been preserved through simple means – a desire to make copies of the works of the prophets and apostles.
- g. The Book of Mormon got it wrong
  - a. The death of the last apostle did not cause the formation of one great abominable church
  - b. The differing Churches and beliefs did not alter the scriptures
  - c. The authority of the Bible stands firm because of the preservation of the purity of the original teachings of prophets and apostles
  - d. Each person will be held responsible for the rejection or acceptance of the teachings of Christ
  - e. The real message of the Book of Mormon is that it rejects the true teachings of Jesus and the apostles and prophets