



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Apologetics

Class 03

The Case for the Bible

II Timothy 3:16:

“All scripture is given by
inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for
instruction in righteousness:”

This is the claim the Bible
makes concerning itself.

The only way to prove this
claim is true is to take the
Bible and study it and use it in
your everyday life

As we continue through this Modular, we will be doing just that

We will be taking the claims of the Bible concerning God, Creation and Jesus and putting them to the test

What are they claiming concerning these topics?

Is there evidence that we can test?

What is the logic behind these claims

So tonight, we are going to take a different approach to the Bible

We are going to look at the evidence that demonstrates that the Bible we have today is the most accurate version of the original Bible

How do we prove that?
We look at the arguments
We consider the evidence
We test the claims
We accept the statement(s)
that has the greatest possibility
of being true

Let's do a quick overview of
the Bible...
It is a collection of Books
There are Sixty-Six of them
Written by over 40 authors
It took 1,500 - 2,000 years to
write
It is a portable library

What is amazing is that with all
these resources and all this
input; the Bible continues to
speak with a single voice
It is consistent
It does not contradict
It is as if all of this was written
by one person

It was...

Hebrews 1:1 – 2:

“God, who at various times
and in different ways spoke in
times past to our fathers

Has in these last days spoken
to us by His Son...”

The question we need to ask
is:

“How do we know that this
information has not been
changed over the years?”

Those were the charges of
Dan Brown in his book *The
DaVinci Code*

Last week we discussed two
traits of God and for Truth:

1. God does not lie – present
incorrect information

2. God does not change

Let’s start with this basis...

We go back to the very first revealing of God to man
God first revealed Himself to mankind in writing 400 years before the Law was given
That would be the Book of Job

What did Job tell us?
God is all powerful/all knowing
God is the Creator
Satan must obey God
God is going to become a moderator that is both God and man

Salvation is through confession of sin and repentance
Salvation provides an interpreter when we go before God
Without salvation, we will go into the pit

We are spared from the pit
because of a ransom
We will see the light
We will be restored to a young
body
Our redeemer was alive at that
time

Our Redeemer will physically
be on the earth in the Latter
Days
This is the basic information
God revealed about Himself
He does not change
He does not lie

We now use this to test all
future revelations about God,
eternity and salvation
All future revelations must
agree with this information
Next up....Moses and the Law

There were three million witnesses to the events in Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
This establishes their credibility
This expands our knowledge of God
These books agree with Job

We have now expanded our pool of knowledge concerning God
We test Joshua, Judges, Ruth and the books of I & II Samuel, I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles
All these agree with our knowledge of God and history

We have Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and Lamentations
These comply with our knowledge of God and history

We move to the prophets...
Not only is their revealing of
God consistent
Their prophecies come true
and prove that they are of
God

The Old Testament is
consistent not by accident...
But by design
Those collecting the books
tested each one before
accepting it

As proof that these tests were
used, we have a collection of
several books called *The
Forgotten Books of Eden*.
These were not in agreement
They were not historical
They were not accepted

As we move into the New Testament, each book must comply with the entire Old Testament

Each book must be historically accurate

Or it is rejected

We have the collection called *The Lost Books of the Bible* to prove that this test was used, and these books were rejected
We have the *Gnostic Gospels* which were also rejected

What is left is a collection of books – a library – of all books tested against what God has revealed about Himself
And which is accurate with what we know from history
This is the Bible

The selection process was carried out by Jews who later became hostile to Christians
The selection process was carried out by Christians who later became hostile to Jews

God entrusted the protection and purity of one half of the Bible to groups who were hostile to each other
They would not let the other side change anything
Politics and power could not be used to change God's Word

For the Old Testament, there are three proofs that we have today.
Let me begin with the process of how the Books of the Old Testament were copied.

The Rabbis and Scribes believed that God gave Moses the five books of the Pentateuch while Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

Some Rabbis believed God dictated these books to Moses
Still another sect believed God gave these books to Moses letter-by-letter

To make sure that each page was identical to the original page there were specific tests on each page

The number of lines on each page had to be the same as on the original

The number of letters per line had to be the same as on the original

The letter in the middle of the copy page had to be the same letter in the middle of the page for the original

In the Hebrew, there are no numerical symbols

The Hebrew uses letters in place of numbers

Each letter has a numerical value

For the final test, the Rabbis would add up the numerical value of each letter on the page of the copy
And it had to be identical to the numerical value of the page of the original

If the copy failed any one of the tests; the copy was destroyed and the Scribe had to start over
This was done not only for the Books of Moses; but for each book of the Old Testament

There was another proof that came to light in the 1950's
Dan Brown's book charged the Catholic Church with adding documents and blocking documents that did not agree with their quest for power

He made a serious mistake of thinking that the Catholics were the only Churches in the world at that time.

He made the mistake of thinking that there was only one version of the Bible available

While the Catholic Church may have been the most visible, political and powerful of those Churches; there have always been those Churches and groups of believers who did not recognize the Catholic Church or the Pope as supreme

Other groups had their versions of these books that make up the Bible

There was always other copies that were not under the control of the Pope available for comparison

The most obvious of these were the Dead Sea Scrolls
Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, we had a sect called, the Essenes.
They moved into the Wilderness above the Dead Sea to Qumran

They dedicated themselves to prayer and study of the Scriptures.
This was their entire life
Per the Law of Moses, anything dedicated to the Lord could not be destroyed

Therefore, all the scrolls of all their books were considered holy and when they wore out; they could not be destroyed.
They were placed in clay jars, sealed and stored in the many caves in and around Qumran

Back in the 1950's a shepherd
boy threw a rock into a cave
while tending his flock
He heard something break
He went in to investigate

The cave was filled with jars
that were filled with scrolls



This began a project to track down
all the caves and recover all the
scrolls





Some were damaged



Some were destroyed

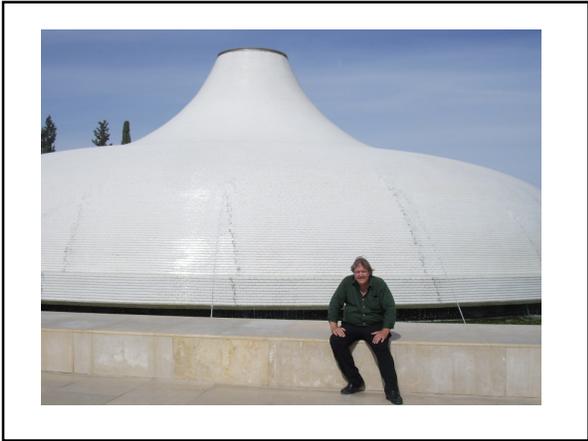


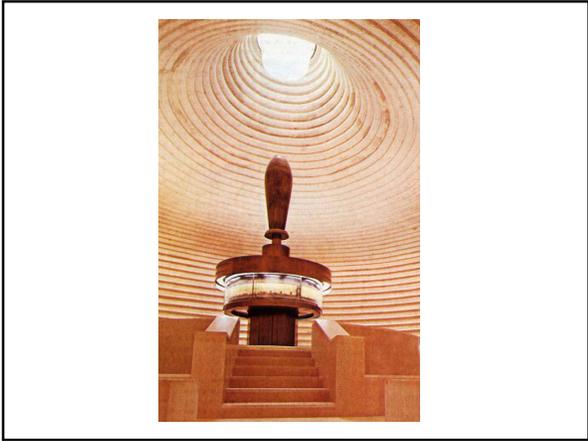
But those that survived were collected by the Jews...

A building was built to resemble the jars the scrolls were stored in

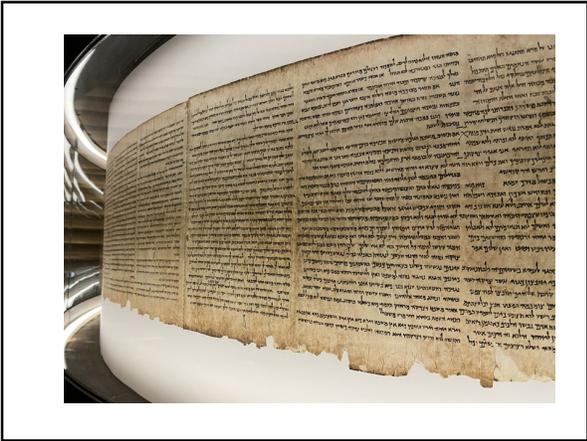
This is the Museum of the Shrine of the Book...













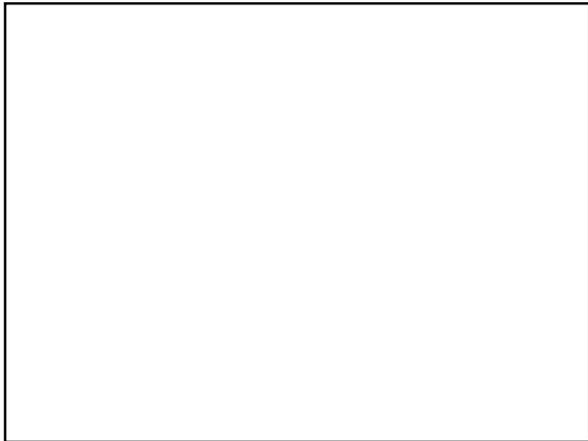
Some were nothing more that a fragment...



A small, irregular fragment of ancient Hebrew text on a piece of parchment. The text is handwritten and appears to be a portion of a larger scroll. The parchment is aged and yellowed, with some fraying at the edges.

Some were complete books...





We have copies of almost the entire Old Testament sealed away and untouched by human hands from 250 years before Jesus was born
They were hidden until the 1950's

The discovery was one of the
greatest of the 20th Century
Everything was carefully
documented
There is no way anything could
have been altered

All theological arguments
about others adding to these
books after-the-fact to explain
the precision of the prophecies
were blown away with this
discovery

This was the Old Testament as
it was before the birth of Jesus
The Church and Christians
could not have altered
anything
Compare to our current Old
Testament it is 93% accurate

The changes do not affect any doctrine or teaching of any book

The changes are minor and are spelling, verb tenses and grammar

The third proof was re-discovered in the 1980's

This were first documented by Elijah Solomon, a Rabbi of the eighteenth century

It was re-discovered by Michael Ber Weissmandl, a Rabbi during World War II

It has come to be called Equi-distance Letter Sequencing [ELS]

Or *The Bible Code*

Unfortunately, the work of these two Rabbis were lost and destroyed

A Jewish cryptographer who had served to break codes in World War II began a project on his home computer

His initial discovery was the word "Torah" encoded at a fifty-letter sequence in Genesis and then Exodus

He found the same word encoded at the same fifty-letter sequence in Numbers and Deuteronomy, but in reverse

As more and more computer codes were developed, and more researchers began to join the project, coded information was found throughout most of the books of the Old Testament

The name of Judas Macabee, the date of the rebellion and items involved were encoded almost 2,000 years before this happened

An amazing discovery from Isaiah Chapter 53 encodes the name of Caiaphas, Annas, most of the Disciples [James listed twice since there were two James], Mary listed three times and even Mathias as they were all at the cross

Now if we take the Samaritan Torah, written by Jews left behind by Babylon and compare it; there are no codes The Samaritan Torah says the same thing as the Jewish Torah, but it was not copied with the same care

Any variation of the letter-by-letter copying destroys the codes

Add to this that we have an estimated 42,000 copies of ancient manuscripts for comparison...

These three proofs demonstrate we have the most reliable copy of the Old Testament as possible



With regards to the New Testament, let me toss out some statistics for you – for those Math Majors in the audience...

Let's consider three historical works all written around the same time...

Homer's Iliad was written around 800 B.C.
There are currently 1900 copies of this older manuscript available
The earliest copy is dated 415 BC – 400 year gap

Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars
written around 58 – 50 B.C.
There are currently over 251
copies of this manuscript
available
The earliest copy is dated the
Ninth Century A.D. – 900 years

No one questions the
authenticity of these works
But everyone questions the
authenticity of the New
Testament

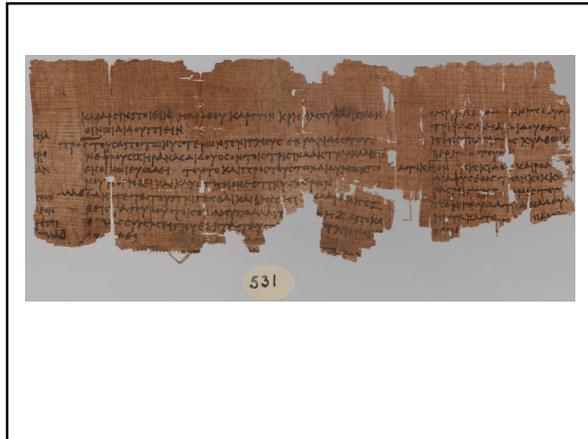
The New Testament is
believed that most of it was
written within 40 years of the
events
The Gospel of John is believed
written between 80 – 100 A.D.
John died early 90's A.D.

We have a fragment of the Gospel of John

They are called the Ryland Documents

These were discovered in Egypt in 1920

They date around 150 A.D. with a 25 year +/- margin







We can place a copy of the Gospel of John within 25 - 50 years of the death of John

We also have the Bodmer Papi
This is different from a fragment as it is stitched together – still bound...

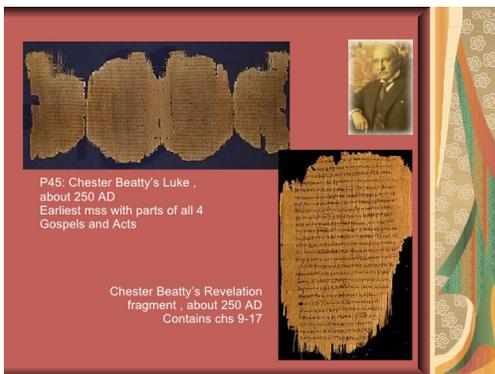


These were purchased by Martin Bodmer in Switzerland in 1955 - 1956
They were found in Egypt
They date from 175 - 225 A. D.
Contains the Gospels of Luke and John

We also have the Chester Beatty Papyrus
These are eleven manuscripts discovered in 1931 in Egypt
He eventually acquired 12 additional manuscripts and these are stored in Ireland

His collection contains:
The Four Gospels and Acts
The Letters of Paul
The Revelation

These are dated to 250 A. D.
Again, the length of time
between the dates of the
actual events and the dates of
these copies is within 100 –
150 years.
The Illiad is 400 years



Consider this...

We have:

5,838 New Testament Manuscripts

18,524 New Testament
Translations

42,000 Old Testament Scrolls

66,363 Total documents

One last point to make...

There was a major historical
event that had direct bearing
on the New Testament
documents:

Destruction of the Temple in
70 A. D.

With the exception of the works
of John, all other New
Testament documents are
written as if the Temple were
still present, Jerusalem was
still intact and the sacrificial
system was still in place

All of these documents, proof and evidence leads us to believe that we have the most accurate copies of the original documents:

New Testament 99.7%

Old Testament 93%

The Bible has more evidence, documentation, resources than any other ancient book

The differences are all due to spelling, grammar and minor variations

Nothing changes the teachings or doctrines of the Bible

Next week...

THE CASE FOR GOD

QUESTIONS