

The Torchbearer Series™

Suppressed Bible Manuscript History Core Course B501: Session 1 of 3

Not all Bibles are based upon the same Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts!

*From Manuscript Basics and Tempus Absumo to the Reliability of Text
and Biblical Redundant Array of Independent Documents (B-RAID).*

Supplemental Lecture Notes

Compiled by Peter D. Arvo



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These notes have been assembled from the Holy Bible, original research, classic and contemporary commentaries, linguistic and historical research, studies of the cultures and customs of the relevant time periods, ancient documents, and consulting other sources which once analyzed and compiled form the basis for this lecture series.

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Suppressed Manuscript History: Session 1

Introduction

A few important quotes to keep in mind as we go through this course:

“The largest impediment to discovering truth; is the belief you already have it.” – Anonymous

“These [the Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” – Acts 17:11 (KJV)

“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.” – Luke 6:48 (KJV)

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” – Psalms 11:3 (KJV)

This session is broken up into two main sections:

Section 1: Materials – Time Periods – Writing Tools – Cultures

Section 2: Types – Dating Methods – Copying Methods – Tempus Absumo – Reliability of Text

There are many questions that will be answered by the end of this session, including:

1. What is a manuscript?
2. What are the manuscript tools and copying methods?
3. How long did manuscripts survive before a replacement was needed?
4. Did people write down what Jesus said as he spoke?
5. Were backup copies created?
6. What is B-RAID and why is it so important?
7. What is an Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody and does it matter?
8. Did God say he would preserve most or all of his words?
9. Does the Bible tell us if translations are divinely inspired?
10. Plus many more.

Important Note: No one can know chronology and dates of things long since passed with certainty unless expressly given by divine authority, and thus we caution the reader to assume a ‘c.’ in front of every date provided, which is the abbreviation for the Latin word *circa*, meaning *approximately*. Also, all Bible references used in this session will use a less common method of formatting. The common method is, when two verses adjoin each other, they are separated by a *comma* (example: John 3:16, 17). However, we use a *dash* instead (example: John 3:16-17) since this method makes the adjoining verses one unit when using most Bible software. Keep in mind also that Bible verses were not assigned numbers until 1555 A.D.,⁵ so these are not firm rules.

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Manuscript Information – Section 1

Materials – Time Periods – Writing Tools – Cultures

Papyri Material Composition

- **Papyri Material Composition:** Papyri manuscripts are made from a papyrus plant, which grows in flooded swamps throughout African and Mediterranean countries.⁶

It should be mentioned that ‘*papyrus*’ is singular, while ‘*papyri*’ is plural.⁷

“The stem of the papyrus plant was cut into thin strips which were laid side by side in perpendicular fashion. A solution of resin from the plant was laid down and a second layer of papyrus was put into place, horizontally. The two layers were then pressed and allowed to dry. Immense rolls of papyrus could be made by joining the single sheets...The sides of a papyrus where the fibers run horizontally are the recto and, where the fibers run vertically, the verso. The recto was preferred but the verso was used for documents as well, allowing two separate texts to be included on a single papyrus.” – Historian Margaret Bunson⁸

By weaving and pressing the plant fibers together, along with a plant-based resin or animal-based glue, a strong and durable writing surface is formed.

Papyrus Time Periods

- **Papyrus Time Periods:** In 2013, Professor of Egyptology, Pierre Tallet, discovered the oldest known papyrus at Wadi al-Jarf, which is an ancient Egyptian harbor located on the Red Sea coast. These documents date from c. 2560–2550 B.C. (at the end of the reign of Pharaoh Khufu) and were written by men who participated in the building of the Great Pyramid in Egypt.⁹

Manuscript P46 is an example of biblical papyri and contains most of the Pauline epistle, 2 Corinthians 11:33–12:9. It has been paleographically dated between 175 A.D. and 225 A.D. by Bruce Griffin.¹⁰ Papyrus was actively used as late as 1022 A.D., in the form of papal decrees from the Roman church,¹¹ and are still used to create tourist souvenirs in Egypt.

Papyrus Writing Tools

- **Papyrus Writing Tools:** The most common pigment seen on papyri is carbon black ink. The process of making the ink is quite simple per Rachel Danzing, a Conservator of Paper at the Brooklyn Museum.

“The ink is made by burning organic materials such as wood or oil, and then pulverizing the material before mixing it with water. To keep the particles from clumping together, the black is mixed with a binder, probably a plant gum... As well as keeping the carbon particles suspended in the water solution, the gum binder helps to keep the ink adhered to the papyrus surface. This ink is very stable, does not fade, and does not deteriorate the papyrus below as some metallic inks can do.” – Rachel Danzing¹²

The ink was held in a wooden or sometimes ivory palette, which had a depression in it. The Hebrew word מַחְשֵׁבֶת [pronounced: *we-qe-set*] mentioned in Ezekiel 9:2, Ezekiel 9:3, and

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Ezekiel 9:11 as ‘inkhorn’ was the term for a case in which ingredients for making ink were kept. A scribe customarily carried his inkhorn in his belt.¹³

The most common scribal pen used during biblical times was the reed pen. Used roughly between 800 B.C. - 400 A.D.¹⁴ Since there is evidence papyri dates back before 800 B.C., it stands to reason that the tools and methods to write on the papyrus would also go back prior to 800 B.C.

Papyrus Cultures

- **Papyrus Cultures:** Papyrus was used by many cultures, and exported throughout the classical world.

According to the University of Michigan Papyrology Team, “It was the most popular writing material for the ancient Greeks and Romans. Papyrus was also the medium of the New Testament in the early centuries after the death of Jesus.”¹⁵ However, as we will see later, this would not have always been the case.

Knowing that the Roman Empire used papyrus, we can see by looking at a map of ancient Rome just how far its use would have been. The borders of the Roman Empire would have reached as far west as Portugal, as far east as Iran, as far north as Northern England, and as far south as Egypt. As a side note - Rome emerged as a Roman Republic around 500 B.C. and became the Roman Empire in 30 B.C., which fell in 476 A.D. This Empire never fully collapsed, it merely broke apart.¹⁶



Ancient Roman Empire Map. Image: (CC0 1.0), 2018.

Parchment Material Composition

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- **Parchment Material Composition:** Parchment is also a strong and stable material. This is why the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Articles of Confederation were written on parchment.¹⁷

We know at least at some times, the New Testament autographs (originals) could have been written on parchment, “*The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.*” – 2 Timothy 4:13 (KJV)

When we refer to autographs, we mean the original source documents; which were either written in the author’s own hand or written by a professional scribe writing under the supervision of the author. In either case, it’s the original document that we are referring to.

- Parchment can be made from different animal skins; including goats, sheep, bulls, and cows. The best quality came from young cows or bulls called calves. This parchment is called Vellum, which comes from the French word ‘veau’ [pronounced: *voø*]. The skin is soaked in a lime mineral water solution, then scraped, cleaned, and dried.¹⁸ The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) made a short 4-minute video of this process, that can be viewed for free online.¹⁹ More details are readily available on the Internet and in books.²⁰

Parchment Time Periods

- **Parchment Time Periods:** Parchment was used from at least as far back at the time of Moses (according to Rabbinic Judaism, this would have been approximately 1312 B.C.), and arguably much earlier. Parchment is still manufactured in Israel today and used by Jewish Rabbis.²¹

Parchment Writing Tools

- **Parchment Writing Tools:** A feather or reed was, and still is, traditionally used as a quill to write on parchment.²² It should be mentioned that new parchment is typically *snow-white* in color and *yellow*s with time.²³ This can be seen in the U.S. Bill of Rights parchment for an example, which appears slightly yellowed or tanned.²⁴ You may want to make a mental note of how new white parchment appears, since this is an important observation that will come up in a future session on the topic of manuscript forgeries.

Parchment Cultures

- **Parchment Cultures:** “*The name [parchment] apparently derives from the ancient Greek city of Pergamum (modern Bergama, Turkey), where parchment is said to have been invented in the 2nd century B.C.*”²⁵ Along with this point, any culture that had access to animals could have created a form of parchment. Knowing this, it would be impossible to know how many cultures utilized it.

Metal, Clay, and Stone

- **Metal, Clay, and Stone:** There are thousands of important ancient artifacts that preserve the eyewitness testimonies of historic events, people, geographic locations, and writings.²⁶ For the sake of time, we will only focus on a small portion of the information that is contained both in some of these artifacts and within the biblical text itself. This will serve the purpose to demonstrate that multiple redundant ancient sources can collaborate the biblical narrative.

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For example, the charred *En-Gedi Scroll* contains a portion of the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, which is identical to the modern Masoretic Old Testament text.²⁷ Per the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), “*The scroll was radiocarbon dated using the accelerator mass spectrometry technique,*” *the archaeologists said. “The test results indicate a probability of 68.2% that the scroll dates between 235–340 CE, and a probability of 88.9% that it dates between 210–390 CE. They allow for a 6.5% probability that the scroll dates to the 2nd century CE.”*²⁸

- **Metal, Clay, and Stone:** There are at least four ancient Iron Age Stelas that mention Israel by name, besides containing other biblical information:
 - 1) **The *Israel Stele* dated to around 1208 B.C.:** It resides in the Cairo Egyptian Museum. Discovered in Thebes, Egypt, the stele is a black granite slab, over 10 feet high, and the inscription says it was carved in the 5th year of Merneptah of the 19th dynasty.²⁹
 - 2) **The *Kurkh Monoliths* dated to around 852 B.C. & 879 B.C.:** These limestone Assyrian stelas were discovered in the country of Turkey and currently reside in the British Museum. Besides mentioning Israel, the Akkadian cuneiform written on the stele also references Ahab, one of the kings of Israel, committing 2,000 chariots and 10,000 foot soldiers to the Assyrian war coalition.³⁰
 - 3) **The *Tel Dan Stele* dated to around 870-750 B.C.:** Made of Basalt, this old Aramaic text inscribed stele was discovered in northern Israel, and currently resides in the Israel Museum. It has what is considered the earliest widely accepted reference to the name David as the founder of the ‘Kingdom of Judah’ outside of the Hebrew Bible.³¹
 - 4) **The *Mesha Stele* dated to around 840 B.C.:** This is another Basalt stone stele, which was discovered in the country of Jordan. Written in the ancient Moabite language (which is related to the Phoenician alphabet and Hebrew script). The stele’s stories parallel (with some differences) an episode in the Bible’s Book of Kings (2 Kings 3:4–8).³²

All four of these Iron Age steles provide a written account of diverse eyewitness testimonies, including four countries (Egypt, Turkey, Israel, and Jordan) and four cultures with distinct languages (Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Old Akkadian, Old Aramaic, and Ancient Moabite), which confirm the early existence of Israel during the time the Bible says Israel existed.

- **Metal, Clay, and Stone:** There are some 2,000 impressions made by at least 21 seal types that have been published, called LMLK seals, which are ancient Hebrew seals stamped on the handles of large storage jars dating from the reign of King Hezekiah (700 B.C.) discovered mostly in and around Jerusalem.³³
- **Metal, Clay, and Stone:** There is a Nabonidus Cylinder from Sippar, and three Nabonidus Cylinders from Ur, for a total of four cylinders. What makes these four cylinders noteworthy is that they contain strong overlapping biblical information. For example, they mention the

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Godhead,³⁴ which can be interpreted as an Old Testament illusion to Yahweh and/or the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). The Godhead is also mentioned three times in the Bible: in the book of Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, and Colossians 2:9. They mention a son named Belshazzar, which could be the same Belshazzar mentioned in the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament. The cylinders state, “*As for me, Nabonidus, king of Babylon, save me from sinning against your great godhead and grant me as a present a life long of days, and as for Belshazzar, the eldest son -my offspring- instill reverence for your great godhead in his heart and may he not commit any cultic mistake, may he be sated with a life of plenitude.*”³⁵

- **Metal, Clay, and Stone:** The Ketef Hinnom Amulets, also known as the Ketef Hinnom Silver Scrolls, are two scrolls (KH1 and KH2) inscribed with what might be the oldest surviving texts from the Old Testament. The Hebrew text is from the Book of Numbers and is written in the old Paleo-Hebrew characters. The scrolls are dated to around 650 B.C. – 587 B.C. The scrolls are also significant because they, “*preserve the earliest known citations of texts also found in the Hebrew Bible and... the earliest examples of confessional statements concerning Yahweh.*” The reference to Yahweh as “*Rebuker of Evil.*”³⁶

There are also thousands of other artifacts that can attest to the accuracy and historicity of the biblical text.

Manuscript Information – Section 2

Types – Dating Methods – Copying Methods – Tempus Absumo – Reliability of Text

Types of Biblical Manuscripts: Scroll vs. Codex

- **Types of Biblical Manuscripts: Scroll vs. Codex:** There are two primary types of manuscripts: the scroll and the codex. But first, what is a manuscript? When we refer to a manuscript, we are referring to any handwritten text on papyrus, parchment, or paper before the invention of the printing press. A manuscript can be abbreviated in written form as MS for singular and MSS for plural.³⁷
- **Types of Biblical Manuscripts – Scroll:** A scroll is a roll of papyrus, parchment, or paper containing writing. Parchment scrolls were used by the Israelites, among others, before the invention of the codex.³⁸
- **Types of Biblical Manuscripts – Codex:** A codex is a bound book constructed of several sheets of papyrus, parchment, paper, or similar materials. The term codex is now typically only used to describe books with hand-written content. The codex was invented by the Romans, which became popular around the 1st century A.D. Some advantages of the codex over the scroll are the improved *compact size, sturdiness, the economic aspects* of the materials by using both sides (recto and verso), and having *ease of reference* (being able to jump to any section quickly).³⁹

Dating Methods Used

- **Dating Methods Used: Relative and Absolute Dating:** Relative dating is the method of sequencing events in the order in which they happened. Relative dating places events in order, without any measure of the age between events. On the other hand, absolute dating (which is sometimes preferably called ‘calendar dating’, since ‘absolute’ implies an unwarranted certainty of accuracy), is the process of determining an age on a specified chronology in archaeology and

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geology. Absolute dating is usually based on the physical, chemical, and life properties of the material from artifacts such as manuscripts, buildings, or other items that have been modified by humans. There are some techniques that can nearly fall within both dating categories.^{40, 41}

On the topic of dating ancient artifacts, there has never been an archaeological discovery which has conclusively disproven anything in the Bible. In fact, we have the opposite occurring, such as in the case with Jericho. Per Bryant Wood PhD., “*Every aspect of the [Jericho] story that could possibly be verified by the findings of archaeology is, in fact, verified.*”⁴² For the Biblical account of the incident at Jericho, see the Book of Joshua.

Given that entire books have been written on detailing the pros and cons of just one dating method, and since we will focus on more pressing matters, we will only briefly cover the dating methods most important to manuscripts.

As this course progresses, you will also see why dating methods are not as critical as you may have first thought, as long as there are overwhelming diverse eyewitness testimonies. If however there is a lack of good witnesses, then testing for a forgery becomes critically important.

First up in our list, of dating methods, is the decay rate of radioactive isotopes.

- **Dating Methods Used: Radioactive Isotopes:**

The calculation of radioactive decay is based on three crucial assumptions:

1. The initial conditions are known.
2. The system has been closed.
3. The radioactive decay rate has remained constant.

The radioactive decay of the ‘parent’ isotopes of uranium, thorium, potassium, rubidium, and carbon-14; into to the ‘daughter’ isotopes of lead, argon, strontium, and nitrogen, runs into the problem of these three assumptions, as do any other radioactive isotopes used for dating.^{43, 44, 45, 46} Compounding the problem is the variable radioactive decay rates caused by changes in solar activity⁴⁷ and physicists have also now measured a slowing in the speed of light over time (as published in the journal *Nature*) and dubbed this ‘C-decay’ (CDK).⁴⁸ Since most nuclear processes are mathematically related to the speed of light, a faster ‘c’ (as in $E=mc^2$) might well mean a much faster rate of radioactive decay.^{49, 50} Additional information, as well as graphs, are available at Dr. Barry Setterfield’s website as well as other websites.⁵¹ This contradicts the uniformitarian view.

Aside from Radioactive Isotopes, there are also other processes observed in nature that destroy the ‘uniformitarian view’⁵² (also known as the ‘*Doctrine of Uniformity*’).

Top 10 Destroyers of Uniformitarianism and Gradualism⁵³

- 1) Very Little Sediment on the Seafloor
- 2) Bent Rock Layers
- 3) Soft Tissue in Fossils
- 4) Faint Sun Paradox
- 5) Rapidly Decaying Magnetic Field
- 6) Helium in Radioactive Rocks
- 7) Carbon-14 in Fossils, Coal, and Diamonds

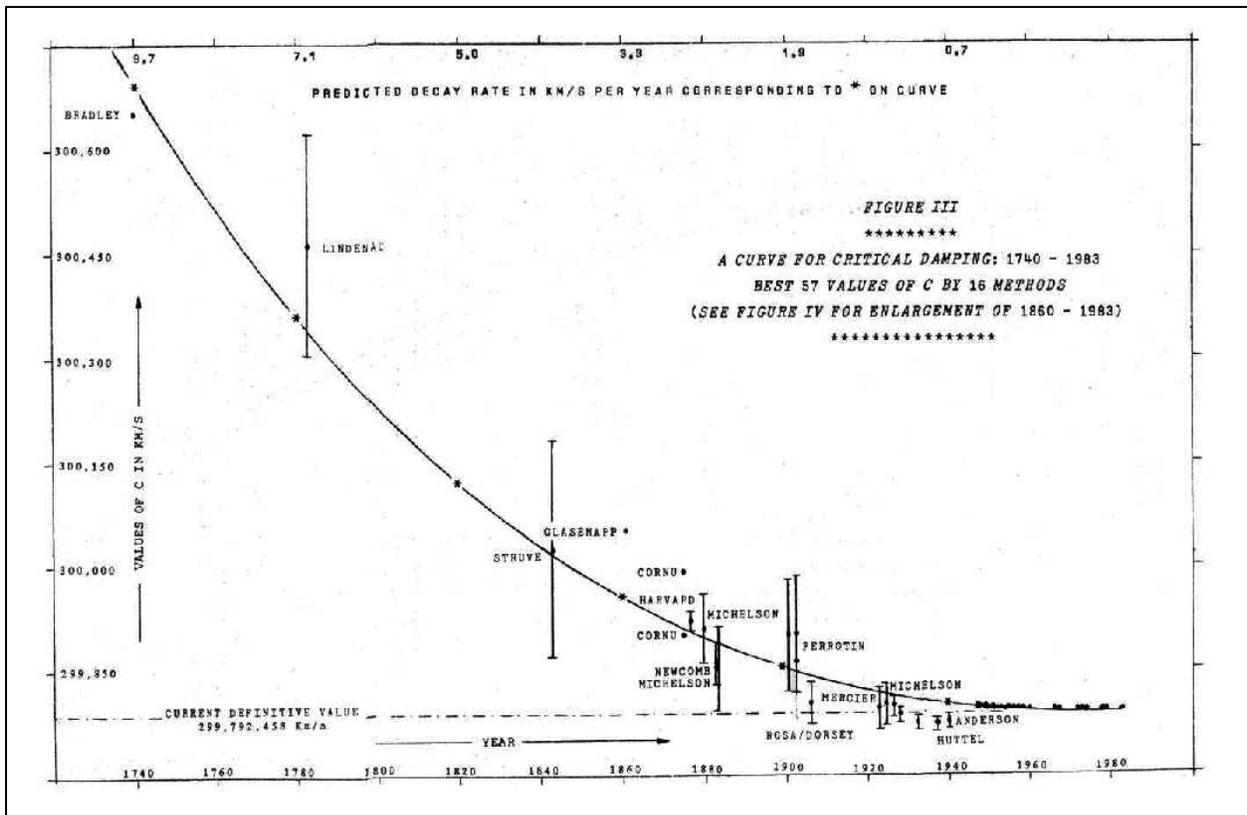
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- 8) Short-Lived Comets
- 9) Very Little Salt in the Sea
- 10) DNA in Ancient Bacteria

The Uniformitarian⁵⁴ view is, in essence, a ‘normalcy bias’, meaning that if things have been perceived to be a certain way over a period of time, an assumption is then formed that it must have always been, and continues to be, that way. The Uniformitarian view and the normalcy bias are the prevailing views in science and politics throughout the world. The total opposite stance, ‘Catastrophism’, is not much better,^{55, 56} which is rapid unexpected changes. The reality appears to be something in-between.^{57, 58} The point is that when many dating methods are based upon a uniformitarian view, most dating methods are based upon flawed assumptions.

The C-14 Testing Assumptions:

- 1) Solar activity and C-decay have been unchanged.
- 2) Known and stable environmental conditions.
- 3) Known stable absorption rate.
- 4) No unknown changes in radioactive material in the environment.
- 5) The material being tested must be between 2,000 - 100,000 years old.
- 6) Results inside scientific status quo.



Setterfield’s main graph, covering the period from 1740 to 1983. Showing the speed of light (as measured in dynamical time) has been decaying during the period of a few hundred years that scientists have made measurements.

Image: Barry Setterfield and Trevor Norman. “C-decay.” Conservapedia. June 2016.

Even if we were to assume that solar activity was an unchanging constant, and that the speed of light across all history never changed, we would still need to assume that the *initial conditions*

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are known and the system has been closed. For example, in the case of testing papyrus using carbon-14 dating, we would have to assume that the cosmic rays never changed in intensity, the speed of light has never changed in all history, that the conditions of the atmosphere on earth at any given point in the earth's past history were known, that the papyrus plant fibers we are testing didn't vary in its absorption rate based on the environmental conditions, and that the papyrus fibers being tested didn't absorb a different amount of C-14 based upon the health and genetics of that particular plant. This is important, since we know different plants and animals do absorb different quantities of C-14 within a given amount of time. The amount of C-14 has also been affected by nuclear bomb testing.⁵⁹ Most importantly, C-14 dating requires that the material in question be at least 2,000 years old, which makes it impossible to test most manuscripts using C-14 testing.⁶⁰ This is not to say that C-14 testing is worthless, since it can tell us that things can't be as old as some might assume. For example, diamonds,⁶¹ as well as many dinosaur bones, have been found to contain C-14. For which, status quo scientists tell us that C-14 should no longer be detectable in them if these items were older than 100,000 years old,⁶² since we are told C-14 breaks down to the point of being undetectable around the 100,000 year mark, so these same status quo scientists tell us in every case that radiometric testing produces a young age for diamonds, coal, dinosaur bones, and anything else, that in all cases it must be contaminated, because they don't like the results. See the following references for additional dinosaur C-14 test results and the suppression that has taken place by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS).^{63, 64, 65}

We now move on to a better candidate for testing documents, which is what we are more interested in.

- **Dating Methods Used: Chemical Ink Analysis:** In the opinion of many, at the time of this lecture, the best non-destructive chemical ink analysis method is to use Micro Raman Spectroscopy. Raman can be used to study chemical bonding, provide a fingerprint to identify molecules, and be paired up with other non-destructive testing methods, like Infrared Spectroscopy (IR).⁶⁶

Raman spectroscopy is a great non-destructive way to investigate artwork and ancient manuscripts, allowing for the identification of forgeries. It allows for the identification of individual pigments in manuscripts, and their degradation products provide insight into the working method of the artist.⁶⁷ An example of a forgery that was discovered by using the non-destructive Micro-Raman Spectroscopy was *The Gospel of Jesus' Wife* manuscript, the "[results]...*surely indicate a modern forgery.*"⁶⁸

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The Pigments Checker Timeline provides a simplified representation of the use of the pigments across ages.
Image: CHS Open Source, 2018.

As a side note, there is an ‘*International Ink Library*’⁶⁹ maintained jointly by the United States Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service, which includes more than 9,500 inks, dating from the 1920s. This ink library is only useful in the detection of forgeries produced since the 1920s. For older items like ancient art, archaeology, and manuscripts, we would use something like the ‘*Raman Spectroscopic Library of Natural and Synthetic Pigments*’⁷⁰ or the ‘*Free Raman Database of Pigments Checker*’ (see [CHS Pigment Chart](#)).⁷¹

Raman also provides important information about the original state of the manuscript in instances where the pigments degraded with age. Knowing the chemical composition of a manuscript can also provide insight about the social and economic conditions when they were created and offer a

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noninvasive way to determine the best method of preservation or conservation of the manuscript.⁷²

It can be difficult to date an ink, unless it is known for certain that the ink did not exist when the document was said to have been prepared. There are other tests that can be conducted to glean additional information, such as Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM), Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectrometry (EDS, EDX, EDXS or XEDS), Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) Micro X-ray Diffraction (XRD), Infrared Spectroscopy Analysis (IR).⁷³

- **Dating Methods Used: Paleography:** The third and last dating method is paleography. Paleography uses a trained eye to date a manuscript, which entails analyzing handwriting including the *quality of the line* (affected by pen position, pressure, rhythm, speed, tremor, skill, and other factors), *form* (including proportions, slant beginning and ending strokes, flourishes, and the like), and *spelling, punctuation, abbreviation* (a consequence of education), and understanding the writing materials for the specified time period.^{74, 75} In short, it is the ability to recognize the many styles of handwriting prevalent in different ages and places. Because paleography is so subjective, “*paleography is a last resort for dating*”^{76, 77} and when it works well, it still typically has a margin of error of 25 to over 125 years.⁷⁸
- **Dating Methods Used: Investigation:** Cross-examining eyewitness testimonies to past events is just as crucial as scrutinizing physical evidence. When you can obtain diverse eyewitness testimonies to past events, which also corresponds to physical evidence, there is a strong reason to believe the information. Like any good investigation, it is also important to know (if possible) the truthfulness and motives of the witnesses, as well as those doing the investigation. A good example of this is the work done in three books (also movies), which are available at libraries and online book stores:
 - 1) ‘*Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*’, written by a Los Angeles County homicide detective and former atheist J. Warner Wallace.⁷⁹
 - 2) ‘*The Case for Christ*’, written by a Chicago Tribune investigative journalist and former atheist Lee Strobel.⁸⁰
 - 3) ‘*Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World*’, written by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell Ph.D.⁸¹

“*Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.*” – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of *Sherlock Holmes*.⁸²

Copying Methods: Old Testament

- **Copying Methods (Hebrew – Old Testament):** Before we go into copying methods, it should be mentioned that there is a small amount of the Jewish Old Testament written in Aramaic, versus it being written in Hebrew. The Aramaic sections are:
 - 1) *Jeremiah 10:11* – A single sentence denouncing idolatry occurs in the middle of a Hebrew text, and was likely written in Aramaic to provide the Jews with what to say to idolaters in the idolater’s own language.⁸³

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2) *Daniel 2:4-7:28* – Five stories about Daniel and his colleagues, and an apocalyptic vision. It was written in Aramaic likely because it implies King Nebuchadnezzar posted his story for his entire empire to read in their common spoken language at the time.⁸⁴

3) *Ezra 4:8-6:18 and 7:12-26* – Quotations of documents from the 5th century B.C. on the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem, which was in Aramaic most likely because it was used as communications with non-Jews.⁸⁵

4) There are Aramaic words also sprinkled throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

Since the Aramaic sections are so small, and Aramaic being very similar to the Hebrew language, it will not be covered separately, and is thus implicated in using the same copying methods as applied to the Hebrew Old Testament.

- **Copying Methods: Orthography:** Orthography refers to the proper spelling of each word. This is considered so important to the Torah scribe that he is instructed to, “*be careful with your task, for it is sacred work; if you add or subtract even a single letter, [it is as if] you have destroyed the entire world!*” (Talmud Eruvin 13a).^{86, 87}

Each letter in Hebrew represents a number (as shown in the ‘*Hebrew Letter Number Chart*’), and was used for many purposes; one of which was to add up the total numerical values for words, rows, and sections within the Torah in order to ensure an exact copy was made. Remember that Hebrew is written from right to left.⁸⁸

Hebrew Letter Number Chart										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Multiples of 10	
ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א		
יט	יח	יז	טז	טו	יד	יג	יב	יא	י	10
כט	כח	כז	כו	כה	כד	כג	כב	כא	כ or ך	20
לט	לח	לז	לו	לה	לד	לג	לב	לא	ל	30
מט	מח	מז	מו	מה	מד	מג	מב	מא	מ or ם	40
נט	נח	נז	נו	נה	נד	נג	נב	נא	נ or ן	50
סט	סח	סז	סו	סה	סד	סג	סב	סא	ס	60
עט	עח	עז	עו	עה	עד	עג	עב	עא	ע	70
פט	פח	פז	פו	פה	פד	פג	פב	פא	פ or ף	80
צט	צח	צז	צו	צה	צד	צג	צב	צא	צ or ץ	90
קט	קח	קז	קו	קה	קד	קג	קב	קא	ק	100
רט	רח	רז	רו	רה	רד	רג	רב	רא	ר	200
שט	שח	שז	שו	שה	שד	שג	שב	שא	ש	300
תט	תח	תז	תו	תה	תד	תג	תב	תא	ת	400

Note: The numbers 15 & 16 are not written as you might expect, in order to avoid irreverently writing the sacred name of God.

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Instructions on how the Old Testament was to be copied, specifically the first five books of the Old Testament (The Torah), is laid down in the Hebraic Law. Since over four-thousand laws must be known by the Hebrew scribe (also called a 'Sofer') before he begins writing, we will only cover a few here:⁸⁹

1. The Torah must only be written by a specially trained scribe (Sofer/Masorite) who are tested and certified for writing the Torah, which includes having the proper intention when writing the Torah and the name of God.
2. There are 304,805 letters in a Torah and if only one letter is added, missing, or changed the Torah is not Kosher⁹⁰ (not sanctioned by Jewish law). One letter from 304,805 is - 0.000328%.
3. No letter may touch another one.
4. Even within the letter itself - it may not touch itself only where it should.
5. The Torah must be handwritten on Kosher Parchment (Kosher animal skin).
6. The quill (the pen) must be from a Kosher bird, which is usually a goose or turkey.
7. The ink must be black (not dark blue or any other color) and are made of a special recipe of Kosher ingredients.
8. Each word and letter must be verbalized aloud while they are writing.
9. There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.

10. The letters, words, and sections had to have their numerical values separately totaled up, with the different totals matching the original Torah scroll being copied from (see the previous section on Hebrew letter values).
11. The Torah could be stored only in sacred places (synagogues, etc).
12. As no document containing God's Word could be destroyed, they were stored, or buried, in a genizah⁹¹ (meaning a repository in a synagogue) usually kept in a synagogue or sometimes in a Jewish cemetery.

Please see the references for further details. ^{92, 93, 94, 95}

These stringent laws were first followed by Hebrew scribes, called the Soferim,⁹⁶ then later by the Masorites who copied the Old Testament between the 6th and 10th centuries.⁹⁷

The Hebrews were the Torchbearers of the Old Testament, just as the followers of Christ became the Torchbearers of both the Old and New Testament. A Torchbearer is a person or leader that carries and preserves a torch; who imparts knowledge, information, and truth to others.

Psalm 119 in the Bible does a good job describing the dedication written within the heart of a Torah Torchbearer. As a side note, Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm and longest chapter in the Bible at 176 verses.

Copying Methods: New Testament

- **Copying Methods (Greek – New Testament):** As the New Testament religious texts were written and copied (and internal evidence suggests they knew they were continuing Scripture),⁹⁸ they would have followed Jewish copying rules (albeit in a more practical manner), and were copied by those who strongly believed in what the biblical texts said for two reasons:

1) Most of the thousands⁹⁹ of early followers of Christ were Jews,¹⁰⁰ who would very likely adapt their Jewish copying rules and methods to copy the new sacred text onto clean kosher animal skin parchment (not onto papyrus), at least during the early years. *“The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.”* - 2 Timothy 4:13 (KJV)

2) The followers of Christ were heavily persecuted for a period from the time of Christ's death until 313 A.D.,¹⁰¹ and even if the believers had wanted to hire an unbeliever to copy the biblical text; what would be the likelihood that a well-paid professional scribe would risk copying text that could easily get them tortured and executed? This would probably be about as likely as a Jewish Rabbi during World War II asking a German printing press employee to copy the Old Testament Hebrew religious text, and the German printing press employee agreeing to it.

Note: Jewish followers of Jesus today call themselves ‘Messianic Jews’ verses calling themselves Christians. Messianic Jews existed ever since Jesus had his first followers and have suffered under persecution alongside their Gentile Christian counterparts from the very beginning. This [chart](#) shows there has been a massive increase of Jewish interest in Jesus as many Jews are recognizing and embracing Jesus as the fulfillment of their Messiah and Lord (Isaiah 53, etc.).¹⁰² The website and YouTube channel¹⁰³ called *One For Israel* (oneforisrael.org) is run by Messianic Jews who are helping their fellow Jews to realize who Jesus was and is, which fulfills one of many Bible prophecies.

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Chart of the resurgence of Jews recognizing Jesus as Messiah - *One For Israel's* Hebrew language videos, viewed by Israelis, reached 2018. ¹⁰⁴

From the time of Christ's death on the cross, the followers of Christ (known then as *Followers of the Way*¹⁰⁵) were hunted down and were arrested or killed by the tens of thousands in an attempt to eradicate Christianity. Saul of Tarsus (also known by his Roman name, Paul), was a Jewish Pharisee at the time with Roman citizenship, and hated the Followers of the Way.¹⁰⁶ He made it his goal to capture them and bring them to public trial and execution. Saul was present when the first martyr (Stephen) was killed by an angry mob in 34 A.D. Saul/Paul later went from persecutor to Follower of the Way after having a profound encounter with the risen-from-the-dead, Jesus in 35 A.D. (see Book of Acts Chapters 9, 22, and 26). They were first called "*Christians*" in Antioch, Syria in 44 A.D. (Acts 11:26).¹⁰⁷

"Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him [Stephen] with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul." – Acts 7:57 (KJV)

"And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." – Acts 8:1 (KJV)

"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." – Acts 8:3 (KJV)

On July 18, 64 A.D., a fire broke out and burned down four of the fourteen large districts in the merchant area of the city of Rome. Rumors quickly spread that the Roman Emperor Nero ordered the area to be lit ablaze himself to clear a location where he could build a new city that would bear his name. As the crowds grew in anger, Nero blamed the followers of Christ and the people

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turned on them. Large scale arrests and torturous executions followed for the Christians. ^{108, 109, 110}

“...neither human aid, nor imperial bounty, nor atoning-offerings to the Gods, could remove the sinister suspicion that the fire had been brought about by Nero's order. To put an end therefore to this rumour, he shifted the charge on to others, and inflicted the most cruel tortures upon a body of men detested for their abominations, and popularly known by the name of Christians. This name came from one Christus, who was put to death in the reign of Origin of Tiberius by the Procurator Pontius Pilate.” – Roman Historian and Senator Tacitus, *‘The Annals’*, 109 A.D. ¹¹¹

The early Christians in Rome met in secret or they faced horrific torture and death, with their manuscripts being destroyed. In 313 A.D., Roman Emperor Constantine enacted the *‘Edict of Milan’* which made Christianity legal, and for the first time, Christians were allowed to worship openly. ¹¹²

Note: In 311 A.D., the Roman Emperor Galerius (on his deathbed) issued the *Edict of Serdica*, also called *Edict of Toleration by Galerius*, that Christians be treated with ‘toleration’. Return of confiscated property and the restoration of rights were not, however, part of Galerius’s decree. Prior to this edict, it was the policy of the Roman Empire to torture and kill Christians openly. ^{113, 114, 115, 116}

For at least the first three centuries, the biblical text (known as Scripture) was copied by extremely dedicated believers who were willing to risk torture and death, ¹¹⁷ and would have known the scriptural warnings that God made concerning keeping his words unchanged.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” – 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)

“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.” – Deuteronomy 4:2 (KJV)

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” – Revelation 22:18-19 (KJV)

*“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one **tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”* – Matthew 5:18 (KJV)

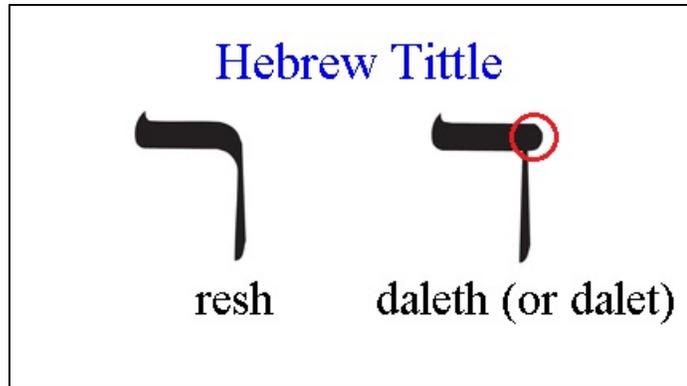


Image: Peter Arvo, September 2018.

Greek (ἰῶτα) = Hebrew jot ,

Greek (κεραία) = Hebrew tittle 7

Behind the translation “*jot*” is the Greek word *ἰῶτα* (iōta) and is the tenth letter and smallest in the Hebrew alphabet. It is written above the line and looks to us rather like an apostrophe. Behind “*tittle*” is the Greek word *κεραία* (keraiā) which refers to a letter extension that can differentiate one Hebrew letter from another. An example can be seen between the Hebrew letters *resh* and *daleth* (or *dalet*) with the tittle circled in red. This would be like in modern English saying the crossing of a ‘*t*’ of dotting of an ‘*i*’. What the Lord Jesus Christ is saying is that not even part of a letter shall pass away.

Tempus Absumo: Time Before Destruction

- Papyrus Tempus Absumo (time before destruction):** Tempus Absumo [pronounced: *Temp-pus Ab-soo-moe*] is Latin for ‘*Time before Destruction or Annihilation*’. Tempus = time, season, moment, period. Absumo = destroy, annihilate, ruin, consume, use, waste.¹¹⁸ The following is an excerpt from research published in the field of papyrus tempus absumo in 2014; in which literary works, correspondence, notes, and commentaries were dated, which have often made it possible in many cases to determine when manuscripts were copied, and how long they were in use before being replaced, discarded, or destroyed. “*How long did a papyrus roll last? The evidence from our collections indicates that a usable lifetime of about 100 to 125 years was common and can reasonably be considered the norm; a small but significant number of manuscripts were still usable some 300 years after they were first created; and on rare occasions a manuscript might last, it seems, for half a millennium (3.9 and 4.13).*” - Professor George W. Houston, Ph.D.^{119, 120}
- Parchment Tempus Absumo:** New Testament autographs (originals) would have likely used parchment, not papyrus, “*The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.*” – 2 Timothy 4:13 (KJV) Since most of the New Testament writers were Jewish, they would have been aware of the rule of only writing sacred text on clean animal skin (parchment). Parchment is stronger, more stable,¹²¹ and lasts longer than papyrus. So we can expect to get *at least the same, or better*, Tempus Absumo results with parchment as compared to papyrus.
- Manuscript Tempus Absumo:** It is noteworthy to mention, that according to the Worcester Cathedral Library “*Vellum [parchment] has proven to last over a thousand years in excellent condition; however, it can be very vulnerable to changes in humidity, which causes pages to buckle. Books with parchment pages were bound with strong wooden boards and were clamped shut by metal clasps or leather straps in order to keep the pages pressed flat.*”¹²² Parchment is

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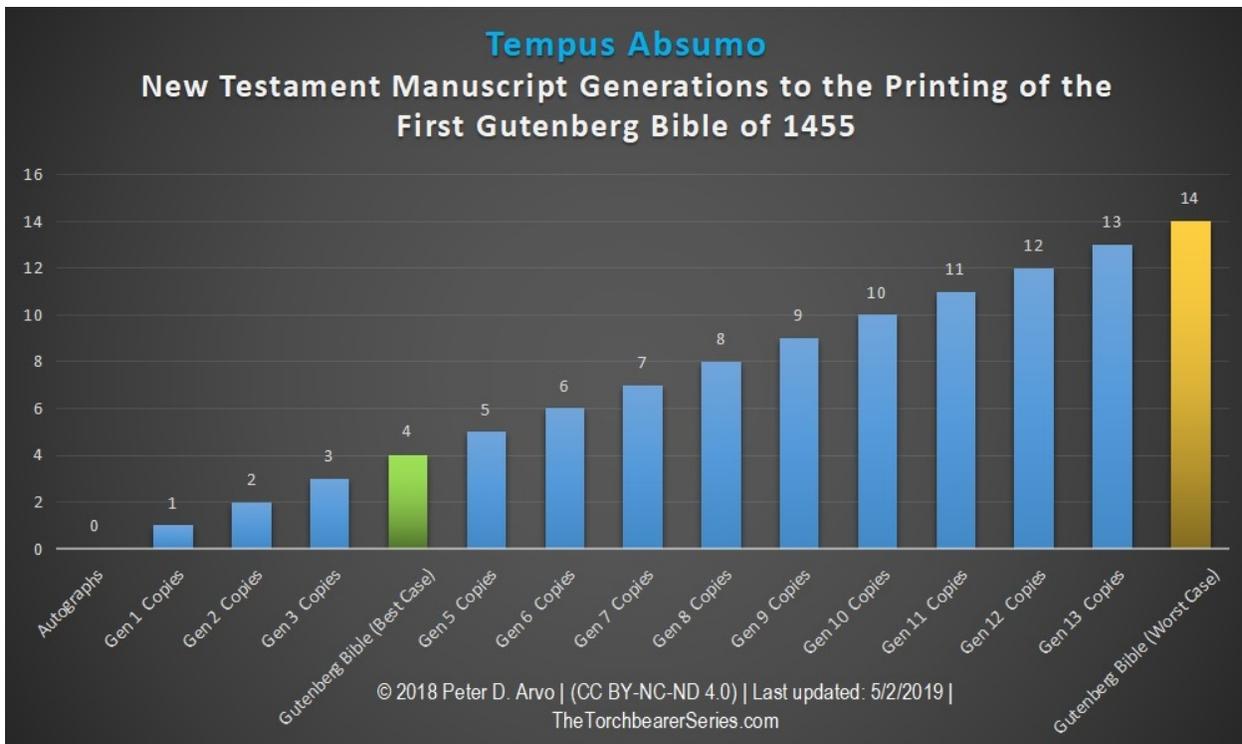
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considered so durable that it was used for the most important legal documents in the United Kingdom, at least until October 12th, 2015, when the Commons Committee voted in favor of scrapping vellum [parchment] as the material on which Acts of Parliament are printed, and instead adopted the use of a modern high-quality acid-free long-lasting paper.¹²³

So why is this new Tempus Absumo information important? Because it was previously thought by some scholars that papyrus manuscripts would only last around 20 years, which would have required far more hand copying to occur until the first printing press Bible could be produced in 1455, the Gutenberg Bible.¹²⁴ If we take the earliest time that a document could have been written of Christ’s ministry in 27 A.D., and subtract that from 1455, we have at most 1,428 years of hand-copying.

This means if we go from the time of Christ’s ministry to the time of 1455, we would have an estimated 3 generations of copies for the best-case scenario for papyrus (shown in green on the chart) and in the worst-case scenario 14 generations of copies for papyrus (shown in yellow on the chart). (see ‘Tempus Absumo Chart’)

Knowing that parchment lasts longer than papyrus, the fact we have many manuscripts today dating between 200 A.D. to 600 A.D., and the evidence contained in the Bible of the likely use of parchment (at least for a time), there is a very high possibility we only have a few generations to the printing of the first Bible (even if *only* papyrus was used). For example: **Autographs** (originals that are 100% accurate) > **1st Generation Copy** > **2nd Generation Copy** > **3rd Generation Copy** > **Printed Gutenberg Bible** (see chart). This is without even going into the preservation system called B-RAID, which we will discuss shortly. This also does not take into account any divine influence in the preservation process.



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Reliability of Text: Biblical Stenographer (short-hand-writer)

Did Some Disciples Take Notes During Jesus' Ministry? The short answer is yes! Some disciples of Jesus would have either written in shorthand or longhand notes while he was speaking. Longhand is the normal handwriting process of fully writing out each word. Shorthand, or called *stenography* [pronounced: *ste-nog-ra-phy*], is a method of abbreviating words in order to write fast enough to capture every word while someone is speaking. This is what court reporters do during trials, which is then later converted back to longhand.

The average shorthand writing speed varies depending on the profession, but they were required to write fast enough to keep up and still be accurate. For example, according to the modern *National Court Reporters Association (NCRA)*, the requirement in 1949 was to maintain a shorthand writing rate of 260 *words-per-minute (WPM)* to qualify to record legal testimonies.¹²⁵ Many individuals have achieved results as high as 280 WPM.¹²⁶ Under monitored testing conditions, the world record was 350 WPM, with only two errors at that speed.¹²⁷ The average stenographer would have no problem keeping up with an average public speaking rate of 120 to 200 WPM, and have an accurate account of what was said.¹²⁸

A qualification among business professionals in the Graeco-Roman world was that of a *tachygraphos* in Greek, or in Roman Latin *notaricum*, meaning 'shorthand writer'. In the Old Testament Book of Psalms 45:1, it refers to a "ready writer", which was a shorthand writer. Using this information, we can know that shorthand writing dates back into Old Testament times. Scholars also agree that shorthand writing dates back even to the times of Moses, and to the earliest times of writing.¹²⁹ The following is a list of thirteen scholars, whose extensive research has contributed to our modern understanding of ancient shorthand writing used during biblical times:

James M. Arlandson, Ph.D.¹³⁰
Edgar J. Goodspeed, Ph.D.¹³¹
Prof. Saul Lieberman, Ph.D.¹³²
E. Earle Ellis, Ph.D.¹³³
Prof. Werner Kelber, Ph.D.¹³⁴
Prof. Harry Y. Gamble, Ph.D.¹³⁵
Prof. James M. Robinson, Ph.D.¹³⁶
Prof. Samuel Byrskog, Ph.D.¹³⁷
Prof. Alan R. Millard, Ph.D.¹³⁸
Prof. Birger Gerhardsson, Ph.D.¹³⁹
Peter M. Head, Ph.D.¹⁴⁰
Graham N. Stanton, D.D.¹⁴¹
Prof. Richard Bauckham¹⁴²

Continuing, if you remember the Bible verse earlier when Paul spoke with Timothy, "The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the **books**, but especially the **parchments**." – 2 Timothy 4:13 (KJV) This statement was made after Saul/Paul became a follower of Jesus. It is important to note that it occurred after the meeting in Jerusalem,^{143, 144} *The Jerusalem Council*, which was when Paul, Barnabas (Paul's travel companion), James (The Lord's half brother), the Apostle Peter, and others all met together.^{145, 146}

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The Jerusalem Council would have provided Paul with a great opportunity to exchange information and copy additional eyewitness testimonies, whether they were originally in text or oral form. This means it is both reasonable and probable, that the “books” and “parchments” spoken of in 2 Timothy 4:13 were copies of Old Testament Scripture and Scripture from Jesus’ ministry, besides possible blank notebooks. According to British New Testament scholar, Professor Richard Bauckham, notebooks were in quite widespread use in the ancient world, and are based “quite closely” on the testimony of eyewitnesses.¹⁴⁷

The same papyrus notebook used for stenography (shorthand) could have been also used to transcribe the stenography into longhand copies. This may have occurred with the parchment of Matthew, referred to as the *Jesus Papyrus* (AKA *Magdalen College Papyrus P64 & P67*), dated by Professor Carsten Peter Thiede to earlier than 60 A.D.¹⁴⁸ By using a precise confocal laser scanning microscope, Professor Carsten Peter Thiede found that the Matthew 26:22 fragments (P64) revealed it should read “every one of them” (all at once), as the King James Bible reads, as opposed to “each one” (one after another), as the critical texts read from Nestle-Aland / UBS (used in most Bible translations after 1881). This appears to further confirm that most Bible translations after 1881 are not as accurate as the King James Bible for this verse in the Gospel of Matthew.^{149, 150, 151} There will be more discussed on this later.

Lord Jesus Christ also spent forty-days (Acts 1:3) speaking to over 500 of his followers (1 Corinthians 15:6) after his resurrection, including die-hard skeptics who then became believers.¹⁵² Since the Bible says that some clarifications were made to their understanding after his resurrection (Luke 24:27, 32), how easy would it be to believe that they committed those things in writing, in either short or longhand, as soon as they were able to? Wouldn’t those writings provide a completely accurate account of events?

There are a few that have tried to speculate that the writings of the Apostles occurred after 100 A.D., instead of while events unfolded. Keep in mind that the most important event after Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven (33 A.D.) would have been the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D., and yet not a single writer of the New Testament mentions this incredibly important event. Thus making a strong argument that none of the autographs (originals) were written after 70 A.D. (with perhaps the exception of The Book of Revelation), but instead they were written during the time the events took place using stenography (shorthand). Remember that some events recorded in the New Testament do not pertain to Christ’s ministry before the ascension, but instead were written accounts of events from the disciples as they occurred while traveling, which in some cases continued for decades until their death (with John, who wrote Revelation, likely dying last).¹⁵³

In summary, we have ample evidence from the Romans,¹⁵⁴ Greeks,¹⁵⁵ and Hebrews¹⁵⁶ to reasonably conclude that the transmission of Lord Jesus Christ’s ministry would have most likely been both oral and written, with notes being written in shorthand as Jesus spoke and later clarified by Jesus himself after his resurrection. There are also some cases that the disciples of Jesus had professional scribal assistants (called an *amanuenses* in Greek) write their accounts under their close supervision, as Paul did on numerous occasions (Romans 16:22, 1 Corinthians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:1, Philemon 1:1).

Reliability of Text: Sent Autograph (SA) & Retained Autograph (RA)

- **Sent Autograph (SA) & Retained Autograph (RA):** To get into this section, we are going to briefly discuss seven items from ‘*Getting Romans to the Right Romans: Phoebe and the Delivery*

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of Paul's Letter' by Allan Chapple.¹⁵⁷ The seven items summarize how Romans (later known as the Book of Romans) reached the people for whom it was intended, for which there is widespread agreement that Phoebe was the bearer of the Romans letter (Romans 16:1-2):

- “1) Phoebe conveyed the letter to Rome, probably by sea.
- 2) The church in Rome at this time consisted of house-churches.
- 3) Phoebe was to deliver the letter first to Prisca and Aquila and their house-church.
- 4) Prisca and Aquila were to convene an assembly of the whole Christian community, the first for some time, at which Romans was to be received and read.
- 5) Prisca and Aquila were to be asked to arrange for copies of Romans to be made.
- 6) Phoebe was to deliver these copies to other house-churches.
- 7) Phoebe was to read Romans in the way that Paul had coached her at each of the gatherings to which she took it.”

It is common sense that if you work during a whole winter on an important document (as Paul is presumed to have done), and know that it may not reach its destination because of environmental conditions or hostile people, it would be prudent to have at least two autographs (originals) of it: one to send, or a *sent autograph* (SA),¹⁵⁸ and one to retain for yourself, or *retained autograph* (RA).¹⁵⁹ This process has also occurred with past authors and poets, such as Emily Dickinson,¹⁶⁰ and continues in modern times with email, in that you have a sent folder in your email account, which retains a copy of sent emails for your records.

A further reason to do this is if you suspect that someone could potentially send a forged document in your name.¹⁶¹ Even after the death of the person who sent the autograph (original), others could verify their copy against the sent autograph (SA) or the retained autograph (RA) for authenticity.

The more 1st generation copies of the autographs (originals) you have, the lower the likelihood that an error can creep in, which would make it near impossible to be corrupted. We know that there would likely be dozens of 1st generation copies, which would have been created from the original autographs. This is based upon the rapid expansion of home-based Christian churches at the time, causing the need for many 1st generation copies. There were an estimated 500,000 Christians by the end of the 1st century, out of an estimated 45 million within the entire Empire of Rome.^{162, 163}

We are told that Paul specifically instructed Colossae and Laodicea to exchange epistles, “*And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.*” – Colossians 4:16 (KJV). The following also warns of fake manuscripts, “*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*” – 2 Thessalonians 2:2 (KJV).

We know from these examples, and from many others in the Bible, that the early Christians were exchanging and authenticating manuscripts, and were on the lookout for false teachers. (Matthew 7:15-23; Matthew 24:10; Mark 22:23; Acts 20:25-31; Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:6-9; Colossians 2:8,18-19; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 1 Timothy 4:1-8,16; 1 Timothy 5:3-10; 1 Timothy 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:14-18; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:9-16; 2 Peter 2:1-22; 2 Peter 3:14-18; 1 John 1:18-27; 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 7-11; Jude 3-19)

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It is possible that the 1st generation copies could still be made as late as the 6th century. Meaning that at least a few of the fragments that exist today are likely 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation copies, given that we also know the copies could last much longer than a few hundred years.¹⁶⁴

Reliability of Text: B-RAID (Biblical - Redundant Array of Independent Documents)

B-RAID stands for *Biblical Redundant Array of Independent Documents*:¹⁶⁵ It is one of several systems that have preserved the written text of God’s Word. Since it is widely believed that Matthew was one of the disciples who was formally trained in shorthand and recorded events in shorthand, we will use copies of his manuscripts for our B-RAID example. More specifically, the Koine Greek text (also known as Common Greek or Biblical Greek) from *Matthew 26:29-35*. First, before getting into that, let us briefly see how this process became known as B-RAID.

<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 26:29-35 Old English (KJV)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 26:29-35 in Koine Greek (Textus Receptus)</p>
<p>29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom. 30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. 31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. 32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. 33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. 34 Jesus said unto him, Verify I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.</p>	<p>29 λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν, οὐ μὴ πίω ἀπ’ ἄρτι ἐκ τούτου τοῦ γενήματος τῆς ἀμπέλου ἕως τῆς ἡμέρας ἐκείνης ὅταν αὐτὸ πίνω μεθ’ ὑμῶν καινὸν ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ πατρὸς μου. 30 καὶ ὑμνήσαντες ἐξῆλθον εἰς τὸ ὄρος τῶν ἐλαιῶν. 31 τότε λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ ἰησοῦς, πάντες ὑμεῖς σκανδαλισθήσεσθε ἐν ἐμοὶ ἐν τῇ νυκτὶ ταύτῃ, γέγραπται γάρ, πατάξω τὸν ποιμένα, καὶ διασκορπισθήσονται τὰ πρόβατα τῆς ποιμένης· 32 μετὰ δὲ τὸ ἐγερθῆναί με προάξω ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν γαλιλαίαν. 33 ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ, εἰ πάντες σκανδαλισθήσονται ἐν σοί, ἐγὼ οὐδέποτε σκανδαλισθήσομαι. 34 ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ ἰησοῦς, ἀμὴν λέγω σοι ὅτι ἐν ταύτῃ τῇ νυκτὶ πρὶν ἀλέκτορα φωνῆσαι τρίς ἀπαρνήσῃ με. 35 λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ πέτρος, κἂν δέμῃ με σὺν σοὶ ἀποθανεῖν, οὐ μὴ σε ἀπαρνήσομαι. ὁμοίως καὶ πάντες οἱ μαθηταὶ εἶπαν.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 26:29-35 King James Version English vs. Traditional Biblical Koine Greek Text Source: https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/matthew-26-parallel-kjv-greek/</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">All credit, praise, honor, and glory belongs to our beloved God! © 2018 Peter D. Arvo (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) Last updated: 8/5/2019 TheTorchbearerSeries.com</p>	

As a reminder, most of the charts and diagrams are available in high resolution as part of the free *Torchbearer Download Package*, or as individual downloads from *TheTorchbearerSeries.com*.

B-RAID was originally derived from the computer term RAID, which stands for *Redundant Array of Independent Disks*. It is widely used in servers and Internet cloud computer-network

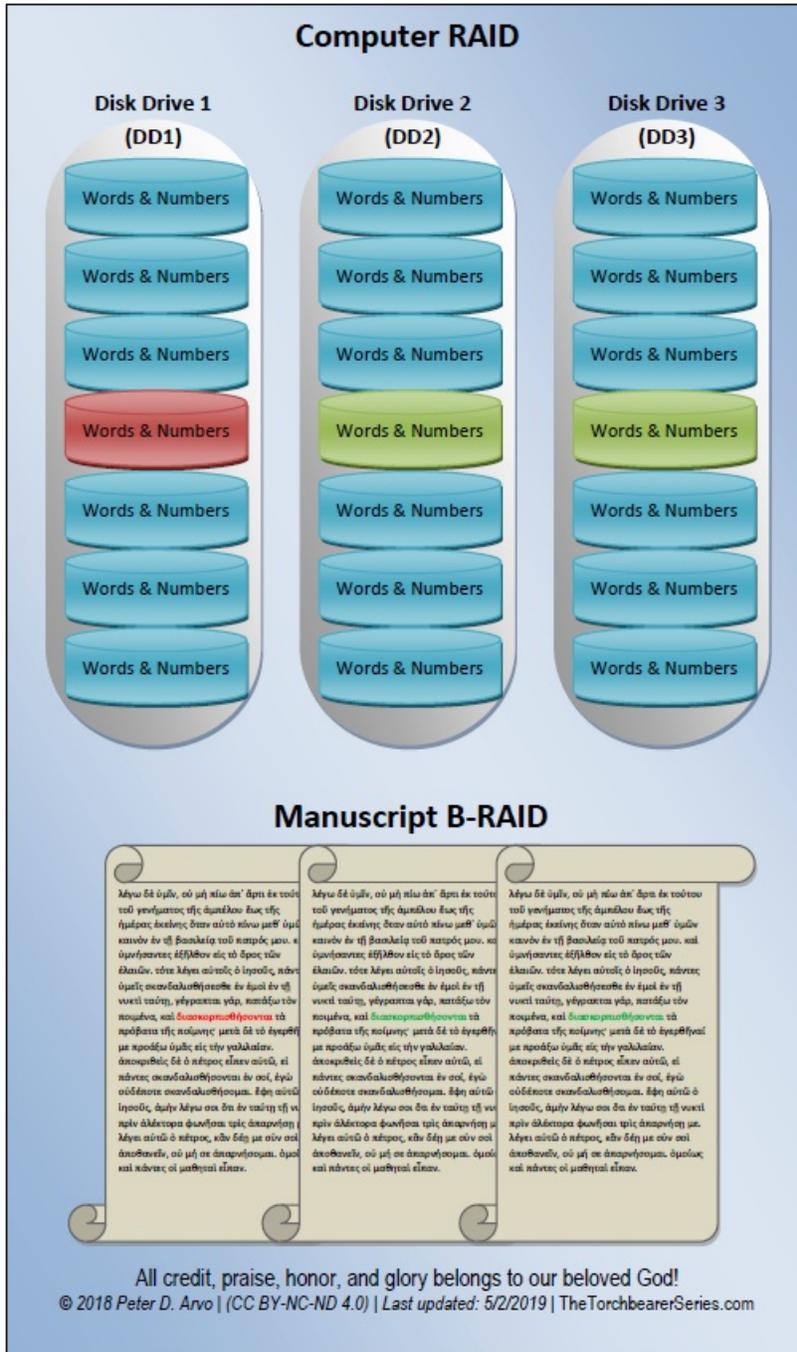
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clusters to ensure that no data can ever be lost. When RAID is implemented correctly, even if software or hardware damage occurs, the data remains perfectly intact and protected. If this were not the case, the world's banking system could not function, nor could the Internet.



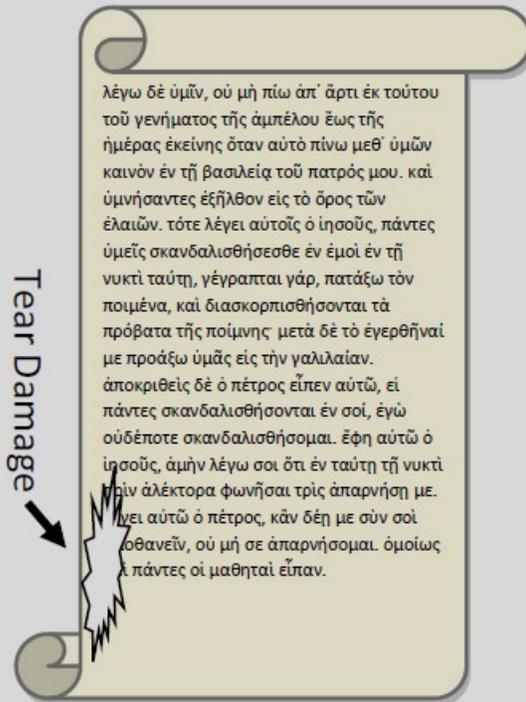
Redundancy and protection of computer data are of utmost importance, as it is with the text of God's true written word. Just as RAID protects computer data, B-RAID has protected the accuracy and integrity of God's Word.



In computer terms, the simplest form of RAID is called a 'Mirror', which requires two disks; or in our case with B-RAID, two documents. Let's assume that Manuscript #1 and Manuscript #2 are both autographs (originals), but somehow they both obtained a small amount of damage to the Matthew 26:29-35 text after many years of being used to create copies from them.

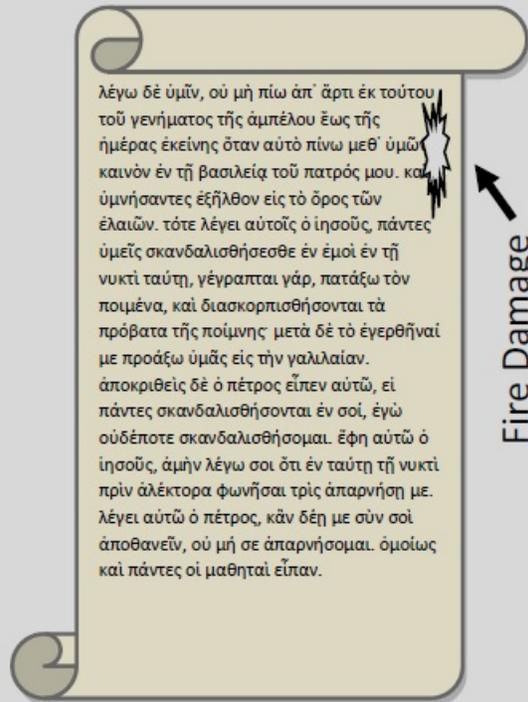
Two Manuscript B-RAID

Document #1



Tear Damage

Document #2



Fire Damage

Two document B-RAID is the simplest form of B-RAID.

Matthew 26:29-35 in Koine Greek.

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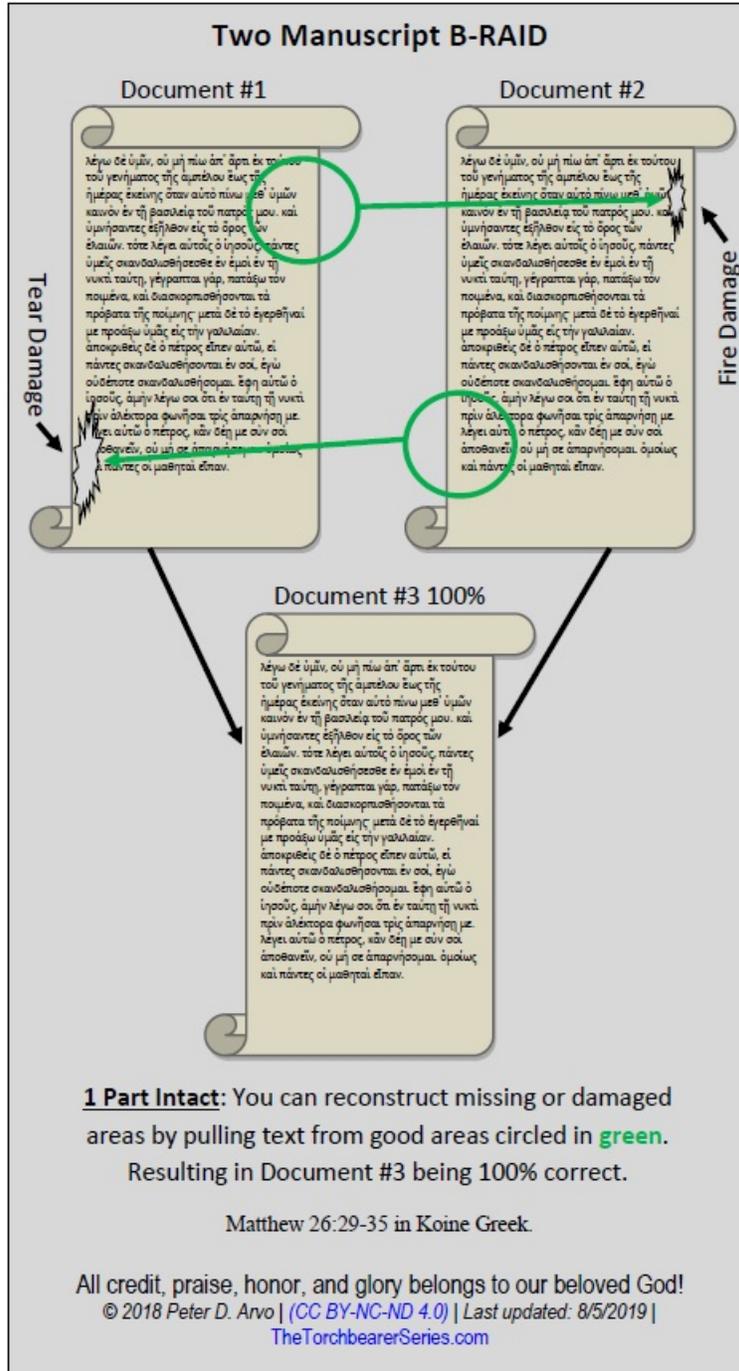
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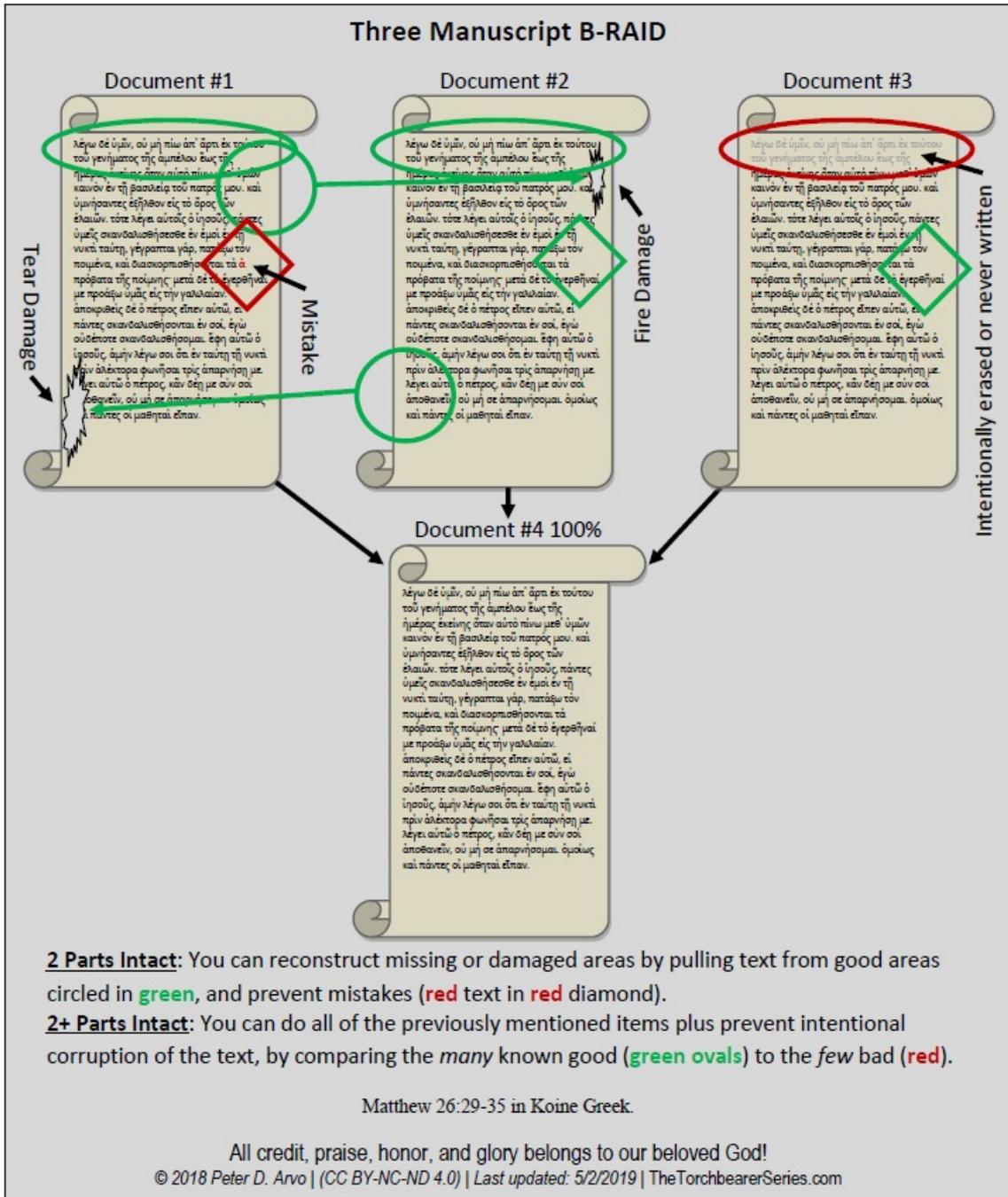
As a result of a 'Two Document B-RAID,' we can use both documents to fill in the missing or damaged areas, and thus produce a 3rd 100% accurate manuscript. This 3rd 100% accurate manuscript can now be copied from with the knowledge that this manuscript is just as accurate as the original autographs. On top of this, we already know that dozens, even potentially hundreds, of accurate manuscripts were created from the autographs (originals).

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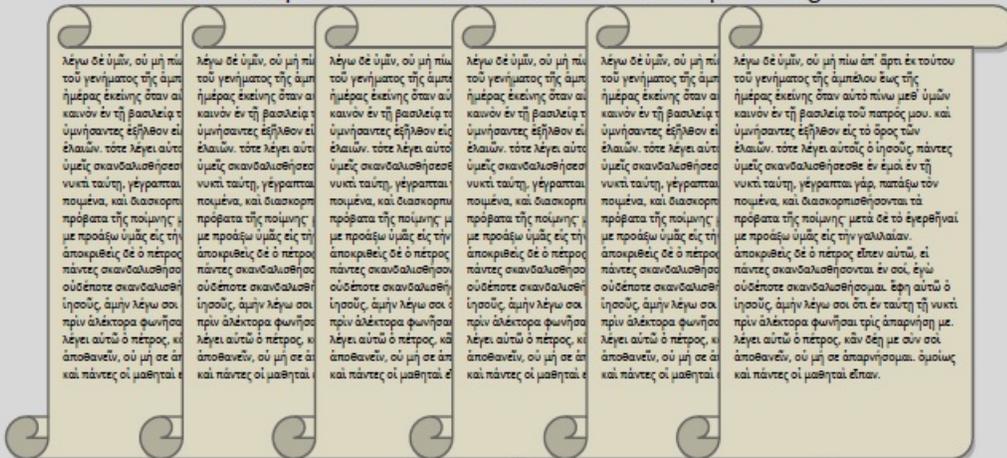
If you have a 'Three Document B-RAID', you gain an additional capability. On top of being able to repair damage, you can start to prevent copying mistakes during the circumstances in which they appear, and also prevent intentional corruption of the text. If two of the documents agree against a third document, the third document can be corrected, or a fourth document can be created to match the two that are correct.



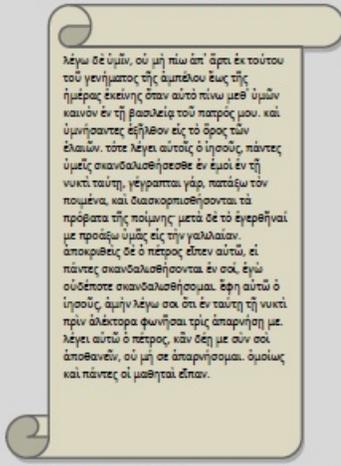
Similar to a computer RAID system with disk drives or solid-state drives, the strength of B-RAID is in the number of documents (manuscripts) you have. The more documents you have to start with early on, the greater the ability to reconstruct damaged areas accurately, even if widespread damage occurs, and prevent corruption of the text.

B-RAID HAS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

These documents represent thousands of similar manuscripts during biblical times:



Document 100% Accurate



More autographs (originals), and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation document copies, means a stronger more resilient B-RAID, which can prevent intentional heretical corruption of the true text.

Matthew 26:29-35 in Koine Greek.

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To show a real-world example, we will use two separate manuscripts, which both contain *Matthew 26:29-35*. Both manuscript images are from *'The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts'* and were dated to the 3rd century.^{166, 167} While these demonstrate how damaged manuscripts can appear, and how B-RAID can apply to them, manuscripts in this condition would not have been primarily utilized to copy from or to preserve the Word of God. There is an *Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody (UM-CoC)* that we believe were utilized instead (in conjunction with B-RAID). We will cover this unbroken Chain-of-Custody (CoC) in the next session.

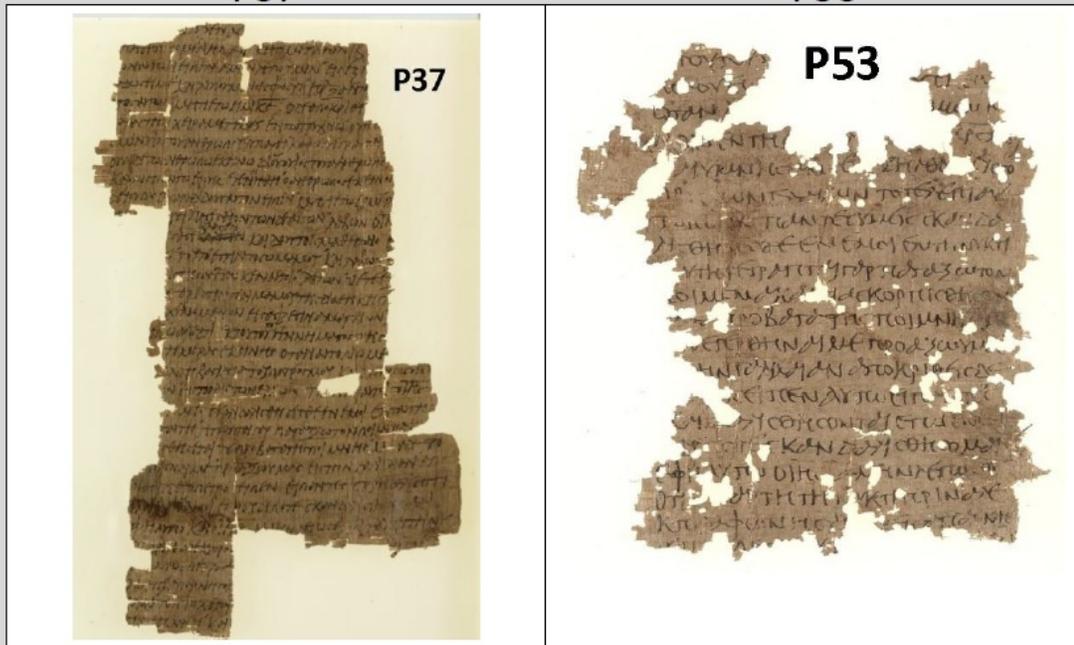
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Real World Manuscripts

P37

P53



(P37) Matthew 26:19-37

(P53) Matthew 26:29-35

The manuscript images are from *'The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts'* and demonstrate badly damaged manuscripts dated to the 3rd century.

P37 Matthew 26:19-37, P53 Matthew 26:29-35 in Koine Greek.

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On the left, we have P37, which is more intact as compared to P53 on the right. Since the verses in P53 overlap P37, we can potentially use P37 to reconstruct P53, or use P53 to clarify the faded text within P37.

However, the B-RAID system cannot function if its purpose is ignored (or done away with) in favor of faulty translations or agendas. If a single person or organization convinces everyone to abandon B-RAID and the *Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody (UM-CoC)* systems (which is an occurrence we will later show that happened in 1881), then erroneous additions, subtractions, and changes to the biblical text can occur.^{168, 169} This includes the removal of dozens of Bible verses, such as the heretical removal of *Mark 16:9-20* and *John 7:53-8:11* from many new Bibles. For evidence of Mark's legitimacy, see the book *Authentic: The Case for Mark 16:9-20* by James Snapp Jr.¹⁷⁰ On the right side of the Mark 16:8-20 chart, we are showing the traditional Greek text used. On the left of the chart, we see the same text in English, with the 12 highlighted verses representing the removal of Mark 16:9-20 from many new Bibles.

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Mark 16:8-20 Old English (KJV)	Mark 16:8-20 in Koine Greek (Textus Receptus)
<p>8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.</p> <p>9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.</p> <p>10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.</p> <p>11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.</p> <p>12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.</p> <p>13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.</p> <p>14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.</p> <p>15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.</p> <p>16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.</p> <p>17 And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;</p> <p>18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.</p> <p>19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.</p> <p>20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.</p>	<p>8 και ἐξεληθούσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχεν γὰρ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις· καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπαν, ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.</p> <p>9 ἀναστὰς δὲ πρῶτῆ πρώτῃ σαββάτου ἐφάνη πρῶτον μαρίᾳ τῇ μαγδαληνῇ, παρ' ἧς ἐκβεβλήκει ἑπτὰ δαιμόνια.</p> <p>10 ἐκείνη πορευθεῖσα ἀπήγγειλεν τοῖς μετ' αὐτοῦ γενομένοις πενθοῦσι καὶ κλαίουσιν·</p> <p>11 κάκεινοι ἀκούσαντες ὅτι ζῆ καὶ ἐθεάθη ὑπ' αὐτῆς ἠπίστησαν.</p> <p>12 μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα δυσὶν ἐξ αὐτῶν περιπατοῦσιν ἐφανερῶθη ἐν ἑτέρᾳ μορφῇ πορευομένοις εἰς ἄγρῶν·</p> <p>13 κάκεινοι ἀπελθόντες ἀπήγγειλαν τοῖς λοιποῖς· οὐδὲ ἐκείνοις ἐπίστευσαν.</p> <p>14 ὕστερον δὲ ἀνακειμένοις αὐτοῖς τοῖς ἑνδεκα ἐφανερῶθη, καὶ ὠνειδίσειν τὴν ἀπιστίαν αὐτῶν καὶ σκληροκαρδίαν ὅτι τοῖς θεασασμένοις αὐτὸν ἐγγηρμένον οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν.</p> <p>15 καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, πορευθέντες εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἅπαντα κηρῦζατε τὸ εὐαγγέλιον πάσῃ τῇ κτίσει.</p> <p>16 ὁ πιστεύσας καὶ βαπτισθεὶς σωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ἀπιστήσας κατακριθήσεται.</p> <p>17 σημεῖα δὲ τοῖς πιστεύουσιν ταῦτα παρακολουθήσει· ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου δαιμόνια ἐκβαλοῦσιν, γλώσσαις λαλήσουσιν καιναῖς,</p> <p>18 καὶ ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν ὄφεις ἄρουσιν, κἄν θανάσιμόν τι πίωσιν οὐ μὴ αὐτοὺς βλάψῃ, ἐπὶ ἄρρωστούς χεῖρας ἐπιθήσουσιν καὶ καλῶς ἔξουσιν.</p> <p>19 ὁ μὲν οὖν κύριος ἰησοῦς μετὰ τὸ λαλῆσαι αὐτοῖς ἀνελήμφθη εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐκάθισεν ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ θεοῦ.</p> <p>20 ἐκείνοι δὲ ἐξεληθόντες ἐκήρυξαν πανταχοῦ, τοῦ κυρίου συνεργούντος καὶ τὸν λόγον βεβαιούντος διὰ τῶν ἐπακολουθούντων σημείων.</p>
<p>Mark 16:8-20 King James Version English and Traditional Biblical Koine Greek Highlighted 12 verses is the heretical removal of Mark 16:9-20 from many newer Bibles. Text Source: https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/mark-16-parallel-kjv-greek/</p> <p>All credit, praise, honor, and glory belongs to our beloved God! © 2018 Peter D. Arvo (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) Last updated: 8/5/2019 TheTorchbearerSeries.com</p>	

B-RAID has served its purpose through wars, famines, cultural changes, and intense persecution, and has protected against damage, corruption, and heretical alterations for over 1,800 years.

When we previously mentioned B-RAID’s ability to preserve manuscripts through cultural changes (which often triggers severe persecution), we were specifically thinking of the ‘Tytler Cycle’. The ‘Tytler Cycle’, also known as the ‘Fatal Sequence’ (see the following chart), is often attributed to Scottish history professor, Alexander Fraser Tytler, in 1787. Although there is debate on whether he was its originator.¹⁷¹

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith;
2. From spiritual faith to great courage;
3. From courage to liberty;
4. From liberty to abundance;
5. From abundance to selfishness;
6. From selfishness to complacency;
7. From complacency to apathy;
8. From apathy to dependence;
9. From dependence back into bondage.



Reliability of Text: Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody (UM-CoC)

- **There is an unbroken chain-of-custody for the resultant B-RAID – protected by the Torchbearers.** Chain-of-custody refers to the chronological documentation, or paper trail, that records the sequence of custody, control, ownership, transfer, analysis, and disposition of physical or electronic evidence.

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Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody or *UM-CoC* [pronounced: *uh·m·coke*]¹⁷² is a very important topic, and we will discuss it some here. However, because of its complexity, we will tackle this more in-depth in our next session.

The following is the ‘*Disparagers and Satan VS Torchbearers and God*’ chart. The main purpose of the chart is to provide a clear understanding that there isn’t a middle ground for the Bible-believing Christian. God either preserved 100% of his Word or he lied. Many Christians don’t want to make a statement like this, but we will provide evidence that God did 100% preserve his Word, as he said he would.

What Disparagers Say & Satan’s Lies:	What Torchbearers Say & God’s Truth:
<p>1) The disparagers believe we can only achieve 99.5% accuracy of reconstructing the Bible from the scraps and partial old manuscripts we have today. They are not sure if we ever had 100% accurate texts in one single codex or scroll.</p>	<p>1) The torchbearers believe we have 100% accuracy, because God enabled the torchbearers to have and pass on the true and preserved 100% accurate text from one generation to the next through an unbroken chain-of-custody.</p>
<p>2) The disparagers agree with the Serpent in doubting God’s words, “Yea, hath God said...?”, “...Ye shall not surely die:” – Genesis 3:1, 4 (KJV)</p>	<p>2) The torchbearers agree with God, “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” – Matthew 5:18 (KJV)</p>
<p>3) The disparagers believe that perhaps God only mostly preserved his word, thus making him a liar by default to some, and that we can only accept that close – is close enough.</p>	<p>3) The torchbearers agree God never lies. “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;” – Titus 1:2 (KJV) (Additional verses: Psalm 12:6-7, 78:1-8, 105:8, 119:89, 111, 152, 160, Proverbs 22:20-21, Ecclesiastes 3:14, Matthew 4:4, 5:17-18, 24:35, John 10:35, Colossians 1:17, 1 Peter 1:23-25, 1 Kings 8:24, Romans 4:20-21, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 10:23).</p>
<p>4) The disparagers and Satan omit verses they don’t agree with. In Luke 4:10, Satan says, “For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:” (KJV) Satan is quoting Psalm 91:11, which should read, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.” (KJV)</p>	<p>4) The torchbearers agree that Mark 16:9-20 & John 7:53-8:11 should not have been removed from the NIV and other new Bibles. They agree with Jesus that every word is important. “...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” – Matthew 4:4 (KJV)</p>
<p>5) Disparagers say that perhaps God is not capable of preserving the text representing his word on papyrus, parchment, or orally. Perhaps God just chose the wrong people to entrust it to, or there was unforeseen circumstances.</p>	<p>5) Torchbearers say the same God who created the universe (Genesis 1) knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10), including all events before they happen (Matthew 26:34), and is powerful enough (1 Corinthians 6:14) to easily preserve some text on documents.</p>
<p>Disparagers and Satan VS Torchbearers and God <i>There is no middle path who do you put your faith in?</i> <i>“He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.”</i> – Luke 11:23 (KJV)</p>	
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Reliability of Text: God's Preserved Word

- We are going to review some Bible verses that discuss God preserving his Word, and then conclude this section with evidence of divinely inspired translations.
 - 1) *"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."* – Psalm 12:6-7 (KJV)
 - 2) *"Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God."* – Psalm 78:1-8 (KJV)
 - 3) *"He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."* – Psalm 105:8 (KJV)
 - 4) *"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."* – Psalm 119:89 (KJV)
 - 5) *"Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart."* – Psalm 119:111 (KJV)
 - 6) *"Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever."* – Psalm 119:152 (KJV)
 - 7) *"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."* – Psalm 119:160 (KJV)
 - 8) *"Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?"* – Proverbs 22:20-21 (KJV)
 - 9) *"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."* – Ecclesiastes 3:14 (KJV)
 - 10) *"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* – Matthew 4:4 (KJV)
 - 11) *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."* – Matthew 5:17-18 (KJV)

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- 12) *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."* – Matthew 24:35 (KJV)
- 13) *"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail."* – Luke 16:17 (KJV)
- 14) *"If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;"* – John 10:35 (KJV)
- 15) *"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."* – Colossians 1:17 (KJV)
- 16) *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."* – 1 Peter 1:23-25 (KJV)
- 17) *"Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day."* – 1 Kings 8:24 (KJV)
- 18) *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."* – Romans 4:20-21 (KJV)
- 19) *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"* – Titus 1:2 (KJV)
- 20) *"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"* – Hebrews 10:23 (KJV)

Can God preserve his Word in English in the form of an English translation?

Certainly God can do anything; therefore, the question is not whether he can. Rather we should ask, *would he?* He has preserved his Old Testament Word in Hebrew by Jewish Torchbearers, and his New Testament Word in Greek by predominantly Gentile Torchbearers. Why then would God stop there?

Paleo-Hebrew was a sophisticated language at the time it was used. The Hebrew people during the time of Abraham, Isaiah, and Jacob were one of the most powerful people groups in the world.¹⁷³ The Roman Empire, with its advanced system of roads and speaking predominantly Koine Greek (or common Greek) at the time of Christ, provided the means to reach the most amount of people by providing the New Testament in Koine Greek.¹⁷⁴

Note: You can learn to read ancient Paleo-Hebrew, and about its importance, from multiple sources including RockIslandbooks.com.

Is it reasonable that God selected Great Britain and the United States of America, which are often considered amongst the most powerful and influential countries in the world, and chose English, the most geographically diverse spoken language of the last few hundred years, to pass the Torch to? Perhaps, but is there evidence within the Bible itself that shows that an inspired translation can take place?

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Reliability of Text: Divinely Inspired Translations?

- **Divinely Inspired Translations:** Most say that only the autographs (originals) were inspired, but this is a modern concept,¹⁷⁵ which was first proposed by Priest Richard Simon in 1689 to prove we need textual criticism.¹⁷⁶ This view was popularized in 1881 by B. B. Warfield and A. A. Hodge,¹⁷⁷ and then by others.¹⁷⁸ Many details for the stance of Richard Simon can be found in his 1682 book, ‘*A Critical History of the Old Testament*’,¹⁷⁹ but we will move on.

First, we must be clear about what inspiration means. We define *inspiration* as Dictionary.com defines it, “*a divine influence directly and immediately exerted upon the mind or soul; the divine quality of the writings or words of a person so influenced.*”¹⁸⁰

There is only one location in the Bible that says the word “*inspiration*” and it is not referring to the autographs (originals):

“*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*” – 2 Timothy 3:15-16 (KJV)

In these two verses, Paul is speaking to Timothy, telling him that he had the holy inspired scriptures. Which is an intriguing statement, given that Timothy didn’t have the original 1,300-year-old stone tablets or scrolls from Moses as a child. They were copies. Therefore, copies can be inspired Scripture, but what about translations?

There are translations within the Bible itself. The first of seven such examples we will go through is when Joseph spoke in ***Egyptian*** to his brothers, which needed to be translated during the event, but also later translated into ***Hebrew*** in order to be documented within the Bible.

1) “*And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so. And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.*” – Genesis 42:18-23 (KJV)

The following is a *translation* from a *copy* of a ***Syrian*** letter into ***Hebrew***.

2) “*And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue.*” – Ezra 4:7 (KJV)

“*This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time. Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.*” – Ezra 4:11-12 (KJV)

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The following is a translation from Old Testament **Hebrew** into New Testament **Greek** by Jesus.

3) Source: “*The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*” – Psalm 110:1 (KJV)

Inspired translation: “*And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Till I make thine enemies thy footstool.*” – Luke 20:42-43 (KJV)

The following text is being interpreted from **Aramaic** into **Greek**.

4) “*And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.*” – Mark 5:41 (KJV)

The following was spoken by Paul in **Hebrew**, and yet the New Testament is written in **Greek**.

5) “*(And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,) I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*” – Acts 22:2-3 (KJV)

Here is another translation where Paul is reciting to Agrippa what Jesus said to him in **Hebrew**, and this is recorded in the New Testament in **Greek**.

6) “*And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*” – Acts 26:14 (KJV)

The following is a translation from **Hebrew** in the Old Testament that Jesus is quoting, but he is speaking in Aramaic, which is transliterated and recorded in **Aramaic**. The transliteration is why there is two spellings “*Eli, Eli*” and “*Eloi, Eloi*”. It is spelled how it sounds, and since Hebrew and Aramaic have sounds that can’t be directly represented in the letters of Greek, you have spelling differences. Then it’s translated and recorded in **Greek**. This is done not once, but twice: once by Matthew, and again by Mark.

7) Source: “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*” – Psalm 22:1 (KJV)

Inspired Translation: “*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” – Matthew 27:46 (KJV)

Inspired Translation: “*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” – Mark 15:34

So we went from:

- 1) Egyptian into Hebrew into English
- 2) Syrian into Hebrew into English
- 3) Hebrew into Greek into English

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- 4) *Aramaic into Greek into English*
- 5) *Hebrew into Greek into English*
- 6) *Hebrew into Greek into English*
- 7) *Hebrew into Aramaic into Greek (Twice) into English (Twice)*

Those working on their own could not produce perfect inspired text copies or within even the autographs (originals), but only God-fearing men of faith working under the divine guidance of God's Holy Ghost can produce perfect text and translations.

As we have provided, there are inspired translations contained within the original languages of the Bible itself. Is it then reasonable that a translation into English can be inspired and guided by God?

If you have a Bible, but do not believe it is inspired, then you do not have Scripture. "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**" – 2 Timothy 3:15-16 (KJV)

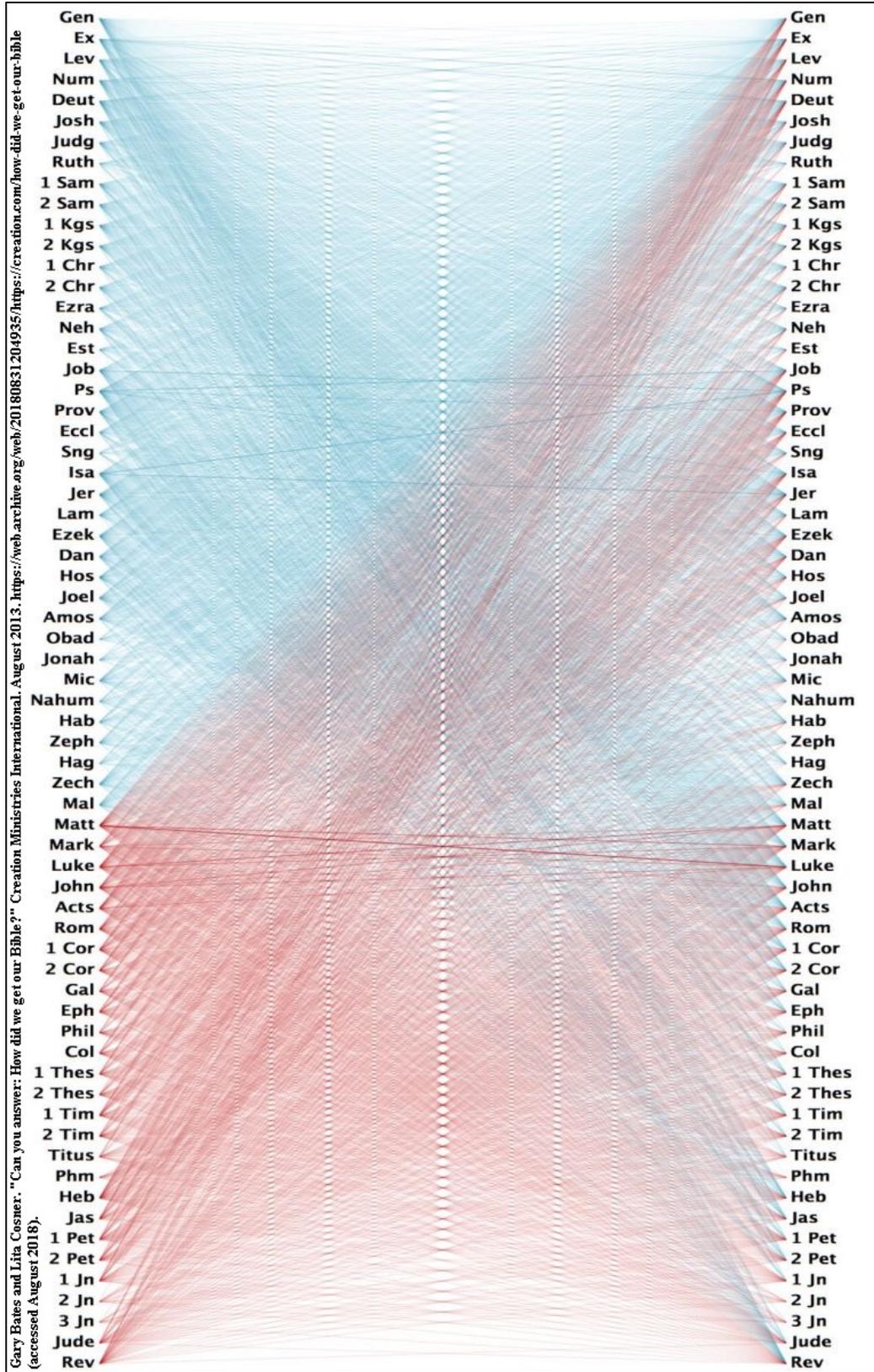
In the next session, we will follow the Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody (UM-CoC) of Bible lineage from the Apostles to today. You will see that the unbroken chain doesn't lead to all Bible versions.

Final Notes

The Bible is a tightly integrated design, with each book directly or indirectly referencing each other (as shown in the following chart), creating its own internal redundancy.¹⁸¹ Each book verifies each other's content and authorship. The blue and red lines in the chart represent over 2,800 instances of cross-referencing within the books of the Bible.

There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament fulfilled in the New Testament; some of which could only be fulfilled by hostile enemies, who would not have a stake in fulfilling the prophecies.^{182, 183} For example, Marcus Pontius Pilate, who was a Roman prefect (governor) of Judaea (26-36 A.D.) serving directly under the emperor Tiberius, presided at the trial of Jesus and gave the order for his crucifixion. Governor Pilate wrote on a sign in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin that was placed on Jesus' cross, which read "*Jesus of Nazareth: The King of the Jews*" – John 19:19-20 (KJV). This fulfilled one of the prophecies, much to the protest of the Jewish Rabbis, that Jesus would be called a *king* (Zechariah 9:9).

Keep in mind that just because something was fulfilled in the past, it does not mean it will not have a second related fulfillment in the future. The *Jewish model of prophecy* is a cyclical pattern (repeating patterns until ultimate final fulfillment). The *Greek model of prophecy*, the prophecy formula most think of when one hears the word 'prophecy', is a non-repeating prediction-fulfillment model (one-and-done), which differs greatly from the Jewish model.



Gary Bates and Lita Cosner. "Can you answer: How did we get our Bible?" Creation Ministries International. August 2013. <https://web.archive.org/web/20180831204935/https://creation.com/how-did-we-get-our-bible> (accessed August 2018).

Legend: Blue lines - references from the Old Testament | Red lines - references from the New Testament. Over 2,800 instances of cross-referencing within the books of the Bible. ¹⁸⁴

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Session Summary

You may have heard a comparison of the biblical manuscripts to the *telephone game*, where a group of people sit in a circle and whisper a sentence from one to another. Then once it reaches the first person again, it is nothing like it was when it was first spoken. However, when speaking of biblical manuscripts, there is no way for the telephone game problem to occur for the following reasons:

- 1) Not one, but **multiple eyewitness sources** wrote down what was spoken. This includes **unintentional collaborated accounts from enemies** of Christianity, which attest to the truthfulness of many events.
 - 2) Some first-person eyewitness accounts were written down immediately by a trained **biblical Stenographer** (shorthand / quick-writer).
 - 3) There were **dozens to hundreds of 1st generation copies**.
 - 4) **Copying Methods used were second to none** in both the early Hebrew and Greek text, even counting every letter, etc., which was copied by extremely **loyal and dedicated Torchbearers** who were willing to endure torture and be killed to protect the true text.
 - 5) **Sent Autographs (SA) & Retained Autographs (RA)**, which enabled later MS copies to be checked and **verified against the originals for hundreds of years** (at least until the year 313 A.D.), at which point the B-RAID system had been firmly established and would be incredibly effective.
 - 6) The **B-RAID** system would **prevent errors or intentional tampering attempts** against the legitimate manuscripts.
 - 7) As we will demonstrate in the next session, there is an **Unbroken Manuscript Chain-of-Custody (UM-CoC) for the resultant B-RAID manuscripts, which was protected even to the death by the Torchbearers**. We will also show from history the multiple attempts to circumvent the B-RAID system entirely, along with the resultant B-RAID text.
- And lastly, the most important factor in all of this, and that is that **God said he would preserve his pure Word until heaven and earth pass away**.

It is up to you to decide if what you learned is both reasonable and probable.

End of Course B501: Session 1 of 3

Please join us in our next session, where we will present the *'Chart of New Testament Lineage Streams: Unbroken Chain-of-Custody'*, which will provide you with the necessary information to have the strongest faith possible. Until next time, may God always provide for you an open heart, mind, and spirit to him and his ways – above our own ways and above the ways of man. **All credit, praise, honor, and glory belongs to our beloved God!**

**This three-part core lecture series took approximately 3,500 hours of research to put together and is provided for free in order to be readily available to anyone, regardless of their financial*

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