The background of the entire image is a close-up of an open Bible. The pages are aged and yellowed, with some text visible but blurred. A rectangular piece of torn, light-colored paper is placed over the upper right portion of the Bible. On this paper, the question "CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?" is written in a large, white, serif font. The paper has a rough, deckled edge. The overall lighting is warm, with a soft glow emanating from the left side, suggesting a light source like a lamp.

CAN WE
TRUST
THE
BIBLE?

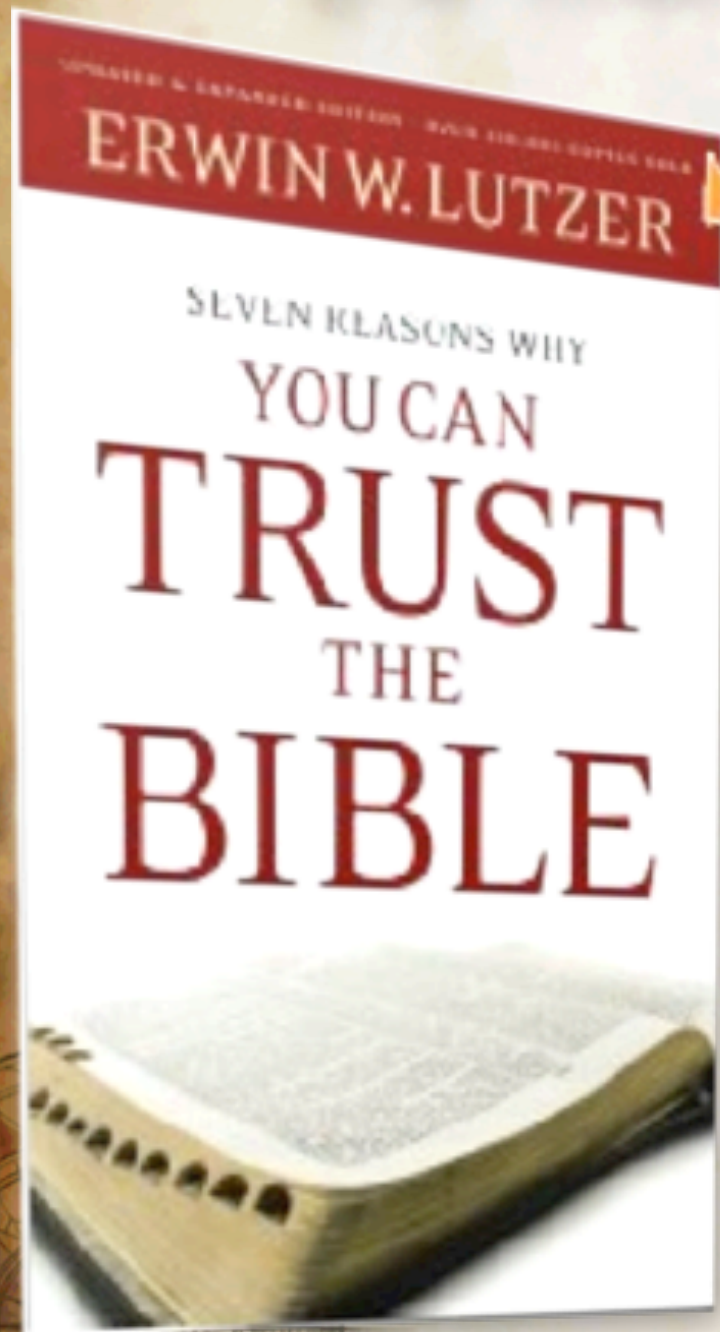
Has The Bible Been Corrupted?

*The Evidence & Our Confidence In God's
Providence Gives Us Reason To Trust The Scriptures*

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

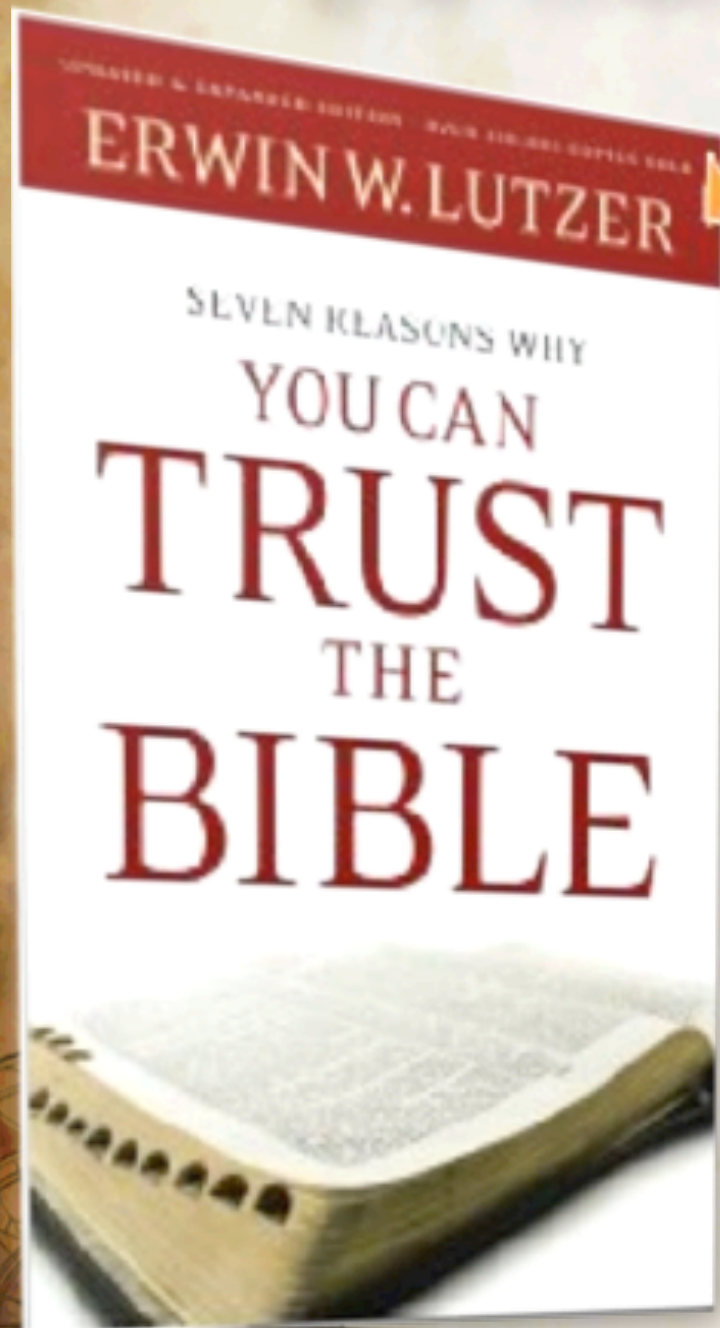


- ◆ Where did the Bible come from?
- ◆ How do we know the right books are in the Bible?
- ◆ Does the Bible contain errors?
- ◆ What are the oldest copies we have of the Bible?
- ◆ How do we know that the Bible hasn't been changed over the years?
- ◆ Why are there so many translations of the Bible, and which one should I use?

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

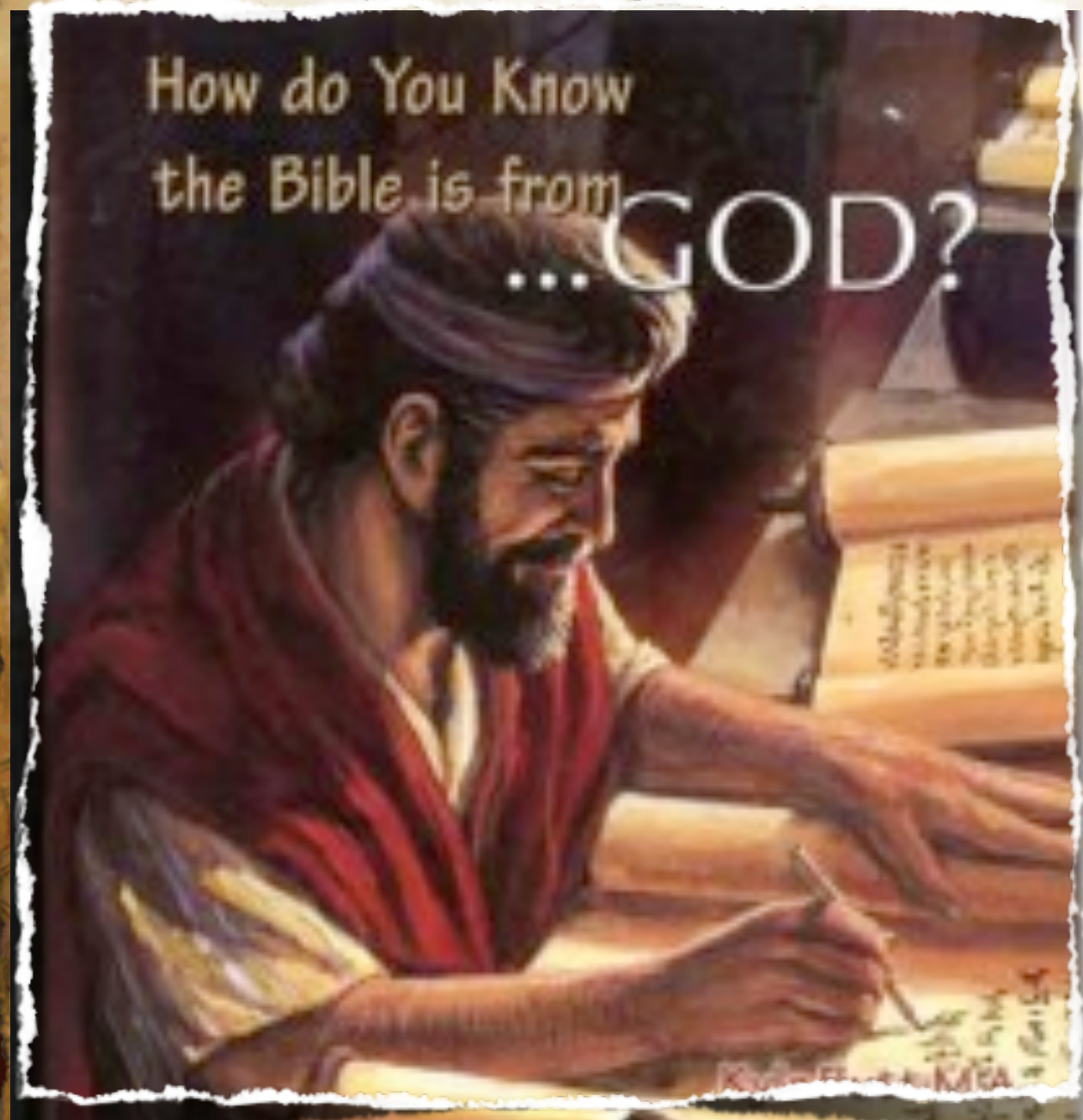


- ◆ God Is!
- ◆ God Has Provided Divine Confirmation!
- ◆ It Answers Every Human Need!
- ◆ It Is One Harmonious Thought!
- ◆ It claims to be the word of God!

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

From God To Us -

How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?



**Inspiration /
Revelation**

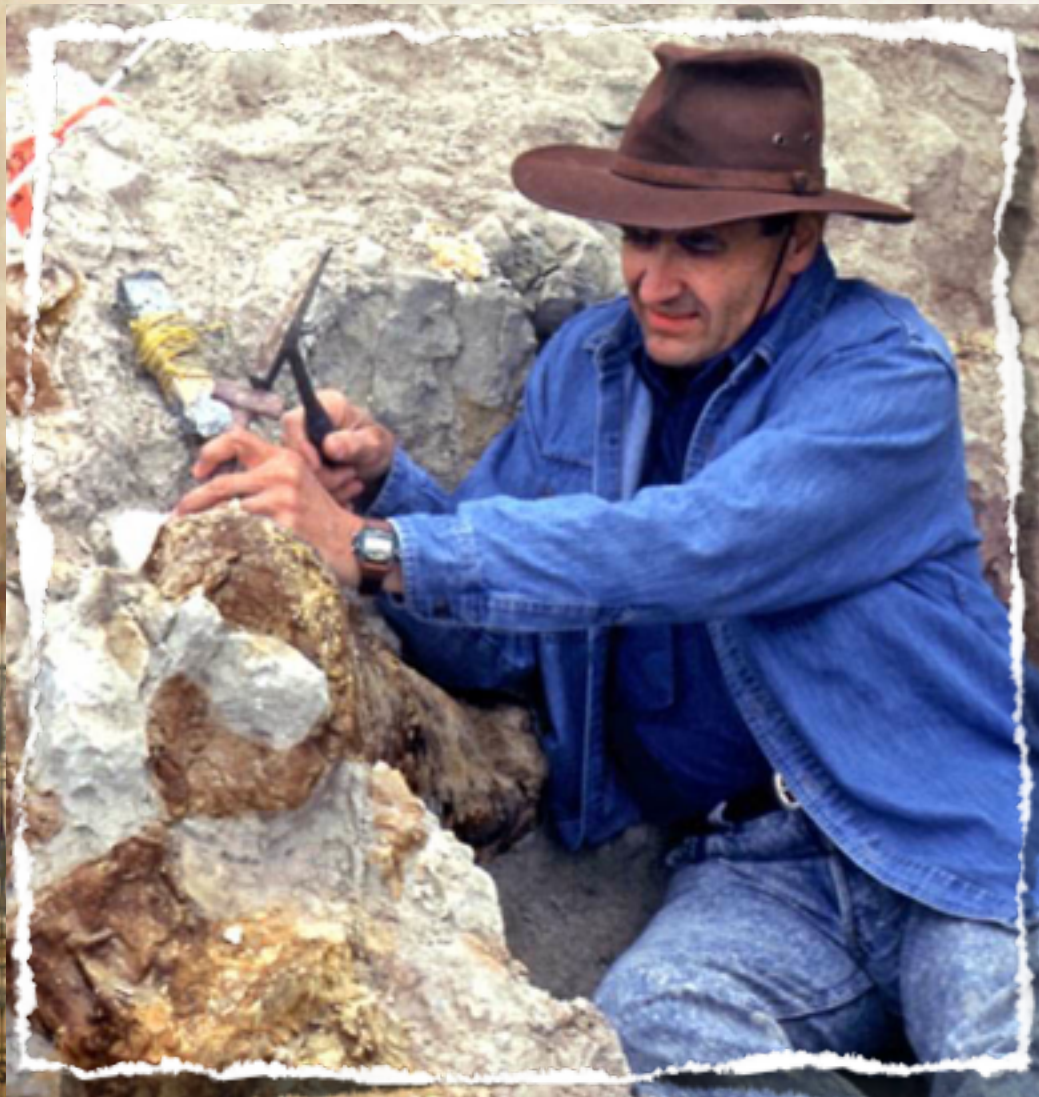
**Words of God
Written & Copied
Canonization -**

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

The Testimony of the Spade



**Historical &
Archaeological
Evidence Supports
The Trustworthiness
of the Scriptures!**



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

*It Is True! It Is Accurate! It
Is From God!*

**Bible Prophecy
Supports the
Divine Origin of
Scripture!**

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Has The Text of The Bible Been Corrupted?



"it was apparent that many important points touching the salvation of men, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled"

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.10);

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Has The Text of The Bible Been Corrupted?



"I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors"

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 327).

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Has The Text of The Bible Been Corrupted?

How can we know
that the Bible we
have today is the
same as it was when
it was written?



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.



- ◆ The Masoretic Text (900 A.D.) Earliest complete text of Hebrew OT, reveals very careful copying with little deviation during the thousand years from 100 B.C. to 900 A.D.
- ◆ How do we know this?

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.



- ◆ The Septuagint version of the OT (200 B.C.) A Greek translation of the OT, done in 200 B.C. by 70 scholars confirms the accuracy of the copyists who gave us the Masoretic Text

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.



- ◆ The Dead Sea Scrolls (150 B.C. - 70 A.D.) Discovered in 1947, containing copies of OT books dating back to 100 B.C. Compared with the "Masoretic Text" of 900 A.D., they confirm the careful copying of Jewish scribes for over 1000 years!

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.

**Great care
was taken
by the
Massoretes
& Talmudist
to guard
against
errors:**

- #4** Every skin must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codex.
- #5** the length of each column must not extend over less than 48 nor more than 60 lines; and the breadth must consist of thirty letters.
- #6** the whole copy must be first-lined; and if three words should be written without a line, it is worthless.
- #7** the ink should be black, neither red, green, nor any other color, and be prepared according to a definite recipe,

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.

**Great care
was taken
by the
Massoretes
& Talmudist
to guard
against
errors:**

#8 An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least deviate.

#9 No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him.....

#10 Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread must intervene;

#11 between every new parashah, or section, the breadth of nine consonants;

#12 between every book, three lines,

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

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Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.

**Great care
was taken
by the
Massoretes
& Talmudist
to guard
against
errors:**

#13 The fifth book of Moses must terminate exactly with a line; but the rest need not do so.

#14 besides this, the copyist must be in full Jewish dress,

#15 wash his whole body,

#16 not begin to write the name of God with a pen newly dipped in ink,

#17 and should a king address him while writing that name he must take no notice of him.*

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.



The Hebrew text of the
Old Testament

Samuel Davidson

From the above rules and regulations, it is certain that the text, which we have today, is the true Hebrew Text of the Old Testament.

**Samuel Davidson, The Hebrew Text of the Old Testament, p. 89.*

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.

Minute statistics were kept by the Massoretes & Talmudist to guard against errors:

- ◆ In the Hebrew Bible at Leviticus 8:8, the margin has a reference that this verse is the middle verse of the Torah.
- ◆ According to the note at Leviticus 10:16 the word darash is the middle word in the Torah, and at 11:42 we are assured that the waw in a Hebrew word there is the middle letter.

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.

Minute statistics were kept by the Massoretes & Talmudist to guard against errors:

◆ **At the end of each book are statistics as:**

- ✦ the total number of verses in Deuteronomy is 955,
- ✦ the total in the entire Torah is 5,845;
- ✦ the total number of words is 97, 856,
- ✦ and the total number of letters is 400,945.

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The O.T.



"We can now be sure that copyists worked with great care and accuracy on the Old Testament, even back to 225 B.C....Indeed, it would be rash skepticism that would now deny that we have our Old Testament in a form very close to that used by Ezra when he taught the word of the Lord to those who had returned from the Babylonian captivity."

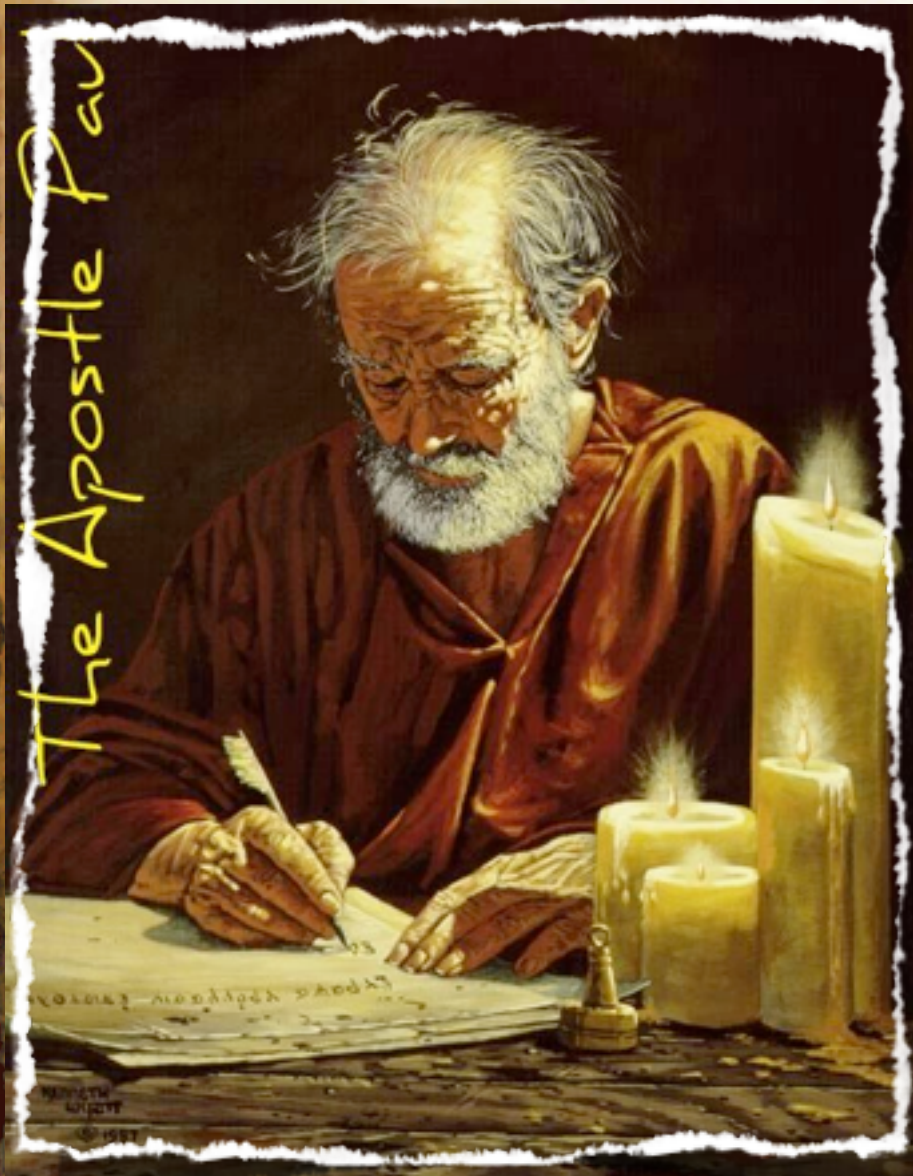
R. Laird Harris, Can I Trust My Bible?(Chicago: Moody Press, 1963), 124.

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The N.T.



By around A.D. 100, revelation completed -
(Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19).



No autographs exist today!



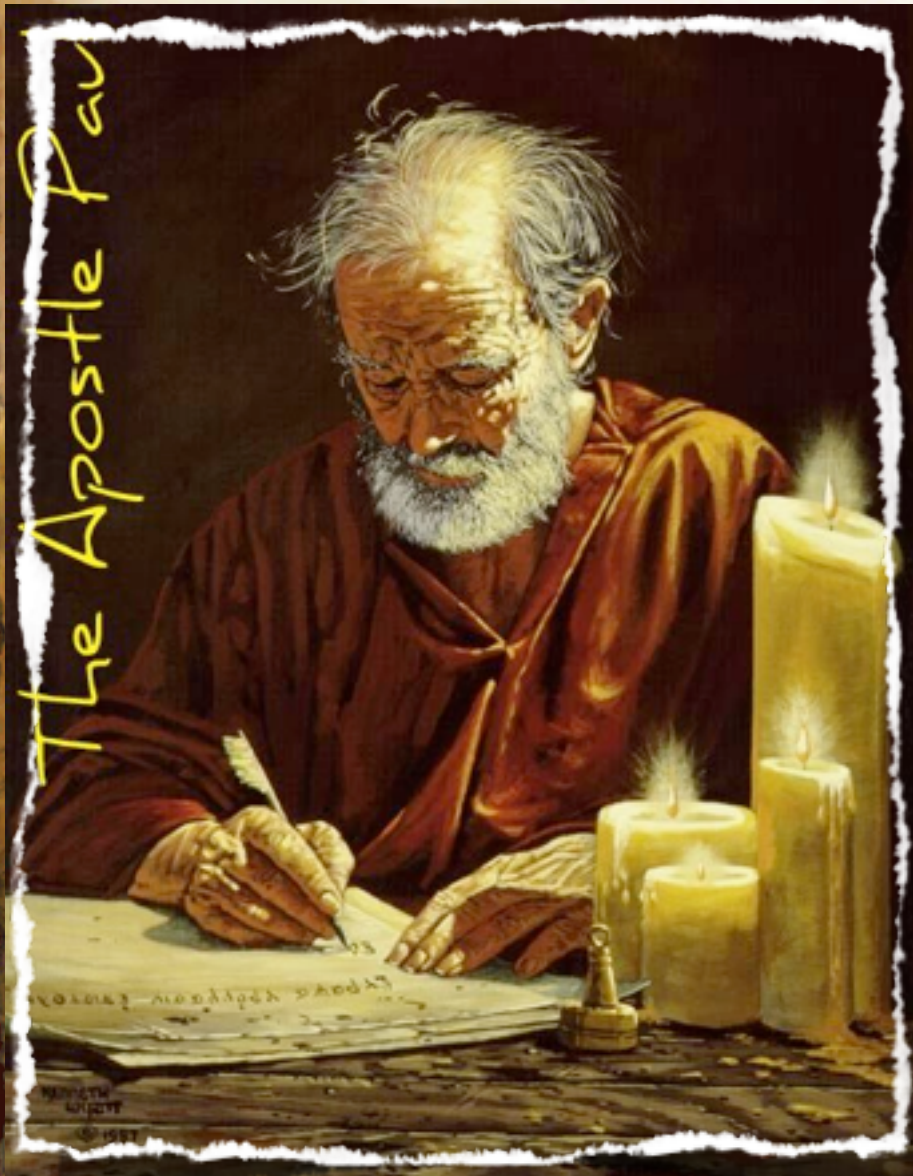
Immediately upon completion of these writings, copies were made -
(cf. Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27).

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The N.T.



- 📌 There are over 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament available to us today.
- 📌 Over 2,200 Lectionaries (Books used in worship that cite the Bible).
- 📌 Ancient Versions – 9,000 manuscripts

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The N.T.

Manuscript	Date	Contents
John Rylands	125-130 in Egypt	John 18:31-33,37
Bodmer Papyrus	150-200	Most of the first 14 chapters of John
Chester Beaty Papyri	200	Major portions of N.T. Matthew-Acts, Epistles of Paul to churches, Hebrews, Revelation
Codex Vaticanus	325-350	Most of the N.T. through Hebrews
Codex Sinaiticus	350	Entire N.T. & large portions of Greek O.T.
Codex Alexandrinus	400	Greek O.T. & most of the N.T.

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

The New Testament is the best attested book of antiquity by far!

Chart from "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" pg 42

Author	Time Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Manuscripts
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10
Josephus, <i>War</i>	A.D. 80	A.D. 950	870	
Plato (Tetralogies)	A.D. 427-347	A.D. 900	1200	7
Tacticus (Annals)	A.D. 100	A.D. 1000	900	1
Pliny the Younger (History)	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750	1
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400	193
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1500	9
Demosthenes	383-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300	200
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49
New Testament	A.D. 45-100	A.D. 125	25-250	5300

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The N.T.

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon,

(The Bible and Archaeology, former director and principal librarian of the British Museum, stated about the New Testament),

"The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."

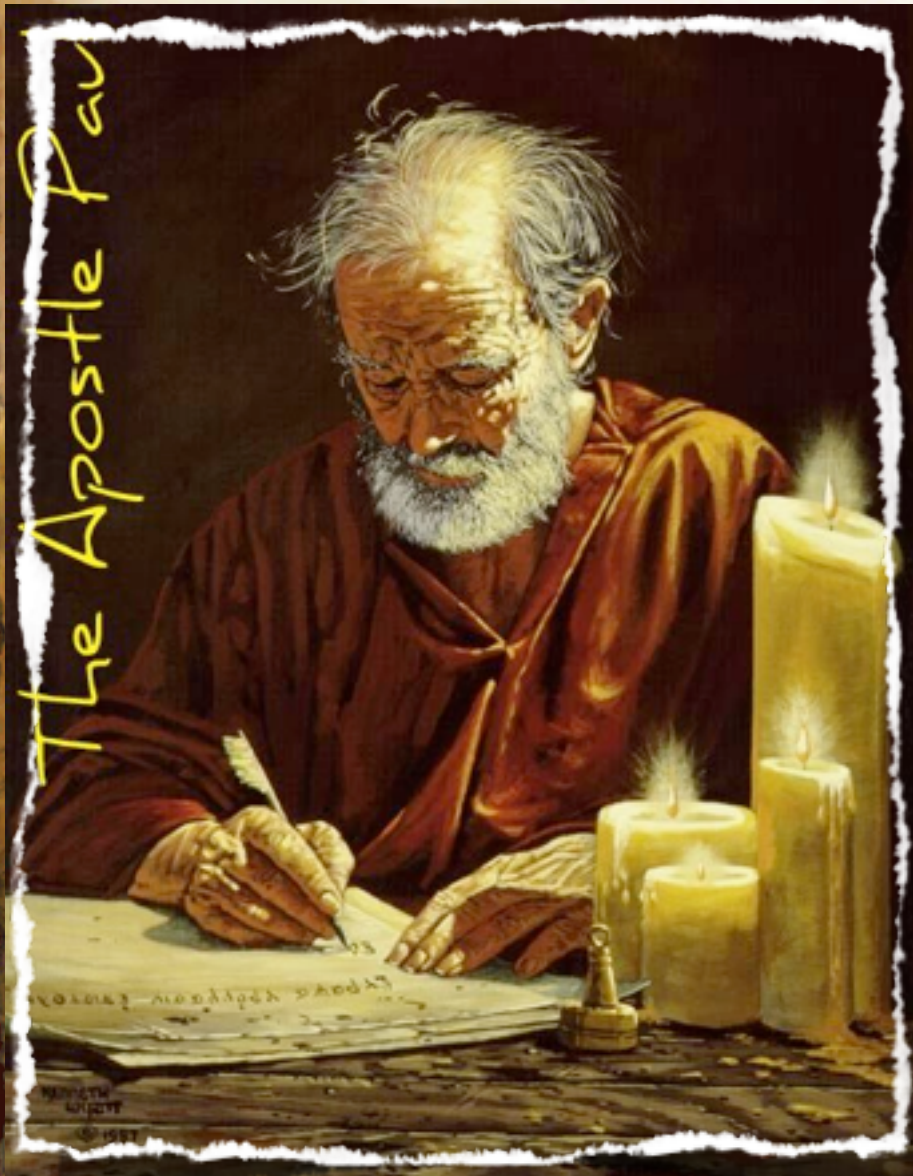


The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The N.T.



- 📌 Church "Fathers" – ca. 36,000 citations –
- 📌 Scholars say that all but four verses of the entire New Testament text could be reconstructed from the citations of the early Church Fathers alone!

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

Evidence of The Accuracy of The N.T.

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation	Total
Justin Martyr	268	10	43	6	3	330
Irenaeus	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement Alex.	1,017	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
Tertullian	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Totals	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?



- 📌 The vast majority are very minor (spelling, differences in phraseology, etc.; modern translations often note the differences in footnotes)
- 📌 Only 1/2 of one percent is in question (compared to 5 percent for the Iliad by Homer w/ 643 manuscripts)

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?



It can be stated:

"No fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith rests on a disputed reading...It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: especially is this the case with the New Testament." ~

Sir Frederick Kenyon (authority in the field of New Testament textual criticism)

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?

THE
GREEK NEW TESTAMENT
with Dictionary

B. F. WESTCOTT
and F. J. A. HORT

B. F. WESTCOTT AND F. J. A. HORT:

“It is not superfluous therefore to state explicitly that the bulk of the words of the New Testament stand out above all discriminative process of criticism, because they are free from variation, and need only to be transcribed . . .

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?

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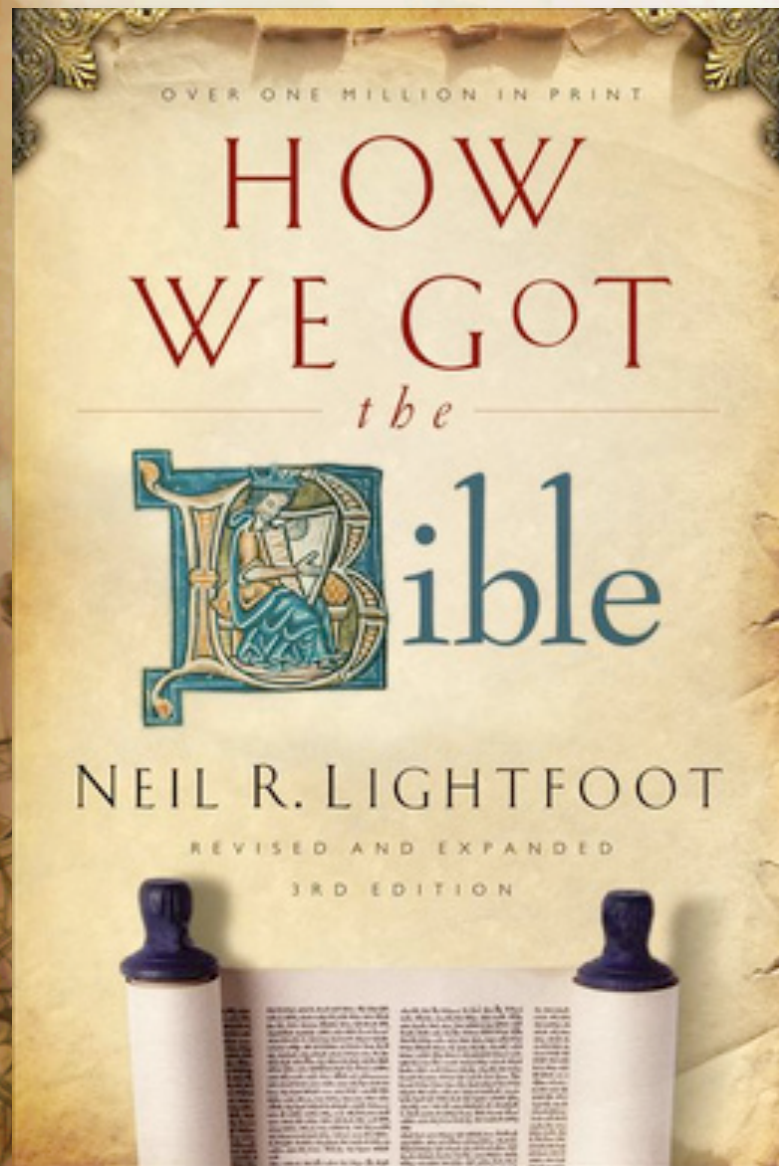
If comparative trivialities such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the article with proper names, and the like are set aside, the works in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly mount to more than a thousandth part of the whole New Testament."

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?



NEIL LIGHTFOOT:

“The variant readings in the manuscripts are not of such a nature that they threaten to overthrow our faith. Except for a few instances, we have an unquestioned text; and even then, not one principle of faith or command of the Lord is involved.

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

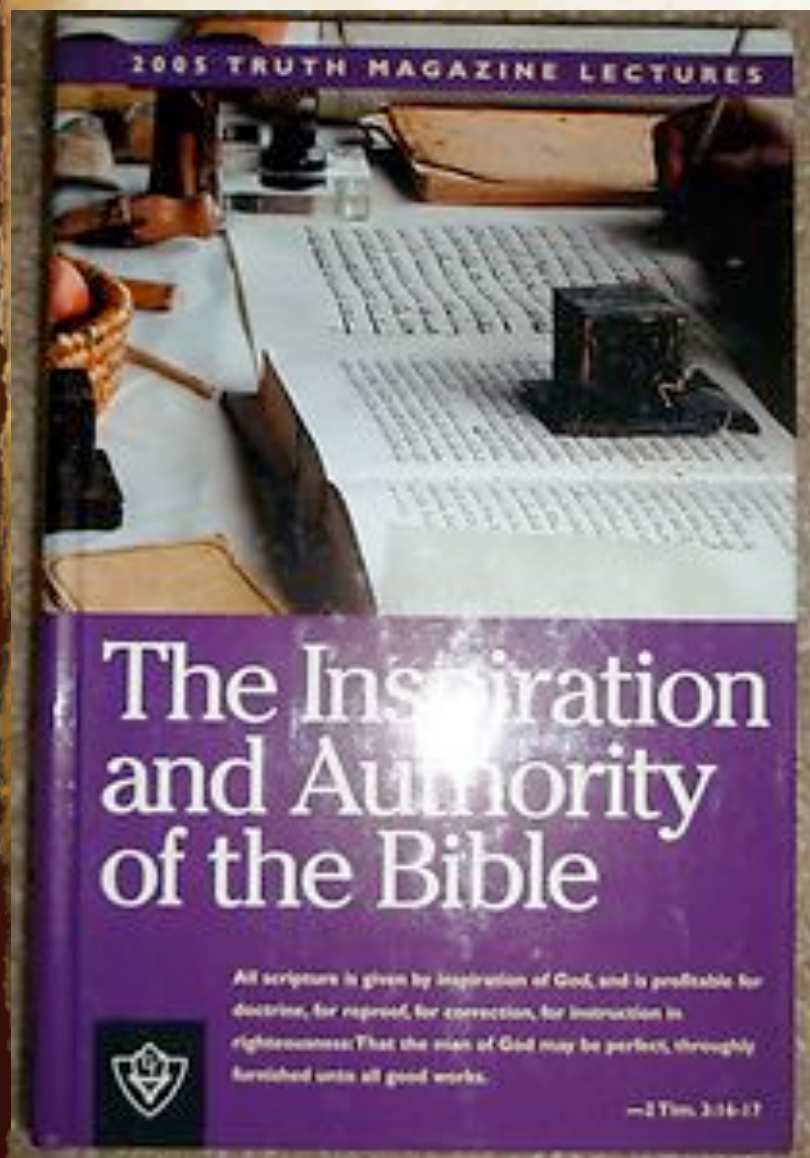
Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?

JOHN A. SMITH:

(The Inspiration & Authority of The Bible - Truth Lectures 2005; pg 331)

“Amazingly there are only four passages in the New Testament that are seriously challenged. They are John 7:53-8:11; 1 John 5:7; Mark 16:9-20; & Acts 8:37.



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

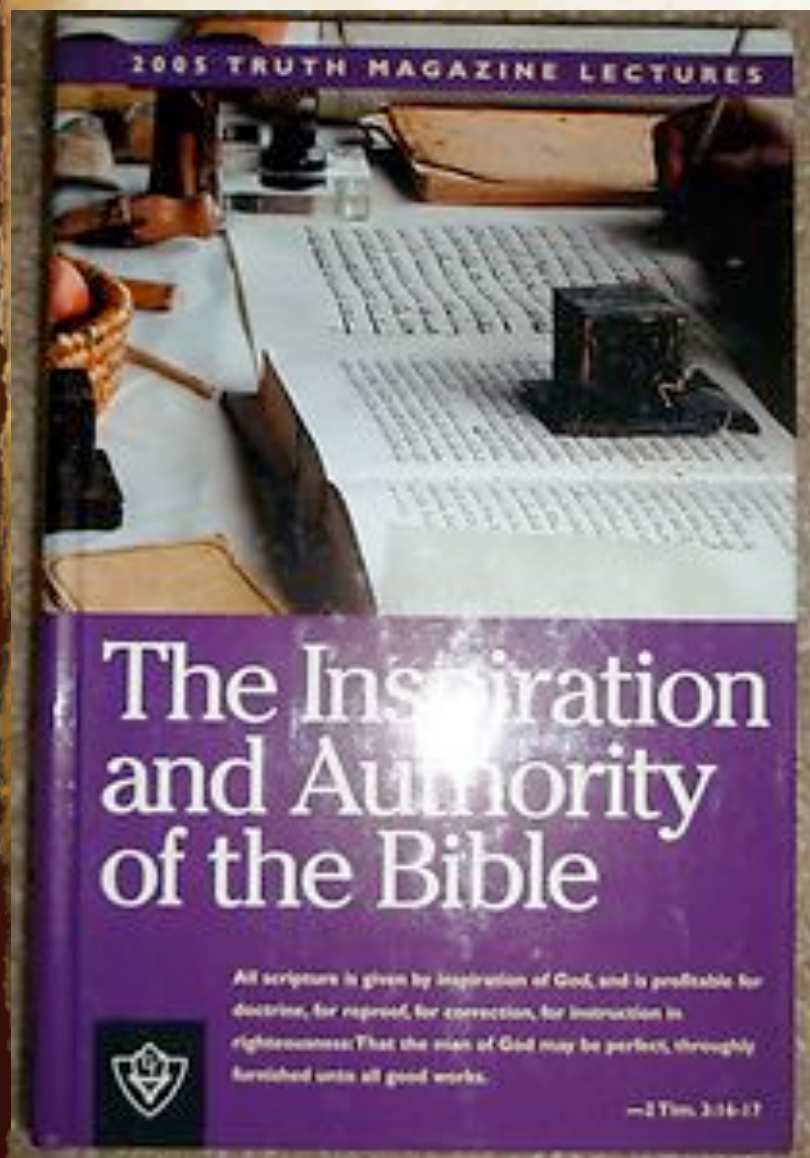
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What About Variations In The Text?

JOHN A. SMITH:

(The Inspiration & Authority of The Bible - Truth Lectures 2005; pg 331)

Even if these passages were dismissed as spurious, not one significant matter of faith would be disrupted. What is taught in these disputed passages is repeated in other passages that are beyond doubt.



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

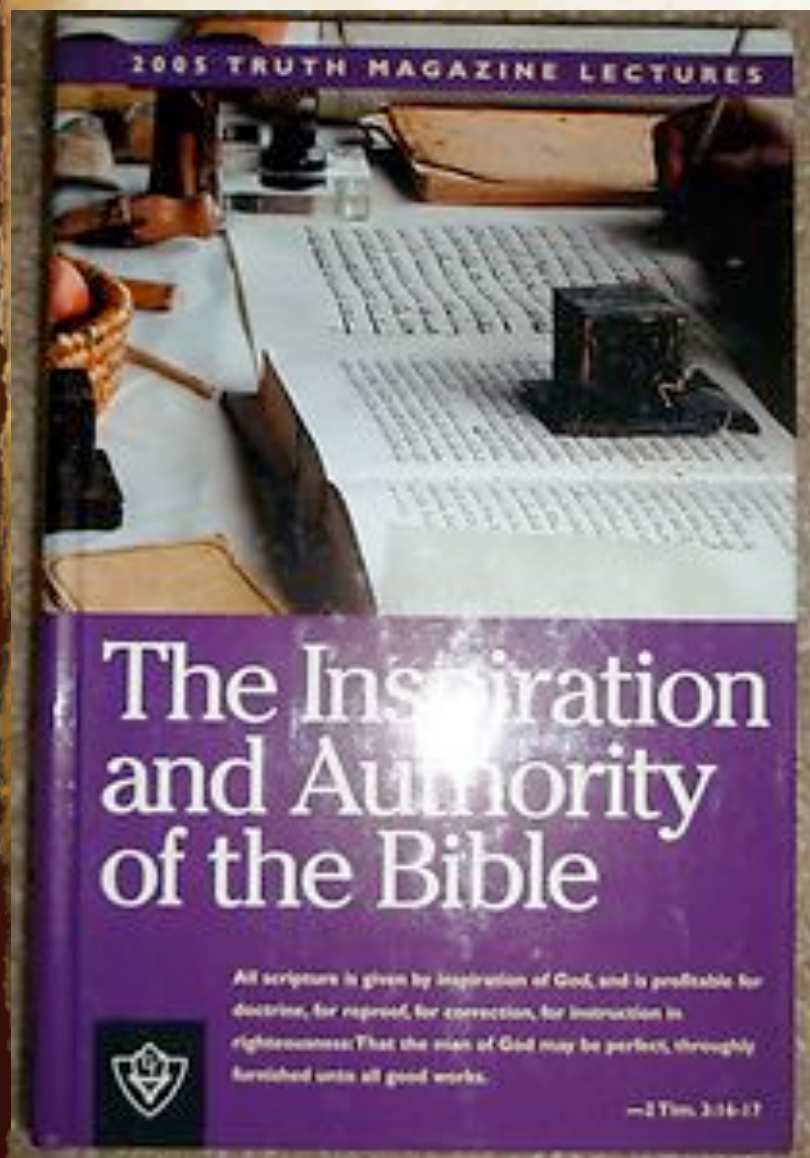
Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?

JOHN A. SMITH:

(The Inspiration & Authority of The Bible - Truth Lectures 2005; pg 331)

Not one contradictory notion is presented in any of these disputed passages. I find that amazing and faith building.”



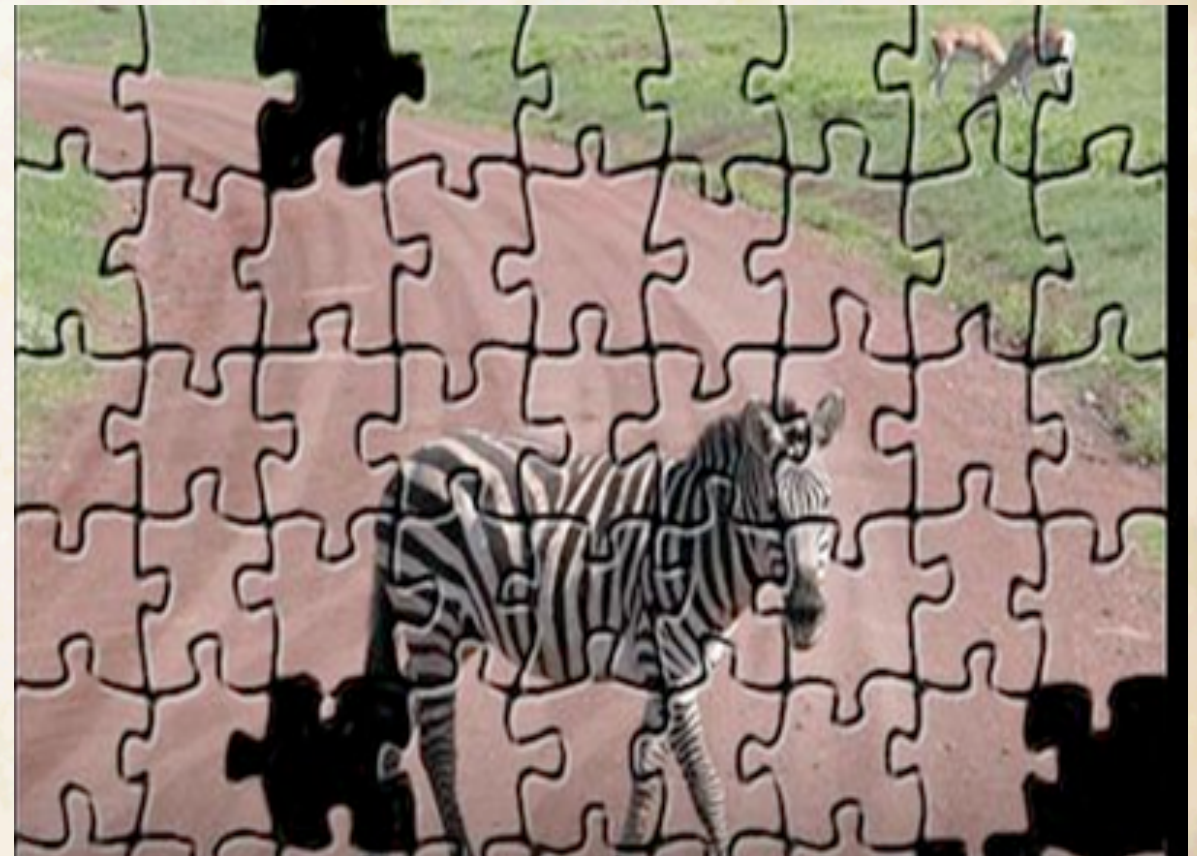
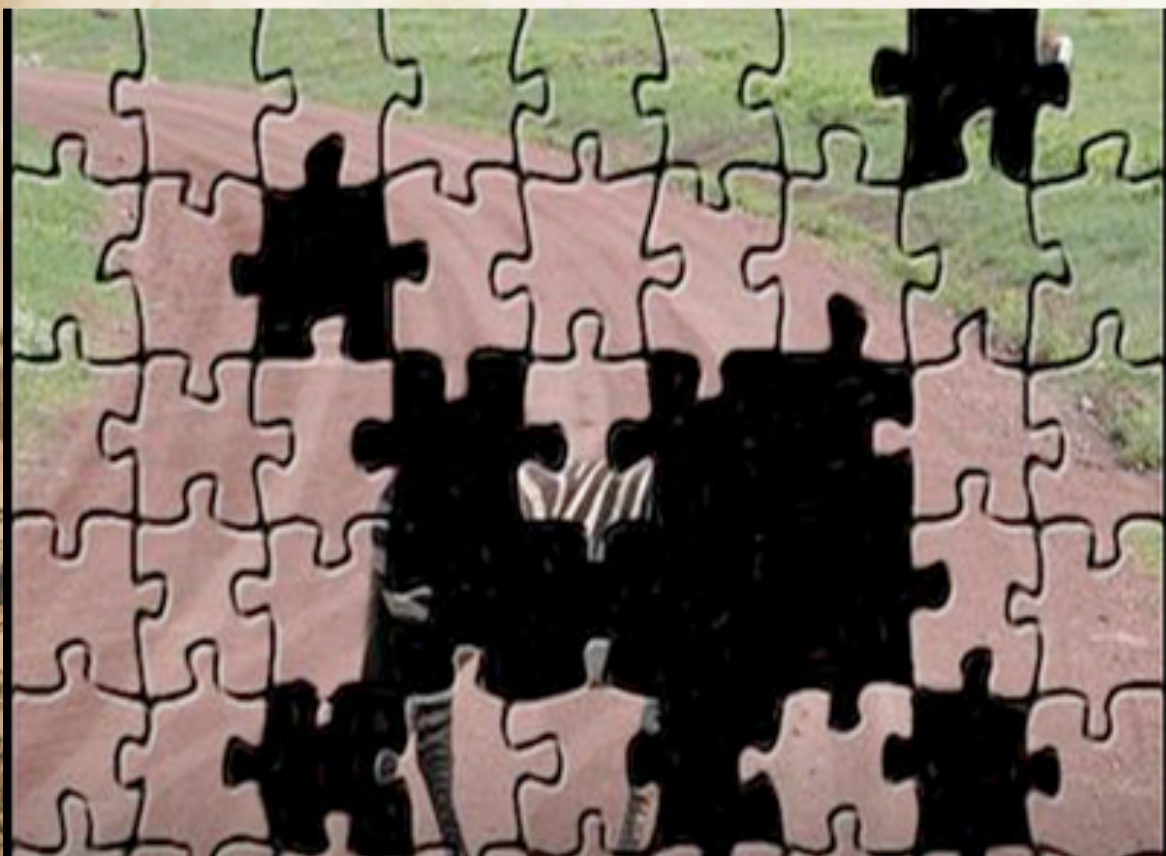
The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

What About Variations In The Text?

What Part of the Puzzle is Missing?



The More We Have, The More Confidence We Have!

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

*It Is True! It Is Accurate! It
Is From God!*

Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)

**Heaven and earth will pass
away, but My words will by no
means pass away.**

(cf. Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33)

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?

The Anvil, God's Word

THE ANVIL
OF GOD'S WORD

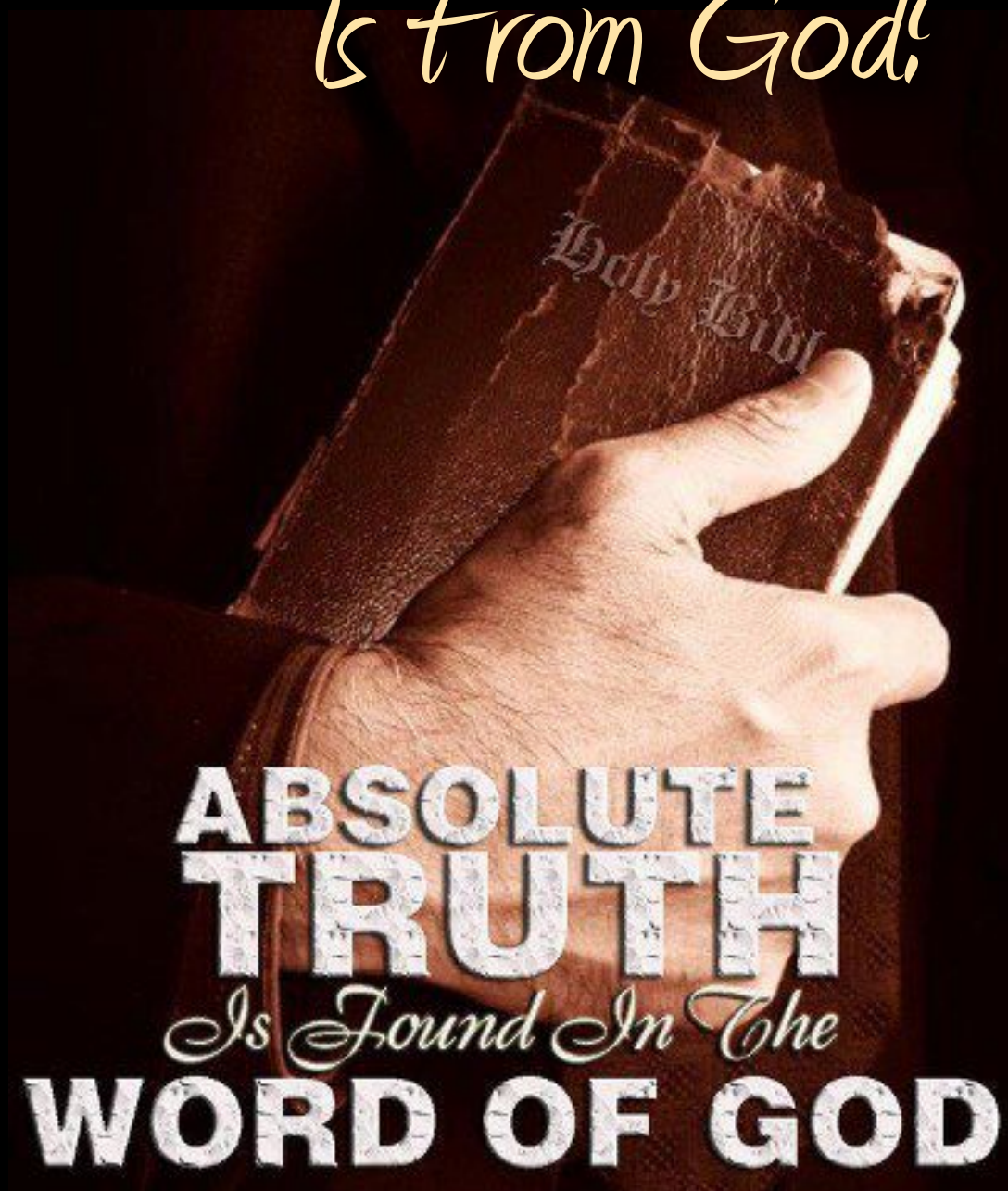


Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime:
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.
"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
And so, thought I, the anvil of God's word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed . . . the hammer's gone.

Author unknown

Can We Trust The Bible?

*It Is True! It Is Accurate! It
Is From God!*



**Hear It
Believe It
Obey It
Follow It
Be Blessed
Through It!**

The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

Can We Trust The Bible?

It Is True! It Is Accurate! It Is From God!

The Evidence & Our Confidence In God's Providence Gives Us Reason To Trust The Scriptures

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared January 13, , 2012

Preached January 13, 2012

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