

BIBLE HISTORY & RELIABILITY

A Scripture study
by
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(Study # 11)

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Preface

Do you, dear reader, truly believe the Scriptures? For if you do not believe the Bible, then you cannot genuinely believe in the God of the Bible or the Son of God (Saviour) as revealed in the Bible. I must therefore be blunt and say; if you do not believe the Bible you are not a Christian. However, whether you are a Christian or not, I am sure this study can help you. The Bible exists to enable us to know God, bring us God's message, to instruct, reprove, correct, and to bring us to repentance and to make known to us God's offer of salvation. Read: 2Tim. 3: 16-17, and John 3:16-17.

I find though, that many Christians know very little of, nor understand, our Bible's history.- Knowing Bible history increases our belief and trust in the Bible's inspiration, accuracy, and reliability. Many do not know about, or think about, the lives, which were lost in the process of bringing us the Bible, especially our Bible in English.

We need also to note that there are many views on how Scripture should be interpreted, or believed. The majority of Christians believe the entire Bible is inspired by God. However, even in this group, there are many divisions.

Some believe all of the Bible should be taken literally.

Others believe that all should be taken literally, except where the context shows that the content is symbolic.

Others believe that the Bible should be interpreted in a spiritual or symbolic manner, with just moral lessons for our common good.

There are of course many areas of Scripture, which are considered contentious. There are areas where sincere Christians hold to interpretations, which can be quite different to those held by other equally sincere Christians. This does not however mean that we should argue with each other. Christians should be able to discuss different points of view, and that is good and profitable to all. Never though should Christians argue, belittle, or condemn each other because of their different views. 1 Pet. 3:15 says we should speak with meekness (not weakness), i.e. not with arrogance or argument.

We are also instructed to study, so that we are fully persuaded in our own minds as to what the Scriptures actually say, such as in Romans 14: 5, when speaking of the Sabbath issue, it reads; *“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. **Let each be fully convinced in his own mind**”*.

Whatever your view

I urge you to read the following section on Bible history prayerfully and with an open mind.

May God bless you with understanding and trust in his precious Word.

HISTORY & RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

The following Bible History, which, though, not a complete history, does give you all the main points.

Today, our Bible is made up of 66 books, which were written by about forty different individuals over a period of about 1630 years, from about 1532 BC., to about 98 AD.

Biblical Time Spans & Dates

When reading the following section; to understand how BC dates are arrived at, prior to the building of Solomon's temple (967 BC) go to Study # 1.

Please also note that all times in the Bible are comprised of 30-day months and 360-day years. That is to say, the Bible uses Lunar months. - To convert Lunar (Biblical) years to our Solar (Sidereal) years multiply by 0.9856, or to convert Sidereal to Biblical, divide by 0.9856.

Now according to my calculations, using the Apostolic Bible, (See Study # 1). Adam was created approximately 5525 BC: he lived 930 Biblical or 917 Sidereal years, and died about 4608 BC. – The Great Flood occurred approximately 3296 BC – So Adam died about 1312 Sidereal years before the Flood. – Methuselah was born in 4257 BC, only 351 years after the death of Adam, and died 3302 BC: 6 years before the Flood.

Adam was created 5525 BC.

Methuselah was born in 4257 BC

Noah was born 3887 BC: he was 600 Biblical or 591 Sidereal years old at the time of the Flood.

The flood occurred in 3296 BC.

The birth of Abraham, was 2239 BC.

The birth of Ishmael, was 2154 BC.

The Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah was 2141 BC.

The birth of Isaac was 2140 BC.

The Birth of Jacob, (Whom God renamed Israel), was 2081 BC.

The Birth of Joseph was 2037BC.

The Birth of Job, (or Jobab), (Great grandson of Esau), was about 1930 BC.

400 Biblical years of Egyptian Servitude, 1926 to 1532 BC.

The Birth of Moses, 1610 BC.

The Exodus, The giving of the 10 Commandments, and commencement of the writing of the Old Testament, 1532 BC.

The building of Solomon's Temple commenced, 967 BC.

The period of Solomon's reign, 970 to 928 BC.

Old Testament

So, what is the Christian to believe regarding the accuracy of Scripture, its reliability and contents? Firstly, God never intended to give us the **full answer** to every question. God has however, in His wisdom given us a written record of **all that is necessary** for us to know. If we are to accept this written record as found in the Bible, we must know and believe its reliability and truth. Therefore, we need to look at as much as God has revealed to us, as possible.

At this point we should also remember that God does not call us just to read the Bible; nor just listen to the reading of it; He calls us to actively use it, and that requires us to **study** it!

I will attempt to show and explain as many of the main issues relating to the Bible as possible, while still keeping it as brief as I can, so as to keep it readable

About 4,114 Biblical (Lunar) years or 4055 Sidereal (Solar) years after the creation of Adam; that is, around 1,532 BC: The first **written** Word of God: “The Ten Commandments” was delivered to Moses.

The writing of the 39 books of **the Old Testament was commenced about 1532 BC**, (at the time of the Exodus)(see Study# 1) Shortly after 1532 BC, Moses commenced writing the first five books of the Old Testament (Dates calculated in my Study # 1.), and according to the Jewish Historian, Josephus, **was completed in 424 BC**, It was written in Hebrew and Aramaic.

Though Moses commenced the writing of the Bible, altogether 40 different writers, all under God’s direction, wrote it.

Between about 250 & 200 BC, the Old Testament, 39 Canonical books (plus 14 Apocryphal books which were written between 424 BC and 250) were translated by 70 scholars, from its Hebrew and Aramaic into Greek. It became known as the ‘Septuagint’ (later also as LXX), and was in common use in Jesus day. Jesus read from it. (Luke 4: 16–21.)

Jesus and the Disciples quoted from it, so vouching for its inspiration, authority, and accuracy. –
(*Note; Reading and quotes do not include any from the Apocrypha.*)

The following are some examples you can read from Matthew alone.

Mat. 1: 21,23 / 2: 5,6,17,18 / 3: 3 / 4: 4,7-10 / 5: 21,27,31,38,43 / 12: 1-8 / 13; 14-17 / 15: 7-9 / 16: 4 / 19: 3-9,16-19 / 21:1-5,13,16,42 / 22: 28-33,37-46 / 24: 15 / 26: 31.

The Apocrypha was dropped from the **Hebrew Canon**, which was **ratified. 100 AD.** --The Hebrew Bible is based on The Masoretic Text. For information on The Masoretic Text go to ;

<http://theorthodoxlife.wordpress.com/2012/03/12/masoretic-text-vs-original-hebrew/>

About AD 200, Hebrew scholars “retranslated” the LXX and this work became known as The Hebrew Bible or the Masoretic Text. It is believed that the reason for this “translation” was that Christians had been Quoting prophecies etc. from the LXX, which clearly referred to Jesus Christ. Therefore, they made this “translation”, leaving out a number of such references and altering others, so this is a very corrupted version and as such should not be used, or relied upon in any way by Christians.

Most of our Old Testament versions, which we currently use, have for the most part been translated, not directly from the Septuagint LXX, but from the Latin Vulgate version of it. The Latin Vulgate also has some corruptions in it (some words changed & portions missing etc.), which favour Catholic doctrine, though it still remains very close to the original.

Bible Longevity

The Bible gives very long life spans for the early inhabitants of the Earth.

Originally, mankind was designed to live forever, but sin changed that. The right to the Tree of life, and with it eternal life, was removed. (See Study # 12) - .Adam, lived for 930 years, and seven generations later Methuselah managed to live to 969. Then two generations after that, Noah lived to 950.

However, by this time, sin had taken its toll on the human genetic code, and the generations after the flood began to live for shorter and shorter times.

We find in Genesis 6: 3; ³*And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."* So God at the time of the Flood decreed that man's average age would drop to 120. Then by the time of David (about 1000 BC) it had been reduced to the current 70. Of course, modern medications enable us to frequently live a bit longer.

Psalms 90:10 reads;

¹⁰ *The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

In the future however, with access renewed to the Tree of Life, mankind will again enjoy eternal life.

New Testament

There are a number of translations/versions of the Bible currently available, most have just slight variations of words or phrases, but basically aside from the “translations” peculiar to a couple of sects, and one or two modern **versions** (not translations) which were designed to be more “politically correct” rather than accurate, they all say the same thing.

There is however some instances where an odd poorly (not necessarily wrongly) translated word can cause confusion. For instance, the K.J.V. has a number of words of which the meaning has changed since it first went to print. A couple of examples are; publican has become tax collector, and charity has become love. Then, in some instances, a number of different words from the original language have for some reason been translated into the one English word. For example, the word Hell has been used in the KJ.V & N.K.J.V & some others, in place of The Unseen World. – The Grave – The Pit - Sheol - Gehenna – The Lake of Fire, and some others.(see Study#9) Although I would call this bad translation, it still makes no difference to the overall message. Regrettably, a couple of our later Bible versions (not translations) have changed some words completely just for the sake of “political correctness” such as gender changing i.e. humankind instead of mankind etc. Even with these types of changes, the overall message remains the same and the great majority of translations/versions remain very close to the original.

The New Testament was written between about 35 A.D., and 98 A.D. - The first books of the Bible were written by Moses, and the last book by the Apostle John. - In spite of its number of books and writers, the Bible as originally written, contained no errors or contradictions. The very few errors, (and they are minor) found in modern translations and various versions are mostly the result of copyists and translators errors, and are so minor that they make no real difference to the overall message. Over the ages, great care was taken during translation, and copying. When modern translations are now compared with the oldest existing manuscripts, very little difference can be found, and indeed nothing, which makes any difference to the overall message.

Before 200 A.D. the Greek text of the New Testament was translated into Latin and Syriac, but as far as can be ascertained, all original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments have been lost. This is mainly due to persecution of the early church, which also involved the deliberate destruction of Bibles. During Diocletian’s reign in Rome, around about 300 A.D., he waged a ten-year hunt for, and destruction of Christian literature. Eusebius (264- 340 A.D.), Church historian and bishop of Caesarea, makes mention of this in his writings, and states, how that later under Constantine, new copies were made.

At the present time, **some** of the most ancient of the Old and New Testament manuscripts containing all or part of the Bible still in existence are; -

The Dead Sea Scrolls, (Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), which were found in 1947 AD and contained the complete book of Isaiah, and fragments of every book of the Hebrew Bible, with the exception of Esther. Scholars dated these as having been written between 150 BC and 70 AD.; this makes them the oldest portions of Old Testament Scripture now available. There were also many other fragments of valuable historical and religious documents which Scholars have dated as being written between the last century BC., and the first century AD.

The Old Testament portions so far translated into English are in very close harmony with our modern Bibles.

About 1895 and 1905 AD In central Egypt, a large number of manuscripts, part manuscripts, and other historical, business, and personal documents were found. Among which, were some valuable historical documents dating back as far as 2000 BC. Most however, were found to belong to the period between 300 B.C. and 300 AD. The later ones contained a number of early Christian writings, including fragments of John's Gospel, which scholars have dated as early second century. There were also portions of the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, which were dated, early third century. - There was also a large portion of Paul's epistles, which scholars placed at about 200 AD. It contained Romans, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, & 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

The Old Syriac,	A Byzantine/Syrian translation from the Greek, Made in mid. second century A.D. Omits; James, Peter, Epistles of John, Jude & Revelation. - Contains Mark 16: 17 - 20, which some modern Bible versions delete. (2 copies made in 4 th century still exist)
The Old Latin,	Made in mid. second century A.D. - Translated from the 3 rd . Century B.C. Septuagint. Includes the New Testament with the exception of Hebrews, James & 2 Peter. (About 40 copies made in 3 rd to 4 th Cent. A.D. now exist).
The Coptic	An Egyptian translation. - Made in the second century A.D. Some copy portions made in 3 rd to 4 th cent. A.D. still exist.
The Peshitta Syriac,	Made in 464 A.D. (Dated) - - A simplified form of the Old Syriac. (More than 350 copies still exist) Now in the British Museum.
The Vulgate,	A revision of the 'Old Latin'. By Jerome- 382 – 404 A.D. (8 th Cent. Copy of complete Bible now at Florence) - - (More than 8,000 Manuscripts exist today)
The Codex Sinaiticus,	Made about 330 A.D. - Was found in 1844. Contained Parts of Septuagint Old Testament & the complete New Testament, plus, Epistle of Barnabus, & portion of the Shepherd of Hermas. – It is the only ancient manuscript which contains the entire New Testament, but with some omissions - Now in the British Museum.
The Vaticanus,	Made about 380 A.D. - Incomplete, Used extensively by Westcott & Hort for their modern translations. -- Now in the Vatican Library. <i>(There are a number of areas where Codex Sinaiticus & Vaticanus are in disagreement).</i>
The Alexandrian,	A Greek text from the previous two. - Made about 450 A.D. – Contains most of the Bible. - Now in the British Museum.

Due largely to the influence of B. Wescott & F. Hort the last three are used as the main source in most modern New Testaments, the exception being the King James & New King James versions, which rely more on the Received text (Textus Receptus), the traditional text of the Greek speaking churches. These were taken from the Latin Vulgate and what is known as the Byzantine or Syrian text, & a multitude of other ancient manuscripts containing parts of the Bible as well as other ancient manuscripts that refer to various manuscripts documents and portions of them, including The Dead Sea Scrolls. - The earliest New Testament manuscript copies currently available, date from the second century A.D. There are however, numerous, reliable New Testament quotes from a number of older sources, which date back as far as 100 A.D - There are many other, ancient manuscript copies, and portions of Scripture still in existence, which also support the authenticity and reliability of God's Word. The oldest portions of them being; The Old Testament, = Approx. 150 B.C. & the New Testament = Approx. 100 to 250 A.D.

New Testament Canon

Eusebius, Church historian, 264 – 340 A.D. recognised the 27 books of the New Testament, the same as we have today.

Athanasius, -Bishop of Alexandria around 367 A.D. recognised the specific canon of the 27 New Testament books that we still recognise today.

The New Testament canon was "fixed" at the Council of Hippo in 393 AD, the criteria were established that each book had to have been written by an apostle or someone close to an apostle, and each had to have been traditionally used in public worship.

The Council of Carthage, - In 397 A.D. gave its formal ratification to the above 27 books as The New Testament.

God's Words in both the Old and New Testaments are our reliable guide to find out all we need to know about God, the meaning of life, how we got here & why we are here.

The first books of the Bible were written by Moses, and the last by the Apostle John. - In spite of its number of books and writers, the Bible as originally written, contained no errors or contradictions. The very few errors, (and they are minor) found in modern translations and various versions are mostly the result of copyists and translators errors, and are so minor that they make no real difference to the overall message. – Our modern Bibles however, can be relied upon to be essentially the same as the original. – There are some faults (due mainly to translation & copyist errors), but they are minor and do not affect the overall message of Scripture as God intended it.

Over the ages, great care was taken during translation, and copying. When we compare modern translations with the oldest existing manuscripts, very few differences are to be found.

Our Lord Jesus Christ vouched for the authenticity and reliability of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) by His recorded words, and those of His disciples, in the New Testament.

John 1:1. *‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’*

Rom. 15: 4, *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

1 Peter 3: 15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*

James 1 :21-22 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

2 Tim. 2 : 15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

“In, 2 Tim. 3: 16,17, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for*

reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”.

2 Pet. 1: 21, ‘For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit’.

Psm. 12: 6,7. The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD; You shall preserve them from this generation forever.’
(Read also, Prov. 8: 12- 36.)

English Translations / Versions of Septuagint

For a long time the only **English translation** of the Septuagint readily available was the [1851 translation by Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton](#), and updated at Calvin College in May 2000, and this seems to be still the most popular. However, I found this version had some obvious errors in it. For when looking at the genealogy from Adam to Noah I found its figures would make Methuselah still alive 14 years after the Flood. A revision of it called "*The Apostles' Bible*" was released in January 2008, but I have not examined that.

Another version now available; is

The "[Orthodox Study Bible](#)" which was released in early 2008,

And the [Eastern / Greek Orthodox Bible](#) is expected to be published in 2015, and looks like it will be very good..

However, I believe the [Apostolic Bible](#) to be the most accurate English translation of the Greek Septuagint LXX available at the present time, and for the most part more reliable than any of our modern translations of the Old Testament. It is a word by word translation in Greek and English. For this reason (though the English in places can be difficult to read), when studying with the Old Testament, I prefer to use the "*Apostolic Bible*" Published 2003, a Greek/English translation of the Septuagint available at. <http://apostolicbible.com>, and can be freely downloaded.

The Bible in English

In 600 AD the Catholic Church ruled that Latin was the only language allowed for Scripture.

Caedmon translated parts of the Bible into Anglo- Saxon in 680 AD.

In 1382 AD, -John Wycliffe, produced the first copy of the **whole** Bible in English (Completed by John Purvey in 1388 A.D.)(Hand written & translated from the Latin Vulgate).All 80 Books which included The Apocrypha. The Latin Vulgate was the only source text available to him at that time. The Greek language Septuagint that Jesus Christ read and quoted from was no longer readily available, though still used in the Greek Orthodox Churches.

Most of our Bibles today, are still strongly influenced by the Latin Vulgate, but the Greek Orthodox Churches have retained the Greek language Septuagint.

It is said that because Wycliffe had dared to print the Bible in English. The Pope 44 years after Wycliffe's death, ordered that his bones be dug up, crushed, and scattered in the river.

John Hus who was a follower of Wycliffe, opposed Rome and their threat to execute anyone who possessed a non-Latin Bible, and in **1415**, - **Hus**, was burned at the stake, with Wycliffe's manuscript Bibles used as kindling for the fire.

In 1455 AD Gutenberg, with the newly invented printing press produced the first book ever printed; the Gutenberg Bible in Latin.

In 1517, - Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses of Contention to the church door at Wittenberg.

Foxe's "Book of Martyrs" records that in that same year, **1517**, seven people were burned at the stake by the Roman Catholic Church for the crime of teaching their children to say the Lord's Prayer in English rather than Latin.

In 1526,- William Tyndale printed the New Testament in English using the 1516 Greek/Latin Erasmus Text as used by Martin Luther as his source. – Tyndale was incarcerated for 500 days before being strangled and burned at the stake in 1536.

In 1535,- Myles Coverdale (a disciple of Tyndale) finished translating the Old Testament and in 1535 printed the first complete Bible in the English language.- Known as the Coverdale Bible, or Great Bible..

The **King James Version (KJV)**, commonly known as the **Authorized Version (AV)**, was begun in 1604 and completed in 1611. The translation was done by 47 scholars, all of whom were members of the Church of England. This was the third translation into English to be approved by the English Church authorities. The first was the Great Bible commissioned in the reign of King Henry VIII (1535), and the second was the Bishops' Bible of 1568.

English Revised Version (E.R.V.) printed in the 1880's would become the first English language Bible to replace The King James Bible with the absence of the 14 Apocryphal books.

The **King James** publishers removed the Apocrypha from their Bibles in 1885

Up until the **1880's** every Protestant Bible (not just Catholic Bibles) had 80 books, not 66! "The Apocrypha" were part of virtually every printing of the Tyndale-Matthews Bible, the Great Bible, the Bishops Bible, the Protestant Geneva Bible, and the King James Bible until their removal in the **1880's!** The original **1611** King James contained the Apocrypha, and King James threatened anyone who dared to print the Bible without the Apocrypha with heavy fines and a year in jail

There have now been many translations into English, most good , some questionable, but generally there is really no difference in the overall message, and the majority are very similar. It is essential to have regular new translations or versions, as the English language (as with all languages) is constantly changing.

For a thorough history of the Bible in the English language, I recommend you go to <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/>

Apocrypha

The following explanation of the Apocrypha has been copied from;
<http://www.answers.com/topic/apocrypha> with thanks and more info is available at that site.

The Religion Book:

Apocrypha

Between 90 and 98 ce, Jewish scholars met at Jamania and established the criteria for the books of the Hebrew Bible that would later be adopted as part of Christianity's official biblical canon-the "canonical books." Criteria of antiquity, language, and moral integrity were established. Books that failed to meet the criteria came to be called "apocryphal."

The word is a Greek plural neuter adjective meaning "hidden." As a literary term it was first applied to books containing esoteric wisdom deemed too sensitive for the uninitiated. Hence, it was a term of honor among scholars. However, after the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem in 70 AD, its meaning gradually evolved to mean "spurious" or even "heretical."

When it came time for the New Testament canon to be "fixed" at the Council of Hippo in 393 AD, the criteria were established that each book had to have been written by an apostle or someone close to an apostle, and each had to have been traditionally used in public worship.

The term "apocryphal" is now applied to books not included in the official canon of the Bible, but often included, especially in Protestant Bibles, as a section between the Old and New Testaments. Such writings include additions to the book of Esther, the Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men, Psalm 151, and the books of Baruch, Bel and the Dragon, Ecclesiasticus, 1 and 2 Esdras, Letter of Jeremiah, Judith, 1-4 Maccabees, Prayer of Manasseh, Susanna, Tobit, and Wisdom of Solomon. Orthodox, Roman, and Protestant churches differ regarding the importance and content of these sections.

Jerome, writing in the early fifth century, was probably the first to use the term "Apocrypha" to describe non-canonical books. He believed apocryphal books should be read for edification but not "for confirming the authority of church dogmas." Because of their acceptance in church tradition, he felt compelled to include them in his famous Latin Bible, The Vulgate, which became the official translation of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the Greek Orthodox Church, all but four books of the Apocrypha were accepted as canonical. After the Reformation of the sixteenth century, most Protestants generally ignored the Apocrypha. Martin Luther added the Apocrypha to the end of his German translation while commenting, "These books are not held equal to the sacred Scriptures but are useful and good for reading." That statement probably marked the beginning of the end for the study of the Apocrypha in most Protestant circles. Because they were placed together in a group, they were easy to remove, and most Protestant Bibles do not contain even a mention of such books.

Sources: Douglas, J. D., ed. The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1974. The Lost Books of the Bible and the Forgotten Books of Eden. Cleveland, OH: World Syndicate Publishing, 1926. May, Herbert G., and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

[Bible Dictionary and Concordance:](#)

Apocrypha

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("hidden")

Name given to a group of Jewish writings that date from approximately 300 B.C. to A.d. 70. Today the OT Apocrypha is a term denoting the 13 works contained in the oldest Greek codices of the OT but not in the Hebrew Bible. "Apocrypha" does not refer to "hidden" secrets, as in Daniel 12:9-10 and Ezra 14:44-48, but to extracanonical documents. Roman Catholics contend these works are "Deutero-canonical" and inspired; they are consequently to found in the Catholic Bible. Protestants and Jews do not consider them canonical, even though some books, like Ecclesiasticus, are often acknowledged as authoritative and even inspired. All the books were written in a Semitic language and in Palestine, except for the Wisdom of Solomon and II Maccabees, composed in Greek, probably in Alexandria.

The Letter of Jeremiah was written long before 100 B.C. The original was composed sometime around 300 B.C. Containing only 72 or 73 verses, the work, influenced by Jeremiah 10:1-16, is an exhortation not to fear or worship idols.

Tobit was probably composed around 180 B.C. and is a romantic story teaching that God does indeed help those faithful to his laws.

Judith, composed about 150 B.C., is a story about how Judith beheaded the Assyrian general, Holofernes, and delivered her nation. The author intended to exhort Jews to be obedient to Torah and reject evil, especially as represented by an invading enemy.

I Esdras (also known as III Esdras following the Septuagint where Ezra and Nehemiah are taken as I and II Esdras) was written sometime between 150-100 B.C.; it is a deliberate attempt to rewrite II Chronicles 35:1-36:23, Ezra, and Nehemiah 7:38-8:12. II Esdras 3:1-5:6 are independent of the OT. Notable features of the book are the elevation of Ezra as "high priest", the celebration of the Temple, and the preoccupation with Zerubbabel.

II Esdras (also known as IV Esdras or the Apocalypse of Ezra) is a Jewish apocalyptic work originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic (but known only in translation) not long after the destruction of the Second Temple. Facing the problem of Israel's suffering, it answers that while the world was created for Israel, Israel had sinned and must therefore pass through a period of purgation.

Prayer of Manasseh, a penitential psalm supplementing II Chronicles 33:11-13. Written in the 1st century B.C.

Additions to Esther are six expansions to the Book of Esther in its Greek form. The date for these additions is clearly pre-70 A.D., but may have been appended in different years between 167 to 114 B.C. or sometime in the 1st century B.C. The authors of these additions added color to the story, provided an apology for Judaism, and – most importantly – supplied the theological words and ideas conspicuously absent in Esther.

The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men, Susanna and Bel and the Dragon are three additions to the Book of Daniel, dated between 165 and c. 100 B.C. *The Prayer of Azariah* turns the reader's attention to the Jews facing martyrdom and away from the wicked king; it stresses

that there is only one God and that he is just. *Susanna* is a tale about a beautiful woman saved by Daniel when he cross-examined two elders and revealed that they were lying. *Bel and the Dragon* preserve two stories. One describes how Daniel proved that the food offered up to the idol Bel was in fact eaten by the priests; the other how Daniel destroyed an idol but was saved by Habakkuk with the aid of angels.

Baruch, which dates from the 1st or 2nd centuries B.C., is composite. It opens with an acknowledgement that Jerusalem was destroyed because of Israel's sins and with a plea for God's forgiveness, then moves through a poetic celebration of wisdom, to a description of how the lament from Jerusalem was heard.

Ecclesiasticus (Ben Sirach), probably composed around 180 B.C., by a conservative teacher in Jerusalem, is an apology for Judaism and a critique of Greek culture. Typical themes are the reverence of the Temple, the Torah and the belief in the one God who is just and merciful.

The Wisdom of Solomon, perhaps written in the 1st century B.C., is a blend of Israelite and Jewish wisdom traditions with Greek and Egyptian ideas. Wisdom is clearly personified.

I Maccabees, composed near the end of the 2nd century B.C., celebrate the military exploits of the Maccabees up to the rule of John Hyrcanus. The author is pro-Hasmonean, but does not articulate the importance or value of martyrdom. This document is a major source for studying the history of 2nd-century Palestine.

II Maccabees, written in the latter part of the 2nd century or the early decades of the 1st century B.C., is an epitome of a lost five-volume history by Jason of Cyrene. Much more theologically oriented than *I Maccabees*, *II Maccabees* stresses the resurrection of the body, the efficaciousness of martyrdom, and the revelatory dimension of miracles. It is anti-Hasmonean. Two letters introduce the epitome: the first, probably authentic, was composed around 124 B.C., in a Semitic language, and is an appeal to celebrate the festival of Hanukkah; the second letter, probably inauthentic, dates between 103 and 60 B.C. and may have been composed in Greek.

See also entries on the individual books.

End of Copy

Prophetic Proof

There is a considerably large amount of prophecy in the Bible. Yes, there are many non-biblical prophets, and probably the best known of these is Nostradamus. The big difference between the Bible prophets and non- Bible prophets is that the non-Biblical prophets all make many mistakes, or false prophecies, whereas the bible prophets have made no mistakes. There are still Bible prophecies to be fulfilled, such as The Rapture of the Church, The 7 year Tribulation, The Millennium, and associated prophecies, (These are touched on in Study # 1.). Then there are prophecies currently in the process of fulfilment, such as, the return of the Jews to Israel, The formation of a United Europe, Russia's power growth and preparation for its attack on Israel, and the current fighting in the Middle East, which is the forerunner of the Rapture.

I could go on and list a large number of prophecies, which have all been literally fulfilled, but feel this is unnecessary here. Instead, I will list here just some of the prophecies which were **literally fulfilled** by Jesus Christ at his first advent.

Just some of the prophecies literally fulfilled by Christ

Prophecy	Text	Fulfilled
Born in Bethlehem	Mic. 5: 2.	Luke 2:11
Born of a Virgin	Isa. 7:14. & 9: 6-7.	Mat. 1:18-25
A Nazarene	Isa. 11: 1	Mat. 2: 23.
Entry into Jerusalem	Zech. 9:9	Mat.21: 1-11
Suffering of Jesus	Isa. 53.	Mat. 27.
Crucifixion events	Psm. 22: 1-18	Mat. 27
Resurrection	Psm. 16: 10,11.	Mat. 28: 5,6.
Son of God	Psm. 2: 7	Heb. 5: 2.
Prophet	Deut. 18: 15-19	Acts. 3:22, 23.
Priest	Psm. 110: 4.	Heb.7: 17-21.
King	Psm. 45: 6,7.	Heb. 1: 8,9.

Just as these prophecies were literally fulfilled, so all the future prophecies will also be literally fulfilled.

Please note; The word "Rapture" is not a Biblical word. The word is the Latin translation of "caught up" as found in 1 Thess. 4: 17 and other places.

Non Biblical Proofs

The Didache, written about 100 AD, has 22 quotes from Matt. & references to Luke, John, Acts, Rom. Thess. 1 Pet., and refers to ‘The Gospel’ as a written document.

The Epistle of Barnabas, written about 100 AD, gives quotes from Matthew, John, Acts, and 2 Peter.

Polycarp, in his letters to Philippians about 110 AD, quotes from Philippians & 1 Pet. & other New Testament portions.

Ignatius, in his letter, written about 110 AD, and just before his martyrdom, quotes from Matt., 1 Pet., & 1 John.

Justin Martyr in his writing entitled ‘Apologies’, written 141 AD, gives reference to the New Testament books of, Acts, Revelation, and eight of the Epistles.

The Rylands Papyrus, Which was written approx. 150 AD, contains John 18: 31-33, & 37.

Irenaeus, a pupil of Polycarp, in his writings about 165 AD, quotes most of the New Testament books, and refers to them as Scripture.

Origen. In his writings, before his death in 254 AD, is said to have quoted 5,745 passages from **all** the books of the New Testament.

Josephus, - Jewish Historian, in his work ‘Antiquities of the Jews’, written about 93 AD, makes reference to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Tacticus, - Roman Historian, 61 – 171 AD, writing in his ‘Annals’ Book 15 describes the fire of Rome, and how Nero falsely accused the Christians for it. He wrote in his last major work, titled “Annals”, written c. 116–117 C.E, reads;

“Neither human effort nor the emperor’s generosity nor the placating of the gods ended the scandalous belief that the fire had been ordered [by Nero]. Therefore, to put down the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits and punished in the most unusual ways those hated for their shameful acts ... whom the crowd called “Chrestians.” The founder of this name, Christ [Christus in Latin], had been executed in the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius Pilate ... Suppressed for a time, the deadly superstition erupted again not only in Judea, the origin of this evil, but also in the city [Rome], where all things horrible and shameful from everywhere come together and become popular”.

Eusebius, Church historian, 264 – 340 AD., recognised the 27 books of the New Testament, the same as we have today.

Athenasius, the Bishop of Alexandria, in 315 AD:, gave recognition to the 27 books of the New Testament, which today are recognized as the canon of New Testament scripture.

Jerome Catholic Priest, in 382 - 404 AD Translated the Septuagint (all 80 books) into Latin, known as the Vulgate. Though the Vulgate contains corruptions, which favour Catholic beliefs it still remains very close to the original, and the overall message remains the same.

No other literature has been so carefully copied, translated and preserved as the Scriptures. – Compare that record with the following. –

Homer’s ‘Iliad’, was written approx. 850 B.C., yet the earliest copies available are dated 1300 A.D.

Plato’s ‘Tetralogies’, was written approx. 400 B.C., yet the earliest copies available are dated 900 A.D.

Caesars ‘Gallic Wars’, was written approx. 60 B.C., yet the earliest copies available are dated 900 A.D.

Science & the Bible

Man in his 'wisdom' believes 'science' should have precedence over God's Word. Well the Scriptures never pretend, nor were they intended, to be a scientific textbook. – There is, never the less, a number of scientific statements contained therein and they are completely accurate.

Until the 15th Century, in the times of Columbus and Magellan, those who refused to take the Scriptures at face value believed that the world was flat. Many believed it was supported on the back of a giant turtle, an elephant, or held up by Atlas or some such thing.

Those who chose to believe the wisdom found in the Scriptures, could see the truth as recorded by Job about 1800 B.C., and later incorporated into the Old Testament, in Job 26: 7-10, which reads, '*He stretches out the north over empty space; **He hangs the earth on nothing.** He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. **He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters,** at the boundary of light and darkness*'. – Read also, Job, chapters 38 and 39, and Eccl. 1:7.

Isa. 40: 22, written about 700 B.C., reads, 'It is **He who sits above the circle of the earth**' David, writing about 900 B.C., in Psm. 104, refers to the wonders of God's creation. – Please read it.

And Luke 17; 30-36 written about, 50AD, records the words of Jesus Christ;

³⁰ *Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*³¹ *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.*³² *Remember Lot's wife.*³³ *Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*³⁴ *I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.*³⁵ *Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.*³⁶ *Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."*

In this prophecy of Jesus return, we are shown that this event will take place during the day in some parts of the Earth, and at night on other parts of the Earth. – This shows a revolving spherical Earth.

Hebrews 11:3 written around 60AD reads; *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were **not made of things which are visible.*** Yet it was not until the 19th century that Science established the fact that everything we can see is made of atoms, which are **invisible** to the naked eye.

It is only in recent times that ship builders discovered that the ideal measurements needed to ensure a ships stability, was that **its length should be six times its width.** Yet in Genesis 6:14-15, we read; ¹⁴ *Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.*¹⁵ *And this is how you shall make it: The **length** of the ark shall be **three hundred cubits,** its **width fifty cubits,** and its height thirty cubits.*

Can we be so foolish as to think that it is just coincidence that God got the measurements right? - These measurements were given to Noah around 3200 BC and written into the Bible by Moses around about 1530BC.

Job 38:16, Records God, speaking to Job, about 1880 BC. It reads:

¹⁶ *" Have you entered the **springs of the sea?** Or have you walked in search of the depths?*

It was not until about the 1970s that oceanographers discovered **springs on the ocean floor.**

Dauids son (The Preacher) wrote about 850BC, in Ecclesiastes 1:5-7

⁵The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose.⁶The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit.⁷All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.

He never learnt that from scientific textbooks.

Flaws in Atheistic Science

In the field of geology, we also have the very unscientific way that scientists argue in circles, dating organisms by the rocks they are found in, and dating rocks by the organisms they contain.

The British geologist, R.H.Rastall, admits this when he says, *“It cannot be denied that from a strictly philosophical standpoint geologists are here arguing in a circle. The succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain.”*

(“Geology” – Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1956, x, 168.) - These same geologists would have us believe that all these fossils appear in the rocks in a set progressive order, starting with the so-called simpler life forms from the older rocks, to the higher life forms in the newer rocks. In reality, this is rarely the case. – Their reason for grasping at these straws must surely be that they are prepared to believe anything, no matter how feeble, rather than believe the Bible.

The alternative of course, is to believe Gods record as revealed in the Bible, and as accepted by sincere Jews, Christians and Moslems.

By the way, the Bible does not claim that the world was created 6,000 years ago as some scientist’s state it does. God did not start His (six day) acts of creation until verse 3 of Genesis one. - Verses 1 & 2 show that the earth had already been created some time before, *“In the beginning”*. We can have no way of knowing when this was. It could have been thousands, or millions of years before the events of the following verses. The Genealogy however, as revealed in the Bible, does show that Adam (not the world), was created around 6 ½ to 8,000 years ago. This subject is covered in Studies # 1 & 12

Man in his ‘wisdom’ says, “There is no God”, and believes that we all came into existence by the chance creation of life, and by chance evolution, or ‘survival of the fittest’, from the lowest to highest forms of life.

Yet, in spite of the extravagant claims of evolutionists, there never has been one proven case of any creature kind evolving into another kind. God has put a lock on each kind, - We read in Gen. 1: 24, *‘Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”’; and it was so’*.

And in, 1 Cor. 15: 39, we read, *‘All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds’*.

All kinds have been given the in-built ability to adapt to environment, diet, etc. Genetic faults also may cause variations within kinds. This however is not evolution ;(just adaption), they remain within the same kind.

What “Science” calls Species may very well differ from what the Bible refers to as Kinds.

Men say that because we cannot see God, then He does not exist. Yet they tell us about all the gasses, dust, atomic particles or whatever, that came together and kicked off their big bang theory, but cannot tell us where they came from. Nor can they tell us from where the endless space came from that housed them, and now the whole universe. It all had to have a beginning; but the Bible simply tells us that God is eternal, (no beginning, nor end), and He created all things. Though many ‘scientists’, claim that everything has come about as the result of evolution. The considerable lack of evidence for this should be enough for people to question this hypothesis. It takes a lot more faith to believe that everything randomly evolved, than it does to believe God created them perfectly.

Some people put great faith in carbon 14 dating methods, which are used by many to claim extravagant ages for historical relics. But; - consider the following; -

C¹⁴ dating of a **living** mollusc shell showed it to be **2,300 years old**.

(‘Science’, vol. 141 (1963), pp. 634-637.)

C¹⁴ dating of a **freshly killed** seal showed it had **died 1,300 years before**.

(‘Antarctic Journal’, vol. 6 (Sept. – Oct. 1971), p.211.)

C¹⁴ dating of a **living snails shell** showed it had **died 27,000 years before**.

(‘Science’, vol. 224 (1984), pp. 58 – 61.)

The fact is that there are many factors, present and past, natural and unnatural that can, and does dramatically affect the outcome of carbon 14 dating.

In 1912, Charles Dawson put together parts of a jawbone of an ape, some teeth, and fragments of a modern human skull. He claimed it to be the ‘missing link’, and it became known as ‘Piltdown Man’, and ‘Dawn Man’. Our ‘scientists’ were fooled by this, and accepted it, until tests carried out in 1953 revealed it for the fake it is.

Likewise, the Java ‘Ape Man’ held sway from 1891 to 1923, when the skullcap was found to be that of a gibbon.

Then we have ‘Neanderthal Man’. A skeleton of a stooped man found in 1908 was used to establish a so-called ‘missing link’; i.e. ‘man’s bent over stature, before walking upright’. This was accepted until 1957, when Dr. W.L. Straus Jr., of Johns Hopkins, Medical University examined it. He found it to be the skeleton of an everyday (equivalent to modern) man, except he had a greater than usual brain capacity, and had been afflicted with severe arthritis.

So much for the accuracy and reliability of atheistic ‘scientists’.
Give me the proven truth and reliability of God’s Scriptures any day!

For further information on these subjects go to:

http://ebcwa.x10.mx/download_from_x10.html and scroll down to 147 and click on it.

http://www.deeptruths.com/articles/big_lie_exposed.html

<http://mbbc.us/creation/species.htm> <http://nwcreation.net/evolutionfraud.html>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/> <http://www.xenos.org/classes/bcweek4.htm>

<http://www.alwaysbeready.com/bible-evidence> <http://www.bible-history.com/bka/>

May God bless you with a deep belief, trust and understanding of His Word.

End