

# Apologetic Evangelism



**Defending the faith**



**Sharing the Gospel**

## Apologetic Method : Step 1

1 Truth is absolute and knowable

2 God exists

3 Miracles are possible

4 **The New Testament is historically reliable**

5 The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God

6 Jesus proved this claim by: 1. Living a sinless miraculous life 2. Fulfilling prophecies 3. Predicting and accomplishing His Resurrection

7 Therefore, Jesus is God

8 Whatever Jesus teaches is true, because He is God

9 Jesus taught the Bible was the Word of God

10 The Bible is the Word of God!



# The Case for the Bible: Old Testament

# Outline:

**I. The Charge of the Critics**

**II. A Response to the Critics**

**A. Reliability of the OT**

**B. Reliability of the NT**

**III. Conclusion**

# A. Reliability of the Old Testament

## 1. Reliability of OT Manuscripts

Examining the evidence for accurate **transmission** of the Old Testament text

## 2. Reliability of OT Writers

Assessing the credibility of those **who recorded** the Old Testament

# 1. Reliability of OT Manuscripts.

## 1 The Number of Manuscripts

Examining the **quantity** of available OT manuscripts

## 2 The Accuracy of the Manuscripts

Evaluating the **quality** and **precision** of OT manuscript transmission

# *Old Testament Manuscripts*

**10,000+**

**Manuscripts**

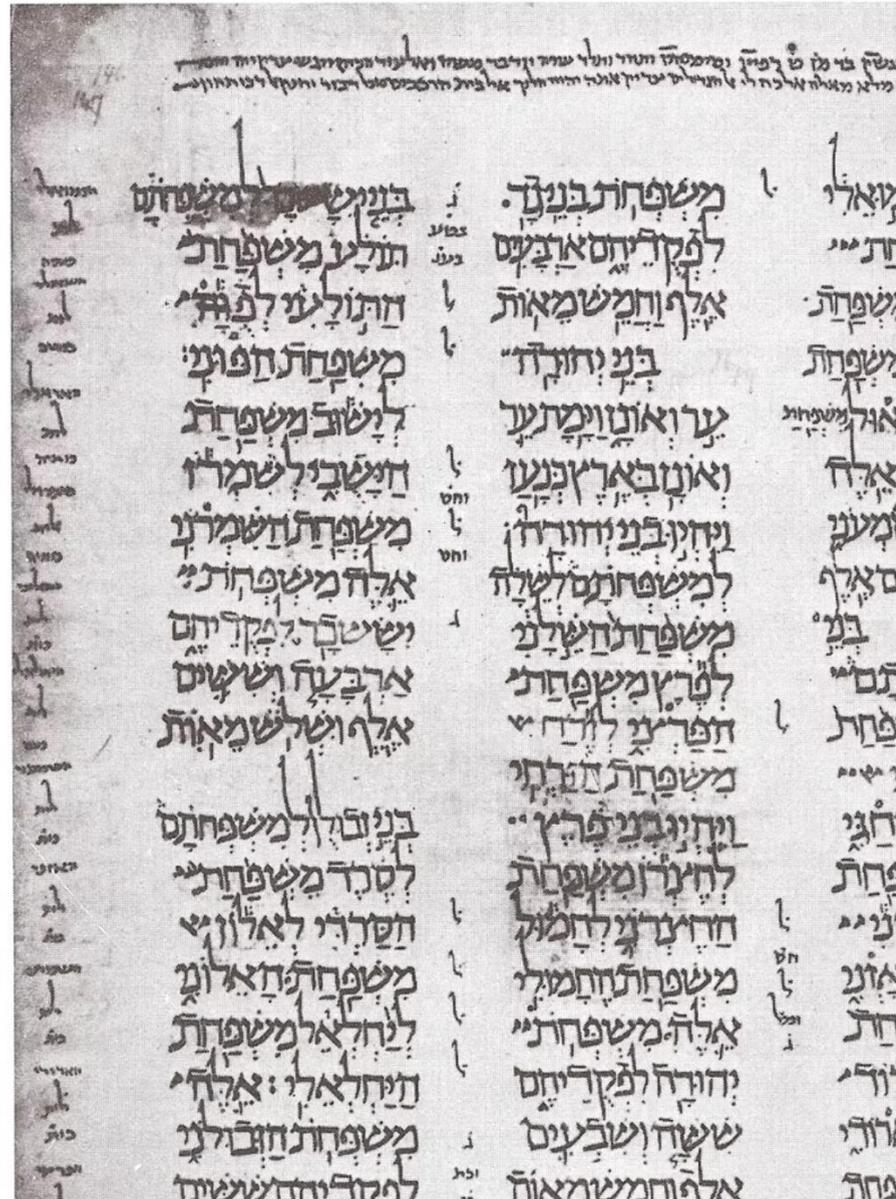
Total number of extant manuscripts for the Old Testament

**1350**

**Year Span**

From 250 B.C. to 1100 A.D.

# Oriental 4445 Manuscript



**Date: A.D. 820-850**

**Contents: Gen 39:20-Deut 1:33 (less Num. 7:43-73; 9:12-10:18)**

**Housed: In the British Museum.**

# Codex Cairensis



Date: A.D. 895

Contents: Former & Latter Prophets

Found: In Egypt

Housed: Holy Land

# Aleppo Codex

Date: A.D. 930

Contents: Whole OT

Condition: Very good

Housed: Hebrew University



# Codex Leningradensis (L)

DEUTERONOMY 5:31B - 6:22A

FOLIO 103 RECTO



Date: 1008 A.D.

Age: One of the oldest complete OT mss.

Value: Used as basis for Hebrew Bible

# Cairo Geniza Mss.



**Found: In Egypt in a storehouse (Geniza) for old mss.**

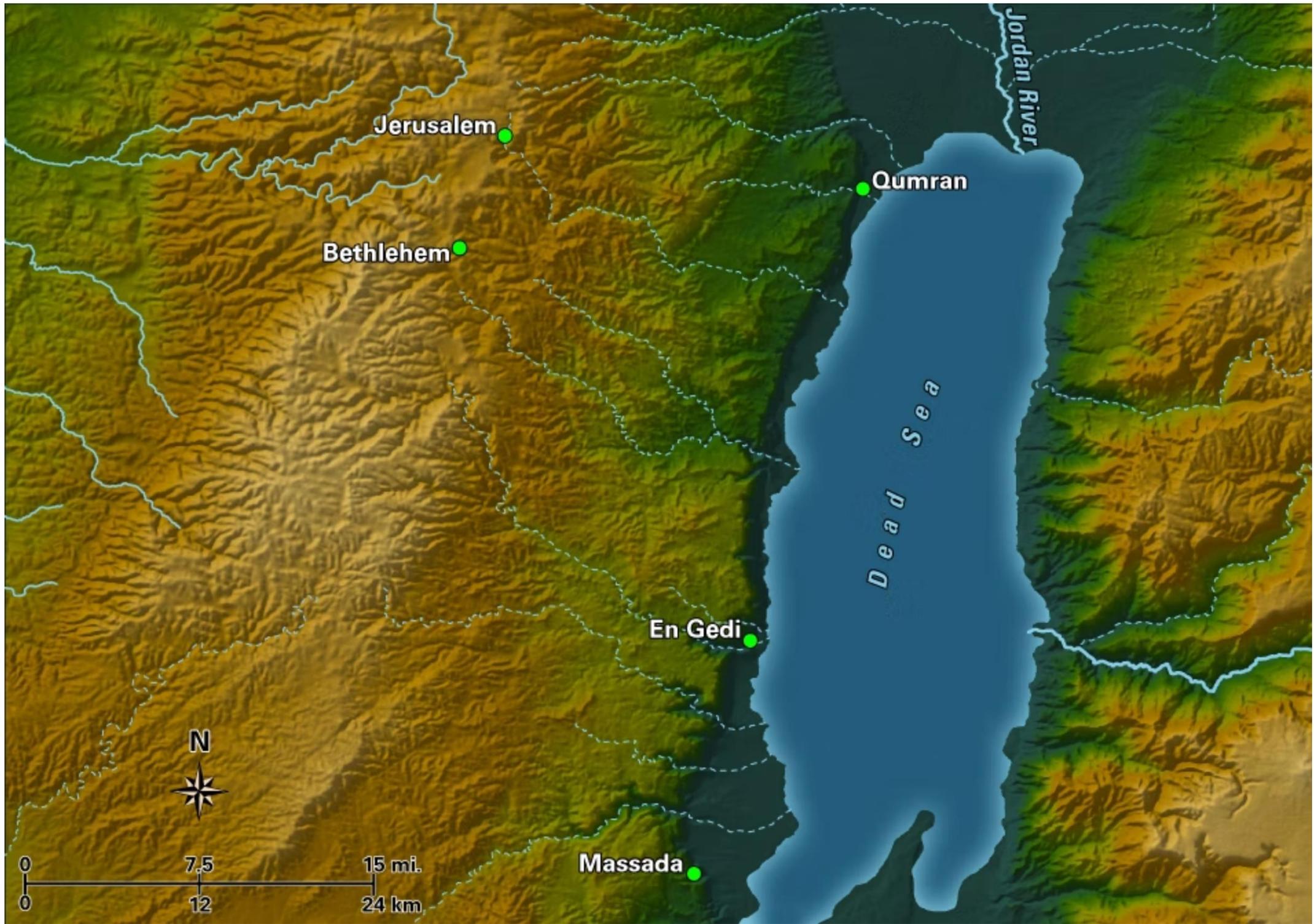
**Dated: A.D. 929-1121**

**Located: Housed throughout the world.**

# Dead Sea Qumran Area

**Manuscripts 1000 years Older!**





Cistern

Southern plateau

Assembly and dining hall

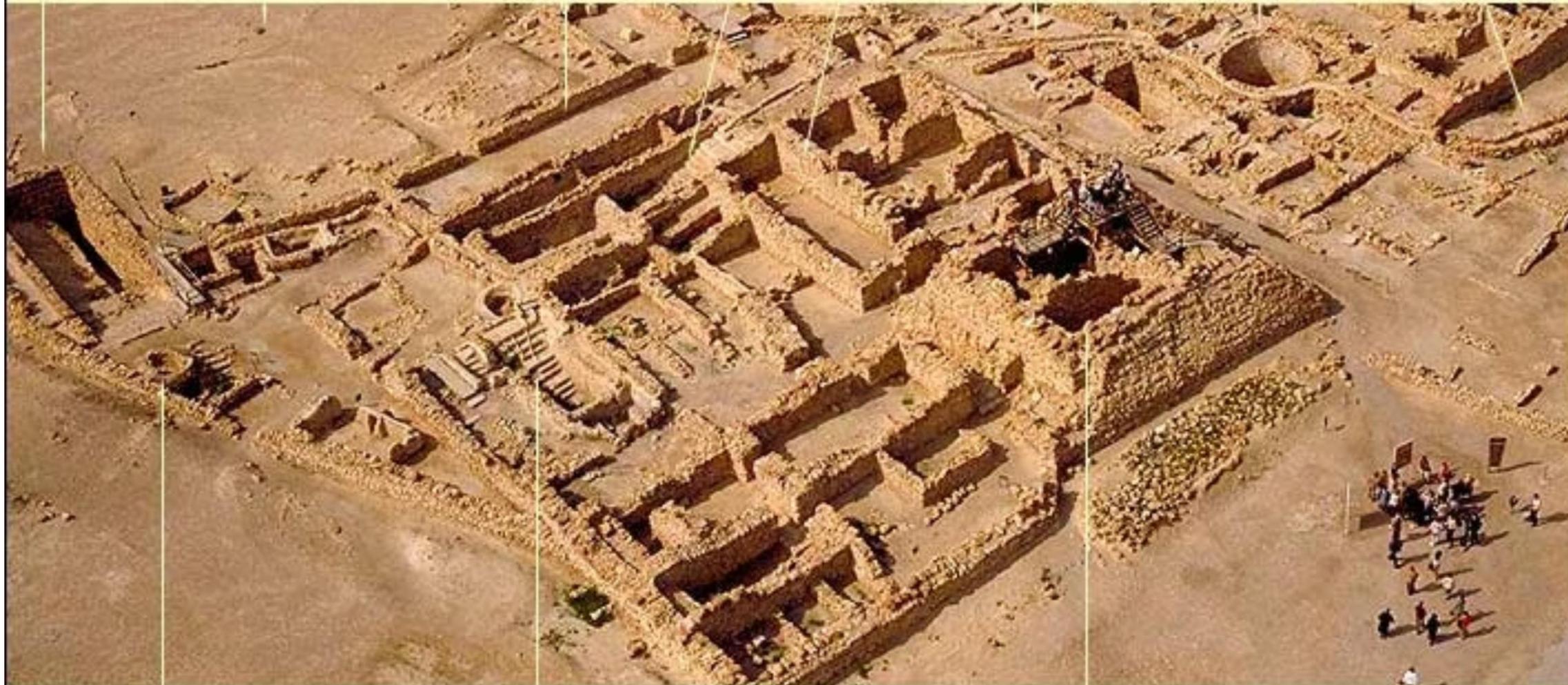
Bath

Area of scriptorium

Aqueduct

Cistern (1st Temple period?)

Aqueduct from canyon



Potter's kiln

Bath with cracked staircase

Tower

### Qumran (looking SW)

Adapted from a photograph by Richard Cleave of ROHR Productions Ltd.

(c) 1999 ROHR Productions Ltd.

VT

R E A L  
W O R L D  
T H E O L O G Y

## Paleo Exodus (4Q22)

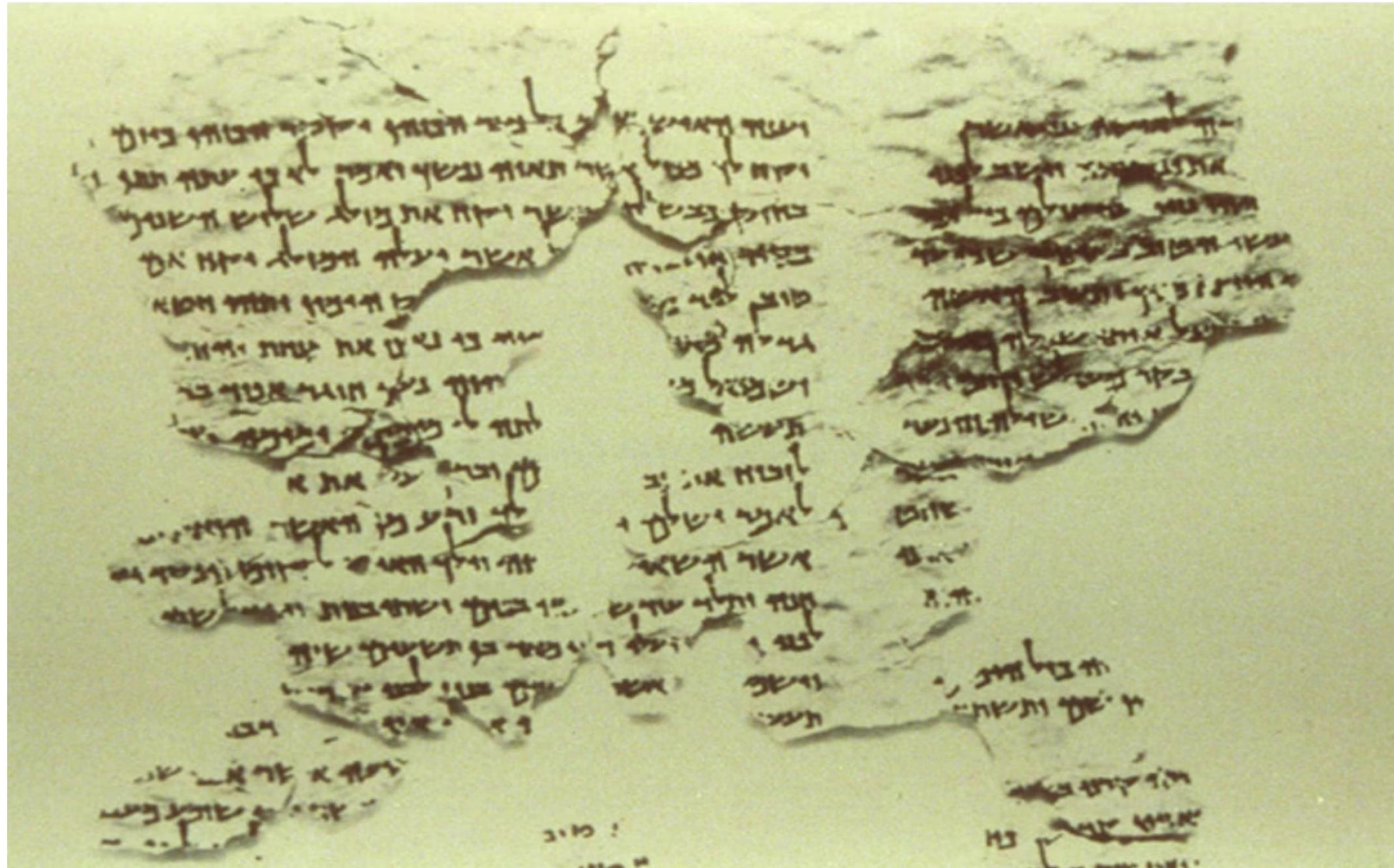


**Date: 250 B.C.**

**Significance: Nearly 1,000 years earlier than previous earliest manuscript**

**Scholars compared the texts and found that they matched the later texts almost exactly. The Hebrew Bible or Christian OT that you read today is the same text that was read by Jews when rabbinic Judaism was forming and the same text that was read by Jesus and his followers.**

# Fragment of Samuel (4Q Sam-b) - 225 B.C.



## Leviticus Scroll (11Q1) - Late 2nd Century B.C.



(Leviticus 22-27)

# Hosea Scroll (4Q166) - Late 1st Cent. B.C.



# Isaiah Scroll (IQIsa-a) - 100 B.C.



Complete Book of Isaiah

# Dating the Dead Sea Scrolls

## Carbon 14 Dating

Dr. Libby (1950) - 167 B.C.

## Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS)

(1991-1998) - 202 to 93 B.C.  
(Isaiah Scroll)

## Type of Writing

From 250 B.C. to A.D. 70

# Dating the Dead Sea Scrolls

## Type of Pottery

From 150 B.C. to A.D. 100

## Coins

From 135 B.C. to A.D. 135

## Cloth

From same period

## Other Manuscripts

Younger Murabba'at mss. found south of Bethlehem (1952) are self-dated at A.D. 132-135 which places DSS before this time.

# 1. Reliability of OT Manuscripts.

## 1 The Number of Manuscripts

Examining the quantity of available Old Testament manuscripts

## 2 The Accuracy of the Manuscripts

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## b. The Accuracy of OT Mss.

### Known From:

- 1 Comparing the Greek (LXX) OT
- 2 The careful practice of Jewish Scribes
- 3 Comparing parallel passages (e.g., Psa. 18 and 2 Sam. 22)
- 4 Large number (10K) of Hebrew mss.
- 5 Cross-checking with Dead Sea Mss. which are a thousand years earlier
- 6 Comparison with other ancient books

# The Masoretic Scribal Tradition

Jewish scribes developed elaborate systems to ensure accurate copying of sacred texts, counting letters, words, and phrases to verify each manuscript's integrity.



# Expert Testimony on Dead Sea Scrolls

## Millar Burrows:

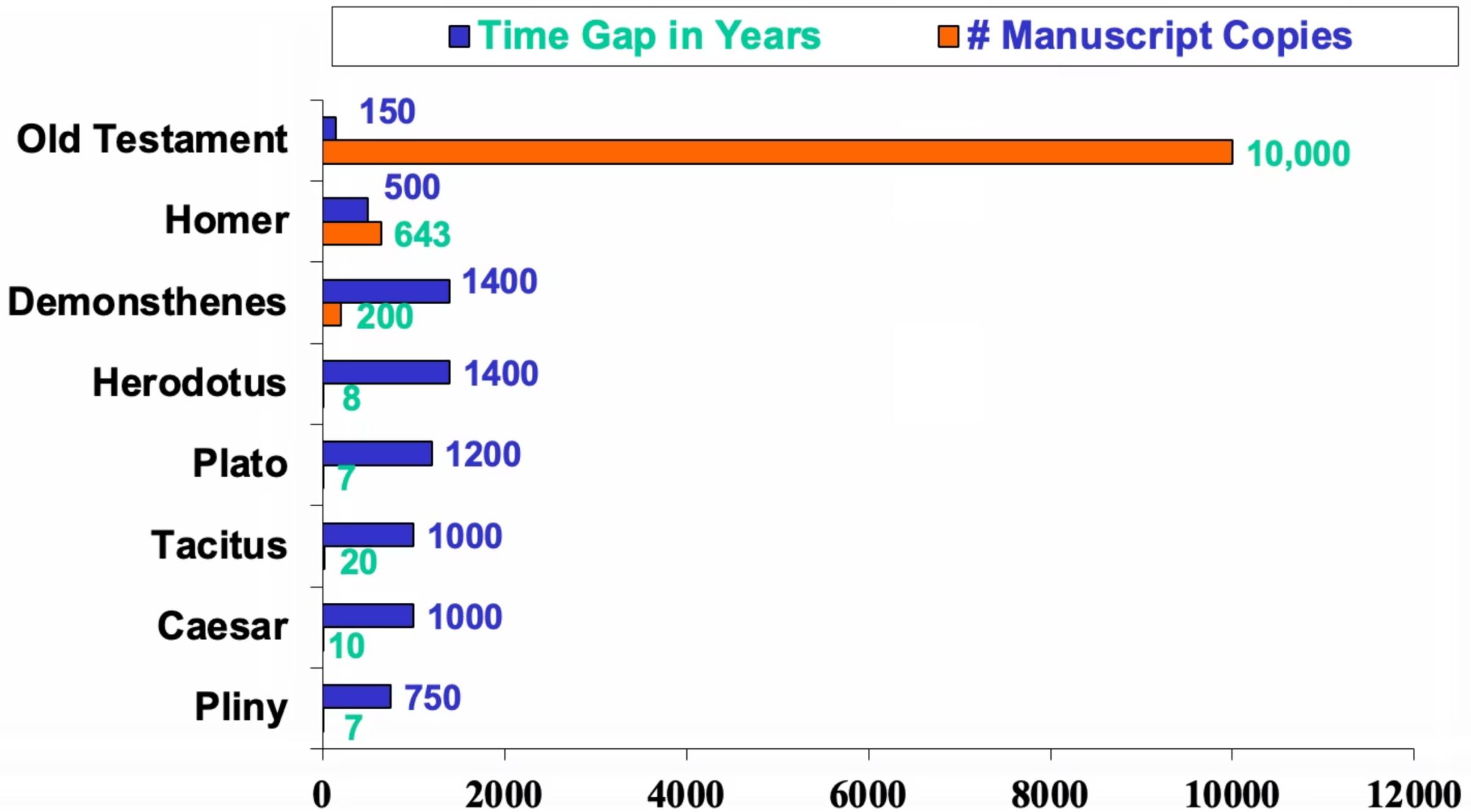
*"It is a matter of wonder that through something like a thousand years the text underwent so little alteration.... Herein lies its chief importance, supporting the fidelity of the Masoretic tradition" (The Dead Sea Scrolls, 304).*

## Gleason Archer:

*Isaiah "proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95% of the text. The 5% of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling" (OT Introduction, 19).*

## F.F. Bruce:

*"It may now be more confidently asserted than ever before that the Dead Sea discoveries have enabled us to answer this question [of reliability of the OT text] in the affirmative with much greater assurance than was possible before 1948" (MLDSS, 61-69).*



## The Bottom Line: *After 1000 Years*—

Only minor changes in the manuscripts

Despite centuries of hand copying

No change in the message!

The meaning remained intact

1. **One** word change in Isa. 53.
2. **Thirteen changes** in the entire book of Isaiah's 66 chapters.

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## 2. Reliability of OT Writers.

- 1 The moral character of the writers
- 2 The archaeological confirmation of their writings
- 3 The supernatural character of their writings
- 4 Confirmation of Jesus

## a) The moral character of the writers.



**The writers lived and taught the highest standard of morality known to mankind—  
The Ten Commandments!**

## b. Archaeological confirmation of their writings

Archaeological discoveries continue to validate biblical accounts

FOREWORD BY DR. WALTER C. KAISER, JR.

# THE POPULAR HANDBOOK *of* ARCHAEOLOGY *and the* BIBLE

*Discoveries That  
Confirm the  
Reliability  
of Scripture*

JOSEPH M. HOLDEN  
NORMAN GEISLER

# Archaeological Confirmation

**No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible**

Despite thousands of excavations and findings

**Hundreds of archaeological finds support the Bible**

Discoveries consistently align with biblical accounts

# No archaeological evidence has ever refuted the Bible.

"As a matter of fact, however, **it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.** Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible"

— Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, 31

# Dean of Archaeology



"The narratives of the patriarchs, of Moses and the exodus, of the conquest of Canaan, of the judges, the monarchy, exile and restoration, have all been confirmed and illustrated **to an extent that I should have thought impossible forty years ago**" (*Christian Century*, Nov. 19, 1958).

William F. Albright

"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament Tradition" (*Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*, 176).

# Numerous Archaeological Confirmations:

## **Ebla Tablets**

Creation from nothing (Gen. 1-2)

## **Flood Accounts**

Worldwide stories (Gen. 6-9)

## **The Tower of Babel**

Sumerian Ziggurats (Gen 11)

## **The Patriarchs**

Mari letters (Gen. 12-50)

## **Sodom and Gomorrah**

Mt. Sodom (Gen. 18-19)

## **The Exodus**

Evidence in Arabia (Ex. 12 cf. Gal. 4:25)

# Numerous Archaeological Confirmations:

## King David

Stone with David's name on it (2 Sam.)

## Solomon

Ashes artifacts on temple mound (1 Kgs.)

## The Assyrian Invasion

Assyrian record (Isa. 20)

## King Jehu

Mentioned in Black Obelisk (2 Kgs.)

## King Hezekiah

Sennacherib invasion (2 Kgs.)

## Hezekiah's tunnel

Underground source (2 Kgs.)

## Jewish Captivity

King Jehoiachin's records (2 Kgs. 25)

## c. The supernatural character of their writings.

1

Only God can make accurate and repeated long-term predictions.

2

The OT repeatedly made accurate and long-term predictions.

3

Therefore, the OT came from God.

# OT Predictions of Messiah

## Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

## Ethnic Group

Abraham, Gen 12:1

## Tribe

Judah, Gen 49:10

## Dynasty

David, 2 Sam 7:12

## Where

Micah 5:2

## How He Will Die

Isa. 53



**There are nearly 100 of these!**

## d. Confirmation by Jesus

1. Creation of the universe (Gen. 1) Mk. 13:19
2. Special Creation of Adam and Eve (Gen. 1-2) Mt. 19:4-5
3. Noah's Flood/destruction of the world (Gen.6-7) Mt. 24:39
4. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen. 12-50) Luke 20:37
5. Lot and destruction of Sodom (Gen. 18-19) Luke 17:29
6. Moses and the burning bush (Ex. 3:6) Luke 20:37
7. Moses wrote the commandments (Ex. 20) Mk. 10:5
8. Provision of water and manna (Ex. 16:4; 17:6) John 6:49
9. Lifting up the serpent in wilderness (Num. 21:9) John 3:14
10. David wrote psalms (Psa. 110) Mt. 22:43
11. Solomon's great kingdom (1 Kgs. 10) Mt. 12:42
12. Elijah's provision for the widow (1 Kgs. 17) Lk. 4:26
13. Prayer of Elijah for no rain (1 Kings 17-18) Lk. 4:24
14. Healing of Naaman the leper (2 Kgs 5) Lk. 4:27
15. Jonah in the great fish (Jonah 2) Mt. 12:40
16. The supernatural prophecy of Daniel (Dan. 9) Mt. 24:15

## The Bottom Line:

- ✔ The OT has **more** manuscripts, **earlier** manuscripts, **better** copied manuscripts, and **more reliably more reliably** recorded history than any other book of its time.

If you can't trust the OT, then you would have to **throw out all of ancient history!**