



# **The Bible its Origin and Transmission**

A Topical Study – Part 1

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth

# The Bible

## its Origin and Transmission

- What is the Bible?
- Where did it come from?
- How did we get it?
- Bible translations
  - What you need to know!





# The Bible

The Living Word of God

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth

# The Bible

- Most printed book in history
  - Estimates range from 5-7 billion!
- Most translated book in the world!
  - As of May 2025, translated into 774 languages
  - at least some part of the Bible is available in over 3,887 languages
  - Over 900 translations into English alone!
- Best selling book of the year
  - Every year!
- Profound impact on cultures, the rule of law, languages, everyday expressions.
  - Over 250 common English expressions derive from the KJV

# Abraham Lincoln

“I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through the book”

# Patrick Henry:

“The Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed”

# Immanuel Kant

“I believe that the existence of the Bible is the greatest benefit to the human race. Any attempt to belittle it, I believe, is a crime against humanity.”

# George Washington:

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible”

# Napoleon

“The Bible is no mere book, but it is a Living Creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it”

# The Living Word of God

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Hebrews 4:12**

# Dr Chuck Missler

CHUCK  
MISSLER

1934 - 2018

- Taught the Bible for over forty years.
- For twenty years at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa's Bible Studies
- From 1973 until his death in 2018 through his ministry Koinonia House
- He authored over 30 books
- Distributed Bible study resources in the U.S. and over 35 countries
- Produced over 600 Hours of in-depth audio/video commentary

A portrait of Dr. Chuck Missler, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red and white checkered tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a gentle expression. A microphone is visible in the lower left foreground.

# Dr Chuck Missler

## CHUCK MISSLER

1934 - 2018

“The Bible is an integrated message system that has its origin from outside our time domain”

# Dr Chuck Missler

A portrait of Dr. Chuck Missler, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a gentle expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

## 2 Critical discoveries:

### - Integrated message system

- 66 separate books
- Penned by 40 different individuals
- Over thousands of years
- ...in which every detail is anticipated by deliberate, skillful, design!

### - Provably from outside our time domain

- The Bible tells the end from the beginning

# Dr Ivan Panin

- Russian born Dr Ivan Panin spent over 50 years of his life painstakingly exploring the numerical structure of the Scriptures,
  - He generated over 43,000 detailed, hand-penned pages of analysis.
  - His findings showed that not only the surface text is filled with numerical patterns, but the very words and letters themselves are specifically chosen to fit mathematical models.



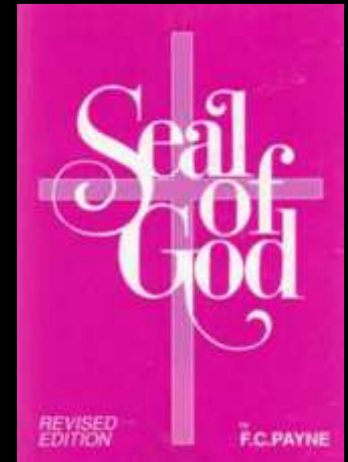
# Dr Ivan Panin

- After 50 years of research...
- Dr. Ivan Panin stated that:
  - *“The Bible could not possibly have been written except by the inspiration of God Himself”*
- This claim was investigated by the Nobel Research Foundation of Los Angeles
- Their verdict was:
  - *“So far as our investigation has proceeded, we find the evidence overwhelmingly in favour of such a statement”*



# F.C. Payne

- Commenting on Panin's research, F C Payne stated:
- *“The marvellous things God has permitted to be revealed in recent years has placed the Bible like a beacon high above the crumbling ruins of the theories of its critics. Any person who scoffs at the Bible today is simply manifesting their ignorance of revealed facts”.*



F.C Payne  
Seal of God  
(ISBN 0 908208 03 0)

# Eternal!

<sup>8</sup> The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

**Isaiah 40:8**

# Eternal!

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Matthew 24:35**

# Settled

89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

**Psalm 119:89**

- The ultimate in cloud-based storage!
- If every material thing will one day be destroyed, the Word is not merely physical!

# Preserved

<sup>6</sup> The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

**Psalms 12:6-7**

- If God did not preserve His Word, we have to ask why not?
- Was he not able to? Or didn't he care to?
- Both positions are absurd!

# The Bible

- H L Hastings commented:
- *“Infidels for 1800 years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels, with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack-hammer would on the pyramids of Egypt.”*

# The Bible

- Bernard ram stated:
- *“A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put! ... No other book has been so chopped, knived, sifted, scrutinised, and vilified. Yet the Bible is still loved by millions read by millions and studied by millions”*

# The Bible

- *When the French monarch proposed the persecution of the Christians in his dominion, an old statesman and warrior said to him, “sire the Church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers”.*
- *So, the hammers of infidels have been picking away at this book for ages, but the hammers are worn out, and the Anvil still endures.*
- *If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the Book still lives.*

# The Bible

- Voltaire the noted French infidel, who died in 1778, said that in 100 years from his time, Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history.
  - Geisler and Nix point out that, only 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles!
  - Voltaire has passed into history, while the circulation of the Bible continues to increase in almost all parts of the world.

# The Bible

- Josh McDowell quoted a professor who stated:

“If you are an intelligent person, you will read the one book that has drawn more attention than any other, if you are searching for the truth”.

# The Bible

- Dave Hunt stated:

“You can save a lot of time. Go to the Bible first. The Bible claims all of them (the world's other religious & philosophical writings) are wrong. Now, if we can prove the Bible is right, is true, then we've saved a lot of time! When you find the truth, you don't have to check out all the lies anymore.”

# The Bible

“This book had to be written by one of three people: good men, bad men or God.

It couldn't have been written by good men because they said it was inspired by the revelation of God. Good men don't lie and deceive.

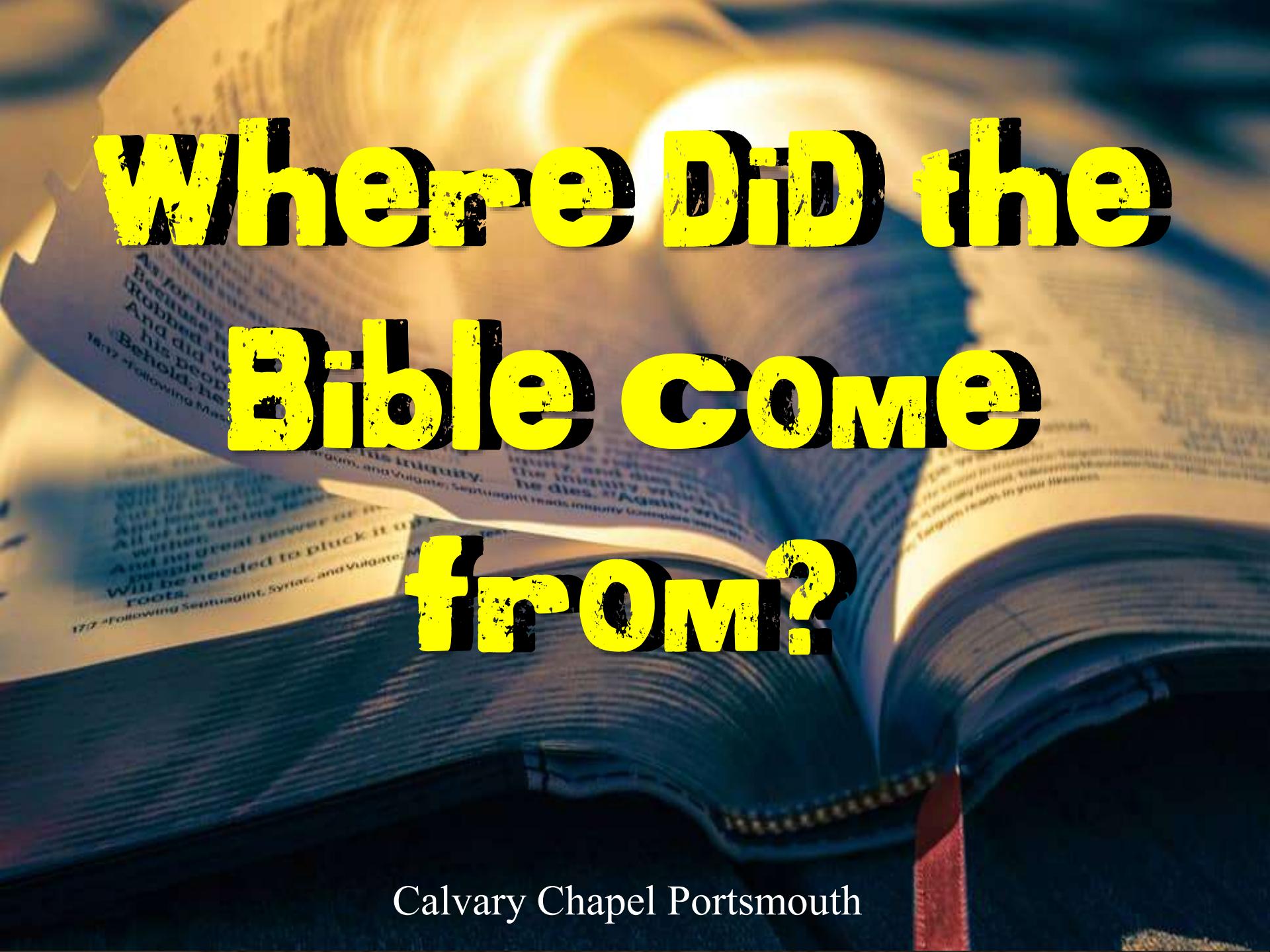
# The Bible

“It couldn't have been written by bad men because bad men would not write something that would condemn themselves.

It leaves only one conclusion...

It was given by divine inspiration of God.”

- John Wesley



# Where Did the Bible Come from?

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# Meet The Author!

- 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
- 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

**2 Peter 1:20-21**

- The Holy Spirit is the Author of Scripture
- God used men to record His words

# Meet The Author!

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

<sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

- Scripture is given by direct inspiration from God for our leaning & spiritual growth

# The Honour of the Jews

- 1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?
- 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

**Romans 3:1-2**

- The Jews were entrusted with the task of faithfully ensuring the Word of God be passed down for future generations.

# The Old Testament (Tanakh)

- Genesis 5:1 tells us of 'the book of Adam'
  - The Hebrew word סֵפֶר 'Seper' implies a written account
- There is a recurring word תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot' (translated 'generations') that means an account, a history of..
  - The generations (תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot) of Adam Gen 5:1
  - The generations (תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot) of Noah Gen 6:9
  - The generations (תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot) of Shem Gen 11:10
  - The generations (תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot) of Terah Gen 11:27
  - The generations (תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot) of Isaac Gen 25:19
  - The generations (תּוֹלְדוֹת 'Toldot) of Jacob Gen 37:2
- It seems a written record was passed down from generation to generation

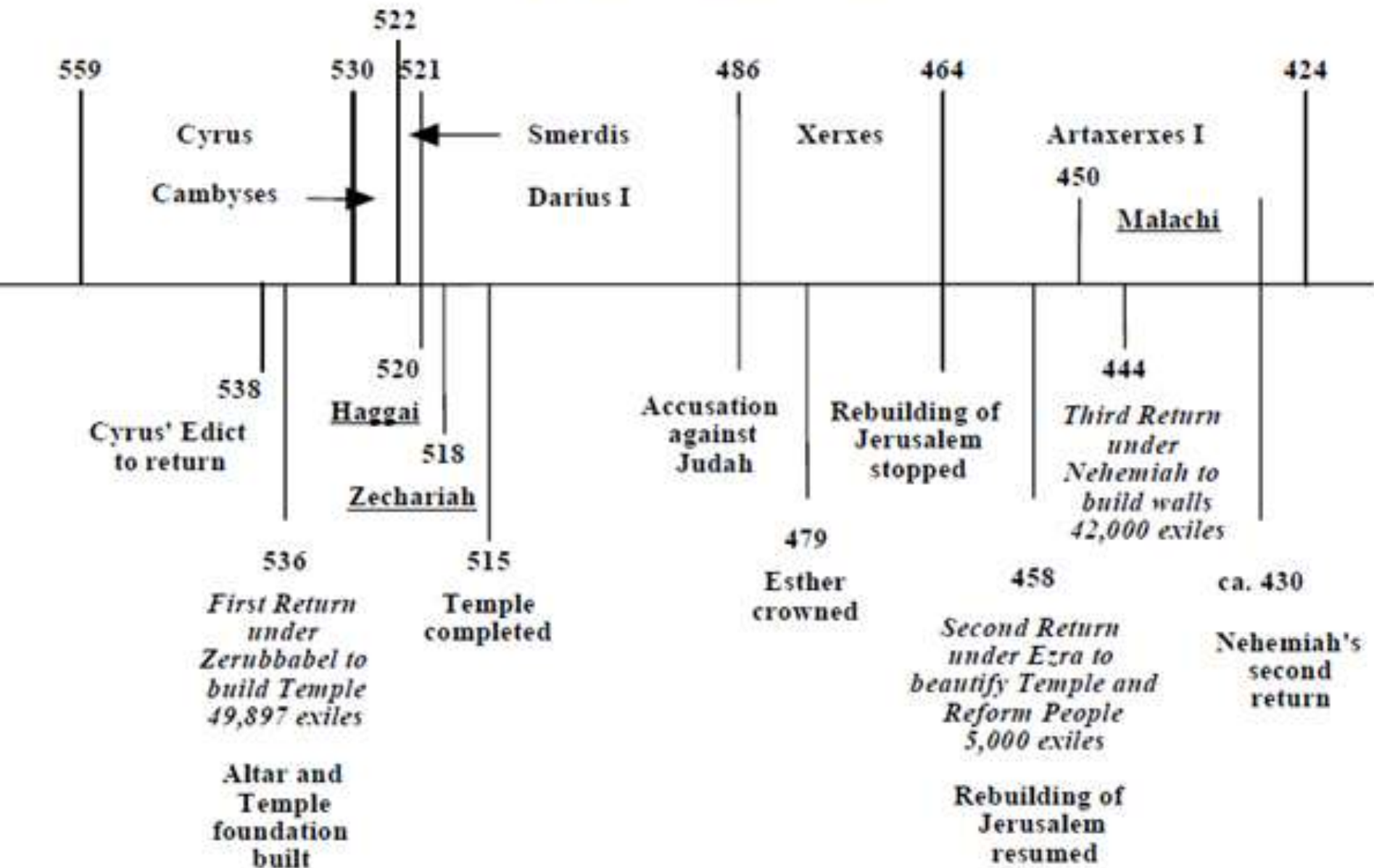
# The Old Testament (Tanakh)

- Eventually Moses was given the responsibility of collating all these records into the Torah
  - “And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book” – Ex 17:14
  - 1 Kings 2:3, 8:9, 2 Kings 14:6: refer to the "Torah of Moses" and the "Book of the Law,"
  - Ezra 7:6, Nehemiah 1:7, 8:1: refer to the law of Moses and the Torah, attributing the authorship to him.
  - Psalm 103:7, Daniel 9:13: acknowledge Moses as the author of the law and the Torah.
  - 2 Chronicles 23:18, 25:4, Malachi 4:4: reference the law of Moses and the Torah.
  - Matthew 19:7-8, 22:24, Acts 3:22, 7:37-38; Romans 10:19, 1 Corinthians 9:9, Hebrews 9:19, Revelation 15:3

# The Old Testament (Tanakh)

- Ezra's Role:
  - Jewish tradition credits Ezra with preserving the Torah and compiling much of the Old Testament.
  - Ezra's was meticulous in his study of the Law, then teaching and interpreting it to his people.
  - Ezra lived during a time of significant upheaval and exile, his role as a priest and scribe would have been crucial in preserving and transmitting scripture
- The Old Testament closes with Malachi c.430 B.C.
- The Old Testament was translated into Greek by c.270 B.C. in a translation known as the 'Septuagint' (written by 72 Jewish scholars)
  - Thus, was complete 3 centuries before Christ

## The Restoration Period



# Faithful Transmission

- The Talmud (a collection of Jewish teachings and opinions on various topics) lists more than a dozen rules for copying the Torah
- It comprises a built-in security system!
- If even just one of these factors is lacking, it does not possess the sanctity of a Torah scroll, and is not to be used for a public Torah reading.
- The meticulous process of hand-copying a scroll takes about 2,000 hours (a full-time job for one year).
- Throughout the centuries, Jewish scribes have adhered to the following guidelines:

# Faithful Transmission

- 1. The parchment must be made from the skin of a clean animal (clean meaning ceremonially clean according to the Old Testament sanitary laws); must be prepared by a Jew only, and the skins must be fastened together by strings taken from clean animals.
- 2. Each column must have no less than forty-eight, nor more than sixty lines.
- 3. The entire copy must be first lined.

# Faithful Transmission

- 4. A Torah Scroll is disqualified if even a single letter is added.
- 5. A Torah Scroll is disqualified if even a single letter is deleted.
- 6. The scribe must be a learned, pious Jew, who has undergone special training and certification.
- 7. All materials (parchment, ink, quill) must conform to strict specifications, and be prepared specifically for the purpose of writing a Torah Scroll.

# Faithful Transmission

- 8. The scribe may not write even one letter into a Torah Scroll by heart. Rather, he must have a second, kosher scroll opened before him at all times.
- 9. The scribe must pronounce every word out loud before copying it from the correct text.
- 10. Every letter must have sufficient white space surrounding it. If one letter touched another in any spot, it invalidates the entire scroll.

# Faithful Transmission

- 11. If a single letter was so marred that it cannot be read at all, or resembles another letter (whether the defect is in the writing, or is due to a hole, tear or smudge), this invalidates the entire scroll.
- 12. Each letter must be sufficiently legible so that even an ordinary schoolchild could distinguish it from other, similar letters.
- 13. The scribe must put precise space between words, so that one word will not look like two words, or two words look like one word.

# Faithful Transmission

- 14. The scribe must not alter the design of the sections, and must conform to particular line-lengths and paragraph configurations.
- 15. The ink must be of no other color than black, and it must be prepared according to a special recipe.
- 16. He must reverently wipe his pen each time before writing the word for "God" (Elohim), and he must wash his whole body before writing the name "Jehovah" (LORD in KJV), lest the Holy Name be contaminated.

# Faithful Transmission

- 17. Each Hebrew letter has a numerical value; each column when completed must be added up and be the exact numerical value as the scroll you were copying from.
- 18. Each page must also add up numerically
- 19. The revision (to correct any errors) of a roll must be made within thirty days after the work was finished; otherwise it was worthless.
- 20. One mistake on a sheet condemned the entire sheet. If three mistakes were found on any page, the entire manuscript was condemned.

# Faithful Transmission

- Critics favourite challenge:  
“you can’t trust the Bible, it’s been changed so many times”
- 304,805 letters in the Torah
- How many errors in 1900 years?

# Preserved!

*“The fact is, that after all the trials and tribulations, communal dislocations and persecutions, only the Yemenite Torah scrolls contain any difference from the rest of world Jewry. For hundreds of years, the Yemenite community was not part of the global checking system, and a total of **nine letter-differences** are found in their scrolls. These are all spelling differences. In no case do they change the meaning of the word.”*

# Preserved!

With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 the accuracy of the Old Testament was confirmed.

It had been faithfully preserved and transmitted down through the generations



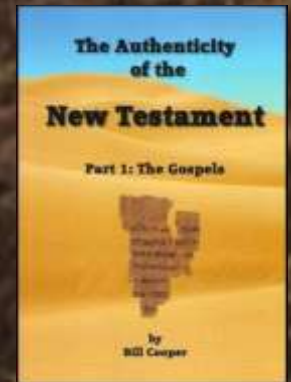
# The Dead Sea Scrolls

- What have they told us?
- Discovered between 1947 and 1956
  - In caves in Qumran in southern Israel
- They comprise some 800 documents
- ...dating from around 250 BC to 68 AD
- Among the Scrolls are partial or complete copies of every book in the Hebrew Bible
  - except the book of Esther



# The Dead Sea Scrolls

*The caves at Qumran are famous for the hoard of Old Testament and other manuscripts that have been found there. But the thing which receives the least publicity (if any publicity at all) is the fact that the caves have also yielded fragments of **New Testament** books. This absence of publicity – this blanket denial of their identity – is not to be wondered at.*



Dr Bill Cooper

– The Authenticity of the New Testament, Part 1

# The Dead Sea Scrolls

*It was really most awkward. In fact, it still is very awkward for them, for it means that the fragments must have been written out – copied from even earlier exemplars – well before A.D. 68, which undermines everything that the critics have been claiming all these years.*

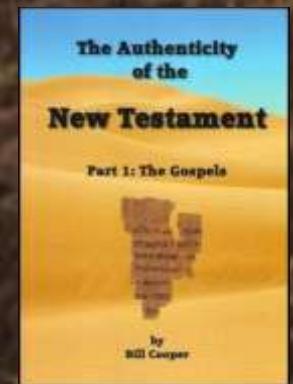


Dr Bill Cooper

– The Authenticity of the New Testament, Part 1

# The Dead Sea Scrolls

*The fact of the matter is this, that these manuscripts were deposited in the caves at Qumran by the year A.D. 68 at the very latest, when Qumran and the surrounding area was overrun by the Roman 10<sup>th</sup> legion, and according to the critics, the New Testament – especially the Gospels – had not been written by that time.*



Dr Bill Cooper

– The Authenticity of the New Testament, Part 1

# The New Testament

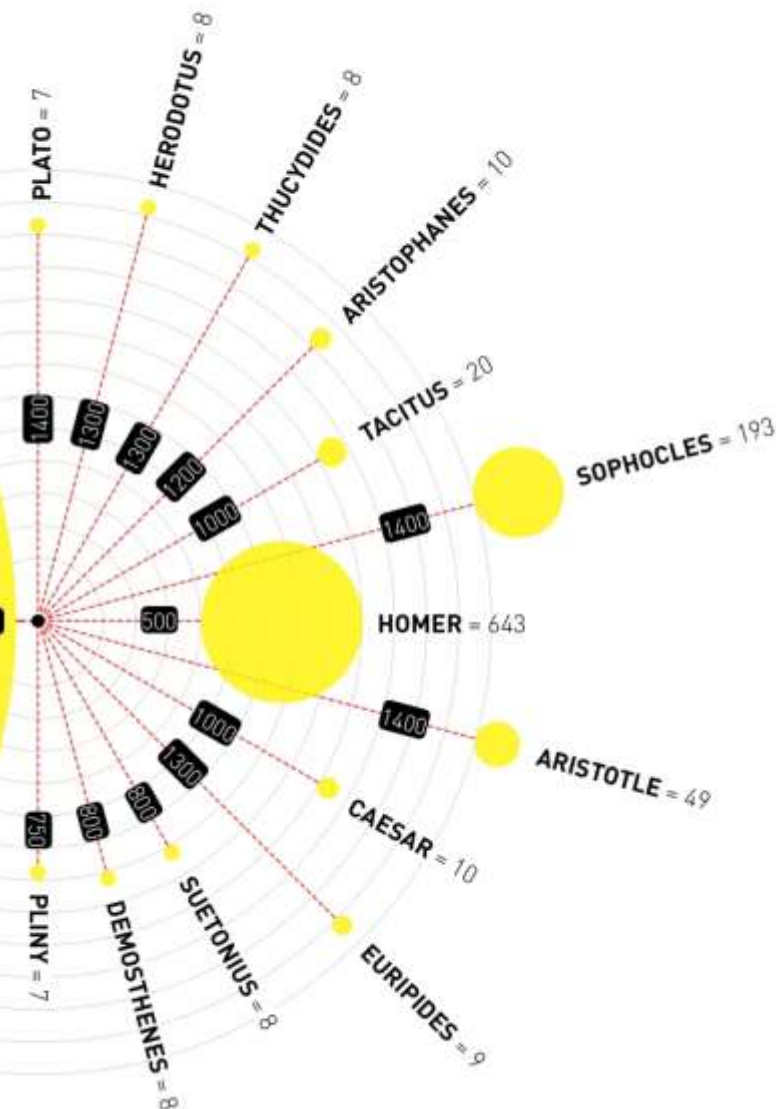
- Despite the claims of the critics, (who claim the New Testament was not written until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century), evidence now places the whole of the New Testament firmly within the 'eye-witness' period
- In fact, there is overwhelming support that ALL of the NT was written BEFORE the destruction of the Temple in A.D.70
  - Copies and even commentaries were in wide circulation before A.D. 68

# THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT COMPARED TO OTHER ANCIENT TEXTS

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AUTHOR / TEXT	EXISTING COPIES	YEARS BETWEEN ORIGINAL & EARLIEST SURVIVING COPIES
<b>NEW TESTAMENT</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>40-70</b>
HOMER / ILIAD	643	500
SOPHOCLES	193	1400
ARISTOTLE	49	1400
TACITUS	20	1000
CAESAR	10	1000
ARISTOPHANES	10	1200
EURIPIDES	9	1300
SUETONIUS	8	800
DEMOSTHENES	8	800
THUCYDIDES	8	1300
HERODOTUS	8	1300
PLINY	7	750
PLATO	7	1200

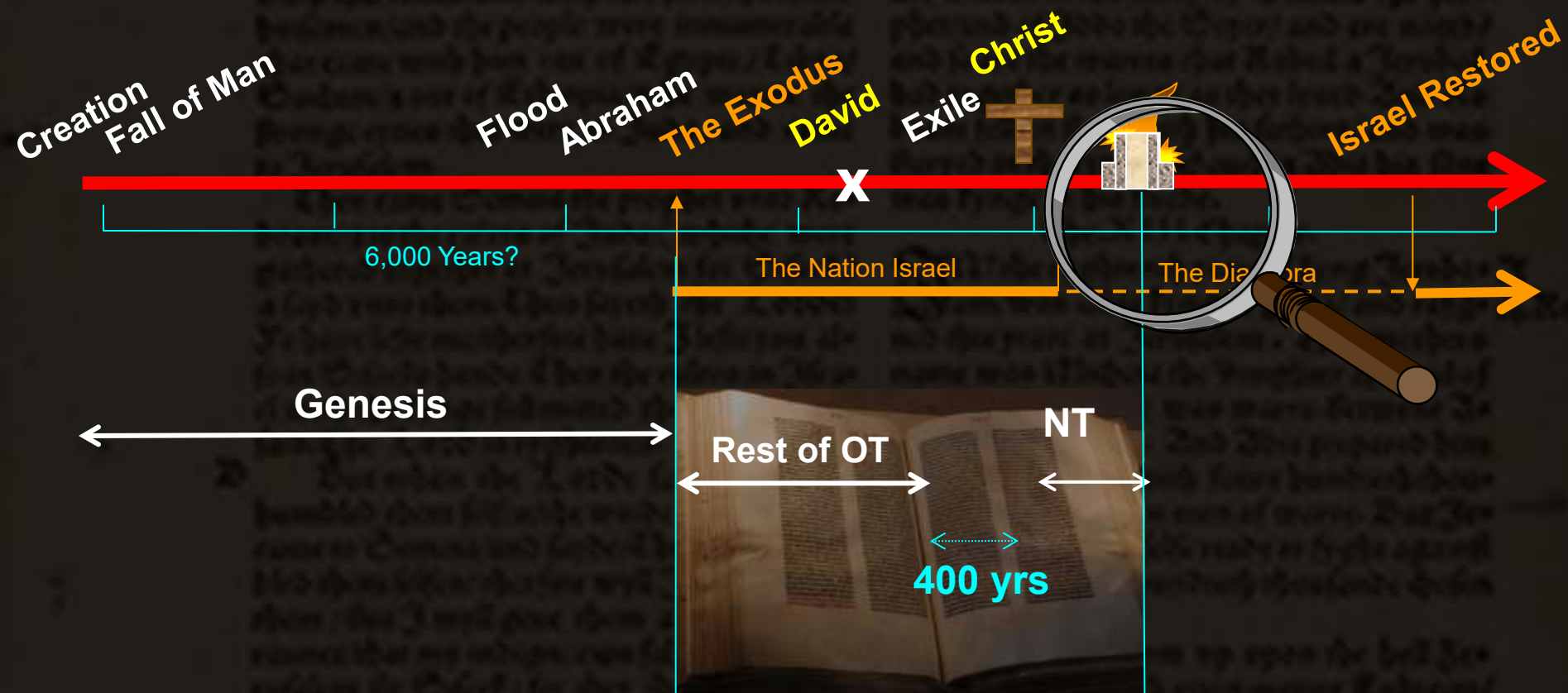
**NEW TESTAMENT = 24,000** 40-70



# The New Testament

- Sir Frederick Kenyon stated:
  - *“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 Writing of the Bible





# How Did We Get the Bible?

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# Corruption Warning!

17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God, but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 2:17**

- Paul warns that there will be those who will attempt to corrupt the Word of God.
- Do we naively assume that this doesn't apply today?
- Deception is always a subtle twist of the truth. You never get forged £9 notes!

# Twisting Scripture

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

**2 Peter 3:16**

# Attacking The Truth

- 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
- 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jude 3-4**

# Age Old Problem!

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, **hath God said,** Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

**Genesis 3:1**

- Satan has always tried to cause people to doubt God's word (or to change what God has actually said).

# Another 'Truth'

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

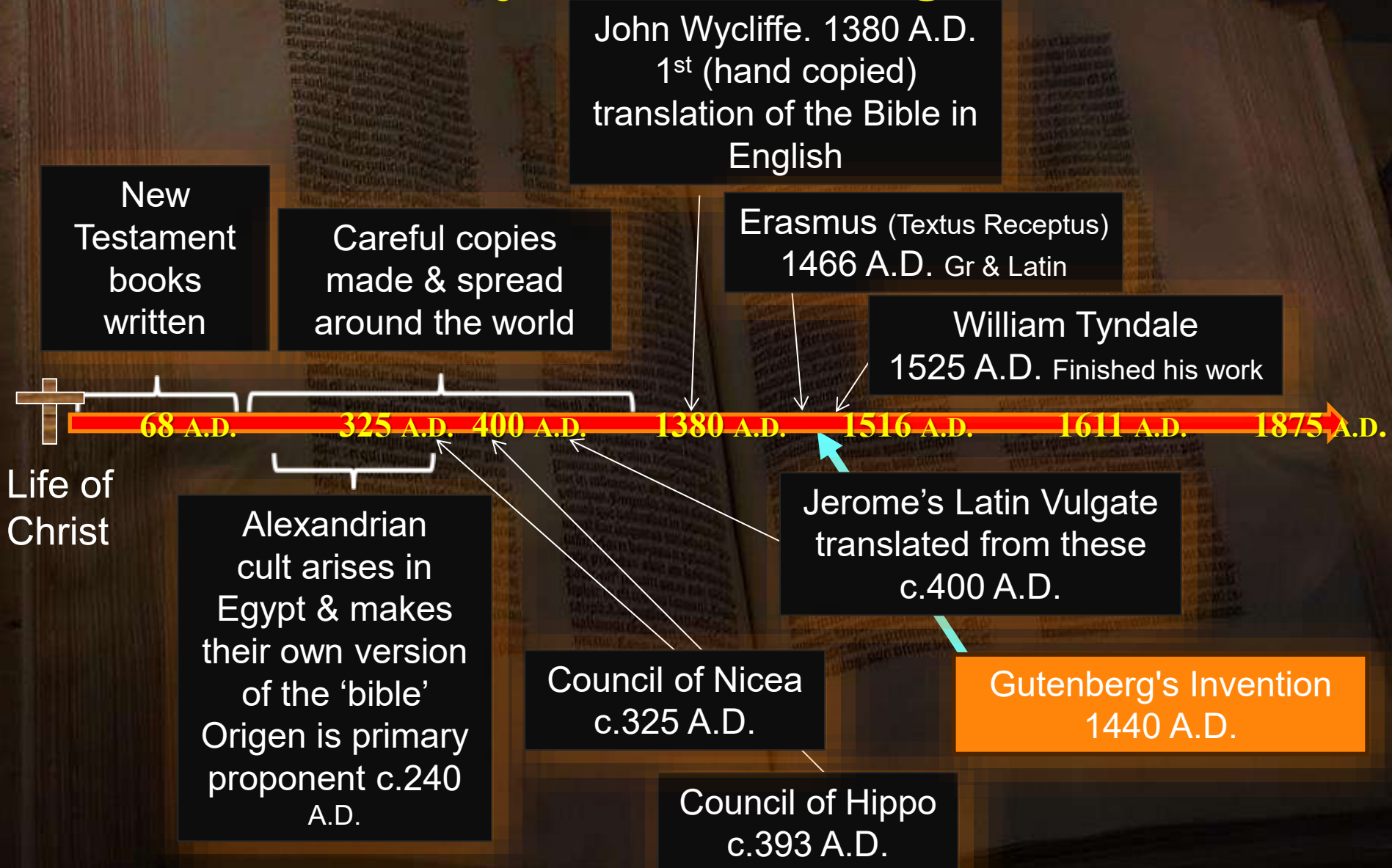
**1 John 2:21-22**

- John tackles the same problem as Jude.
- This heresy had begun with the gnostic school at Alexandra in Egypt. This was an attempted fusion of Christianity and Greek philosophy.

# Gnostic / Arian Heresy

- By the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, heresy was already rearing its head.
- One of the 'hot beds' was Alexandria in Egypt
- It was a famous place for learning...
- And Greek philosophy & Christianity were being fused together
- The result:
- Questions over the deity of Christ

# The History of the English Bible



# Johann Gutenberg

- c. 1440 Produced the 1<sup>st</sup> printing press
- **This was a game changer!**
- To copy out a Bible by hand was time consuming and too expensive
- c. 1452 he produced the 1<sup>st</sup> printed Latin Bible
- If Bible's could now be printed...!



# Erasmus of Rotterdam

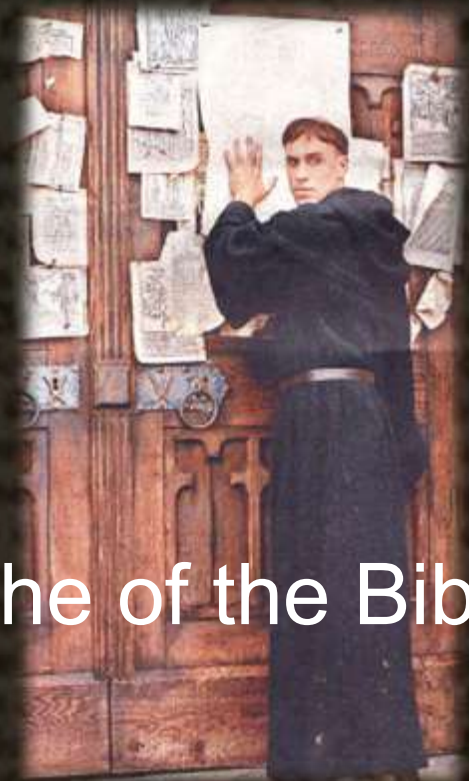
- Born: 1466 A.D.
- Produced a **Greek** version of the Bible by compiling all the available manuscripts (which became known as the 'Textus Receptus' lit. 'Received Text')
  - And a new Latin version
- This led him to realise that there were serious errors with the Vulgate (the Roman Catholic Bible)



*"It is only fair that Paul should address the Romans in somewhat better Latin"*

# Martin Luther

- Born: 1483 A.D.
  - key instigator of the Protestant Reformation in Europe
- Luther set about translation the of the Bible into German
  - New Testament in 1522, complete Bible by 1534



# William Tyndale

- Born: 1494 A.D.
- His great passion was to translate the Bible into English .
- Political pressure drove him from England.
- Possibly met with Martin Luther in Wittenberg?
- Finished his NT in July 1525



# William Tyndale

- Added new English words:
  - Jehovah
  - Passover
  - Atonement
  - + more
- Tyndale's NT quickly gained momentum



# William Tyndale

A bronze statue of William Tyndale stands on a stone pedestal in a park. The statue depicts a man with a beard, wearing a cap and a long robe, holding a book. The background features large trees and a building with arched windows.

“If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives a plough to know more of the scriptures than you do.”

# Henry VIII's Problem

*“Once Tyndale’s translation of the New Testament was widely available, there was no turning back. Tyndale’s translation would have to be authorised – or it would have to be bettered. There seemed to be no alternative. Reluctant to adopt the former course, Henry’s advisers chose the latter. They would produce their own Bible, and require it to be used in the public worship of the churches”*

**Alister McGrath**

# England's Political Landscape

- Henry VIII became king at age 17
- He had married his deceased brothers' widow
  - Catherine of Aragon
    - daughter of the king of Spain (Ferdinand II)
- Because he had no male heir, he sought a divorce
  - that would have to be sanctioned by the Pope
- However, Rome was under virtual siege by Spanish king Charles V
  - Nephew of Catherine of Aragon
  - So if the Pope grants the annulment of the marriage, he puts himself in danger of subjugation from the Spanish king

# England's Political Landscape

- In protest, Henry VIII establishes himself as head of the (Catholic) English church.
  - Closes English monasteries
  - Seeks alliance with German Lutherans
  - *“My enemies' enemy is my friend”*
- That caused Lutheran doctrine to sweep England
  - This was embraced by two significant historical figures:
  - Thomas Cranmer (Archbishop of Canterbury)
  - Thomas Cromwell (Henry VIII's chief minister)



# Thomas Cromwell



And the six years that changed the world!

# Thomas Cromwell

- Thomas Cromwell (c. 1485 – 1540) was a hugely influential figure in English history, serving as chief minister to King Henry VIII.
  - He rose from humble origins as the son of a Putney blacksmith to become one of the most powerful men in England.)
  - He travelled extensively in Europe in his youth, working as an accountant and merchant in Italy, and possibly even as a soldier.
  - He returned to England around 1512, studied law, and began his career in the service of Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII's then-chief minister.
    - Oliver Cromwell was a great-great-grand-nephew of Thomas Cromwell.

# Thomas Cromwell

- After Wolsey's fall from grace, Cromwell shrewdly navigated the court and gained the King's favour by devising a strategy to secure Henry's annulment from Catherine of Aragon.
  - Cromwell was central to the break with Rome and the establishment of the Church of England, with Henry VIII as its Supreme Head. He drafted key legislation that dismantled papal authority in England
    - Beaulieu Abbey / Mottisfont Priory / Romsey Abbey / Southwick Priory were all dissolved between 1536-1539
  - He strongly encouraged and facilitated the translation and widespread distribution of the Bible in English, mandating that every church have a copy.

# The Floodgates Opened

1534

- The English clergy knew that they needed an English translation
- But they rejected Tyndale's work
  - Mainly because there were marginal notes
- So led by Thomas Cromwell...
- In December 1534 Henry was petitioned for an English translation
- No royal sanction was forthcoming, but neither was an abjuration

# Coverdale Bible

- But the next year (1535 A.D.) the Coverdale Bible appeared
  - Miles Coverdale had compiled Tyndale's work along with 2 Latin and other works
- Coverdale's Bible was favoured by Anne Boleyn, so Henry VIII allowed it...
- ...until she fell out of favour!
- Cromwell knew an alternative had to be sought...

1536

# The Cost of Reform

- Thomas Cromwell was an outspoken supporter of William Tyndale
  - Tyndale by now had fled to Holland
  - Thomas Cromwell & the English parliament petitioned to have Tyndale set free, but they were ignored
  - Tyndale was betrayed, then strangled & burned in 1536



# Matthew's Bible

- In 1537 Richard Grafton (English printer) working in Antwerp has already begun production of the Matthew's Bible
  - The work of John Rogers (produced in Antwerp)
- Partly based on Coverdale's work
- Drew heavily from Tyndale
- Included unpublished work of Tyndale
- Henry liked it!
  - It was given royal approval and was authorised for general sale

# Thomas Cromwell

*“In January 1538, Cromwell pursued an extensive campaign against what was termed “idolatry” by the followers of the new religion. Statues, roods, and images were attacked, culminating in September with the dismantling of the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury.*

*Early in September Cromwell also completed a new set of vicegerential injunctions declaring open war on ‘pilgrimages, feigned relics, or images, or any such superstitions’, and commanding that ‘one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume in English’ be set up in every church. ”*

Howard Leithhead

# Matthew's Bible

- However...

# Matthew's Bible

- John Rogers (Matthew's Bible) had included a large number of marginal notes
  - A commentary to help the reader understand
  - This was heavily drawn from a new French-Protestant version produced in Geneva
- The English clergy soon saw the danger!
- Much Roman Catholic tradition had been retained by the Church of England
- Matthew's Bible would cause laypeople to see discrepancies between Scripture & the Church!

# The Great Bible

*“Thomas Cromwell realised that a new translation was needed. To begin from scratch would have taken an enormous amount of time... The simplest solution was adopted. Cromwell asked Coverdale to revise the Matthew’s Bible, with such changes as were required to keep influential churchmen happy, The new translation – which contained no offensive marginal notes – appeared in April 1539... It was this Bible that became known as the Great Bible”*

Alister McGrath

# The Cost of Reform

- Thomas Cromwell was eventually executed for pushing the reformation agenda to hard with king Henry VIII

- He encouraged the king to marry Anne of Cleves

*“Cromwell arranged for Hans Holbein to paint an excessively flattering portrait of this Lutheran princess, whom Henry never met prior to the marriage”*

Alister McGrath

- When the King met her, however, he was less than enamoured, so had the marriage annulled.

# The Geneva Bible

- In 1560 a new English translation was produced – in Geneva, Switzerland
  - The work of William Whittingham et al + John Knox & Miles Coverdale
- It took the protestant world by storm!
- ... And included numerous notes!
- Geneva had become home to John Calvin & home of the European reformation
  - And home to a number of English exiles seeking a protestant way of life

# The Lead Up to 1611 A.D.

- Henry VIII had died,
- His son (Edward VI) reigned for just 6 yrs
- His eldest daughter (Mary I) reigned for 5yrs
- Then his youngest daughter Elizabeth I reigned for 45 years
  - Trying to appease both protestants and Catholic's in her realm

# The Lead Up to 1611 A.D.

- When Elizabeth I died, she had no heir...
- So, James the VI of Scotland became James I of England
  - Under John Knox Scotland had become overtly protestant
- The ‘Puritans’ in England were excited about this new king – would he ‘authorise’ the Geneva Bible they loved?
- “The Millenary Petition” was signed by 1000 puritan ministers wanting reform

# The Lead Up to 1611 A.D.



Hampton Court Palace Conference January A.D. 1604

# The King James Bible

*“I wish some special pains were taken for an uniform translation, which should be done by the best learned men in both Universities, then reviewed by the Bishops, presented to the Privy Council, lastly ratified by the Royal authority, to be read in the whole Church, and none other.”*

**King James I of England, 1604 A.D.**

# The King James Bible

- 47 men chosen to translate
- Translators organized into 3 groups
  - Westminster, Cambridge, and Oxford.
- 17 at Westminster assigned Genesis through 2 Kings; Romans through Jude.
- 15 At Cambridge worked on 1 Chronicles through Ecclesiastes,
- 15 at Oxford employed to translate Isaiah through Malachi; and the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation.

# The King James Bible

- The work was completed in 1611
- Finally, England had its own official translation of the Bible
- It was a landmark in the history of the English language
  - ‘greatest English text ever produced’
- It has inspired and shaped cultures
- Its influence has been immeasurable

# The King James Bible

*"Truly (good Christian Reader) we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new Translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one,...but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one, not justly to be excepted against, that hath been our endeavour."*

The Translators of the King James Bible

# The King James Bible

- The translators themselves acknowledged, they had a multitude of sources from which to draw from:

*"Neither did we think much to consult the Translators or Commentators, Chaldee, Hebrew, Syrian, Greek, or Latin, no nor the Spanish, French, Italian, or Dutch"*

- The Greek editions of Erasmus, Stephanus, and Beza were all accessible, as were numerous other versions

# The King James Bible

- Four years were spent on the preliminary translation by the six groups.
- The translators were exacting and particular in their work, as related in their preface:

# The King James Bible

*“Neither did we disdain to revise that which we had done, and to bring back to the anvil that which we had hammered: but having and using as great helps as were needful, and fearing no reproach for slowness, nor coveting praise for expedition, we have at the length, through the good hand of the Lord upon us, brought the work to that pass that you see”*

# The King James Bible

- One very remarkable thing:
- Given the propensity to produce new translations from 1516 A.D. to 1611 A.D...
- It is remarkable that no new notable translations were done for the next 300 years!
  - It wasn't as if there were a lack of scholars!

# The King James Bible

*“The Authorized Version eclipsed all previous versions of the Bible. The Geneva Bible was last printed in 1644, but the notes continued to be published with the King James text. Subsequent versions of the Bible were likewise eclipsed, for the Authorized Version was the Bible until the advent of the Revised Version (1881) and ensuing modern translations”*


Dr. Laurence M. Vance



# **The Bible its Origin and Transmission**

To be continued...

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



# Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*