

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

EVIDENCE FROM THE SCROLLS THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE

We are told that the book known as the Bible is still the world's best-selling book. More copies of this book are sold than any other, and there are more translations of this book than any other; so that there is hardly a language or dialect on the face of the earth into which the Holy Scriptures have not been translated. Yet we are aware that this book, though so well-known and widespread in its circulation, there are increasingly fewer people who really know what the Bible is about, who wrote it, where or when; and there are fewer still who truly comprehend the message it conveys. So that while it is to be found in ordinary homes throughout the world, it is seldom read. We briefly then reflect on some of the remarkable facts concerning it.

It is very much more than a book; for on examination, we find that it is a collection of books in one volume. This is composed of 66 books of widely differing topics: from law to poetry, history and prophecy, teaching and practice. Written by individuals from all manner of backgrounds: kings, herdsmen, lawyers, priests, courtiers and fishermen and farmworkers. Yet though these writings are apparently of such different characteristics, and some being composed over a thousand years before the others, the substance of their subject matter is completely in accord and harmony, linked together by a most powerful theme.

Another point to be borne in mind is that the individuals responsible for the writings of the scriptures were all men belonging to one people: the Hebrews also known as Israelis and Jews. For it is written for the Israelis, by Israelis and about Israelis or Jews; yet it has been, and still is, treasured by men and women of all nations of the world. Another fact relating to the Bible is undoubtedly the most important, is that all those Hebrew writers who contributed over so long a period, disclaim the authorship or responsibility for the proclamation of the principles it advocates. Indeed, all lay claim to a source greater than human authority: to Yahweh the Almighty God of Heaven. It is His word, merely recorded by human writers. So that we find throughout these 66 books the same phrases repeated in varying forms. For example: "*The word of the Lord*" occurs 5,023 times; or again, "*Thus saith the Lord*," 2116 times. Indeed this book claims to be written at the instigation of God, as we read in 2 Peter 1:21, "*The prophecy came not in old time*

by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” Also in Paul’s first letter to Timothy 3:16 it states that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

This being so, it is not surprising to find that the world’s two greatest religions, Judaism and Christianity, rest their foundations on the testimony of this book; whilst the third, Islam, though resting in the Koran, still observes the scriptures themselves as sacred, but to a lesser degree. For literally thousands of years the Bible was known and respected as the Book of God. For eleven centuries, from 400 to 1530 AD however, the Bible was in the hands of the largest Christian denomination, Roman Catholicism. During this time the Bible remained a sealed book; sealed from the knowledge and understanding of ordinary folk on account of it being written in Latin, having been translated by Eusebius Hieronymus known as Jerome. The priesthood became very powerful and claimed predominance over all people in Western Europe, believing that the Bible was the Book of the Church to be read and interpreted by those duly appointed within the Church.

Yet times changed, so that with the Reformation in Europe and the co-incident invention of printing, the Bible became a book, not only of the Church, but of the people, still known and respected as the Word of God. It is estimated 6,000,000,000 Bibles have been printed, since the publication of the Gutenberg Bible in 1456, Johannes Gutenberg 1540. Today we face a very different situation: the Bible is no longer respected, it is despised! It is generally considered to have been discredited by the superior knowledge of men of science! No longer regarded as the infallible word of the living God, but rather of a collection of myths and fables: providing entertainment perhaps for the very young, but certainly not to be relied on as a guide to life, or anything else for that matter! So, in opposition to the Bible’s claim to be true, we are now presented with the generally held opinion that, while its authors may not have been deliberately false, they were sincerely misguided individuals who put their confidence in stories of no more substance than fairy tales!

How then did this situation come about? Well, we find in every age, there have been men prepared to reject the Word of God; producing scoffers and

worldly-wise philosophers who have lived **and died**. However, serious opposition to the authority of the scriptures did not arise until some 150 years ago. History shows how the custodians of the Scripture, the Church, opposed enlightenment and would not condone free investigation of the scriptures, or any other form of higher learning outside its control. For hundreds of years, men's minds were shackled; they were not free to discuss or disclose anything, theory or observation without the authority of the Church. We remember how Galileo the astronomer discovered that the earth was round and not flat, as previously thought; showing that the earth went round the sun, and that the world was not the centre of the universe. This enlightened individual was forced by the Church to reject his discoveries, and proclaim publicly that, in fact the opposite was true!

The time came, however, when men grew tired of this stranglehold of the Church and desired to be free of this yoke of bondage. Gradually after the 30 years' war in Europe the Church lost its power, and the yoke of Rome was discarded. From this point, freedom of investigation into all matters could be had without censure. Men of understanding and science were able to find out many things that were previously unknown and obscure. So outstanding was their progression that science grew in the estimation of more and more people, so that the influence of an ignorant and ill-informed priestcraft declined. However, respect for the Bible in these early days remained high, for the investigation of science, in many ways, endorsed the scriptural teaching.

But soon scientists began to speculate on all aspects of nature, because of their very nature they were equipped to do so. This led to the proposing of many theories, which later proved the early scientist Joseph Priestley's conclusion on 'phlogiston' to be completely wrong. Perhaps the most outstanding of these, was the theory of Evolution, generally recognised as the work of Charles Darwin. As we know, this theory rejects the Biblical truth of special creation: the direct formation of man from the dust of the ground by the hand of God; declaring on the contrary that man evolved to the present state by a long series of changes, over many thousands of years, from a very simple form of life comparable to the amoeba, found in the slimy waters of any pond! Many notable men were

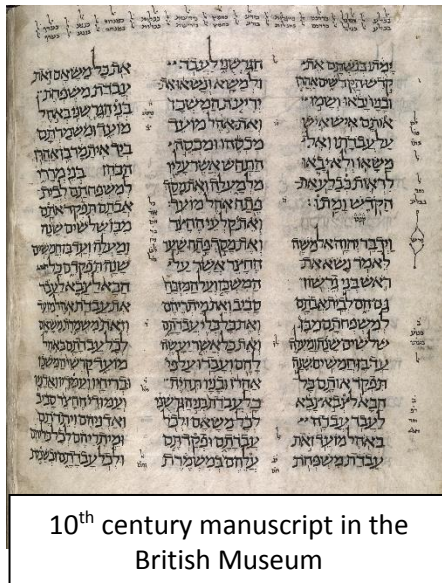
attracted to this theory, which seems on the surface to be most plausible, among them a man named Huxley.

Huxley was in many ways a clever scientist and able debater who knew his subject. There were several occasions when he defended Darwin's theory against attacks from prominent churchmen, who were both ill-informed from a scientific point of view, and from Bible teaching. So able was Huxley that, not only did he defend his theory, but he brought about the resounding defeat of a number of Bishops and Clergymen, who retreated in humiliation! Certainly, these clergymen had been discredited; and it is to be laid at the door of these same men that, little by little, the Bible was brought into disrepute. For as science, or what was advocated as science, became more popular, the clergy, not wishing to appear unscientific, began to apply the same principles as laid down in the theory of evolution, to the study of the scriptures themselves.

No longer was it considered satisfactory that the Bible was written by men inspired by God. No, no! According to experts, the Bible came into being gradually, as a collection of myths and folklore handed down from generation to generation, gradually changing. Some details added, others omitted; then brought together by a priesthood whom the clergy could only consider to be as crafty and unscrupulous as themselves! As they began to seriously apply their human reasoning to the Word of God, so was born the period of Higher Criticism. Among these critics rank names such as Dr. Wette, Astruc, Julius Wellhausen, Dr. Driver, to mention but a few. As a result of their labours, the study of the scriptures by their method became known as the New Theology; but in point of fact, was nothing more than the old infidelity interweaved and entangled with weak and unsupportable theories. Among their claims was that the books of the Old Testament were not as old as they claimed to be. The book of Isaiah was not written by one man, but two, because the name of God in Hebrew was sometimes 'Yahweh' and sometimes 'Eloah', it was therefore considered to have been written by two independent individuals living at different times, knowing only one of these names! The writings containing the name Yahweh were known as Yahvist, and the other known as Elohist. Where these words were found together, as in the first chapter of Genesis, Lord God, then it was asserted that these were written by a

third individual, who lived much later, but had access to the writings of the former two. So, by this insidious reasoning, these conjectures of the church, wittingly or unwittingly, sought to destroy the unity of the Bible, and to blot out its earlier history; thereby destroying faith and trust in this word as the work of the Almighty.

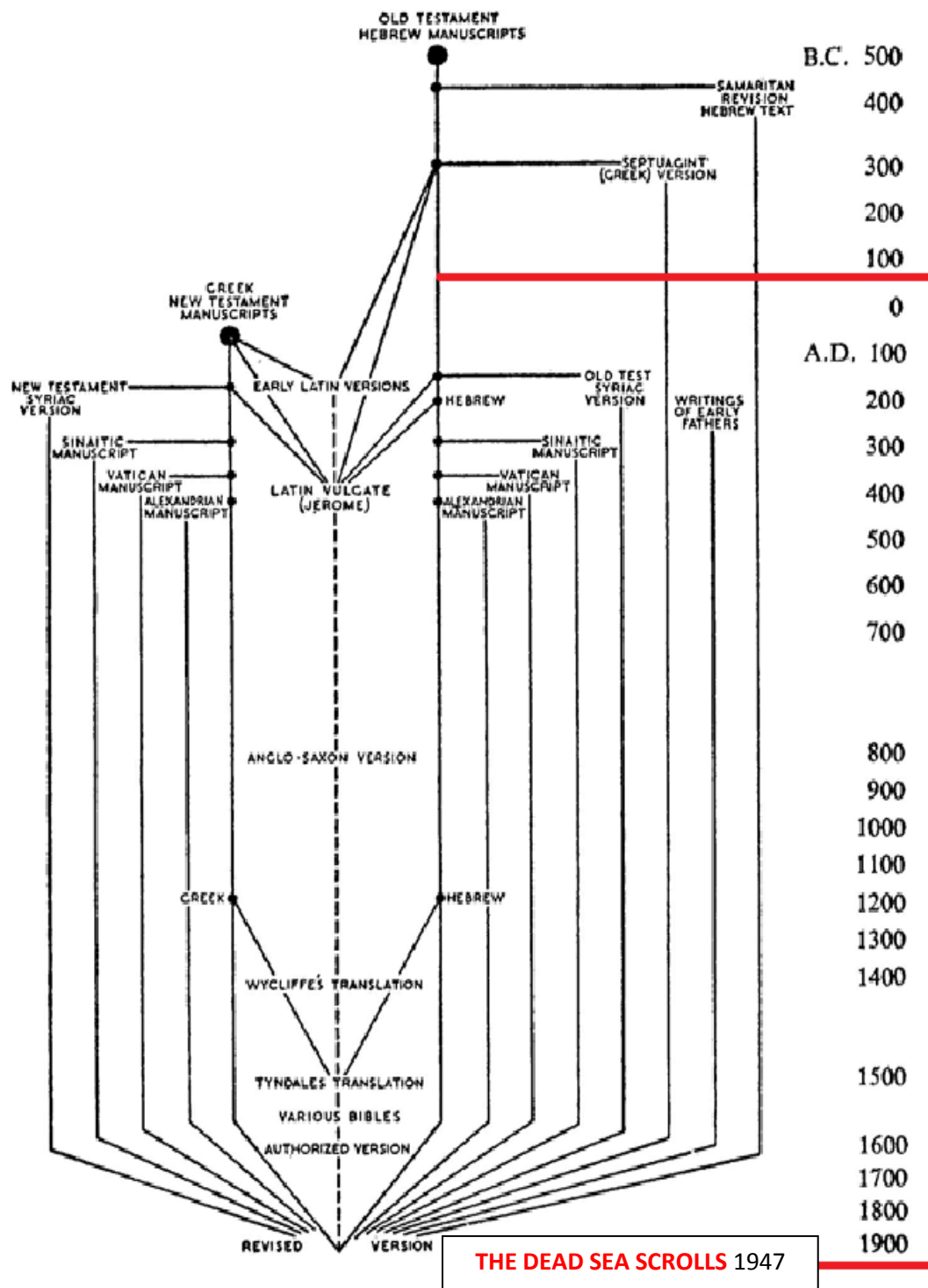
Because of these endeavours, there is hardly a passage of scripture, the truth and authority of which, has not been questioned. Yet for all this, as time has gone on, the critics have been proved wrong, and the Bible has been vindicated. Among the many criticisms of the Bible, perhaps the most frequently used has been the age of



the book itself, for in being written so long ago, how can we be sure that the scriptures have not been altered? This has at times appeared to have been a weighty argument, especially as the oldest Hebrew manuscript available to the King James' translators were no earlier than the tenth century after Christ; that is some 500 years later than the earliest manuscripts of the Greek New Testament, although the books of the New Testament were written several centuries later than the Old. Over a thousand years separated the earliest Hebrew manuscripts from the date at which the latest of the books contained in them was originally written.

This fact was not lost to hostile critics: "How do you know that the original text has not been corrupted or altered over such a long period; it is so easy for copyists to make mistakes, and it is never easy to correct them?" Such suggestions were enlarged upon, to be presented as statements of fact. So that in our schools, colleges and seminars it became the standard practice to assert that the Bible could not be accepted as wholly reliable: it **is** full of errors and it **has** been corrupted, you cannot really believe it! So we briefly investigate these claims, and consider how the Bible, declared in Psalm 138:2 to be magnified above God's name, and which is thoroughly endorsed by the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, has not changed over more than 20 centuries; and despite these accusations, can be relied on for truth and integrity. One of the great defenders of the authenticity of the Bible was Sir Frederic Kenyan GBE; KCB; TD; FBA; FSA; Director and Principal

Librarian of the British Museum. He began work in the Department of Manuscripts in 1889, and he became Deputy Keeper of this Department from 1898 to 1909.



**THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS DATE BACK TO 100 B.C.
THAT IS MORE THAN 1000 YEARS EARLIER THAN THE OLDEST MANUSCRIPTS
AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION**

His book *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts* (1895) shows one way that Egyptian papyri and other evidence from archaeology can corroborate the narrative of historical events in the Gospels. He was convinced of the historical reality of the events described in the New Testament: “the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed.” In his book “*Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*” published in 1895, he traces the many evidences of the Bible’s authenticity and concludes, “But whether men were careless or careful God has so ordered the substantial truths of the Christian story and the Christian faith have never been lost from his Word. Men might draw from it false or imperfect conclusions of their own; but their little system have arisen, have had their day and ceased to be, while still, unchanged and unchangeable, the Word of God abides forever”. He was convinced of the historical reality of the events described in the New Testament: “the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed.”

Your attention is drawn to the chart (above) at this point, where it is shown how the Bible, as we now possess it, has come down to us indirectly from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. These were written, as is indicated, by men with specially endowed faculties, by which they recorded not their own words, but the words of God. These original manuscripts were written on parchment, which for easy reading is rolled up on two wooden rollers called “*atzei chayim*”. Then the message from God was inscribed on the roll by the prophet or dictated to a scribe.

To illustrate this point we refer you to Jeremiah 36:1,4 “*This word came unto Jeremiah from the Lord saying, Take a **roll of a book** and write therein all the words that I have spoken to you.... Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the lord which He had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.*” Such Hebrew manuscripts as these were in existence B.C.500. Soon after this, about B.C.400, a people known as the Samaritans made a copy of the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the



A HAND WRITTEN TORAH SCROLL

Pentateuch. This version is written in a language almost identical to the Hebrew. You will recall how these people were considered the enemies of the Jews. This is illustrated in John 5:9 where the woman at the well asked Jesus, *“How is it that you, being a Jew, asks drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria, for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”*

Here we see that the Jewish scriptures were very early in the hands of people who were hated by the Jews, so that they would have been most careful to see that no Jew ever tampered with their copy of the scriptures. This Samaritan version became lost to the world, not to be discovered till after publishing of the authorised version. Thus it provides an independent means of checking the translation in Hebrew and other languages. The next translation of the Original Scriptures was into Greek, which became known as the Septuagint, made about B.C.250. This translation become most widespread, simply because it was written in the predominant language of the time. The circulation of this version no doubt prepared many Gentiles for the appearing of the Messiah. An interesting passage

of scripture in relation to this, tells of a certain Eunuch in the House of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia, who read of the Messiah that “he was led as a sheep to the slaughter.” From the rendering of this phrase, scholars can detect that he was reading from this same Greek version of the Old Testament.



Samaritan Priest with an
Ancient copy of the Law

It was not until 150A.D. however that any other important translations of the scriptures were made; then we find there was the Syrian version of both Old and New Testaments. After this came the Latin versions, as Rome became the ascendant

power, and from these were derived the Latin Vulgate, the work of Jerome who referred mainly to the translations already mentioned. The Vulgate became the only version supported by the authority of the Church. In this country, men and women were unable to read the scriptures because they were unacquainted with Latin, and consequently at the mercy of the priesthood. Not until John Wycliffe and Willian Tyndale in the 13th and 14th centuries was there a copy of the English

scriptures. These men made use of the copies of the Old Testament that were preserved and used by the Jews. The Jews themselves preserved very carefully the text of the original scriptures. This was done by observing the strictest rules laid down by several ancient Jewish scholars, known as the Massorites. The



A MODERN SCROLL BEING WRITTEN BY A JEWISH RABBI

extraordinary care taken to secure perfect accuracy in translating the sacred books can be seen by a consideration of the minute regulations laid down in the rabbinical book, the Talmud. We read there: "A synagogue roll must be written on the skins of clean animals prepared for the particular use of the synagogue by a Jew. These must be fastened together with the strips taken from clean animals. Every skin must contain a certain number of columns equal throughout the whole codex or manuscript. The length of each column must not extend over less than 48, or more than 60 lines, and the breadth must consist of 30 letters. The whole copy must be first lined, and if three words be written in it without a line, it is worthless! An authentic copy must be the exemplar from which the transcriber Ought not to deviate in the least particular. No word nor letter, not even a yod, (smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet) must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him. Between every consonant the space of hair or thread must intervene, between every word the breadth of a narrow consonant. Between every section, the breadth of 9 consonants; between every book 3 lines. The fifth book of Moses must terminate exactly on a line. Should a king address the scribe while writing the name of God, he must take no notice. The rolls in which these regulations are not observed are condemned to be buried or burned.

We see then how carefully these Old Testament writings were preserved, and note what esteem was laid on them, that they were considered to be the words of God; no alteration whatever was permitted. You will recall what great stress and authority the Lord Jesus laid on this written text, when he declared in Mat.5:18, “For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, **one jot** or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.” The **jot** referred to is the same letter ‘yod’ already mentioned, the smallest letter (י) in the Hebrew alphabet; whilst the ‘tittle’ refers to the tiny flourishes which are so important in the Hebrew text to distinguish one letter from another. If only a tittle were omitted, the letter would change, the word altered, and a whole sentence corrupted from its original meaning.

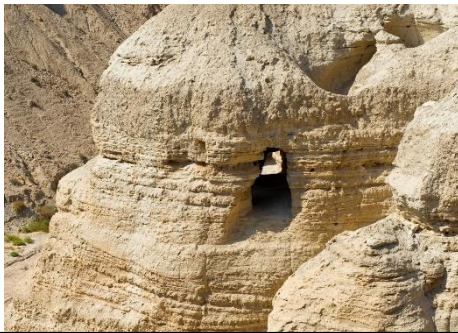
By the time the Revised Version of the Bible was published in 1885, there had appeared, as we see, a whole host of manuscripts, all substantially the same, and combined to make the Revised Version a reliable document.

In later times further manuscripts were discovered, the “Vatican Manuscript”, for example, which for centuries had been locked away from public view. Not until 1845 was S.P.Tregelles, an English scholar permitted to view it. Tregelles was the author of the seven volume work “A Greek New Testament”, (A revision of the KJV from the most ancient resources available). In 1859, a German Biblical scholar named Constantine Tischendorf discovered the ancient Greek copy of the scriptures known as Codex Sinaiticus in St. Catherine’s Monastery on Mt. Sinai, waiting to be burned! However Tischendorf persuaded the monks to send the codex to the Russian Emperor where it remained until 1933 when the Soviet Government sold the Codex Sinaiticus for 100,000 pounds to the British Museum.

Yet the critics were still not satisfied; they still faulted the scriptures on the lack of early manuscripts. But the truth has nothing to fear from investigation, and it has only been a question of time before the Bible has emerged triumphantly from the most penetrating examination. Sir Frederick Kenyon, one time director of the British museum, has said, “The history of Biblical criticism, as of all ancient history and literature, is full of erroneous views confidently proclaimed, and eagerly accepted by those who wish to appear in the vanguard of advance; and then disproved or allowed to sink into obscurity. The tendency of modern research has been again and again to confirm the substantial integrity and

trustworthiness of the Bible record.” But Sir F. Kenyon was then unaware of further discoveries which would fully endorse his observations. For he declared only in 1939, “There is indeed no probability that we shall ever find manuscripts of the Hebrew text, going back to a period before the formation of the Massoretic Text. We may be satisfied that the text of the Old Testament has been handed down without serious change from about 100 A.D. further back we cannot go. The all-important question is: Does **this** Hebrew text faithfully represent the Hebrew writings of the authors of the Old Testament?” That question has now been answered by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

No doubt we are all familiar with the circumstances in which they were found in 1947, located in a cave overlooking the shores of the Dead Sea. Two boys tending sheep were throwing stones and one stone went in the cave entrance and they heard the noise of pottery breaking and upon investigation, they found these clay jars with the ancient manuscripts inside them. All the archaeological evidence seems to point to the fact that these scrolls were placed in hiding by a people known as the Essenes; a Jewish sect, who during the Jewish revolt of A.D.69-72, sought to protect their copies of the scriptures from the hands of the Roman soldiers, who doubtless would have destroyed them.



The Cave at Qumran where the first 'Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

The scrolls had been placed in large earthenware jars, and due to the climate, were kept in a remarkable state of preservation. We read how such documents were kept in Jeremiah 32. The prophet purchased a field in the neighbourhood of Anathoth, and the evidences of purchase were all written down, duly signed and sealed. In verse 14 we read, “*This says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; ‘Take these evidences of purchase, both which is sealed and the evidence which is open, and **put them in an earthen vessel**, that they may continue many days.*” Here recorded for us is the very method by which the Dead Sea Scrolls were preserved; and we notice for



Clay Jars in which the ancient manuscripts were stored 2000yrs ago.

the same reason: ***“That they may be preserved many days.”*** Indeed, the Dead Sea scrolls had been preserved for nearly 2,000 years!



Unfortunately, due to the business mind of the Bedouin who found them, many of the scrolls became severely damaged; but among those that remained intact was a complete copy of the book of the prophet Isaiah. The important question concerning these scrolls was of course their age. This was determined by taking pieces of the linen in which the scrolls had been wrapped and subjecting them to the carbon 14 test. The result was astonishing! For it was determined that the linen had been made from flax harvested during the lifetime of the Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, it was concluded that the

documents wrapped in the linen must have been older still. The text of the scroll of Isaiah from the cave of Qumran had been written at least 100 years before the birth of Christ, which means that these scrolls were **1,000 years older than any previously known manuscript!**

When the news of this discovery had been made known, the Bible critics once more came to the fore; wild theories were expressed: Jesus was not the founder of Christianity; Jesus was an Essene; the Bible would have to be re-written! And so on. However, when examination was made, the critics were dumbfounded; for this



A portion of the Great Isaiah Scroll showing Chapter 53 which tells of the suffering Messiah

scroll of Isaiah, some 17 sheets of leather and 23 feet long, consisted of exactly 66 chapters! Agreeing exactly with the text from which modern Bibles have been translated. In vain search was made for a division in the book providing evidence of two authors. In vain alterations in the text were sought for, but no evidence could be found. Here indeed was the most remarkable archaeological discovery of the century: a sure and certain confirmation that, as we read our Bibles today, and the book of the prophet Isaiah, we are assured that we are reading the very same words which were endorsed by the Lord Jesus in Luke 4v.17- 21 “And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Luke 4:17-21

Indeed, this scroll of Isaiah was in such a perfect state of preservation that even the finger marks of the last reader could be detected. In this too we have a



Thousands of scroll fragments being sorted out in the Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem

direct link, for the individual whose hands rolled together this scroll for the last time, would no doubt have been very familiar with the circumstances surrounding the life of the Lord Jesus. Since their discovery in 1947, literally thousands of fragments of the scriptures have been found, and for the last 25 years, scholars in the university of Jerusalem have been carefully sorting out these fragments and fitting them together, as in a jigsaw puzzle, and gradually they are

able to decipher the contents of these ancient writings.

The wonderful thing to bear in mind in relation to these scrolls is that during the course of 2,000 years, these fragments became as black as charcoal! So that, had they been found in any previous generation, they would have proved impossible. But with the discovery of photography and infra-red radiation, the message of the

scrolls has been made decipherable. So that now, not only has the scroll of Isaiah been found, but passages of scripture from every book of the Bible, with the exception of Esther, have been identified! Also, various commentaries on these same books, quoting the very scriptures with which we are familiar.

Among the commentaries a copy was found of what is known as 'the Wisdom of Ben Sira'. In this work there is evidence to prove that it was written nearly 200 years before the birth of Christ. We find that the writer quotes indiscriminately from all parts of the prophecy of Isaiah; showing that, in his day, this prophecy was already available as a complete work; and that, in opposition to the theories of those who would undermine the truth of the scriptures, it reveals that there was only ever one prophet Isaiah who recorded faithfully the words of the Lord. In passing we ask, Why should it ever have been suggested that there were two Isaiahs? The answer is a testimony to the accuracy of the scriptures themselves. For so accurately did the prophet foretell events that were to happen long after his death that these faithless and unbelieving individuals who were unable to see or understand the power of God, reckoned that the only way these events could have been recorded was by an eyewitness of these events.

What then are we to conclude from this wonderful discovery of these ancient manuscripts, hidden for so many years and brought to light in our generation? It is surely, as we read in Psalm 119:160, *"Your word, (the word of) God, is true from the beginning; and every one of your righteous judgments endures for ever."* It is a book, indeed the only book in the world, that has withstood, age after age of incessant persecution. It is here today corroborated in every detail, stronger than ever, the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture. All its adversaries have done their worst; and despite the attacks of men like Voltaire, Wellhousen and Allegro, it remains with us. Man has attacked the Bible with fire, sword, pen and spade, test tube and microscope. He has examined its claims in the light of all positively ascertained facts of science, archaeology, history, morality and every branch of human learning; and instead of overthrowing the Bible, he has revealed how firmly it is established in the counsels of infallible wisdom. And the reason for this? It is that the God of heaven, who is ever on the side of righteousness and truth, has simply protected His own. The only weapon left to mankind is to ignore it, which is the course many people have taken.

The truth of the bible has not been altered, God has not allowed His Word to be tampered with. On the contrary, the substantial truths of His communications with mankind have been preserved right down through 2,500 years of history, so that all who would in each generation might become acquainted with His purpose.

So we have seen how the Dead Sea scrolls which have now been made available online, take us right back to the days of the Lord Jesus; and as we read through the gospel records, we are struck with the Lord's reverence for the scriptures: they are the theme of his ministry; they are with him in his solitary conflicts; they are seen to be always in his thoughts, because to him the Old testament was God's book, his Father's express mind and will. We need only to consider his temptation in the wilderness. He was tempted in all points as we are, he was subject to the same specious arguments. Jesus did not reason out the matter, but like a child he cast himself upon the scriptures. He confidently asserts, "It is written." There was no call for **him** to decide, all was already decided; it had all been settled long before, the Word of command had been given and recorded upon the pages of scripture, on the words of these scrolls.

Who recorded it? Who decide it? Who arranged that perfect way for Christ's feet and ours, so that not even he had to take any further thought for the matter, than simply to mark what was written? Can there be any mistake about it? Is there any answer but one: that these words were God's, and therefore being God's words, they are errorless and absolutely reliable? The Lord Jesus sums up the position recorded in John 10:30-36, where he emphatically declares that the **Scripture cannot be broken**, (John 10:35) the word is loosed or dissolved. Here in effect he sets his seal on the entire scripture, declaring it to be absolutely inerrant. The discovering of the Dead Sea Scrolls in our own times has confirmed this point, for the scriptures have not changed. All the books of the Bible have been found and identified, with the exception of the book of Esther. There are no new editions or alterations, but it remains like its Author, the Word of God, which lives and abides for ever.

We can then say in all confidence that we can take the whole Bible in our hand and say without fear or hesitation, that here is the true Word of God handed down without essential loss, from generation to generation. Seeing then that this word has been so remarkably preserved and fulfilled, we urge you to examine it in the light of these things, in order that you may avail yourselves of the great hope extended to all who will believe and obey the Gospel of the kingdom of God. DHH