



Welcome To Open Bible Hour

*Thank you for joining us on this
Lord's Day!*

*Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-
depth study of the book of Malachi.*

*If you have a prayer request, for which you would like
us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back
table and give to Lyle.*

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

“BIBLE TRANSLATIONS”

PART II

Is. 40:8; Matt. 5:18; 24:35: 2 Peter 1:20,21

May 6, 2012

Isa 40:8

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

Matt 5:18

18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matt 24:35

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Abbreviated Bible - TAB - 1971, eliminates duplications, includes the Apocrypha

American Standard Version - ASV - 1901, a.k.a. Standard - **American Edition**, Revised Version, the American version of the Holy Bible, Revised Version

American Translation (Beck) - AAT - 1976

American Translation (Smith-Goodspeed) - SGAT - 1931

Amplified Bible - AB - 1965, includes explanation of words within text

Aramaic Bible (Targums) - ABT - 1987, originally translated from the Hebrew into the Aramaic

Aramaic New Covenant - ANCJ - 1996, a translation and transliteration of the New Covenant

Authentic New Testament - ANT - 1958

Barclay New Testament - BNT - 1969

Basic Bible - TBB - 1950, based upon a vocabulary of 850 words
Bible Designed to Be Read as Literature - BDRL - 1930, stresses literary qualities of the Bible, includes the Apocrypha

Bible Reader - TBR - 1969, an interfaith version, includes the Apocrypha

Cassirer New Testament - CNT - 1989

Centenary Translation of the New Testament - CTNT - 1924, one of the few versions translated solely by a woman

Common English New Testament - CENT - 1865

Complete Jewish Bible - CJB - 1989, a Messianic Jewish translation

Concordant Literal New Testament - CLNT - 1926

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Translation - CCDT - 1953, includes the Apocrypha

Contemporary English Version - CEV - 1992, includes Psalms and Proverbs

Coptic Version of the New Testament - CVNT - 1898, based on translations from northern Egypt

Cotton Patch Version - CPV - 1968, based on American ideas and Southern US culture, only contains Paul's writings

Coverdale Bible - TCB - 1540, includes the Apocrypha

Darby Holy Bible - DHB - 1923

Dartmouth Bible - TDB - 1961, an abridgment of the King James Version, includes the Apocrypha

De Nyew Testament in Gullah - NTG - 2005

Dead Sea Scrolls Bible - DSSB - 1997, translated from Dead Sea Scrolls documents, includes the Apocrypha Documents of the New Testament - DNT - 1934

Douay-Rheims Bible - DRB - 1899

Emphasized Bible - EBR - 1959, contains signs of emphasis for reading

Emphatic Diaglott - EDW - 1942

English Standard Version - ESV - 2001, a revision of the Revised Standard Version

English Version for the Deaf - EVD - 1989, a.k.a. Easy-to-Read Version, designed to meet the special needs of the deaf

English Version of the Polyglott Bible - EVPB - 1858, the English portion of an early Bible having translations into several languages

Geneva Bible - TGB - 1560, the popular version just prior to the translation of the King James Version, includes the Apocrypha

Godbey Translation of the New Testament - GTNT - 1905

God's Word - GW - 1995, a.k.a Today's Bible Translation

Holy Bible in Modern English - HBME - 1900

Holy Bible, Revised Version - HBRV - 1885, an official revision of the King James Version which was not accepted at the time

Holy Scriptures (Harkavy) - HSH - 1951

Holy Scriptures (Leeser) - HSL - 1905

Holy Scriptures (Menorah) - HSM - 1973, a.k.a. Jewish Family Bible

Inclusive Version - AIV - 1995, stresses equality of the sexes and physically handicapped, includes Psalms

Inspired Version - IV - 1867, a revision of the King James Version

Interlinear Bible (Green) - IB - 1976, side-by-side Hebrew/Greek and English

International Standard Version - ISV - 1998

Jerusalem Bible (Catholic) - TJB - 1966, includes the Apocrypha

Jerusalem Bible (Koren) - JBK - 1962, side-by-side Hebrew and English

Jewish Bible for Family Reading - JBFR - 1957, includes the Apocrypha

John Wesley New Testament - JWNT - 1755, a correction of the King James Version

King James Version - KJV - 1611, a.k.a. Authorized Version, originally included the Apocrypha

Kleist-Lilly New Testament - KLNT - 1956

Knox Translation - KTC - 1956, includes the Apocrypha

Lamsa Bible - LBP - 1957, based on Pe****ta manuscripts

Lattimore New Testament - LNT - 1962, a literal translation

Letchworth Version in Modern English - LVME - 1948

Living Bible - LB - 1971, a paraphrase version

McCord's New Testament Translation of the Everlasting Gospel - MCT - 1989

Message - TM - 1993, a.k.a. New Testament in Contemporary English, a translation in the street language of the day, includes Psalms and Proverbs

Modern Reader's Bible - MRB - 1923, stresses literary qualities, includes the Apocrypha

Modern Speech New Testament - MSNT - 1902, an attempt to present the Bible in effective, intelligible English

Moffatt New Translation - MNT - 1922

New American Bible - NAB - 1987, includes the Apocrypha

New American Standard Version - NAS - 1971

New Berkeley Version in Modern English - NBV - 1967

New Century Version - NCV - 1987

New English Bible - NEB - 1970, includes the Apocrypha

New Evangelical Translation - NET - 1992, a translation aimed at missionary activity

New International Version - NIV - 1978

New Jerusalem Bible - NJB - 1985, includes the Apocrypha

New JPS Version - NJPS - 1988

New King James Version - NKJ - 1990

New Life Version - NLV - 1969, a translation designed to be useful wherever English is used as a second language

New Living Translation - NLT - 1996, a dynamic-equivalence translation

New Millenium Bible - NMB - 1999, a contemporary English translation

New Revised Standard Version - NRS - 1989, the authorized revision of the Revised Standard Version

New Testament in Plain English - WPE - 1963, a version using common words only

New Testament: An Understandable Version - NTUV - 1995, a limited edition version

New Translation (Jewish) - NTJ - 1917

New World Translation - NWT - 1984

Noli New Testament - NNT - 1961, the first and only book of its kind by an Eastern Orthodox translator at the time of its publication

Norlie's Simplified New Testament - NSNT - 1961, includes Psalms

Original New Testament - ONT - 1985, described by publisher as a radical translation and reinterpretation

Orthodox Jewish Brit Chadasha - OJBC - 1996, an Orthodox version containing Rabbinic Hebrew terms

People's New Covenant - PNC - 1925, a version translated from the meta-physical standpoint

Phillips Revised Student Edition - PRS - 1972

Recovery Version - RcV - 1991, a reference version containing extensive notes

Reese Chronological Bible - RCB - 1980, an arrangement of the King James Version in chronological order

Restoration of Original Sacred Name Bible - SNB - 1976, a version whose concern is the true name and titles of the creator and his son

Restored New Testament - PRNT - 1914, a version giving an interpretation according to ancient philosophy and psychology

Revised English Bible - REB - 1989, a revision of the New English Bible

Revised Standard Version - RSV - 1952, a revision of the American Standard Version

Riverside New Testament - RNT - 1923, written in the living English language of the time of the translation

Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition - SSBE - 1981, the sacred name and the sacred titles and the name of Yahshua restored to the text of the Bible

Scholars Version - SV - 1993, a.k.a. Five Gospels; contains evaluations of academics of what are, might be, and are not, the words of Jesus; contains the four gospels and the Gospel of Thomas

Scriptures (ISR) - SISR - 1998, traditional names replaced by Hebraic ones and words with pagan sources replaced

Septuagint - LXX - c. 200 BCE, the earliest version of the Old Testament scriptures, includes the Apocrypha

Shorter Bible - SBK - 1925, eliminates duplications

Spencer New Testament - SCM - 1941

Stone Edition of the Tanach - SET - 1996, side-by-side Hebrew and English

Swann New Testament - SNT - 1947, no chapters, only paragraphs, with verses numbered consecutively from Matthew to Revelation

Today's English New Testament - TENT - 1972

Today's English Version - TEV - 1976, a.k.a. Good News Bible

Twentieth Century New Testament - TCNT - 1904

Unvarnished New Testament - UNT - 1991, the principal sentence elements kept in the original order of the Greek

Versified Rendering of the Complete Gospel Story - VRGS - 1980, the gospel books written in poetic form, contains the four gospels

Westminster Version of the Sacred Scriptures - WVSS - 1929

Wiclif Translation - TWT - 1380, a very early version translated into English

William Tindale New Testament - WTNT - 1989, an early version with spelling and punctuation modernized

William Tyndale Translation - WTT - 1530, early English version, includes the Pentateuch

Williams New Testament - WNT - 1937, a translation of the thoughts of the writers with a reproduction of their diction and style

Word Made Fresh - WMF - 1988, a paraphrase with humour and familiar names and places for those who have no desire to read the Bible

Worrell New Testament - WAS - 1904

Wuest Expanded Translation - WET - 1961, intended as a comparison to, or commentary on, the standard translations

Young's Literal Translation, Revised Edition - YLR - 1898, a strictly literal translation

Timeline

- Creation - B.C. 2000** - Originally, the earliest Scriptures are handed down from generation to generation orally.
- B.C. 2000-1500** - The book of Job, perhaps the oldest book of the Bible, is written.
- B.C. 1500-1400** - The stone tablets of the Ten Commandments are given to Moses at Mount Sinai and later stored in the Ark of the Covenant.
- B.C. 1400–400** - The manuscripts comprising the original Hebrew Bible (39 Old Testament books) are completed. The Book of the Law is kept in the tabernacle and later in the Temple beside the Ark of the Covenant.
- B.C. 300** - All of the original Old Testament Hebrew books have been written, collected, and recognized as official, canonical books.
- B.C. 250–200** - The Septuagint, a popular Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (39 Old Testament books), is produced. The 15 books of the Apocrypha are also included.
- A.D. 45–100** - 27 books of the Greek New Testament are written.
- A.D. 100 – 382** - The Gospel spreads like wild fire throughout the known world. These people all need the Bible. Hand-written copies of the New Testament in Greek are produced all over the world to try to keep up with all the new followers of Christ.

- **A.D. 312** - Codex Vaticanus is possibly among the original 50 copies of the Bible ordered by Emperor Constantine. It is eventually kept in the Vatican Library in Rome.
- **A.D. 367** - Athanasius of Alexandria identifies the complete New Testament canon (27 books) for the first time.
- **A.D. 397** - Third Synod of Carthage approves the New Testament canon (27 books).
- **A.D. 390-405** - Saint Jerome translates the Hebrew Bible into Latin and completes the Latin Vulgate manuscript. It includes the 39 Old Testament books, 27 New Testament books, and 14 Apocrypha books.
- **A.D. 500** - By now the Scriptures have been translated into multiple languages, not limited to but including an Egyptian version (Codex Alexandrinus), a Coptic version, an Ethiopic translation, a Gothic version (Codex Argenteus), and an Armenian version.
- **A.D. 600** - The Roman Catholic Church declares Latin as the only language for Scripture.
- **A.D. 700** - The Psalms and some of the Gospels are the first to be translated in a new language called English.

- **A.D. 735** – On the day he died a man named Venerable Bede finishes the first complete translation of a New Testament book into English (the book of John).
- **A.D. 995-1010** - Aelfric, an English abbot, translates parts of Scripture into Old English.
- **A.D. 1205** - Stephen Langton, theology professor and later Archbishop of Canterbury, creates the first chapter divisions in the books of the Bible.
- **A.D. 1229** - Council of Toulouse strictly forbids and prohibits lay people from owning a Bible.
- **A.D. 1231** - Pope Gregory IX instituted the papal inquisition for the apprehension and trial of heretics. Gregory ordered convicted heretics to be seized by the secular authorities and burned. Gregory also mandated that heretics be sought out and tried before a church court. The court summoned the suspect, conducted an interrogation, and tried to obtain the confession that was necessary for conviction. In order to do this, assisting secular authorities frequently applied physical torture such as stretching of limbs on the rack, burning with live coals, squeezing of fingers and toes, or the strappado, a vertical rack.
- **A.D. 1240** - French Cardinal Hugh of Saint Cher publishes the first Latin Bible with the chapter divisions that still exist today.
- **A.D. 1330** - Rabbi Solomon ben Ismael first places chapter divisions in the margins of the Hebrew Bible.
- **A.D. 1381-1382** – John Wycliffe, a theology professor at Oxford is fired for believing that the Bible and not the Pope is our ultimate authority. In defiance of the organized Roman Catholic Church, he believed that people should be permitted to read the Bible in their own language. He began to translate and produce the first handwritten manuscripts of the entire Bible in English. These include the 39 Old Testament books, 27 New Testament books, and 15 Apocrypha books.

- **A.D. 1408** – A law is passed in England banning the translation of the Bible into English.
- **A.D. 1415** - 31 years after Wycliffe's death, the Council of Constance charges him with more than 260 counts of heresy.
- **A.D. 1415** – John Hus burned at the stake for supporting Wycliffe. “100 years later God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed.”
- **A.D. 1428** - 44 years after Wycliffe's death, church officials dig up his bones, burn them, and scatter the ashes on the Swift River, for having translated the Bible into English.
- **A.D. 1440** – Johann Gutenberg invents the Printing Press. It is no longer necessary to make hand-written copies of the Bible.
- **A.D. 1455** - After the invention of the printing press in Germany, Johann Gutenberg produces the first printed Bible, the Gutenberg Bible.
- **A.D. October 31st, 1517** – A young Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther challenges the church hierarchy of his day.
- **A.D. 1522** – Martin Luther translates and publishes the New Testament for the first time into German from the 1516 Erasmus version. Part of the reformation passion is allowing every person to read the Bible in their own language. Seven people were burned at the stake by the Roman Catholic Institution for the crime of teaching their children to say the Lord's Prayer in English rather than Latin.
- **A.D. 1525** – William Tyndale produces the first translation of the New Testament from Greek into English.
- **A.D. 1535** - Myles Coverdale's Bible completes Tyndale's work, producing the first complete printed Bible in the English language. It includes the 39 Old Testament books, 27 New Testament books, and 15 Apocrypha books.

- **A.D. 1536** - Martin Luther translates the Old Testament into the commonly-spoken dialect of the German people, completing his translation of the entire Bible in German.
- **A.D. 1536** - Tyndale is condemned as a heretic, strangled, and burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English. His dying words are, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes!" Tyndale's translation was so good 90% of it would reappear in the King James Version (the King of England's Version).
- **A.D. 1537** - The Matthew Bible (commonly known as the Matthew-Tyndale Bible), a second complete printed English translation, is published, combining the works of Tyndale, Coverdale and John Rogers.
- **A.D. 1539** - The Great Bible, the first English Bible authorized for public use, is printed.
- **A.D. 1546** - Roman Catholic Council of Trent declares the Vulgate as the exclusive Latin authority for the Bible.
- **A.D. 1560** - The Geneva Bible is printed in Geneva, Switzerland. It is translated by English refugees and published by John Calvin's brother-in-law, William Whittingham. The Geneva Bible is the first English Bible to add numbered verses to the chapters. It becomes the Bible of the Protestant Reformation, more popular than the 1611 King James Version for decades after its original release.

- **A.D. 1582** - Dropping its 1,000-year-old Latin only policy, the Church of Rome produces the first English Catholic Bible, the Rheims New Testament, from the Latin Vulgate.
- **A.D. 1592** - The Clementine Vulgate (authorized by Pope Clementine VIII), a revised version of the Latin Vulgate, becomes the authoritative Bible of the Catholic Church.
- At the end of the 1500's England was torn between two Bible translations. Most people used the Geneva Bible but the clergy felt it was below them to use the commoners Geneva Bible. A solution was needed.
- **A.D 1603** - Queen Elizabeth dies and King James VI, who had ruled Scotland for 37 years, becomes King James I of England.
- **A.D.1604** - King James summons the religious leaders of England together to settle on a common English translation that can be used by both clergy and the masses. 47 men stationed at Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster Abbey worked on the translation from original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. The translators, additionally, relied heavily on the Tyndale and Geneva Bibles.
- **A.D. 1611** – King James Version , also called the "Authorized Version" of the Bible is published. It is said to be the most printed book in the history of the world, with more than one billion copies in print. The King James Bible is not immediately a success. It takes 50 years for the King James to surpass the Geneva Bible as the English Bible used by most people.
- **A.D. 1782** - Robert Aitken's Bible is the first English language (KJV) Bible printed in America.
- **A.D. 1790** - Matthew Carey publishes a Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Version English Bible in America.

- **A.D. 1790** - William Young prints the first pocket sized "school edition" King James Version Bible in America.
- **A.D. 1791** - The Isaac Collins Bible, the first family Bible (KJV), is printed in America.
- **A.D. 1833** – Noah Webster, after publishing his famous dictionary, releases his own revised edition of the King James Bible.
- **A.D. 1844** - The Codex Sinaiticus, a hand written Koine Greek manuscript of both Old and New Testament texts dating back to the fourth century, is rediscovered by German Bible scholar Konstantin Von Tischendorf in the Monastery of Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai.
- **A.D. 1881-1885** - The King James Bible is revised and published as the Revised Version (RV) in England.
- **A.D. 1901** - The American Standard Version, the first major American revision of the King James Version, is published.
- **A.D. 1946-1952** - The Revised Standard Version is published.
- **A.D. 1947-1956** - The Dead Sea Scrolls are discovered.
- **A.D. 1971** - The New American Standard Bible(NASB) is published.
- **A.D. 1973** - The New International Version(NIV) is published.
- **A.D. 1982** - The New King James Version(NKJV) is published.

- **A.D. 1986** - The discovery of the Silver Scrolls, believed to be the oldest Bible text ever, is announced. They were found three years earlier in the Old City of Jerusalem by Gabriel Barkay of Tel Aviv University.
- **A.D. 1996** - The New Living Translation(NLT) is published.
- **A.D. 2001** - The English Standard Version(ESV) is published.

Terms:

Original Autographs

These are the original texts written either by the author's own hand or by a scribe under the author's supervision. O.T. was written in Hebrew and a few verses in Aramaic (Dan. 2:4 – 7:28; Ezra 4:8 – 6:18: 7:12-26) because of the Babylonian captivity and under the Medo-Persian empire the Jews started speaking Aramaic. N.T. was written in Greek. We do not have any of the original autographs.

Manuscripts

These are the copies of the original texts onto papyrus, parchment, or paper. We have over 25,000 manuscripts of the Bible. Nearest manuscript: O.T. – 200 B.C. (225 years) N.T. – 130 A.D (35 years). God does care about two things: accurate copies and accurate translations. The mass of manuscripts are more important than the original autographs – 1. You cannot lose or steal 25,000 manuscripts. 2. You cannot change 25,000 manuscripts. 3. The autographs no doubt would be worshiped.

Translations

When the Bible is translated from one language to another. Preferably this should be done from the original Hebrew (O.T.) and Greek (N.T.) into the receiver language.

How the canon of 66 books were chosen:

Criteria –

- 1. Apostolic Authority** – must be written by an apostle or an associate of an apostle.
- 2. Conformity to the body of doctrine** that the true church believed and the doctrine found in other Scriptures. Consistency and conformity. Books rejected - Shepherd of Hermas, 1 Clement, Didache, Epistle of Barnabas, Wisdom of Solomon, Apocalypse of Peter.
- 3. Acceptance and usage** by the church at large. Was it read aloud in weekly assemblies?
- 4. Within the time framework of the 1st century.** Was it written during the apostolic age?

Jude 3

3 contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Rev 22:18-19

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Apocrypha

Tobit

Judith

The Additions to the Book of Esther

The Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus

Baruch

The Letter of Jeremiah

The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Jews

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

1 Maccabees

2 Maccabees

1 Esdras

The Prayer of Manasseh

2 Esdras

Reasons for rejection:

1. They were never included in the Hebrew Old Testament.
2. They were never accepted as canonical by Jesus and His Apostles.
3. They were not accepted by early Jewish and Christian writers.
4. They do not evidence intrinsic qualities of inspiration. Great portions of these books are obviously legendary and fictitious. Often they contain historical, chronological and geographical errors.

**** In 1546 the Council of Trent (Roman Catholic) decreed that the canon of the Old Testament include the Apocrypha.**

Roman Catholicism included them because:

1. Basis for the doctrine of purgatory and prayers for the dead:

2 Maccabees 12:43-45, 2,000 pieces of silver were sent to Jerusalem for a sin-offering...Whereupon he made reconciliation for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin.

2. Salvation by works:

Ecclesiasticus 3:30, Water will quench a flaming fire, and **alms maketh atonement for sin**. Tobit 12:8-9, 17, It is better to give alms than to lay up gold; for **alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin**.

3. Magic:

Tobit 6:5-8, If the Devil, or an evil spirit troubles anyone, they can be driven away by making a smoke of the heart, liver, and gall of a fish...and the Devil will smell it, and flee away, and never come again anymore.

Jude 14-15

14 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

*Passed down orally.

Deut 33:2

2 He said,
"The Lord came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones;
At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

Titus 1:12

12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

Acts 17:28

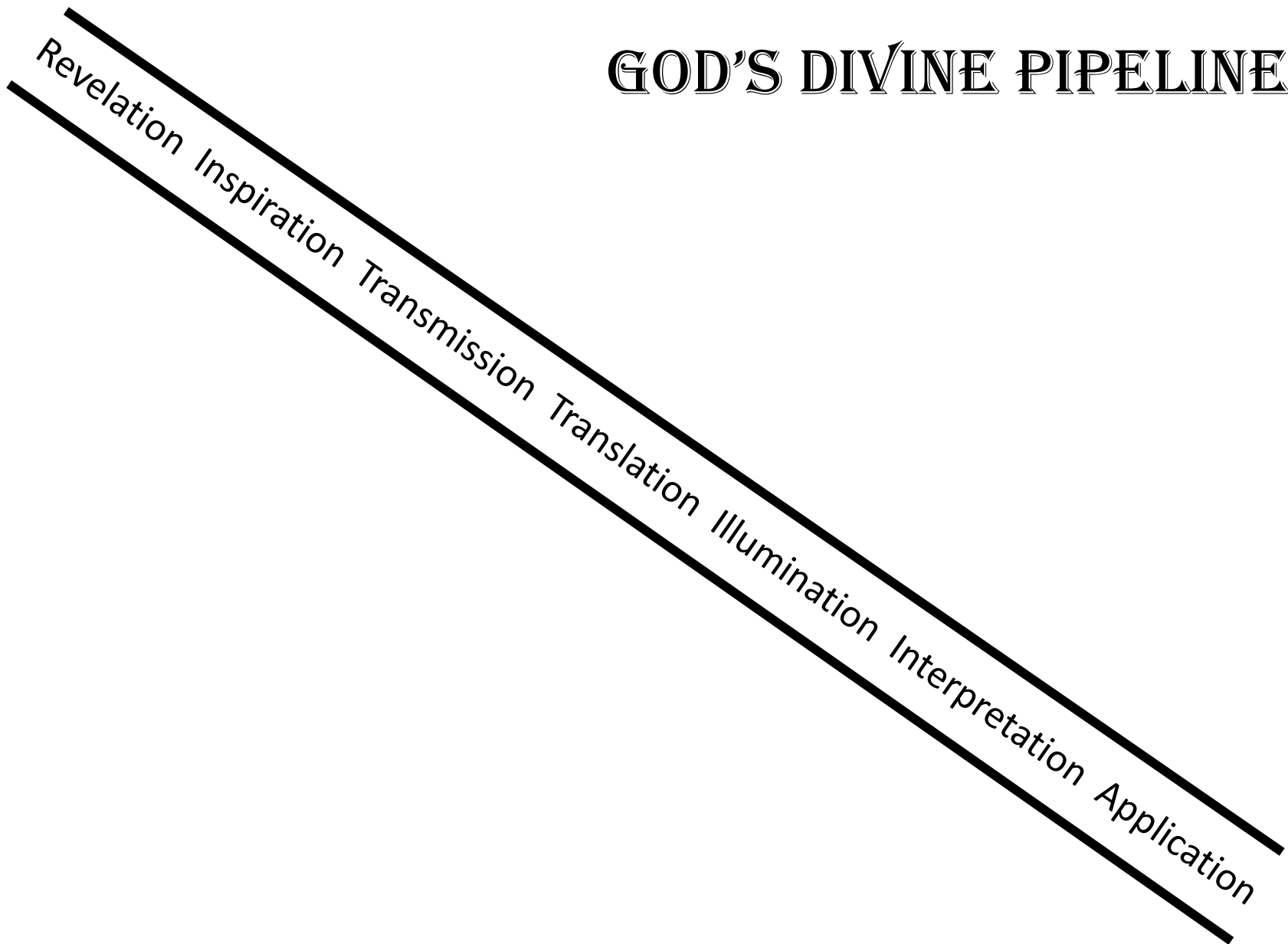
28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

1 Cor 15:33

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Mind of God

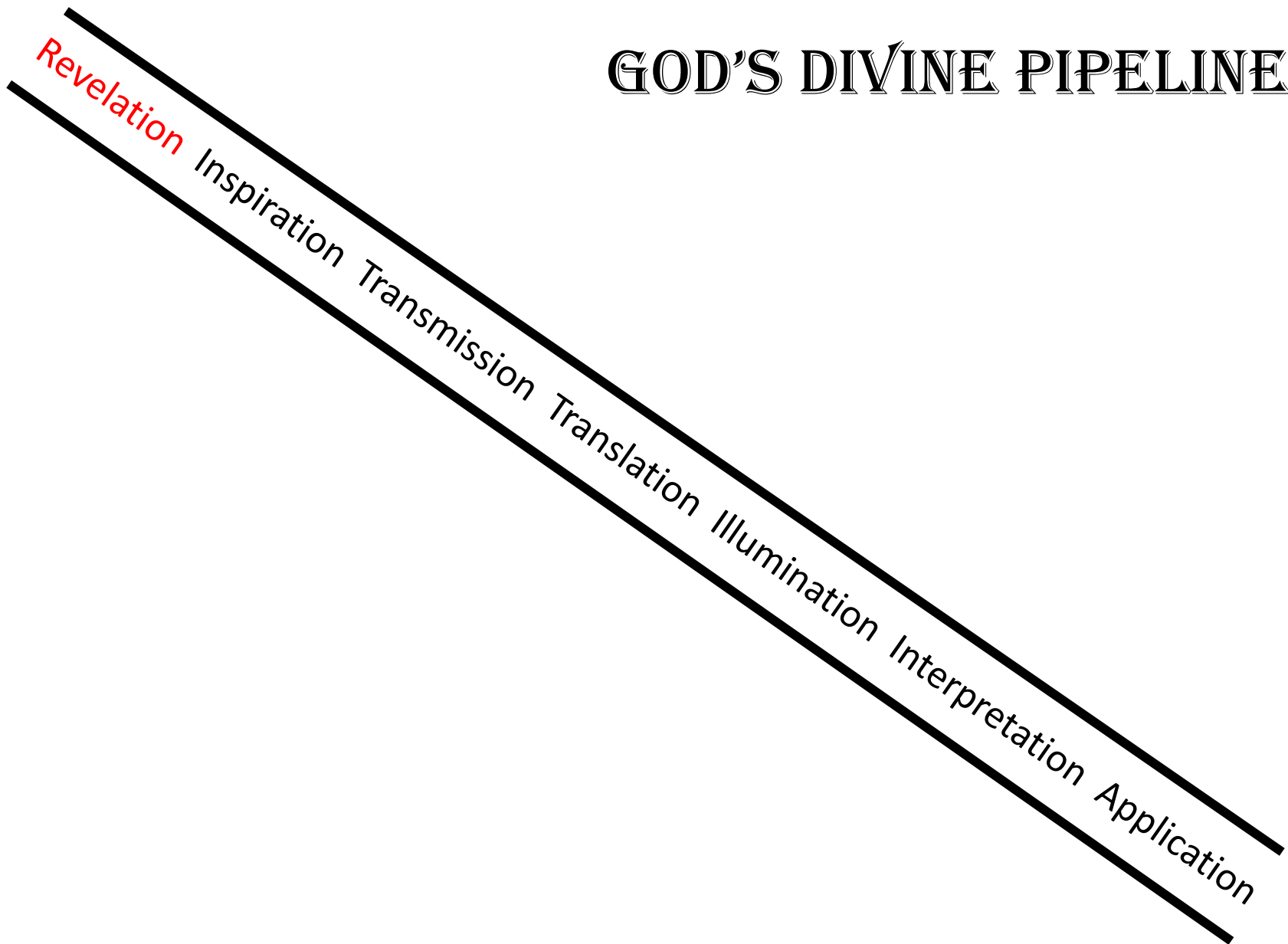
GOD’S DIVINE PIPELINE



Actions of Men

Mind of God

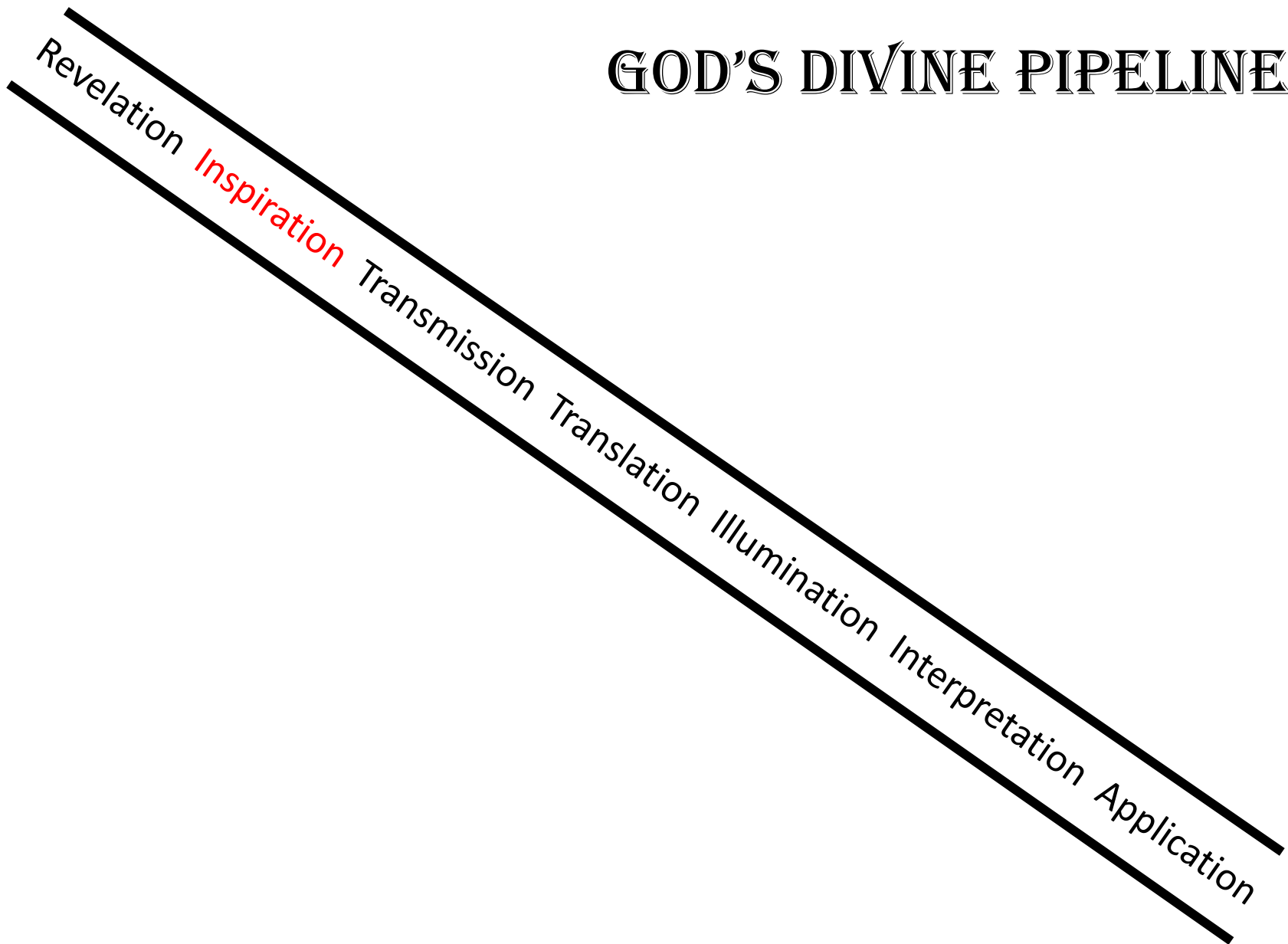
GOD’S DIVINE PIPELINE



Actions of Men

Mind of God

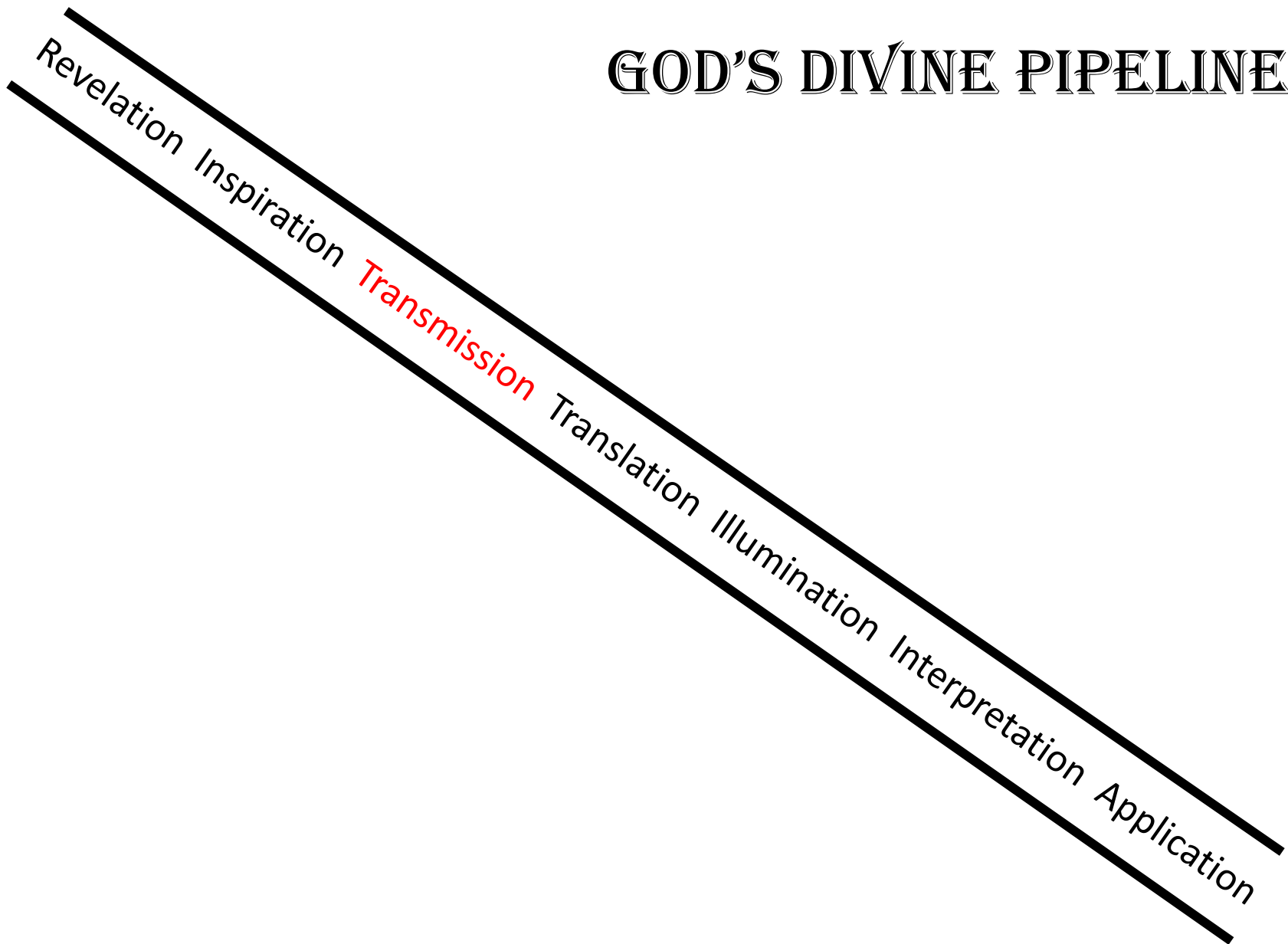
GOD’S DIVINE PIPELINE



Actions of Men

Mind of God

GOD’S DIVINE PIPELINE



Actions of Men

<u>Author</u>	<u>When Written</u>	<u>Earliest Copy</u>	<u>Time Span</u>	<u>No. of Copies</u>
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Ceasar (The Gallic Wars)	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1,200 years	7
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	49
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Euripedes	480 - 406 BC	1,100 AD	1,500 years	9
New Testament	50 - 95 A.D.	130 AD	35 years	14,000

Terms:

copyist - a person who makes written copies.

Scribe - a professional copyist.

codex (plural "codices") A bound book made up of folded papyrus pages. Codices gradually replaced scrolls as the medium for written transmission of the Bible and other ancient texts.

Biblical criticism is the critical study of biblical texts; "text criticism," "literary criticism," and "canonical criticism" each refer to a particular focus and method of biblical criticism.

Textual criticism Study of ancient biblical manuscripts in an effort to establish the best "original" Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek. The fruit of textual criticism is a "critical text" which then becomes the basis for translation into English or other languages.

Textual variant A place where ancient manuscripts of a particular biblical word, phrase, or passage disagree. Much of the work of textual criticism concerns deciding among textual variants.

Scribes

- Scribes worked independently or in a group/guild. They worked on sacred and non-sacred texts. They would work for a Rabbi, city, or the Sanhedrin.
- Scribes in training learned: 1. how to write letters. 2. how to write below the line. 3. how to write in columns. 4. How to treat Divine names 5. How to make corrections. 6. How to master where they wrote on a page. 7. How to master their writing instruments 8. How to master the material on which they wrote. 9. How to master the preparation of inks. 10. A knowledge of and adherence to Scribal rules.
- ***2 major organized group of scribes that copied the text of Scripture –***

1. Sopherim – custodians of Scripture - 200 B.C. - 500 A.D.

During this time, there were two general classes of manuscript copies, the synagogue rolls and private copies. Even the private copies, or "common copies" of the Old Testament text, which were not used in public meetings, were preserved with great care. For the synagogue rolls, however, there was a very elaborate set of rules for the copyists. The manuscript had to be prepared by a Jew, written on the skins of clean animals and fastened together with strings taken from clean animals. Every skin was to contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the codex. The length of each column was to be no less than 48 and no more than 60 lines. The breadth was to be no more than 30 letters. The ink was to be prepared according to a definite special recipe. An authentic copy was to be used from which to copy, and the transcriber was not to deviate from it in the least. No word or letter, not even a yod, was to be written from memory. The scribe was to examine carefully the codex to be copied. Between all of the consonants of the new copy, a space of at least the thickness of a hair or thread had to intervene. Between every section, there was to be a breadth of nine consonants. Between every book, there was to be three lines.

ΑΠΟΔΕΙΧΝΟΝΤΕΣ
ΑΥΤΩΝ ΕΤΕΝΕΤΟ
ΩΣ ΑΝ ΑΠΟΜΙΚΡΑ
ΠΗΓΗ ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΑΜΟΣ
ΜΕΓΑΣΤΩ ΠΟΝ
ΦΩΤΙΣΜΟΙ ΛΟΓΟΙ
ΝΕΤΙΛΕΝ ΚΑΙ ΟΓΡΑ
ΠΙΝΟΙ ΥΨΩΘΗΝ
ΚΑΙ ΚΑΙ ΕΦΑΝΤΗ
ΕΝ ΔΟΣΟ ΥΣΚΑΙ ΝΕ
ΓΕΡΘΕΙΣ ΜΑΡΔΟΧΑΙ
ΟΣ ΘΕΩΡΑΚΩΣ ΤΟ
ΕΝ ΥΠΝΙ ΟΝ ΤΟΥΤ
ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΘΕΟΚΕΡΕΟΥ
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ΟΙ ΠΡΩΤΟΙ ΠΑΡΑ
ΘΗΜΕΝ ΟΙ ΤΩΡΑ
ΛΕΙ ΚΑΙ ΑΠΗΠΕΙΔ
ΑΥΤΩ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΤΩ

וְכִי תִּזְכְּרוּ מִמָּוֶלְדְּכֶם לְעַמִּיתְכֶם אוֹקֵנָה מִי
תִּזְכְּרוּ אִישׁ אֶת אֶחָיו בְּמִסְפַּר שָׁנִים אֲחֵיהֶם
כִּי אֵת עַמִּיתְכֶם בְּמִסְפַּר שָׁנִים תִּבְּרֶנּוּ מִסְפַּר
הַשָּׁנִים תִּבְּרֶנּוּ כִּי מִקֵּץ הַשָּׁנִים
בְּמִסְפַּר תִּבְּרֶנּוּ אֶת הַמִּכְרָד וְלֹא תִּתְּנוּ
דָּאֵת כִּי אֵת כִּי אֵת הִוָּה אֵת הִוָּה
דָּקֵת וְאֵת כִּי תִּשְׁמְרוּ וְשִׁיתֶם אֶת

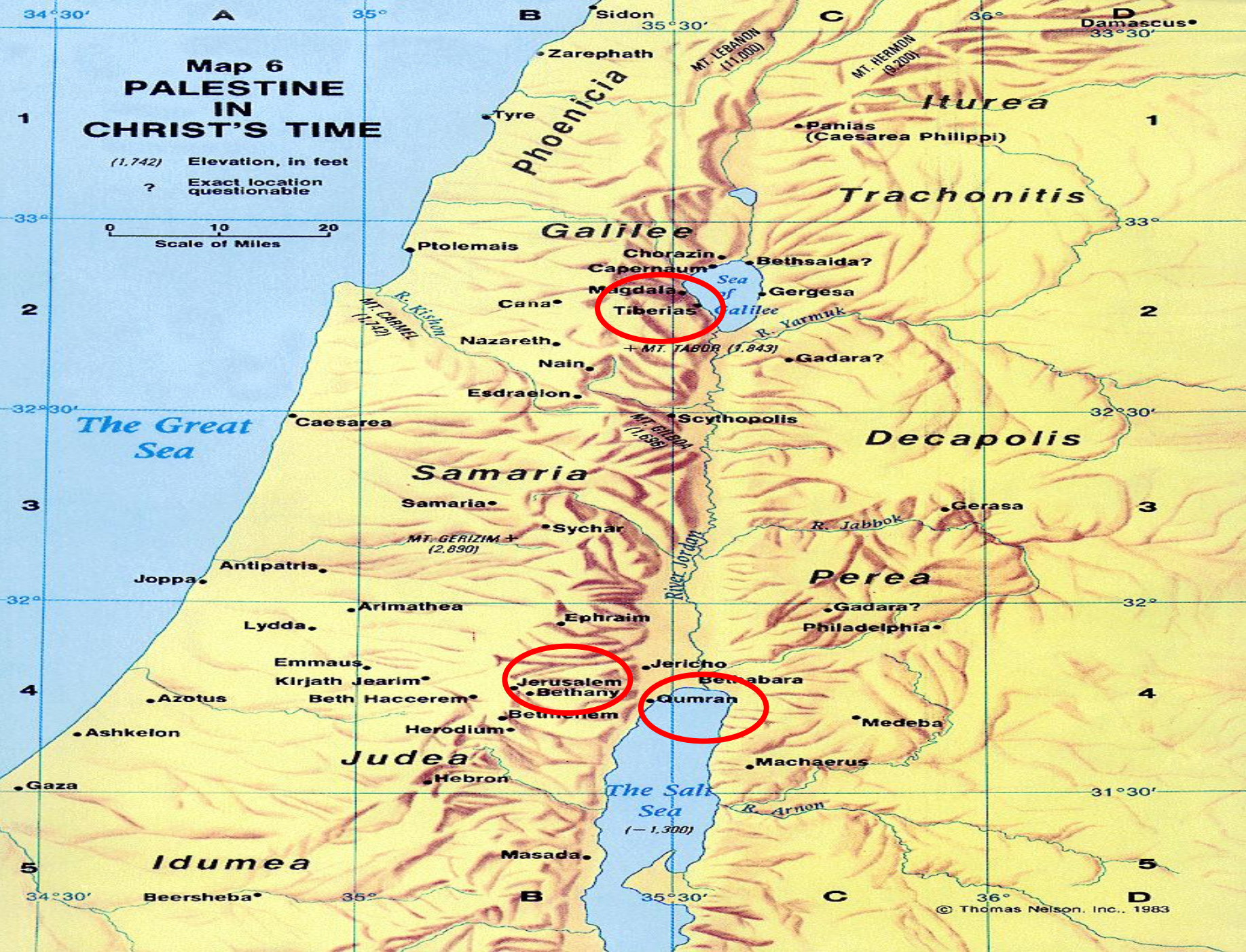
2. **The Massoretes** – custodians of Scripture – 500 A.D. – 1,000 A.D.

The Masoretes were every bit as particular about transmitting the Hebrew text as the Sopherim.

Map 6 PALESTINE IN CHRIST'S TIME

(1,742) Elevation, in feet
? Exact location questionable

0 10 20
Scale of Miles





Tiberias, Israel

© 2012 Cnes/Spot Image
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google earth

32°46'57.41" N 35°35'03.81" E elev -164 m

Eye alt 61.84 km















A photograph of a fragment of ancient papyrus, showing several lines of handwritten text in a cursive script. The papyrus is heavily damaged, with significant portions missing and the remaining text appearing on a torn, irregular surface. The ink is dark, and the papyrus itself is a light brown color. The text is written in a fluid, cursive hand, characteristic of late antiquity. The fragment is set against a dark background.

ΟΙ ΤΟΥΤΟΙ ΤΕΣΣΕΡΕΣ

ΟΥΔΕΝΑΙ ΠΑΡΑ

ΤΕΝ ΕΧΟΥΝΤΕΣ

ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟΙ

ΠΙΟΤΟΤ

ΚΑΙ ΕΙΤΕ

1209



2. **The Masoretes** – custodians of Scripture – 500 A.D. – 1,000 A.D.

The Masoretes were every bit as particular about transmitting the Hebrew text as the Sopherim.

- They counted the number of times that each letter of Scripture occurred in each book. They knew the middle letter of the Pentateuch and the middle letter of the Old Testament.

The detailed statistical work that the Masoretes undertook on each book included the counting of verses, words, and letters, establishing the middle of the book. These minute statistics were kept as a means of guarding against errors: in the Hebrew Bible at Leviticus 8:8, the margin has a reference that this verse is the middle verse of the Torah. According to the note at Leviticus 10:16, the word darash is the middle word in the Torah, and at 11:42 we are assured that the waw in a Hebrew word is the middle letter. Statistics were also placed at the end of each book. As an example, the total number of verses in Deuteronomy is 955, the total in the entire Torah is 5,845; the total number of words is 97, 856, and the total number of letters is 400,945. By assembling statistics such as these, each book could be measured mathematically to see if there was any copyist error! If an error, throw it away and start over!

- By taking such precautions in the copying of letters, words, and verses (by sections and books), it could be known if a word or letter had been omitted or added.
- There were a whole host of things which were counted and placed, and they had a set of mnemonics which helped them to remember these various totals and placements.

- They did practice a certain amount of textual criticism even then and had a unique way of dealing with words they suspected as being corrupt in the text. When obvious errors were noted in the text, perhaps because a tired scribe made an error, the text was still not changed. Instead, a correction was placed in the margin. When a word was considered textually, grammatically, or exegetically questionable, dots were placed above that word.
- The Masoretes concerned themselves with the transmission of the consonantal text as they had received it [Hebrew has no vowels], as well as with its pronunciation, on the basis that every consonant is sacred.

הִנֵּה מַה-טוֹב, וּמַה-נָּעִים-- שְׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם-יִחַד.

dhmgmhatbsmyunhmbfhn

hnhmtvmhnmsbthmgmhd

hnh mtv mh nm sbt hm gm hd



Cholam



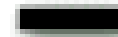
Shva



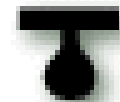
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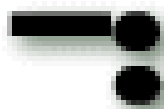
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Kamatatz



Chataf
Segol



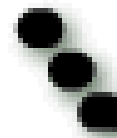
Chataf
Patach



Chataf
Kamatatz



Shuruk



Kubbutz



Chirik

הִיָּה מָה-יֹב, וּמָה-פְּעִים -- שֶׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם-יָחַד.

dhmgmhatbsmyunhmbfhn

hnhmtvmhnm sbthmgmhd

hnh mtv mh nm sbt hm gm hd

Hinne mahtov umah naim shebet ahim gam
yahad

- They did practice a certain amount of textual criticism even then and had a unique way of dealing with words they suspected as being corrupt in the text. When obvious errors were noted in the text, perhaps because a tired scribe made an error, the text was still not changed. Instead, a correction was placed in the margin. When a word was considered textually, grammatically, or exegetically questionable, dots were placed above that word.
- The Masoretes concerned themselves with the transmission of the consonantal text as they had received it [Hebrew has no vowels], as well as with its pronunciation, on the basis that every consonant is sacred.
- Anyone who has studied the exacting conditions under which the Sopherim and the Masoretes worked, and the lengths to which they went to ensure fidelity in their copies of the Scriptures, could attest to the fact that their goal was to produce accurate copies—even to the point of reproducing errors already present in the much older copies from which they were working. The Sopherim and Masoretes were some of the world's greatest perfectionists.

“Because the production of even one perfect copy of one book is so far beyond the capacity of a human scribe, it was necessary for God to perform a miracle in order to produce an accurate copy. No reasonable person can expect even the most conscientious Scribe to achieve technical infallibility in transcribing his original document into a fresh copy”.

- Gleason Archer

Professor of O.T. Semitics

T.E.D.S

Scribal/Copyist Errors

- **Dittography** - Writing twice what should have been written once.
Example: writing "latter" instead of "later." "Latter" means nearest the end. "Later" means after something else.
- **Fission** - Improperly dividing one word into two words. *Example:* changing "nowhere" into "now here."
- **Fusion** - Combining the last letter of one word with the first letter of the next word. *Example:* "Look it is there in the cabinet... or Look it is therein the cabinet."
- **Haplography** - Writing once what should have been written twice.
Example: "later" instead of "latter." "Later" means after something else. "Latter" means nearest the end.
- **Homophony** - Writing a word with a different meaning for another word when both words have the exact same pronunciation.
Example: Meat and meet have the exact same sound but different meanings. Also, there and their and they're are another example.
- **Metathesis** - An improper exchange in the order of letters.
Example: Instead of writing "mast," someone writes "mats," or "cast" and cats."

- **Errors of hearing** (such as when scribes copied the Scriptures by listening to someone read them);
- **Trusting in memory** instead of relying on exactly what the text says;
- **Errors of judgment** (possibly caused by insufficient lighting or poor eyesight);
- **Poor penmanship**; etc.

*****None of these errors affect or alter one article of doctrine or meaning found in the text which cannot be abundantly sustained by other undoubted passages!!***

Although some would like to think so, one must remember that an author is not responsible for errors that are found in copies made of his book. God cannot be blamed for errors made by those who have copied the Scriptures in the distant past. Nor can He be held accountable for those who continue to print copies of the Bible today. It is not God's fault that various publishing companies today have printed translations of the Bible containing such things as misspelled words, incorrect numbers, duplicate words, etc. What is remarkable is that in spite of human weakness God has seen fit to preserve His Word for all generations!