

PREMISE 1

Ancient Scribes Considered The Bible Sacred And Imposed The Strictest Safeguards

Open-Book Review

Use ThinkCube to answer the following questions. The purpose isn't to test your memory, but to help you review and reinforce the most important ideas from this premise.

1. What were the two main responsibilities of ancient biblical scribes?

- A. Copy Scripture accurately and protect it from additions, deletions, or corruption
- B. Translate every scroll into several languages
- C. Write new books of Scripture
- D. Decide which teachings were important

2. Why did Jewish scribes take extraordinary care when copying Scripture?

- A. They believed they were handling the sacred Word of God
- B. They were paid according to how slowly they worked
- C. They believed old manuscripts had no value
- D. Roman law required it

3. Which practice helped scribes check a completed manuscript?

- A. Counting letters, words, and paragraphs against the source
- B. Writing sections from memory
- C. Changing difficult words
- D. Letting several scribes write the same line

4. What could happen if a manuscript contained too many errors?

- A. The sheet or manuscript could be rejected and redone
- B. The errors were ignored
- C. The scribe changed the meaning
- D. It became a new translation

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says: "Ancient scribes probably changed the Bible whenever they copied it." What could you ask about the strict rules and checking systems scribes used to prevent changes?
2. Put it in your own words: Why does the care taken by ancient scribes give us greater confidence in the Bible's preservation?

PREMISE 2

Most Errors Involve Spelling, Grammar, And Do Not Impact Literary Accuracy

1. What is a textual variant?

- A. Any difference between manuscript copies, such as spelling, wording, omission, addition, or word order
- B. A completely different Bible book
- C. A modern translation
- D. A passage scholars cannot read

2. What kind of differences make up most biblical manuscript variants?

- A. Minor spelling, grammar, or copying differences that do not change the meaning
- B. Changes to major Christian doctrines
- C. Entire missing books
- D. Completely different histories

3. Why were the Dead Sea Scrolls especially valuable?

- A. They allowed comparison of much older biblical manuscripts with later Masoretic copies
- B. They were written by the apostles
- C. They contained Moses' originals
- D. They were translated from English

4. What are the Ketef Hinnom Silver Scrolls known for?

- A. Containing the oldest known surviving copies of biblical passages
- B. Containing the entire New Testament
- C. Being the first printed Bibles
- D. Being medieval manuscripts

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says: "There are thousands of differences in Bible manuscripts, so the Bible must be unreliable." What could you ask about what kinds of differences those variants actually are and whether they change the message?

2. Put it in your own words: Why does comparing very old manuscripts with later copies strengthen confidence that the biblical text was preserved?

PREMISE 3

Modern Bible Translations Are The Result Of Meticulous Care And Effort

1. Who typically produces major modern Bible translations?

- A. Teams of highly trained biblical-language and textual scholars
- B. One person translating another English Bible
- C. Publishers who ignore ancient manuscripts
- D. Computer programs without scholars

2. What is a word-for-word or formal-equivalence translation?

- A. A translation that tries to preserve the wording and structure of the original languages as closely as possible
- B. A translation that replaces difficult phrases with new ideas
- C. A Bible written only for children
- D. A translation made without Hebrew or Greek

3. Why can scholars check modern translations so carefully?

- A. They can compare thousands of ancient manuscripts using modern textual tools
- B. Only one biblical manuscript exists
- C. The original authors left English copies
- D. All ancient manuscripts are identical

4. How do many modern translations show transparency about textual variants?

- A. They include footnotes showing important manuscript differences
- B. They remove every passage with a variant
- C. They hide differences
- D. They use only one manuscript

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says: “The Bible has been translated so many times that today's Bible must be completely different from the original.” What could you ask about whether modern translations are made from previous English translations or directly from ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek manuscripts?

2. Put it in your own words: Why can large translation teams and modern manuscript research increase confidence in today's Bible translations?