

## HAVE BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS BEEN FAITHFULLY PRESERVED? (Preservation)

### A. BIBLICAL TEACHING on the Providential Preservation of God's Word

1. The providential preservation of Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ by God, but the particular \_\_\_\_\_ of preservation is never specified. (2 Kgs. 22:8-10; Ps. 100:5; 119:152, 160; Isa. 40:8; Matt. 5:17-18; 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23-25)

*\* Did God promise to preserve His Word by an act of re-inspiration, or through perfect, miraculous copying, or through one type of manuscript or translation, or only in the majority of manuscripts, or only through scribes or copyists who were believers?*

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of copying and interpreting the Bible should involve the utmost care and reverence for the exact words and letters. (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Pro. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19)

### B. BASIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION for the Providential Preservation of God's Word

1. God gave and preserved His Word in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ revelation. (Matt. 5:18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

*\* What advantage would this type of revelation have? (Isa. 30:8)*

2. In order for God to give His Word through verbal, written revelation, there had to be an \_\_\_\_\_. (Ex. 17:14; 24:4, 7; Deut. 31:24-26; Josh. 8:31; 23:6; John 5:46-47)

*\* Is there archaeological evidence for an early Hebrew alphabet?*

3. In biblical times, the materials on which God's Word was written included:

a) \_\_\_\_\_. (Ex. 31:18; 34:1, 4; Deut. 4:13; 5:22; 27:2-3)

b) \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Tim. 4:13)

c) \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Tim. 4:13)

### C. Providential Preservation of OLD TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

*The text of the Old Testament has been preserved through:*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew manuscripts. (9th–10th cent. A.D.)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Pentateuch. (10th cent. A.D.)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (LXX). (250 B.C. – A.D. 100)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Targums. (1st cent. A.D.)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ Vulgate. (A.D. 400)
6. Numerous Old Testament quotations from the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_. (A.D. 200s–500s)
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ Scrolls. (250–100 B.C.)

*\* What is textual criticism & what role does it have regarding our current texts and translations?*

*\* E.g., Isaiah 40:6, 12*

### D. Providential Preservation of NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS

*The text of the New Testament has been preserved through:*

1. The Greek \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts are copies of the Greek New Testament written on papyrus in uncial script. (A.D. 100s–700s)
2. The Greek \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts are copies of the Greek New Testament written on parchment in uncial script. (A.D. 300s–900s)
3. The Greek \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts are copies of the Greek New Testament written on parchment in minuscule script. (A.D. 800s–1500s)
4. The Greek \_\_\_\_\_ manuscripts are readings of the New Testament for use in Greek-speaking churches. (A.D. 700s–1500s)
5. The early \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament are translations of the Greek New Testament into the ancient languages of Coptic, Syriac, Latin, Gothic, Georgian, Armenian. (A.D. 200s–800s)
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ are writers who quote the New Testament. (A.D. 100s–400s)

*\* What kind of “variants” exist among these sources?*

*\* E.g., Romans 1:16; 8:1; Mark 16:9-20*

*\* Has God faithfully fulfilled His promise to preserve His Word?*