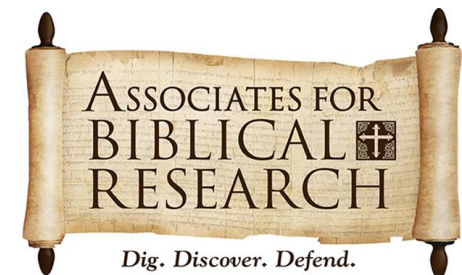


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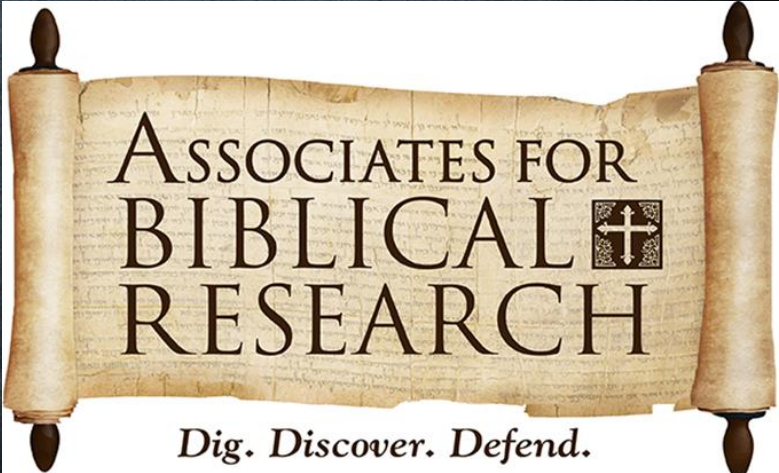



# THE GENESIS 5 AND 11 GENEALOGY AND CHRONOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT

*When was Noah's Flood?*

**Henry B. Smith Jr.**

*The Transmission and  
Preservation of Scripture*



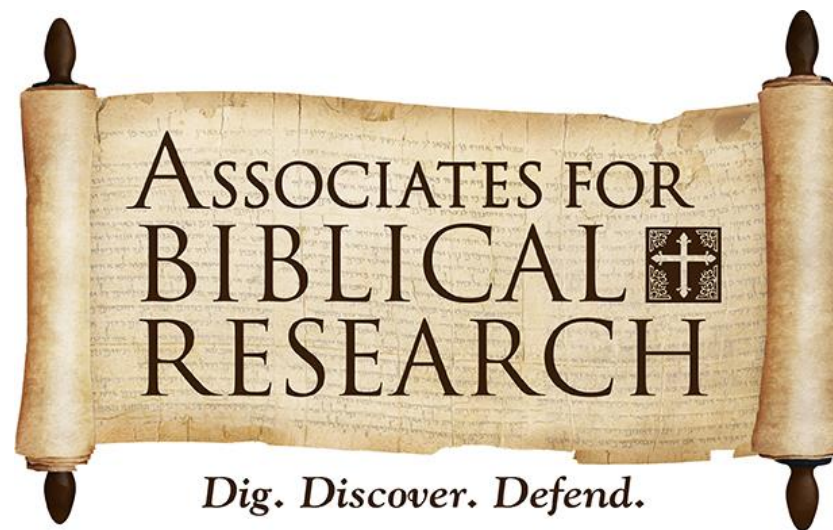
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**Henry B. Smith Jr.  
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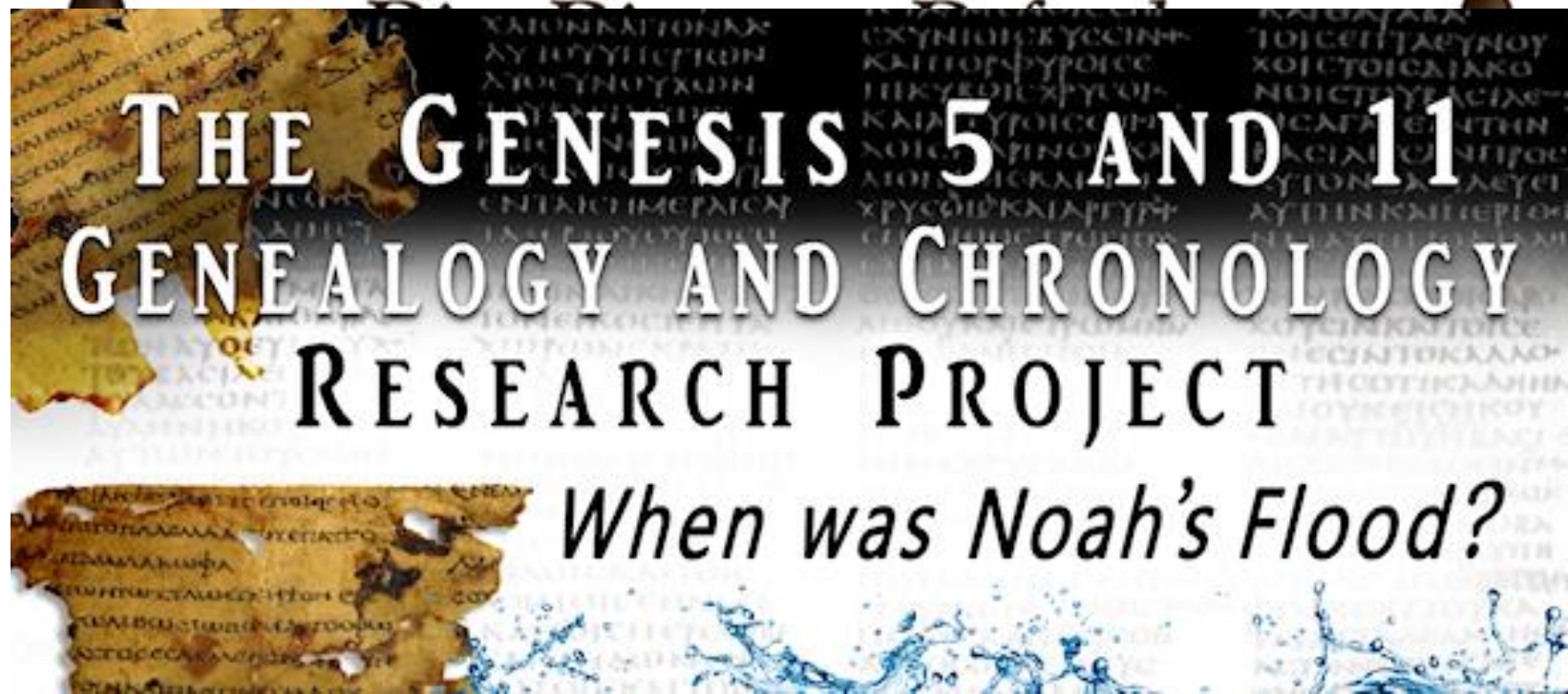
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## THE GENESIS 5 AND 11 GENEALOGY AND CHRONOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT

*When was Noah's Flood?*

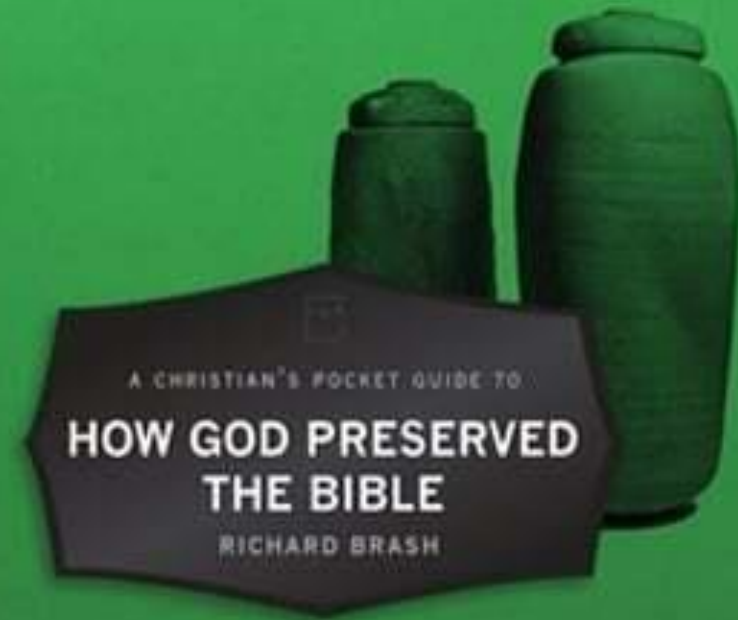
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**TRUTH**

# PRESERVATION OF SCRIPTURE

GUEST: REV. RICHARD BRASH  
PHD(C) ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY  
AT CHRIST BIBLE SEMINARY, NAGOYA, JAPAN



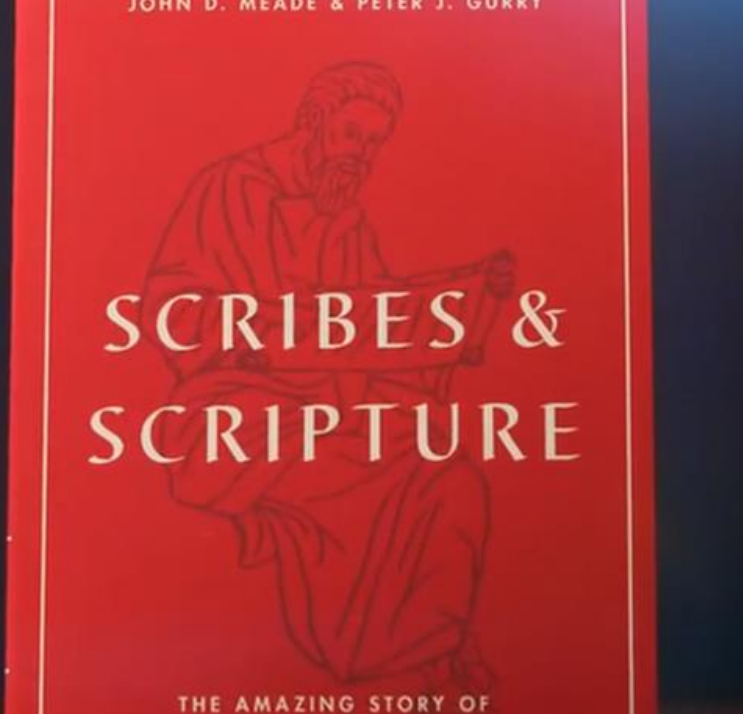
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**TRUTH**

**Scribes & Scripture**  
(Part 1)

**Guest: John Meade, PhD**  
Professor of Old Testament



DIGGING FOR  
**TRUTH**

**Scribes & Scripture**  
(Part 2)

John Meade, PhD





**“Miraculous wine will intoxicate, miraculous conception will lead to pregnancy, inspired books will suffer all the ordinary processes of textual corruption, miraculous bread will be digested.”**



**“Miraculous wine will intoxicate, miraculous conception will lead to pregnancy, inspired books will suffer all the ordinary processes of textual corruption, miraculous bread will be digested.”**

**Inspiration vs. Preservation**

**Or...**

**The Miraculous vs. the Ordinary**

“...anything in those books which seems contrary to truth, I decide that either **the text is corrupt**, or the translator did not follow what was really said, or that I failed to understand it.”

-Augustine of Hippo

*Epistle 82, 1.3 quoted in Scribes and Scripture, p. 229.*



# Inspiration v. Preservation

# Descriptive Texts

**“The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or **by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture**” (WCF 1.6).**

**“And when he [the king of Israel] sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.”**

**Deuteronomy 17:18-20**



# Observations:

## 1. The copy has binding authority

**“keeping all the words of this law and these statutes... that he may not turn aside from the commandment...”**

**Question: how can God's people obey His commandments today if his Word has not been accurately preserved?**

# Observations:

## 2. The copy has ongoing relevance

**“that his heart may not be lifted up against his brothers...  
that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his  
children...”**

# Observations:

## 3. The copy is to be obeyed

**“that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left”**

**“Whoever **has my commandments** and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”**

**John 14:21**



## Observations:

4. The copy is to made, literally, “before the face of” the Levitical priests. (מִלְפָּנֵי) = παρά

The priests are there to ensure its accurate copying, which infers the king could have made mistakes in copying the Law.

## **Observations:**

**5. Each king is to make his own copy.**

**Thus, each copy of the Law of Moses (and by extension, all of Scripture) continues to have binding authority, relevance, and application to each contemporary situation.**

**The kings of Israel ruled for over 400 years...**

# **Men are evil... God is Holy, and SOVEREIGN**

**In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."**

**Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him.**

# Men are evil... God is Holy, and SOVEREIGN

**Baruch read the words to the people (Jer. 36:9-10)**

**Baruch was summoned to read the scroll to the officials in the king's court (Jer. 36: 11-19)**

**A man named Jehudi was instructed to read the scroll to King Jehoiakim (Jer. 36: 20-21)**

# Men are evil... God is Holy, and SOVEREIGN

It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him. 23 As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot.

24 Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments. 25 Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

# Men are evil... God is Holy, and SOVEREIGN

Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: "Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned."

...Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

**Jeremiah 36: 27-28, 32**



# Men are evil... God is Holy, and SOVEREIGN

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us’? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.

The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord, so what wisdom is in them?”

Jeremiah 8:8-9



**According to Jeremiah 8:8-9, “lying scribes” change the written word of God.**

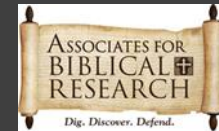
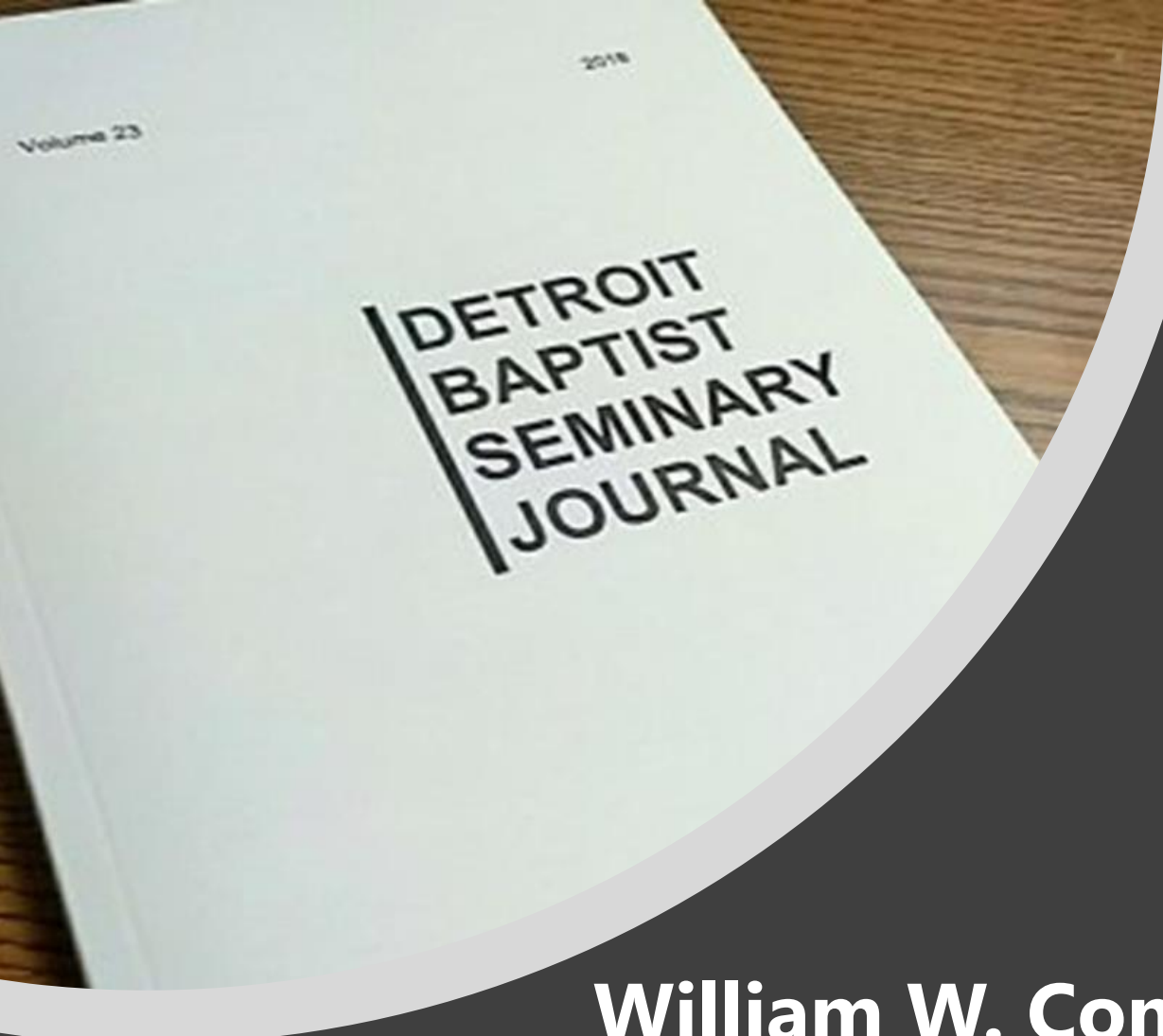
**Salient example: the numbers in Genesis 5 and 11 have been systematically revised by scribes from the figures originally given to Moses.**



# GENESIS 5 BIOLOGY AND CHRONOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT

*When was Noah?*

1. Masoretic Text (MT)
  - a. Adam to the Flood- 1656 years
  - b. Flood to Abraham- 352 years
  - c. Total- 2008 years
  
2. Samaritan Pentateuch (SP)
  - a. Adam to the Flood- 1307 years
  - b. Flood to Abraham- 942 years
  - c. Total- 2249 years
  
3. The Septuagint (LXX)
  - a. Adam to the Flood- 2262 years
  - b. Flood to Abraham- 1132 years
  - c. Total-3394 years



**William W. Combs, "The Preservation of Scripture," *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 5 (Fall 2000): 3–44.**

**“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” Isaiah 40:8; I Pet. 1:24-25**

**The permanence of God’s Word is contrasted with flowers and grass. The verse seems to entail verbal revelation and written revelation. Combs argues that this has a “more indirect application to the doctrine” of preservation (p. 20).**

**“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”**

**NASB = “smallest letter or stroke.”**

ד ר

**Here, Jesus is referencing the written Word of God.**

**V19 further contextualizes His meaning: “Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”**

**Again, an important and indirect application to preservation. The Word must be preserved to exercise the authority it possesses.**



**It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4, quoting Deut. 8:3**

**Again, an important and indirect application to preservation. The Word must be preserved to give sustenance to God’s people.**

**“Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.” Ps. 119:152**

**“The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.” Ps. 119:160**

**The context (vv. 145-152) is referencing the Torah, God’s written revelation.**

**These two verses more directly promise the providential preservation of the Scriptures.**

# *Preservation is the Corollary of Inspiration*

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how **from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I Timothy 3:15-17





# *Preservation is the Corollary of Inspiration*

For whatever was **written** in former days was **written** for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the **Scriptures** we might have hope.

**Romans 15:4**



“Miraculous wine will intoxicate, miraculous conception will lead to pregnancy, inspired [MIRACULOUS] books will suffer all the ordinary processes of textual corruption, miraculous bread will be digested.”



*Miracles* (Harper Collins, 2001), p. 95.

# The Method or Means of Preservation

The Bible does not tell how and where the written manuscript lineage of God's Word is preserved.

God has providentially preserved His word in the many manuscripts, fragments, versions, translations, and copies of the Scriptures that are available, and that by diligent study, comparison, and correlation, the original text (words) can be ascertained.

# The Hebrew Masoretic Text

**Must all the Old Testament  
be preserved ONLY in the MT?**

**Paul Wegner observes:**

**Bruce Waltke notes that in the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS) approximately one textual note appears for every ten words; thus, 90 percent of the text is without significant variation.... Our count of variants in the book of Genesis shows that only about 7 percent of the words in this book are affected. If this is the case, we have an amazing heritage handed down to us in the Hebrew text of the OT.**

**“[In Genesis] [t]here are about 1,357 words that are affected, out of approximately 19,671 words, or **6.8 percent of the text**” (Wegner, “Current Trends,” 480, n. 70).**

**Paul D. Wegner, “Current Trends in Old Testament Textual Criticism,” *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 23, no. 4 (2013): 461–80.**

# GENESIS 5 BIBLICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

## *When was Noah?*

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  - c. Total-3394 years

**THE GREAT ISALIAH  
SCROLL COLUMN 33  
SHOWS THAT THE SCRIBE  
ACCIDENTALLY SKIPPED  
40:7 TO 40:8 BEFORE HE  
OR A CORRECTOR ADDED  
THE TEXT BETWEEN  
LINES AND DOWN THE  
LEFT MARGIN**

Credit: The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.  
Seen on page 70 of *Scribes and Scripture*.



# The Hebrew Masoretic Text

The statement by Cain, “Let us go out into the field” in the MT of Genesis 4:8 has dropped out of the MT, but is preserved in the LXX, SP, the Syriac Peshitta, and the Latin Vulgate.

Ronald S. Hendel, *The Text of Genesis 1-11: Textual Studies and Critical Edition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 46-47.





**4Q DEUT<sup>N</sup> SHOWS EVIDENCE OF HARMONIZATION,  
WHERE SCRIBES INSERTED DEUT. 8:5-10  
AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE  
TEN COMMANDMENTS IN DEUT. 5:1-33.**

# EXODUS 20:11 INSERTED BETWEEN DEUT. 5:15-16 IN A DEAD SEA SCROLLS MANUSCRIPT

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Deuteronomy<br>5:15 | You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. |
| Exodus 20:11        | For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.  |
| Deuteronomy<br>5:16 | Honor your father and your mother...   |

את המצות  
אשר עשה  
אלהים  
למשה  
ובני ישראל  
במצרים  
ועל  
המצות  
אשר  
עשה  
אלהים  
למשה  
ובני ישראל  
במצרים  
ועל  
המצות  
אשר  
עשה  
אלהים  
למשה  
ובני ישראל  
במצרים

ובחנותך וידך אשר בשעריך  
בפני וצדקתך כי עבד היות  
והיה אלהיך בעם בני  
על כי עבד היות אלהיך  
למשה כי עשה ויהיה את השבועות וזה הדבר  
את היום וכל אשר בך ויהיה ביום השבועות על כי בך והיה  
את היום השבת לקדשו כי את היום ואת את אשר  
לפני ואחריך ופני ולפני והבן  
כי על אחריה אשר והיה אלהיך עמך כי את תהיה את  
העם את העשר לא תעשה בריבך כי שום את החפץ  
אשר רצו את החפץ וזה רצו סדור עבדו אשר  
שומר חפצו וכל אשר לרצו

והיה אלהיך בעם בני  
על כי עבד היות אלהיך  
למשה כי עשה ויהיה את השבועות וזה הדבר  
את היום וכל אשר בך ויהיה ביום השבועות על כי בך והיה  
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שומר חפצו וכל אשר לרצו

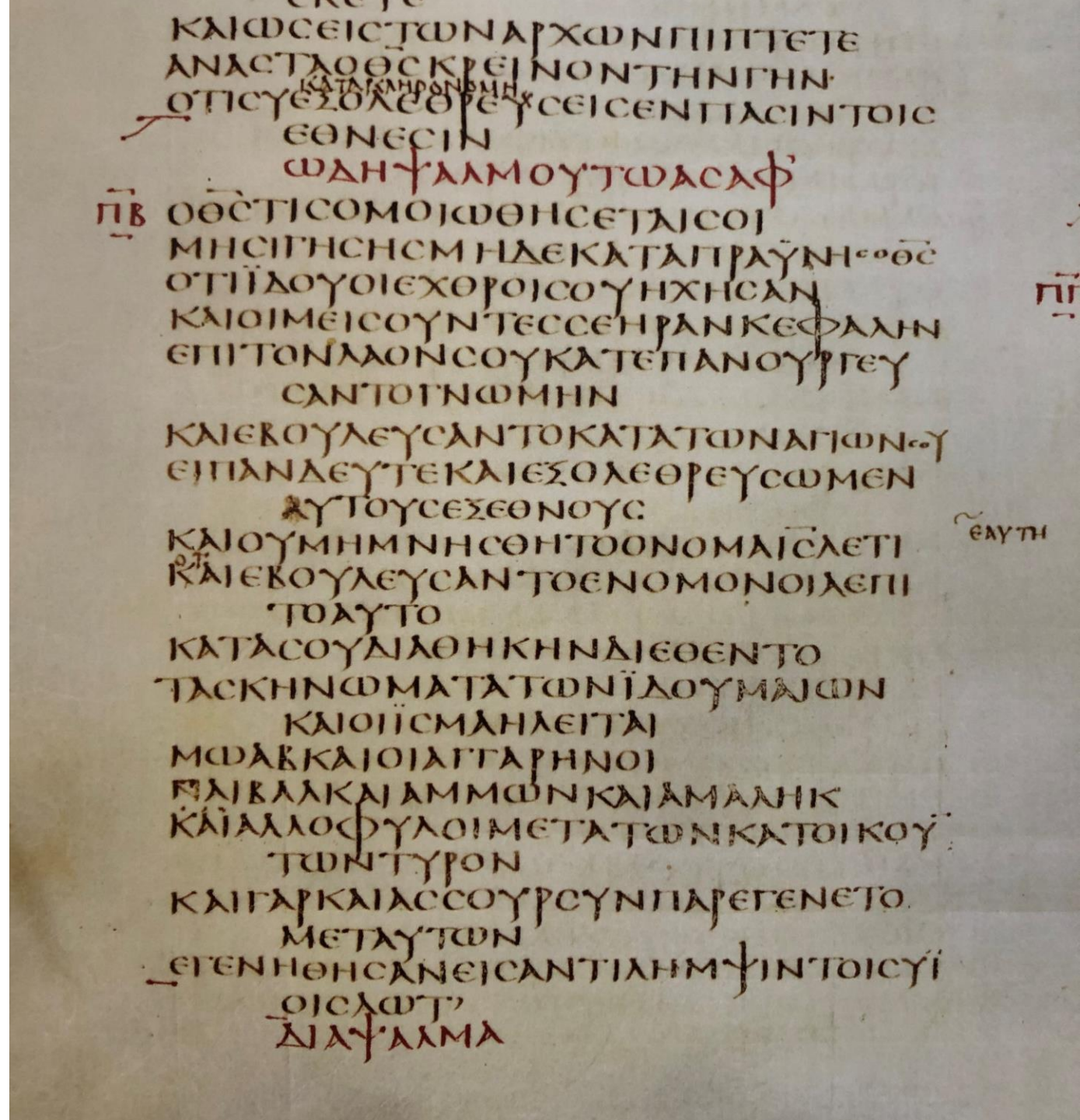


**A SCROLL OF PSALM  
82-83, DISCOVERED  
AT MASADA. THIS  
SCROLL WAS COPIED  
VERY CAREFULLY,  
AND REPRESENTS  
THE PHENOMENON  
OF REPETITION  
DESCRIBED BY DR.  
GENTRY.**

Codex  
Sinaiticus  
Psalm  
83

Courtesy: Dr. Peter Gentry

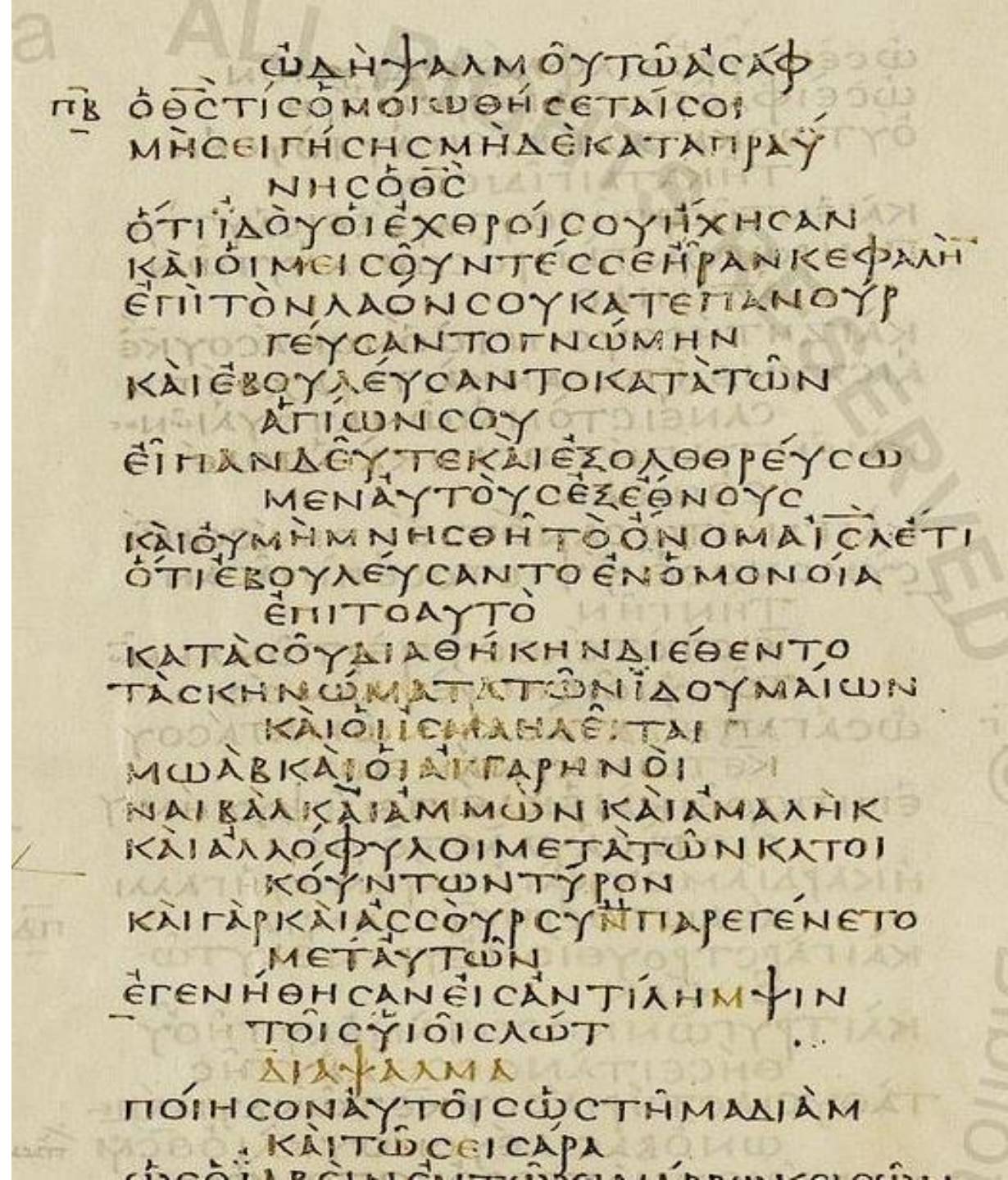
Peter J. Gentry and John D. Meade, "MasPsa and the Early History of the Hebrew Psalter," in *From Scribal Error to Rewriting: How Ancient Texts Could and Could Not Be Changed*, ed. Anneli Aejmelaeus, Drew Longacre, and Natia Mirotadze, *De Septuaginta Investigationes* 12 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2020), 113–45.



Codex  
Vaticanus  
Psalm  
83

Courtesy: Dr. Peter Gentry

Peter J. Gentry and John D. Meade, "MasPsa and the Early History of the Hebrew Psalter," in *From Scribal Error to Rewriting: How Ancient Texts Could and Could Not Be Changed*, ed. Anneli Aejmelaeus, Drew Longacre, and Natia Mirotadze, *De Septuaginta Investigationes* 12 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2020), 113–45.



DIGGING FOR  
**TRUTH**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT TEXT  
PRESERVATION OR CHALLENGE  
(PART 2)**

GUEST: PETER J. GENTRY, PHD  
PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION  
THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

DIGGING FOR  
**TRUTH**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT  
PRESERVATION**

GUEST:  
PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION  
THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



# The Hebrew Masoretic Text

**Must all the Old Testament be preserved in the MT?**

**No... The Doctrine of Preservation does not require this, for nowhere in Scripture is it demanded.**



**Is any textual tradition, such as the Byzantine Majority Text, *theologically superior*?**

**No textual tradition can claim theological superiority, though arguments can be made on a case-by-case basis for **evidential superiority**.**

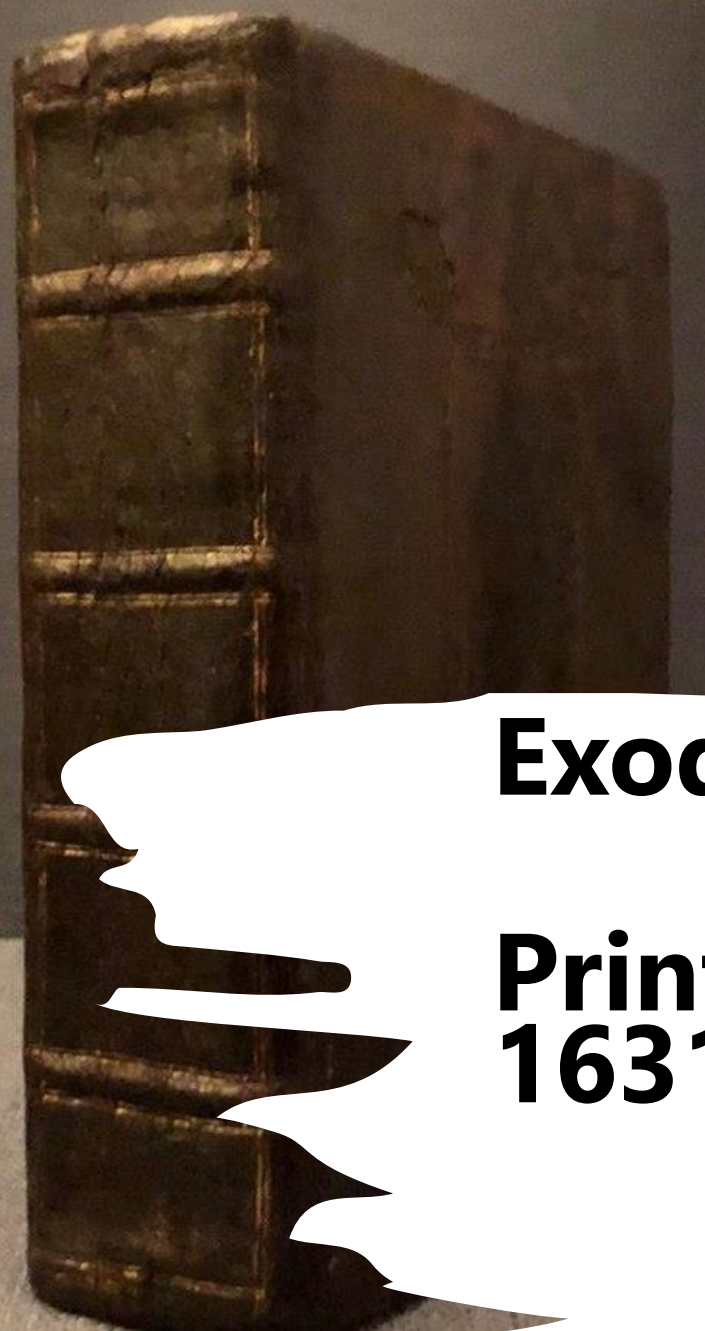
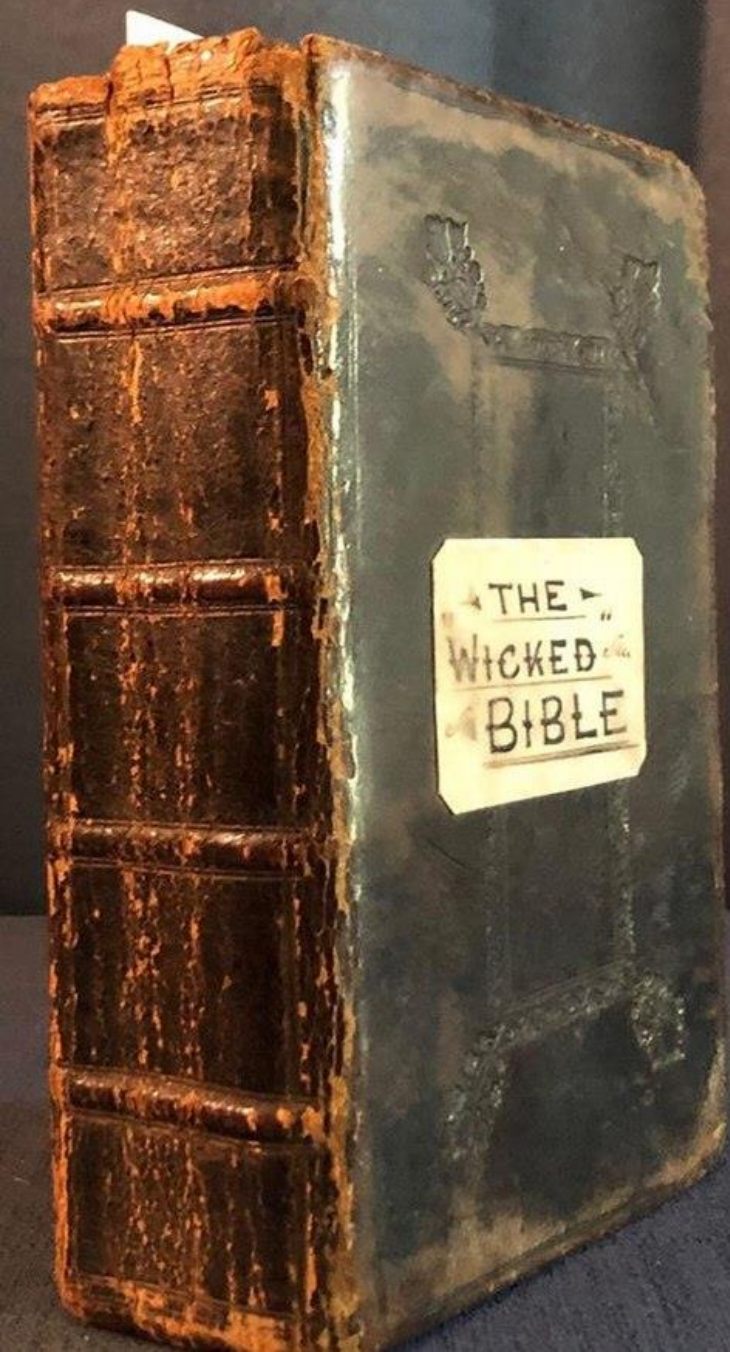
**Are Translations such as the Septuagint or the King James uniquely “inspired”?**

**No... The LXX is a Greek translation of the underlying Hebrew/Aramaic biblical text.**

**This idea originated from the *Letter of Aristeas* and was propagated by some theologians in the early Church.**

**Are Translations such as the Septuagint or the King James uniquely “inspired”?**

**No... All translations fall under the providential oversight of God through human agency, but translations do not carry the unique work of Inspiration in the person doing the translating.**



¶ Honour thy father and thy  
dayes may bee long vpon the  
D thy God giueth thee.  
\* Thou shalt not kill  
Thou shalt commit adultery.  
Thou shalt not steale.  
Thou shalt not beare false w  
neighbour  
\* Thou shalt not couer thy nig  
shalt not couer thy neighbour

**Exodus 20:14.**

**Printed in the year  
1631 AD.**

**No textual tradition, no denomination, no special group, no ecclesiastical authority, no translation, no human can take credit for the preservation of Holy Scripture.**

**God has providentially preserved His word in the many manuscripts, fragments, versions, translations, and copies of the Scriptures that are available, and that by diligent study, comparison, and correlation, the original text (words) can be ascertained.**

# **God and God Alone is Glorified in the Preservation of Holy Scripture.**

**Via ten of thousands of scribes,  
theologians, translators, manuscripts,  
and external witnesses. Through fallen  
sinners, both those in Christ and those  
who have rejected Him.**

**God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy (WCF 5:1).**

**“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11:36**



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