

HAS THE BIBLE BEEN CHANGED?

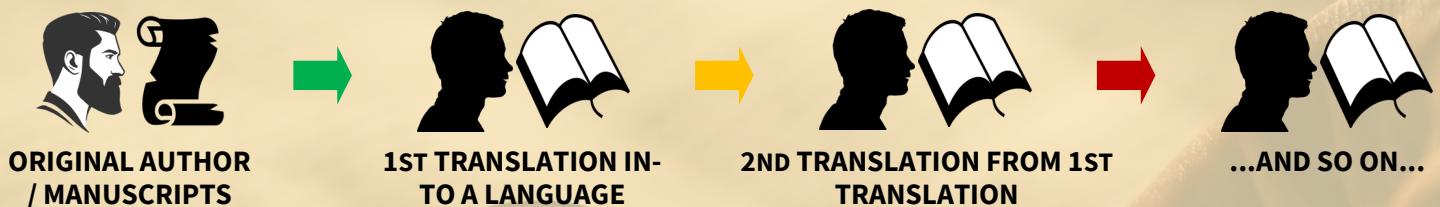
In today's world, many people believe that the Bible has been changed. Some people also believe that what the original authors were trying to communicate has been lost because the text has been retranslated over and over again. How can we know that the text is reliable?

The Bible teaches that God has magnified His word above His name *Psalms 138:2* and Jesus Himself stated that "Scripture cannot be broken" *John 10:35*. The Apostle Paul confirms in *2 Timothy 3:16* that Scripture is "God-breathed" and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness.

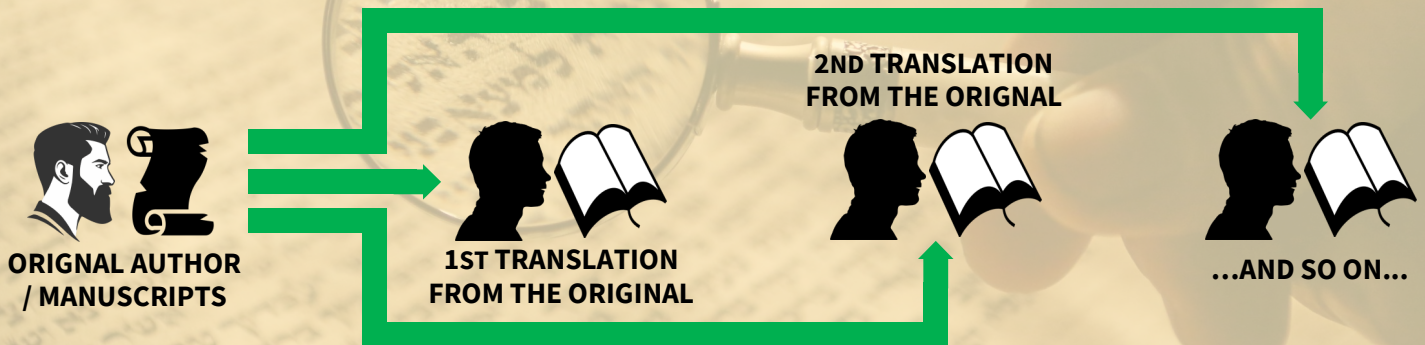
If the Bible is correct, and Jesus and Paul's words hold true, then we should be able to demonstrate that the text is trustworthy, reliable, still relevant today, and most importantly: **it hasn't been changed**. Can we do this? Yes, we can!

DO WE TRANSLATE FROM EXISTING TRANSLATIONS?

The claim that the Bible has lost its original meaning through multiple retranslations is false. In the game of Chinese whispers, each whisper opens the possibility for an error or a mistake to be made. The more whispers there are, the greater the difference between the first and last whisper.



However, translations of the Bible are **not done like a game of Chinese whispers**. All translations use original manuscripts as their source material. They do **not** use prior translations, so even if an error or mistake is made in an old translation, this would not perpetuate through future translations.



ARE THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS ACCURATE?

Through a process called "textual criticism", we can compare the multitude of biblical manuscripts to check for errors. The number or weight of source material means this process is highly effective. Take the 3 lines below from *Psalms 119:105* and it is clear where an error exists.

- Manuscript 1:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
- Manuscript 2:** "Your yord is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
- Manuscript 3:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a might for my path."

It is clear in the above what the original text should say. The number of errors in the above is also must higher than the number of errors that exists in the manuscripts we have available today. We can be absolutely sure that our Bibles today accurately reflects the author's original message.

The "Dead Sea Scrolls" were discovered in 1947 and were more than 1000 years older than all other manuscripts at the time. They contained parts of every Old Testament book (except one). Variations in the text after a thousand years of manual copying are minimal and reinforce the validity of scripture. **God has indeed magnified His word and it is as relevant today as it has always been.**



Instead of putting this in the bin, why not pass it on to a family member, a friend or a work colleague?

You can also leave it somewhere to be found like a waiting room or a book library.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER!



WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The gospel is good news and **God offers everlasting life to every person**, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability or background. But how can you receive this most amazing gift?

1: Recognize Your Need for Salvation: Acknowledge that you are a sinner and have fallen short of God's perfect standard. **Understand that your sin separates you from God** and that **you are in need of His forgiveness and salvation.**

2: Repentance: You must repent. Repentance involves a **sincere and genuine change of heart and mind.** It means **turning away from your sinful ways and turning toward God.** It's a **decision** to live according to His will and seek His guidance in your life. **The Bible is clear - People who merely profess belief in Jesus but are disobedient and continue to live sinful lives will not be saved!**

3: Believe in Jesus Christ: Place your **faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.** Believe that **He is the Son of God**, who died on the cross for your sins and rose again from the dead. **Understand that through His sacrifice, you can receive forgiveness and eternal life.**

4: Confess Your Faith: Publicly confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. **This confession can be made through a declaration of your faith in front of others, such as in a church setting or among fellow believers.**

5: Follow Jesus: Commit to following Jesus and His teachings. Seek to deepen your relationship with Him through prayer, studying the Bible, and being part of a Christian community. **Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and transform your life, helping you to live in a way that is pleasing to God.**

*"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward **you**, not willing for **any** to perish, but for **all to come to repentance.**" - 2 Peter 3:9*

Fancy a free coffee?

*Whether you have questions and are seeking answers, need prayer, or even if you just need somebody to talk to, then reach out to us using any of the details below and we can meet up at a **time and place that is convenient for you.** We would love to have a chat.*



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