



# BIBLE'S TWO SECTIONS

	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
NUMBER OF BOOKS	39	27
MAJOR GROUPS	Law, historical books, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophets	Gospel, Acts, Epistles, Revelations
YEARS TO WRITE	1,100	100



# MASSORETIC TEXT

- ◆ earliest complete text of Hebrew O.T. copied by Jewish scribes called the Massoretes
- ◆ comparison with earlier Greek and Latin versions reveal very careful copying with little deviation from 100 B.C. to 900 A.D. a period of 1000 years

# DEAD SEA SCROLLS

- ◆ -discovered in 1947 with copies of the OT books dating back to 100 B.C.
- ◆ -compared to “Massoretic Text” of 900 A.D., they confirm careful copying of Jewish scribes for over 1000 years



# SEPTUAGINT VERSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- ◆ -Greek translation done in 200 B.C. by 70 scholars
- ◆ -confirms the accuracy of the copyists who gave us the Massoretic Text





# NEW TESTAMENT- NUMBER OF MANUSCRIPTS

- ◆ -over 4,000 Greek manuscripts
- ◆ -13,000 copies of portions of the New Testament in Greek

# LOCATION OF THE MANUSCRIPTS

- ◆ -found in various places: Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy
- ◆ -collusion difficult since no single source of manuscripts



# THE DATE OF THE MANUSCRIPTS

- ◆ -several papyri fragments have been dated to within 50-100 years of the original
- ◆ -several nearly complete N.T. Greek manuscripts with 300-400 years
  - (1) Codex Sinaiticus- found near Mt. Sinai
  - (2) Codex Alexandrinus- found near Alexandria, Egypt
  - (3) Codex Vaticanus- found at Vatican






# THE VARIATIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT

- ◆ vast majority are very minor which are noted in footnotes
- ◆ total in question is ½ of 1 percent
- ◆ no fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith rests on a disputed reading



# OTHER TRANSLATIONS

- ◆ More than 1,000 copies and fragments in Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Ethiopic
- ◆ 8,000 copies of the Latin Vulgate, some dating back to Jerome's original translation around 400 A.D.



# WRITINGS OF THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

- ◆ Writings done in 100-400 A.D.
- ◆ 1000's of quotations of the N.T. used
- ◆ Possible to reconstruct the entire N.T. from these early writings with the exception of 15-20 verses



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