

# *The BIBLE Survey*

**1. What do you think of the Bible? Would you say the Bible is:**

- A. God's Written Word and Absolutely True*
- B. Not God's Written Word but True History*
- C. Not True History and Full of Jewish Fables*
- D. Other: \_\_\_\_\_*

**2. How many ancient Bible manuscripts do you think are still in existence today?**

- A. Very few*
- B. Hundreds*
- C. Thousands*
- D. Tens of Thousands*

**3. How old do you think the most ancient Bible manuscripts are?**

- A. 500 years old*
- B. 1,000 years old*
- C. 1,500 years old*
- D. Older than 2,000 years old*

**4. Do you think the doctrines and commandments found in the Bible changed over time?**

- A. Yes, the Biblical doctrines have changed in major ways*
- B. Yes, the Biblical doctrines have changed in minor ways*
- C. No, I don't think the doctrines and commandments in the Bible have ever changed*

**5. Considering the fact that the Bible was hand copied for 1,000's of years – If it could be proven that no doctrines or commandments were ever changed, would you call it:**

- A. Pure luck*
- B. A Coincidence*
- C. A Miracle from God*

**6. Do you think a study of the Bible's history could prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that the message of the Bible has never changed?**

- A. Yes*
- B. Possibly*
- C. No way*

## *Our Answers...*

- 1. We believe the Bible is God's word and as such, is absolute truth.*
- 2. There are tens of 1,000's of ancient hand copied Bible manuscripts (Old Testament manuscripts written in Hebrew – New Testament texts written in Greek – and both Old and New Testament translations into Greek, Aramaic, Latin, and Coptic). These ancient hand copied texts are housed in monasteries, universities, churches, museums, and private collections all over the world. The Dead Sea Scrolls can be viewed on line at: <http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/explore-the-archive> and many of the oldest New Testament Bible manuscripts can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.csntm.org/Manuscript>*
- 3. The oldest of the ancient Bible manuscripts were discovered in Israel near the Dead Sea, they are called the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of Old Testament Bible manuscripts that date from about 250 BC to about 100 AD. Contained in the Dead Sea Scrolls are 220 manuscripts of Old Testament books. In these ancient texts all of the Old Testament books are represented, some complete and others in fragmentary form, except for the book of Esther. If you want to see for yourself how much of the Old Testament survived in these ancient texts they have been translated into English in a book called, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*, published in 1999, by Harper San Francisco.*
- 4. A close examination of the tens of thousands of ancient Bible manuscripts proves, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that no doctrines or commandments in the Bible have ever been changed.*
- 5. Considering the fact that the Bible was hand copied for 1,000's of years and that we can prove no doctrines or commandments were ever changed is nothing less than a miracle from God.*
- 6. Yes, a simple study of the history of the Bible does prove the doctrines and commandments in our Bible remain intact. By comparing the tens of thousands of ancient manuscripts we can prove, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that no sinister or intentional manipulation of the text has ever changed the Bible's message. We can, therefore, be confident that the Bible we have in our hands today contains the exact same message as it did thousands of years ago.*

*[NOTE: We are not claiming the men who copied the Bible were perfect and never made mistakes or that the manuscripts are all word-for-word identical. Nor are we ignoring the fact that there are some who would challenge our claims. We acknowledge the fact that mistakes were made by the men who copied these ancient texts. Today these mistakes are identified as variant readings – 99.9% of these variants are very minor (such as spelling or grammar) and none of them, even those that might be considered significant, alter the Biblical message in any way. None of the variant readings change any doctrine or commandment found in the Bible. There is a simple way for you to check this out – if you search on-line you will find skeptics who point out their own perceived “problems” with the Bible. We would challenge you to find one skeptic who claims that any of the textual variants in the Hebrew or Greek manuscripts alter the doctrines or commandments – you won't find one! Think about it, if there were ancient Hebrew or Greek texts that taught differing doctrines or had altered commandments, these problems would be all over the internet.]*

*Have Questions or Comments? [gospeltruth4u@hotmail.com](mailto:gospeltruth4u@hotmail.com)*