

199 Word Defense of Scripture

The bible has been copied many times, and that is precisely why we *can* trust it. It is not that the entire bible consisting of 66 books was all copied by any one source at any one time. What we call "books" of the bible are really a collection of personal correspondence from one person to a church, eyewitness testimonies, traditions and writing passed on from early Hebrew prophets, and intentional records of what occurred written by contemporaries of the events.

These writings were produced on whatever was available to write upon. Archeology has found what we know as scripture on pottery and stone, on walls, and especially in what is now over 5,000 manuscripts or pieces of manuscripts.

Most compelling, these documents come from all around the Mediterranean and Middle East, varying greatly in age. Yet, the texts remain consistent throughout despite the diversity of cultures and languages in which they are found.

This process actually guarantees that no corruption could take place. If there were only one copy of each "book", one could readily protest that we have no reason to accept its authenticity. Therefore, the abundance of copying has assured that the originals are substantially represented.