



Christian Apologetics

Session 8:
Revelation of God (Part 2)

How Can I Know God?

How Can I Know God?

Process of God's Revelation



Revelation



Inspiration



Inscripturation



Transmission



Translation



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Overview)



Selectively Available to
Specific People at **Specific** Times

Observing God's **Character**
through **Oral** and **Written** Means

Knowing God as **Redeemer**



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Inspiration)

Inspiration is the process of **breathing in** or **inhaling** God's truth



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Inspiration)

Verbal Plenary

God's revealed truth guides His hearers to communicate His truth by **guiding** their **thoughts** and **directing** their very **words**.



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Inspiration)

All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Inspiration)

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were **carried along** by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Context for Inspiration)

Bible Comprised of ...

66 Books

40 Authors

Written Over Span of 1,500 Years



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Evidence for Inspiration)

#1: Consistent Redemptive **Meta-Narrative**

#2: Accurate Fulfillment of **Prophecy**

#3: Confirmation of the **Holy Spirit**

One Author GOD!



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation
(Transmission)

Old Testament – **Skilled Scribes**

New Testament – **Many Manuscripts**



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

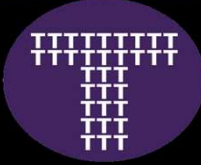
(Transmission of the Old Testament)

The reliability and integrity of the OT texts relies primarily on the fidelity of the **transmission process** by **skilled scribes**

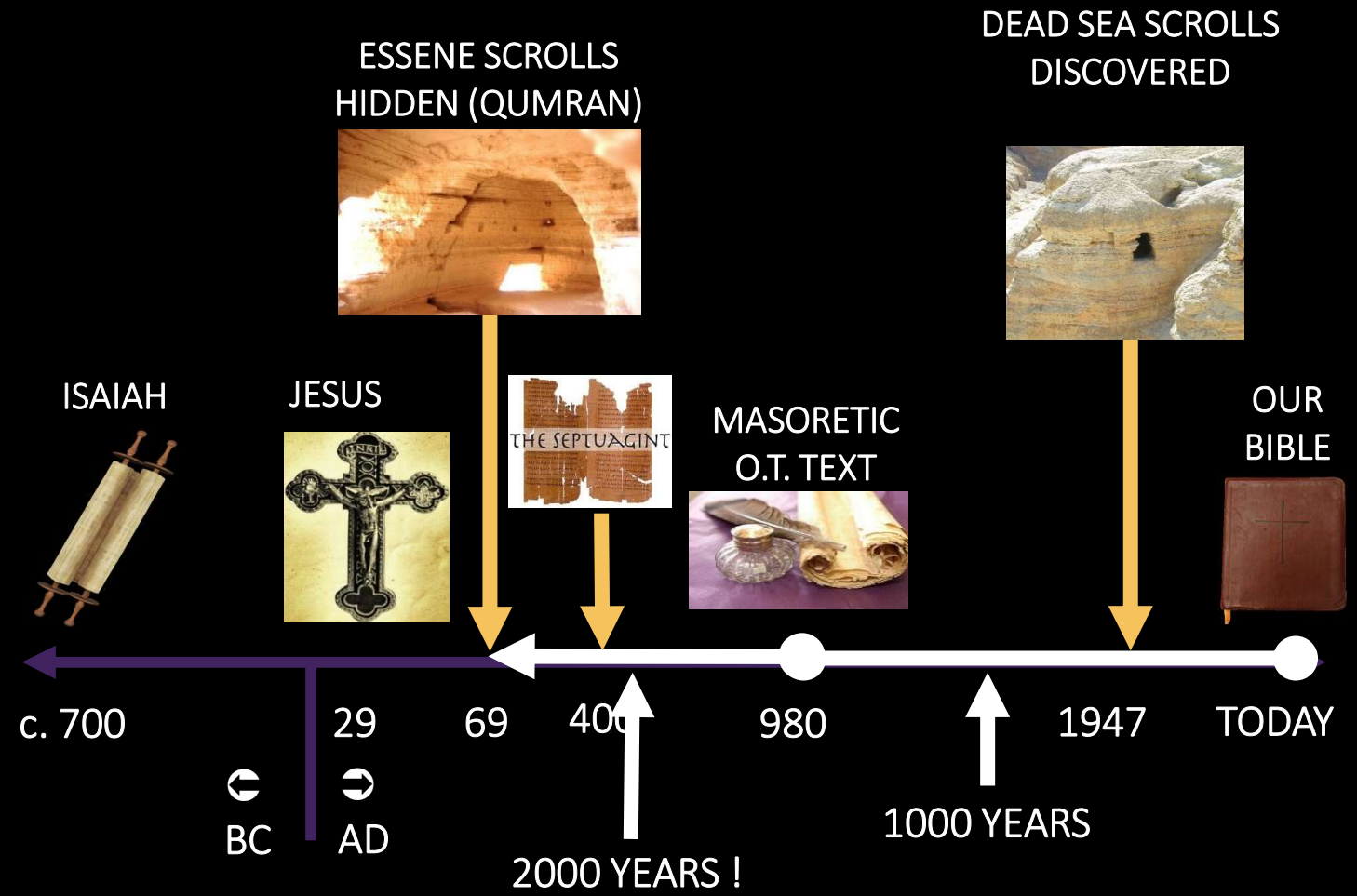
Fidelity Corroborated by

Dead Sea Scrolls & Greek Septuagint





Manuscript Timeline



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Transmission of the New Testament)

The reliability and integrity of the NT texts relies primarily on the **multiplicity** of the manuscripts, and the **early dating** of the manuscripts



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Transmission of the New Testament)

	New Testament
Autograph Written	A.D. 50-90
Earliest Copy (after autograph)	Fragments: <50 yrs. Books: 100 yrs. NT: 250 yrs.
# Copies	24,000+
# Text Lines	20,000
# Lines in Question	40 of 20,000
Accuracy	99.8%



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Transmission of the New Testament)

	New Testament	Homer's ILIAD
Autograph Written	A.D. 50-90	B.C. 900
Earliest Copy (after autograph)	Fragments: <50 yrs. Books: 100 yrs. NT: 250 yrs.	500 yrs.
# Copies	24,000+	600
# Text Lines	20,000	15,600
# Lines in Question	40 of 20,000	764 of 15,600
Accuracy	99.8%	95.1%



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation

(Canonicity of the Bible)

Canon is a way to **measure** the divine inspiration of an ancient manuscript

The **Canon** of Scripture (66 books) was **recognized** as having divine authority

They were not **made** authoritative by any person, group, or church



How Can I Know God?

Special Revelation (Translation)

God's Word Made Available
in Other Languages

Bridge language, idiomatic, and cultural **gaps** to ensure that the **meaning** of the original text is **understandable** to today's readers



How Do I Know Life Was Created for a Purpose?

Reflection

Q1: Discuss what life would be life **without** Special Revelation.

Q2: Have you ever **doubted** the accuracy, reliability and trustworthiness of God's written Word? Be specific?

Q3: When you read the Bible, do you sense God is speaking directly to **you**? Do you sense the **confirmation** of the Holy Spirit?

Q4: What **translation** of the Bible do you use for study? For casual reading?

Q5: What was your biggest **takeaway** from today's teaching?

BONUS: **What** do you believe to be true about God based today's teaching? **Why** do you believe it to be true?

