

Making it Mine

A Bible study for kids ready to grow a faith of their own.

Month 5 Week 2

THE BIBLE

READ:

Hebrews 1-5
Psalm 119

Heart graffiti:

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28

The Bible that we have today did not just drop to us intact from heaven, but took 1600 years and 40 authors to write. It is made of 66 books divided into two **testaments**, the old and the new. Christians consider the words written in the Bible to be the divinely **inspired** words of God. In other words, we believe that God guided the human authors in what to write. Not only were the authors of the Bible the servants of God in recording His words for us, but I believe God’s hand has been in preserving His words as well. The Bible has endured much in order to be in our hands today.

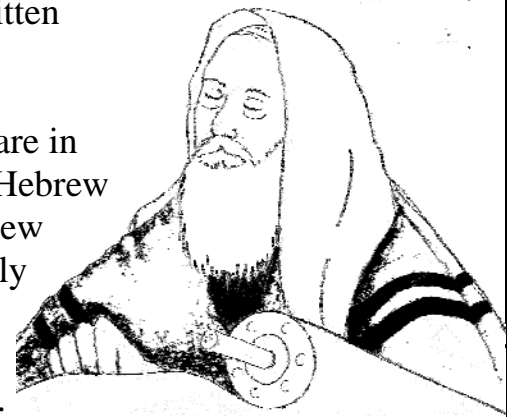
What does Isaiah 40:6-8 reassure us about the durability of God’s words? _____

What did Jesus say about the permanence of God’s word in Matt. 5:18? _____

The books that have been included in the Bible have been studied very carefully. Their **reliability** has been measured by three criteria:

1. The number of manuscripts found
2. The time that they were written
3. Their accuracy

There has also been great care in **translating** the Bible from the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) that it was originally written in. Today we have many different translations, and languages, to choose from.



What do these words mean?

testaments: _____

inspired: _____

reliability: _____

translating: _____

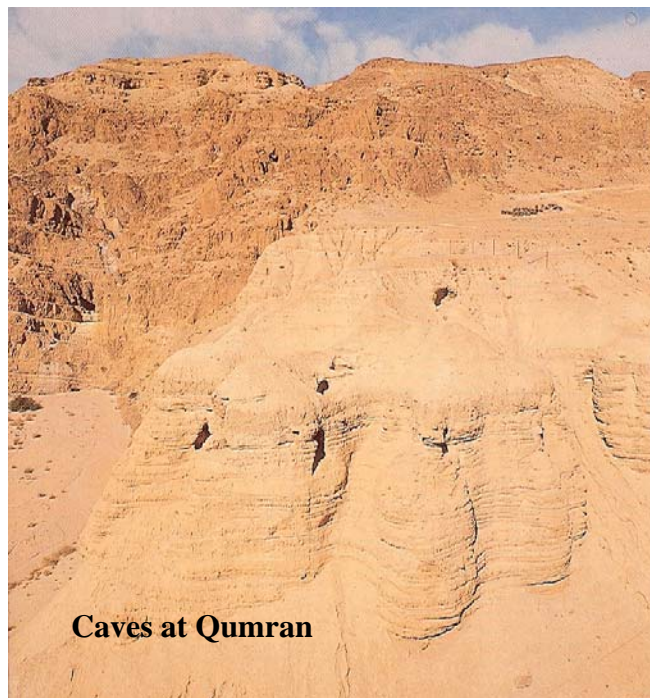
ABUNDANCE

The number of ancient manuscripts gives us good reason to trust the Bible. The most ancient copies of any non Bible written work is Homer's Iliad with 643 known ancient copies. Compare that with the Bible: there are over 10,000 ancient Old Testament manuscripts, and 5,700 New Testament manuscripts!

ACCURACY

There are many examples where the Bible has proved accurate in the information that it includes. For example, one thing that the Bible was made fun of for a long time was its mention of Sargon, king of Assyria in Isaiah 20:1. Excavations had revealed the names of the kings of Assyria, and Sargon was not one of them. For some, it was proof that the Bible was little more than a fairy tale. But then another Assyrian city was unearthed, and records of Sargon, a previously unknown king, were found. Sargon is today one of the best known of the Assyrian kings!

Although the Bible was not written with the purpose of giving scientific or historical information, there are many such truths included. Often these could not have been known at the time that they were written.



Caves at Qumran

DATING

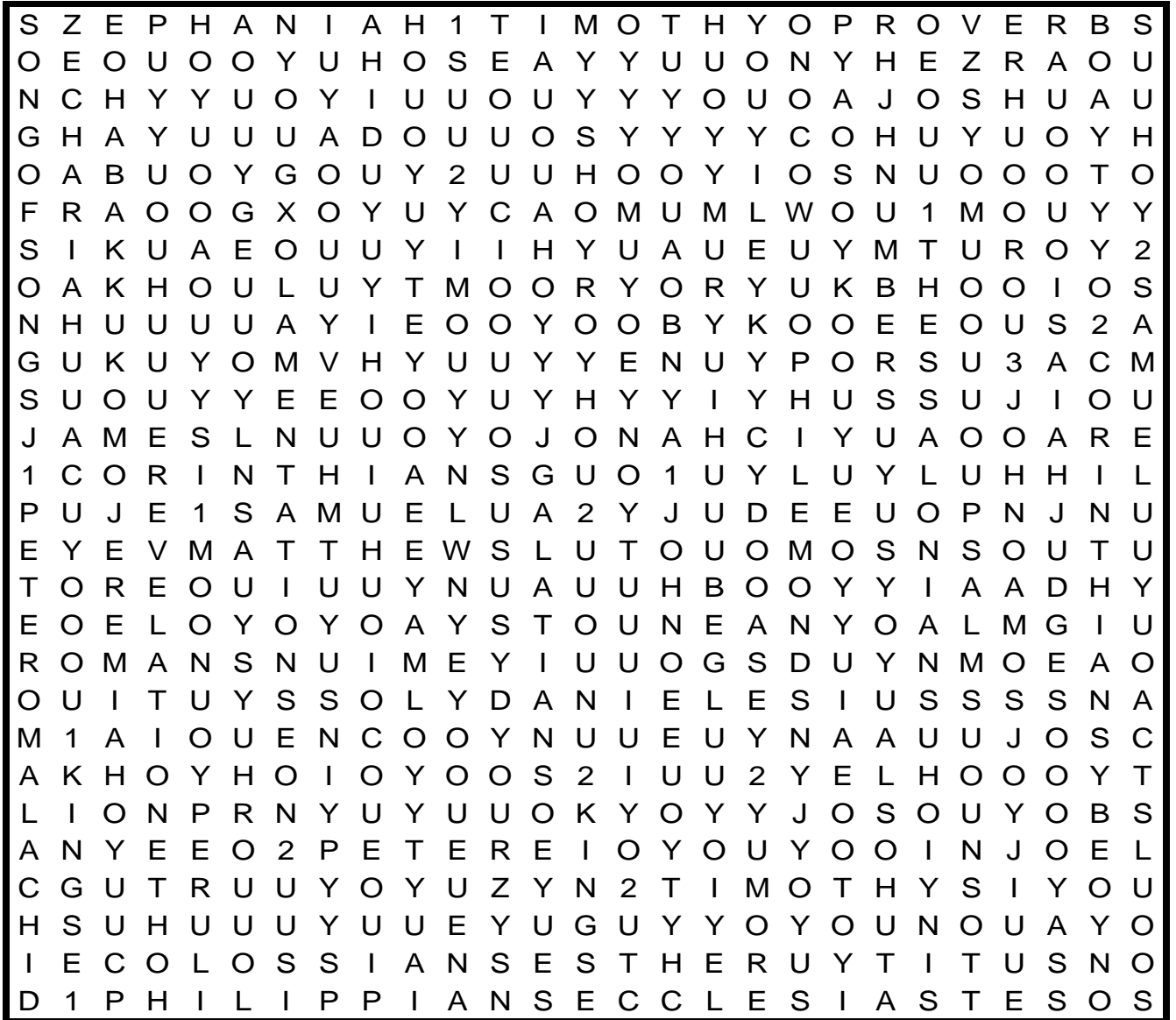
More than 600 copies of Old Testament books and fragments of books were found in the Dead Sea caves at Qumran in 1947. These were 1,000 years older than any previously known copies, yet were the same in content. For example, in the entire book of Isaiah, there were only three words with minor differences!

In the New Testament, only books thought to be written within one generation of Jesus' time have been included in the Bible. A fragment of papyrus with a few verses of John on it was found that show that it was already being copied and circulated some distance away by 125 AD. We also have the writings of Papias from 110 AD that tell us that he was familiar with Matthew and Mark's Gospels. Polycarp was another man from around the same time period that wrote about all four of the Gospels. (Jones 18-22)



PUZZLE PAGE

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



THERE ARE 51 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE HIDDEN IN THIS WORD SEARCH. CAN YOU FIND THEM?

How many books are there in the Bible? _____

How many Old Testament books are there? _____

How many New Testament books are there? _____

