

# The Text of the Bible



**The Rylands  
Fragment (P52)**  
This is the oldest  
undisputed  
fragment of the  
New Testament,  
copied between  
90 and 140AD.



ⲓⲛⲓⲁⲛⲓ  
This almost  
complete  
copy of John's  
Gospel was  
copied about  
200AD or  
slightly earlier.

New Testament  
is completed

Oldest  
known  
fragment  
of New  
Testament

## The Text of the New Testament

This is guaranteed by the large number of manuscripts available. Altogether there are:-

- More than 5,800 Greek manuscripts
- More than 20,000 manuscripts of translations into other ancient languages
- Large numbers of quotations from the New Testament by ancient writers

These allow any copying errors to be corrected.

# The Exodus Israelites leave Egypt

# King David

# Exile in Babylon

Jesus  
Christ

Earliest substantially complete manuscripts of the New Testament

**First  
Printed  
Bible**

## Early books of Old Testament

Rest of Old Testament  
written by prophets.

# Old Testament completed

First Targums - loose translations into Aramaic

**Septuagint (LXX)**  
Old Testament is  
translated into Greek

# Earliest of the Dead Sea Scrolls copied

Jesus states  
that the Old Testament  
text is reliable.

## Start of rigorous copying process

# Dead Sea Scrolls buried

Oldest standard  
Manuscripts known

10v

**A** **B**

**C** **D**

**E** **F**

**G** **H**

**I** **J**

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**LC** **LD**

**LE** **LF**

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**LI** **LJ**

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**LQ** **LR**

**LS** **LT**

**LU** **LV**

**LW** **LX**

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**MA** **MB**

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**ME** **MF**

**MG** **MH**

**MI** **MJ**

**MK** **ML**

**MM** **MN**

**MO** **MP**

**MQ** **MR**

**MS** **MT**

**MU** **MV**

**MW** **MX**

**MY** **MZ**

**NA** **NB**

**NC** **ND**

**NE** **NF**

**NG** **NH**

**NI** **NJ**

**NK** **NL**

**NO** **NP**

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**NS** **NT**

**NU** **NV**

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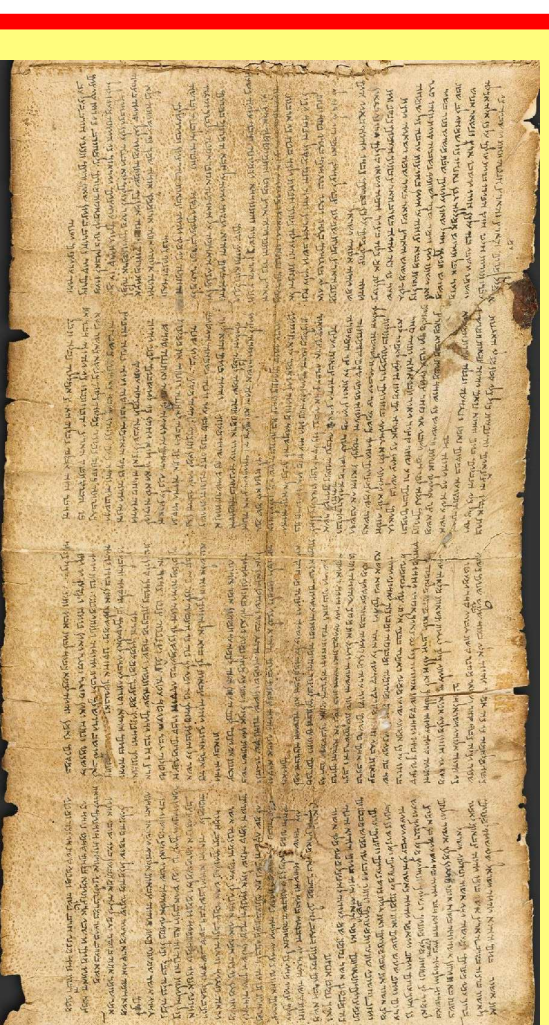
# The Aleppo Codex

This is one of the earliest of the Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament copied by the standard traditional method.

There are older Hebrew manuscripts among the Dead Sea Scrolls

**The Text of the Old Testament**  
This is guaranteed by the extreme care taken in copying Hebrew manuscripts and by comparison with various early translations into other ancient languages like Greek and Latin. There is no variation significant of the Old Testament.

# Copying Methods



# 1QIs<sup>a</sup>

## An almost complete scroll of Isaiah from Cave 1 of the Dead Sea Scrolls