



January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 • Isaiah 55:1-13

Sermon Series: The Word of God • Message #3

Page 615 in the church Bibles • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



Audio versions of Sermons and detailed sermon notes are available on our website: [LakeRegionBibleChurch.org](http://LakeRegionBibleChurch.org) (see “Messages 2024” tab)

## The Infallible Word of God: Come if You’re Thirsty...

1. **Come to the LORD:** receive His life-giving, soul-satisfying blessings

2. **Behold the Davidic-Witness:**

God will glorify Jesus as the nations run to Him!

3. **Why Should we “Come & Behold”?**

- For the LORD’s thoughts & ways are not like ours
- For the LORD’s ways & thoughts are higher than ours
- For the LORD’s word is infallible (will accomplish/succeed in its purpose)
- For we will go out in joy & be led forth in peace (for the name of the LORD)

4. **Believing & obeying the counter-cultural, infallible Word of God**

- Consider the Dead Sea Scrolls: & the accuracy of OT manuscripts
- Consider the early evidence for NT authorship: & the accuracy of the abundant NT manuscripts
- Consider Christ’s gospel-centered promise: & the global advancement of Bible translations
- Come to & Run to Jesus: for His life-giving, soul-satisfying blessings

## **Excursus: the Reliability & Translation of the Infallible Word of God**

Sources: *A Ready Defense*, by Josh McDowell, © 1993; *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: A Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World*; by Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell, © 2017; *How We Got The Bible*, ROSE Publishing (pamphlet), © 1998; “How We Got The Bible” by John H. Sailhamer, © 2002, *Zondervan Bible Study Library* (5.0 Professional Edition); Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada, Volume 29-Winter2002-Number 1 ([www.thebibleleague.ca](http://www.thebibleleague.ca)); Wycliffe Global Alliance ([wycliffe.net/resources/statistics/](http://wycliffe.net/resources/statistics/))

**The Accuracy of OT Manuscripts: The Dead Sea Scrolls** – “Until the recent discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest complete extant Hebrew manuscript was around A.D. 900. This made a time gap of 1,300 years (the Hebrew Old Testament was completed about 400 B.C.) ... With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, however, a number of Old Testament manuscripts have been found which scholars date before the time of Christ ... The impact of this discovery is in the exactness of the Isaiah Scroll (125 B.C.)” (*A Ready Defense*, p.48-51).

“It is difficult to overstate the importance of the Hebrew biblical manuscripts and fragments that have come from this collection ... These represent nearly every book of the Old Testament and give us a glimpse of the form of the Bible that Jesus himself used. We now have a picture of the state of the Hebrew text nearly a thousand years older than was previously available. Among the scrolls is a complete manuscript of Isaiah and a nearly complete copy of Habakkuk. When we compare them with later Hebrew manuscripts, they are virtually identical ... The Dead Sea Scrolls have thus demonstrated the remarkable accuracy with which the Old Testament texts were copied and preserved” (Sailhamer).

**The Accuracy of the Abundant NT Manuscripts** – There are roughly 5,856 known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament and almost 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament in existence. No other document of antiquity even begins to approach such numbers and attestation [proof]. In comparison, the *Iliad* by Homer is second with 1900 manuscripts (adapted from McDowell sources; see also the “Document” comparison below).

“How high do you think the stack of New Testament manuscripts would be? Think about this: of just the 5,800+ Greek New Testament manuscripts, there are more than 2.6 million pages. Combining both the Old and New Testament, there are more than 66,000 manuscripts and scrolls. A stack of extant manuscripts for the average classical writer would measure about four feet high; this just cannot compare to the more than one mile of New Testament manuscripts and two-and-a-half-miles for the entire Bible ... Wallace concludes, “If we have doubts about what the autographic NT said, those doubts would have to be multiplied a hundredfold for the average classical author” (*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, 55).

Document:	<i>Iliad</i>	New Testament
Date written:	900 BC	AD 40-100
Earliest Copy:	415 BC	AD 125
Time span:	500yrs	25 years
Copies today:	1900	23,986

### **Advancement of Bible Translations**

Languages with:	Year: 2002	2023
the entire Bible	383	736
the New Testament	987	1,658
a portion of the Bible	891	1,264
Some/all of the Bible	2,261	3,658

### Year - Number of Languages with some (or all) of the Bible

AD 200 – 7	AD 1400 – 28	AD 1980 – 1,100
AD 500 – 13	AD 1800 – 57	AD 2002 – 2,261
AD 900 – 17	AD 1900 – 537	AD 2023 – 3,658

### Sources cited for Bible Translations

Lutheran Bible Translators, ROSE Publishing, Wycliffe Global Alliance (see additional source info above)

