



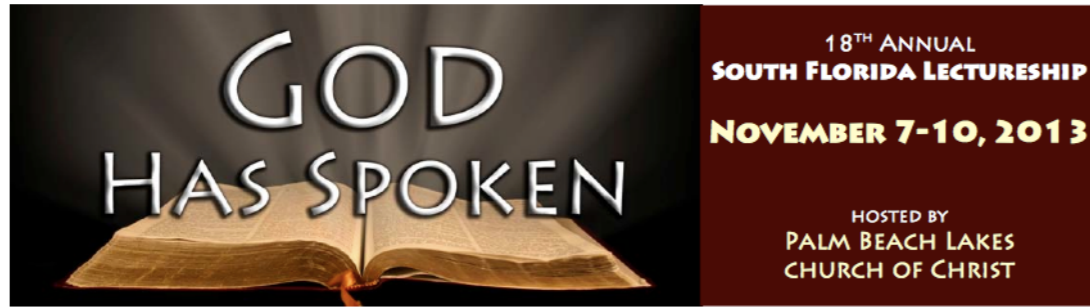
**GOD
HAS SPOKEN**

**18TH ANNUAL
SOUTH FLORIDA LECTURESHIP
NOVEMBER 7-10, 2013**

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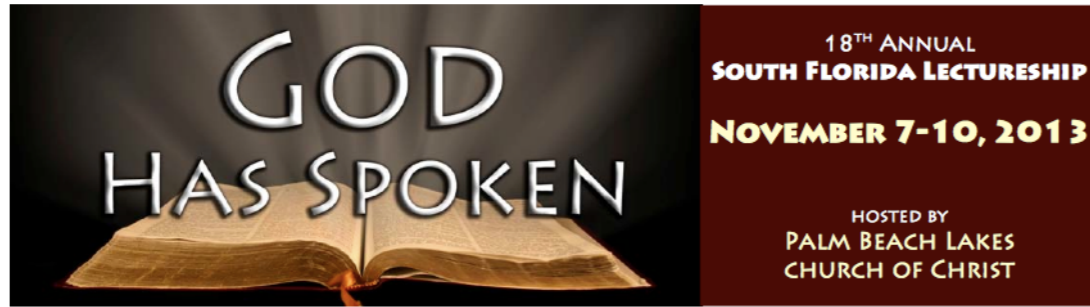
Canon: Which Books Belong In The Bible?



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- What is canon?
- Who determines canon?
- What determines canon?
- How does it impact us today?

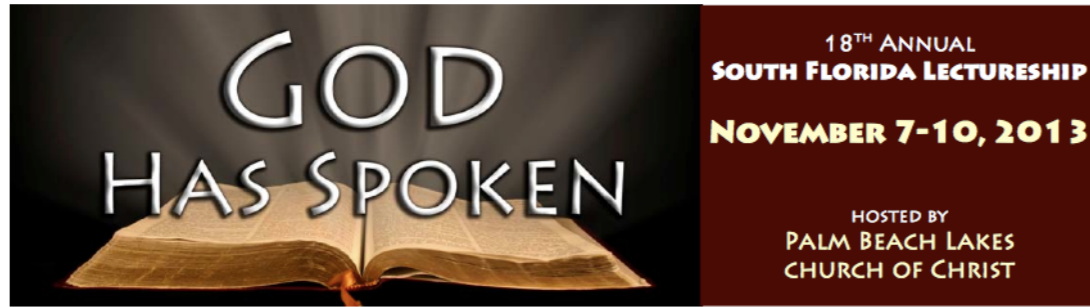


Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **What is canon? - I**

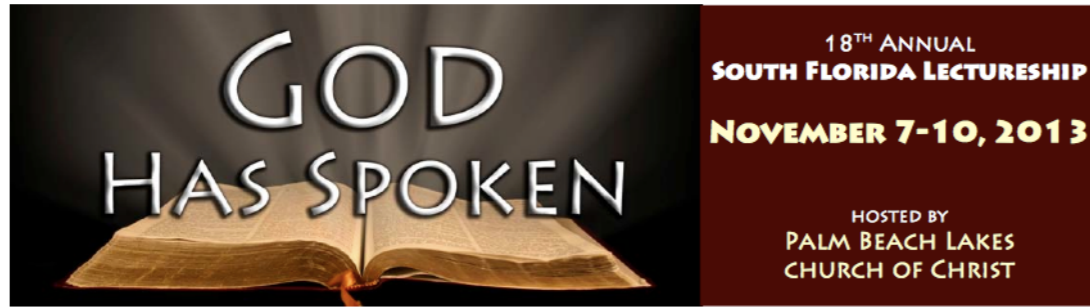
- a general law, rule, principle, or criterion by which something is judged
- *preserved* collection of God's words accepted as genuine
- *standardized* collection of God's words accepted as genuine
- OT - 39 books • NT - 27 books



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

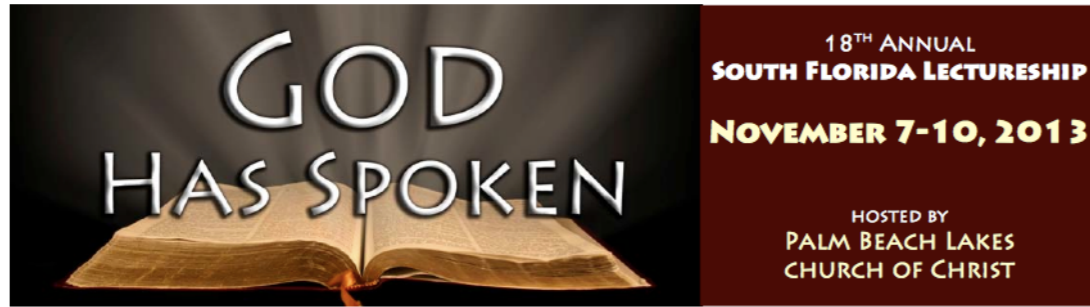
- **What is canon?-2**
 - OT/NT canonical books are, most importantly, connected with divine redemption
 - They reveal divine acts on behalf of God's people
 - They reveal divine commands given to God's people
 - They reveal divine promises/prophecies to God's people
 - They record successes/failures of God's people based on divine law



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

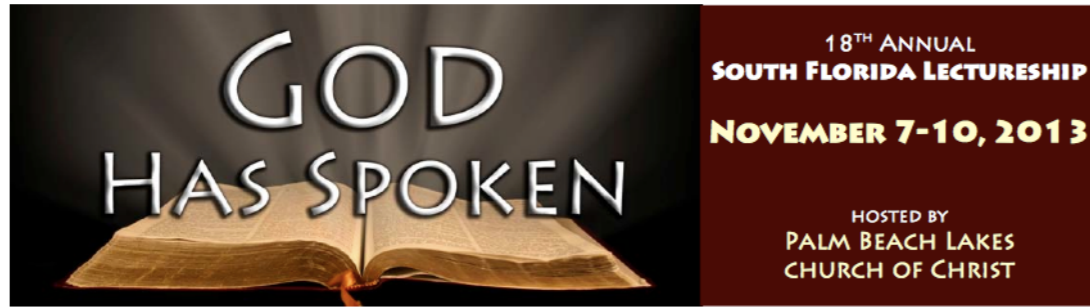
- **Who determines canon?-OT**
 - God initiated the law-Ex 31:18; 32:16; Deut 4:13; 10:4-5
 - God told Moses to write-Ex 17:14; 34:27
 - Moses wrote-Deut 31:9, 24-26 • Joshua wrote-Josh 24:26 • Priests wrote-Numb 5:23
 - Samuel wrote-I Sam 10:25 • Nathan wrote-I Ch 29:29
 - Jeremiah wrote-Jer 30:2 • Others wrote-2 Ch 26:22; 30:34; 32:32; I Kgs 16:7



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

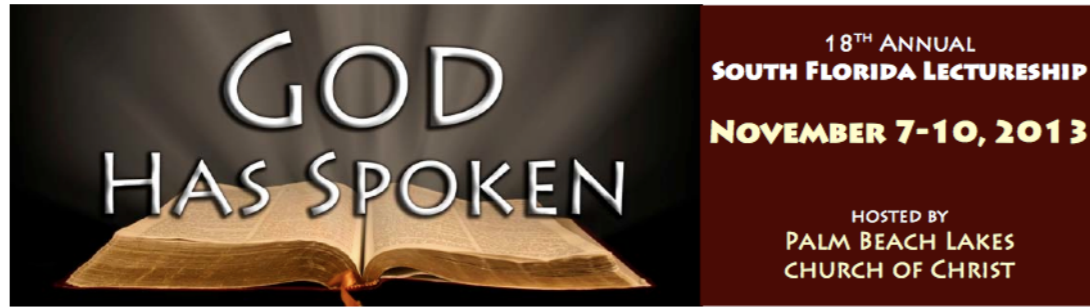
- **What determines canon?-OT I**
 - Prophetic connection
 - Written documentation of divine communication
 - Marks of authenticity
 - Historical accuracy • geographic accuracy • chronological accuracy • moral consistency • soteriological accuracy/consistency • consistency of theological principles



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **What determines canon?-OT2**
 - Apocryphal considerations
 - No claim for authority on par with OT canon
 - Inconsistency with OT canon
 - Not regarded as God's words by Jews
 - Not accepted by Jesus/NT writers as authoritative
 - OT cited 295x; no extra-biblical books cited as authoritative



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **What determines canon?-OT3**
 - “So they tore down the altar and stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until there should come a prophet to tell what to do with them” (1 Macc. 4:45–46)
 - “such as had not been since the time that prophets ceased to appear among them” (1 Macc. 9:27; cf. 14:41)

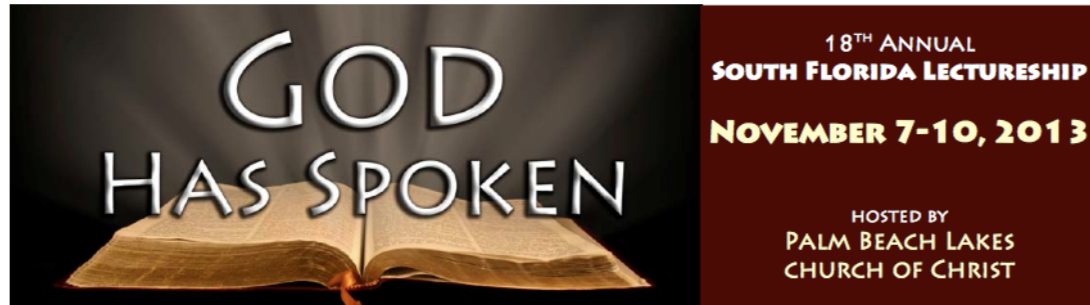


Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **What determines canon?-OT4**

- “From Artaxerxes to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets” (Josephus, Against Apion 1.41).
- “After the latter prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi had died, the Holy Spirit departed from Israel, but they still availed themselves of the **קול בת**” (H1426 + H7754, Babylonian Talmud Yomah 9b, repeated in Sota 48b, Sanhedrin 11a, and Midrash Rabbah on Song of Songs, 8.9.3)



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

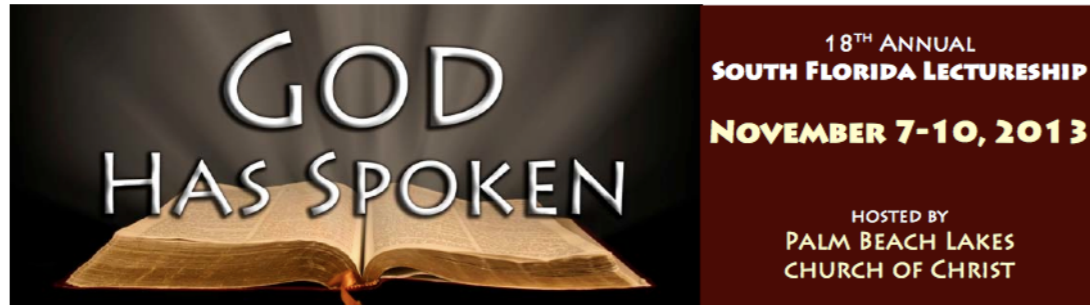
- **Who determines canon?-NT I**
 - Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit (Jn 13-16)
 - The promised Holy Spirit would teach “all things” (Jn 16:13-14)
 - Apostolic authority on par with prophetic authority/HS influence
 - 2 Peter 3:2 equates apostles/prophets
 - Acts 5:1ff equates lie to apostles as a lie to the Spirit/God
 - 1 Cor 2:9-16 reveals apostolic inspiration/revelation as originating with God; ending with “we have the mind of Christ”
 - 1 Cor 14:37 - Paul’s writing equals “commandments of the Lord”



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

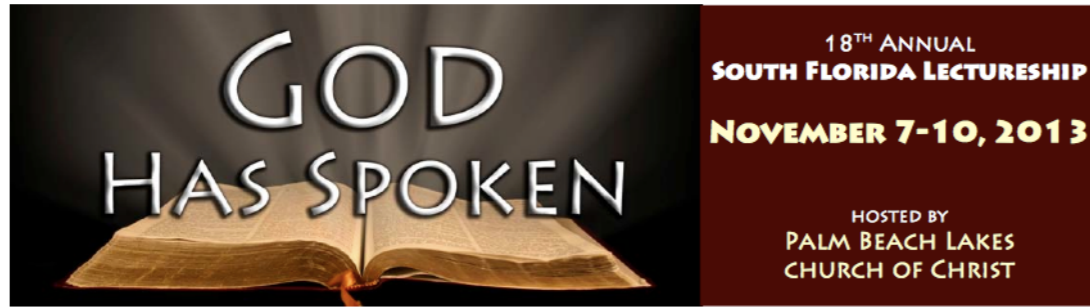
- **Who determines canon?-NT2**
 - God speaks through Paul (and others)
 - 2 Cor 13:3 - “Christ speaking in me”
 - Rom. 2:16 - judged by Christ according to “Paul’s” gospel
 - Gal. 1:8–9 - Paul’s gospel authoritative/unalterable
 - 1 Thess. 2:13 - reception of Paul’s gospel equals reception of truth
 - 1 Thess 4:8 - rejection of Paul’s gospel equals rejection of truth
 - see 1 Thess 5:27; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

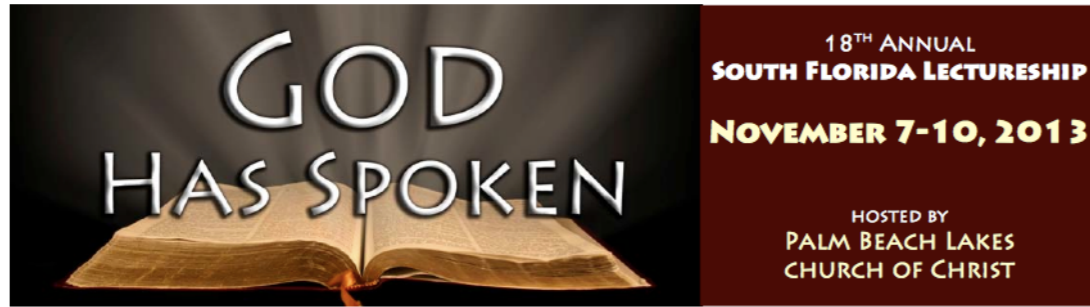
- **What determines canon?-NT I**
 - Apostolic connection
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 - Historical accuracy • geographic accuracy • chronological accuracy • moral consistency • soteriological accuracy/consistency • consistency of theological principles



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **What determines canon?-NT2**
 - Apostolic connection equated with scripture/prophets
 - 2 Peter 3:14ff
 - Peter (an inspired apostle)
 - Deems (through inspiration/influence of the Holy Spirit)
 - Paul's writing (elsewhere equated with God's word)
 - As scripture (on par with OT revelation; cf. 2 Tim 3:14)



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

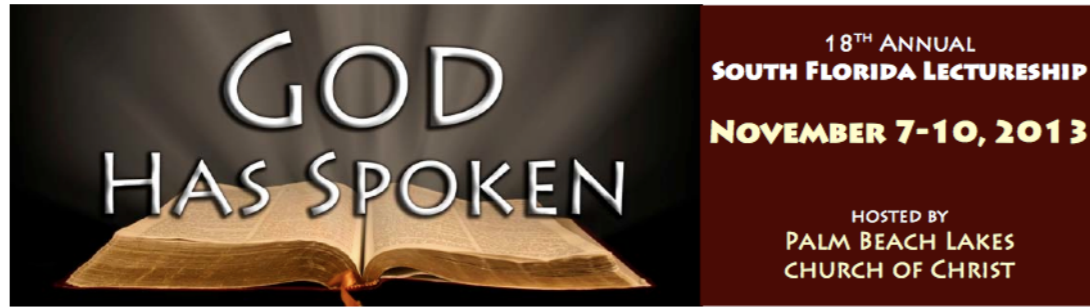
- **What determines canon?-NT3**
 - Apostolic/NT connection equated with scripture/prophets
 - 1 Tim. 5:17-18 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and, “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”
 - Not muzzle ox - Deut 25:4 • worthy laborer - Lk 10:7
 - Both identified under the expression “for the scripture says”



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

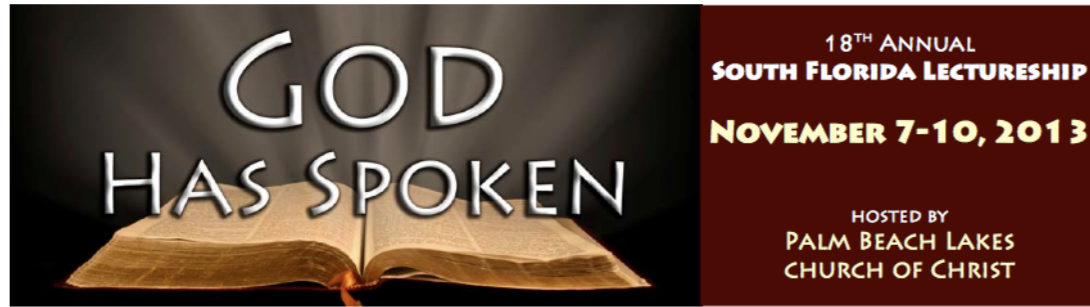
- **What determines canon?-NT4**
 - Direct apostolic authorship includes:
 - Matthew, John, Paul's letters, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Revelation
 - Apostolic association includes:
 - Mark - associated with the work of Peter
 - Luke/Acts - associated with the work of Paul
 - Hebrews - unknown author/Pauline in theology; internal qualities authenticate/determine canonicity [self-attesting]



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **What determines canon?-NT5**
 - Must have divine authorship
 - Through apostles
 - Through apostolic connection
 - Non-apostolic writers confirmed by apostolic connection
 - Peter knew Mark
 - Paul knew Luke
 - James, et. al. knew Jude
 - Non-apostolic writers confirmed by early church association
 - Hebrews recognized/accepted it as divinely authorized



Which Books Belong In The Bible?

Key Questions

- **How does it impact us today?**
 - Jude 3/1 Cor 13
 - Revelation ceased in first century
 - Deuteronomy 4:2/Revelation 22:18-19
 - Do not add to God's word
 - Do not take away from God's word
 - Summary: Do not change God's word in any way



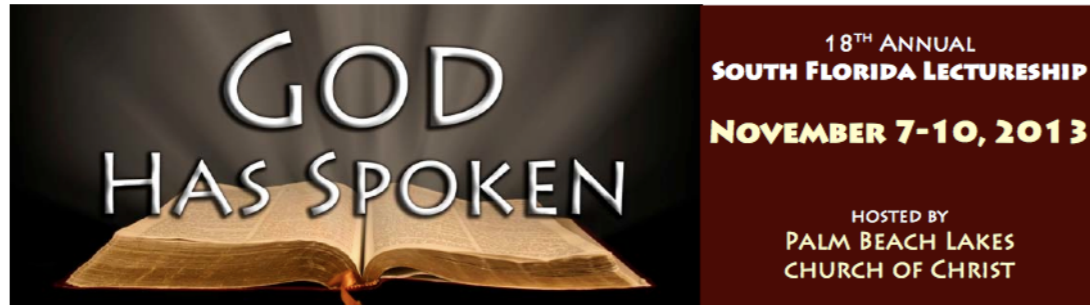
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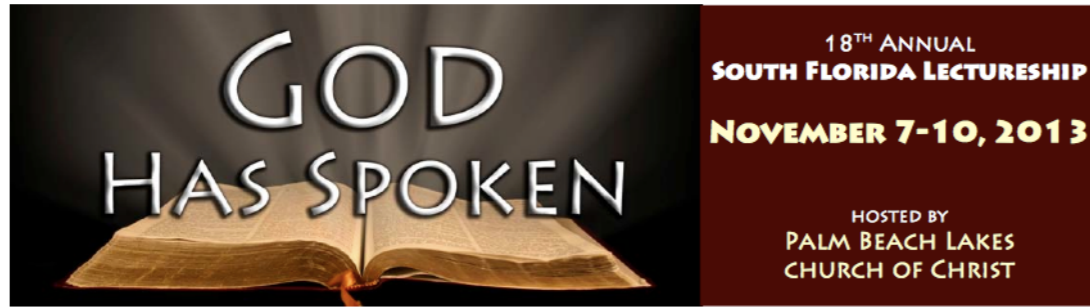
Transmission: **Can The Text Be Trusted?**



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Masoretes' Attention To Detail

- counted words • counted letters
- counted middle words • counted middle letters
- counted number of each type of letter • counted number of each word
- counted frequency of unique words • counted where each unique word appeared: beginning, middle, end of verses
- used very specific skins, ink • measured columns • measured word spacing • did nothing from memory
- showed reverence for special names (God, Moses)
- destroyed all mss that were deficient



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Qumran vs. The Masoretes

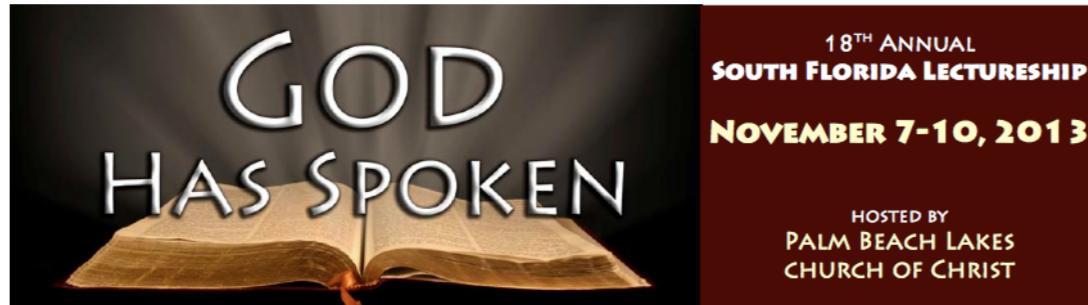
Of the 166 Hebrew words in Isaiah 53, only seventeen letters in Dead Sea Scroll 1QIs^b differ from the Masoretic Text (Geisler and Nix, 1986, p. 382).

10 letters = spelling differences

4 letters = stylistic changes

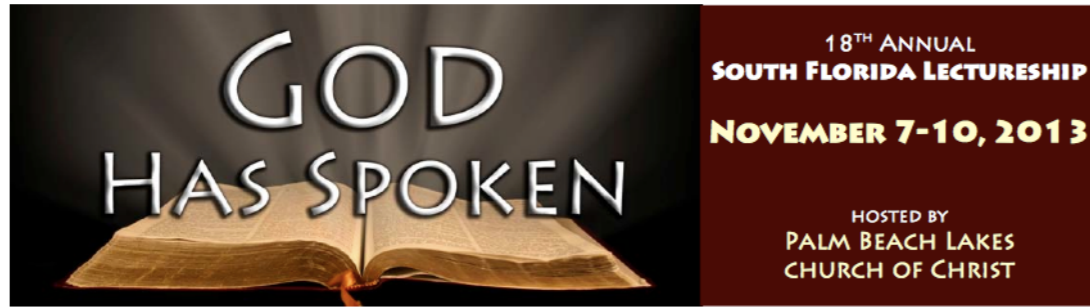
3 letters = added word for “light” (vs. 11)

17 letters = no affect on biblical teaching



Can The Text Be Trusted?

	Error	Definition	Possible examples
1	Mistaken letters	Confusion of similar letters	Genesis 10:4 cites a race known as the "Dodanim" but I Chronicles 1:7 calls them the "Rodanim".
2	Homophony	Substitution of similar sounding words.	Isaiah 9:2
3	Haplography	Omission of a letter or word usually due to similar letter or word in context.	Judges 20:13
4	Dittography	A letter or word that has been written twice instead of once	Jeremiah 51:3 "yidrok" (he drew) appears 2 times
5	Metathesis	Reversal in order of two letters or words	Deuteronomy 31:1, Masoretic Text reads "Moses went", Qumran reads, "Moses finished".
6	Fusion	Incorrect word division that results in two words joined as one	Leviticus 16:8
7	Fission	Incorrect word division that results in one word written as two.	Hosea 6:5
8	Homoioteleuton	An omission caused by two words or phrases that end similarly.	I Samuel 14:41
9	Homoioarchton	An omission caused by two words or phrases that begin similarly.	Genesis 31:18
10	Other omissions	Any other omissions.	The years that Saul reigned are omitted from 1 Samuel 13;1



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Manuscript #1: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole worl.

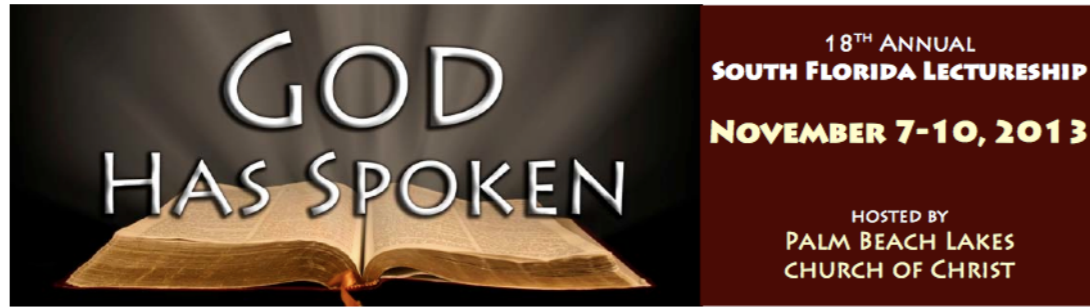
Manuscript #2: Christ Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #3: Jesus Christ s the Savior of the whole world.

Manuscript #4: Jesus Christ is th Savior of the whle world.

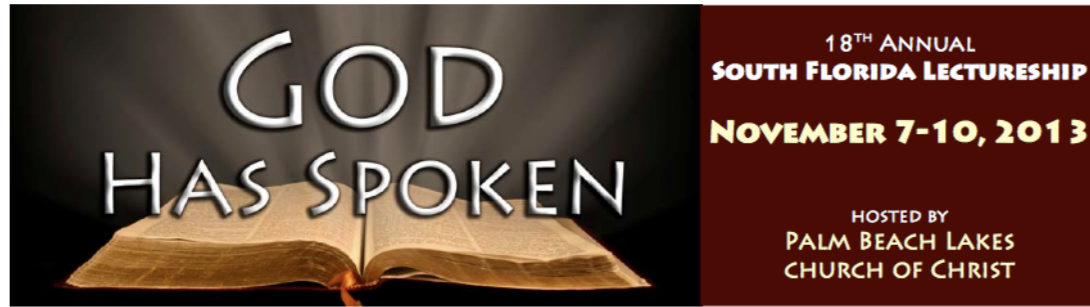
Manuscript #5: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole wrld.

Can you discern what the original text most likely said?



Can The Text Be Trusted?

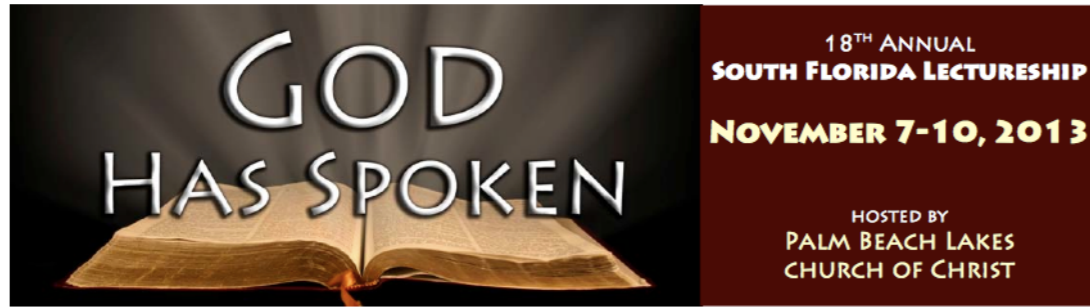
Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	----
Pliny	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	----
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	1100 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000	10	----
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. 130 A.D. f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Illustration of Bible text manuscript tree and variant readings - Matt Slick - I

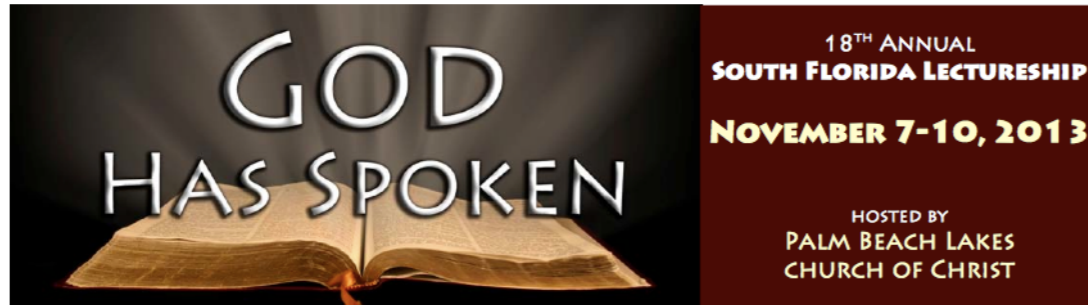
- The following diagram illustrates manuscript corruptions in the biblical texts that are produced, for whatever reason, and copied down to later manuscripts. The purpose of the illustration is to show how copy errors in the Bible are transmitted from one manuscript to another, how they are counted, and how we can determine which is the correct reading.



Can The Text Be Trusted?

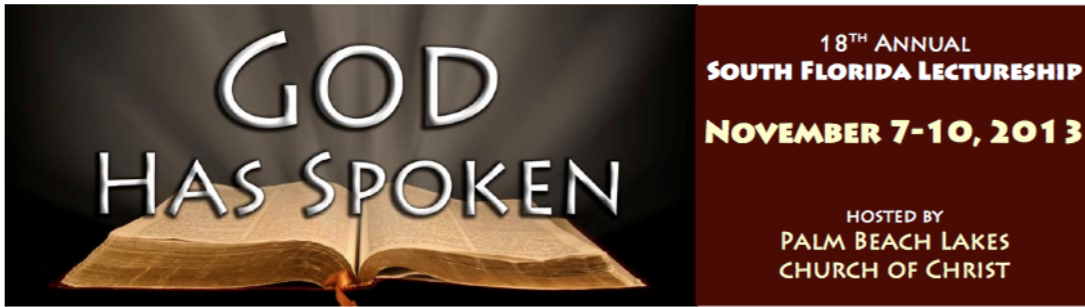
Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Cesar (The Gallic Wars)	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1,200 years	7
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	49
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Euripedes	480 - 406 BC	1,100 AD	1,500 years	9
New Testament	50 - 90 A.D.	130 AD	30 years	24,000

This chart was adapted from charts in *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pages 42 and 43;

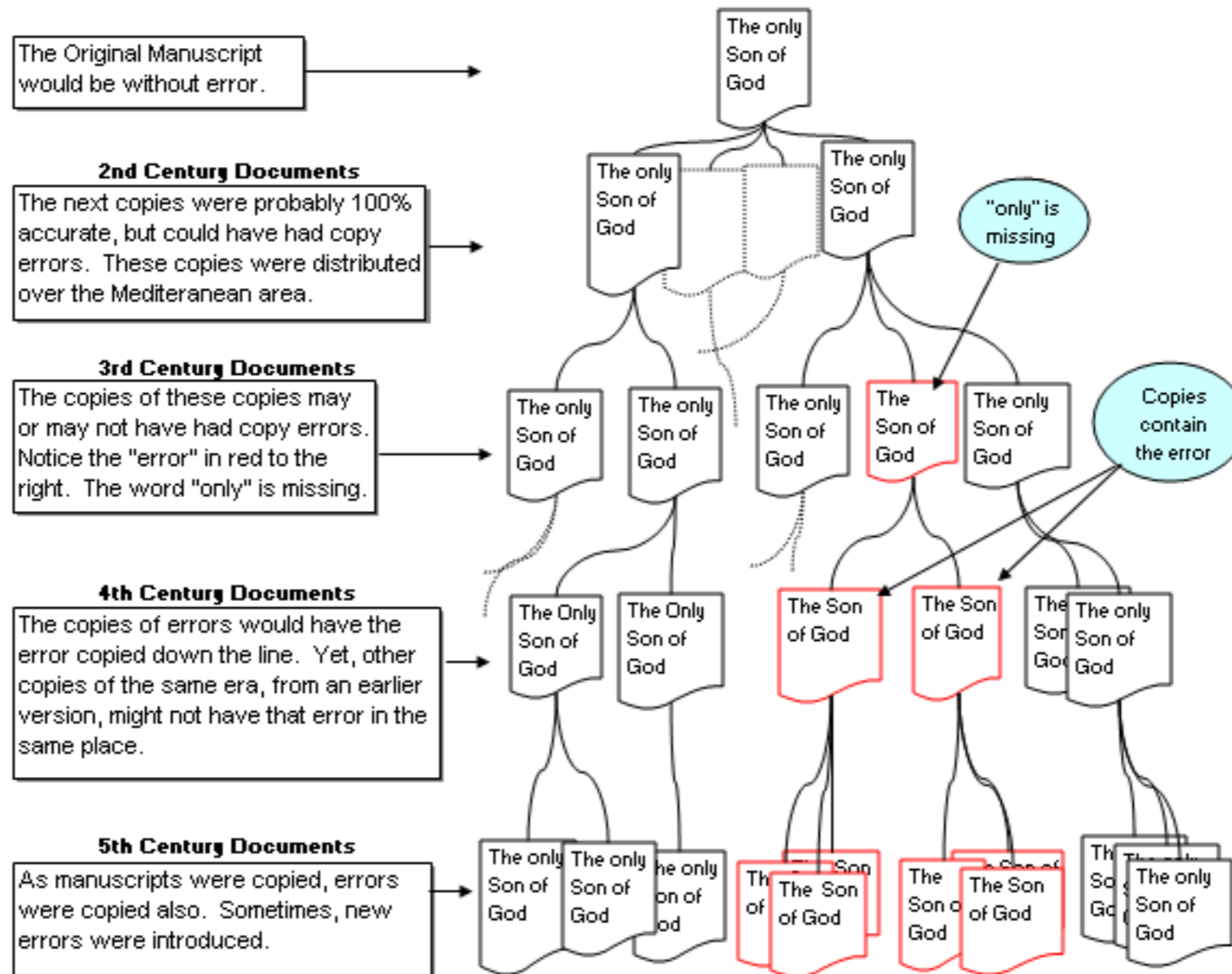


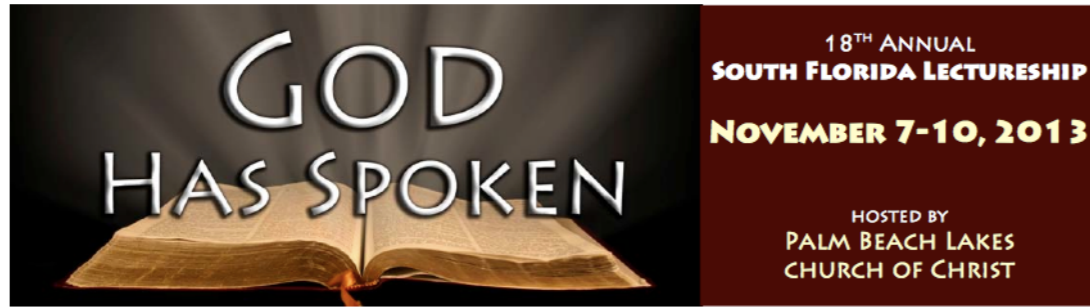
Can The Text Be Trusted?

Important Manuscript Papyri	Contents	Date Original Written	MSS Date	Approx. Time Span	Location
p ⁵² (John Rylands Fragment) ³	John 18:31-33,37-38	circa 96 A.D.	circa 125 A.D.	29 yrs	John Rylands Library, Manchester, England
p ⁴⁶ (Chester Beatty Papyrus)	Rom. 5:17-6:3,5-14; 8:15-25, 27-35; 10:1-11,22,24-33,35; 16:1-23, 25-27; Heb.; 1 & 2 Cor., Eph., Gal., Phil., Col.; 1 Thess. 1:1,9-10; 2:1-3; 5:5-9, 23-28	50's-70's	circa 200 A.D.	Approx. 150 yrs	Chester Beatty Museum, Dublin & Ann Arbor, Michigan, University of Michigan library
p ⁶⁶ (Bodmer Papyrus)	John 1:1-6:11,35-14:26 ; fragment of 14:29-21:9	70's	circa 200 A.D.	Approx. 130 yrs	Cologne, Geneva
p ⁶⁷	Matt. 3:9,15; 5:20-22, 25-28		circa 200 A.D.	Approx. 130 yrs	Barcelona, Fundacion San Lucas Evangelista, P. Barc.1



Can The Text Be Trusted?

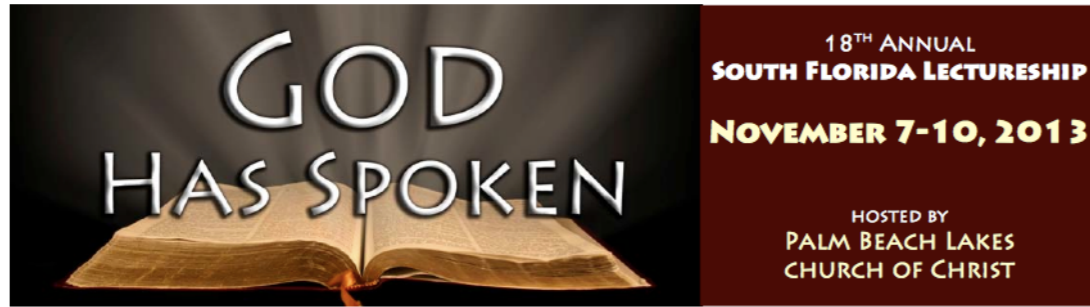




Can The Text Be Trusted?

Illustration of Bible text manuscript tree and variant readings - Matt Slick - 2

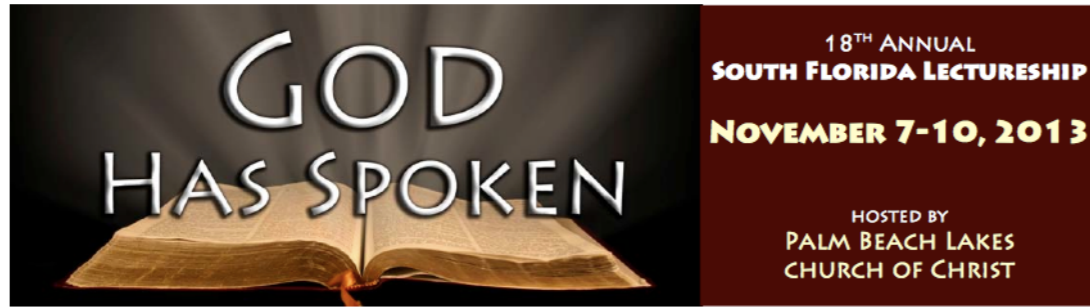
- In this example, of the 26 existing manuscripts (represented by solid black and red sheets), nine of them have a textual problem where a phrase was incorrectly copied. Therefore, in this illustration, we would have a total of nine variants in 26 manuscripts.



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Illustration of Bible text manuscript tree and variant readings - Matt Slick - 3

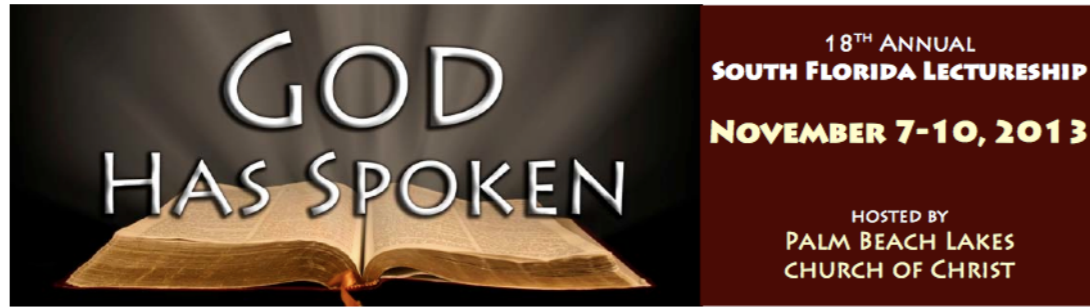
- However, manuscripts can be categorized in family trees by analyzing their location of discovery, jars in which they are found, type of papyri on which they are written, type of ink used, style of writing, etc. Therefore, daughter manuscripts can be matched very accurately to father manuscripts.



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Illustration of Bible text manuscript tree and variant readings - Matt Slick - 4

- In this example we see that the word "only" was omitted from a 3rd-century document and copied in subsequent, daughter documents. All we need to do is to take a look at the manuscripts - and even though we see nine variants here, we can tell that there is only one error which has been copied several times. Also, we can determine accurately which is the correct reading by looking at the oldest document. Generally, the oldest documents are the most accurate.



Can The Text Be Trusted?

Illustration of Bible text manuscript tree and variant readings - Matt Slick - 6

- So, the New Testament is extremely reliable and can be trusted without hesitation.

