

"Hasn't the Bible undergone corruption as it was translated hundreds of times down through the centuries?"

The Bible has been translated into hundreds of different languages down through the centuries. You are right about that, but the text of the Bible has been accurately preserved all the way through. How do we know that to be the case?

First, we have plenty of manuscript evidence, including several thousand partial or complete ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the Bible, some dating as far back as the third century BC. These manuscripts have allowed textual critics and scholars to verify that the Bible we have today is the same Bible the early church had.

Second, we also have the writings of the church fathers. By church fathers, I am referring to leaders in the early church. In their commentaries on the Bible, their letters to one another, and their letters to other churches, these men quoted the New Testament Scriptures alone more than 86,000 times. Their quotations have allowed scholars to reconstruct 99.86 percent of the New Testament. There are only 11 verses in the New Testament that the church fathers apparently never cited.

These two evidences, the manuscript evidence and the writings of the church fathers, verify conclusively that the original text of the Bible has been accurately preserved.

On the Bible:

"The last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."

Sir Fredsric Kenyon (1863—1952), former director and principal librarian of the British Museum. *The Bible and Archaeology* (Harper & Brothers, 1940), pp. 288-89.