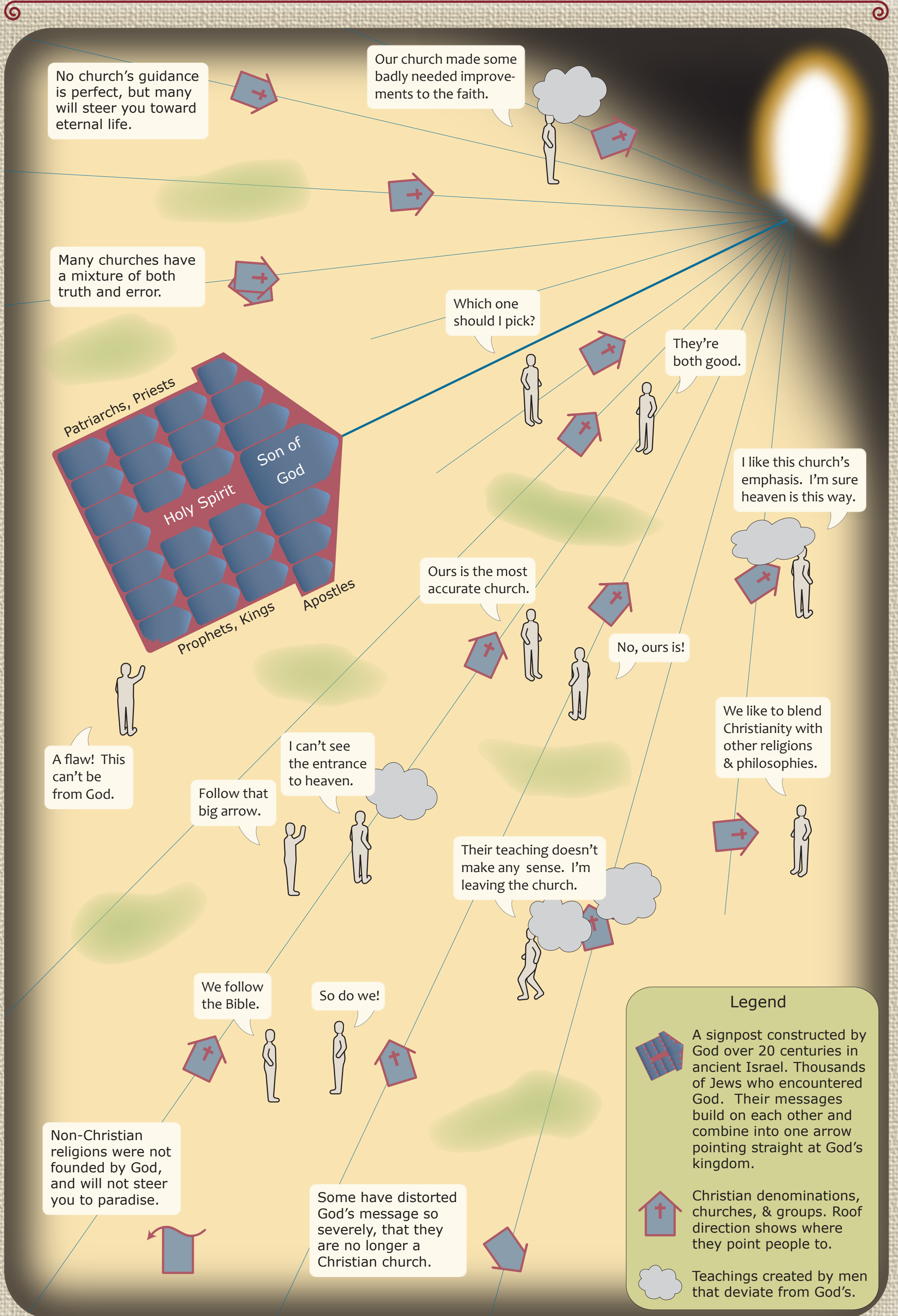


# What About Denominations

Of the many versions of Christianity, how does one determine which point in the right direction?





# Recognizing False Prophets

Over the last 2000 years many false prophets have risen in the Christian tradition, deceiving millions.

## God's True Prophets

- None renounced their Jewish predecessors.
- Proven by many miracles & predictions.
- Besides these 18, many other Israelites encountered God.
- Even false prophets accept the legitimacy of true prophets.



The Bible and Christianity are corrupt. God sent me with new revelation.



Either I trust all of them, or you alone? Easy choice.



I stand upon the Christian tradition, yet I contest it.



I'm starting a new religion, Christianity plus other wisdom.



He's a great man and has done so much for me. He can't be a false prophet.



Mine is the only true church.



The Bible cannot be understood without me.



Ignore those Jewish prophets. I'm replacing them.



I revere the Bible, parts of it.



I am the return of Jesus!



All religions once taught what I'm now restoring.



I was sent by God, just like them.



But your message is different.



And you're not even Jewish.

## False Prophets

- Lure by charisma.
- Create splinter groups.
- Stand alone. Never confirm each other.
- Claim to be Christian, but contradict God's prophets.
- A rare few have managed to draw followers in the millions.



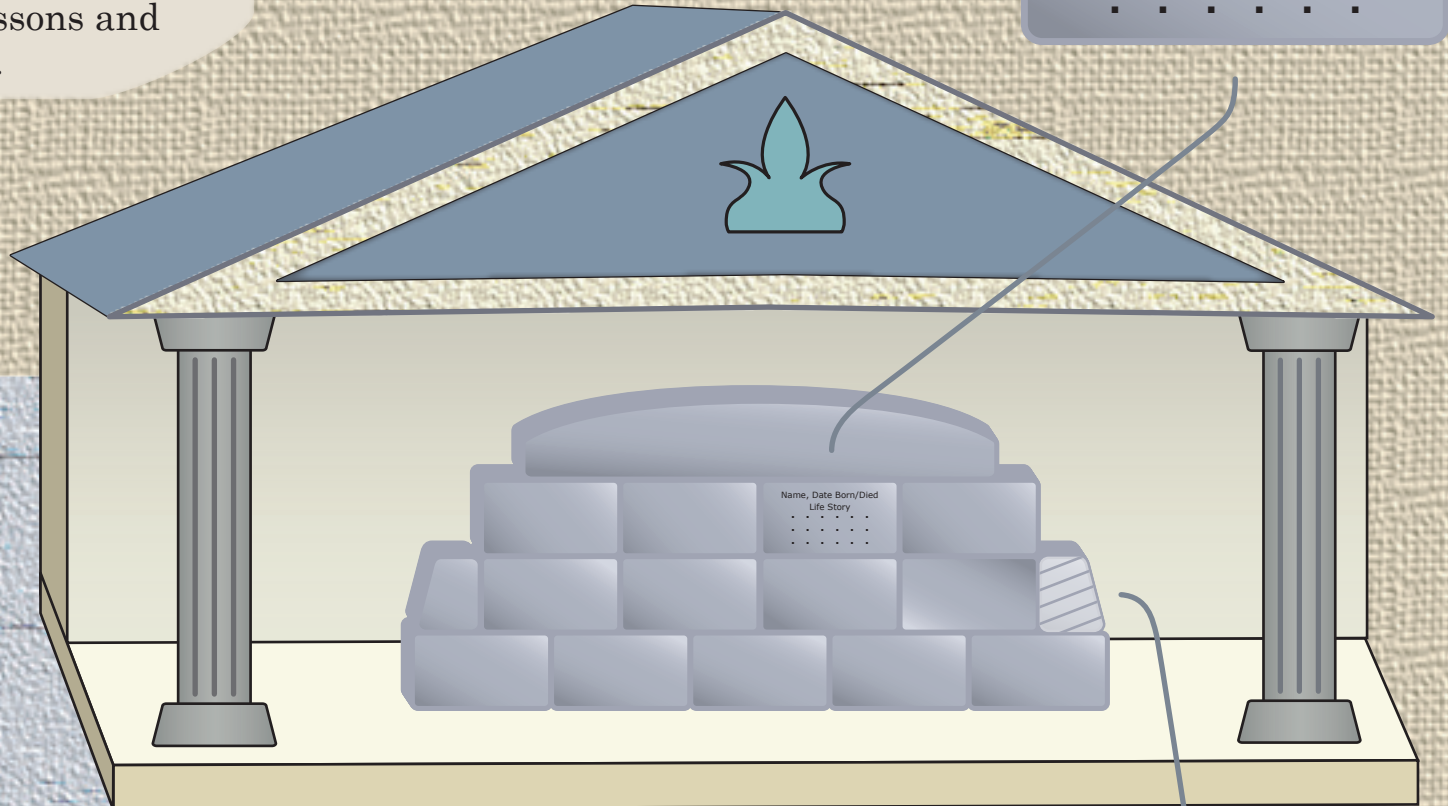


# The Right Books

Did the ancient Jews and Christians hand down to us the right biblical books, ones that tell the truth?

There once was a family clan. As significant relatives died, a memorial stone was added to the clan monument, venerating their life. For centuries the shrine grew. Later generations molded their lives around the lessons and values inscribed on these stones.

Name, Date Born/Died  
Life Story  
.....  
.....  
.....



Students, we've studied this sacred memorial. The teachers will now test your understanding.



The stones were not added by strangers, but by children of the deceased.



Why can we trust what our ancestors added to this monument?



They are sacred to those who laid them, and to our clan ever since.



They weren't laid by one person. It's construction spanned generations.



Our fathers would not build a holy memorial with known falsehoods.



How can we know the same stones are still there?



Successive generations keep confirming what's been laid. The test of time.



Survey our history and early literature. Those exact same stones guided clan life in all eras.



Years ago, a conclave of patriarchs declared this a holy memorial. Was that when the stones were placed?



Try adding or removing a stone. The clan would **not** stand idly by.



No. That's one snapshot in time of the monument's status. There are many others snapshots, both before and after that conclave.

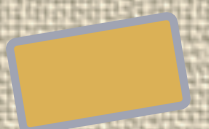


Some denominations include a few books that others don't. These extras do not alter the main message. They do demonstrate how selecting the books was a church wide effort.

## Unchanging table of contents

Jews and Christians parted 2000 years ago, yet their lists of Old Testament books are still in remarkable agreement.

Other books appear biblical, but were never placed as "memorial stones" by those closest to the scene. Rejected by generations of believers since, they lack the ring of truth. They usually don't change the message, adding only nonessentials.





# Copying the Bible

Were the words of the Bible altered as it was repeatedly copied over the centuries?

## The Copying Process

Antiquity

Today

Throughout history, independent copying branches formed, so that one branch was largely unaffected by others. This barrier came from conflict between groups, geographical distance, national borders, translations, etc.



Master Copy

It's not hard to make a faithful reproduction when master and copy exist side by side for centuries.

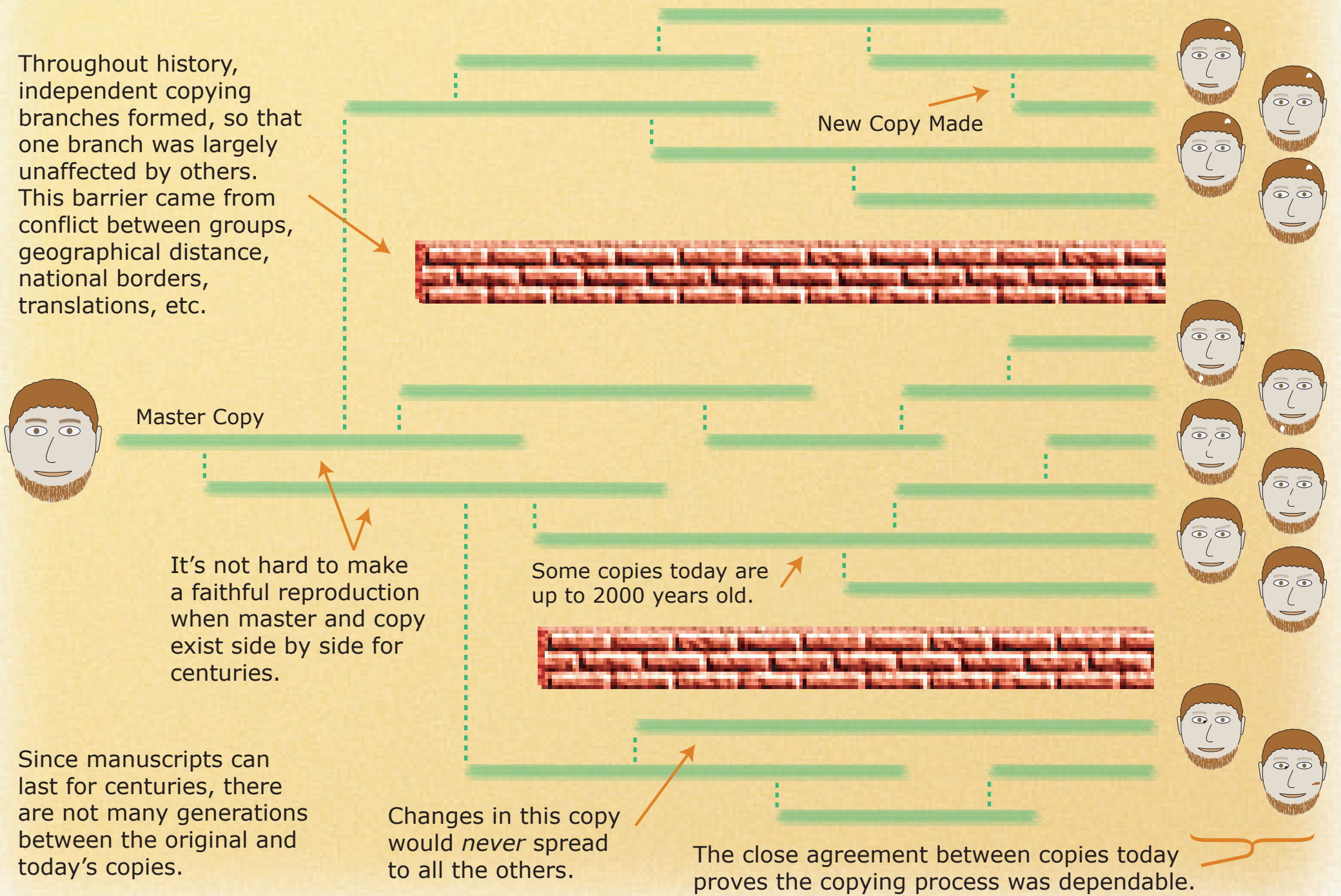
Since manuscripts can last for centuries, there are not many generations between the original and today's copies.

Changes in this copy would *never* spread to all the others.

Some copies today are up to 2000 years old.

The close agreement between copies today proves the copying process was dependable.

New Copy Made



The major independent copying paths formed in the Bible's early years, each creating a "brick wall" between blocs of Jews (or Christians) along with their copies.

Israel demolished, Jews dispersed

Christians spread through ancient world

Jewish/Christian split

Latin translation

Greek translation

Denominational splits

Migration to Egypt, Greece, etc.

Translated into other languages

Babylonian exile

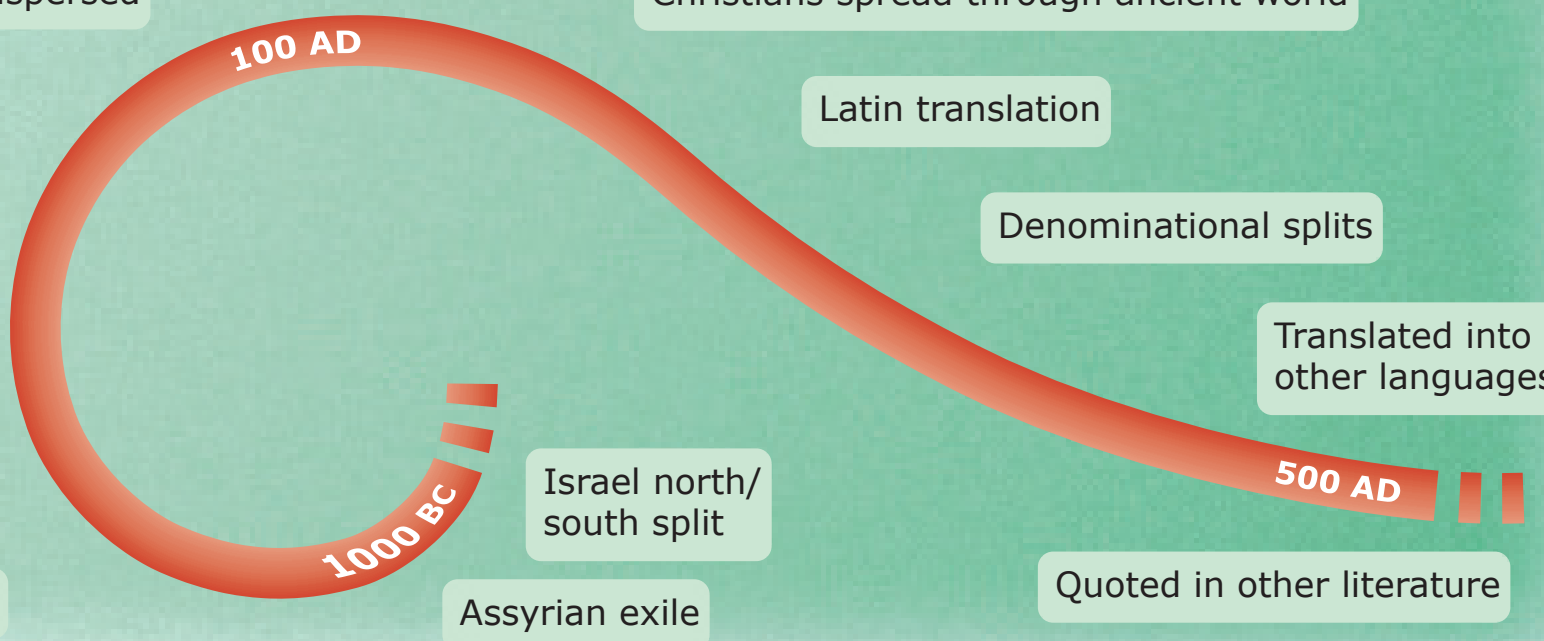
Israel north/south split

500 AD

Samaritans

Assyrian exile

Quoted in other literature



Beginning many centuries before Christ, Jews & later Christians spread copies of the scriptures around the world.

Today's copies mismatch in a very small % of cases. Most are resolved by comparing copies. Remaining variations are minor and do not affect the meaning.

The Bible's wide geographical dispersal has made it immune to alteration by one man or group.

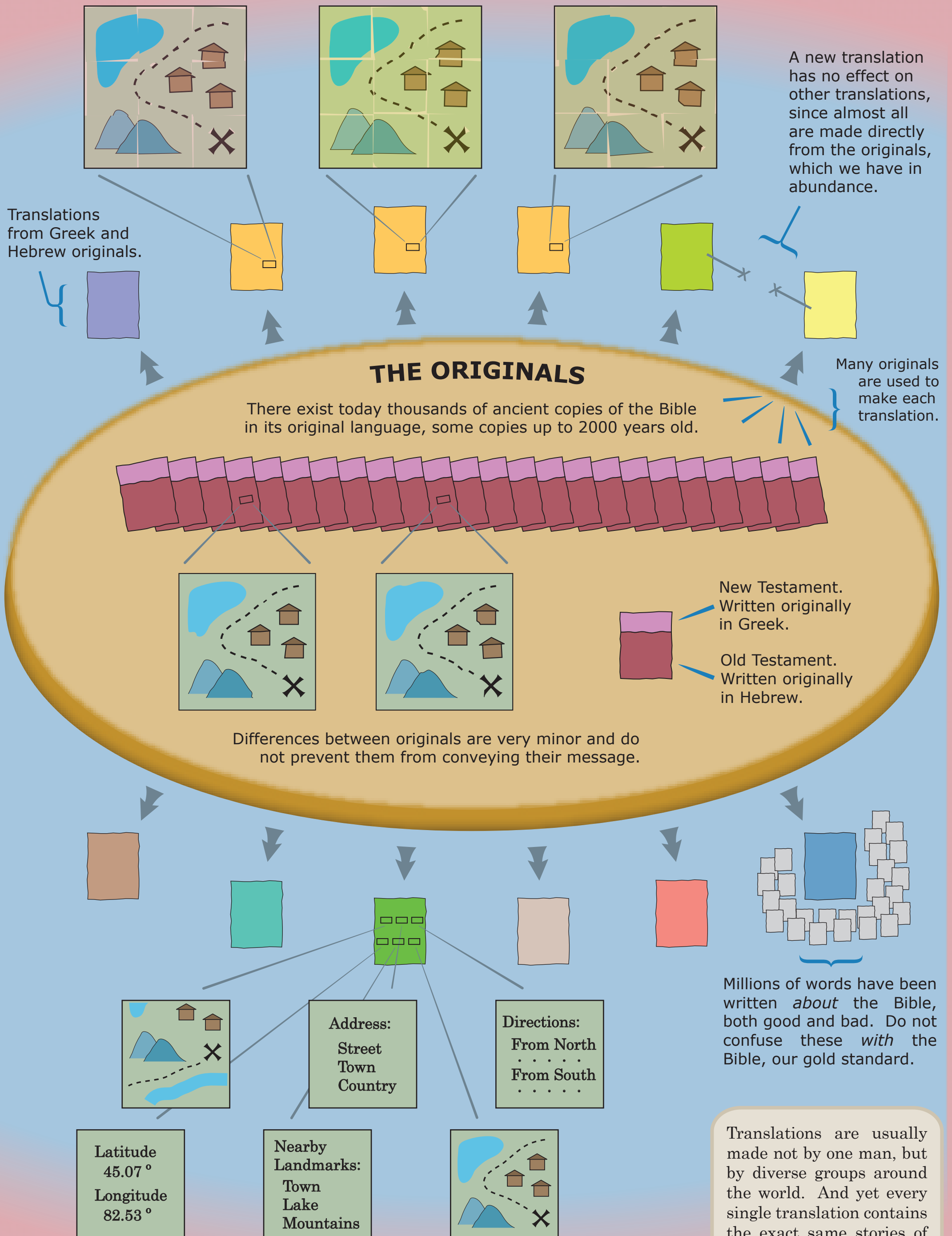
If there had been tampering, whether intentional or accidental, we would have diverse renderings among today's copies. But we do not see that at all.



# Bible Translations

Does God's message still come through clearly when the Bible is translated into other languages?

**Adaptability** Although the building blocks of language change in translation, the story of each biblical passage still comes through clearly, so we know the way to God's kingdom.



**REDUNDANCY** The Bible contains many forms of directions, each pointing to the same location, God's truth. This repetition, with variety, further insures that the story comes through correctly when translated.

Translations are usually made not by one man, but by diverse groups around the world. And yet every single translation contains the exact same stories of the red sea parting, the Babylonian exile, and the resurrection of Jesus.



## The Past

## The Present

Passage  
of  
time

As towns grow along rivers, Israel grew along their scriptures, which defined and influenced their:

origins	laws	festivals	land
worship	taxes	names	wars
food	kings	hopes	...

Likewise, the Bible is the church's river.

The Bible's accounts are as real as the Jews & early Christians, who built their lives around what they knew to be true.

A large river confirms the existence of a large body of land beyond the horizon. In the same way the Bible uncovers 20 centuries of a nation's history.



The written record of Jewish spiritual history

Early Church

Jesus the Messiah

Christian

Traditions & rituals

Jewish

Return from Babylon

Judgement & exile

Archeological finds

Prophets & Kings

Jews cited in secular histories

David & Solomon

Exodus & Conquest

The Jews wrote down messages & events as they occurred, gradually building a national diary.

Patriarchs

Creation & flood stories in cultures around the world

These rivers each traveled separately through time. They independently reveal the existence of ancient Israel, and they confirm many details in the Bible.

Modern men have not been to the other side of the hills. Their opinions on what they think "really" took place in ancient Israel have no value.

Israel is one of the best documented nations of antiquity.

These rivers represent the only link to the other side of the hills, carrying news from a place we can never go. So the Bible is our link to Israel's past, informing us of what happened.