

MAJOR BIBLE MANUSCRIPTS 1



Dr. Johnson C. Philip
Dr. Saneesh Cherian

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Maneed, Ernakulam
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Good morning, good morning, Ashish and Abhishek. It seems both of you have come again with some questions!



Yes Dr. P,
we want to
know about
the most
important
Bible
manuscripts

You had said the
other day that the
seminary
established by Ezra
kept making copies.
Tell us about some
prominent later
manuscripts!



Oh, sure. I would love to talk about them. These are little-known facts that a wider audience needs to know.



Consider Codex Vaticanus. A page from this manuscript is shown above. Codex here means a book made of very thin leather known as Parchment. Vaticanus is the name given to the manuscript

In the first few centuries of the Christian faith, Alexandria used to be a big center for producing Bible manuscripts, commentaries, etc. It seems that Codex Vaticanus was produced by scribes in Alexandria.

Since this was an unusually good and professionally produced manuscript, it changed hands many times, possessed by many well-known people.

Finally, it came to rest in Vatican library where it was promptly forgotten by everyone.



Finally, this manuscript came to the attention of Western Bible scholars due to the efforts of Desiderius Erasmus.

Erasmus produced an annotated New Testament from which have come the highly famous Textus Receptus or TR.



Once the Codex Vaticanus came to the Western scholars, many of them tried to study it.

Finally, Constantin von Tischendorf an outstanding Bible scholar took interest in Vaticanus



Tischendorf's efforts made the Vatican library to release the document for public study

Except for a few pages lost over centuries of use by countless individuals, it contains the complete Bible in Greek.

Not all handwritten copies were produced by scribes. Many were produced by lay people for their every day devotional use. Obviously, they do contain many mistakes of quick and hasty copying.



So, scholars are always looking for accurate copies produced by scribes. This manuscript is one of the accurate ones.

The modern era which started around 400 years ago, brought a renewed interest in the most ancient and the best manuscripts of the Bible.



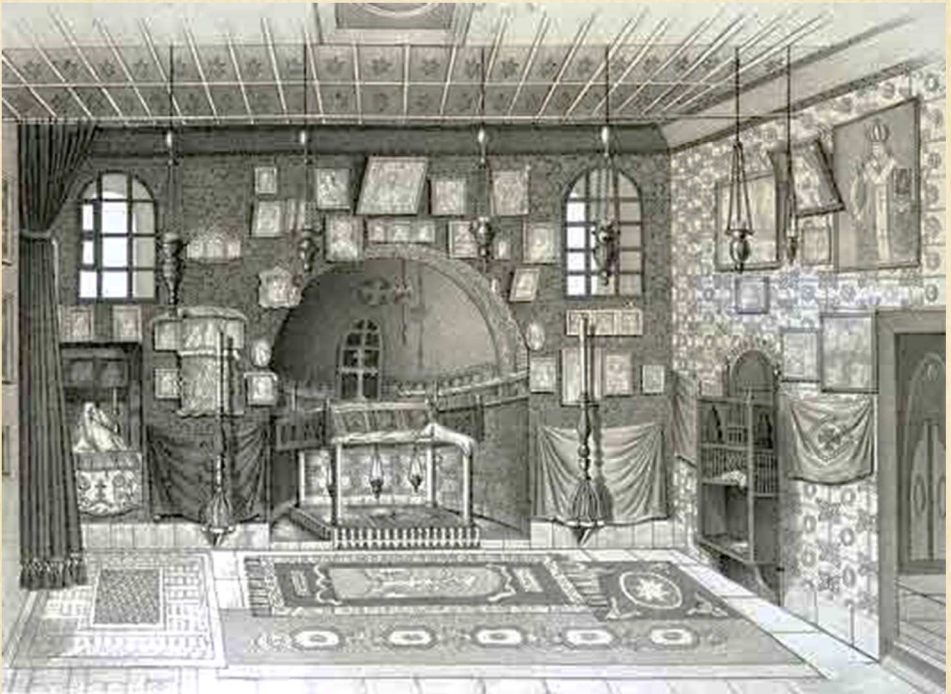
This created an interest worldwide in finding the best possible manuscripts of the Bible, which were hidden in caves, ancient buildings, and ancient institutions.

The German scholar Constantin von Tischendorf kept searching for manuscripts in the Middle East. In this search once he visited the Saint Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Peninsula



In 1844 he made his first visit, and found discarded pages in a waste basket, meant to be burnt.

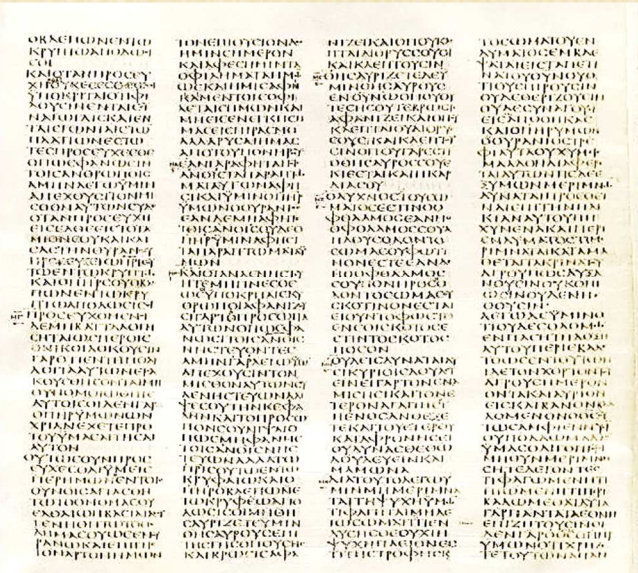
Tischendorf discovered that they were from an amazingly accurate and a very ancient manuscript of the Bible. Eventually, he located the manuscript in the Monastery.



However, the priest demanded a huge amount for the manuscript which Tischendorf was able to arrange eventually.

Since it was discovered from the Sinai area, it was eventually named as Codex Sinaiticus.

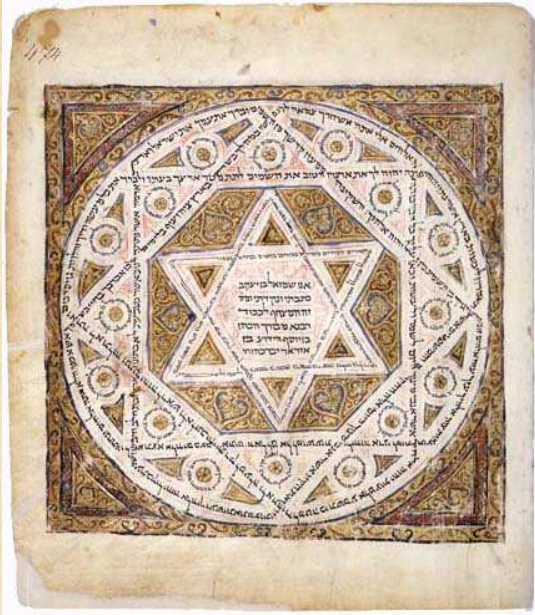
It is one of the most accurate copies of the Bible. It is also one of the most artistic manuscripts. It is estimated that it must have taken many years of hard labor and attention to produce it.



Wow, these things are amazing Dr. P. We would never have known if we had not asked you.

That is the reason why I always insist in my messages that my listeners should always come to me with their doubts and questions. The Christian faith stands on a solid foundation and you must all know about it.





Here is the cover page of Leningrad Codex, or Codex Leningradensis!

It is the most complete manuscript of the Old Testament in Hebrew.



It is such a great manuscript that countless Hebrew versions base themselves mainly on it.



It is also the most influential ancient Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament and practically all other manuscripts are tested against it.

Dr. P, that is an amazing three manuscripts of the Bible. I am stunned that such information is not widespread.

Why don't we hear more about such information that would strengthen our faith?



Lack of information is unfortunate, but as you note, I always make such information available to my audience.

It was nice to discuss these things with both of you. Remember, you are ALWAYS welcome to bring your questions. I will always be available to help one and all!



Thank you very much Dr. P. We are blessed to have a guide and mentor Like you!

There is plenty of malicious propaganda against the Bible. Do not quickly swallow all that.

Do your research. Or ask someone who already has the answers.

Nobody in the world has discredited the Bible so far in any way, and in any matter.

Please SHARE this ebook with as many people as possible. Let us not keep the blessing to ourselves.

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About The Authors



Dr. Johnson C. Philip is a senior Christian apologist and theologian. He specializes in Quantum-Nuclear Physics (PhD), Christian Apologetics (ThD), and Hermeneutics. He has authored countless books.

Dr. Saneesh Cherian has doctorates in Bible exposition (ThD) and apologetics (PhD).



He is also a masters in sociology. He too has authored countless books, many of which are theology and apologetics textbooks.