

Syllabus

Baruch College University • Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Scripture Level & Found

Instructor: Dr. Catherine (Katy) Murphy
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Religious Studies
Baruch College
Phone: 212.312.1000 Email: kmurphy@baruch.cuny.edu

Class Time: W 5:30-6:00 pm
Dates: April 2-23, 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION
During the last few centuries, manuscript discoveries have revolutionized our view of early Judaism, early Christianity, and the Bible. From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the genetic codices of Nag Hammadi, from the Chester Beatty papyri to the great manuscripts from Egyptian desert monasteries, we now have a wealth of information that challenges our view of the Bible, our notions about the relationship of Judaism and Christianity, and our picture of the diversity of early Christianity. This class will explore each of the major manuscript discoveries and what they tell us about religious past and present. This course will be an important part of the class as well.

NOTES
What manuscript discoveries have made the news in recent years? What is "scripture"? What is the Bible? Under what conditions were "biblical" books written? How did they come to be regarded as authoritative? How were they copied, transmitted, and grouped, revised, translated, and printed? What are the major versions of the Bible today, and what is the manuscript evidence on which these versions are based? What books don't make it into the Bible, and why? What biblical traditions have been recovered from your Bible, and as what material? How is technology being used to analyze and share these manuscripts?

Further Reading
Murphy, K. M. ed. *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. The most accurate and complete version available today in English.
Trompeter, J. ed. *Challenging the Bible: New Discoveries and Debates*. New York: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2008. This volume contains the most recent manuscript discoveries and what they tell us about the Bible and Christianity.

Bible About This
Foster, D. G. ed. *An Introduction to the New Testament Manuscripts and Their Texts*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008. An excellent and thorough introduction to the textual tradition of the New Testament and how the tradition is studied. Manuscripts available: Tim. Ramanelli. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006. A study of the manuscript tradition of the Hebrew Bible as the foundation, with special attention to the version of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

4

Worksheet

for your questions

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First Class: From Qulim to Compromises
Worksheet for Your Questions

Value 1: Introduction (20 minutes)
This video introduces the Professor and the course. It explains the title "Scripture Level and Found" and explains the main questions that will be explored in the course. It also explains the course's goals and what you can expect to learn. It also explains the course's goals and what you can expect to learn.

Value 2: Manuscripts in the News (20 minutes)
This video presents manuscript discoveries that have made the headlines in recent years. From the top of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the genetic codices of Nag Hammadi, from the Chester Beatty papyri to the great manuscripts from Egyptian desert monasteries, we now have a wealth of information that challenges our view of the Bible, our notions about the relationship of Judaism and Christianity, and our picture of the diversity of early Christianity.

Value 3: The Truth Behind the Bible (20 minutes)
This video discusses what you're really looking at when you open a Bible. For how long has the Bible been around? How did it come to be regarded as authoritative? How were they copied, transmitted, and grouped, revised, translated, and printed? What are the major versions of the Bible today, and what is the manuscript evidence on which these versions are based? What books don't make it into the Bible, and why? What biblical traditions have been recovered from your Bible, and as what material? How is technology being used to analyze and share these manuscripts?

5

Course Website

6

Scriptures Lost & Found


- Manuscripts in the News
- The “Truth” behind the Bible
- Why the Manuscripts Matter
- The Great Manuscript Discoveries
- Technology & the Texts



Manuscripts in the News

Recent Discoveries

p1008



March 13, 2014

7 New Dead Sea Scrolls

Phylacteries from Qumran Cave 4

c.100-1 BCE?

Manuscripts in the News

Recent Discoveries



March 13, 2014

7 New Dead Sea Scrolls

Phylacteries from Qumran Cave 4

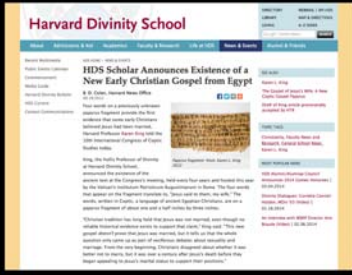
c.100-1 BCE?

Manuscripts in the News

Recent Discoveries

Harvard Divinity School

HDS Scholar Announces Existence of a New Early Christian Gospel from Egypt



September 18, 2012

Gospel of Jesus' Wife

Revealed by Harvard gnostic scholar Karen King

c.100s-200s CE

If genuine

Manuscripts in the News
Recent Discoveries



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March 3, 2011

The Jesus Tablets

or Jordan Lead Codices

promoted by David Elkington
as the earliest Christian texts

c.30 CE
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Recent Discoveries



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The New York Times

Middle East

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Ancient Tablet Ignites Debate on Messiah and Resurrection

By ETHAN MACHAER
Published: July 6, 2008

JERUSALEM — A three-foot-tall tablet with 40 lines of Hebrew that scholars believe dates from the decades just before the birth of Jesus is causing a quiet stir in biblical and archaeological circles, especially because it may speak of a messiah who will rise from the dead after three days.

Strange This Image

If such a messianic description really is there, it will contribute to a developing re-evaluation of both popular and scholarly views of Jesus, since it suggests that the story of his death and resurrection was not unique but part of a recognized Jewish tradition at the time.

The tablet, probably found near the Dead Sea in Jordan according to some scholars who have studied it, is a rare example of a stone with ink writings from that era — in essence, a Dead Sea Scroll on stone.

It is written, not engraved, across two neat columns, similar to columns in a Torah. But the stone is broken, and some of the text is faded, meaning that much of what it says is open to debate.

Still, its authenticity has so far faced no challenge, so its role in helping to understand the roots of Christianity in the devastating political crisis faced by the Jews of the time seems likely to increase.

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Manuscripts in the News

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July 6, 2008

The Gabriel Revelation
or the Jeselsohn Stone

Described by
paleographer Ada Yardeni as
"a Dead Sea Scroll on stone"

c.50-1 BCE

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Manuscripts in the News


Recent Discoveries

May 2006

The Gospel of Judas
From Codex Tchachos

Featured in a special by
National Geographic

c.200s-300s CE
Greek original 160 CE?



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Manuscripts in the News
How the Media Packages Discoveries



14 December 1993



6 June 1995



30 September 1997



24 August 1999



11 June 1996

- The texts prophesy events now
 - some catastrophic, others optimistic
 - sense that the "lost" has been found to help us
- Scholars are sometimes quoted
 - but they're not always real people
 - more about giving an impression of legitimacy
- Conspiracy theories abound
 - manuscripts were lost because they threaten someone
 - and now they could shake everything up!



Manuscripts in the News How the Tabloids Package Discoveries

The New York Times **Science**

WORLD U.S. N.Y. REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION
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'Gospel of Judas' Surfaces After 1,700 Years

By Michael S. Malone
Published: June 11, 1996

An early Christian manuscript, including the only known text of what is known as the Gospel of Judas, has surfaced after 1,700 years. The text gives new insights into the relationship of Jesus and the disciple who betrayed him, scholars reported today. In this version, Jesus called Judas, as a close friend, to sell him out to the authorities, telling Judas he will "reward" the other disciples by doing so.

Though some theologians have hypothesized this, scholars who have studied the new-found text said, this is the first time an ancient document defied the idea.

The discovery in the desert of Egypt of the leather-bound papyrus manuscript, and now its translation, was announced by the National Geographic Society at a news conference in Washington. The 48-page Judas text is said to be a copy in Coptic, made around A. D. 300, of the original Gospel of Judas, written in Greek the century before.

Terry Garcia, an executive vice president of the geographic society, said the manuscript, or codex, is considered by scholars and scientists to be the most significant ancient, nonbiblical text to be found in the past 50 years.

"The codex has been substantiated as a genuine work of ancient Christian apocryphal literature," Mr. Garcia said, citing extensive tests of radiocarbon dating, ink analysis and multitemperal imaging and studies of the script and linguistic style. The ink, for example, was consistent with ink of that era, and there was no evidence of multiple rewriting.

Related
Document Is Christian, But Is It the Holy Text? (April 2, 1996)

Examples From the Gospel of Judas
[Quoted from Document (nationalgeographic.com)]

Inquisitive style. The ink, for example, was consistent with ink of that era, and there was no evidence of multiple rewriting.

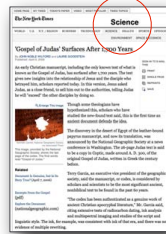
Manuscripts in the News How the Media Packages Discoveries

mainstream

Manuscripts in the News How the Media Packages Discoveries

mainstream

- From science desk, not religion
 - religion is old, familiar, tired
 - journalists want scoops, discoveries that subvert familiar beliefs – that's what *science* does
- The first “frame” is hard to change
 - “locking in” a particular explanation
 - understanding subsequent scholarly debates is tough, and scholars don't make it easier
- The need for public interest can promote sensationalizing
 - giving too much play to marginal views
 - exacerbating conspiracy theories



Tabloid or Mainstream?

You be the judge...

The Gabriel Revelation
or the Jeselsohn Stone

National Geographic TV



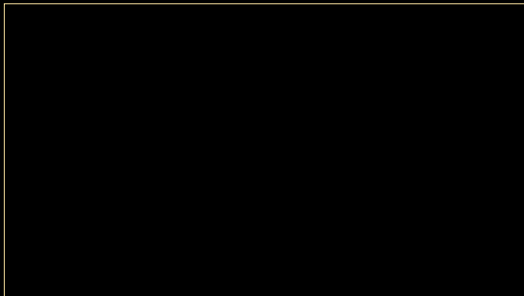
The Gabriel Revelation
or the Jesusohn Stone
National Geographic TV

Online ad for Smithsonian Channel Program about the Gospel of Jesus' Wife

program pulled when questions surfaced about the papyrus' authenticity

Then you'll see the official video
from Harvard Divinity School

do you notice any differences?



Online ad for Smithsonian Channel Program about
the Gospel of Jesus' Wife
program pulled when questions surfaced about the papyrus' authenticity

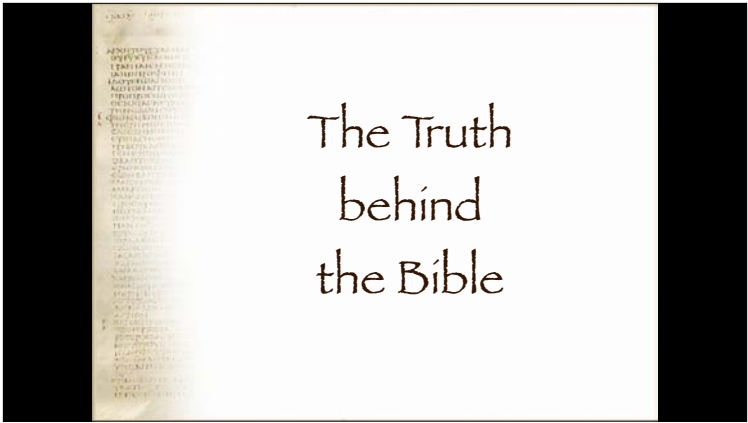
Smithsonian Channel

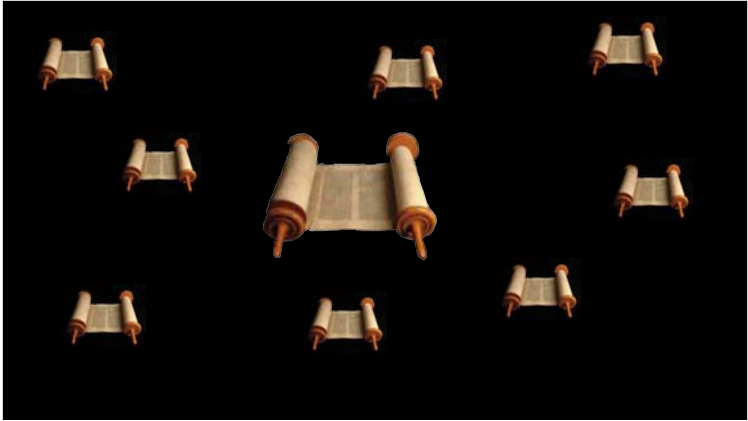
Harvard Divinity School

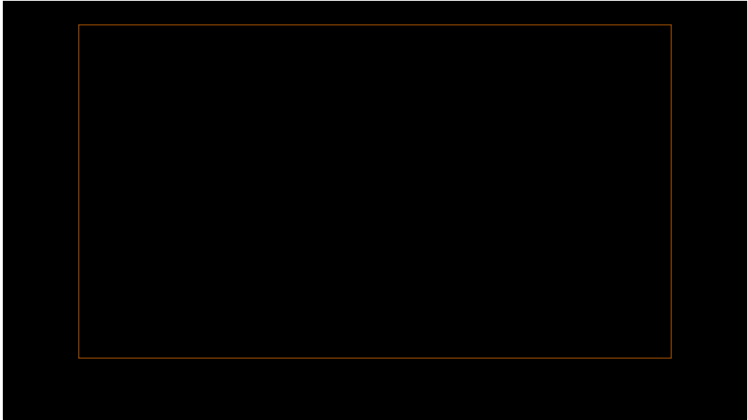


Harvard Divinity School Press Release
about the discovery of The Gospel of Jesus' Wife

Karen King is a faculty member at HDS





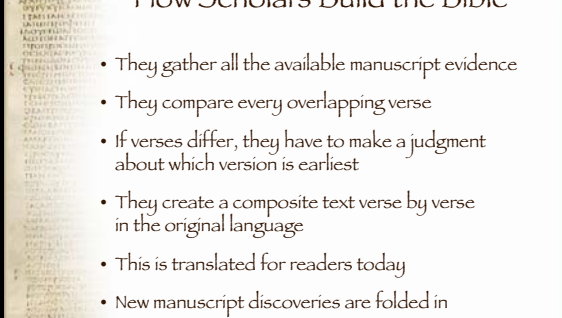








[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

How Scholars Build the Bible


- They gather all the available manuscript evidence
- They compare every overlapping verse
- If verses differ, they have to make a judgment about which version is earliest
- They create a composite text verse by verse in the original language
- This is translated for readers today
- New manuscript discoveries are folded in

Eugene Ulrich

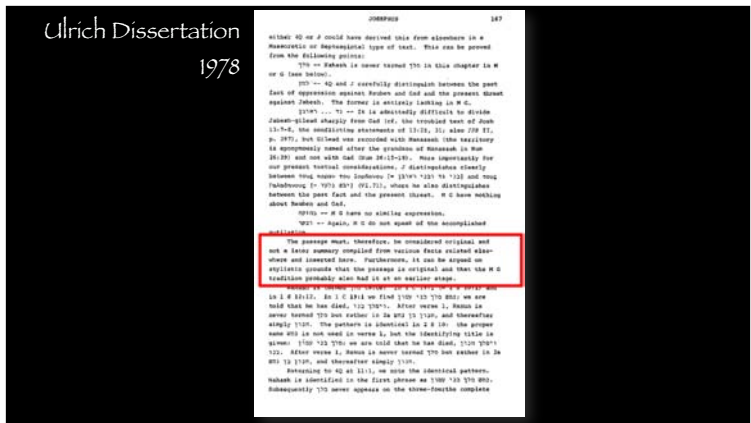
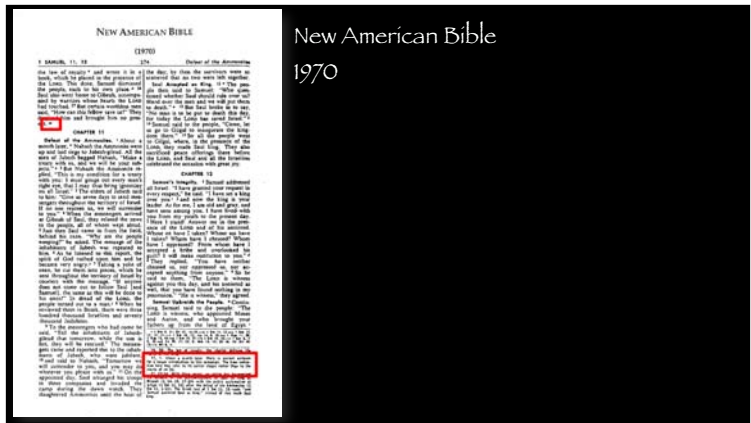
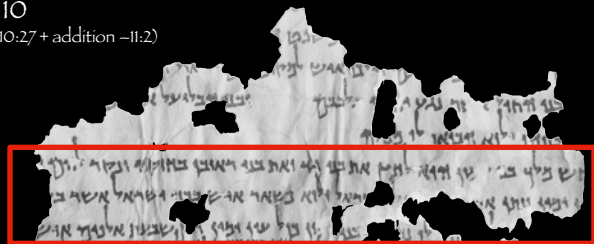
Chief editor of the biblical
DSS mss

At work in the scroller at
the Rockefeller Museum,
East Jerusalem

October 1995



4QSamuel^a
Col. 10
(1 Sam 10:27 + addition -11:2)



Small prophetic
among the prophetic

"When all who have been before you have been prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, 'What has come over the sons of the Lord who have said that the Lord is in the place above?' And who is this father? Therefore it became a proverb: 'In Israel also among the prophets.' But his prophetic history had ended, he went home."

14 And I said unto him to him and to the
 15 men: "Whoso did you say? And he re-
 16 sponded: "To seek the kingdom, and when
 17 ye have sought it, ye shall find it: and it shall
 18 be added unto you." (Luk³:14) And he said
 19 to them: "Tell me what I should say to you."
 20 And he said to him: "The word is that
 21 the kingdom of God be here." But when
 22 he saw the manner of the language, of which
 23 Jesus had spoken, he did not will him
 24 any thing.

17 Samuel summoned the people to the Lord at Mizpah¹ and said to them, "The Lord has chosen a king for you. Listen to the Lord's voice, O Israel, and I assured you that the hand of the Egyptians and their hand of all the king doms was west opposing you."² But today you have rejected your God, who serves you from the dawn to the dusk, and you have said, "We will not have a king over us." Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord to

20. Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was brought by last. ²¹ His brother the sons of Benjamin near by his families, and the family of the Ephraim was taken by last. Finally he brought the family of the Manasse. ²² He said to them, "I have brought you here to know that I have sought him, but he is not taken by him. But when they sought him, he could not be found. ²³ He they supposed again of the Lord,

[illegible]

spread from and brought from the province
and the north and south.

King Naboth, king of the Ammonites, had been generously oppressing the Gileadites and the Reubenites. He would gouge out the right eye of each of them and would not grant burial a deliverer. His eye was left of the Jordan across the Jordan whose right eye Naboth, king of the Ammonites, had not gouged out. But there were seven thousand men who had gouged down the Ammonites and had removed [ethnologically].

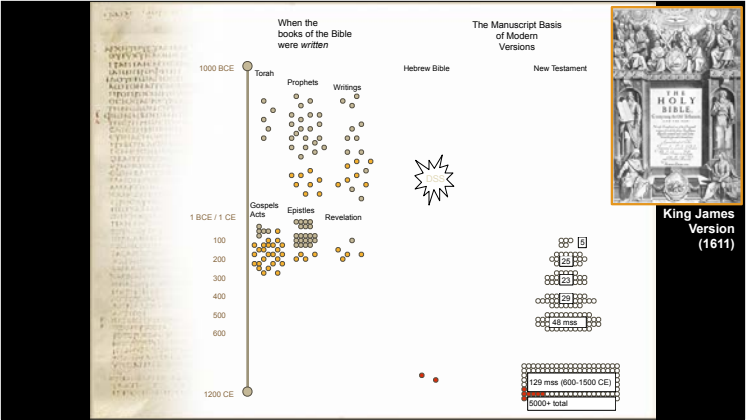
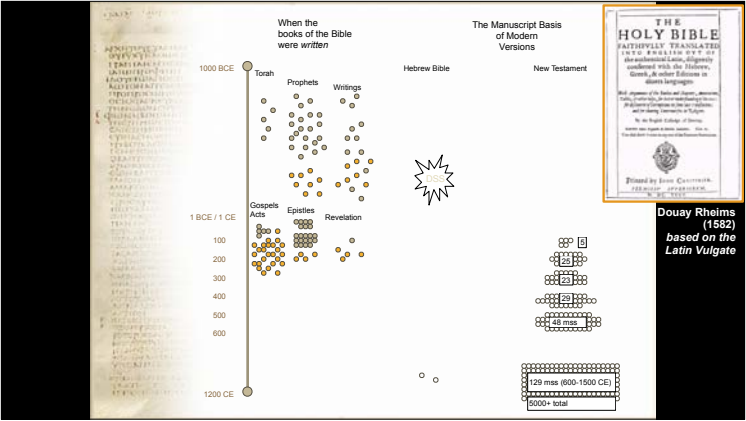
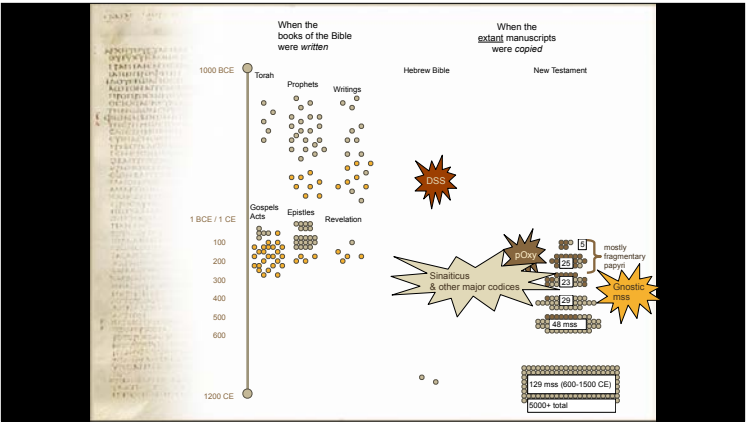
As the Americans were up and leaving Johannesburg, and all the men of John's said to Ntshoth, "Take a man."

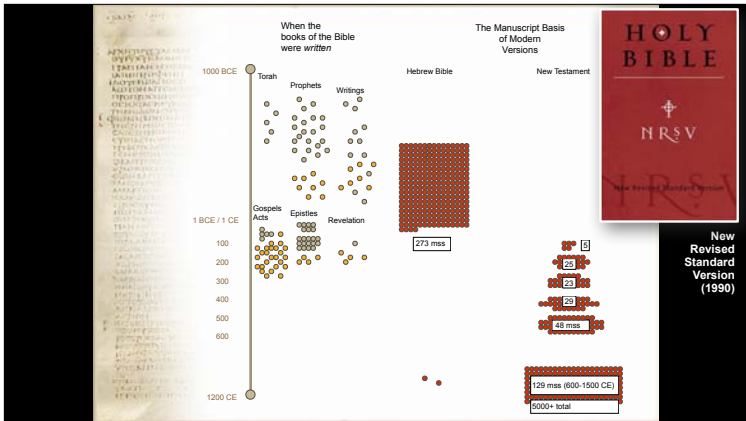
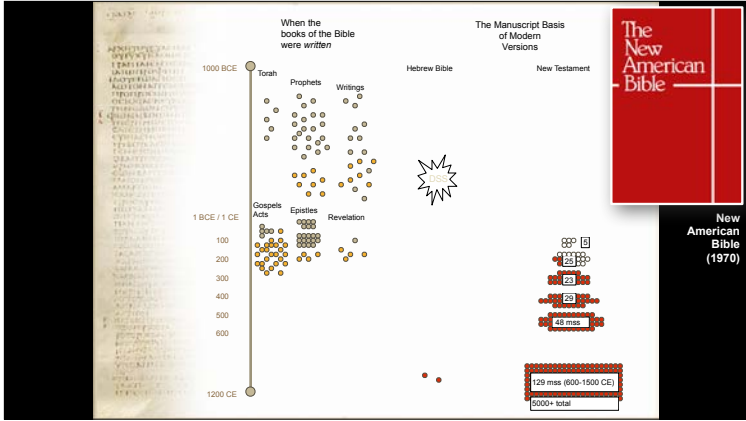
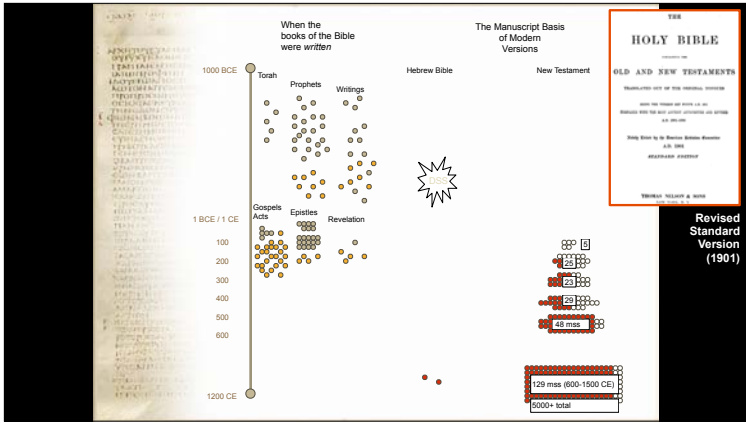
0020. This cross may be an advanced preparation for 0032. The treatment of a book is designed to show forward as a series of letters as well as groups, graphs, and nodes. We know nothing more of this book. 00-07

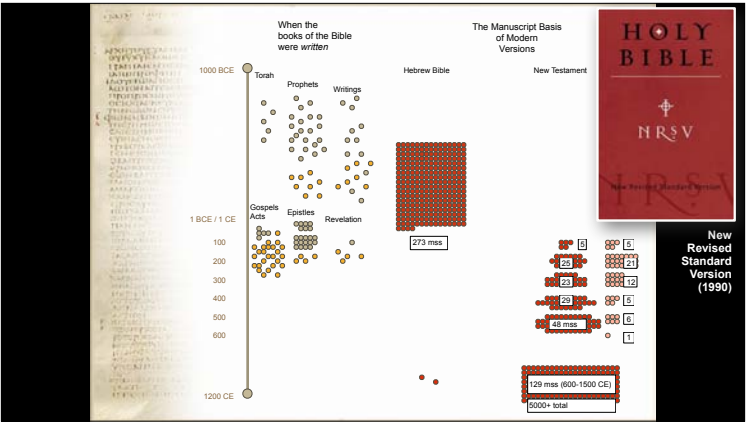
Why the Manuscripts Matter

The HOLY BIBLE CONTAINING THE Old and New Testaments









The Great Manuscript Discoveries



Great Manuscript Discoveries of the Past Two Centuries

Dead Sea Scrolls (1947-1955)
Thousands of parchment and papyrus
fragments from almost 900 different
manuscripts, including almost every book
of the Jewish scriptures, mostly in Hebrew



The Isaiah Scroll from Cave 1 (IQIsa^a)



Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments bought from the Bedouin



Piecing together
the manuscripts



Excavating the Site



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Oxyrhynchus Papyri (1896-1907)
Tens of thousands of papyrus fragments of classical and Hellenistic Greek works, documents from daily life, and Jewish and Christian texts, including biblical books



Oxford University

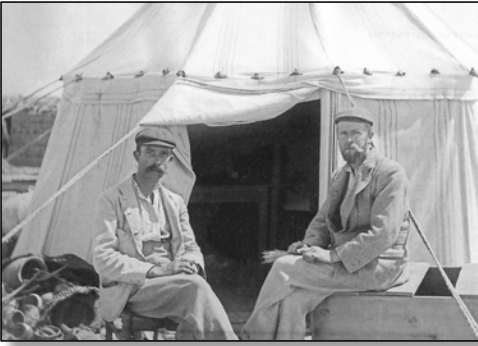
Oxford University Researchers
Grenfell & Hunt



The Dump at Oxyrhynchus



Sifting the Site



Grenfell & Hunt on site in 1896



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Oxyrhynchus Papyri (1896-1907)
Tens of thousands of papyrus fragments of classical and Hellenistic Greek works, documents from daily life, and Jewish and Christian texts, including biblical books

Codex Sinaiticus (1859)
4th century copy of the entire Greek Bible



St. Catherine's Monastery
Sinai Peninsula, Egypt



Constantine von Tischendorf & Codex Sinaiticus





Other Major Codices

Alexandrinus



Ephraemi Rescriptus



Vaticanus



Great Manuscript Discoveries of the Past Two Centuries

Dead Sea Scrolls (1947-1955)
Thousands of parchment and papyrus fragments from almost 900 different manuscripts, including almost every book of the Jewish scriptures, mostly in Hebrew

Oxyrhynchus Papyri (1896-1907)
Tens of thousands of papyrus fragments of classical and Hellenistic Greek works, documents from daily life, and Jewish and Christian texts, including biblical books

Codex Sinaiticus (1859)
4th century copy of the entire Greek Bible

Nag Hammadi (1945)
13 books with 52 separate "tractates"
4th century copies of earlier Gnostic Christian works



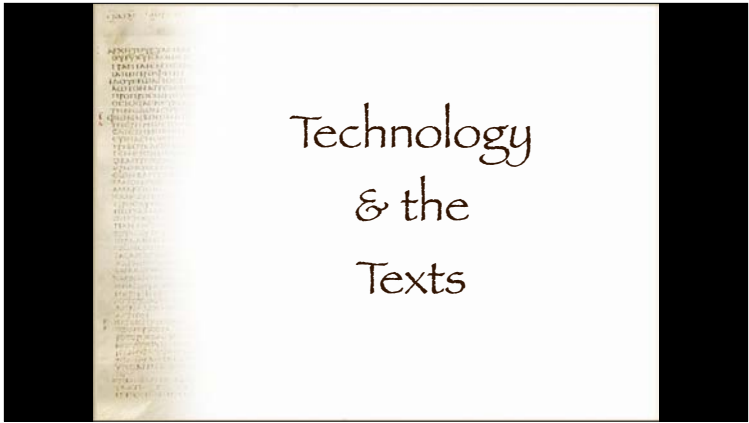
Muhammad Ali Samman
who discovered the codices



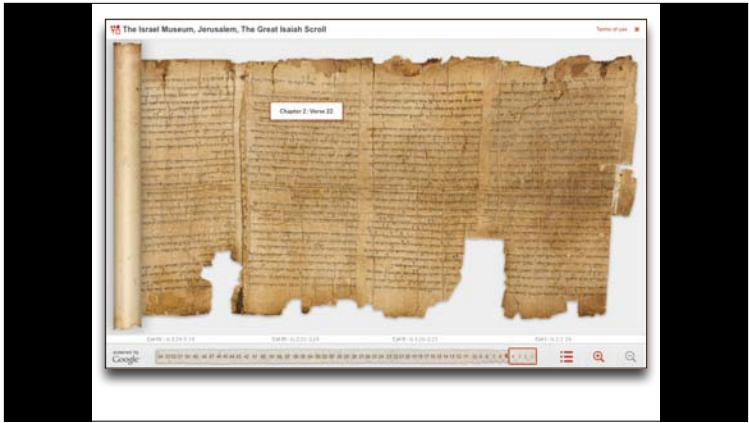
The 13 Nag Hammadi Codices

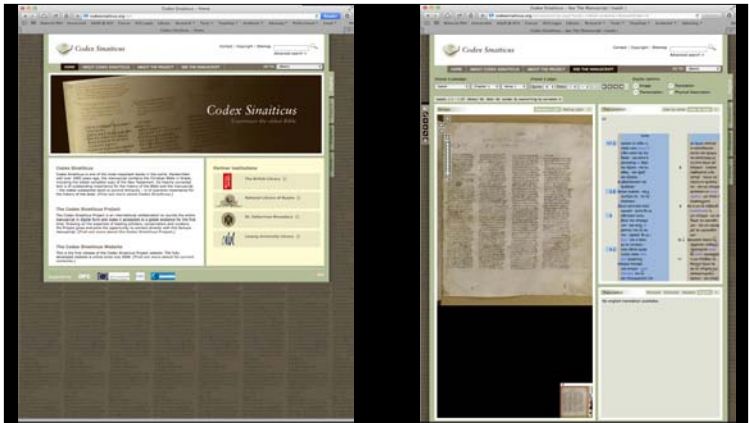


Scholars studying the codices
at the Coptic Museum in Cairo



Technology & the Texts







Part of the "Thanksgiving Scroll"
from Cave II (11Q14)



Part of the same scroll, magnified,
under normal (left) and
infrared (right) light



