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- 34  **Evidences That God Has Providentially Superintended the Creation of the Bible**

1. The sheer uniqueness of the Bible
2. The extraordinary reliability and accuracy of Scripture
3. The credibility of copies

35  **The Sheer Uniqueness Of The Bible**

- Consider these amazing facts about the Bible's unity
 - Occupation of Authors
 - Location
 - Time
 - Style
 - Singleness of Theme

36  **The Extraordinary Reliability and Accuracy Of The Scripture**

- "... the manuscripts of the New Testament differ from those of the classical authors, and ... the difference is clear In no other case is the interval of time between the composition of the book and the date of the earliest existing manuscripts so short as in that of the New Testament. The books of the New Testament were written in the latter part of the first century; the earliest existing manuscripts (trifling scraps excepted) are of the fourth century ... say from 250 to 300 years later." - Sir Fredric G. Kenyon, former director and principal librarian of the British Museum and eminent authority on Manuscripts

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- "Yet no classical scholar would listen to an argument that the authenticity of Herodotus or Thucydides is in doubt because the earliest MSS of their works which are of any use to us are over 1,300 years later than the originals." F.F. Bruce

39  **The Credibility of Copies**

- Sir Frederick Kenyon says the systematic method of producing copies was so accurate that "... When a manuscript had been copied with the exactitude prescribed by the Talmud, and had been duly verified, it was accepted as authentic and regarded as being of equal value with any other copy. If all were equally correct, age gave no advantage to a manuscript; on the contrary, age was a positive disadvantage, since a manuscript was liable to become defaced or damaged in the lapse of time. A damaged or imperfect copy was at once condemned as unfit for use."

40  **The Massoretic Period B.C. 500-900**

- The Massorettes were extremely disciplined and recopied the text "with the greatest imaginable reverence, and devised a complicated system of safeguards against scribal slips. They counted, for example, the number of times each letter of the alphabet occurs in each book; they pointed out the middle letter of the Pentateuch and the middle letter of the whole Hebrew Bible, and made even more detailed calculations than these. 'Everything countable seems to have been counted ...'" F.F. Bruce

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- Sir Frederic Kenyon says: "They numbered the verses, words, and letters of every book. They calculated the middle word and the middle letter of each. ... These trivialities, as we may rightly consider them, had yet the effect of securing

minute attention to the precise transmission of the text; and they are but an excessive manifestation of a respect for the sacred scriptures which in itself deserves nothing but praise. The Massoretes were indeed anxious that not one 'jot nor tittle, not one smallest letter nor tiny part of a letter, of the law should pass away or be lost'."