

CHAPTER 8

TRANSMISSION AND TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament

Transmission

1. Early period
 - a. Not a lot of information from this period
 - b. We know that the book of the law was to be kept in the Ark of the Covenant (Deut 31:9-26).
 - c. The oracles of some of the prophets were preserved by their disciples – Isaiah’s disciples (Isa 8:16) and Jeremiah’s disciple (Jer 36:1-26).
 - d. Big push during Ezra’s time to preserve the sacred books (Neh 8:1-18).
2. Evidence from Qumran
 - a. Earliest biblical manuscripts
 - b. Confirm that there were several text types between the period of Antiochus IV and A.D. 70.
3. Masoretic text
 - a. Around A.D. 100, rabbi Aqiba and his colleagues established a uniform text.
 - b. This is the text quoted in the Mishnah, the Talmud, and other authoritative rabbinical literature.
 - c. This is the text that the Masoretes equipped with vowel points according to the masorah (tradition of vocalization).
 - d. This is the standard text used today.
4. Samaritan Bible

- a. This is a Palestinian text with some alterations to vindicate the Samaritans' claim to be true Israel.
- b. Kept for us a textual tradition different than the Masoretic text.

Translation

5. Translations were also used by the Lord to transmit the text to us.
6. Different translations kept different textual traditions alive and available

New Testament

- A. All NT documents were written in Greek within the first century A.D.
- B. By the beginning of the second century the gospels and the Pauline writings were circulating as two collections.
- C. From the fourth century onward, we can distinguish text types that are initially related to geographical areas.
- D. Early in the history of the NT, many versions became available to the non-Greek speaking population, which helped preserve and transmit the text.
- E. The Lord used all these different traditions to preserve and transmit the NT text to us.