

What is the  
TRUTH about the  
**PLAIN &  
PRECIOUS  
TRUTHS**  
OF THE BIBLE

This pamphlet is an apologetic  
defense supporting the accuracy of  
The Holy Bible.

### THE CHALLENGE

The LDS Church claims many plain and precious truths have been removed from the Bible. This belief originates in 1 Nephi 13,

*“Thou hast beheld that the book [the Bible] proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the fulness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God. Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God. And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.” (1 Nephi 13:24-26)*

### THE FIRST PROBLEM

**1 Nephi 13 contradicts inspired scriptures.**

Isaiah 40:8 *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”*

Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:35, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”*

### THE SECOND PROBLEM

Manuscript and historical evidences will prove that 1 Nephi 13 could not be true.

The Lord’s Apostles lived and wrote the New Testament letters in the first century. If 1 Nephi 13 is correct the entire Bible was “in purity” until “after” 100 AD.

While the early Church was at the peak of its strength and while the Apostles were still directing the Lord’s church, God allowed an event to happen that would forever preserve the integrity of the Bible.

In 70 AD the Roman Emperor Vespasian with the aid of his son Titus attacked Judea, sacked Jerusalem, and burned the Lord’s temple. This historical event began a time in Jewish history known as the “Roman Diaspora”—the scattering of Israel away from their ancestral homeland. The Diaspora ushered in the greatest persecutions the Christian Church has ever known. As the people fled the persecutions, they took great care to preserve the Scriptures. Many were carefully hidden away in caves lest they fall into the hands of the Romans and others were taken with the people as they scattered to the far reaches of the Roman Empire.

### Old Testament Manuscript Evidences

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, hidden in the Qumran caves during the Roman invasion of Judea, eliminates any possibility the Old Testament was changed as 1 Nephi 13 claims because all the Dead Sea Scroll texts date from about 250 BC to no later than 70 AD. And, all of the Old Testament Books (except Esther) are found in these scrolls. If any sinister manipulation of the text had occurred after 100 AD, it would be easily detected by simply comparing the Qumran manuscripts with the later Old Testament texts.

The evidence reveals that the Biblical texts found in the Dead Sea Scrolls are essentially identical to the Hebrew texts used by the Orthodox Jews today. The few variants that have been found are not significant enough to

alter any doctrines, principles, or commandments.

Another complication for the 1 Nephi 13 challenge is that the O.T. was translated from Hebrew into two other languages (the Greek Septuagint and Aramaic Targums) prior to 100 AD. Any attempt to alter the Hebrew text would also require altering these translations as well.

### New Testament Manuscript Evidences

As the Christian church fled the Roman persecutions, they copied and took their most prized possessions with them—the N.T. letters written by the Lord’s Apostles.

The Christians fled in three directions (see map on reverse). Some fled northeast into ancient Armenia (modern-day Turkey), some fled southwest into Egypt/Ethiopia, and others fled north into Europe. Intense persecutions effectively scattered the N.T. manuscripts into the far reaches of the Roman Empire—prior to 100 AD.

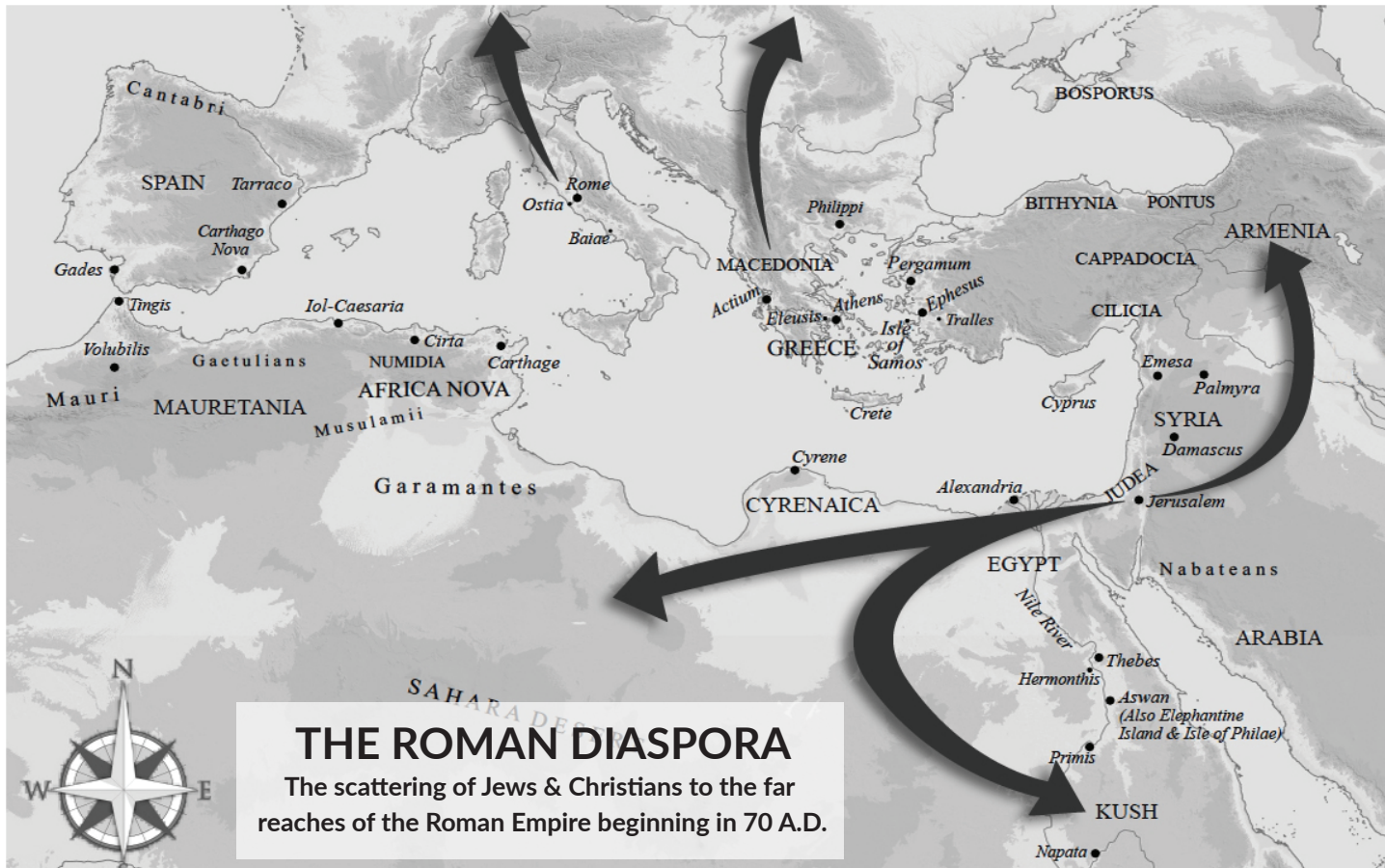
As Christianity spread into new regions, the N.T. documents were also translated into three major languages. Prior to 200 AD, the New Testament was translated into Latin, Coptic, and Syriac.

The scattering of the New Testament prior to 100 AD combined with the various translations of the New Testament would have made any sinister manipulation of the text, at some later date, easily detectable.

The manuscript evidence for the N.T. is staggering. To date there are 5,780 catalogued ancient hand copied manuscripts of the Greek N.T. There are also thousands of ancient texts in Latin, Coptic, and Syriac. Although minor variations are found, not one doctrine, principle, or commandment has been altered –AMAZING!

If you have questions or comments,  
please contact the author at:  
GospelTruth4U@Hotmail.com

CONT ➔



## PERSECUTIONS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH During the Roman Occupation of Judea From 70 AD - 313 AD

**According to LDS leaders...  
When were the plain and precious truths removed?**

The LDS church has stated that the changes in the Bible were made sometime between the years A.D. 460 and 1400. (The Evening and the Morning Star, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1832, pg. 3).

Joseph Fielding Smith also understood that a total departure from truth to error could not have all happened in a day. He points to the beginning of the fourth century [the council of Nicaea], and a Roman Emperor named Constantine as the pivotal moment in which the church experienced a total departure from truth. (Essentials in Church History, Joseph Fielding Smith, pp. 9-10)

### CONCLUSION

No evidence exists to support the LDS claim that even one plain or precious truth has been removed from the Bible. There is no historical foundation for the challenge presented in 1 Nephi 13. The truth is—the Bible can be trusted and is the inspired authoritative Word of God.

## BIBLICAL TIMELINE OF MANUSCRIPTS

