

Often this corruption comes in the guise of seeking to *supersede* the Revelation given before. A prime example of this is the old prophet at Bethel, who misled a predictor of Josiah 450 years before (1 Ki.13.18). The old prophet lied, the young man, who unwisely believed him, died. He would have been safe in adhering to the true word he had received. Like all true prophets, Messiah *never* discounted previous revelation, on the contrary, He emphasised and confirmed it (Matt.5.17-9, 23.3, Jn.5.46). Again and again He alluded to the same Jewish scriptures we have now as proof of His authority and ministry (Mk.12.10,15.28,Lk.4.21,Jn.2.21-2,7.38 etc). He never **once** dismissed them, unlike so many false teachers (Jn.5.47). God's Word will be vindicated though all the world opposes it and seeks to destroy it (Jer.44.28-9).

It is a matter of honour with Him both to keep and preserve His spoken and written Word (Mt.5.37,Tit.1.2, Num.23.19, Ps.12.6). Those who add to them will surely be reprov'd as liars and thieves of His glory (Prov.30.6)

Only a teacher reliant on Greek philosophy like the mu'tazili (المعتزلة) would teach that God's Word is created and not eternal. God's Word emanates from His very own Being and shares His attributes. He is holy, His word is holy. He is just, His Sayings cannot be unjust. He is pure, His Scripture can never be sullied by men. He is Omnipotent, His Word creates the worlds.

The Messiah is His uncreated, living Word, (ال كلمة). He is the incarnate Message of warning and hope. The Scriptures, Jewish and Christian, tell us of the Messiah that He is both Son of man and Son of God, that to succeed He had to die, that by that death, our forgiveness is obtained, our redemption from the power of evil is secured, and by His resurrection from death our lives raised by his power to Heavenliness. (Ps.2, Dan.9.26, Isa.9.6; 53, Ps.22, 1 Jn.5.20)

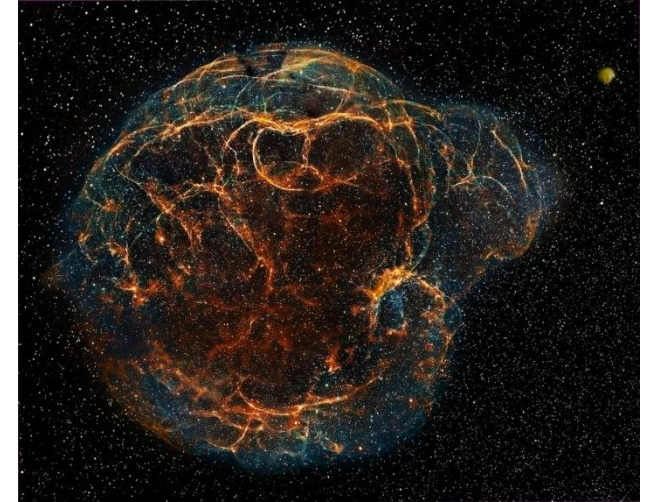
The Lord Jesus says His words will *never* be corrupted, they will never fail, do you really think He has lied? 'Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Messiah? He is antichrist, that denies the Father *and* the Son.' 1 John 2.22

You're welcome!

Woolwich Evangelical Church
 Sunday Evening Service 6.30 pm
 & Morning Service 11.00 am

www.woolwichevangel.org

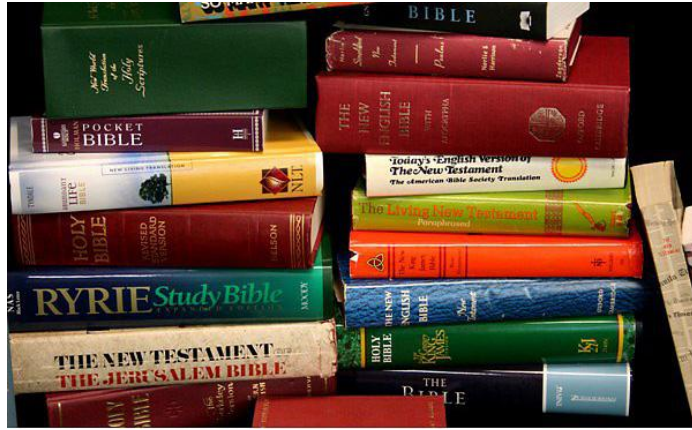
*Heaven and Earth
 shall pass away,
 but My words shall
 not pass away.*



ال سماء والارض ت زولان
 ولا كن
 كلامي لا ي زول

Many unbelievers seem to imagine that man is stronger than God. But that is quite *impossible*. God cannot lie and He cannot be overcome. God's words can no sooner be changed and corrupted than He can Himself.

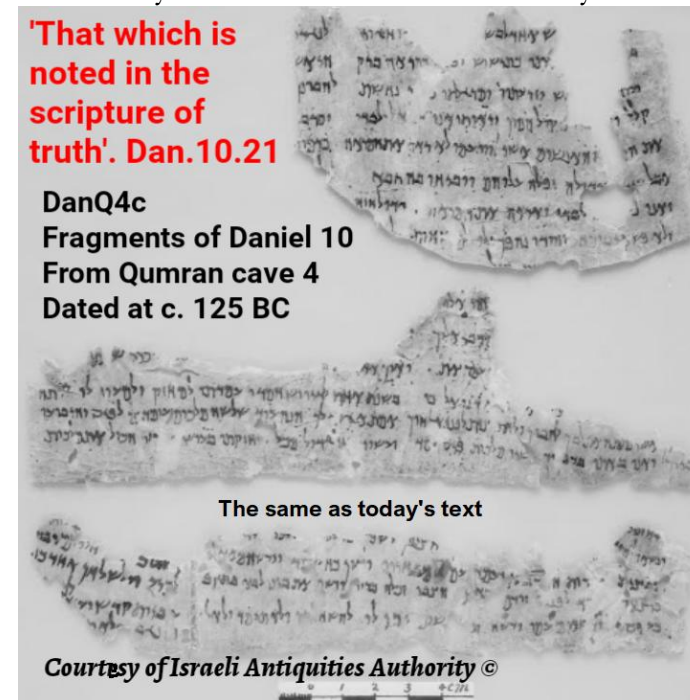
Many point to the different translations of the Bible into English or read their texts in parallel and claim that there is such great confusion it is impossible from them to know God's meaning.



But while we have reservations about the accuracy or wisdom of many modern Bible paraphrases, preferring the precision, clarity and literal faithfulness of the Authorised Version, even the modern paraphrases share the same basic emphasis and their message is absolutely plain.

'For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Messiah died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures' 1 Corinthians 15.3-4

Others assert there are many differences between versions of the ancient manuscripts of the New Testament and the Tenach, the Old Testament that belongs to and is also preserved by the Jews. But the small differences in the weaker texts pose no danger at all to the Gospel.¹ The Qur'an faces similar challenges, why else would the Caliph Uthman burn many copies, much to the dismay of the Muhafizeen of his day?²



The basic issue at the root of this question is, does God change? When God speaks, can his Word change or be changed by the corruption of men? Is God then like us, does He also mutate & decay?

¹ strateias.org/TBSWord.pdf much more on this here

² strateias.org/satan

The Bible is absolute in its response.

'For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.' Malachi 3.1

'God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM' Exodus 3.14

'The Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.' James 1.17

Man often seeks to corrupt God's Word to cover his sin. This phenomenon first evidenced itself in Eden, when Eve misquoted the command by underplaying the liberty of the provision, truncating the warning and strengthening the strictness of the prohibition (Gen.2.16-7 vs 3.2-3). By the time of the New Testament, corrupters took trouble to counterfeit Paul's epistles, so that he was obliged to sign his letters personally as the proof of authenticity (2 Thss.2.2). False prophets often greatly outnumbered the true, so before Ahab, Micaiah alone was opposed by 400 false prophets, Elijah by 850 and Jeremiah by innumerable flatterers and seducers (1 Ki.22.4, 18.19, Jer.23.9,11+). Irenaeus similarly complained of the vast diversity and number of Gnostic heretics (Adv.Her.1.22). **Numbers have never been a good guide to spiritual safety.**