

The "Originals" were written mainly in Hebrew (OT) and Greek (NT). These originals were used extensively by Jews, and by Christians in the early churches. As they wore them out or damaged them, they made copies to preserve the words of God. We call the copies of the copies of the copies, manuscripts. The originals are no longer in existence and haven't been for around 1800 years. No one living today has seen them. In Jesus' day all that they had were copies of the Old Testament books. They did not have "originals" yet they called them "scriptures." All that we have today are copies of copies of copies, etc. Some of them date as far back as A.D. 200, but most are later than that. There are thousand of partial copies and manuscripts available for examination. Most do not date back past A.D. 300. In most cases, not all, but mostly, the only reason that we have the very early manuscripts is because they are corrupt. The church ignored them or rejected them. Their very corruption ensured their survival.

BASIC CHART ON THE BIBLE'S ORIGIN AND PRESERVATION