

was copied again and copied again and copied again, until you come down to the copies we have in Seminary. <sup>What</sup> ~~But~~ we have of these is a copy of a copy of a copy and so on back to the original writing, and it is the original writing that was inspired. Well what's the use of all this. Why believe in inspiration if all you have is a copy of a copy of a copy of a copy of this word that was inspired? Well, in the first place the question isn't what is the use of it, the question is what is the fact? And this is the fact. Our doctrine is that God inspires the original writings in writing down that original book, and what we have today represents the original only in so far as it copies exactly what was in the original. And it is very, very difficult to copy and recopy and recopy and recopy and to keep it the same as it was in the original. Changes almost inevitably creep in when you copy and copy...

## 14. (1/4)

...the N.T. we have Greek manuscripts in the 4th century and the 5th century A.D., hundreds of them and a very few (1/2)

But from those early centuries we have hundreds of manuscripts of the Bible, and we can compare these ~~things~~ <sup>then,</sup> check them and see what errors have come in to some of them. The amount of material we have to see what the original is is perfectly tremendous. Now with the Hebrew we don't have as much material as we have in Greek. Our earliest Hebrew manuscripts except for one, come from the 9th or 10th century A.D. We have one copy of Isaiah just found last year which perhaps comes from the 7th century B.C. But all the other copies of our Hebrew Bible come from the 9th and 10th century A.D. And later. And from that back to the time when it was originally written is many, many centuries. It has been copied, copied, and recopied.

And yet the accuracy of our Hebrew Bible far surpasses that of any other book from antiquity that has been copied and recopied and recopied, and recopied.

Let me give you an interesting illustration of that.