

to be written on tables of stone and these tables to be preserved in a room that would be free from changes of temperature or wind or anything else that would cause it to chip away and change an "r" into an "s" or make other similar changes in the writing. God did not choose to do this. The manuscripts of the OT° and the NT° were copied and copied and recopied thousands of times before they were printed. God did not prevent errors from coming in to copying them.

We have far more material for the study of the original text of the Bible than of any other book from ancient times. We can compare manuscripts and get much closer to the original than in any other book. The statement is sometimes made that there are hundreds of thousands (get a figure from Green's Introduction) of variations between the manuscript manuscripts of the OT°. On examination, however, we find that more than 95% of these errors consist of minor spelling variations and make no more difference to the thought than the question whether we spell "labor" "labor" as is done in America, or "labour" as is customary in England. God has not permitted any errors to come in in the passing on of the Scripture that would affect any vital doctrine. Yet He has permitted variations to come in.

*Codex Beza 5th cent. (or 6th)*  
 One of our very earliest manuscripts says that when Peter was delivered from prison he went down ~~a certain number of~~ <sup>seven</sup> steps (get precise evidence from Greek NT°) and note how many manuscripts give this reading. The most ancient manuscripts do not mention his going down the steps or give the number of them. It is an interesting question whether the prison had these steps or not, and there is no way at present to prove it. ~~However,~~ It, ~~however~~ however, makes no difference whatever to our belief whether this particular prison had steps in front of it or not. *Acts 12:10*

In the OT° there are statements made about many kings in which it says that such and such a king ~~was~~ was a certain age when he became king and he reigned so many years. This summary is given at the beginning of the account of the reign of many of the kings. The phrase in the OT° that he was a certain age when he became king is literally "he was a son of so many years when he ~~was~~ reigned" (give find a good ~~instance~~ instance of this). However, when it tells about the