

In the fourteenth century there was a Venetian who was in prison in Genoa and there he dictated a ~~sorry~~ story of his travels to the East, in French. And this was written in French. And the story of Marco Polo was copied in maybe sixty, seventy manuscripts altogether, and a few people read it, ~~not~~ but most people thought that it was not very dependable. About fifty years after Marco Polo, an Englishman, Sir John Mandeville, also wrote a book in French, and of this book there are over three hundred manuscripts in existence. We have translations of it into English, Latin, German, Irish, Spanish, ~~and~~ Czechish, Danish, Italian, all over Europe for a couple of centuries. Sir John Mandeville was widely read ~~about~~ with his stories about his trip to the East, and Marco Polo was comparatively neglected. And then it was found that Sir John Mandeville took, like the supposed Pentateuchal writers, like the men who are supposed to have combined the Pentateuch, he took a little from this account of travel, then he took a little from this account, and then he took a little from this account, and he wove it all together and he formed his work out of it. And today there are probably a thousand people /who are familiar with Marco Polo to one who is familiar with Sir John Mandeville. And Sir Henry Ewell (sp?) in his book, on The Book of Sir Marco Polo the book of Sir Marco Polo says, "With all the intrinsic interest of Marco Polo's book it may perhaps be doubted if it would have continued to exercise such fascination on many minds through successive generations were it not for the difficult questions which it ~~suggested~~ suggests. It is a great book of puzzles, whilst our confidence in the man's veracity is such that we feel certain every puzzle has a solution. Is the Pentateuch, are the Gospels, is the ~~Ribbed~~ Bible like Sir John Mandeville, something put together by a process like this, which we cannot trust, or do we know the Author, and know that though there may be much we don't understand, much that is difficult, it is the ~~Word~~ Word of God, and though there are many puzzles, we can be confident that every puzzle has a solution.