

"... the lying pen of the scribes"

(Jer 8:8) How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain^{H8267}. (KJV)

English translators of the scriptures often insert the word 'vain' in **Jeremiah 8:8**. Regarding the KJV bible, the Kings demand was that all texts conform to Calvin's theology, and was made final by Richard Bancroft – the King's overseeing editor. A less biased writing reads as follows,

(Jer 8:8) How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us?' But in fact, the lying pen of the scribes has produced a deception^{H8267}. (BSB)

H8267 refers to the Hebrew term sheqer שקר, meaning – deception, what deceives, disappoints and betrays one, fraudulent, a lie (BDB).



Jer 8:8 ... לשקר עשה עט שקר ספרים

Image courtesy of: IAA
4Q70 Jeremiah^a
Plate 1109 B-368269

Note the unusual insertions of **verses 7:30-31** above and **verses 7:31-8:2** left of the main text. This may have been a scribal error which was corrected later, as inferred by the different writing style by another. **4Q70** is noteworthy for its original format resembling what appears as the format seen in the modern day Talmud.

The scribes had profaned the inspired words of scripture by inserting and changing it to read as they desired. Jeremiah was inspired to record their acts and the resulting captivity. Such attempts to change the scriptures has not stopped over time. Revisionists of both Jewish and Christian faiths continue to alter the texts from the original writings.

Today we have similar but not exactly the same scriptures as was originally written, some by fallable interpreters, others by reason of agenda.

One source nearest the original writings can be found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. There, one may find the truth... but alas, even some of them have also been corrupted by latter scribes as witnessed in the newer Hebrew texts.

Although older fragments and items have been found since, the oldest to latest know dates of the Qumran site findings are from the last three centuries BCE and the first century CE. Latter findings date as far back as the 8th century BCE. So what are some reliable texts for us today?

For the most accurate English readings available today, we suggest Old Testaments based upon the Ben Chayyim Hebrew texts, whose copies preserved the Proto-Hebrew interpretations [this info can be found in the front of your bibles], and several New Testament Hebrew/Aramaic/Majority Text to English translations including: *1535 Coverdale Bible*, *The Messianic Aleph TAV Interlinear Scriptures*, *the Koren Tanakh*, *J.P. Green's The Interlinear Bible*, and *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, among others.



So much can be lost in translation. As a help, it is advisable to always use a good lexicon when reading scriptures written in our modern languages.



References

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