

# How Did We Get The Bible?

Part 1

R. Brown  
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## Why is the Bible So Important?

- It is the primary means of learning about God and His relationship to mankind.
- It gives us a specific foundation for what we believe about God.
- It gives us the truth about God and His world around us better than any other source.
- It provides specific direction for us to do the will of God.

## Misconceptions about the Bible

- **The Bible came as a complete book at a specific time.**

Actually, it developed over a period of 1000 years.

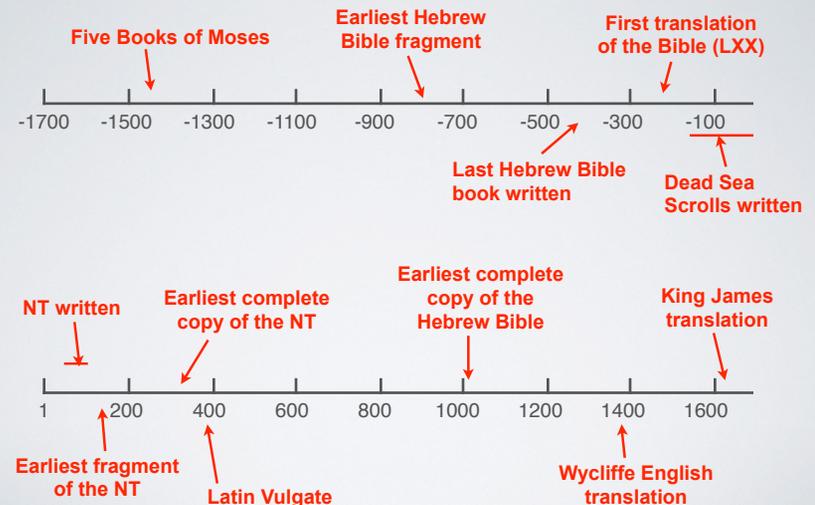
- **The Bible was a book dictated by God from the sky.**

Actually, it came by means of human beings.

- **The Bible is just a “systematic theology” about God.**

Actually, it describes a wide variety of times, places, cultures, and themes.

## Brief History of the Bible



## How the Bible Came to Us



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# What is Revelation?

- **Revelation** is the revealing of the mind and nature of God.
- **General Revelation** is revelation of God to all people, through the physical creation and through the conscience of man.
- **Special Revelation** is revelation contained in the Bible, which has more detail of the mind and nature of God.

# General Revelation

Attributes of God in General Revelation:

- **His Glory**  
The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands (Psalms 19:1)
- **His divine nature and existence**  
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, ... (Romans 1:20)
- **His control of nature**  
and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons ... (Acts 14:17)
- **His holiness and moral standards**  
So, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, instinctively do what the law demands, ... (Romans 2:14)

# Special Revelation

The Bible itself gives examples of different kinds of special revelation:

- **Dreams and visions**  
... If there is a prophet among you from the LORD, I make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. (Numbers 12:6)
- **Angels**  
But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: (Luke 2:10)
- **Prophets**  
The word of the LORD came to me: (Jeremiah 2:1)
- **Jesus Christ**  
No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son—the One who is at the Father's side—He has revealed Him. (John 1:18)



## What is Inspiration?

- **Inspiration** is the process of giving the message of God in a way understood by mankind.
- **Inspiration** can be initially either oral or written, but eventually it all was written.
- **Inspiration** came through human authors within their own culture and language, but guided by God.

## Inspiration in the Bible

- **All Scripture is inspired by God**  
All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16)
- **All Scripture came through men, by the Holy Spirit**  
... no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)
- **The words, and not just the thoughts, are inspired**  
We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ... (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- **Both the Old and New Testaments are Scripture**  
For the Scripture says: Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, the worker is worthy of his wages. (1 Timothy 5:18)  
  
... for the worker is worthy of his wages. ... (Luke 10:7)

## Questions on Inspiration

- **Is inspiration the dictation of words?**  
Usually no, unless God is being quoted.
- **Does use of human authors minimize inspiration?**  
All Scripture came through men, but under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- **Does the use of other documents minimize inspiration?**  
... they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, (Luke 1:2)  
  
... as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' (Acts 17:28)  
  
And Enoch ... prophesied about them: Look! The Lord comes with thousands of His holy ones (Jude 1:14)



## What is a Canon?

- The word “canon” comes from Greek with the meaning of reed, rule, or cane.
- That is, the canon is a rule or measure of which books belong in the Bible.
- Therefore the process of determining the canon is a process of collecting and defining the books that have the authority to be in the Bible.

## What is the Canon for Different Communities?

	Torah	Prophets & Writings	New Testament	Apocrypha	Other books
● Samaritan	Red				
● Jewish	Red	Orange			
● Protestant	Red	Orange	Light Blue		
● Catholic	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Green	
● Other	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Green	Blue

## Guidelines For a Canon

- **Is the book genuine (no forgery) and accurate historically (no errors)?**  
Many other books are forgeries or have clear errors.
- **Does the book have prophetic or apostolic authority?**  
Mark and Hebrews has apostolic authority, even though there is no clear apostolic author.  
“The Jews and their priests have resolved that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, until a trustworthy prophet should arise,” (1 Maccabees 14:41)  
“Take up the epistle of the blessed Paul the apostle” (1 Clement 47:1)

## Guidelines For a Canon

- **Is the book validated by Christ or the apostles?**  
Almost every book from the Old Testament is quoted as authoritative. No apocryphal books are quoted at all, although a few other books are also quoted.
- **Is a book in the Old Testament accepted by the Jewish community?**  
None of the Apocryphal books are in the Old Testament.
- **Is a book in the New Testament accepted by a consensus of the early Church?**  
Early church councils recognized, but not determined the New Testament canon.

## What About Circular Arguments?

- **Are the guidelines for the canon circular?**

That is, to be consistent with the teachings of the apostles, the canon determines the teachings of the apostles.

- **The guidelines are not circular for several reasons:**

Forgery and historical accuracy eliminates most ancient books.

Some ancient books do not have universal qualities, such as moral conviction (shaped by conscience) and personal convictions (changed lives).

Today the canon is fixed, because only the early church had a memory of the actual teaching of the apostles.

## Extra-Biblical Writings

- **Apocrypha**

Examples of books in the Apocrypha are Sirach (Ben Sira), or 1,2 Maccabees.

The Apocrypha may have great literary and even inspirational value, but is not part of the Hebrew Bible or New Testament. The Apocrypha is accepted as canonical in Catholic and some other Bibles.

- **Pseudepigrapha**

Examples of books in the Pseudepigrapha are 1, 2 Enoch, Assumption of Moses, and Jubilees.

The Pseudepigrapha is a body of popular Jewish literature from about 2nd century BC to 1st century AD that are not included in almost any Bible.

## Recognition of the Canon

	Old Testament		New Testament
↑ Meets guidelines of canon	Isaiah	<b>Canonical</b>	Romans
	1 Samuel		Matthew
	Ecclesiastes		Jude
	Esther		2 Peter
	<b>Non-Canonical</b>		
	Sirach (Ben Sira)		Shepherd
	1 Maccabees		Didache
	1 Enoch		1 Clement
	2 Maccabees		Gospel of Mary

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