


How We Got The Bible



The Bible


Plenary /Verbal Inspiration
I Corinthians 2:12,13

Ancient Writing Materials

Inscriptions in Egypt dating 4,000 – 5000 BC
Babylonia 3750 BC
Code of Hammurabi 1780 BC – 300 years before Moses & about 100 years after Abraham
Palestine Governors letters 1500 BC
Moses easily could have authored O.T.

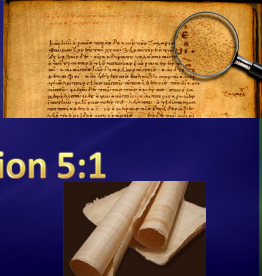
Ancient Writing Materials

Stone – Exodus 31:18
Clay – Ezekiel 4:1
Wood- Habakkuk 2:2; Isaiah 30:8




Ancient Writing Materials

Leather- Jeremiah 36:23; 2 Timothy 4:13
Papyrus- Revelation 5:1



Ancient Writing Materials

Vellum- fine grained lambskin, kidskin or calfskin. For nearly 1,000 years preferred writing material.



Languages of The Bible

Old Testament-

Hebrew & Aramaic

New Testament-

Koine Greek

Book of Hebrews- Hebrew

Manuscripts of The Old Testament

Over 10,000 Manuscripts

Some date from 250 B.C.

About 150 years After Malachi

3rd Century B.C. Translated into Greek – Septuagint Version

Luke 4:16-20

Ancient Versions of The Old Testament

Massorite Text

Samaritan Pentateuch

Septuagint

Aramaic Targums

Syriac Peshitta

Latin Versions

Dead Sea Scrolls

Manuscripts of The Bible

No Other Book is Close to Bible on Number or Early Dating of Copies

Average Secular work survives on handful of manuscripts – N.T. Many

Average Gap between Original & Earliest Copy over 1,000 years for other books

Compare:

The Gallic Wars, Julius Caesar- 10 Manuscripts, earliest 1,000 years after the autograph

Pliny the Younger's Natural History – 7 manuscripts, 1,300 years after the autograph

Herodotus' History – 8 manuscripts, 1,350 years elapsed

Plato – 7 manuscripts, 1,200 years after the autograph

Tacitus' Annals- 20 manuscripts, 1,000 years after the autograph

Compare:

Homer's Iliad – 643 Copies – 764 disputed lines of text – 40 Lines in ALL N.T. Manuscripts

NO Surviving Manuscripts of any of William Shakespeare's 37 plays (1600's) and scholars have been forced to fill some gaps

N.T. has a fragment within one generation from original composition, whole books within about 100 years from autograph

Most of the N.T. in less than 200 years

Entire N.T. within 250 years from date of completion

Manuscripts of The New Testament

Two Forms:

Uncials – written in capital letters only

Minuscules – or small hand, called Cursives

Several Thousand, Dated 9-5th century

Uncials most important

Manuscripts of The New Testament

Three Prominent Uncials:

Vatican Manuscript -4th Century

Sinaitic Manuscript – 4th Century

Alexandrian Manuscript – 5th Century

Manuscripts of The New Testament

Others of Significance:

Manuscript of Ephraem 5th Century

Codex Bexae- Greek/Latin Early 5th Century

Syrian Versions- 2nd Century

Latin Versions- 4th Century

Manuscripts of The New Testament

Others of Significance:

Egyptian Versions

Armenian Version

Gothic Version

Ethiopic Version

Arabic Version

Uninspired Writings Close to The Autographs

Second Century A.D.

Justin Martyr

Tatian

Irenaeus

Clement of Alexandria

Uninspired Writings Close to The Autographs

Third Century A.D.

Origen

Tertullian

Cyprian

Fourth Century A.D.

Eusebius of Caesarea

Jerome

Why Didn't God Preserve The Originals of the New Testament?

Mark of Divine Wisdom?
Single Document Claimed to be Original & it Was Not...
No Way of Checking!
Who would be the one to possess it?
N.T. Several Thousand Copies dating from 2nd Century...
Any Variations Obvious

Reconstructed Text

Textual Criticism:
Higher Criticism- Authorship, Dates, Composition, etc. of books of the Bible
Lower Criticism- Text, Forms of Words, etc.

Translation

Compare available manuscripts, evaluate on basis of age & proven reliability
Textual Variations:
Trivial - no major impact
Substantial – 1) Little or no consequence to the text; 2) Have substantial bearing on text

Translation

Textual Variations:
Trivial - no major impact
Substantial – 1) Little or no consequence to the text; 2) Have substantial bearing on text
3 Manuscripts do NOT have Mark 16:9-20 – Truths taught elsewhere, does not change the Gospel

The Canon

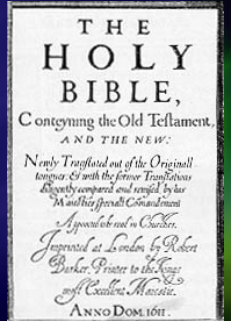
66 Books Recognized as Inspired.
Apocryphal Books – included by Catholic Church – not by God.
Books Written Shortly After N.T.
Times some claim to be inspired.
Universally rejected by careful Bible students.

Bible as we Know it Today

Earliest English Versions:
Wycliffe & Tyndale – 1525, 1384
Matthew's Bible – 1537
The Great Bible – 1539
Geneva Bible (Breeches Bible) 1557
Rheims-Douai Translation- 1582, 1609, 1610

Bible as we Know it Today

Earliest English
Versions:
King James Version
1611
"Authorized" by
King James 1st –
NOT BY GOD!



We Can Be Assured What We Have Available To Us IS THE WORD OF GOD!

1 Peter 1:25 NKJV "25 But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."

When we hold a
faithful rendering of
the Greek & Hebrew
texts in our hands, we
are holding the TRUE
WORD OF GOD!

Unless we place our trust
in God & His inspired
word, we can never enjoy
the Blessings He has
promised to those who
love Him & keep His
commandments!