



HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE? (Part 1 & 2)

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Good morning Church! Do we truly believe the bible and that all the things it says took place? If so, then would we be able to share our faith to someone who doesn't trust the bible? What is the Bible? According to the History Channel or a quick Google search ...

- The **BIBLE** is the holy scripture of the Christian religion, purporting to tell the history of the Earth from its earliest creation to the spread of Christianity in the first century A.D.
- The English word BIBLE is derived from Koinē Greek: τὰ βιβλία, romanized: ta biblia, meaning "the books" (singular βιβλίον, biblion).

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." **Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 1400 BC**

"He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; 8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God." **Psalms 78:5-8, Historical Psalm of the 8th Century BC**

- God had a specific purpose for His Word: to COMMUNICATE God's Will to His people.

Crucial to The Reliability Test: #1: WHAT ABOUT PROPHECY?

"knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." **2 Peter 1:20-21**

- Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies during His earthly ministry, death, burial and resurrection.

Crucial to The Reliability Test:

#2: KEY FACTORS FOR DIVINE SCRIPTURE (Canon Inerrancy)

1. It must claim to have the same kind of AUTHORITY as the Old Testament writings.
2. It must be regarded as God's words by the JEWISH people from whom it originated.
3. It must be considered to be Scripture by JESUS or the New Testament AUTHORS.

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, quoting Deuteronomy 25:4 & Luke 10:7

Saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."

Matthew 7:29

"Now we understand that you know everything, and there's no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God." John 16:30

4. It must contain teachings CONSISTENT with the rest of the Bible.

"Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens" Psalm 119:89

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever" Is 40:8

"I the Lord do not change" Malachi 3:6

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" Matthew 24:35

Crucial to The Reliability Test:

#3: WHAT ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY?

- Over the last 100 years over 25,000 separate sites have confirmed the Bible – not one of the 25,000 sites has proven wrong!
- Many events in the Bible are found in sources OUTSIDE of the Bible.
- Archaeology does not necessarily prove the Bible is TRUE, but it does prove that it is reliable in history and geography.

1. NUMBERS (copies) & AGE (time difference)

(Shorter the time frame of the original completion and earliest copy)

EARLIEST BOOKS	APPROX. COPIES	COMPLETED	COPY	DIFFERENCE
Plato's Tetrologies	7	60 BC	AD 900	1,000 years
Caesar-Gallic Wars	10	400 BC	AD 900	1,500 years
Homer's Iliad	643	900 BC	400 BC	500 years
New Testament	24,000 (5,800 GK)	AD 100	AD 125-200	25 years
Old Testament	10,000	425 BC	100 BC	325 years

Ex: A fragment of John 18 dates to AD 125 (1st generation)

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a King I am. For this I have been born and (for this) I have come into the world so that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears of me my voice." Said to him Pilate, "What is truth?" and this having said, again he went out unto the Jews and said to them, "I find not one fault in him."

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the Jews, "For us it is not permitted to kill anyone," so that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spoke signifying what kind of death he was going to die. Entered therefore again into the Praetorium Pilate and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Thou art king of the Jews?"

The Ryland's Library Papyrus P52 is an original Egyptian manuscript of the Gospel of John translated in Greek. The front contains parts of seven lines from John 18: 31-33. The back contains seven lines from John 18: 37-38. The papyrus has been dated to between 100 AD and 125 AD.

Jesus' death is dated to between 30 AD and 33 AD, which means that this translation of the Gospel of John was already being circulated in Egypt as early as 70 years after Jesus' crucifixion.

Ex: In 1844, 43 leaves of a 4th-century biblical codex

2. The NEW TESTAMENT Gospels are 1ST Century Records.

- Mark is believed to be written first between AD 60-75
- Matthew, Luke and John not far behind as latest AD 85-96
- The NEW TESTAMENT Gospels give an early 1st Century PALESTINIAN Jesus of Nazareth.

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

2 Peter 1:16

Professor Edwin Yamahchi (Christian apologist, Japanese-American historian & academic)

"When people begin religious movements, it's often not until many generations later that people record things about them, but the fact is we have better historical documentation for Jesus than for the founder of any other ancient religion."

Dr. Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*, details 39 ancient sources documenting the life of Jesus, from which he enumerates more than 100 reported facts concerning Jesus' life, teachings, crucifixion, and resurrection.

3. OUTSIDE SOURCES Refer to The Historical Jesus.

- **Philo of Alexandria**, Jewish theologian, philosopher & historian born 20 BC
- **Tacitus**, a Roman historian refers to Jesus, born in AD 56

- **Suetonius**, a political writer and one of his critics refer to him, born in AD 69
- **Flavius Josephus** a Jewish aristocrat, Jewish & Roman historian born c. AD 37/38

*“From Artaxerxes to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of failure of the exact succession of the prophets”, **Writings on the Apocrypha***

*“Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man for he was a doer of wonderful works. A teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. When Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” **Antiquities of the Jews, AD 93***



Cornelius Tacitus

He said Christ suffered the extreme penalty [crucified] during the reign of Tiberius by Pontius Pilate.



Gaius Suetonius

He said Christianity was a new religion and that it was composed of people called Christians who followed Christ.