How we got our bible.

Old Testament

This study is for serious Bible students. It basically shows how the Old Testament was put together, who did it, and how the Hebrew and the Greek texts were translated.

Why do we believe the Bible is the Word of God?

(the Catholic Church no longer stands by the Bible being the Word of God. They say it’s useful for knowledge but not accurate and some statements are not true.)

ie-John 3:16, the Catholic Church says this verse is the opinion of the author.

There are other religions that do not believe the Bible is the Word of God.

There has been much controversy about the Bible. Disputes over who actually wrote the Bible. Others have said that some of the Bible verses are inspired and some are not.

Many Christians are not aware of how we got our Bible. The following study pertains to the Old Testament.

Questions:

Where did the texts come from?

How did the Canon get defined?

Are the Manuscripts reliable ?

Which version is the best?

How do we know the Bible is the Word of God?

(we will answer these questions as we go through the study.)

**Since 1963**

Divorce rates among Christians have come to equal the unbelievers.

There has been a break up of family units.

The acceptance of homosexuality.

Teenage pregnancies have been on the rise.

Abortion was not only sanctioned but has accelerated.

Crime rates continue to grow.

Why?—Because the Bible along with Prayer was outlawed in schools and our culture .

At the first introduction *of Satan* in the book of Genesis (3:1), he presents a question about the Word of God. He says “did God really say”?

He has always inspired *his followers* to question God’s Word and today he has made great progress as Churches that once stood on the Word of God no longer accept it.

The Presbyterian Church , the Methodist Church, the Episcopalian Church, the Catholic Church, and others are now disputing *the inerrancy* of the Scriptures.

Some Churches use paraphrases to accompany their messages rather than the translations.

Paraphrases are *opinions* or the author’s *definition*.

Translations are *accurate definitions* of the known manuscripts.

**2 Timothy 3:16- says** *“all scripture is God breathed (inspired)-and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

**The message of the Bible.**

**Hebrews 1:1** says *“ the message of the Bible is God’s message to man, communicated at many times and in various ways”.*

(you will see the different ways God communicates to us and some of you will be surprised.)

The Central Message is the story of salvation, **the bringer of salvation** , and the heirs of salvation.

**The bringer** of salvation is Jesus Christ .

**The way of salvation** is God’s grace, calling forth from His people a response of faith and obedience.

**The heirs of salvation** are the Israel of God and the Church of God.

**The Bible is:**

**Infallible**—meaning it is a consequence of Divine inspiration and therefore reliable and trustworthy to those who search of God’s truth.

**Inerrant**—which means the Bible contains neither errors of act, (material errors), nor internal contradictions. It is more concerned with the accurate transmission of the details of revelation.

**The Bible itself is the ultimate syllabus.-** (study of it’s main parts.)

Book of Romans --- Doctrine---*- Soteriology* –( Salvation- )

1st & 2nd Corinthians—Reproof

Galatians -------------- Correction of error.

Ephesians------------- Doctrine------*-Ecclesiology*—(Church)

Philippians------------ Reproof.

Colossians ----------- Correction.

-1st & 2nd Thessalonians—Doctrine--- *Eschatology.* ( End times)

**It’s Integrated-**

Peter includes *Paul’s* writings –(2nd Peter 3: 1-16.)

Paul cites *Luke* 10:7 along with Deut 25:4.

Scripture declares it’s *Divine Origin* and Integrity – (1st Cor 4:1; 2 Cor 5:20; 1st Thess 2:13; Rev 1:1-3; 22:9-10,18)

Jesus preapproved the role of the *Holy Spirit*. -(John 14:26)

(It all ties together, you either accept the whole of it or reject it, but don’t accept part of it because it has integrity.)

**Process:**

Men were specifically *chosen* and prepared by God. (Jer 1:5; Gal 1:15.)

Men wrote exactly what *God* wanted.-(in their own style )

The N.T. is the O.T*. revealed.*

The O.T. is the N.T*. concealed.*

(it’s one book, integrated by design.)

An example, in the O.T. Moses lifts up the Brass Serpent and all those bitten by snakes would look at it and be *healed*. (it makes no sense but when you get to the N.T., Jesus explains it. He says that when He is lifted up, (at the cross), all who look at Him ,(in Salvation), *would be healed.*

(now it makes sense.)

**The Canon-**

Canon is from the Greek word, ‘kanon’, which means for *‘rule’* or a

‘standard *of measurment.’*

The concept began with the Torah ,(Torh), which was placed in the Ark of

the Covenant. (Exodus 34:7, Deut 31:24-26)

**It’s based on two convictions:**

a. The words of *Scripture* are God’s own Words.

b. Man simply *transmitted* what he received from God.

**Prophetic Scriptures.**

According to J. Barton Payne, Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy.

There are *8362* verses of prophecy.

There are *1817* verses of predictions.

There are *737* separate matters.

They authenticate the Scriptures as being valid. (from God )

Mathematically, 8 prophecies completed in one person is beyond comprehension. The following are just some of the prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ:

Micah 5:2—born in *Bethlehem.*-probabilities= 1:1,000,000.

Zech 9:9 --*-riding* on a donkey. “ = 1:100

Zech 11:12—*30 pieces* of silver. “ = 1:1000

Zech 13:6 – *Wounds* in His hands. “ = 1:1000

Isaiah 53:7- No defense,-innocent. “ = 1:1000

Isaish 53:9- Died with *the wicked.* “ = 1:1000

Psalm 22:16- Crucified. “ = 1:10,000

(reads as if dictated !)

Daniel 9:26- Day of *death* of Messiah. “ ?

Some calculations 1:10 to the 28th power.)==incalculable.

**Man’s Role:**

Human writers presented *linguistic* styles but contributed nothing theologically.

(in fact the integrity design of the entirety of scripture manifests a design which anticipates *hostile jamming.)*

In other words, where is the chapter on *Baptism,?* or where is the chapter on *Salvation?*

(if you were going to put a message in a book so no one could alter it you would spread it out over *the entire book* and thereby compliment itself.)

Isaiah 28 says “it will be line by line, precept by precept. In other words, ‘here a little-there a little.'

**Authentication**

Some say *Moses* didn’t write it, but *Jesus* authenticates Moses.

(John 5:45-47, Luke 24: 27-44)

In the first eleven chapters there are 100 quotes in the N.T. , of which Jesus quotes at least six times.

(if you reject the Torah you have to reject the N.T.)

The N.T. quotes over *165 times* from the Torah.-(Jesus quotes at least

six times.)

The N.T. quotes over *200* *allusions* from the Torah.

Jesus speaking on the road to Emmaus spoke in the *3rd person*.-Lk 24:27.

*Inerrancy*= no errors of fact nor internal contradictions, (in the originals).

*Infallibility*==it is the subjective consequence of the Divine inspiration, it’s

reliable , *trustworthy* , to all who turn to it in search of God’s Truth.

Moses was 3500 years after creation and that's why some say that he didn’t write the Book of Genesis. However, there are 3 methods by which he compiled the Book.

1. He received direct *revelation* from God.
2. He received *oral traditions* from past generations that were past down through the centuries in various families.
3. He took the actual records from the past and formed them according to the *Holy Spirit*.

The Patriarchal records handed down from father to son and others.

1. The generations of the heavens and earth (Gen 1:1-2:4)

(either from Adam or Divine revelation to Moses)

1. The book of the generations of Adam, (Gen 2:4-5:1), by Adam.
2. The generations of Noah, (Gen 5:1-6:9), who knew all the previous patriarchs except Adam, Seth and Enoch.
3. The generations of the sons of Noah. (Gen 6:9-10:1)
4. The generations of Shem, (Gen 10:1-11:10). Shem took responsibility to record and keep records.
5. The generations of Terah. (Gen 11:10-11:27)
6. The generations of Isaac. (which includes the generations of his brother Ishmael ) . (Gen 11:27-25:19)
7. The generations of Jacob. ( which includes two documents from Esau). (Gen 25:19-37:2)
8. The generations of the sons of Jacob, by Joseph. (Gen 37:2-Exodus 1:1)

**Terms**

Bible, derived through *Latin* from the *Greek* **into regional** languages.

The word ‘Biblia’ is a diminutive of ‘Biblios’ which denotes any kind of

written *document* but originally one written on *‘papyrus’*.

Testament, from the *Latin* ,‘testamentum,’ which is from the Greek word ‘diatheke,’ which in most occurrences means,‘*Covenant****’***,rather than testament.

Hence the Bible contains *Two Covenants* ***.***

The Covenants were initiated in blood. (it’s solidifies the agreement or

contract between the parties.)

**1st Covenant, O.T- Law**, (b’rith). Exodus 24:8, Moses took the blood,

sprinkled it on the people and said, *“ this is the blood of the*

*Covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with*

*all these words”*

**2nd Covenant, N.T., Grace**. Matt 26:27*-“then He took the cup, gave*

*thanks and offered it to them saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This*

*is My blood’ of the new Covenant’, which is poured out for many*

*for the forgiveness of sins”*

**The Old Testament, (Covenant).**

Torah ,(Hebrew). Penteteunch, (Greek). First 5 books of Moses.

The *Prophets*—

The *Writings* –(Daniel was in the writings in the Hebrew O.T., and not in the Prophet section as it is in most Bibles.)

The O.T. books are arranged in three divisions:

**The Law**—First 5 books

**The Prophets** fall into two divisions: **Former prophets** ,Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings; **Latter prophets**, Isaiah, Jeremiah,, Ezekiel, and the Book of Twelve Prophets.

**The Writings**, which contains Psalms, Proverbs, and Job, then the five Scrolls, namely Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther and finally Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

**Greek Language**

Classic ,(High Greek), very expressive with use of participles which were often untranslatable. It was characterized by the culture at it’s zenith.

The Greek, (Koine), was spoke in regional dialects, was replaced by Hellenistic or Common Greek.

(Alexander the Great wanted one language instead of all the regional

dialects and he instituted the Hellenistic, (common), Greek to be a

common language. (it is simpler and less elegant than Classic.)

This is the Greek in which the N.T. was written .

**Linguistics**

Jesus spoke the common language of *Aramaic* (Mk 15:34). He also spoke *Greek* , which was the business language. He also spoke *Hebrew*,

which was the religious language used in the Temple and Synagogues.

**Non Canonical Books**

Apocrypha means *‘hidden’*. (from 300 BC to 70 AD.)

(14 of these books were included in the O.T., in the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the O.T. These books were later embraced by the Council of Trent in 1546, (a Roman Catholic Church Council known as Vatican I).

Pseudepigrapha means *‘false inscription’* . From 200 BC to 200 AD- there were 54 of these books, including Jubilees and I Enoch.-(Pseudo names.)

**Old Testament-(Tanach)**

**1. Original Hebrew. The *Vorlage* Manuscript, which was the Torah.**

(pulled together in the days of Ezra & Nehemiah around 500 BC)

**2. The Septuagint (LXX), the Greek Translation of the O.T.**

285-270 BC, (72 scholars at Alexandra, Egypt, 6 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, translated the O.T Hebrew into Greek.)

This is the *primary* text quoted in the N.T.

The Greek language was the business language at the time of Jesus. Jesus spoke Greek, (as well as Aramaic and Hebrew).

Aramaic was the *common* language in Israel and Hebrew was only

spoke in *religious* formality.

The LXX was the early Church bible. Paul and the other Apostles

all taught from the *Greek* translation.

Justin Martyr (AD 160) said he regards the LXX version the only reliable text of the O.T. He said where it differs from the Hebrew text, the Jews corrupted the text to obscure the prophetic testimony to Jesus as being the Christ.

The LXX contained the Apocrypha.

**3. The Masoretic Text**

-Around *900* AD, a group of Jews known as the Masorets, a group

of scribes of Tiberias that were charged to preserve the O.T. text,

made a *Hebrew* translation from the *Vorlage* manuscript. They would

not use the LXX because that was the bible the *Christians* used.

This translation was made at a time when there was no Temple,

and consequently no sacrifices, and without the Temple there could

be ‘no shedding of blood, ’so they basically became a religion of

good works.

The Masorets were the ones who put *vowels* in the Hebrew text.

The *English* translation was taken from this text rather than the LXX.

**Hidden Messages**

Proverbs 25:2 says *“it’s the glory of God to conceal a thing, but it’s the honor of kings to search out a matter”*

Rabbi Moses Cordevaro – a 16th century Rabi said “the *secrets* of the Torah are revealed in the *skipping* of the letters.”

Genesis- (Hebrew *language* is right to left).

Countries to the east of Israel write *‘right to left.’*

Countries to the west of Israel write *‘left to right.’*

(Jerusalem is the center of the earth)

**Torah**

Starting in Genesis 1:1 and you take the first T and count 49 letters to the left and you find a O and 49 again and you find R, 49 more you find H

(Torh)-*Hebrew Form*

*Exodus* same exact thing—Torh.

*Leviticus* is different-couldn’t find Torh, but taking every 7th letter (the square root of 49)-and you find *YHWH.*

*Numbers*—49 letters starts with H, then R, then O, then T- Torh spelled backwards.

*Deuteronomy* –same thing happened as in Numbers.

=The Torh *points to God* –is this by design or coincidence ?

Torah Codes: 49(7 squared ) E.L.S.

Genesis =Torh; Exodus=Torh; **Lev=YHWH;** Num=hroT ; Deut=hroT;

This shows God has *designed* the Word of God because only God could do it. He authenticates the bible to show us it’s from Him.!

The Bible is God’s message to us, written *supernaturally* and comprised of 66 books and written by *40 authors* over a span of *1600* years in 3 different languages and there is not one error in the original text, nor one contradiction.

**Other observations:**

Gen 1:29-2:9, every tree is encrypted.

Isaiah 53- the people who were at the foot of the cross are all mentioned.

Peter, Matthew, John, Andrew, Phillip, Thomas, James, James, Simon, Thaddeus, Matthias, Mary, Mary, Mary, Salome, Joseph, Annas, The man Herod, The evil Roman city, cross, Jesse-Obed.

Also noted-

‘Jeshua is My Name.’ ‘His Name’ ‘Messiah’ ‘Nazarene’ ‘Galilee’ ‘Shiloh’

‘Pharisee’ ‘Levites’ ‘Passover’ ‘Let Him be Crucified’ ‘Bread- Wine’ ‘From the Atonement Lamb’ ‘The Disciples Mourn’

--All the Apostles are named except Judas

A riddle:

The oldest man in the bible died before his father.

( Methuselah was the oldest man but his father Enoch was translated into heaven while he was alive.)

**The Hebrew Text Today**

The Codex Leningradensis, (stored in the Leningrad library). It

is used as a textual base for the popular *Hebrew* texts of today.

It was copied in *1008 AD* from texts written by Aaron ben Moses

ben Asher.

**The Samaritan Pentateuch**

Dates to the 4th Century BC. It differs from the Masoretic text in about

*6000* places, of which *1000* need to be taken seriously. Many of these

agree with the LXX against the Masoretic text. Here we have a major

*difference* in the translations.

The Samaritan Pentateuch , (Pentateuch is the Greek word for Torah)-

meaning (the first five books called the Law), dates to *1211 AD* and is

held in the John Rylands Library in England.

There is another Samaritan Pentateuch text dated 1149 AD held in the

University Library in England.-(it did not become available to scholars

until 1616 and was regarded as superior to the Masoretic text.)

**Aramaic Targums (translations).**

Aramaic became the *official* language of the Persian Empire in the

5th century BC.

The post Synagogue liturgical needs of the Jews, led to *different*

translations.

The *Onkelos* translation is high venerated.

(this translation differs from the King James translation in the book of *Genesis.* Where it says Enoch led the rebellion against God, it differs in K.J.)

After the exiles and return of the Jews into their land, they spoke *Aramaic*, and consequently the scriptures were translated into *Aramaic ..* These were then read in the synagogues. –(the trouble was in order to get the message across to the common person the translations became interpretive. ) Translators *paraphrased*, added explanatory glosses and often took *liberty*, hence they were looked down on by the religious leadership, ( because they used the Hebrew), but over time the Aramaic became the accepted practice in the Synagogues.)

= The Jonathan translation.

**The Peshita (plain or simple) text.**

An Eastern Aramaic version in common use in the Syriac Church.

It’s literary *history* is complex. -(some connect it with the Jewish 1st Century AD. Others connect it to Christian origins.)

**The Septuagint Manuscripts (LXX)**

Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinanaticus, both dated 4th century, and the

Codex Aleandrinus –dated 5th century AD.

(these are the oldest complete manuscripts we have of the Bible. They were not discovered until the 18th century. They have consequently opened much discussion and debate over some current translations of the Bible.)

**Latin Versions**

Old Latin manuscripts which were translations from the *LXX* and were in use around 150 AD. (*Tertullian* , a church father, used this version of the scriptures in 160 AD.)

The *Vulgate*, (390-405 AD). It was translated from the *LXX* and the *Hebrew*

texts known at the time. (this is before the Masoretic text 900AD.)

Pope Damasus I commissioned *Jerome* to make this translation.

It is one of the most scholarly and best translations. *Augustine* considered this version to be highly inspired, although he turned to the Hebrew text that was being used at that time for his translation.

**Dead Sea Scrolls**

The eleven caves in *Wadi* Qumran.

*600* manuscripts of which 200 are biblical.

*60,000* fragments- (85% were leather and 15% papyrus.)

Cave 4 (4Q).

There were 40,000 fragments found of which *400* are manuscripts, and *100* are biblical.- (every book except Esther was found.)

They all predate 70 AD and all agree with the *LXX* and *Vorlage* manuscripts.

They *differ* with the Masoretic text in some places.

Some Differences:

Deut 32:8. The LXX reads “angels of God”—(also in Gen 6:4.)

The Masoretic reads “according to the number of the children of Israel.”

The Dead Sea Scroll from Cave 4 agrees with the LXX.

Exodus 1:5- LXX reads 75 souls. The Masoretic reads 70.

The Dead Sea Scroll agrees with the LXX as does Acts 7:14.

Hebrews 1:6 is a quote from the LXX of Deut 32:43 “let all the angels of God worship Him”

The Masoretic text does not agree with this but the Dead Sea Scrolls do.

Isaiah 7:14

The Masoretic text says “she shall call His Name.”

The LXX and the Dead Sea Scrolls say “His Name shall be called.” -(one less consonant of the Hebrew text.)

The LXX and the Dead Sea Scrolls are 60 verses shorter than the Masoretic text.

Psalm 151 appears in the LXX and the Dead Sea Scrolls, (Cave 9), but was not found in the Masoretic.

(these are just some of the differences. There are many and that’s why we need to rely on teachers when given important studies because the average student of the Bible does not go to original languages when searching for a doctrine.)