

## Origin Of The Holy Bible

'Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and for instruction in righteousness so the man (and woman) of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17).

The Bible is the written foundation of human existence. Mankind were able to read and write virtually from the days of Adam or soon afterwards. This can be confirmed by reading the recorded genealogies in the Book of Genesis chapter five. These names and ages of Adam's descendents needed to have been written down because they are too exact and precise to have been committed to memory. Most of the important events in the Bible are written as multiples of the number seven, which is the number of the Messiah. From Adam to Abraham there were twenty-one generations, then notice what Apostle Matthew wrote. 'All the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations. From David to the exile to Babylon are fourteen generations and from the exile to Babylon to the coming of the Messiah are fourteen generations' (Matthew 1:17). The names of all of these important Bible leaders were written down for our information and for us to realise one very important thing. God is in complete control of the earth and the universe.

The Bible was not written randomly. God told each prophet what to write down and when. The information they wrote, some of which they could not have known because it happened before they were born was given to them by divine revelation by God or told to them by angels, just like in the Book of Revelation. Angels appeared to God's prophets a few times and told them what to write so even though sceptical people may think Moses could not have written Genesis because he was not yet born, they need to stop underestimating God's power and realise God is in control and can do whatever He wants to and He wanted Moses to write down details regarding creation and human history. God made sure we have been told about creation so we have no questions, confusion or doubts about where mankind originally came from or how we came to be on earth.

The first Book of Scripture was the Book of Enoch and Noah, which was preserved by Noah on the Ark. This book was once part of the Bible but was removed by early church 'fathers' because it was deemed to be too 'spiritual'. Many verses in the Bible are quotes from the Book of Enoch and Noah and Jesus Himself quoted from it. The idea ancient peoples could not read and write is completely unfounded. Many times we can see the names of the scribes and men called 'recorders' who wrote down and made a record of the events that affected the Children of Israel. 'Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder ... Seraiah was the scribe' (2 Samuel 8:16 & 17). God told Moses to write things down to be read by later prophets. "Write this for a memorial in a book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua" (Exodus 17:14). "In every place where I record My name I will come to you and I will bless you" (Exodus 20:24). 'Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel' (Exodus 34:27). "When the king sits on the throne of his kingdom he will write a copy of this law in a book" (Deuteronomy 17:18). "You will write on the great stones all the words of this law ... write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly" (Deuteronomy 27:3 & 8). (Note: ancient Hebrew texts have been found etched into rocks near Mount Sinai and have been dated back to the wilderness years of the Children of Israel.) "Write this song for yourselves and teach it to the Children of Israel. Put it in their mouths" (Deuteronomy 31:19). 'The records are ancient' (1 Chronicles 4:22). "The rest of the acts of King Uzziah, Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz wrote down" (2 Chronicles 26:22). 'A search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers ... There was found at Achmetha, in the palace in the province of Media, a scroll and scripture was written for a record' (Ezra 4:15: 6:2). "We make a sure covenant and write it down. Our princes, our Levites, and our priests will seal it" (Nehemiah 9:38). 'On that night the king could not sleep. He commanded the Book of Records of the Chronicles to be brought and they were read to the king' (Esther 6:1). 'God will count when He writes up the peoples on earth, "This one was born there"' (Psalm 87:6). "Now go, write it before them on a (stone) tablet and inscribe it in a book so it may be for the time to come forever and ever" (Isaiah 30:8). 'Write all the words I have spoken to you in a book' (Jeremiah 30:2). "Take a scroll of a book and write therein all the words I have spoken to you ... Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll, and the words Baruch wrote at the mouth (dictation) of Jeremiah saying, "Take again another scroll and write in it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned" (Jeremiah 36:2; 27 & 28). "Write it in their sight so they may keep the whole form of it and all its ordinances and do them" (Ezekiel 43:11). 'In the first year of Darius' reign I, Daniel understood by the Books (the ancient Scriptures) the number of the years which the Word of God came to Jeremiah the prophet' ... "Daniel, close up the words and seal the book to the time of the end (of the age)" (Daniel 9:2; 12:4). "Write down the vision and make it plain on (stone) tablets ... For the vision is yet for the (future) appointed time and it hurries toward the end and will not prove false. Though it takes time wait for it because it will surely come to pass. It will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:2 & 3).

We can see by the many above verses, God told His prophets what to write. Furthermore, they were often read out loud hundreds of years after they were initially written down. The Old Testament is actually called Tanakh. The first five books are called Torah. During the writing of the New Testament (B'rit Hadashah), the New Covenant written in the blood of Jesus, the apostles knew they were adding to the ancient Scriptures. 'As in all of Paul's letters speaking in them of these (spiritual) things. In those letters there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist as they also do to the other (ancient) Scriptures, to their own destruction' (2 Peter 3:16). God Himself has scribes to record what each and every person ever born on earth has done throughout their lives and we will be judged by what has been written about us. 'The Judgment was set and the Books were opened' (Daniel 7:10). 'I (Apostle John) saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne and they opened Books. Another Book was opened, which is the Book of Life. The dead were judged out of the things that were written in the Books according to their works' (Revelation 20:12). God formed the nucleus of the scriptures and watched over its growth from generation to generation until the final prophecy was written in the Book of Revelation then the Lord opened the Book of Daniel that had been sealed up until the age of the Messiah.

The time taken to write the entire Bible was about 1,500 years. There are forty writers of the Bible and sixty-six different books. Some of the books that have two books using one title were once one book. For example, first and second Samuel was once one book, first and second Kings was one book, first and second Chronicles was one book, Ezra and Nehemiah were one book. The language God used to have His sacred Book written was always Hebrew. Both the Old and the New Testaments were wholly written in ancient Hebrew. Many Jewish people believe Adam and Eve spoke Hebrew. Every other language is corrupted and often contains pagan phrases whereas Hebrew is a pure language (Zephaniah 3:9). The New Testament or New Covenant was not written in Greek nor Aramaic as many believe. It was written in Hebrew, the same language as the Old Testament, from the same chosen race of people, in the same country but in a different period of history. It is important to understand why God chose Hebrew above any other language for His Holy and Sacred Scriptures. The Scriptures are God's written Word revealing His commandments to mankind. Jesus is God's only begotten Son Who was born Jewish, in Israel and He spoke Hebrew. Jesus is the Word of God Who came in the form of a Man, but Jesus is God Who created the earth and universe. 'I (Apostle John) saw the heavens opened and behold a white horse. He who sat on it is called Faithful and True. In righteousness He judges and makes war ... He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with (His own) blood. His name is called, "The Word of God." The armies in heaven (holy angels) followed Him on white horses clothed in pure white fine linen. Out of His mouth proceeds a sharp, double-edged sword (the Bible) and with it He should strike the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron ... He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:11 to 16). 'In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was (and still is) God' (John 1:1). 'Jesus, Who existing in the form of God did not consider equality with God anything to pride Himself with, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of mankind, being found in human form He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, yes the death of the cross' (Philippians 2:6 to 8).

Most of the Dead Sea Scrolls were written in Hebrew. Some of the scrolls not written in Hebrew are not included in the Bible. The scrolls prove the language spoken and written at the time of Jesus was Hebrew. Many modern Bible translations have swapped the word, 'Hebrew' for the word 'Aramaic', which is misleading. The belief the New Testament written in Greek was non-existent prior to 400 AD. It was Constantine who ordered all of the Hebrew texts to be burned and translations to Greek were accepted. The reason for that was the blatant anti-Semitism that had taken hold in the church. Constantine wanted to rid the church of anything Jewish. Passover was replaced by the pagan festival of Easter. Hanukkah was replaced by the pagan celebrations of Christmas and New Year. All of the holy feasts of the Lord were stopped. The Hebrew calendar given to the Children of Israel by God Himself was sidelined and the Julian then later the Gregorian calendars were made official. The anti-Semitism and the sustained evil campaign to 'dejudaise' the church that began circa 300 AD onwards still resonates today. Hundreds of thousands of Jews and genuine Christians have been tortured and slaughtered simply because they were Jews or because they were genuine Christians who loved and supported Jews.

The entire Bible was written on various mediums such as clay, soft lead, wood, walls, doors, rocks, copper, pottery, silver, tablets of stone or scrolls made of leather or parchment from papyrus and sometimes on sticks. Leather is still used on Bible covers. The Scriptures were not handed down orally but everything was written down as we read earlier. The Lord chose prophets who would write what He told them to write. At one time God used to speak audibly to His prophets. 'God said, "Will I hide from Abraham what I will do?" ... God went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place' (Genesis 18:17 & 33). 'God spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend' (Exodus 33:11). God answered Job, "Will he who argues contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it" (Job 40:1 & 2).

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible; Genesis (in Hebrew, B'eresheet), Exodus (Sh'mot), Leviticus (Vayikra), Numbers (B'midbar) and Deuteronomy (D'varim). In the last chapter it reads, "Moses the servant of God died there in the land of Moab according to the word of the Lord. God buried Moses in the valley in the land of Moab over against Beth Peor but no man knows the place of his tomb to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died' (Deuteronomy 34:5 to 7). People have asked how Moses could have written this if he was dead? The answer to that is simple. God told Moses he was going to die and Moses wrote this small piece of epitaph before he died. 'God spoke to Moses that same day saying, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim to Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab over against Jericho and see the land of Canaan, which I give to the Children of Israel for a possession. You will die on the mountain where you go up and be gathered to your people'" (Deuteronomy 32:48 to 50). After that, Moses spent time with the Children of Israel, blessing them and instructing them to obey all of the commandments that had been given to them. Moses had plenty of time to finish writing the last chapter of Deuteronomy before he went to Mount Nebo to die. 'This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the Children of Israel before his death' (Deuteronomy 33:1). Moses then walked away from the Children of Israel and spent time alone with the Lord before he died. The reason God buried him in a secret location was to prevent the Israelites from worshipping him at his gravesite.

There is new information about the Bible many people do not know about. Before Noah's flood people could read and write. Excavations around Mesopotamia, the cradle of humanity, uncovered an entire library of 60,000 stone and baked clay tablets that had been carefully buried just prior to Noah's flood in a pre-flood city, which of course was washed away. They had writings about God, the Garden of Eden and the history of mankind up to that time. Those tablets were written and buried before Noah's flood so there was literacy and numeracy 6,000 years ago. Those very ancient books confirm, what Moses wrote regarding creation, the fall of mankind and the entire history of humanity was all completely true. In those days every person was monotheistic, meaning everybody knew about God and believed in Him but not everyone obeyed Him. One of the tablets contain the words, "Jahwe is God." The tablets list the names of kings that had lived for hundreds of years, as all humanity did before the flood. Another buried library had 20,000 volumes and metal, mainly silver cylinders. These pre-flood tablets, cylinders and other writings confirm what is written in the Bible and coincide exactly with the Biblical narratives. The language used to write those ancient texts was an archaic form of Hebrew. We need to keep in mind, all people on earth spoke the one language right up until the Tower of Babylon when God gave people different languages to confuse them and thwart their efforts to gross sin. They were building a tower to practice horrendous idolatry and human sacrifice and God halted them before the tower was completed (Genesis 11:4 to 9). We also need to remember, Adam lived for 930 years, so his own accounts of creation and the fall could have been written down while he was still alive and not given by word of mouth.

The Children of Israel were all Hebrews, also known as Habirus. Only the offspring of Judah and Benjamin were later called Jews. The Moabite language is similar to ancient Hebrew because Moab's father Lot was the nephew of Abraham and they spoke the same language. There is archaeological confirmation of a written language etched into a rock called the Moabite Stone also called the Mesha Stele. It dates back to about 850 BC, which is the same time period of Israelite King Jehosaphat who was then King of Judah, and King Joram who was the leader of the Northern part of Israel (2 Kings 3:1). Ancient civilisations had schools where children were taught to read and write. Literacy was expected among the population. Abraham grew up in Ur of the Chaldee's where excavations have unearthed a school curriculum and subjects taught were language, reading, writing, arithmetic, science and other classes just like children have today. The Greeks, Romans and Phoenicians credited the Hebrews with inventing the original Paleo alphabet. The Hebrews' alphabet preceded any other alphabet in the Mesopotamian and Mediterranean region. The ancient Hebrew alphabet and script, known as the Semitic Linguistic Group was the source behind the other languages. When we study almost every alphabet the order of letters or characters is nearly the same. Some languages have added some characters and some languages have subtracted some characters but the order is the same. They all start with 'A' and end with 'O', 'T' or 'Z'. In Hebrew they start with 'Aleph' and end with 'Tau'. In Greek – 'Alpha' to 'Omega'. In English, 'A' to 'Z'. In Hebrew, their characters are also their numbers but in other languages like English, the alphabet and numbers are separate. As written languages do, the script changed as people moved around and spread out. Changes in language and script can be seen when we look at the differences between old English and modern English, and between modern English written and spoken in the UK compared to English written and spoken in the USA. The same would have applied in ancient writings and cultures too. However, Hebrew is one of the few ancient languages that remained unchanged for many centuries and indeed, modern Hebrew is very similar to ancient Hebrew. It can be regarded as a continuation of the original alphabet invented and written thousands of years ago.

The Hebrews and later the Jews understand the Bible better than most westerners because the Jews live out the Tenach every day. They adhere to the holy feasts. They have constant cyclical studies of the Torah. They speak their evening prayers, observe the Sabbath, eat kosher food and all of the things God instructed

them to do. Unless a person lives out the Bible every day like the Jews do, it cannot be grasped to that great depth. They know the heart of God in a way many Christians can only dream about. The Old Testament should be known as the Original Testament. Yes it is old but in no means out of date. Many Christians ignore, neglect and dismiss the Original Testament without realising it is the forerunner to the New Testament – the Testament of Jesus and the Apostles. The Original Testament is the foundation God has used to bring to our knowledge the Way of Salvation through the blood and cross of Jesus. Without the Jews giving to us all of that knowledge, all Gentiles would be without hope and eternally lost (Ephesians 12:12 to 22). Almost all of the New Testament has constant quotes from the Original Hebrew writings. The Holy Spirit guided the Apostles to write their collection of Godly-inspired scriptures, all backed up by the Original Word of God and the prophecies. Several times the Apostles reminded their Gentiles readers of the need to remember the Jewish roots of the scriptures. There were some translations copied from Hebrew sometime around 200 BC so Gentiles who wanted to learn about God could do so in the own languages. The two testaments are definitely not for ‘them’ and ‘us’ as some Christians believe. All Scripture was written for all people.

We can see by the proof of archaeology, the Hebrew writers of the Bible were well read, well taught and were fully literate from Genesis to Revelation. Moses would have written the Torah in ancient Paleo-Hebrew script. Some Hebrew scholars known as Masorites who lived in Galilee around 500 AD, helped preserve the ancient Hebrew texts. They added vowels to the Hebrew alphabet to ensure correct pronunciation. These amended texts form the written Old Testament we have now. We need to be thankful to the Jewish people for giving us the Bible, for carefully preserving the Bible and for sending us our Messiah Jesus (in Hebrew, Yeshua). Our salvation comes directly from the Jews (John 4:22). We know we have the original Words from God because of the way the Jewish people have meticulously taken care to copy word for word from text to text. Nothing was written from memory. Every word was checked against older copies before and after they were written. When a page was completed, every letter, word and paragraph was counted and it had to be identical to the text from which it was copied. Every character, letter and mark had to be exact, clear and legible. If one error occurred, the entire page was re-written. When that was completed, every page was carefully checked by three Rabbis before that page could be sown onto the page before, thus making a long scroll like Jesus used (Luke 4:16 to 21).

A complete Torah scroll could have as many as 250 to 280 individual pages, be up to 100 metres long and depending on the medium it was written on, could be very heavy indeed. After the entire scroll was completed, it was checked again. Scrolls that were worn down by constant use were locked away so they could not be copied for fear a mistake could be made by copying a smeared or faded word. Scribes were taught to write as per the written text to make every copy uniform so their own personal handwriting was never revealed, so the scroll could not be misread. The scribes always washed their hands and pens before working on a page so the parchment could never be smeared. It takes approximately twelve months to copy the first five books of the Bible. It would take three or four years to copy an entire Old Testament. One copy in today's money can cost about \$10,000 US. The Scriptures are still being copied by this ancient method. Every scroll is covered in an ornate velvet or silk wrap. Every modern wrap has an image or drawing on it. The drawing can be whatever the owner desires such as the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments, a crown, the Israeli flag, a menorah, Scripture verses written in Hebrew, a breastplate or an image of flames. The handles are made of wood.

The Bible is God's instructions to mankind how to live, what we can do to obey Him and vitally importantly, the way to salvation via the blood and cross of Jesus. A book of divine instructions cannot be viewed like any other book. If we want to follow a recipe to make a complicated dish, we must follow the recipe instructions exactly. The same applies to life. If we want to live for God we must follow His instructions. Not obeying His Word is a recipe for disaster and destruction. If people cannot understand this ancient Book of guidelines they need to ask the Holy Spirit for help. We need to have a deep respect for the Word of God and quietly honour all those hundreds of unknown scribes who have carefully copied every word for us to know and enjoy. No other Book gives us the truth of creation, can convict of sin, speak God's Words of encouragement nor can any other Book reveal the true intentions of our deepest thoughts and desires. 'The Word of God is living, active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing deep into the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from His sight but all things are naked and laid open before the Eyes of Him with Whom we have to do' (Hebrews 4:12 & 13). When we ignore the Bible we miss out on several things the Scriptures give us, like God's inspiration, knowledge and wisdom, His teaching and doctrine, His reproof and correction, His instructions so we can be equipped for our individual ministry and calling (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17). We need to allow the Holy Spirit to teach us (John 14:26).

There are many archaeological finds that confirm the accurate history of the Bible. Although written about seven hundred years ago, recent excavations have unearthed evidence that confirms Hezekiah genuinely did attempt to stop idol worship among the Children of Israel and their pagan neighbours. All of the pagan

worship symbols were destroyed. 'In the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, the king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz the king of Judah began his reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began his reign and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah (the prophet). Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord God according to everything King David his forefather had done. He removed the high places (pagan altars), broke the pillars (of pagan worship), cut down the Asherah (phallic symbols) and he broke in pieces the bronze serpent Moses had made because in those days the Children of Israel burned incense to it' (2 Kings 18:4). There was archaeological evidence the Children of Israel did stop their idol worship and turn back to God, which is attributed to Hezekiah. Some of the seats used for pagan worship were not removed but had holes cut into them and the seats were used as toilets.

Some religions misinterpret the Bible in very destructive ways. For example the 'Replacement Theology' has caused terrible outcomes for the Jewish people. It teaches the church has replaced Israel in God's affections, which is very wrong. That teaching has caused terrible persecution of millions of Jews who were the very people who gave us the Bible in the first place. Anti-Semitism can only thrive when this evil theology is preached. Every Christian needs to understand, Christianity is an extension of Judaism, not a replacement. When we commit ourselves to God, we commit ourselves to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the God of the Jews and Father of all humanity.

A second destructive misinterpretation of the Bible is the 'Rapture Theory'. Many Christians believe they can do whatever they want, sin as much as their hearts desire and it does not matter to them because they will all be raptured off before the tribulation, leaving the hapless Children of Israel to face the wrath of God. What an evil teaching the rapture really is. They seem to forget, many times Jesus said only those who endure to the end will be saved. That means enduring right to the end of their lives or to the end of this evil age, whatever comes first in their individual lives. Many thousands of Christians have fallen away from God because of this erroneous teaching that has brought disillusionment to many people.

Another destructive misinterpretation of the Bible is the 'Prosperity' teaching. They are taught, if they are not wealthy then there is something wrong with their walk with God. If people are young enough and strong enough to work and are paid a wage, they will be able to make money. If however, someone is disabled or elderly and cannot work and are forced onto a pension or a fixed low income, they will never become wealthy. The elderly woman with the two 'mites' gave all she had (Luke 21:1 to 4) but she never became wealthy. It is good to know, Jesus notices the intent in which we give not the amount.

We need to interpret the Bible in context and understand what it actually says, not by what we think it says. When it comes to the Bible, we cannot have our own opinion. We must have only the opinion God has revealed to us. The only way we can stay on the correct path of instruction is through prayer and by constantly reading, studying and absorbing the truth through the scriptures. If our thoughts are not scriptural we need to consciously put the erroneous ideas out of our mind. Some of the Bible can be hard to understand as new Christians but the more we study the Word the easier it becomes to understand. God's intention is for us to be able to understand and obey His written instructions. It is not cloaked in secrecy but it does need to be prayerfully interpreted so we do not fall into error. We must not 'read into' the Bible what is not there and we must not ignore what is written.

Many people do not understand, the moral codes for humanity that are written into our laws are ancient and were originally given to the Children of Israel. For example laws like, do not steal, do not kill, do not defraud your neighbour, do not pervert the course of justice, do not lie in court, do not beat your wife and children, do not behave violently, do not kill your neighbour's animal, do not cause a woman to miscarry, pay your taxes on time, pay your loans on time, and many more. Codes of moral conduct were given to the Children of Israel; do not commit adultery, do not have incestuous or homosexual relationships, treat your parents with respect, do not eat food that is bad for health (fat) or what is rancid (to prevent food poisoning), wash your hands to prevent the spread of infection, bury your bodily waste to prevent the spread of infection and many other instructions.

The Original Testament was written as an account of God's desire to build His nation. "If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My own possession from among all peoples (on earth), for the entire earth is Mine. You will be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5 & 6). 'God made us kings and priests to our God and we will reign on earth' (Revelation 5:10). The nation of Israel was founded by God to bring forth His chosen Saviour to the unsaved world and to reveal His oracles to the entire earth. The New Testament was written as an account of the conception, birth, ministry and death of Jesus our Saviour. Jesus is the one and only Messiah and anyone who claims to be a messiah is false.

The entire Bible is build around God's greatest creation – mankind. The Word of God was not written for animals, angels or cherubim, although they are mentioned in the Scriptures. The Word of God was written solely for humanity to bring reconciliation between God and mankind. It is up to each individual person to accept or reject God's one and only Way of salvation, which is through the shed blood and cross of Jesus. There is no other way. 'While we were enemies (of God) we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son (Jesus) and being reconciled, we will be saved by His life. We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus, through Whom we have now received reconciliation' (Romans 5:10 & 11). Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). "I, Jesus have sent My angel to testify these things to you for the assemblies (churches). I am the root and the offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. The Holy Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Those who hear let them say, "Come!" Those who are thirsty (for righteousness) let them come. Those who desire let them take the Water of Life freely. May the grace of the Lord Jesus our Messiah be with all the people who love and serve God. Amen" (Revelation 22:16; 17 & 21).

Amen and God bless you.

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