

CAN WE  
TRUST  
THE  
BIBLE?

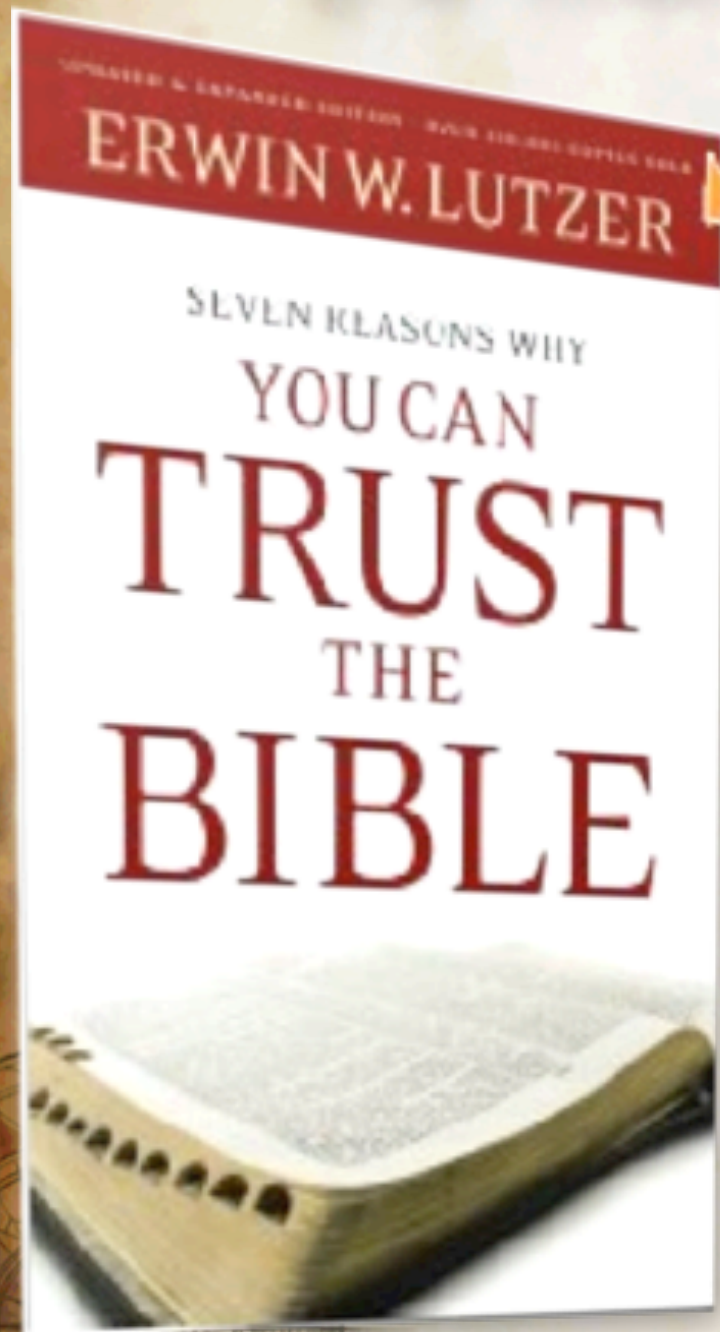




The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# Can We Trust The Bible?

*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*



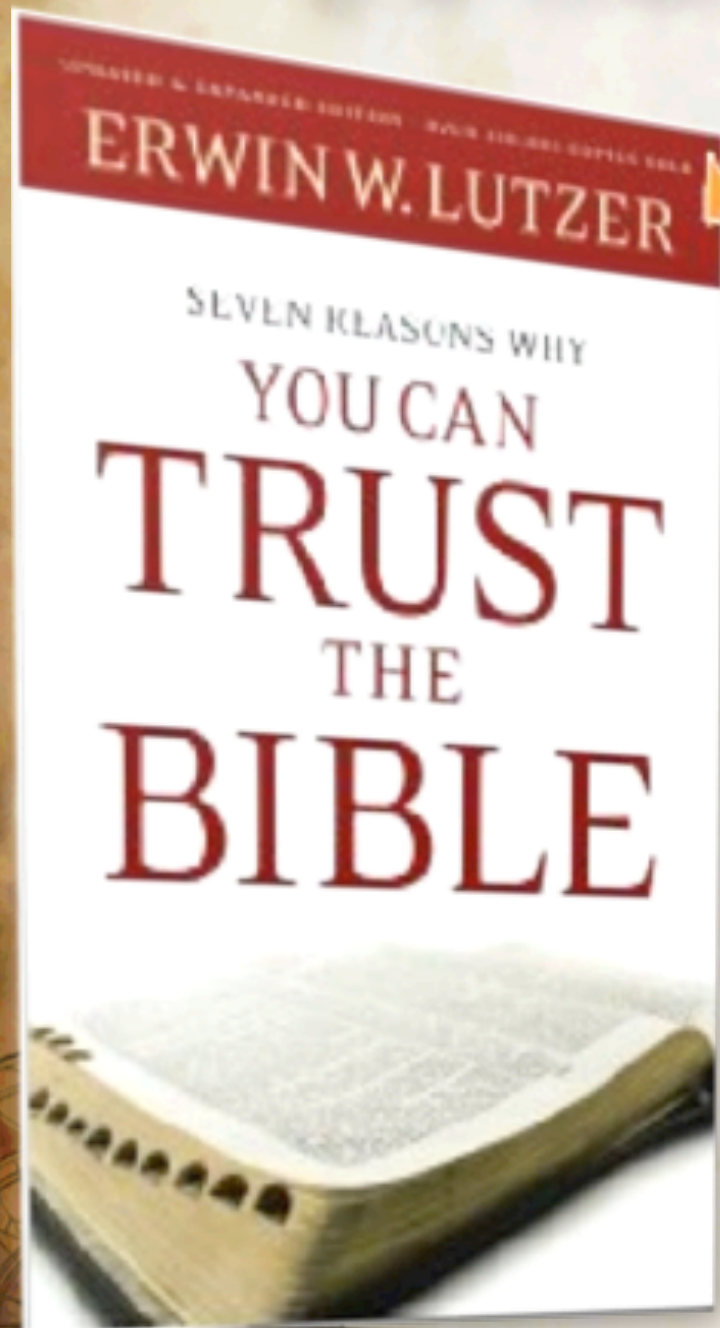
- ◆ Where did the Bible come from?
- ◆ How do we know the right books are in the Bible?
- ◆ Does the Bible contain errors?
- ◆ What are the oldest copies we have of the Bible?
- ◆ How do we know that the Bible hasn't been changed over the years?
- ◆ Why are there so many translations of the Bible, and which one should I use?



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# Can We Trust The Bible?

*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*



- ◆ God Is!
- ◆ God Has Provided Divine Confirmation!
- ◆ It Answers Every Human Need!
- ◆ It Is One Harmonious Thought!
- ◆ It claims to be the word of God!



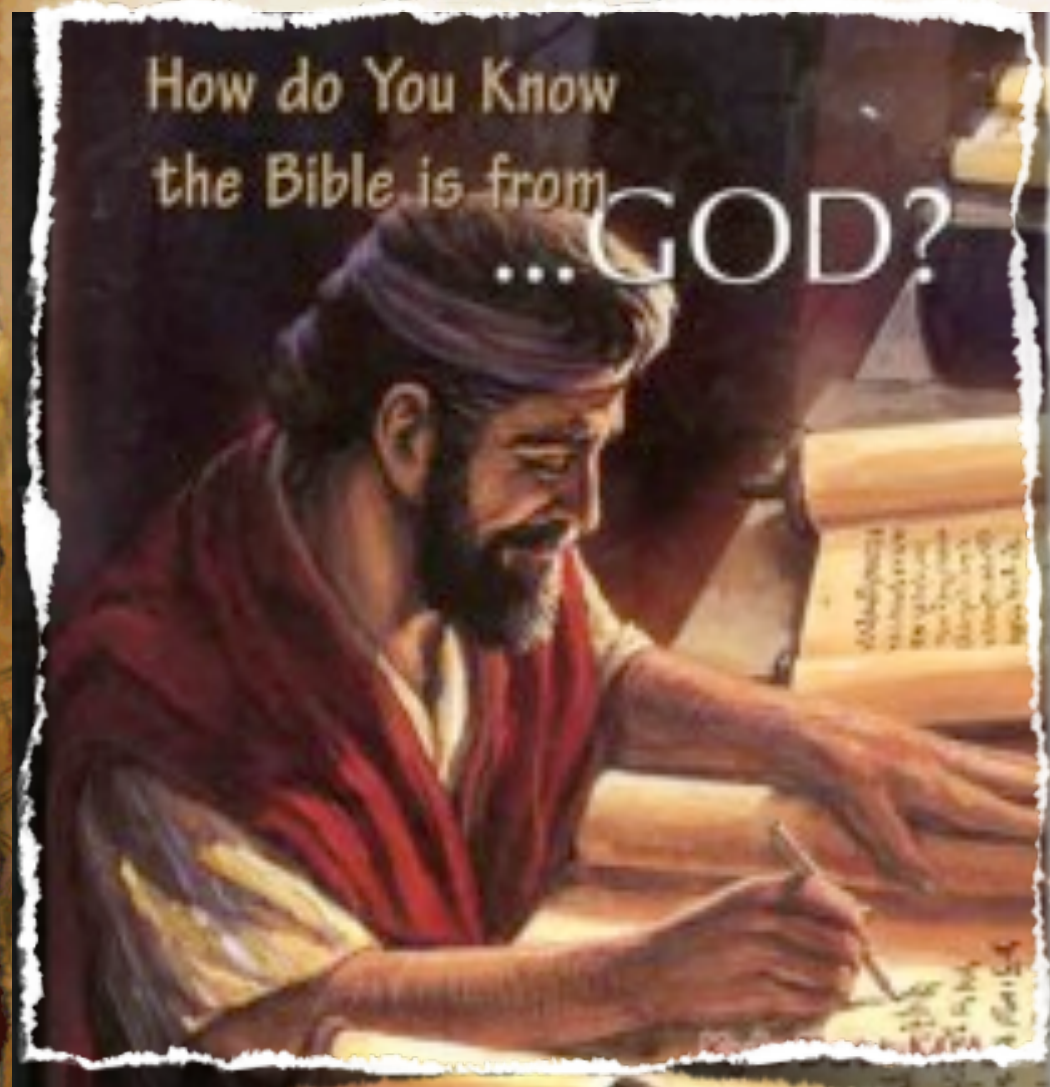
The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# **Can We Trust The Bible?**

*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*

The Bible

Could NOT be  
a product of  
man alone!!





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# Can We Trust The Bible?

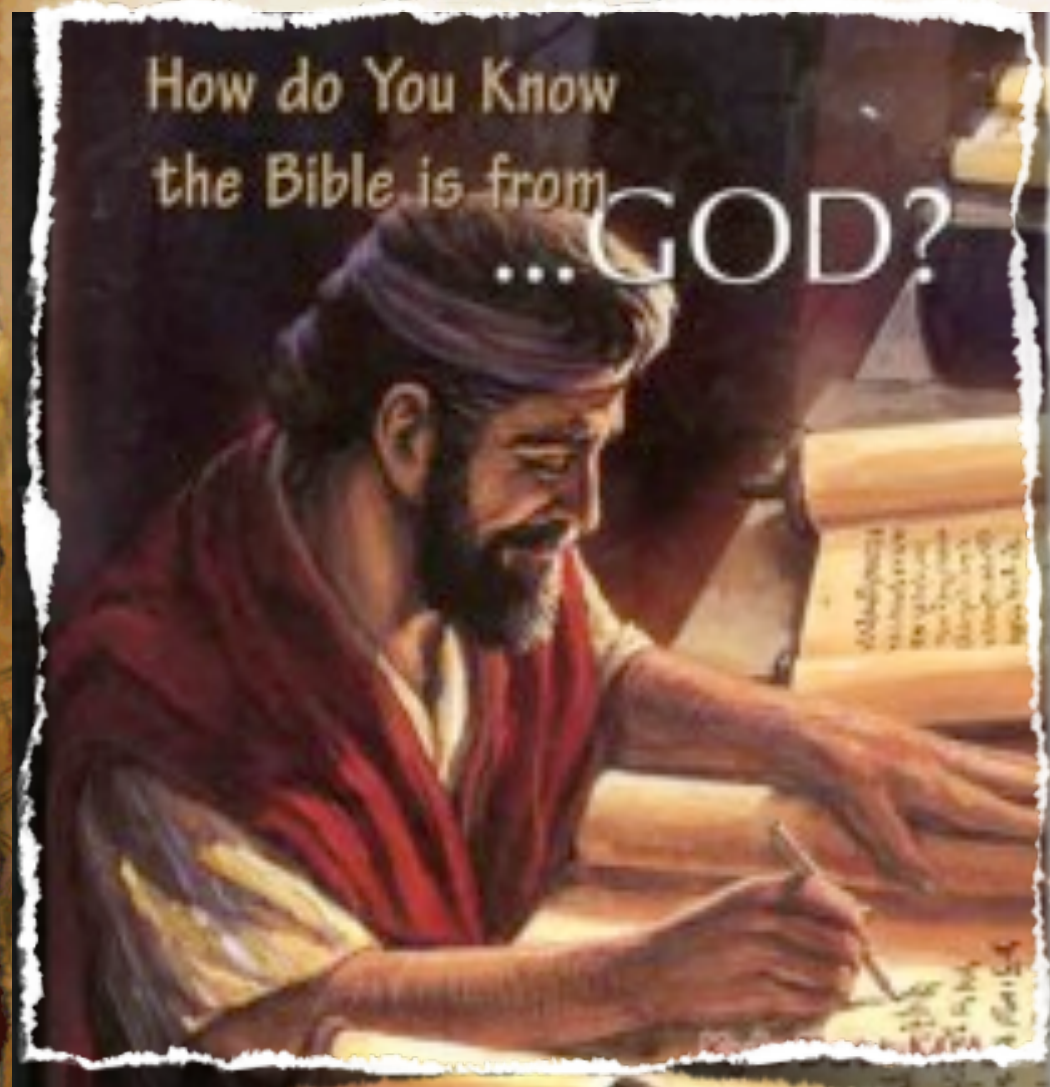
*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*

## ◆ **Harmonious In Thought!**

- \* 66 different books -
- \* Written by 40 different men -
- \* Three different languages
- \* written over 1600 year span

## ◆ **YET - One Harmonious Thought!**

- \* Christ is coming! - Christ has come! - Christ is coming again!

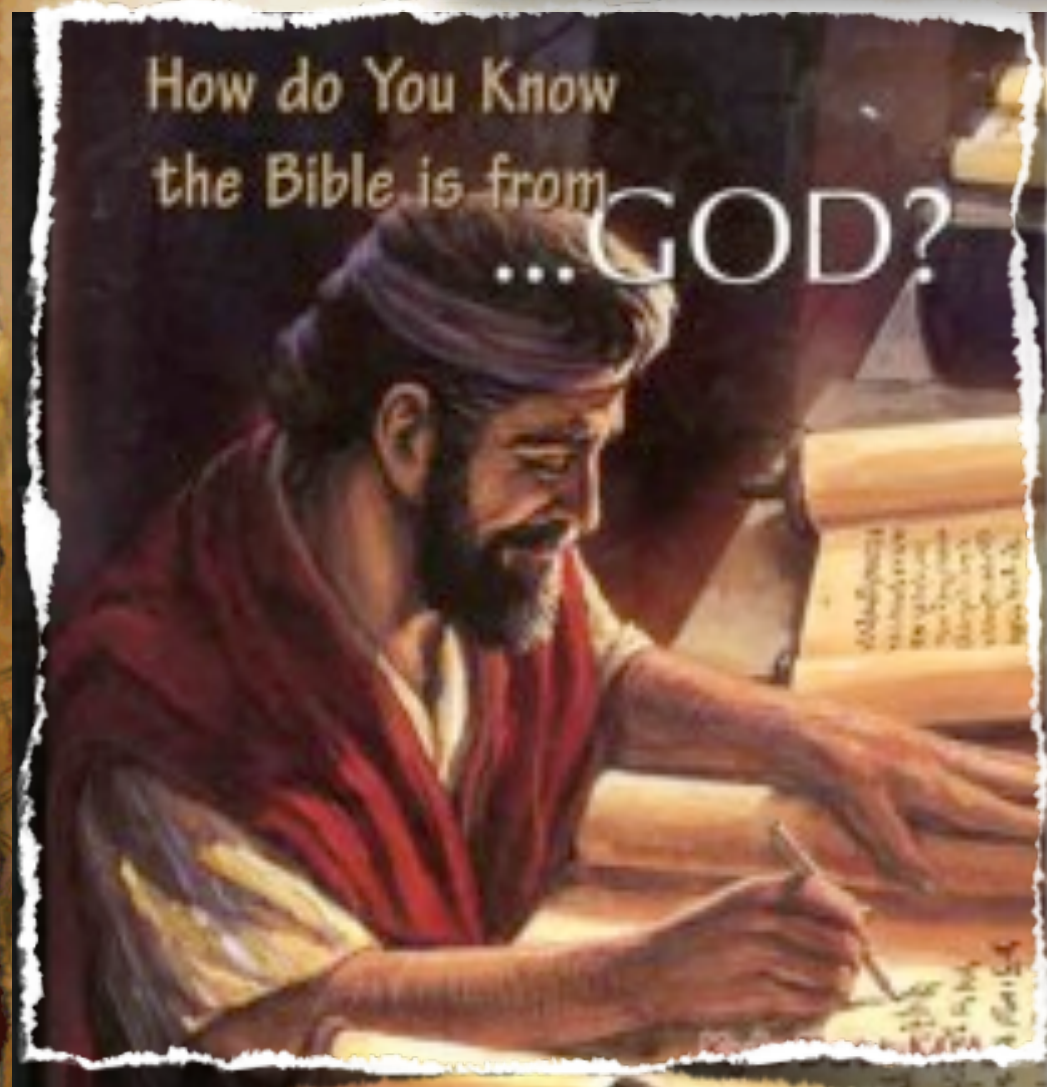




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# **The Biblical Teaching About Inspiration**

**Plenary, verbal inspiration**



Thus, every word in every part of the original manuscript is there because The Holy Spirit directed it to be there . . .



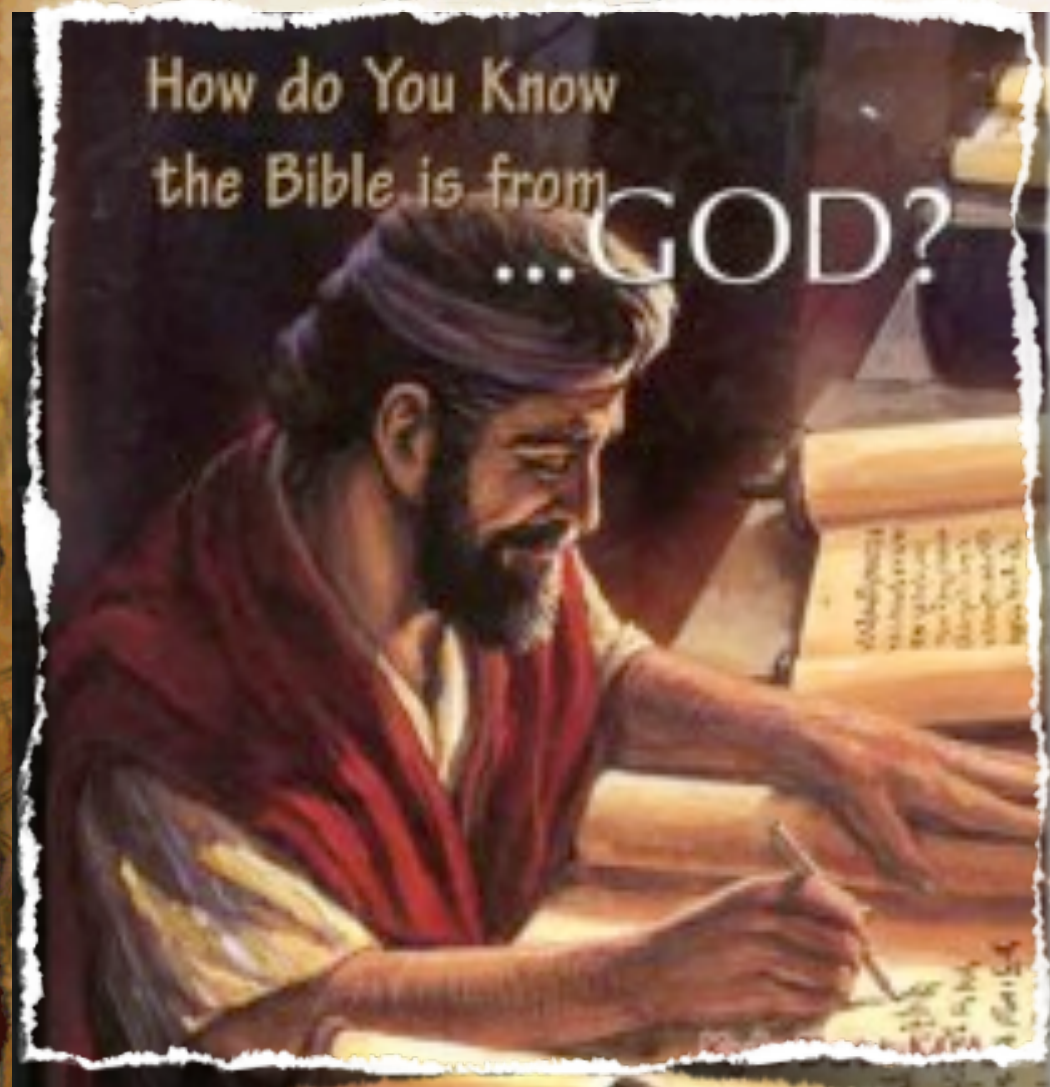
The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# **From God To Us -**

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**Inspiration /  
Revelation**

**Words of God  
Written & Copied  
Canonization -**





# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing

### Sumerian Tokens



Mesopotamia -3500 BC -

Cuneiform tablets of the

Sumerians;

Temple tablets dating back to  
2100 BC in the Ur of Chaldees.

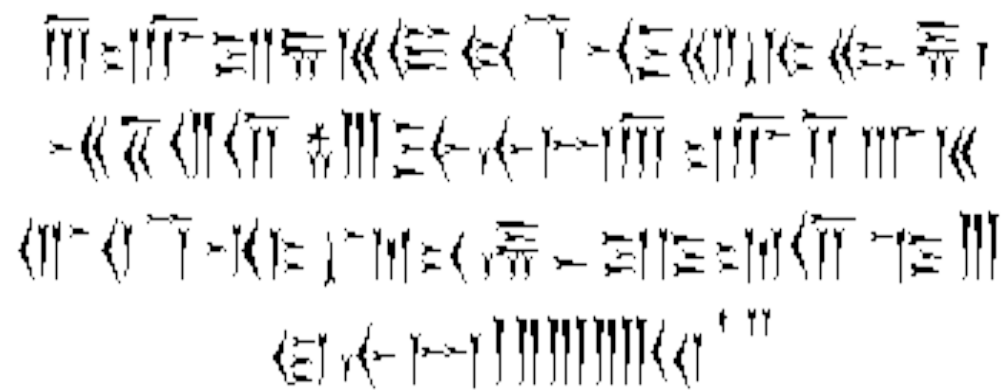


# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing

Persian  
Cuneiform



𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁  
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𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁  
𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁𐎧𐎠𐎼𐎿𐎡𐏁

Mesopotamia ~3500 BC –  
Cuneiform tablets of the  
Sumerians;

Temple tablets dating back to  
2100 BC in the Ur of Chaldees.  
A Sumerian flood narrative found  
at Nippur – 2100.



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## History of Writing



Writing was clearly present in Egypt prior to the time of Abraham, (before the fifth Dynasty, 2500)



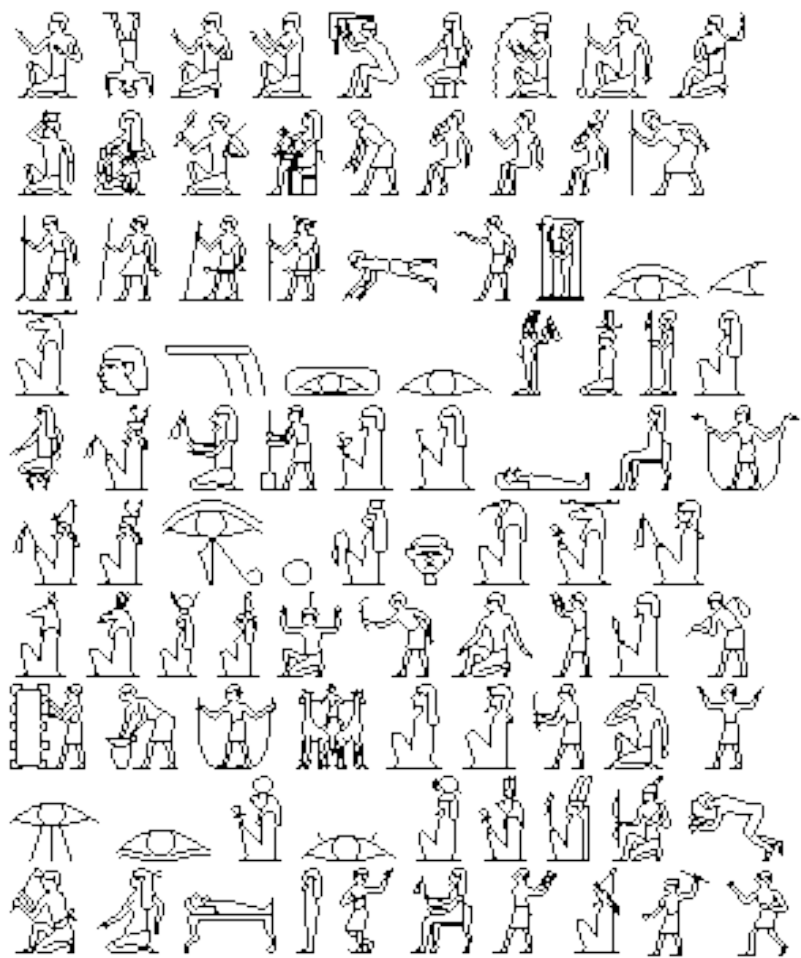


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## History of Writing

### Hieroglyphics,



Writing was clearly present in Egypt prior to the time of Abraham, (before the fifth Dynasty, 2500)



Egyptian discoveries –  
Hieroglyphics, 3500 BC – The teachings for Kagemni and Ptah-Hetep – 2700. . .



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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing



- 📌 Clay: The most writing material in Mesopotamia - commonly written upon in cuneiform.
- 📌 Stone: In almost every region the earliest material on which writing has been found.
- 📌 Wood and wax: (Num. 17:2-3; Ezek. 37:16-17).





# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing

parchment leaf from a small codex  
Greek (Psalms III 4-8)  
5th Century AD  
P.Mich.Inv. 1573



Vellum or Parchment:

- \* Vellum - calf or antelope skins
- \* Parchment - sheep or goat skins



These skins were used to make copies of the Bible for over 1,000 years, (AD 300-1400)



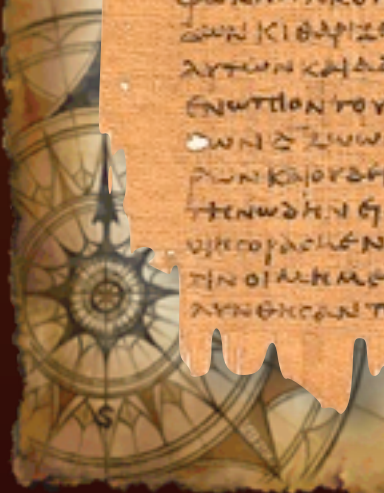
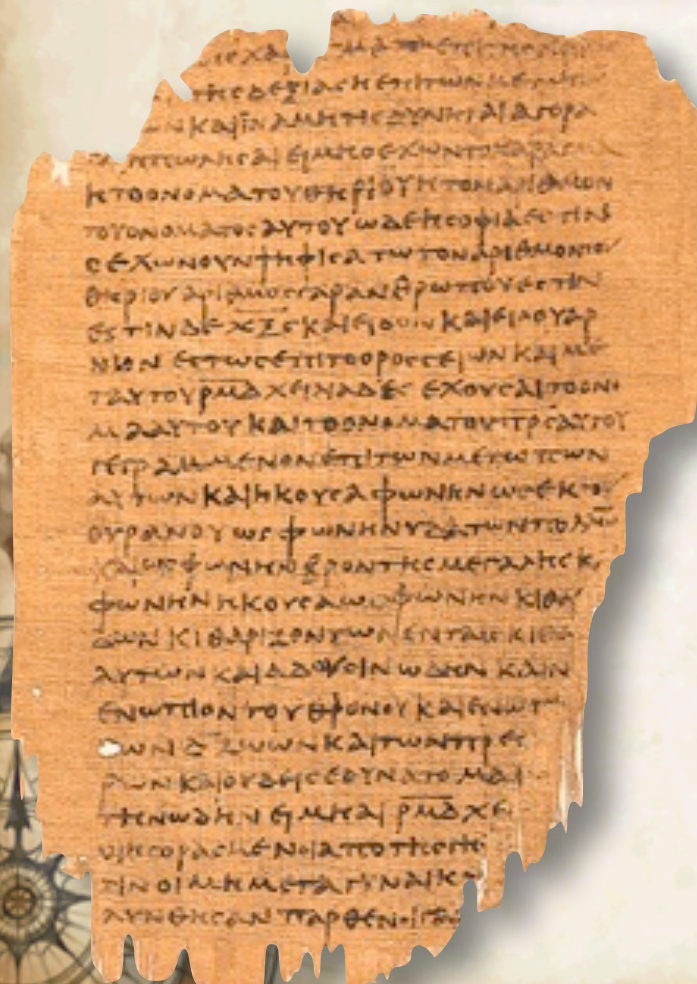


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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing

- 📌 Papyrus: used as a writing material in Egypt as early as 3500 B.C.
- 📌 The earliest manuscripts of the New Testament were on papyrus, a plant found along the Nile River.
- 📌 The manuscripts were copied by hand on scrolls (30ft long and 10 inches wide—average). The columns were usually 3 to 4 inches wide.
- 📌 Scribes often wrote on both sides of the roll.





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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing



- For a considerable time, God orally communicated with man (Patriarchal Age, Gen. 2-Ex. 20, about 2,500 years).
- The first person mentioned in the Bible as writing down God's communiqué was Moses, who lived about 1500 B. C.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## History of Writing



- 📌 Moses was certainly taught how to write . . .
- 📌 Therefore, Moses, being “educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and was a man of power in words and deeds” (Acts 7:22),



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Written**



Written in  
Hebrew &  
Aramaic



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## The Old Testament Written



- ➊ Moses is the author of the first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy).
- ➋ The Bible itself contributes six distinct writings to Moses (Ex. 17: 14; 24: 4; 34: 27, 28; Num. 33: 2; Deut. 31: 9, 24; 32: 1-43, cp. 31: 22).



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Written**



- The books of law came first, then the prophets, until it grew into the collection we now know as the Hebrew scriptures.
- The Bible mentions writings by Joshua, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others (Josh. 24: 26; 1 Sam. 10: 25; Jere. 36: 2).



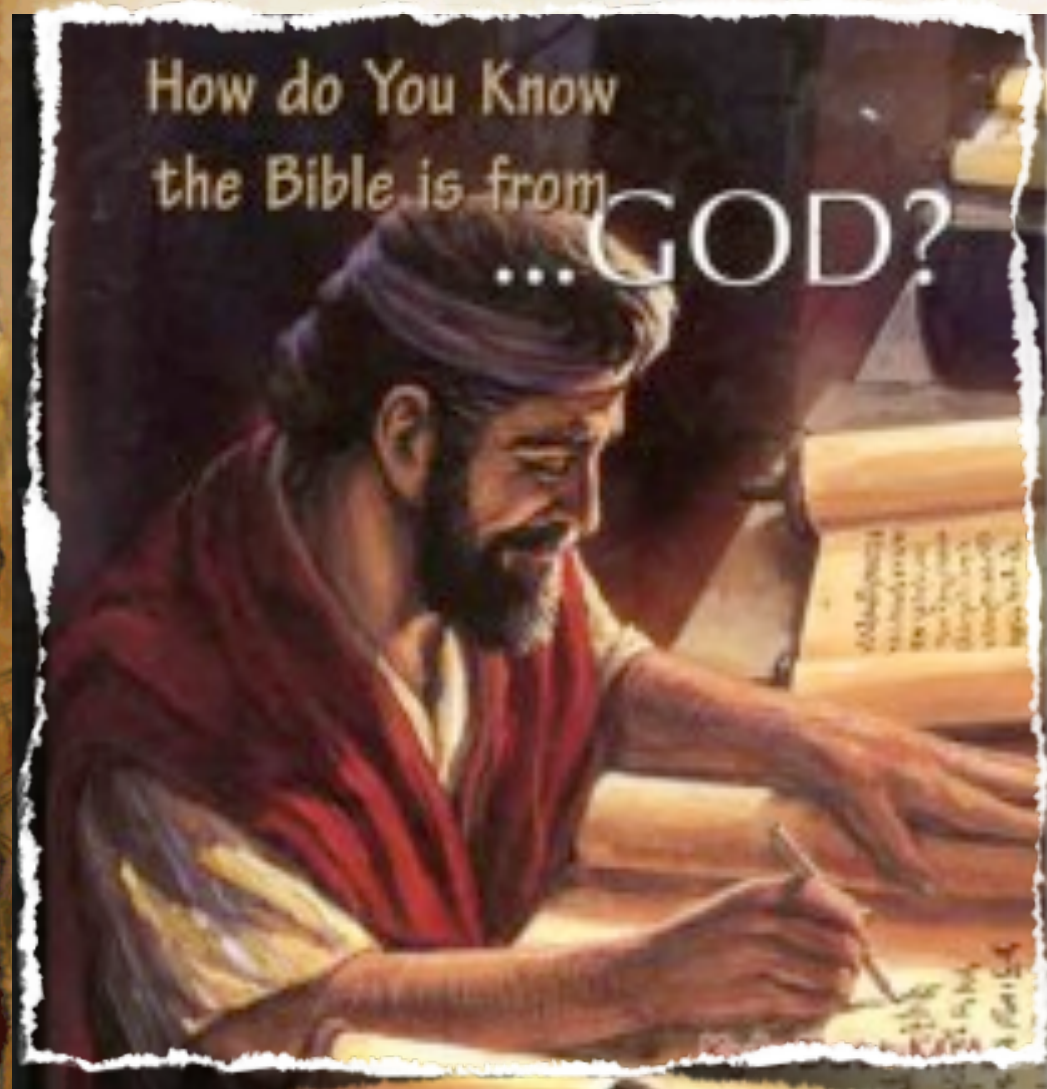
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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **DEUTERONOMY 17:18-19 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. <sup>19</sup> And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,





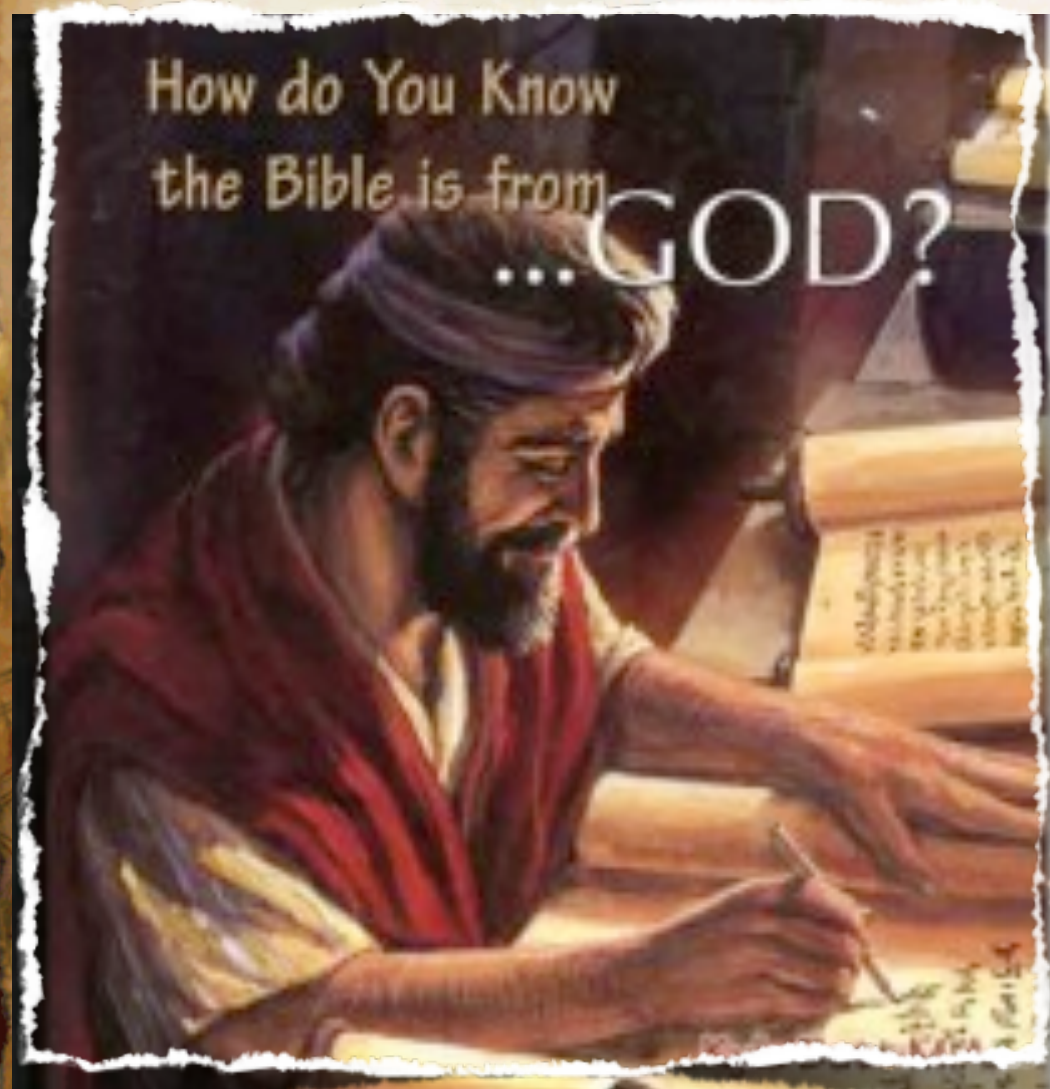
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**ISAIAH 30:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever:





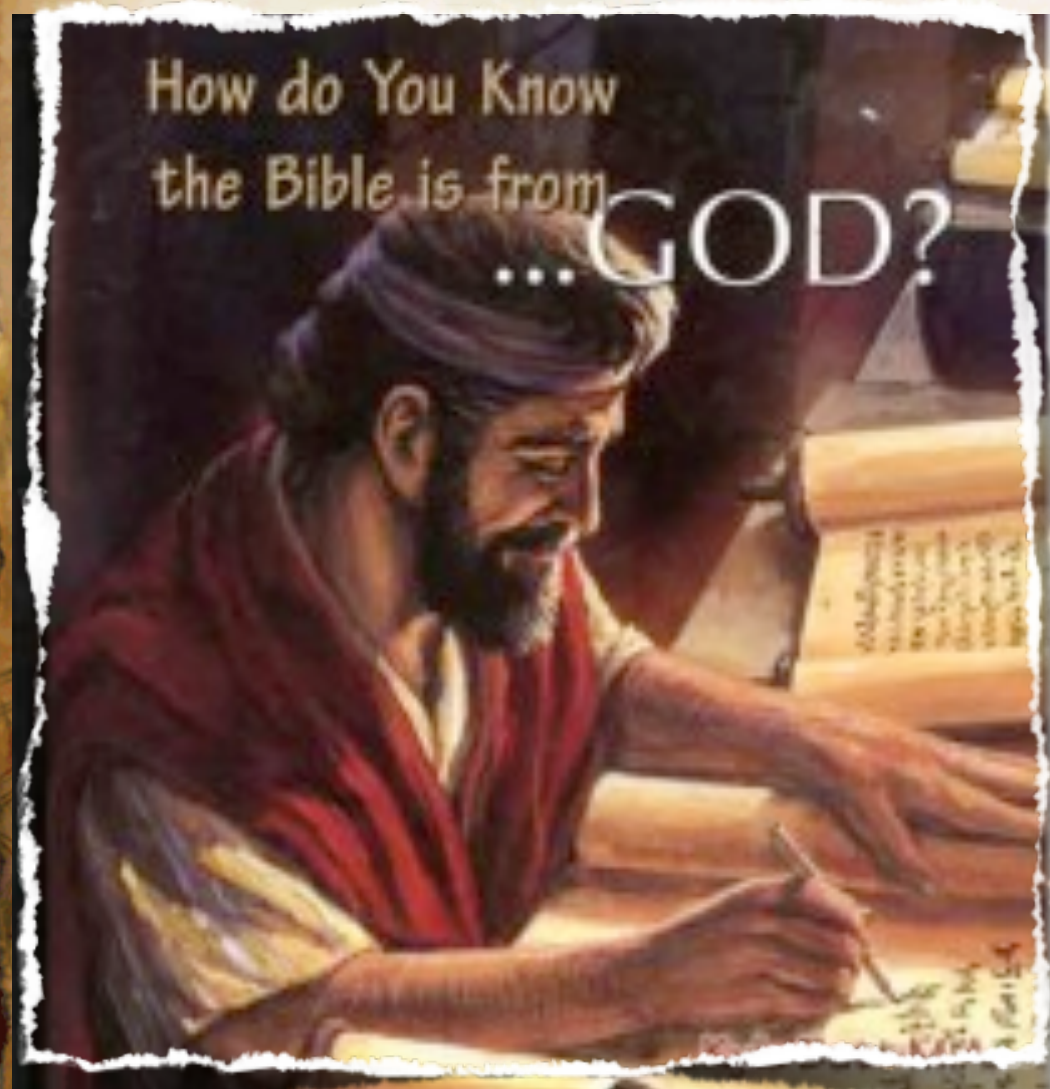
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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**JEREMIAH 30:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> "Thus speaks the LORD  
God of Israel, saying: 'Write  
in a book for yourself all  
the words that I have  
spoken to you.'





# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The New Testament Written**



- Written in Koine Greek, also known as Hellenistic Greek (4th century BC - 4th century AD)
- Koine Greek was the most widely spread language of the times due to the empire of Alexander the Great.



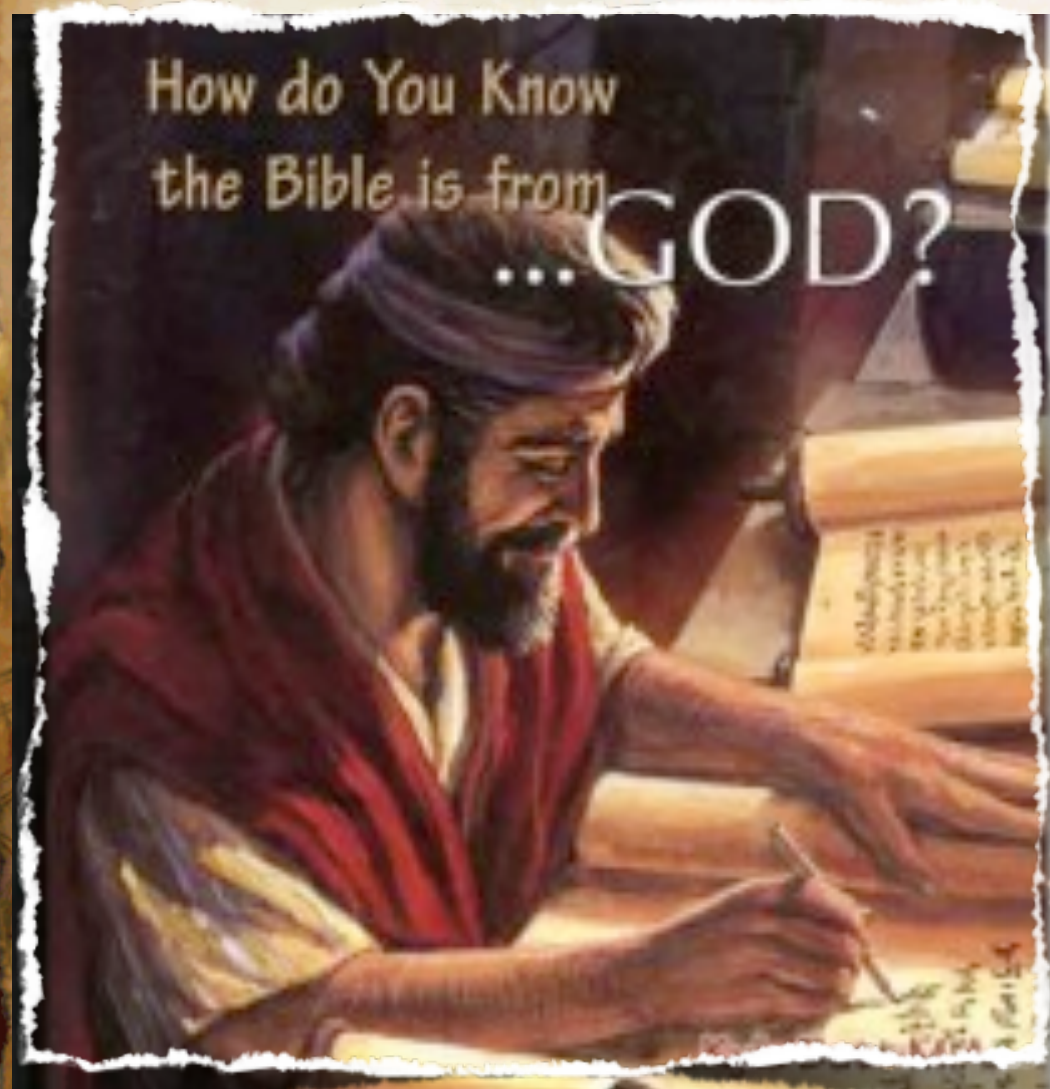
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**ROMANS 15:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.





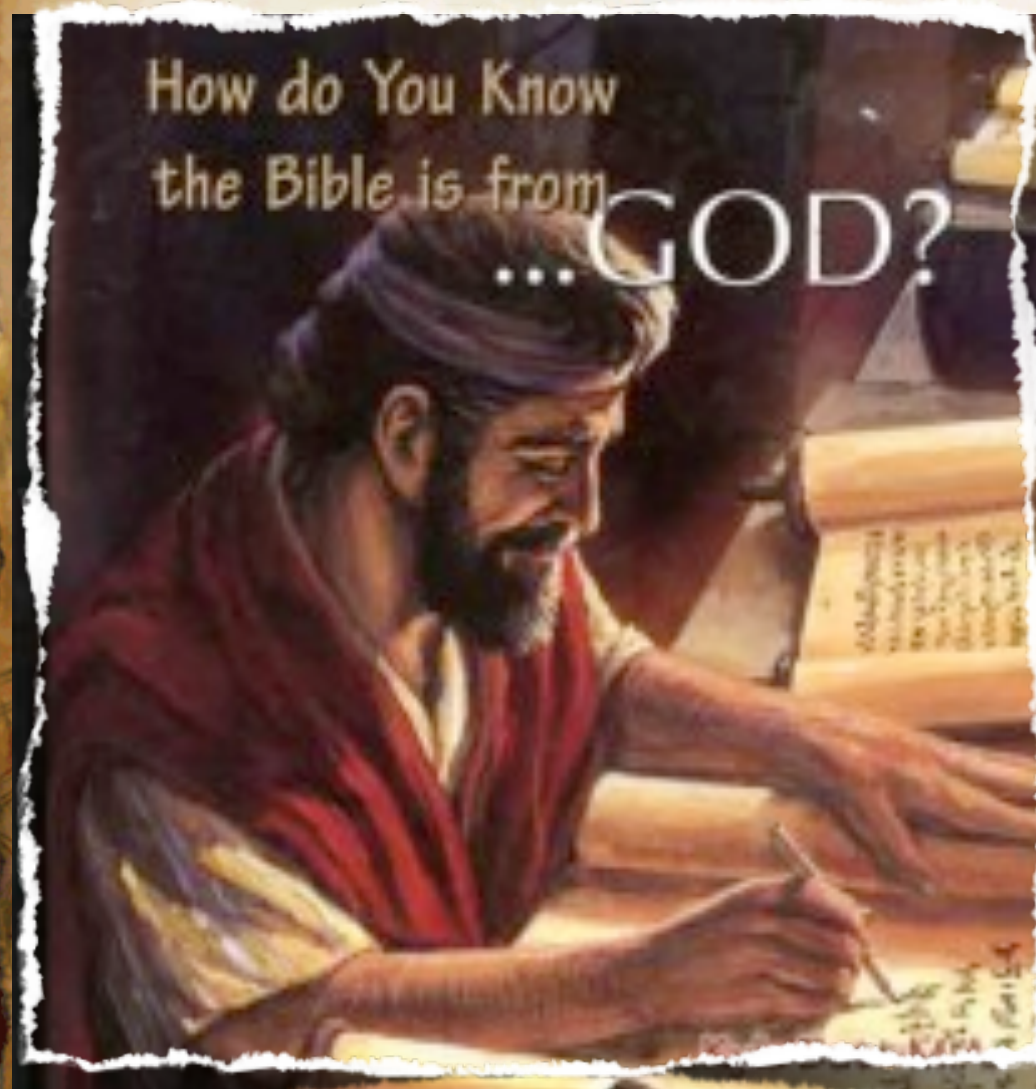
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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **EPHESIANS 3:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup> by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),





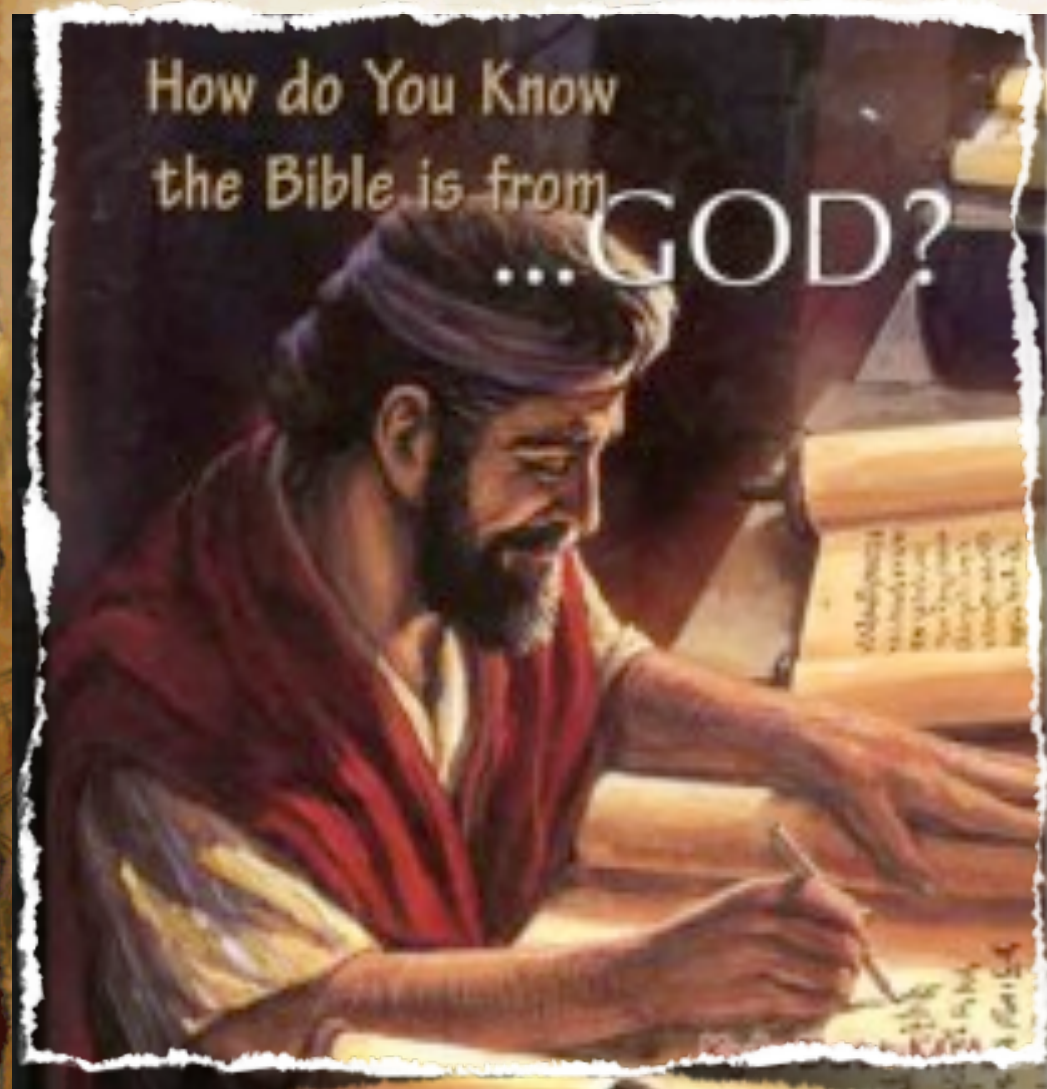
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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **2 PETER 3:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), <sup>2</sup> that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,





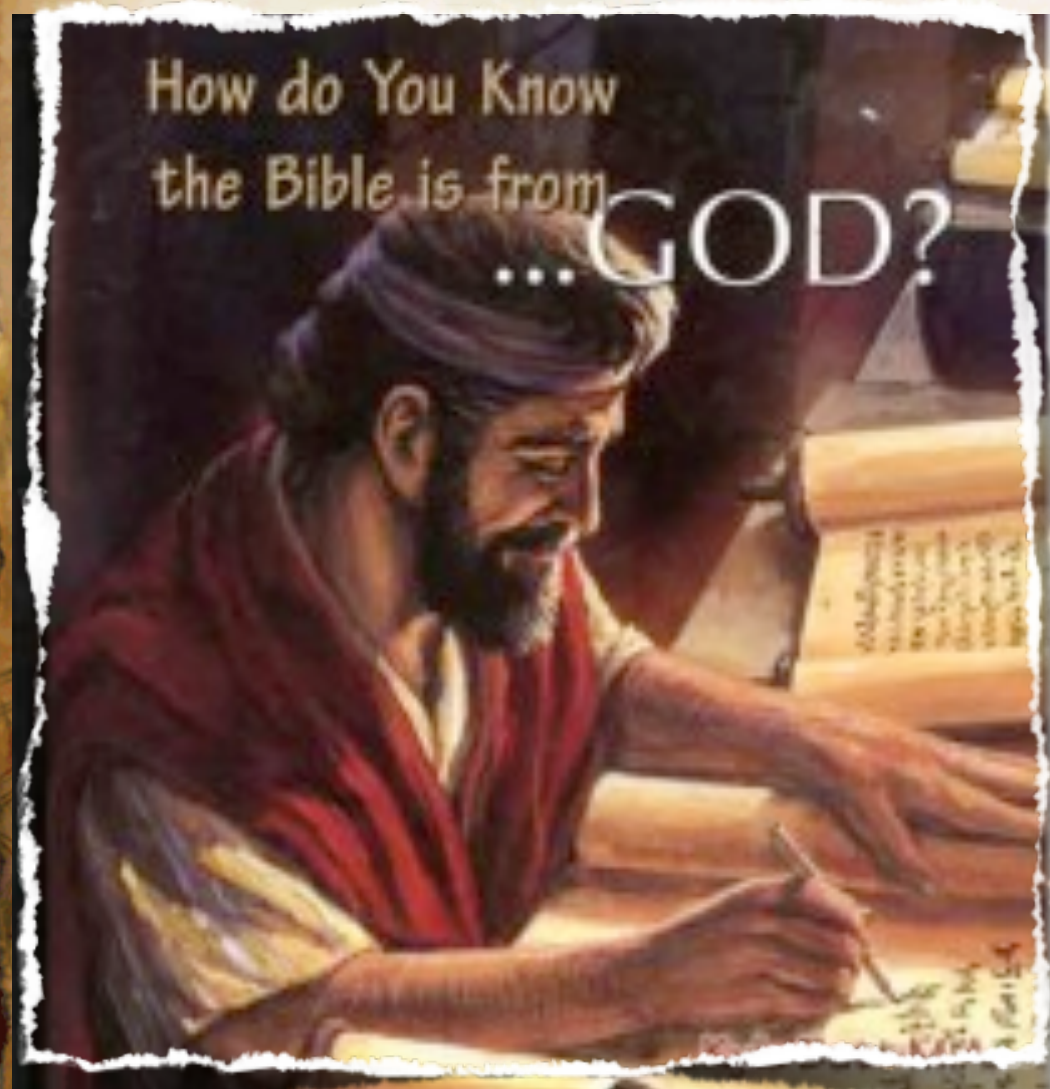
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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**2 PETER 3:15-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> and consider that the  
longsuffering of our Lord is  
salvation--as also our beloved  
brother Paul, according to the  
wisdom given to him, has  
written to you,





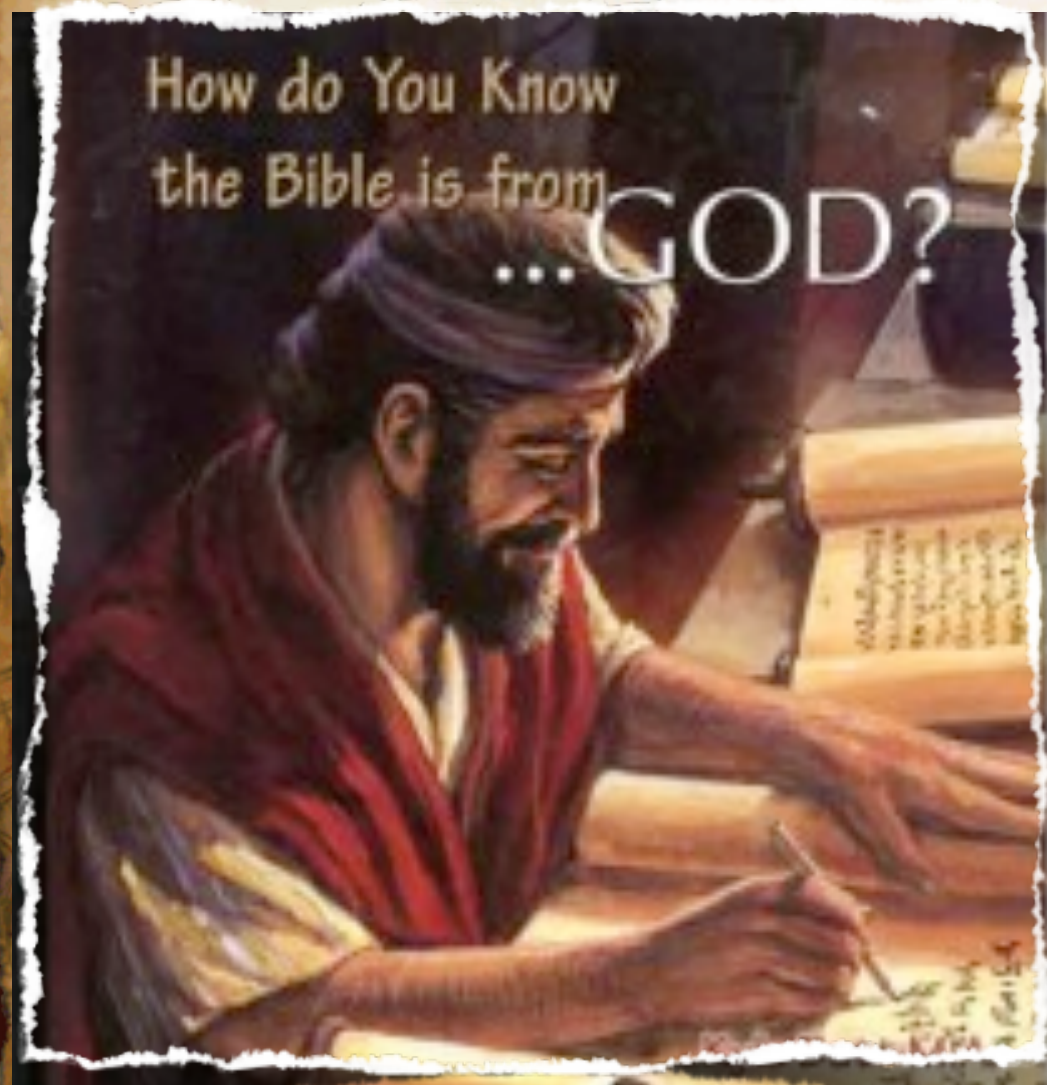
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# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **2 PETER 3:15-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.





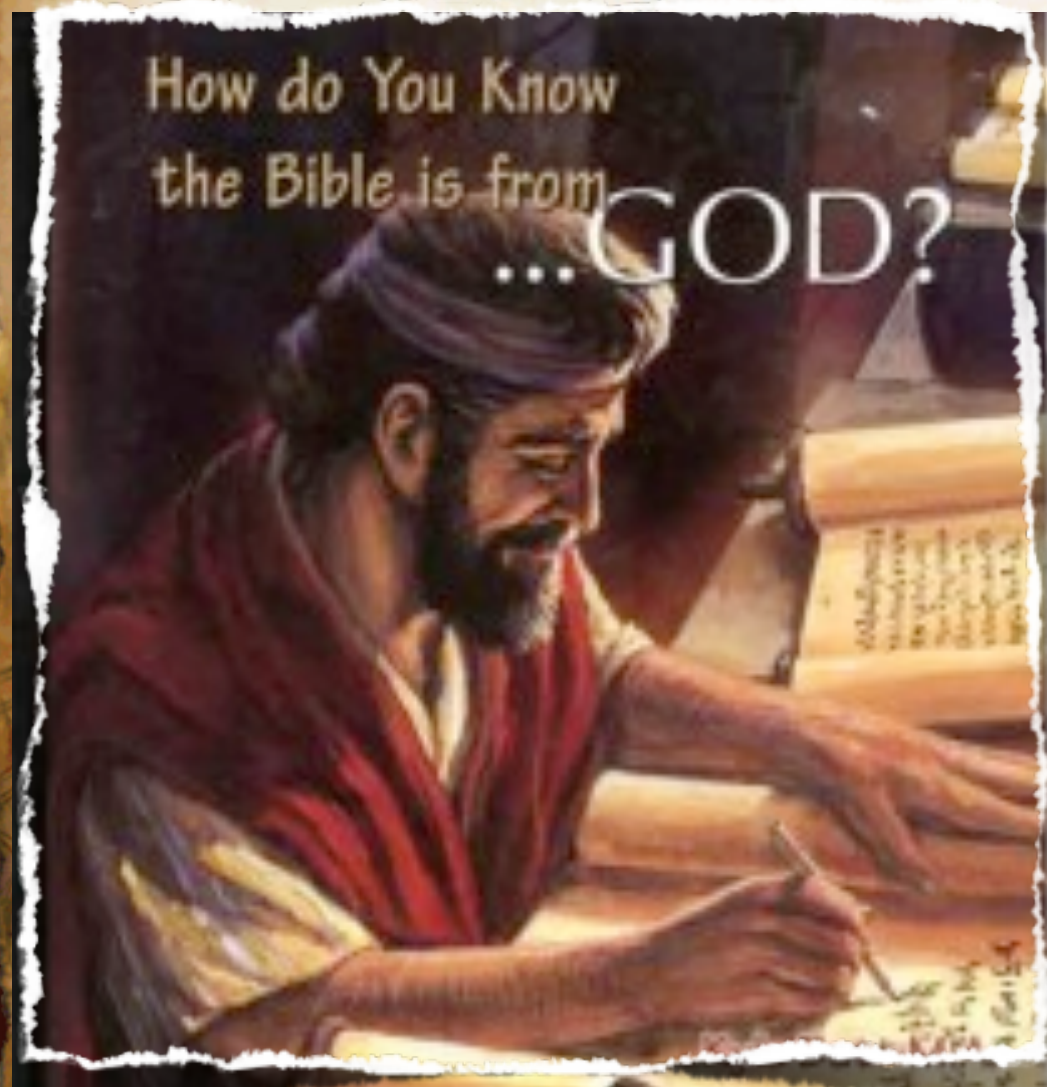
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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **1 JOHN 1:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

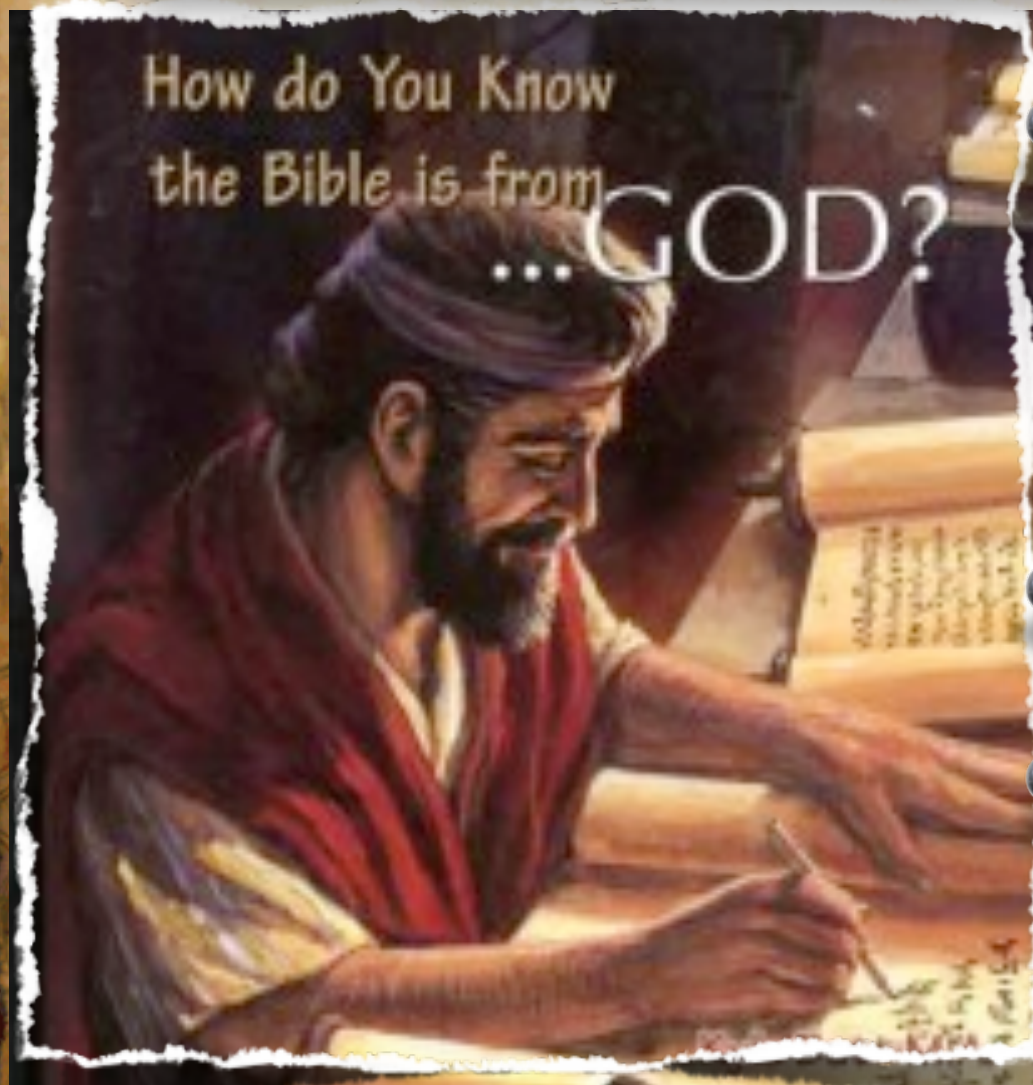




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*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Scriptures Completed & Copied**



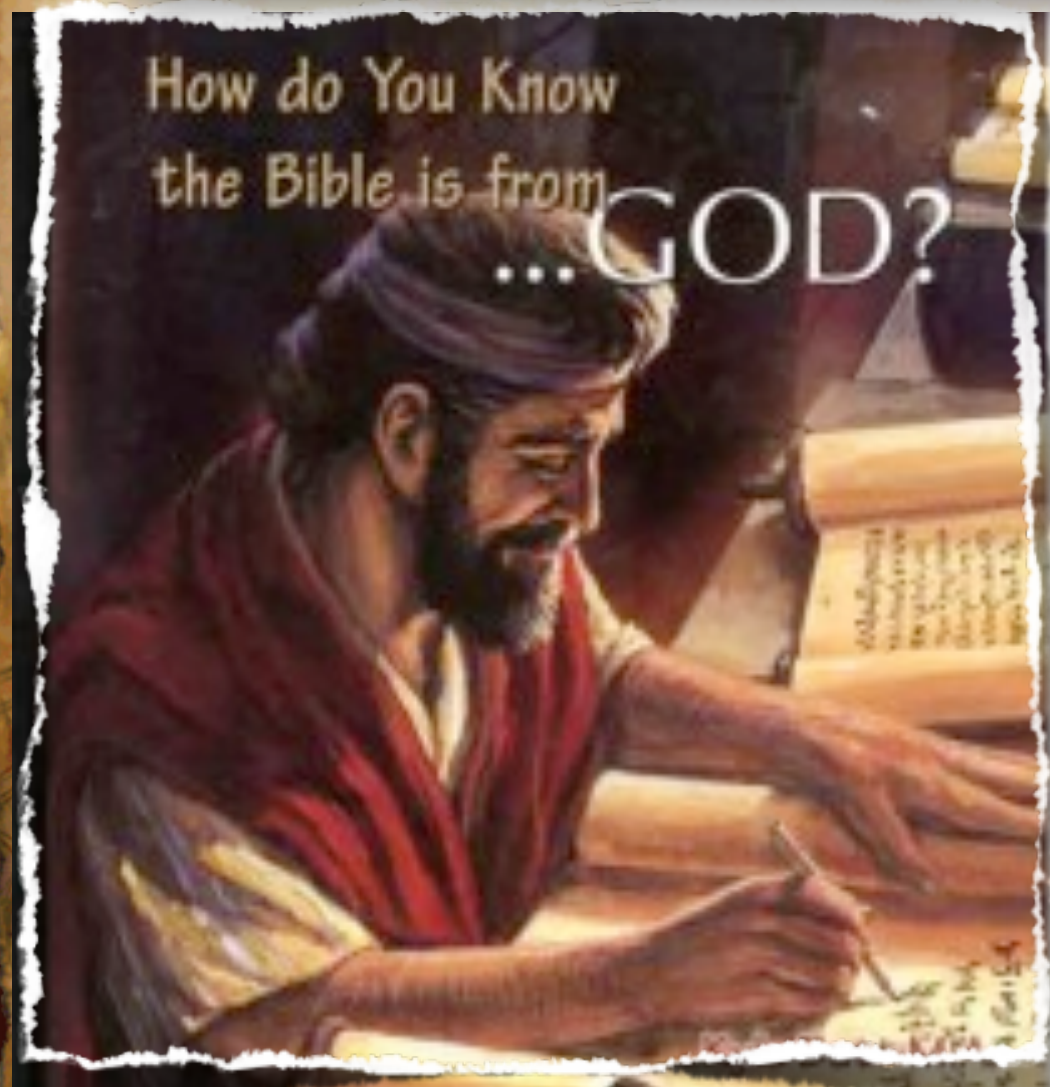
- By around A.D. 100, revelation completed - (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19).
- No autographs exist today!
- Immediately upon completion of these writings, copies were made (cf. Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27).



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Scriptures Completed & Copied**



- The only means of duplication until the fifteenth century was by manual handwriting. (in A.D. 1454 Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press)
- The earliest copies of these autographs were written in the original language & called manuscripts - (over 5,000)







# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## The Scriptures Completed & Copied

**The tradition  
of the Jewish  
scribes in  
copying the  
Old Testament**

**\*Samuel Davidson,  
The Hebrew Text of  
the Old Testament, p.  
89.**

-  #8 An authentic copy must be the exemplar, from which the transcriber ought not in the least deviate.
-  #9 No word or letter, not even a yod, must be written from memory, the scribe not having looked at the codex before him.....
-  #14 besides this, the copyist must be in full Jewish dress,
-  #15 wash his whole body, etc



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**Considered Canonical When Written**

| <b>The Incorrect view</b>                    | <b>The Correct view</b>                      |
|--|--|
| <b>The Church is the Determiner of Canon</b> | <b>The Church is the Discoverer of Canon</b> |
| <b>The Church is the Mother of Canon</b>     | <b>The Church continues via the Canon</b>    |
| <b>The Church is the Magistrate of Canon</b> | <b>The Church is the Minister of Canon</b>   |
| <b>The Church is the Regulator of Canon</b>  | <b>The Church is the Recognizer of Canon</b> |
| <b>The Church is the Judge of Canon</b>      | <b>The Church is the Witness of Canon</b>    |
| <b>The Church is Master of Canon</b>         | <b>The Church is Servant of Canon</b>        |





## The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

## *How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

| Date          | Event   |
|---------------|---|
| c. 45-96 A.D. | Books of the New Testament written  |
| 2nd century   | Codex (modern form factor) of books developed   |
| c. 110 A.D.   | Papias refers to the Gospels of Mark & Matthew  |
| c. 125 A.D.   | Earliest extant fragment of any part of the New Testament copied<br>(John 18:38)  |
| c. 140 A.D.   | Gnostic Marcion attempts first canonical list   |
| c. 150 A.D.   | Justin Martyr refers to Christians gathering together and "the memoirs of the Apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as time permits" |
| c. 160 A.D.   | Tatian compiles a "harmony" of the four gospels, called the "Diatessaron"   |



## The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

## *How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

| Date           | Event   |
|----------------|---|
| c. 180 A.D.    | Christian prisoners in Scilla, Libya, refer to "the books, and letters of a just man, one Paul" as their defense          |
| c. 180 A.D.    | Ireneaus confirms four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John   |
| c. 200 A.D.    | Muratorri Canon compiled  |
| 324 A.D.       | Constantine becomes undisputed emperor of the Roman Empire  |
| 325 A.D.       | Council of Nicea; Eusebius writes his Church History  |
| 332 A.D.       | Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea is ordered by Constantine to create 50 volumes "on prepared parchment" of the Holy Scriptures |
| 325 - 350 A.D. | Codex Vaticanus created; contains the complete New Testament as we have it today  |





# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

| Date        | Event  |
|-------------|--|
| c. 350 A.D. | Codex Sinaiticus written; (now in the British Museum) contains most of modern day New Testament, plus the Shepherd of Hermas, and the Letter of Barnabas |
| 367 A.D.    | Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, writes his Paschal letter, listing the modern day New Testament canon  |
| 393 A.D.    | Council of Hippo affirms modern day canon  |
| 397 A.D.    | Council of Carthage affirms modern day canon   |
| c. 400 A.D. | Jerome (A.D. 346-420) translates Bible into common Latin (the "Vulgate"), using the list of Athanasius   |









# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**How does the New Testament compare to other books of antiquity.**

-  There are over 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament available to us today.
-  Over 2,200 Lectionaries (Books used in worship that cite the Bible).
-  Ancient Versions – 9,000 manuscripts
-  Church "Fathers" – ca. 36,000 citations – scholars say that all but four verses of the entire New Testament text could be reconstructed from the citations of the early Church Fathers alone!



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**How does the New Testament compare to other books of antiquity.**



The New Testament is  
the best attested  
book of antiquity by  
far! - (Mt. 24:35)







The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared November 8-10, 2012

Preached November 11, 2012

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