

## 2 – HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO US

Led by: Pastor Josh Franklin, Antioch Baptist Church

### RESULTS FROM A RECENT SURVEY OF CHRISTIANS

- Fewer than half of all adults can name the four gospels
- Many professing Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples
- 60 percent of Americans can't name even five of the Ten Commandments
- 82 percent of Americans believe "God helps those who help themselves" is a Bible verse
- 12 percent of adults believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife
- A survey of graduating high school seniors revealed that over 50 percent thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife
- A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham

### 6 Great Attacks on the Bible

1. **Atheists & Agnostics** *DESPISE* the Bible – They believe the Bible is not true.
2. **Cults** *DISTORT* the Bible – They add to the Bible (Jehovah's Witnesses & Mormons).
3. Some "**Believers**" *DENY* the Bible – They take away from the Bible (Liberal Protestants).
4. Some **Believers** *DISREGARD* the Bible – They ignore it, and don't read it.
5. Some **Believers** *DISRESPECT* the Bible –
  - Catholics hold the Pope and Traditions higher than the Bible (see Council of Trent)
  - Charismatics hold their visions and dreams higher than the Bible
6. Some **Believers** *DISOBEY* the Bible – They read it, but don't intend to live it.

*...However there are some believers who choose to know it, stow it, show it and sow it... They respect the Word of God in doctrine and in practice, and they are the ones James says will be "blessed in their deeds" (1:25).*

ONE OR THE OTHER...

- 1) **The Word of God** has first place in your life and it is slowly conforming your life to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29); or
- 2) **The World** has first place in your life and it is squeezing you into its mold. (Romans 12:2)

***"Dusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives."  
"The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."***

I must accept the Bible as my infallible standard of truth. The trouble with most Christians is that they base their choices on false authorities, such as:

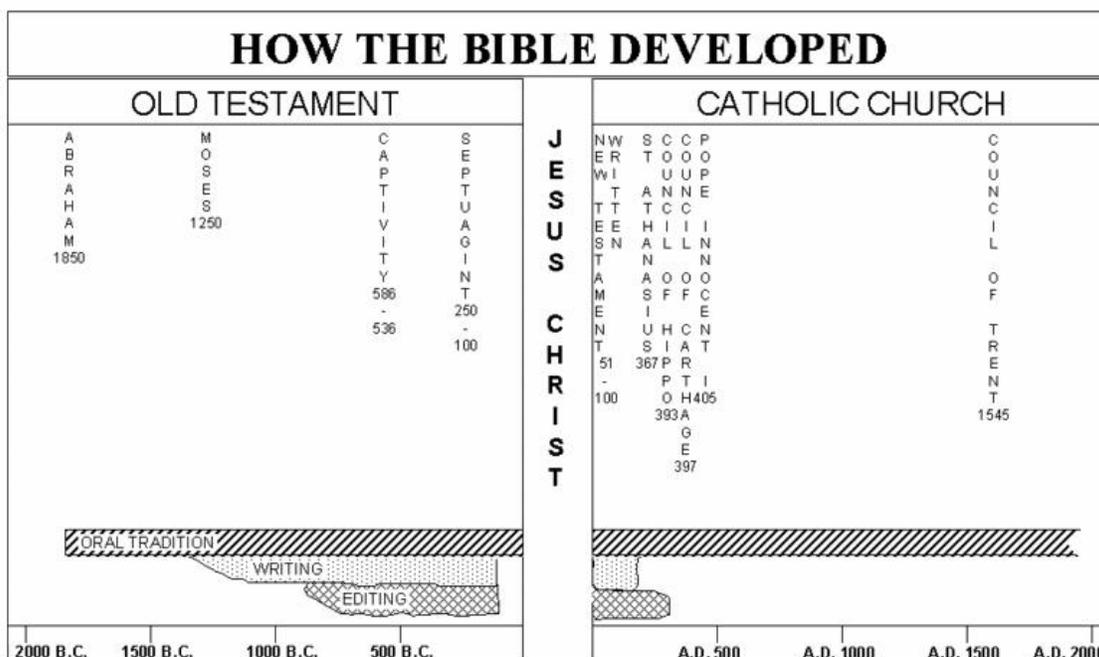
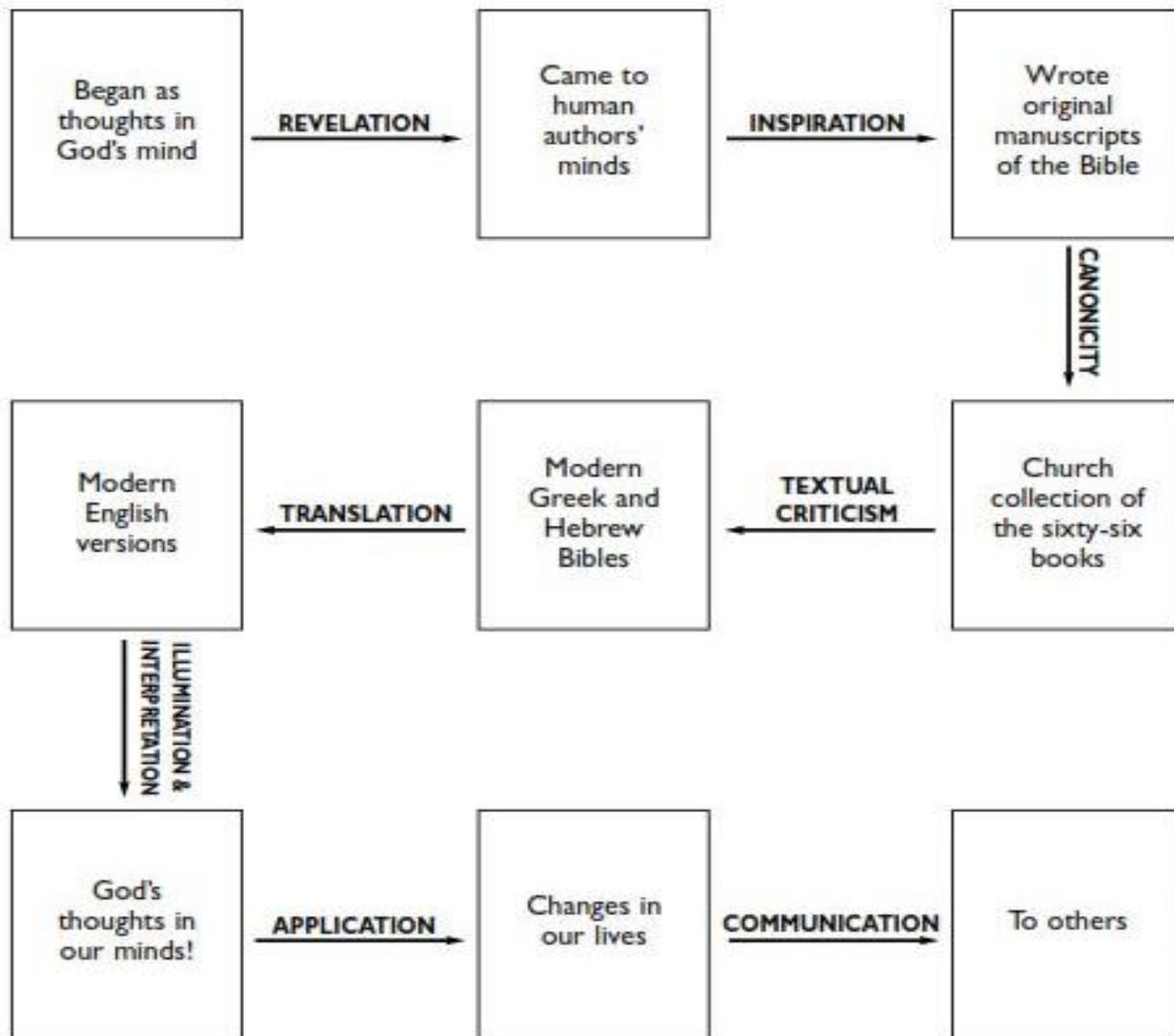
- (a) Traditions – “we’ve always done it this way.”
- (b) Culture – “everybody’s doing it.”
- (c) Reason – “It seems logical.”
- (d) Emotion – “It just feels right.”
- (e) Religion – “I was taught this in my church.”

All five of these will lead you in the wrong direction. You must have a standard that will never mislead you. Only the Bible meets that standard. “Every word of God is flawless” (Prov. 30:5) NIV).

## **HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO US**

### **10 Key Points**

1. The Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written over 1600 years (from approximately 1500 BC to AD 100) by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus. The Old Testament has 39 books (written approximately 1500-400 BC). The New Testament has 27 books (written approximately AD 45-100). The Hebrew Bible has the same text as the English Bible’s Old Testament, but divides and arranges it differently.
3. The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew. With some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
4. The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.
5. Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand. The Bible was copied very accurately, in many cases by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to insure that no errors had been made.
6. The Bible was the first book ever printed on the printing press with moveable type (Gutenberg Press, 1455, Latin Bible).
7. There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before 1500, nearly 5,900 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Plato or Aristotle.
8. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the astonishing reliability of some of the copies of the Old Testament made over the years. Although some spelling variations exist, no variation affects basic Bible doctrines.
9. As the Bible was carried to other countries, it was translated into the common language of the people by scholars who wanted others to know God’s Word. Today there are still 2,000 groups with no Bible in their own language.
10. By AD 200, the Bible was translated into seven languages; by 500, 13 languages; by 900, 17 languages; by 1400, 28 languages; by 1800, 57 languages; by 1900, 537 languages; by 1980, 1,100 languages; by 2006, 2,426 languages have some portions of the Scripture. (Source: The World Christian Encyclopedia; Wycliffe, International)

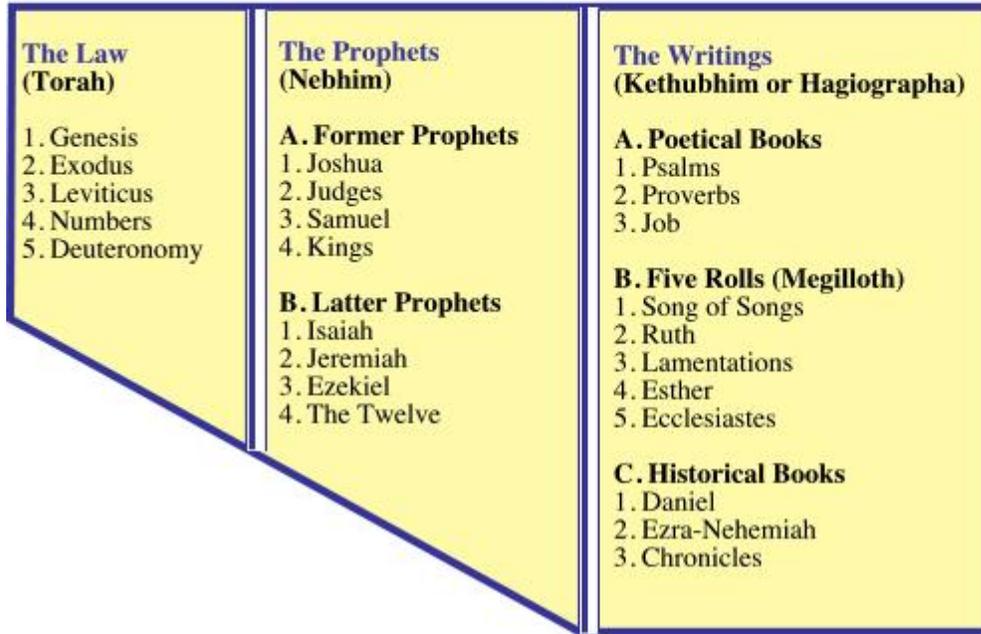


Jesus in  
Luke 24:44

".. which were written  
... concerning Me."

in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets, and the Psalms

## Old Testament Books Arrangement in the Hebrew Bible



Possibly organized by the position of the authors.

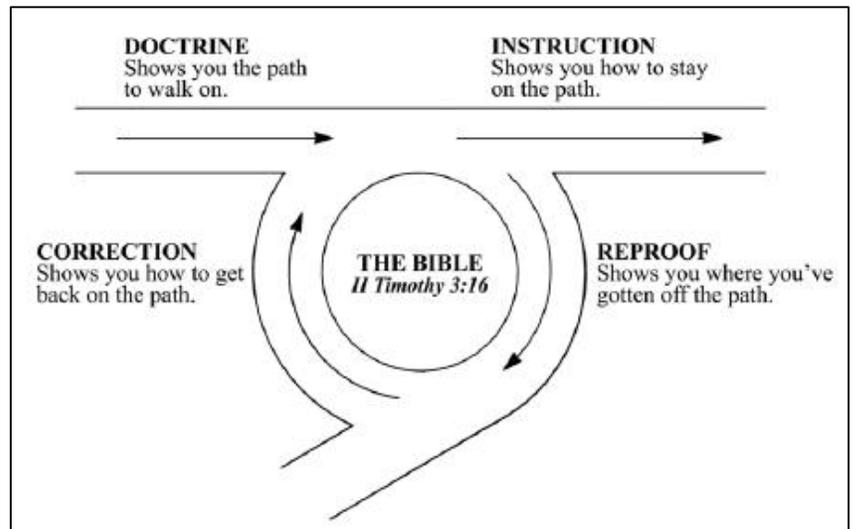
- **The Law**  
Moses, the distinguished prophet.
- **The Prophets**  
Held the office of prophet.
- **The Writings**  
Had the prophetic gift but not office.

### 2 Timothy 3:16

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

**(Message)** Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

**(NLT)** All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.



**Martin Luther rightly declared... The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.**

The Word of God is living. It's not just alive metaphorically, but it is living in reality. Every book of the Bible (66 Books; 1,189 Chapters; 31,132 verses; 773,692 words)

**Luke 1:37 (KJV)** For with God nothing shall be impossible. *(Amplified) no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.*

**Dr. Robert G. Lee—**

*The Bible is a book beyond all books,  
as a river is beyond a creek.*

*The Bible is a book above and beyond all books,  
as the sun is above and beyond a candle in brightness.*

*The Bible is above and beyond all books,  
as the wings of an eagle are above the wings of a sparrow in strength.*

*It is supernatural in origin, Eternal in duration,*

*Inexpressible in value, Immeasurable in influence, Infinite in scope,*

*Divine in authorship, Human in penmanship,*

*Regenerative in power, Infallible in authority,*

*Universal in interest, Personal in application, Inspired in totality!*

*This is the book that has walked more paths, Traveled more highways, Knocked at more doors, And spoken to more people in their native tongue than any other book this world has ever known or ever will know."*