



How We Got The Bible

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The Bible is the most widely read book of all time, having sold over 5 billion copies. It has been translated into 349 different languages.

At the same time, the Bible is scrutinized and attacked more than any other book in the world.

What we believe about the Bible as believers is the most important, central issue in our lives. It determines who we are and how we live each day.

In this series of teachings on the origin of the Bible, we aim to address some fundamental questions that all believers should be aware of.

- Where did the Bible come from?
- Why do we believe its origin is supernatural?
- Who defined the canon of Scripture?
- Most importantly, is the Bible the Word of God?

It is essential that we learn to live by faith, and we cannot receive faith without having confidence in the knowledge that what we read in the Bible is God communicating to us.

How we use and where we place our faith fully depends on how we view the Scriptures.

We need to view “The Word of God” as a miracle the Lord has given to us, so that we may know Him better and live our lives according to the Truth, rather than tradition or hearsay.

The Reality of the World We Are Living In

Within recent years, many members of Protestant denominational churches and the Roman Catholic Church have turned away from the Bible as the fully inspired Word of God.

Some say that the Bible contradicts itself or that it contradicts the “truths” of modern culture and science. For example, many churches and denominations say that homosexuality and transhumanism are acceptable ways of life for those in the body of Christ today.

Romans 1:24-27 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.



The question we have to ask ourselves, especially in today's society, is, do we accept the Bible as the infallible, inerrant word of God?

At JLAL, we uphold the belief that the Bible is the infallible and inerrant word of God. However, it's essential to acknowledge that other Christian denominations may hold differing interpretations. This is why we have and know what the Bible says.

Infallibility: This term, often used in the context of the Bible, suggests that the Word of God will accomplish what God intends it to do and, therefore, is incapable of error.

Inerrancy: This term means that the Bible is without error in its original manuscripts, encompassing all aspects of its teachings.

We believe this because of these basic scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (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. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

John 6:63 Jesus says, "It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life".

This verse emphasizes that Jesus' words are the source of eternal life and spiritual nourishment. Since the Spirit of God is one and God's word is spirit, then Jesus was not only alluding to what He spoke with His natural mouth, but also all the words that are inspired by the Spirit of God as well.

Hebrews 4:12 This verse declares, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart".

This highlights the power and penetrating effect of God's word as Truth and Spirit, which can reveal the hidden truths within a person. If the spirit that inspired the word of God to be pinned down is alive and it has flaws, then we have a problem!

When individuals do not share this perspective that the Bible is the infallible and inerrant word of God, it can lead to the incorporation of personal opinions shaped by tradition, worldview, and contemporary culture. This approach can sometimes lead to the perception that certain biblical teachings may be considered outdated in today's context.

The History of the Bible:

The Bible was written over the course of thousands of years, spanning three different continents and three different languages, in 66 books penned by more than 40 authors.

The first five books of the Bible are referred to as the Law, or the Torah of Moses, because God used him to write them down.



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The Torah is a combination of various elements, and Moses remains the central authority behind it all. Thus, it is referred to as the Law of Moses. When the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, following this law became crucial since it was given to them by God after their rescue from Egypt.

The Prophets

The Israelites needed to recognize that their conquest was a punishment from God, as conveyed by the prophets. These prophets urged the people to stay faithful to God's law and warned that neglecting it would lead to destruction. Over time, their prophecies were compiled into books, with varying prominence among the prophets.

Understanding these messages requires knowing the historical context.

The prophetic books extend well beyond the time of the Israelites. Many of these prophecies specifically pertain to Jesus Christ, including both His first and second comings.

The Israelite community had various writings, including the Psalms of David, spiritual songs attributed to him, and the Proverbs of Solomon, wise sayings linked to him. There are also works of uncertain authorship conveying wisdom and some with known origin, like the book of Job, whose inclusion in scripture is unclear. Since the temple had been destroyed, there was no central authority to determine which books should be added to the scriptural canon.

The canon of scripture refers to the collection of books that are considered authoritative and inspired by God, forming the Old Testament and New Testament of the Bible. The term "canon" comes from the Greek word "kanon," which means "reed" or "measuring rod," signifying a standard or rule.

A book would only be read if people believed it contained divine wisdom relevant to the law and the prophets, creating an additional layer around these texts.

Eventually, by around 200 BC, a consensus emerged within the Hebrew Jewish community about which books should form the canon, known by the acronym Tanakh, which stands for the Torah (the law), Nevi'im (the prophets), and Ketuvim (the writings or other books).