

And, then
God told me . . .



? How we got the Bible . . .

BEFORE THERE WAS WRITTEN WORD, GOD'S WORD WAS PASSED DOWN BY THE FORE-FATHERS TO THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, BY PROSE OR POETRY THAT WAS PUT IN SONG FORM FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MESSAGE TO BE COMMUNICATED.

BEGINNING WITH MOSES, GOD CHOSE MEN TO WRITE DOWN HIS WORD TO US RECORDING HIS DEALINGS WITH MANKIND. IN THIS, HE, GOD, GUIDED EACH ONE TO COMMUNICATE HIS MESSAGE!



GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN AND PRESERVED BY JEWISH SCRIBES WHO METICULOUSLY COPIED AND CHECKED THE MANUSCRIPTS FOR DETAIL AND ACCURACY. JEREMIAH WAS THE LAST PROPHET WHO AUTHORED AN OLD TESTAMENT BOOK.



AFTER CHRIST DIED AND ROSE, THERE WERE MANY BOOKS & 'LETTERS' WRITTEN—SOME WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE APOSTLES (THOSE WHO KNEW JESUS) BUT MANY WERE NOT. TO PROTECT CORRECT TEACHING, IN 325 A.D., THE COUNCIL OF NICEA (SCHOLARS) CANONIZED THE 27 BOOKS AND LETTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, RECOGNIZING THEM AS INSPIRED, ACCURATE AND IN AGREEMENT WITH THE

APOSTLES' TEACHINGS. THIS RESULTED IN OUR PRESENT BIBLE OF 39 OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS AND 27 NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS AND LETTERS, WRITTEN OVER 1400 YEARS BY 40+ AUTHORS OF GOD AND IN AGREEMENT WITH EACH OTHER!

Our Bible's uniqueness:

1) **Its continuity (agreement):** The Bible was written:

- ◆ over 1400 years
- ◆ By 40+ different generations and authors
- ◆ By authors who were peasants, kings, poets, philosophers, statesmen, fishermen, a doctor, a Jewish rabbi, etc.
- ◆ During times of war, peace and wanderings
- ◆ From 3 different continents, in dungeons, battlefields, palaces, travels, etc.
- ◆ In 3 different languages: Hebrew (OT), Aramaic (OT), and Greek (NT)

But when studied closely, it has amazing continuity on hundreds of controversial subjects. WHY?



A person who claims to seriously seek truth, must consider this book!

2) **The Bible is the most translated book and is in more languages than any other book. It was the first to be translated and continues to be translated today into other tongues!**

3) **Its survival:** It has survived more:

- ◆ Test of time with accuracy
- ◆ Attacks by rulers trying to destroy its existence
- ◆ Attacks by people trying to discredit it
- ◆ It has more surviving manuscripts than any other work of antiquity (see the table on the following page)

Work of Antiquity	# of surviving manuscripts
Pliny the Younger (history)	7
Plato (Tetralogies)	7
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	10
Tacitus (Annals of)	20
Aristotle	49
Sophocles	193
Demosthenes	200
Homer (The Iliad)	643
New Testament*	24,633
* this includes full manuscripts as well as partials.	

What are your initial thoughts regarding:

- ◆ **Numbers surviving**
- ◆ **Credibility**
- ◆ **Opportunity for any lack of continuity to be exposed**
- ◆ **The ‘logic’ of dismissing the credibility of the New Testament as compared to the Works of Antiquity.**

Summary:

In light of what we have studied and looked at (and much more that we have not), we are able to say with confidence the Bible is God's inspired Word, authored by Him through its authors, and is unique in its qualities that only supernatural intervention can explain. Therefore, God's Word IS profitable for us to study and know. Just as God tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17:

“All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired) and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

In light of this, of what value is it for me to know what God's Word says?



Right on target!