

Personal Discipleship



Week 6
Can We Trust the Bible?

“Can We Trust
the Bible?”



Syllabus

9 Weeks

1. Introduction to Personal Discipleship
2. Keeping It Real
3. Current Challenges to Christianity
4. Apologetic Reasoning
5. Does God Exist?
6. Can We Trust the Bible?
7. Textual Criticism
8. Biblical Inerrancy
9. The Trial of Jesus (Palm Sunday)



Week 6 Report

Volunteer Question:

In your own words, how did we get the Bible?

Il

Judy Williamson



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Mike Williamson's Wife

Trained as a music teacher at Ithaca College

Married the week after graduation, 53 years ago

Two sons and wives live in Columbia, SC

Choir member

Precept upon Precept Bible Study teacher

How Did We Get the Bible?



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How did We Get the Bible?

by Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

Ask any young child how we got the Bible, and the answers you receive may range from the corner bookstore to an angel from heaven. But, interestingly, many adults still are somewhat unsure as to exactly how we came to possess God's Word. The answer, unfortunately, does not magically appear with age. Consider for just a moment if a friend or coworker were to ask you to describe how we got the Bible. What would your answer be?

OLD TESTAMENT

It was almost 3,500 years ago when Moses wrote the first books of the Old Testament. While we still have his words with us today, those original documents have long since been destroyed. So how do we know what we have today is what Moses penned many years ago.

The answer lies in how those words arrived in our hands. In ancient times, there were diligent Jewish scribes who spent their entire careers copying material. These individuals were very meticulous in regard to providing an exact duplicate of the original document. One group of scribes, known as the Masoretes, set its standards much higher than all the other scribes. The Masoretes counted every single letter, word, and verse of the Old Testament in order to preserve its accuracy.

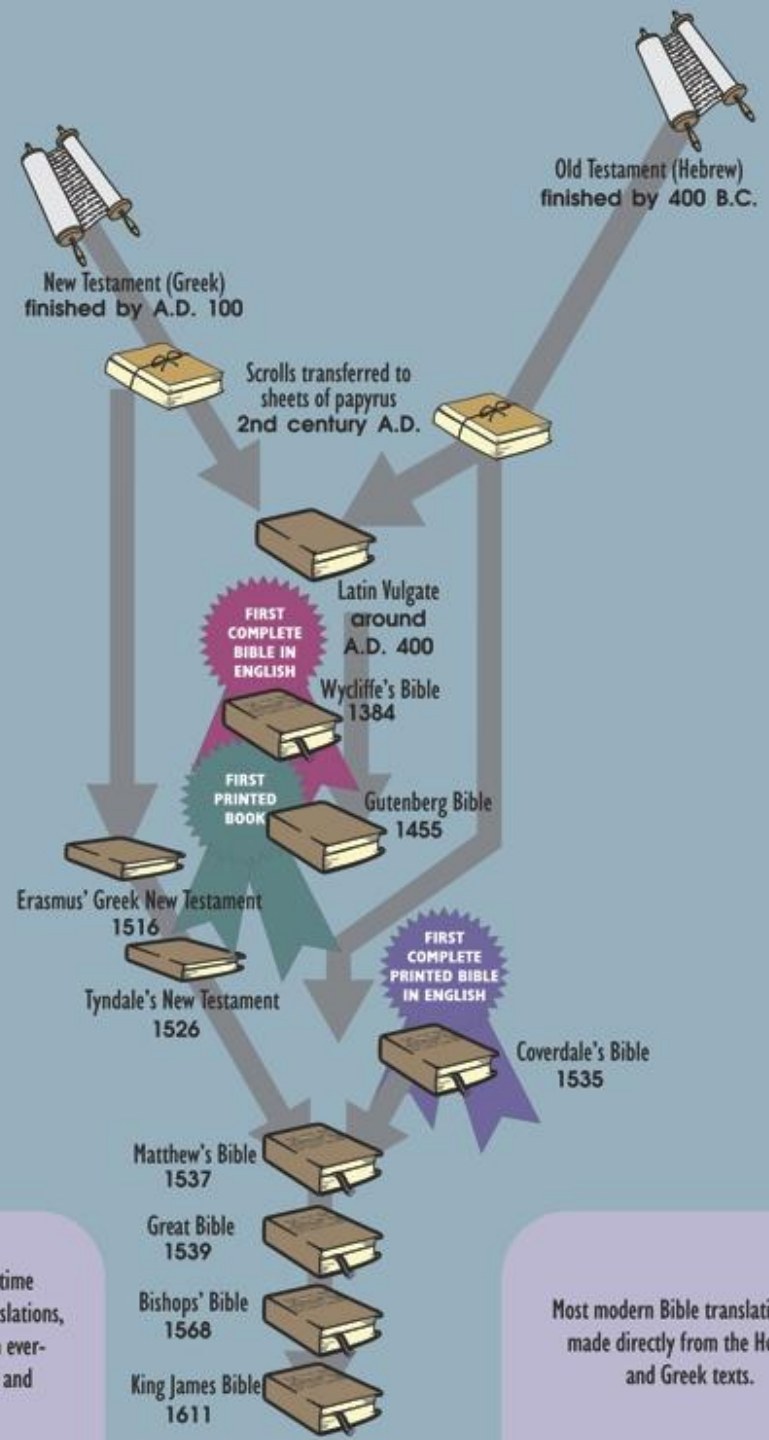
An obvious question then becomes: If these men spent their entire lives doing little more than making thousands of copies of the Old Testament, then why do we not have

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How Did We Get the Bible?

HOW WE GOT OUR ENGLISH BIBLE



Most English Bibles of this time were revisions of previous translations, but were checked against an ever-improving supply of Greek and Hebrew texts.

Most modern Bible translations are made directly from the Hebrew and Greek texts.

How Did We Get the Bible?

How Does the New Testament Measure Up to Other Ancient Books?

Title of Ancient Book	Date It was Written	Date of Earliest Manuscript	Number of Manuscripts
Homer's <i>Illiad</i>	700 B.C.	unknown	643
<i>History</i> of Herodotus	425 B.C.	A.D. 900	8
Josephus' <i>Jewish Wars</i>	A.D. 70	A.D. 400	9
<i>Histories</i> of Tacitus	A.D. 100	A.D. 900	2
New Testament	A.D. 35-100	A.D. 125	5,735

OT

66 Books - Time ^{written over} span 1,600 years 1500 BC. to AD 100.
 40 authors, Moses, David, Amos, Joshua, Nehemiah, Daniel etc
 different - wrecks of life - Solomon, Luke, Peter, Paul, Mark, Matthew

written in ^{backgrounds} different times - war, hardship, prosperity,

- hardship - uncertainty -

weakeness, dungeons, in Palaces, prison, travelling, in exile (John)

3 different continents, Asia Europe Africa

Variety of Styles - Poetry, Narrative, History, Law, Parable

Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.

Everything is in the Bible - all authors agree

This Book is HIS STORY. - Paradise lost & Pauline Regained
 God Redeems!

When did it come from

Old Covenant
 OT. 1500 - 400 BC.

Exodus - Moses told to write

written on leather scroll - & stored on clay -

No autographs of any Bible books

39 books - Jews 24 - ^{chron King 1 book}

Hebrew is very pictorial -

The Law

Pentateuch - 5 books of Moses -

Prophets

Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, - Former prophets

Latter prophets Isaiah, Jer., Eze. - the book of 12 prophets.

The Writings -

~~Psalms~~ Psalms, Proverbs, Job - poetical

The 5 scrolls - Song of Song, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

Dan. Daniel

Ezra - Nehemiah and Chronicles.

450 BC Tradition - Ezra collects & arranges some of the books of the Hebrew Bible - during exile to Babylon.

250-100 BC The first Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible - by Jewish scholars in Alexandria - LXX - Septuagint
Torah, History, Poetry & Prophecy

before 500 AD Talmudists were Jews who copied the Bible.

AD 500 - Masoretes - given the specific task of translating scriptures.

Back to
Hebrew

Any scroll found in error was discarded.

They did it better by better checking each - start in the middle
The newest copies were considered the best.

Apocraph- Included in 100 BC it was included in Scripture. P2.

Philo, Josephus + Phylo- ap. not a part of the Canon

Canon - measuring up to legitimate standard

AD 1640 - removed from the Geneva Bible.

(1947) Dead Sea Scrolls - the papyrus in the jar were made between 100 BC + AD 100. Qumran - near Dead Sea.

Noted
1 year before
Jewish State
established

greatest find so far in archaeology

Dead Sea Scrolls spoke nothing about Jesus.

Essenes - 100 yrs before Christ + 100 years.

They compared that these copies were close. very to the Hebrew Bible
spellings were different - confirmation of the reliability
of Masoretic ~~to~~ writings of Scripture

Isaiah ch 53 - 1 word not the same.

1960 Ugaritic Grammar published helped scholars understand
Hebrew better because it worked the same as Hebrew.

The OT has been accurately transmitted.

Nelson Glueck Heb Arch. + Scholar
at one time people said that writing didn't even exist -
the fact that writing was in use when the BLACK STELE - predate Moses
writings 300 years before Moses.

King David - considered a myth - but 1993 excavation found
a 900 BC tablet referring to the House of David

Daniel - Last Babylonian - Belshazzar - Nabonidus -
later discovered that they ruled together -
Bible was ~~was~~ right

Reputable Archaeologist - 15 studying 3. Languages + The O.T.
Dr. Robert Dick Wilson

The Bible is Historically Correct - Hebrew text in a
phenomenon unequalled
in the history of literature.

MARI Tablets - ^{found.} 1936

cuneiform tablets - 1700 BC.

Abraham Isaac & Jacob appear as true people of their
age - customs etc. Albright - leading auth on Bible Arch.

extensive travel did happen -

they found a wagon contract - leased for 1 yr.
on the condition they wouldn't take it to Kithani.

this was a regularly used route.

Gen 14 Abraham's victory over 4 Kings from Mesopotamia
Not possible to win this victory w. 314 men etc.
this was a long passage way to go from one area to another
to wage war.

NOZI Tablets - Horn

H. E. Gray -

Historical tablet enlightens customs done in the
2nd millennium (2000) Laban chasing Jacob for family idols.
before Christ

These idols were their proof of their legal rights & were
needed to prove who they were.

15 millennium after this time so they couldn't
prove social institutions of the patriarchs are
Barren wives giving their maids to husbands to produce ~~the~~ offspring
for them - Bride promised to keep offspring of
this kind of union.

also the Hittite documents were found. proving the existing existence
of the Hittites.

New Testament 27 Books - not in chronological order

- A 4 gospels
- b. acts of the Apostles
- c. 21 letters written by apostles and apostolic men.

Approx. dates.

	<u>AD</u>
Galatians	64 49
James	49
1/2 Thessa	51/52
1/2 Cor.	55
Romans	57
Mark	58-60
Ephesians	60
Colossians	60
Philemon	60
Philippians	61
Matthew	41/64
Luke	61/64

	<u>AD</u>
Jude	65
1 Timothy	64
1 Peter	64/65
Titus	64
Acts	66-68
2 Peter	66/68
2 Timothy	66/67
Hebrews	68/70
John	85
1/2/3 John	85-90
Revelation	95

CANON - A rule - a standard for measurement - books that ~~meant the~~ met the standard.

oral tradition

1. The Holy Spirit inspired the books.

2 Peter 1:20, 21 - prophets carried by the Holy Spirit + spoke.

John 14:26

The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of all I've said to you.

Jn 16:13

- there will be more prophecies to come.

AD 48-100 - original NT books are written copied & spread around.

AD 100-150 - these books widely circulated & cherished, they began to be authoritative.

AD 150-200 - By the end of 200 AD, the N.T. held the same respect as the Old Testament Books.

AD 200-300 Individual books collected into the New Testament

AD 300-400 Church fathers - we know that these 27 books are those we will recognize the N.T. canon -

NOT Spontaneous

with distances, geographical - Takes awhile to spread.

- ① AD 48-100 Original NT Books were written
Copies - spread around.
- AD 100-150 - began to be cited as Scripture
- AD 150-200 - NT held a position along with the O.T. Scriptures
- AD 200-300 - the books being collected and put together
into 1 book - 27 books.
- AD. 300-44 - Church fathers stated that these books should
be the True N.T. and universally accepted.

There was not a spontaneous canon.

The geographic area was very wide
The recipients were isolated from one another.
a great time lag because of the wideness apart they were.
Big time lag

- ①. These authors were seen as speaking for God - The Word of God
which is working in you who believe. Paul recognized.
- ② Cor 14:37 - ~~of myself~~.
- ③ 2 Peter 3:15-16 - talks about Paul's letters - this implies
that he knew Paul's letters are Scripture.
- ④ Peter's letter was a general letter & also spread around.
- ⑤ The ~~see~~ 1 Thess 5:27 - have this letter read & also read in
other churches. -
Col 4:16

⑥. N.T. seen as scripture - 1 Tim 5:18

DT. 25:4 - OT

Lk 10:7 - from Luke's gospel.

Jesus' sayings were regarded as scripture.

AD 95 Clement of Rome - wrote to Corinth

used things from Matt, Luke + influenced
by Hebrews + Romans - they quoted scripture
of the Epistles letters

AD 100-150 -- widely known + cherished -

Justin Martyr AD 100-165 memoirs (gospels)

A fragment of John's Gospel was found dating from AD 125 -

John Rylands Papyrus P52 John 18 - "What is truth?"

In all the areas where there were manuscripts - the Gospels + Paul's Letters
were used.

No church council decided which books belonged - it just happened.

The books were spontaneously accepted by the church.

300-400 - Church fathers stated their conclusions -
NT complete were the books - Christians want to know which scripture
to do for.

AD 100-150 - AD 140 Marcion - a heretic gospel came out.

7. This caused the church to put the Canon list out as official Bible - NT + OT were both also translated in regional languages + commentaries are being written. they were being ~~usually~~ universally recognized.

AD 150-200 - Muratorian Canon - held along OT Scripture as Canon of Scripture -

Syriac + Latin Translations - East + West areas of the Church
An official canon was needed.

AD 200-300^{299 AD}

Books collected into a whole New Testament and was separated from other Christian literature.

Origen - 185-254 - AD -

made critical studies of NT.

Dionysius of Alexandria, Origen's student indicates that the Eastern + Western churches differed in their acceptance of Revelation + Hebrews.

There was still a lack of finality

300-400 AD - Whole church accepted the canon by now. ↓ ☹️

~~AD 300~~ ↓

303 AD Diocletian ordered Christian books to be destroyed. added the need for official proper canon.

Eusebius - 4 Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters, Pet, John Rev.
Majority accepted James, 2 Peter, 2 + 3 John, Jude -

AD 300-400

EBST 1. Bishop Athanasius - earliest existing document
which specifies our canon.

2. Constantine -

Christianity favored in the Church in Constantinople
ordered 50 copies of the ^{Bible} scriptures. Constantine
did not choose these books. but used
his historical knowledge of scriptures people had
laid down their ~~off~~ lives for.

West Jerome + Augustine gave a list of the same list
of 27 books Constantine listed.

AD 393 - The FIRST church council met and
listed 27 books. Synod of Hippo

also Synod of Carthage - same 27

Factors in determination was Not by selecting from a # of candidate

Canons ① Received personally by churches -

② Recognized by an ever increasing circle - ^{Town To Town} etc.

③ As the facts of the origins of each book is known.
("really written by Paul" ^{Peter} ^{etc.} made so).

④ false teachings were being issued - not acceptable

⑤ John 14:26 - Jesus promised the Holy Spirit
John 16:13 -
1 Cor 2:13 -

Holy Spirit was the criteria .

apostolic origin + approval - Mark + Luke
^{Matt + John}

The documents accepted by their recipients were
continually acknowledged + used by the church! - continually!

How Did We Get the Bible?

Veracity

Sharing the Joy of Personal Discipleship

How We Got the Bible (Part 1)

July 16, 2014

By John Paine

"We should not imagine a committee of church fathers with a large pile of books and these five guiding principles before them when we speak of the process of canonization. No ecumenical committee was commissioned to canonize the Bible."

Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix, *From God To Us Revised and Expanded: How We Got Our Bible*



The Ecumenical Council by Salvador Dalí, 1960

Check out the Veracity series,
"How We Got the Bible."

Video

Daniel B. Wallace:

"The New Testament: Is What We Have Now What They Wrote Then?"

The poster features a dark blue background with a large, circular, torn-edge image of an ancient Greek manuscript on the right side. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with white and blue fonts. At the top, the title is prominently displayed. Below it, the date and seminar name are listed. A circular portrait of Dr. Daniel B. Wallace is positioned to the right of the text. The bottom section of the poster is a lighter blue and contains the same information mirrored in reverse, likely for a backside view.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT:
IS WHAT WE HAVE NOW
WHAT THEY WROTE THEN?**

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LATEST NEWS

Additional Extra-Biblical Chester Beatty Papyrus Images Now Available

Press Release

2 March 2015

In the summer of 2013, the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts (CSNTM) digitized the Greek biblical papyri housed at the Chester Beatty Library (CBL) in Dublin, Ireland. The Chester Beatty collection includes some of the earliest and most important Greek biblical manuscripts in the world. In addition to these biblical manuscripts, CSNTM also digitized several extra-biblical Greek papyri that are part of the CBL collection.

For the first time, images of two of these extra-biblical Chester Beatty manuscripts have now been made available:

1) *The Apocryphon of Jannes and Jambres the Magicians*

Jannes and Jambres is an apocryphal work. Its text is fragmentary and dated from the 3rd-4th century.

BLOG

Your Amazon purchases can help CSNTM

ROBERT MARCELLO

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2012



CSNTM.Org

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2 Comments

Biblical Manuscripts and their Commentaries

Posted by Daniel B. Wallace on 26 February 2015 in [Bible Translation](#), [CSNTM](#), [Early Christianity](#), [Exegesis](#), [New Testament Studies](#), [Textual Criticism](#), [Theology](#), [Uncategorized](#)



See my latest blog at [CSNTM](#) on Biblical Manuscripts and their Commentaries.



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Archives

DanielBWallace.com

Upcoming Volunteer Questions

3/15 What is textual criticism and why is it important? (Marion Paine)

3/22 What is biblical inerrancy & why is it controversial? (Dave Rudy)

3/29 Group Discussion:

How would you answer if someone asked,
"What is personal discipleship and why does
it matter?"



For Next Week

Volunteer Question:

What is textual criticism and why is it important? ?



(Marion Paine)



Upcoming Events...

National Conference on Christian Apologetics

Oct. 16-17, 2015 Charlotte, NC

Evangelical Theological Society 67th Annual Meeting

Nov. 17-19, 2015 Atlanta, GA

