

## The Origin of the Bible – Part 1

Introduction: Once a person believes that God exists, the next logical question is, “How can I learn about Him and what He expects of me?” Christians know that the answer to that question is, “By reading the \_\_\_\_\_.”

But then come the questions,

- “Is the Bible reliable?”
- “How do I know I can trust what it says?”
- “Who wrote the Bible, and when?”
- “How did that ancient book get in its modern form, and how can I know it was not \_\_\_\_\_ by the church along the way to suit its purposes?”
- “Is there any evidence that shows me the Bible is reliable?”

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

### I. THE BIBLE CAME THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_.

A. God chose more than \_\_\_\_ individuals to be His tools for writing the Bible.

1. Moses - a scholar from the universities of Egypt
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - a shepherd, warrior, king
3. Daniel - a prime minister of \_\_\_\_\_
4. Amos - a herdsman
5. Nehemiah - a cup bearer for the King of Persia
6. \_\_\_\_\_ - a tax collector
7. Luke - a doctor
8. Peter - a \_\_\_\_\_
9. Paul - a rabbi

B. The Bible took over \_\_\_\_\_ years to write.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was probably written well before Moses lived.
2. Moses began writing shortly after \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., the date of the Exodus.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was given to John between 90 and 95 A.D.

C. The Bible was written in three languages.

1. Hebrew - most of the Old Testament
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Dan. 2 - 7 and most of Ezra 4 - 7, Mt. 27:46
3. Greek - most of the New Testament

D. The Bible was written in many different styles and \_\_\_\_\_ forms.

1. historical narrative
2. poetry
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. didactic treatise
5. personal correspondence
6. memoirs
7. biography
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. prophecy
10. \_\_\_\_\_

E. The Bible was written about many controversial subjects.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. divorce
3. parenting
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. adultery
6. homosexuality
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. character development
9. sin
10. salvation
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. end times

Much of the content above has been based upon Josh McDowell's book The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict. Years ago, a salesman for the Great Books tried to enlist Josh to sell the Great Books also. Josh asked him, "If you picked any one subject addressed by many of the authors of the Great Books, and you put together everything they said about it, what would you get?"

The salesman replied, "A \_\_\_\_\_." None of these authors would agree.

But while the Bible is written by a multitude of authors over a wide range of time, you can bring together what each had to say on any particular subject and have a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ of thought and instruction. The reason for that is because

## II. THE BIBLE CAME FROM \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

A. 2 Peter 1:21 says that while it was the men that spoke, they did not speak according to their own will but according to the will of the \_\_\_\_\_.

1. That is why there is \_\_\_\_\_ in the message. God was the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_, and He did not change over all the years that comprised the writing of the Scriptures.
2. That is why the Bible is called, "The Word of \_\_\_\_\_."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## III. THE MEANING OF INSPIRATION

A. World's meaning: When a modern day book is called "inspired," people mean that its thoughts and writing are \_\_\_\_\_ beyond a normal level.

B. Theological meaning: When people talk about the inspiration of the Bible they are talking about the way that God \_\_\_\_\_ His truth to the men who penned the Scriptures.

C. Biblical meaning: God-\_\_\_\_\_

1. Not in the sense that God blew upon the writings and thereby blessed them,
2. but in the sense that God blew them \_\_\_\_\_ to give to the writers.

## IV. THE MEANS OF INSPIRATION

Often people search for a single \_\_\_\_\_ by which God communicated His truth to men to record. Sometimes people argue, favoring one means of inspiration over another.

The testimony of the Scriptures is that God used \_\_\_\_\_ means of inspiration. One means is not preferable over another. The fact is that through each of the means, God breathed out His Word to the recipient. Let us explore some of those means of inspiration.

A. Inscription - God wrote it \_\_\_\_\_.

Exodus 34:1 And the LORD said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first *ones*, and I will write on *these* tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.

**B. Dictation - God dictated \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, and the human author wrote it down.**

Exodus 34:27 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

**C. Vision - God \_\_\_\_\_ the author something and told him to write what he saw.**

Revelation 1:11 saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

**D. Research - God revealed the truth through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the author.**

Luke 1:1-4 1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

**E. Reporting first hand experiences - God’s revelation came through the experiences of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

**F. Teaching by the Holy Spirit - God revealed truth through the internal testimony of the indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of the author.**

1 Corinthians 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

**NEXT WEEK - THE RESULTS OF INSPIRATION**