

The Bible: How did we get it? (2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21; Heb 4:12)

Presupposition #1: There is a God
#2: He has created
#3: He has revealed himself

Question 1: How has God revealed himself?

General revelation - *Aimed at human reason*
Special Revelation – *Aimed at the faithful*
His Living Word – *Christ*
His Written Word – *Scriptures*

Scriptures are the permanent written record of God's Word (cf. Isa 40:8)

Theories of Transmission

1. Men of special religious insight
2. Partially from God (inspired)
3. Thought and ideas from God but not the exact words
4. Becomes God's Word to the reader once flawed human commentaries are accounted for
5. Dictated by God

Question 2: Is it the Word of God (2 Tim 3:16) ...or is it human writings or a mixture?

(context)
hieros gramma – *sacred writings* (2 Tim 3:15)
All of "them" are "inspired" by God pertain to Jesus (Lk 24:32, 44-47)

"God breathed" – God exhaled his Word not inspired (inhale) (Gen 2:7; Ps 33:6; Job 33:4)

Plenary inspiration – All God-breathed

Question 3: How did it get from God to written record ? (2 Pet 1:20-21)

--- as men were "*carried along*" by the Holy Spirit (what wind is to a sailboat; the Holy Spirit is to recorders of Scripture)

The author is God by His Spirit carrying along human writers so that the very words they wrote is the Word of God (cf. Matt 5:18 very letters/characters are God-breathed)

Koran Gabriel the angel's revelation to one man Muhammad

Book of Mormon The alleged other revelation of Jesus Christ to one man, Joseph Smith

Bible *God-breathed* revelation to 40 authors (Moses-John) over 1500 years

Holy Scriptures are beyond reason and lofty (Isa 55:8-9); when delivered they make sense but impossible to imagine in advance

Verbal plenary inspiration: Every word of Scripture is God-breathed

Question 4: How did the "sacred writings" get to us and who decided what was Scripture ?

The Bible didn't become authoritative because it was compiled (canonized); it is canonized because by inspiration (God-breathed) it is authoritative.

The Scriptures, both Old Testament and New Testament, were already recognized as God-breathed and

authoritative by the time of the ir written record (eg . Jesus, concerning the Old Testament Luke 11:50-51; Peter of the New Testament 2 Pet 3:2 ,16)

39 Old Testament books – law, prophets, psalms (Luke 24:44)

27 New Testament books – “Apostles teaching” (Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20)

Canon (“rule” or standard) Criteria for New Testament

- Recognized authorship
- Doctrinal agreement
- Acceptance broadly by early church
- Evidence internally of divine influence

Rejected- *Pseudepigrapha* – “false writings”

Apocrypha —“hidden secrets”

- Not recognized by Jews (cf. Rom 3:2)
- Never quoted from once by Christ or apostles
- Never included in early church canon lists
- Contain doctrinal anomalies like *prayer for the dead*
- Not recognized by Jerome early translator of Latin Vulgate –

Catholic Bible

• Jesus book ended Old Testament Canon -- Luke 11:50-51 – from blood of Abel (Gen) to the blood of Zechariah (2 Chron , last book in the Jewish Canon Order)

Question 5: Why did the Bible come to us?

Brings life “...by it made wise unto salvation” (2 Tim 3:15)

...equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:17)

Powerful living not outdated; present dynamic forced to be reckoned with

active not passive; same voice that created everything has the power to change everyone

penetrating not casual entertainment; it cuts through all the layers of resistance and gets right to the reality of your soul

two-edged – promise to the faithful

-- Judgment to the rebellious

The Calvary Culture : We take God’s Word seriously.

“*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever*” (Isa 40:8)