



How Did the Bible Become the Bible? (Week 2)

The introduction - Neil deGrasse Tyson Selects the Eight Books Every Intelligent Person on the Planet Should Read - his number one book was **The Bible** - and the reason he gives for reading it - "to learn that it's easier to be told by others what to think and believe than it is to think for yourself."

Here again we see this cultural myth that we form our views of the world independent of outside influence. As if we form our views in a vacuum.

Neil deGrasse feels this way because some authority figure in his life taught him to think for himself. And he happens to think science will explain everything. Eventually. It doesn't now, of course. And that's the blind faith of science. There's an explanation on the way. Now, I'm not anti-science. I'm just sacred cow-tipping at the moment.

I bring this up, because every worldview is circular in nature. I will be using the Bible to show the nature and character of the Bible as truth, someone may object, "You show the Bible is inspired by quoting the Bible. That's circular reasoning. I am scientific in my outlook, so I think everything should have a scientific explanation."

So, you begin with science and you use science to prove your thesis, is that it? That's also circular reasoning.

"I believe in reason. All explanations of reality should be reasoned." So, you begin with reason and you use reason to support beginning with reason? Also, circular reasoning.

Because all worldviews must begin somewhere, they are all circular in nature.

However, I will argue this. There is only one way for a worldview to not be circular in nature and that is if there is a direct outside source from which that worldview originates. In other words, God as the source of truth. If God is the source of truth and the Bible is inspired by God, then the Bible is an authoritative source of truth regarding what God wants us to know about Him and how to live in this world.

Today, we're going to look at how the Bible became the Bible. I'm going to let Scripture explain how it originated, because the Bible is its

own best witness. But it is not a book that asks for blind faith. It is not a book that says everything will be explained later. Everything we need to know in this life to have a true relationship with the living God and to live life in a way that we can experience the abundant life He provides, can be discovered now.

We'll look at four aspects of how the Bible came to be the Bible.

1. How did the Old Testament come to exist?
2. What proof does it provide that God communicated to humanity?
3. How did the New Testament come to exist?
4. And what proof does it provide that God has communicated to humanity?

Now, this is an exhaustive subject that we could literally spend months on, but this will give you a starting point to explore things further.

1. How did the Old Testament come to exist?

Now by its very nature, the proofs of the Old Testament are somewhat different than the proofs of the New Testament, primarily because the Old Testament is just that — very ancient. Today I'll be emphasizing the historic proofs of the New Testament and the prophetic witness of the Old Testament.

Hebrews 1:1

The Supremacy of God's Son

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

He's speaking here of the Old Testament prophets. God spoke to men who then spoke to the people. These men, called prophets, were God's spokesmen. God communicated to these men (and sometimes women) by different means, such as dreams or through sound waves or theophanies, which is when God appeared in

human form, but all communication between God and humanity was and is mediated, meaning it comes through a source of media He uses. There is no unfiltered communication with the God of the universe, because we could not handle it. In the same way, we can handle the rays of the sun, but not the sun itself.

Why would people believe anyone who said, “God told me to tell you?” Well, the simple answer is they didn’t. That is simplistic thinking and it’s not why people then or people now believe the words of the Old Testament prophets.

People both then and now believed the Old Testament prophets because God backed up all their words with signs and wonders.

God also instructed the people that if any prophet said something that did not come true then they were not to listen to that prophet. That was the

end of his or her career. So, an Old Testament prophet had to speak with 100% accuracy. God often performed miracles through the prophets so the people had confirmation that God was speaking to them through the prophets.

What about now? How can we confirm the words of these Old Testament prophets now?

2. What evidences does the Old Testament provide that God communicated to humanity?

Here are three brief examples of how God has also given us confirmation of this prophetic witness.

First, the only reason any of us are familiar with the little town of Bethlehem is because approximately 700 years before the birth of Christ the prophet Micah gave this prophecy:

Micah 5:2

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

This phraseology is like saying, “I’m sending you an eternal one.” This wasn’t idle speculation. This is exacting prophetic detail.

Second, some 400 years before crucifixion was invented as a form of capital punishment, listen to what the prophet Zechariah said.

Zechariah 12:10

10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in 10¹³.

Isaiah chapter 53 – the suffering servant.

Mighty Babylon, 196 miles square, was enclosed not only by a moat, but also by a double wall 330 feet high, each part 90 feet thick. It was said by unanimous popular opinion to be indestructible, yet two Bible prophets declared its doom. These prophets further claimed that the ruins would be avoided by travelers, that the city would never again be inhabited, and that its stones would not even be moved for use as building material (Isaiah 13:17–22 and Jeremiah 51:26, 43). Their description is, in fact, the well-documented history of the famous citadel.

Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in 10⁹.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in

your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

This was true of both Old Testament authors and New Testament authors.

Proverbs 1:32-33

³² For the simple are killed by their turning away,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

How Did Jesus View the Old Testament?

John 5:46-47

46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. **47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

The entire Old Testament preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's there as the book of Isaiah just demonstrated to us.

But God has made it plain to us.

Hebrews 1:2-3

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

The existence of Jesus Christ alone and the influence that He has had and continues to have upon people from every tongue and tribe and nation says something to humanity right now that only the most foolish ignore.

Now let's turn to the question:

3. How did the New Testament come to exist?

2 Peter 1:16-21

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses** of his majesty. **17** For when he

received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Right here we have three ways God has communicated to Apostles and prophets. One, He used sound waves (they heard His voice). Two, they saw Him, so we have eyewitness accounts. Three, we have the written testimony of those eyewitness accounts.

Now, let’s look at how these eyewitness accounts came to be gathered together in what we now call the Bible.

4. And what evidences does it provide that God has communicated to humanity?

EXPLANATION OF NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE & TEXTUAL CRITICISM.

1. Each column of writing could have no less than forty-eight, and no more than sixty lines.
2. They must verbalize each word aloud while they were writing.
3. They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word “Jehovah,” every time they wrote it.
4. There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.
5. The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other. The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.
6. The documents could be stored only in sacred places (synagogues, etc).
7. As no document containing God’s Word could be destroyed, they were stored, or buried, in a genizah – a Hebrew term meaning “hiding place.” These were usually kept in a synagogue or sometimes in a Jewish cemetery.

Romans 16:25-26

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

Here we see the reason the Scriptures were given — to bring about the obedience of faith.

Now, why doesn't everyone respond with faith and trust?

- **The god of this world has blinded the eyes of the unbelieving. (2 Corinthians 4:3-5)**
- **Sin is like an ear infection that fills our ear canals and doesn't allow us to hear the truth. (John 8:43)**

- **Our hearts are like hard ground that will not take in the seeds of truth to allow growth. (Matthew 13:4)**

1 Thessalonians 2:13

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.