

**How We Got the Bible**  
From Spoken Word to Written  
Word of God Series – Part 1  
Pastor Curt Malizzi  
2 Timothy 3:16

**The Bible is the Divinely Inspired Word of God**

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

—2 Timothy 3:16–17

- The Bible is made up of 66 different books.
- These books (or scrolls) were written over 1,500 years, from about 1445 BC to AD 100
  - Old Testament consists of 39 books, written from 1445–400 BC.
  - The New Testament consists of 27 books written from 44 AD until 95 AD
- One constant thread – from Creation through to Redemption of mankind

**The Bible is:**

- Special Revelation
- Divine Inspiration
- Inerrant
- Infallible

The Holy Spirit will always lead you into all truth as you ask Him to show you the word, while the world stumbles with questions of the mind.

**Seven Important Points**

- 1. Four ways the Word of God came to the writers**
  - a. Audibly spoken by God – Face to Face with Moses
  - b. Inaudibly – inwardly spoken by God
  - c. Hand-written by God directly – i.e. the 10 Commandments on 2 stone tablets; on the wall before Belshazzar in the Book of Daniel
  - d. Prophetically as pictures, impression and words to the Prophets
  
- 2. Over the centuries, Scripture has been copied onto many different materials.**
  - a. The Old Testament was written on materials such as stone, clay, leather, and papyrus.



**3. The Bible came to us in three different original languages.**

- a. The Old Testament was written beginning in 1445 BC mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic.
- b. The New Testament was written from 44 AD until 95 AD – In Greek the common language imposed by the Greek Empire before the Romans

**4. The Hebrew Old Testament (Tanakh) contains:**

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Torah (Pentateuch) – **First 5 books** written by Moses on Mt. Sinai and during the 40 years
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nevim = the **Former and Latter Prophets**
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ketuvim = **the Writings** (Psalms and remaining OT books)
- d. Old Testament consists of 39 books, written from 1445–400 BC.

PENTATEUCH (LAW)	HISTORICAL	POETRY/WISDOM	MINOR PROPHETS
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
		MAJOR PROPHETS	
		Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	

e. The New Testament consists of 27 books, written from 44–95 AD.

GOSPELS	PAUL'S EPISTLES	GENERAL EPISTLES
Matthew Mark Luke John	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude
Acts		Revelation

**5. Before the printing press, the Bible was copied by hand.**

- a. Jewish scribes developed intricate methods of **counting words and letters** to ensure the accuracy of every written copy.
- b. The scribes kept diligent count when copying manuscripts:
  - i. Number of words in each line, page section, and book
  - ii. How often certain words were used.
  - iii. Differences (variants) in the manuscripts.

**6. Reliability - The Bible we have today is remarkably reliable and accurate when compared to the original writings of the OT and NT.**

- a. Of the thousands of copies made by hand, over 5,600 Greek manuscripts still exist in whole or in part.
- b. The text of the Bible is far better preserved than the major works of ancient philosophers like... Plato and Aristotle.

**The “Dead Sea Scrolls” confirmed the reliability of the Old Testament.**

- The Dead Sea Scrolls is a collection of some 981 different manuscripts – discovered in 1946/47 and in 1956 – from 11 caves.
- 226 scrolls were from books of the Old Testament.
- The scroll of Isaiah was nearly identical to manuscripts that were copied 1,000 years later.



**A cave where Dead  
Sea Scrolls were found**

**7. Important Dates**

- a. The Old Testament compilation in 100 BC was made into the Septuagint;
- b. The New Testament compilation in 382 AD at Council of Rome
- c. The first complete English Bible was translated from Latin in 1382 by John Wycliffe
- d. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in Germany and printed the first Bible in 1450.
- e. The King James Version was translated in 1611 and became a standard for 300 years.



Gutenberg Printing Press

- **Apocrypha**

- The Septuagint included extra Jewish religious writings—later known as “Apocrypha”—that had never been included in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- The word *apocrypha* is from the Greek meaning “hidden” or “unclear.” There are 14 apocrypha books.
- Today, they are not included in Protestant Bibles, but many of the books can be found in Orthodox and Roman Catholic Old Testaments.

- **Gnostic Gospels**

- The **52** texts discovered in Egypt include 'secret' gospels poems and myths attributing to Jesus sayings and beliefs which are very different from the New Testament

- 

2000 BC

1500 BC

1000 BC

500 BC

AD 1

Jesus said ... “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63

Get to know your Bible and learn how to study it today.