

November 30th – The Origin of Scripture

“No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

(2 Peter 1:20-21)

While it's difficult to get exact numbers, experts agree that the Bible is the best-selling and most widely distributed book of all-time. A survey by the Bible Society concluded that around 2.5 billion copies were printed between 1815 and 1975, but more recent estimates put the number at more than 5 billion. The whole Bible has been translated into 349 languages, with 2,123 languages having at least one book of the Bible in that language.

As amazing as that is, the composition of Scripture is just as fascinating. The 66 books of the Bible were composed by 40 different writers over a period of roughly 1,500 years. That's 15 centuries! And yet, when someone reads the Bible, they're amazed to find that it has one consistent message – there is a holy God who longs to redeem mankind through the blood of His Son Jesus. But how can Scripture be so consistent when so many people were involved in its composition?

It's very simple – though the Bible is the product of 40 different writers, there is only One Author. Peter says the Author of Scripture is the Holy Spirit. Evangelicals believe in what theologians call the “verbal plenary inspiration” of Scripture. That is, the Holy Spirit moved the 40 writers as they penned the words of the Bible. God worked through each of their unique personalities to give us His inerrant Word. Because God is the Author of Scripture, you can trust every Word of the Bible!