

The OLD TESTAMENT

From Hebrew into English

What are the Holy Scriptures?

They are:

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graph TD; A[They are:] --> B[Divine]; A --> C[Human];
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Divine

Human

They are Divine because they are
"God-breathed"

**The term "God-breathed"
means exactly what it says**

**God SPOKE His message to the
writers of the Old Testament**

2 Tim 3:12-17

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Joel 1:1-3

"The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

**Hear this, you elders;
listen, all who live in the land.**

**Has anything like this ever happened in your days
or in the days of your forefathers?**

**Tell it to your children,
and let your children tell it to their children,
and their children to the next generation."**

Jeremiah 7:22-29

For when I brought your forefathers out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward. From the time your forefathers left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their forefathers.'

27 "When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer. 28 Therefore say to them, 'This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips. 29 Cut off your hair and throw it away; take up a lament on the barren heights, for the LORD has rejected and abandoned this generation that is under his wrath.

We are supposed to read, study, and obey Scripture because it is the written Word of God.

Deut 12:32

**"See that you do all I command you;
do not add to it or take away from it."**

Scripture also has a Human Aspect

God worked through human writers by a process called *Inspiration* ("God-breathing")

God also allowed each writer's personality and style to enter into the Bible text.

Each book of the Bible is a literary expression of a historical moment in time

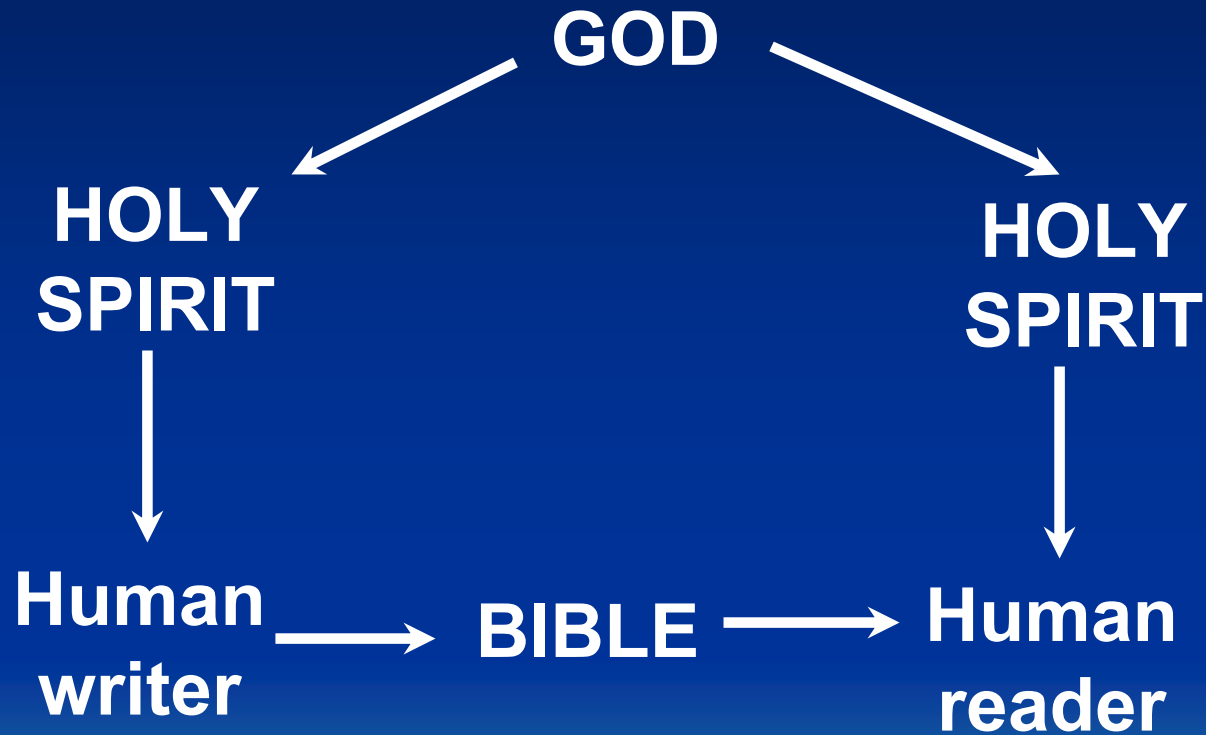
The Bible contains the written Word of God, as recorded by human beings who were working under the direction of God Himself.

God maintained the meaning of the Scripture, while allowing the writers to choose their own style of writing

The Way it Works

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The CENTRAL CONCEPT of Scripture

Truth already exists

You don't create truth

You discover truth

This is the process of illumination.

**The Old Testament is God's revelation
(message) to His people**

It had three major divisions

Law

Prophets

Writings

**The books of the Old Testament were the
Scriptures used by Christ and His apostles**

Attempts to explain and clarify the Scriptures

Talmud = Mishnah + Gemara

**Mishnah = early oral interpretations of the scriptures ~
A.D. 200.**

**Gemara = The second part of the Talmud, consisting
primarily of commentary on the Mishnah ~ A.D.200+**

**Midrash = Jewish commentaries on the Hebrew
Scriptures compiled ~A.D. 400 and 1200**

How the Old Testament moved from Hebrew to English

**Step One - they finished writing it sometime
around 400BC with the Book of Malachi**

The name "Malachi" means "My Messenger"

**It was the final message from God to the Hebrews
before Messiah (Jesus) came**

Step Two - Alex takes over

Aristotle is the tutor of Alexander

Alexander grows up and conquers the world

332BC the Fall of Tyre

The fall of Tyre happened EXACTLY as described by Ezekiel Chapter 26. Ezekiel was written between 592-570BC.

Next, Alexander goes to Gaza and Jerusalem

Step Three - The Negotiation

The Jews, unlike the people of Tyre, don't argue with Alexander

They send Rabbis to show Alexander the prophecy of Daniel 11:3

"And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will."

Alexander realizes the Jewish prophecies about him are 100% accurate.

Alexander decides to NOT mess with the Hebrew God.

He gives the Jews religious freedom, something he gives no other conquered nation.

This allows the Hebrew religion to survive.

(As long as they pay their taxes and don't cause trouble for Alexander).

Step Four - Old Testament is translated into Greek

The Greeks have a standard procedure that all the writings of all nations are translated into Greek and stored at the libraries (Alexandria and Athens)

Step Four - Old Testament is translated into Greek

~ In the 330's BC, Alexander made Greek the official language of the Empire. Everyone, all throughout the civilized world, learned Greek.

~180BC Ptolemy (Greek ruler of Egypt) ordered a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, He hired 70 Rabbis to do the translation. This translation is called The Septuagint ("70")

Now, everyone can read the Old Testament.

**Fast forward through whole
bunch of names, dates and wars**

(it would take about 100 slides to list everything)

**until we get to the next big step.....
(see the next slide)**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS !!!!

FINAL SCORE

ROMANS - 1

GREEKS - 0

The Romans are the new World Champions

The Romans make many contributions to the world

Some are good : Running water, Paved roads

Some are not so good : new methods of torture

The official language of the Roman Empire was Latin, not Greek, so everybody had to learn Latin

Step Five - The Jewish Revolt Against Rome

In this corner:

**Antiochus IV
(Emperor)**

In this corner:

**Judas Maccabaeus
(Son of the Hebrew
High Priest)**

The Maccabean Revolt succeeds 165BC

Judas gathers all the Scrolls (which had been scattered and hidden) and collects them into one book (the Old Testament)

Step Six - The Hebrew and Greek translations of the Old Testament are used extensively from 165BC to 30AD.

Step Seven - The Process of Canonization, putting together the whole Bible, happens over the next several centuries.

The official Bible of the Catholic church is translated into Latin in 405AD by Jerome. This translation is called the Vulgate.

Step 8 - The Big Split (1054AD)

The Catholic (the word means "universal") Church votes to include the Apocrypha in the official Bible

The churches in the East disagree with the decision. They create the Eastern Orthodox Church. The word "orthodox" means "right-thinking".

The REAL argument was about power, who would run the church, but the Apocrypha was the excuse.

The Apocrypha were written in the time between the Testaments.

Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament was finished approximately 400BC

The Apocrypha were written between 400BC and approximately 170 / 180BC. Scholars argue over the dates, but the main point is the Apocrypha were written before the New Testament.

The Apocryphal Books

Tobit

Judith

1 Maccabees

2 Maccabees

Wisdom of Solomon

Sirach

Baruch

The Letter of Jeremiah

The Prayer of Azariah

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

**The reasons why we do not accept the
Apocrypha as
being part of the Written Word of God**

Jesus never treated the Apocrypha as Scripture

**The New Testament writers never treated the
Apocrypha as Scripture**

**The Jews did not treat the Apocrypha as
Scripture**

And - the biggest reason (next slide).....

The Apocrypha does not present itself as inspired. The author of 2 Maccabees says that his book is the abridgement of another man's work (2 Maccabees 2:23). He concludes the book, saying, "If it is well written and to the point, that is what I wanted; if it is poorly done and mediocre, that is the best I could do" (2 Maccabees 15:38). Mediocre is a good description of the Apocrypha. Despite its historical value, it promotes questionable ethics, fanciful legends, and doctrine that contradicts Scripture.

Arguments about the Apocrypha continue to this very day.

There have been hundreds of versions of the Apocrypha, some with more books than others.

Protestant Christians have maintained that none of the Apocrypha belong in the Bible

Catholics disagree with Protestants.

At this point we skip a bunch more history.

Remember, the Protestant church doesn't exist at this point in history. The printing press also has not yet been invented.

Step 9 - John Wycliffe creates the first English translation around 1377 / 1380AD. He worked from Jerome's Latin Vulgate. The Catholic Church outlaws the English translation. Wycliffe and his pals make handwritten copies and distribute them illegally.

Getting a better English translation

Wycliffe's Bible had several major problems. The issue was that it was a translation of a translation. Wycliffe did not work from the Greek and Hebrew texts.

Step 10 - In 1534 Henry VIII founds the Church of England. This is the first major Protestant Church. Henry orders all churches to use an *English-language* Bible. There is more than one English language version.

Step Eleven - King James Version

In 1604 King James I of England called the Hampton Court Conference. He ordered the Bishops of the Church of England to attend.

The King's word was law: *Create a standard, English-language translation that anyone can read and understand. Unless it is completed before you leave this conference, the Bishops will cease to exist.* (paraphrased from Old English)

James didn't mess around, did he?

Between 1607 and 1611, the King James Version was revised several times.

English Bishops, Monks, Jewish Rabbis, and even some non-Christians worked on the revisions. They worked from the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts.

The King James Version is still readable today. The translators did a great job.

It is obvious that God worked through these translators to produce the KJV.

If you read Psalm 46, in the KJV, count 46 words from the beginning and you get the word "shake"

Then count 46 words from the end, and you get the word "spear". Ignore the word "Selah" at the very end, it's a musical note, not part of the Psalm.

When the final draft of the KJV version was sent for editing in the year 1610, William Shakespeare, a member of the editing team, was 46 years old.

Is it a coincidence that the "shake" occurs 46 words from the top, "spear" occurs 46 words from the end, of the 46th Psalm in the version of the Bible that was written when Wm Shakespeare was 46 years old?

I think this is God's sense of humor, but some people think it's a coincidence.

Thanks for listening !

**Comments and suggestions can be sent to
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