



————— ∞ *Week Two* ∞ —————

Message Title: The Bible- How it happened

This weeks memory challenge: John 20:31 *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

————— ∞ *Message Notes* ∞ —————

† Week 1 Recap: Revelation!

- We cannot know Him unless He chooses to REVEAL himself
- God has revealed Himself generally through CREATION, specifically through the history of ISRAEL, and ultimately in JESUS CHRIST
- The authoritative and objective revelation of Jesus Christ is Holy Scripture, the Bible

The Question! *If the 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament are God's Revelation, then how, when, and why did these come together to form the Bible as we know it?*

† The Old Testament in a snapshot

- Parts existed in oral tradition for centuries before being written down
- Written across roughly 1,000 years spanning approximately from 1,500 to 500 B.C.
- Written by at least 26 authors, primarily in ancient Hebrew, also in Aramaic.
- All the O.T. books we know today existed and were translated into Greek by the mid to late third century B.C. This Greek translation of the O.T. is called the *Septuagint*.

† The New Testament was written by nine authors across approximately either 26 years or 52 years, depending on the date of the book of Revelation.

- The first gospel written was either Mark or Matthew (Mid 40's to early 50's)
- Some place James and Galatians as the earliest NT books (Mid to late 40's)
- The last book written is Revelation, either around A.D. 70 or A.D. 95-96

† Evidence of complete first century authorship of entirety of the New Testament

† Development of the New Testament *Canon: Six historic criteria*

- Apostolic authority: Written by or connected closely to an apostle.
- Antiquity: Written within first century. Younger writings were rejected
- Orthodoxy: Content of book consistent with accepted church teaching. No presence of doctrinal deviation, nothing causing doctrinal concern to early church.
- Universality: Book accepted by the broad geographic span of the early church
- Traditional use: Book had been in use by many church for longest time frame.
- Inspiration: Book held by broad segment of early church as being inspired.

† Timing of the Canon

- Majority- if not all- of our NT books were referenced by early 2nd century writers
- The Muratorian Canon lists 22 of 27 NT books by A.D. 170
- The 27 book New Testament Canon were universally referenced by Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, and accepted by Council of Carthage in A.D. 397.

† Authenticity of the ancient texts

- We possess no original manuscripts of the NT, only copies (Greek MSS)
- There are almost 5,600 MSS, and none are exactly alike. HOWEVER...
- Of these thousands of manuscripts, they are over 98% alike. There is no other ancient document with this level of textual accuracy. Not even close.
- The 2% disagreement are matters such as word order, spelling, and grammar.
KEY! There is not a single disputed doctrinal problem or issue among all the MSS.

† **TAKEAWAY!** This all matters for one reason, and one reason only...

John 20:31