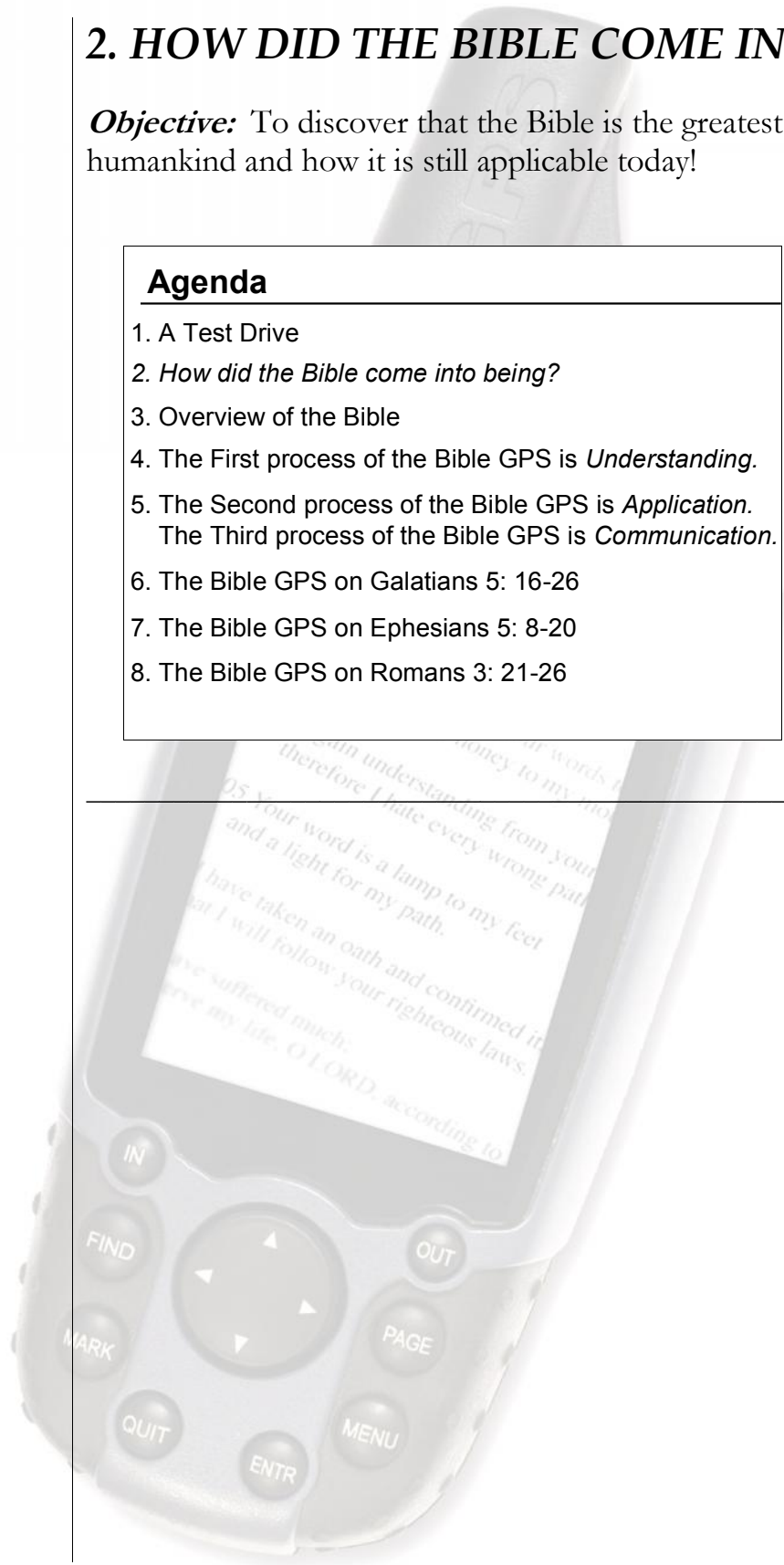


2. HOW DID THE BIBLE COME INTO BEING?

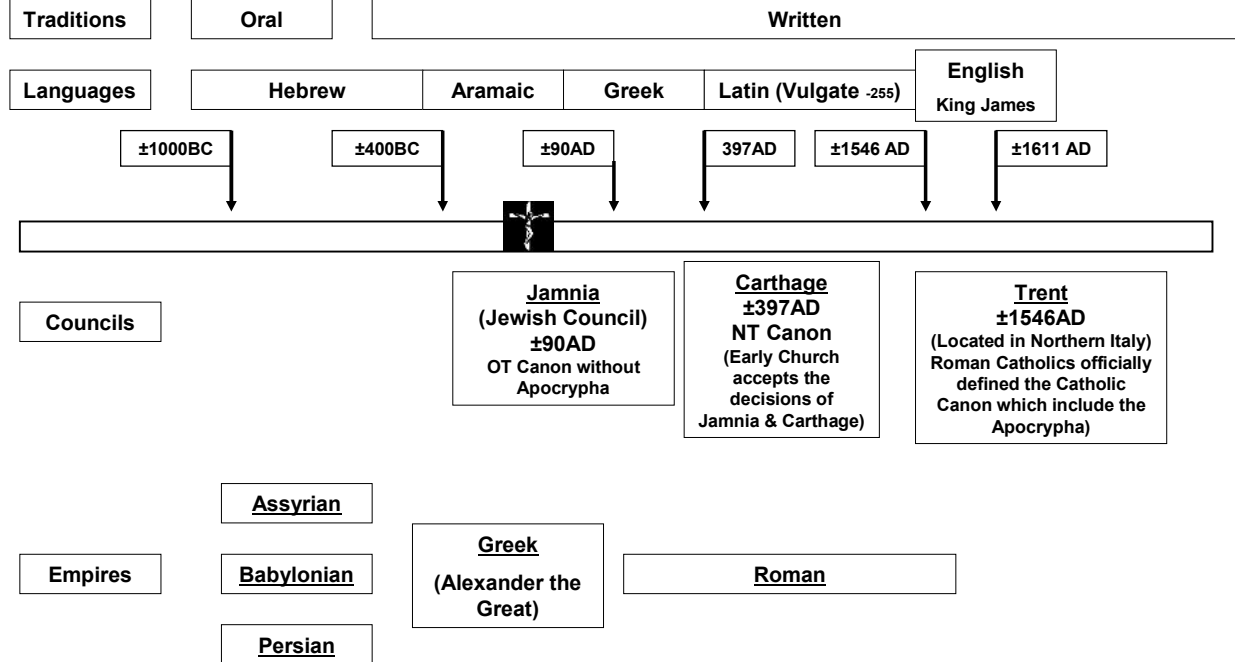
Objective: To discover that the Bible is the greatest monument of humankind and how it is still applicable today!

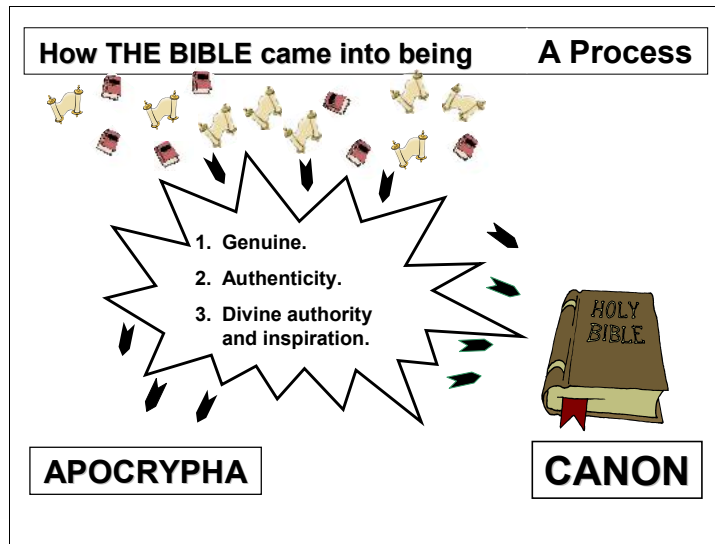
Agenda

1. A Test Drive
2. *How did the Bible come into being?*
3. Overview of the Bible
4. The First process of the Bible GPS is *Understanding*.
5. The Second process of the Bible GPS is *Application*.
The Third process of the Bible GPS is *Communication*.
6. The Bible GPS on Galatians 5: 16-26
7. The Bible GPS on Ephesians 5: 8-20
8. The Bible GPS on Romans 3: 21-26



How THE BIBLE came into being. (Schematic)





Why should we have some understanding of how the Bible came to us?

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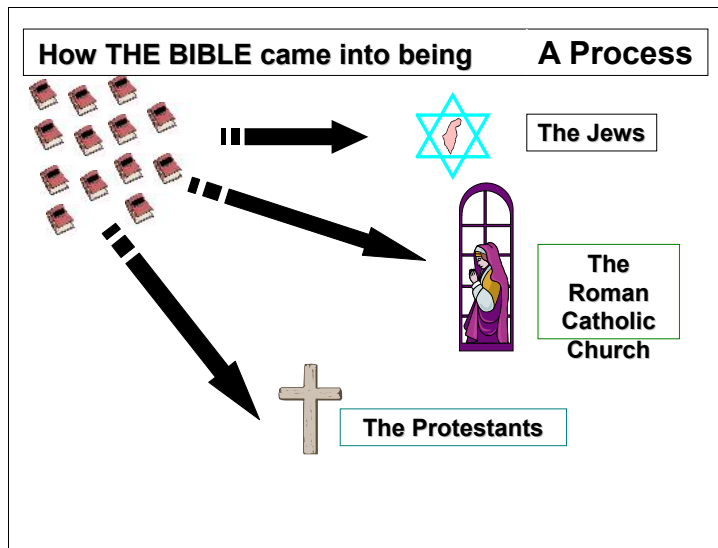
The Bible did not just simply drop from the sky, but it came into being through a fascinating, but complicating *process*. To best understand the process we need to be aware of the dispute regarding which books are, or are not, included. The books that made it into the Bible are called the CANON. "Canon" is a Greek word which means a rule or measuring line.

A Canonical book, therefore, passes the test of being authentic, genuine, and of divine authority and inspiration.

The debate regarding the canon and apocrypha stems back to the early church and the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. After Jerusalem had been sacked by the Romans in 70 AD, there was another Diaspora of Jewish people all over the world. Spoken and written Hebrew remained strong in the lands of Judea/Palestine, as opposed to Alexandria, the home of many Greek speaking Jews. This lack of familiarity with the Hebrew Scriptures gave impetus for Greek speaking Jews, to translate the Hebrew scriptures. This translation is called the Septuagint.

There were other writings circulating, in Alexandria especially, which were being widely read. These writings were included in the Septuagint. These writings are called "Apocrypha" by Protestants.

The word Apocrypha comes from the Greek word, meaning "hidden" or "concealed". The term generally refers to religious writings found in the Septuagint and Latin Vulgate, but not in the Hebrew Bible.



The Apocrypha consists of 15 books of Jewish literature written during the intertestamental period.

What is the significance of the Apocrypha?

For Christians and Jews, these books represent a continuation of sacred writings in the Jewish community up until Christ came. They paint a picture of the cultural and religious mindset in Judaism before the appearance of Christianity. They set the scene for the coming of Jesus and help the reader to relate to the social and religious context Jesus found in Israel.

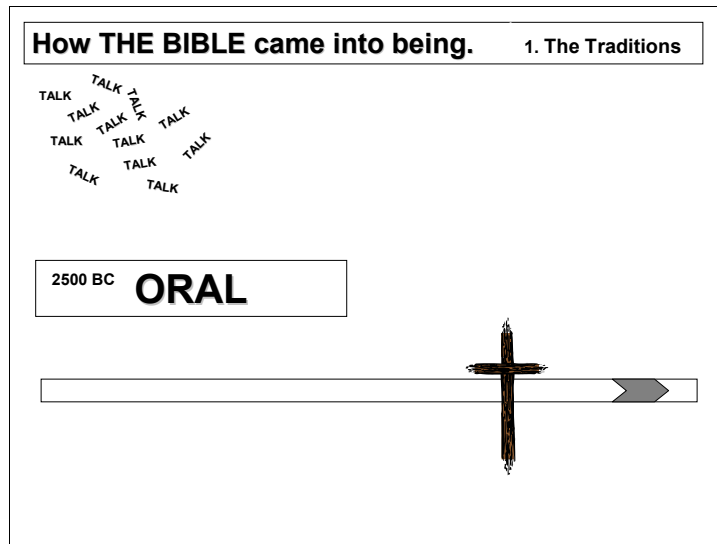
The acceptance of the apocrypha: As a general summary:

* **The Jews** accept the apocrypha as part of their Scriptures.

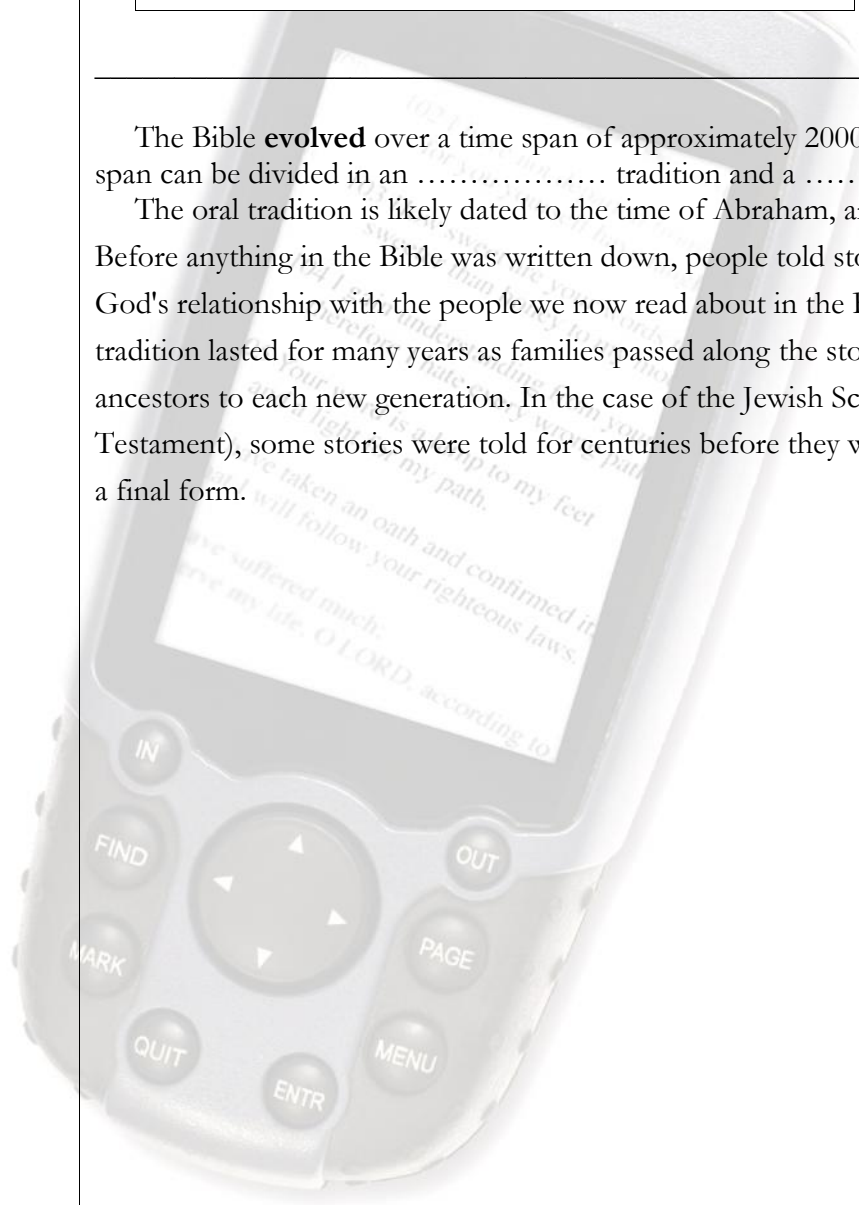
* **Protestants** also accept the Apocrypha as Scripture, though some ascribe to them value as "good and useful reading" and "for example of life and instruction of manners."

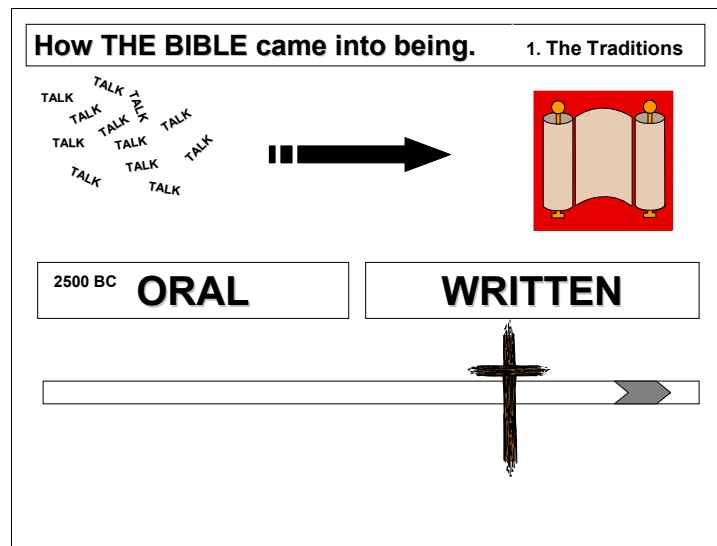
* **The Roman Catholic Church** 12 of the 15 apocryphal books at the Council of Trent, April 8, 1546 A.D. as canonical (omitting I & II Esdras and the defaulter of Manassah from the above list). Roman Catholics call these writings "deuterocanonicals" or "second canon" because its inspiration was recognized later.

Roman Catholics argue that the Apocrypha was an integral part of the early church and should be included in the list of inspired Old Testament books. However, Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Greek Orthodox Christians on the same 27 books for the composition of the New Testament.



The Bible **evolved** over a time span of approximately 2000 years. The time span can be divided in an tradition and a tradition. The oral tradition is likely dated to the time of Abraham, around 1800 BC. Before anything in the Bible was written down, people told stories about God and God's relationship with the people we now read about in the Bible. The oral tradition lasted for many years as families passed along the stories of their ancestors to each new generation. In the case of the Jewish Scriptures (Old Testament), some stories were told for centuries before they were written down in a final form.





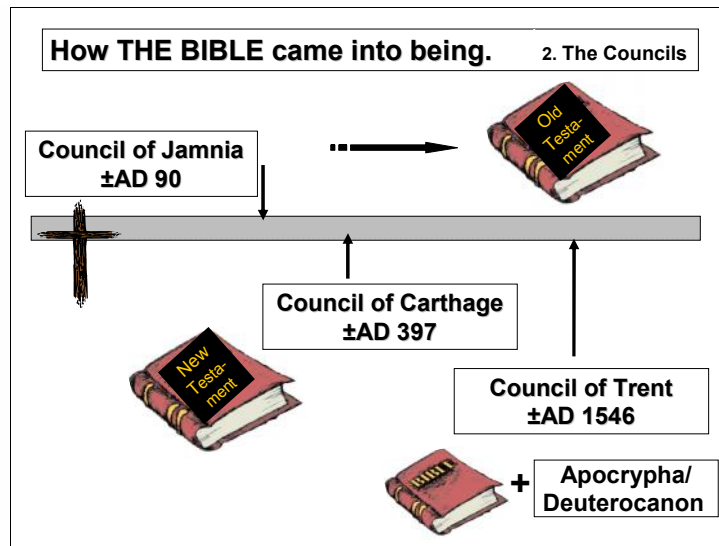
Eventually, as human societies in the Near East began to develop forms of **writing** that were easy to learn and use (around 1800 B.C.), people began to write down the stories, songs (Psalms), and prophecies that would one day become a part of the Bible. These were written on papyrus, a paper-like material made from reeds, or on vellum, which was made from dried animal skins. But all the books found in the Old Testament were not written down at one time. This process took centuries. While some books were being written and collected, others were still being passed on in storytelling fashion.

Some very old copies of both the Old and New Testament writings have been preserved, and they are now stored in museums and libraries around the world. Once the stories of the Bible began to be written down, it became necessary to make new copies before the old ones wore out from repeated use and became unreadable. Sometimes several scribes made copies while another scribe read the text aloud. The books of the Old Testament were written over several centuries, beginning in the 10th century BC - by which time the Hebrews were settled in Canaan, or Palestine.

The Old Testament, in roughly the form that we know it, did not emerge until after the return from Babylonian exile around 500-450 BC.

Likewise the **New Testament** underwent a similar process of development, although in a much shorter time frame. The first letters of Paul were written around AD 45-50, the first Gospel (Mark) around AD 60, and the last of the canonical Epistles around AD 90-100.

Rolls of papyrus (plant material) and parchment (animal skin) were used. Probably the first written parts of Scripture were short pieces of poetry, dating to the time of the exodus around 1300 BC.

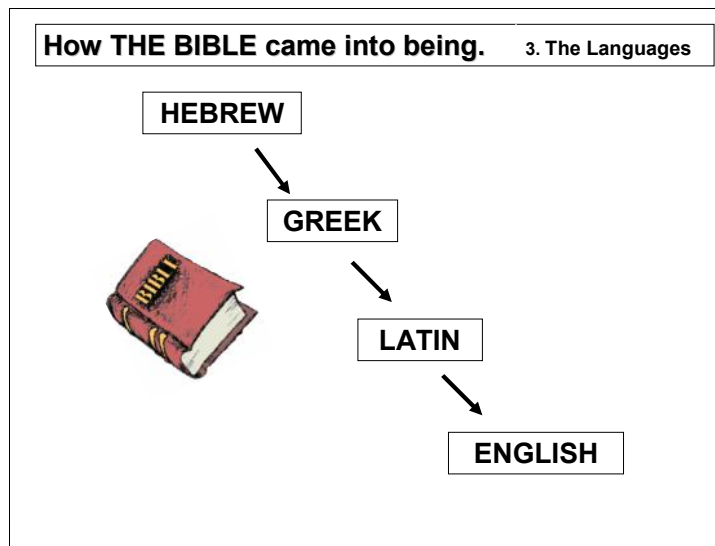


The entire **Old Testament canon**, without any of the apocryphal books, did not reach an "official" codified form in Judaism until the **Council of Jamnia** in ±AD 90. This was largely a Jewish response to Christianity that was producing new writings (what we call the New Testament) to add to what was already authoritative in Judaism.

However, the 27 books of the **New Testament** did not emerge as an entire body of collected writings until well into the third century AD at **the Council of Carthage AD 397**. Even then, some of the books were debated (for example, Hebrews, James, the Revelation) and some sections of the church used books that were not accepted in other areas (*The Didache*, *The Epistles of Clement*, *The Shepherd of Hermas*, etc.).

So although the New Testament took shape over roughly years and was virtually complete by the early second century AD, it took another two to three centuries for the church to begin defining the canon of the New Testament.

However, the Christian canon was not "officially" closed until the tensions that erupted during the **Reformation** led to the exclusion of the Apocrypha by the emerging Protestants, which in turn led to the Catholic **Council of Trent in AD 1546** that officially defined the Catholic canon including the apocryphal books. The apocryphal books are called being called the deuterocanon (second canon) by the Roman Catholics and are included in their Bible.



HEBREW

Most of the original manuscripts of the **Old Testament** were written in, although a few chapters of Ezra and Daniel were recorded in Aramaic (dialect of Hebrew), the language spoken by Jesus.

FROM HEBREW TO GREEK

The New Testament was written in the first century AD in Greek because it was the most language around the Mediterranean at the time.

The Septuagint (Greek)

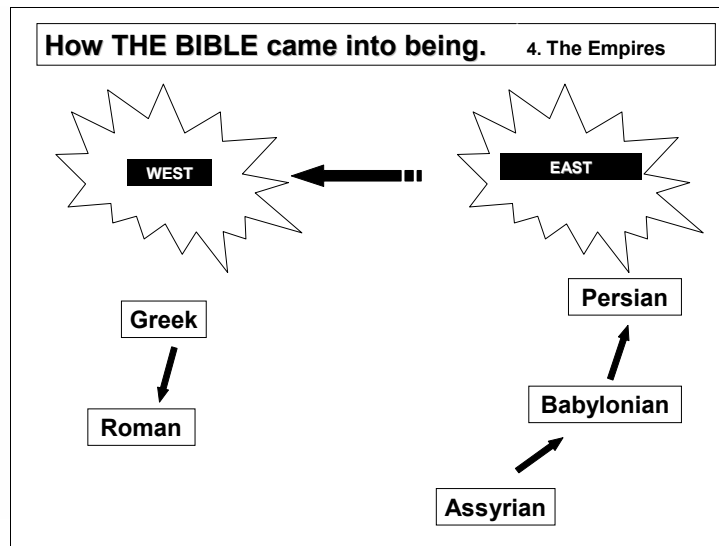
The first translations of the Bible were of the **Hebrew Bible into Greek**. It is called the Septuagint. The conquest of the **Great** in the fourth century BC made Greek the most widely spoken language in the Mediterranean area. It, therefore, seemed a natural step to translate the Scriptures into Greek for the benefit of non-Hebrew-speaking Jews.

FROM GREEK to LATIN (*The Vulgate (Latin)*)

As the centuries after the resurrection unfolded, the dominant language spoken in the **Empire** began to change. No longer was Greek the dominant language. In 382, Pope Damasus therefore commissioned Jerome (c. 347-420) to translate the Bible into Latin, a task which took him twenty years to complete.

FROM LATIN to ENGLISH

The *first English translation* of the Bible was by John Wycliffe. He translated the Bible into English from the Latin Vulgate. This was a translation from a translation and not a translation from the original Hebrew and Greek. Wycliffe was forced to translate from the Latin Vulgate because he did not know Hebrew or Greek. *The Advent of Printing* greatly aided the transmission of the biblical texts. The *King James Version* (1611AD) is the translation from the original Hebrew and Greek into English.



Most scholars agree that the Old Testament, the first section of the two-part Christian Biblical canon, was composed and compiled between the 12th and the 2nd century BC. It was during the time of the Assyrian (900-607BC), Babylonian (607 -536BC), Persian and Greek Empires.

The first mention of **Assyria** in The Bible is extremely ancient - Genesis 2:14 speaks of the region in relation to The Garden of Eden. Although founded as early as 1700 B.C., the Assyrian Empire, with its capital at Nineveh, actually had its greatest influence on Bible History during the period from about 900 to 600 B.C. The Assyrians conquered and took into captivity the northern kingdom of Israel, from which the "Lost Ten Tribes" never returned (2 Kings 17:1-23).

The New **Babylonian Empire**, which existed from 606 to 536 B.C., fully conquered the southern kingdom of Judah in 586 B.C. It was then that the Babylonians under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar completely devastated the city of Jerusalem, looted and burned the original Temple of God, built by Solomon (see Temple Mount Treasures), and carried the people of Judah, including the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel, off into captivity.

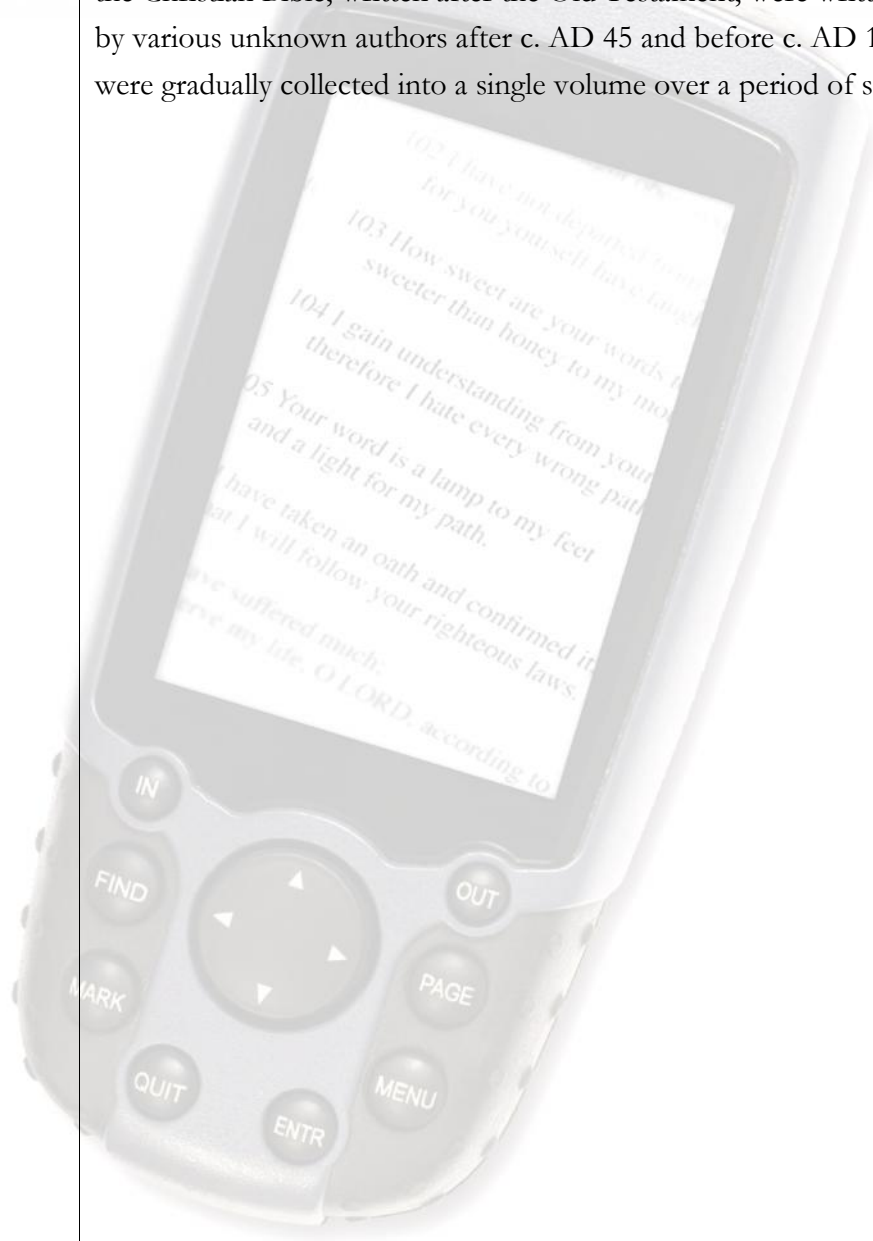
Of all of the human empires that affected the people of Israel, the Persians did something rather unique - they permitted the *return* of the people of the southern kingdom of Judah, *by God's command* (see above verses), 70 years after their exile by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar.

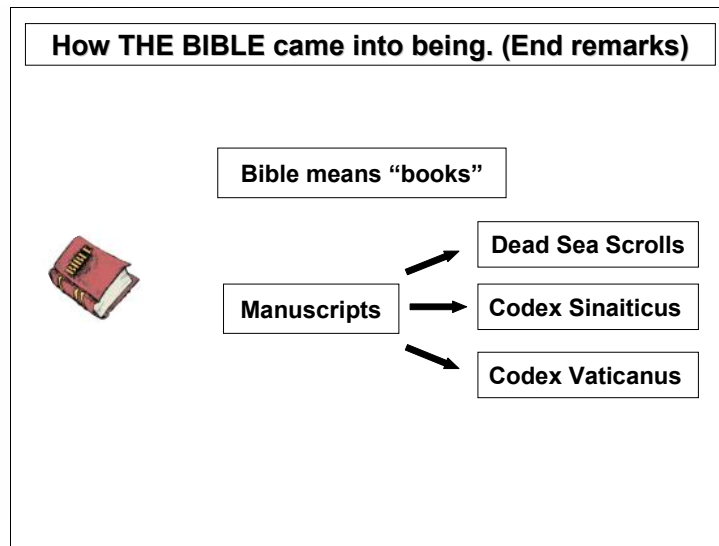
The Bible as Your GPS

The world power shifted from the east to the west with the rise of Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great lived only about 33 years, from 356 to 323 B.C., but during that time he became one of the most successful military commanders in human history. He became the ruler of the earth from Greece to India.

Alexander died before his thirty-third birthday. After his death, his empire was divided among his four generals. They shared Alexander's dream and continued to spread Greek culture, Greek thinking and the Greek language everywhere.

The next world rulers, the Romans, fully embraced Greek culture. The Greek dialect used at the time was known as *koine* (general) Greek and flourished in the **Roman Empire**. The **New Testament**, the name given to the final portion of the Christian Bible, written after the Old Testament, were written in Koine Greek by various unknown authors after c. AD 45 and before c. AD 140. Its 27 books were gradually collected into a single volume over a period of several centuries.





WHERE DOES THE NAME “BIBLE” COME FROM?

The **Bible** is the classical name for the Hebrew Bible of Judaism or the combination of the Old Testament and New Testament of Christianity. The word Bible comes from the Greek βιβλια—biblia, meaning "books", which in turn is derived from βύβλος—byblos meaning "papyrus", from the ancient Phoenician city of Byblos which exported papyrus.

MANUSCRIPTS

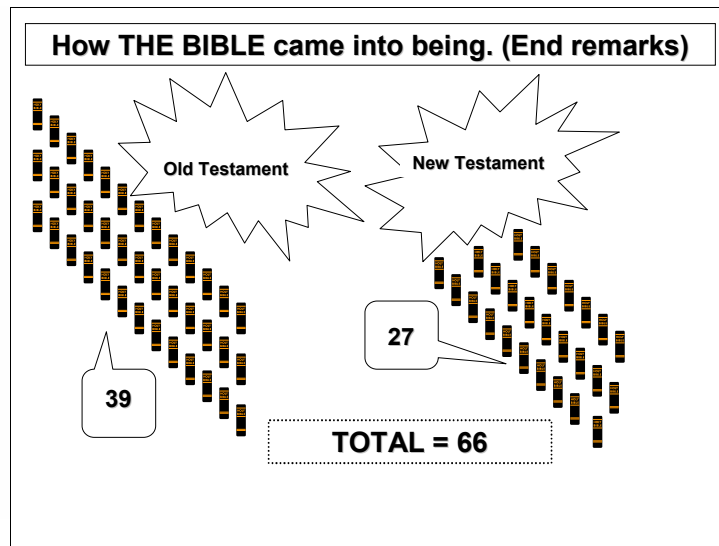
Although we don't have the original manuscripts of the Bible, we do have manuscripts that still exist today. Some of the most important are:

1. **The Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered in eleven caves along the northwest shore of the Dead Sea between the years 1947 and 1956. The Dead Sea Scrolls date from 200 B.C. - 70 A.D. and contain the entire book of Isaiah and portions of every other Old Testament book but Esther.

There are over 5,600 early **Greek Manuscripts** of the New Testament **that are still in existence**. The oldest manuscripts were written on **papyrus** and the later manuscripts were written on leather, called **parchment**.

2. 350 A.D. **Codex Sinaiticus** contains the entire New Testament and almost the entire Old Testament in Greek. It was discovered by a German scholar, Tischendorf, in 1856 at an Orthodox monastery at Mt. Sinai.

3. 350 A.D. **Codex Vaticanus** is an almost complete New Testament. It was cataloged as being in the Vatican Library since 1475.



The Bible consists of two major divisions. These two primary divisions are the 39 books that constitute the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. The names "**Old Testament**" and "**New Testament**" have been used since the close of the second century A.D. to distinguish the Jewish (*God's covenant with Israel*) and Christian (*God's new covenant people*) Scriptures. **Testament** was a translation of the Hebrew word *berith* ("a covenant") to render the Greek word *diatheke* (Latin *testamentum*).

Even though these books were written at different times and varying circumstances, they harmoniously compliment each other and constitute a whole. It has been aptly remarked that the Hebrew scriptures are the New Testament in **prophecy** and the New Testament is the Hebrew scriptures in **fulfillment** (Jer. 31: 31-34, cp. Heb. 8: 7-13).

When one considers there were about 40 persons, many of whom from totally different backgrounds, and about 1500 years consumed in the making of the Bible, the Bible truly bespeaks inspiration - a book beyond the scope of mere humankind. No other book has influenced the thinking of humankind and the molding of their character as the Bible. The Bible is for sure the **Greatest Monument of Humankind!**

For the next session please read the pages in the book "The Bible as Your GPS" that covers the 10 major blocks of the Bible (pages 25, 35, 45-46, 89-90, 111-112, 169-170, 243, 267-268 & 303-307).