

How the Bible Came About

1500 BC	400 BC	100 BC	0	45 AD	95 AD	200-400 AD
Old Testament • 39 books Basic Contents • Beginning of the world • Preparation for Christ	OT books “collected” as one Hebrew Bible. Used by Jesus; Most OT books quoted by the NT; Much of OT in the Dead Sea Scrolls (found 1947) dated from ~100 BC				New Testament • 27 books Basic Contents • Appearance of Christ • End of the world	The 27 books in the NT we have today was settled

What the Bible Says About Itself

It is God's Word...eternal, perfect, certain & a gift to man

Psalm 119:89 Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

Psalm 19:7-8 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is flawless.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

1 Peter 1:23-25 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever."

Matthew 24:35 (Jesus speaking) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Matthew 5:18 (Jesus speaking) I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

God's Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote it

2 Peter 1:19-21 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, **but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

2 Timothy 3:14-15 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.

2 Timothy 3:16 **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.

We are warned not to alter God's Word

Proverbs 30:6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Revelation 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

We are told to believe & teach only the true Word of God

Romans 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Galatians 1:8-9 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

The additions & traditions of men are roundly condemned

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Matthew 23:1-4 Then Jesus said "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them."

Why the Bible is Not a Self-Help Text

See John 14:23 and Philipians 4:13 for starters.