

# How We Got Our Bible

Adult Bible Study

# Divine Source

- The **Bible** came from **God**. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)
- God used about forty men to write the Bible.
- Some of these writers are unknown, such as the writers of the last chapter of Deuteronomy, the book of Job, and some of the psalms.
- The perfect harmony of these writings convinces us that all of them were guided by a single mind – the mind of God.

# Divine Source

- Some of the writers wrote what God told them as with *Moses* in the writing of *Deuteronomy 31:24*.
- Some writers wrote what they had seen, as in the recordings of *Matthew*.
- Some writers wrote about what they had learned from others as with *Luke* who wrote about the birth of Jesus.
- All of the writers were specially guided by the spirit of God. These men are referred to as “*inspired men*”.

# Ancient Version and Manuscripts

- There are no parts of the **Bible** in the *handwriting* of the *original* author exist today.
- We have however two kinds of sources from which we can learn what the original writers wrote. These are *manuscripts* and *versions*.
- *Manuscripts* are documents written by hand in the same language used by the *original writer*. Before printing was invented, this was the only way of producing books.
- A *version* is a translation of any document into another language.

# Old Testament Scriptures (Manuscripts)

- The Old Testament books were written in the *Hebrew* language between *1400 B.C. and 400 B.C.*
- The oldest Bible manuscripts now known are the Scripture portions among the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, found in caves near the Dead Sea in 1947.



# Old Testament (Versions)

- The oldest *version* of the Old Testament is a Greek version called the **Septuagint**.
- It comes from the Latin word for *seventy*.
- The name was given because the translation was made by about *70 Jewish scholars* in Alexandria, Egypt.



# New Testament (Manuscripts)

- All the books of the New Testament were written in *Greek* during the first century after Christ.
- The oldest New Testament manuscripts now known were copied about A.D. 350.
- They are the *Sinaitic* and the *Vatican* manuscripts.
- The **Sinaitic** *Manuscript* is so called because it was discovered in 1844 in a monastery at the foot of *Mount Sinai*.
- The **Vatican** *Manuscript* was placed in the library of the *Vatican* soon after that library was established in 1448.

# New Testament (Versions)

- In the first half of the second century the Bible was translated into the *Syriac*, and not much later into the *Latin*.
- The *Vulgate* was completed about A.D. 400. *Vulgate* means common or popular. It took 25 years to complete the Bible.
- The *Vulgate* became the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church and of western Europe.
- Probably in the third and fourth centuries versions were made also in *Coptic* (Egyptian), *Gothic*, *Ethiopic*, and *Armenian*.



# English Versions

Date	Version
900 A.D.	<b>King Alfred</b> translated portions of the Bible.
1380	<b>Wycliffe Bible:</b> Wycliffe and his coworkers translated the Bible into Middle English from the Latin Vulgate.
1525	<b>Tyndale Bible :</b> William Tyndale brought out an English version of the New Testament. Tyndale translated directly from the original Greek and Hebrew instead of the Latin
1535	<i>Myles Coverdale's</i> translation was approved by the church and king Henry VIII. <b>Coverdale Bible</b> was translated from the Latin Vulgate.
1560	The <b>Geneva Bible</b> was translated in Geneva by William Whittington and others after they fled Europe under the rule of Queen Mary Tudor. The Bible was dedicated to England's new queen, Elizabeth.
1568	Some of the marginal notes in the Geneva Bible offended the bishops of the church of England, so they produced a new version of their own, the <b>Bishop's Bible</b> .
1611	In 1604, <b>King James</b> appointed a committee of 54 scholars to prepare a new version. They followed the <i>Bishop's Bible</i> except where they thought changes were needed: but they used other English translations, the German, the Greek and the Hebrew texts, the Syriac, the Septuagint and several Latin versions. <b>The King James Bible</b> is still the most used version.

# Revised English Versions

- Many words used in the *King James Version* are now almost unknown (*wist*).
- 1885 a *Revised Version* was produced by a committee of 51 British scholars, assisted by 32 Americans.
- 1901 the American members of the committee brought out the *American Standard Version* more in accord with American usage of English. The *American Standard* has been hailed as the most accurate translation in the English language.

# Modern Translations

Many think the Scriptures should be available in the kind of English that is commonly used.

1. The *Revised Standard Version* (1952) is the work of a committee of American Scholars.
2. The *New English Bible* (1961) prepared by a British committee.
3. The *New American Standard Bible* (1963) was designed to replace the *American Standard Version of 1901*. A major revision of the **NASB** was introduced in 1995.
4. Ken Taylor's *The Living Bible*, a paraphrase was published in 1971.
5. The *New International Version* was completed in 1978; revised in 1984.
6. The *New King James Version* was introduced in 1982.
7. The *New Living Translation* was published in 1996.