

How the Bible Came to Us - #1

The History of the Bible - Introduction

For Further Study:

You Can Trust the Bible, A. Graham Maxwell, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1967
SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, introductory articles. Francis D. Nichol, Editor, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Revised 1978

The Story of the Bible, Luke Timothy Johnson, The Teaching Company, DVD Series, 2006

Ancestry of Our English Bible, Ira M. Price, Harper and Brothers, Third Edition, 1956

1. When you use your Bible, what assumptions do you make?
 - a. Do we have the correct words?
 - b. Do we have the correct “books”?
 - c. Are the modern translations accurate? Are some translations not reliable?
 - d. Can we really understand the meaning? Do we understand the context?
2. When and where does the story of the Bible start?
3. When Moses began to write, did he think that he was writing part of the “Bible”?
4. How many different “Bibles” are there?
 - a. The Bible is a collection of books. Is the Jewish “Bible” different from the Christian “Bible”?
 - b. What is the *Tanakh*?
 - c. How did we get the “New Testament”?
5. What languages were used to write the original documents of the Bible (autographs)?
 - a. Ancient Hebrew
 - b. Aramaic
 - c. *Koine* Greek
6. What forms of writing were used?
 - a. Egyptian hieroglyphics? Mesopotamian cuneiform?
 - b. When was the first alphabet invented?
 - c. Were the Books of Moses originally only in oral form?
7. Have the translations affected or changed the meaning?
8. We will discuss the “story” or the history of the Bible in four stages:
 - a. The original writing, copying, and assembling of the documents (scrolls)
 - i. Jewish Bible (*Tanakh*) or “Old Testament.”
 - ii. Christian “New Testament”
 - b. The history of how the biblical documents were handed down through the centuries including how they were translated into other ancient languages.
 - c. The transition and translation into modern languages—beginning with Wycliffe, followed by the Protestant Reformation, the Renaissance, and the Enlightenment.
 - d. How has our understanding of the Bible been affected by historical criticism.
 - i. What is “higher” criticism?
 - ii. What is “lower” criticism?