# How did we get the Bible?

Many Christians are content to say that we received the Bible from God. Full stop. While this is true, most sceptics find this explanation unsatisfactory and does nothing to ease their doubts about the Bible's authenticity and



value. We should admit that it is an answer that does not really answer the question people are really asking.

**t**Imately we believe the Bible is God's Word and God is responsible for everything that has been written in the Bible; however the Bible next to you right now didn't come directly from the hand of God to you. God didn't translate your Bible into English, bind it in leather, inscribe the words of **Isl** Son in red and then supernaturally transfer it to your possession. Au probably either bought your copy of the Bible at a Christian book store, over the internet, or someone gave it to you.

In the coming lessons, we will learn **how** God's precious Word has come to us, **how** he has protected it, **how** it has been translated, and **how** we can know that it is true.

**bl**w can you know then that the words you find in the Bible you possess are actually the ones that God said or inspired others to write? **bl**w would you answer these questions?

- I. Do you believe the ible is the Word of 6d? Why or why not?
- 2. Do you believe that the ble contains truth? Why or why not?

#### 3. Do you believe the Bble contains any errors? Why or why not?

<u>IPeter 3:15</u> instructs, "but in your hearts honour **G** ist the **b**rd as holy, always being **pp**red to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the ho**p** that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and res**p**ct."

### 4. What is the meaning of I eter 3:15?

#### **Eneral Overview of the Ble**

The Old Testament covers the period from the Creation to about 400 years before Christ. Since we take a literal six day view of Creation, we believe that the Old Testament covers the timeframe of approximately 4,000 BC till 400 BC. The New Testament covers a much smaller period from the birth of Christ till about 95 AD when the book of Revelation was penned.

The Old Testament is about three times larger than the New Testament. The Old Testament was penned primarily in **E**brew while the New Testament was primarily written in Greek.

#### LESSON 3

The John Rylands Papyrus, found in 1920, has provided the oldest known fragment of any part of the New Testament. It has been dated to 125 A.D. and contains John 18:31-33; 37-38. This discovery disproves the claim by sceptics that the Gospel of John could not have been written until the end of the 2nd century A.D. (http://www.squidoo.com/biblicalarchaeology)

In Acts, Luke mentions thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities; nine Mediterranean islands, and ninety-five persons. With this much information, Luke's accuracy proves that he lived during the period of the first century and that what he wrote historically is true. (http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/ 2467)



## 3. Which type of evidence is most compelling to you; internal or external? Why?

For the Bible to be true, it must show itself to be accurate historically, prophetically, scientifically, and it must carry a tone of authority. There is compelling evidence both within the Bible and externally to show the Bible as being true.

For further information about these topics see: Apologetics Press at: <u>www.apologeticspress.org</u>; Answers in Genesis at: <u>http://www.answersingenesis.org</u>/; and *New Testament Evidences* by Wallace W.Wartick.

Though we may believe the Bible to be the Word of God and to be accurate, we have yet to answer the question: *"How did we get the Bible?"* 

### **Ancient Writing Materials**

The original copies of the Biblical books are referred to as **autographs**, but we have no copies of any of the autographs. What we have hundreds of copies of copies. These copies can be dated and compared to other copies from other locations. Part of the method of dating is determined by the writing materials.

Ancient writings took place on stone, clay, wood, leather, papyrus, vellum or parchment.

- 4. What do the following Scriptures say about writing on stone? (Exodus 31:18; 34:1,28; Deuteronomy 27:2-3; Joshua 8:30-32)
- 5. What writing material was used in Ezekiel 4:1?
- 6. What could the writing material have been in Jeremiah 36:23?
- 7. What kind of writing material is found in Revelation 5:2?