



HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?

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How Did We Get the Bible?

- **Where Did the Bible Come From?**
 - Not possible to “pinpoint” a date as the birth of the Bible.
 - However, the Bible (as we have it) was fully in existence by the end of the first century/early second.
 - Bible came to us by a centuries long process.
- 2 Timothy 3:16**

How Did We Get the Bible?

- **What's a Canon?**
- **Canon – “comes from the root word reed... the reed was used as a measuring rod and came to mean “standard.”**

How Did We Get the Bible?

“The church did not create the cannon; it did not determine which books would be called Scripture, the inspired word of God. Instead, the church recognized, or discovered, which books had been inspired from the beginning.”

-Sean and Josh McDowell. “Evidence that Demands a Verdict.”

How Did We Get the Bible?

- **Five Test for canonicity for the Old and New Testaments:**

- 1. Was it written by a prophet of God?**
Jeremiah 1:1-2, 4
- 2. Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?**
Exodus 4:1-9
- 3. Does it tell the truth about God?**
Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:20-22
- 4. Does it come with the power of God?**
Hebrews 4:12
- 5. Was it accepted by the people of God?**
2 Peter 3:16; Colossians 4:16

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- **What's a Canon?**
 - **Canon – “comes from the root word reed... the reed was used as a measuring rod and came to mean “standard.”**
 - **New Testament cannon had one additional test: apostolicity.**

How Did We Get the Bible?

- **What About the Apocrypha?**
 - **O.T. – 4 Reasons They Weren't Counted**
 - 1. They abound in historical and geographical errors.**
 - 2. They teach false doctrines.**
 - 3. They resort to literary styles that display artificiality.**
 - 4. They lack distinctive marks of genuine scripture. (I.E. "Thus saith the LORD...")**

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- **What About the Apocrypha?**
 - **N.T. – 4 Reasons they weren't counted.**
 - 1. Only temporarily recognized or locally recognized.**
 - 2. Most never enjoyed more than a semi-recognized status.**
 - 3. No major council or list included them.**
 - 4. Limited recognition was due only to the books claiming to be something they were not.**

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- **What About the Apocrypha?**
 - The early Christian writers understood that what they wrote was not scripture.
 - “I do not wish to command you as Peter and Paul; they were apostles...” –Ignatius (50-115 A.D.)
 - They understood the scriptures to be complete. **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3**