



Questions & Answers w/ Discussion
 Summer Sermon Series Sundays, June 16th-Sept 1st, 2013

#7: How was the Bible written and by whom?
 Why do Christians think it is true,
 historically reliable and accurate?

I. Revelation is what God revealed.

- A. General revelation is what we have in nature.
- B. Special revelation is God's particular direct communication to people.

II. Inspiration is the process by which God revealed it.

- A. God-breathed writings-
 The Bible itself claims to be God breathed.
 The word translated "inspired" in 2 Tim. 3:16
 (All Scripture is inspired by God...) literally means "God breathed".
- B. Spirit-moved writers-
 2 Peter 1:21 says "...men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
 The same word is used in Acts 27:15 and 17 where it is translated
 "borne along", "carried along" or "driven by".
- C. The process whereby God moved people to speak or write His words
 is frequently described in the Bible.

1. Dictation, where God spoke and the man wrote verbatim
 what God said.
2. Dictation, where the spirit-moved author dictated the message he
 received from God to a penman such that what he wrote is called
 the word of God. (Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe)
3. Undefined expressions, like "words...sent by His Spirit", "in the Spirit",
 "the Spirit of the Lord spoke by me...", etc.
4. Through human personality, such that the writer's style and particular
 interests show clearly. (Kings/Chronicles, the four Gospels)

III. Canonicity addresses the issue of which books are in the Bible.

- A. Immediately when written by a prophet, *the OT books* received
 immediate acceptance and recognition by the Jews.
- B. Immediately when written by an apostle, *the OT books* received
 immediate acceptance and recognition by the Christians.

IV. Reliability - Our modern day Bibles are accurate to the original books.

1st, let's consider the reliability of the NT documents compared to
 10 other ancient texts.

<i>Greek New Testament</i>	AD 45-100	Frag. of Gospel of John, AD 115 Some NT books, AD 200 Most of NT, AD 250 Entire NT, AD 325 and later centuries	30+ years 100+ years 170+ years 250+ years	5795 Greek MSS
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2nd let's consider the reliability of the NT documents compared to
 other ancient translations (versions).

<i>New Testament translations into other languages</i>	2 nd -3 rd	Coptic 3 rd -4 th century Latin 4 th century Syriac 5 th century	100+ yrs 100+ yrs 300+ yrs	1,000 MSS 10,000 MSS 350 MSS
	4 th cent	Georgian 8 th century Armenian 9 th century Gothic 9 th century Slavic 10 th century Ethiopic 11 century	400+ yrs 500+ yrs 500+ yrs 600+ yrs 700+ yrs	These languages have about 8,300 MSS <i>About 20,000 total!</i>

3rd, let's consider the reliability of the NT documents compared to
 patristic quotations.

Writer	Gospels	Acts	Paul's Epistles	General Epistles	Revelation	Total
Justin Martyr (AD 100-165)	268	10	43	6	3	330
Ireneaus (ca. AD 155-200)	1,038	194	499	23	65	1,819
Clement of Alexandria (ca. 160-230)	1,017	44	1,127	207	11	2,406
Origen (ca. AD 185-255)	9,231	349	7,778	399	165	17,922
Tertullian (ca. AD 150-220)	3,822	502	2,609	120	205	7,258
Hippolytus (died AD 250)	734	42	387	27	188	1,378
Eusebius (born AD 263)	3,258	211	1,592	88	27	5,176
Grand Totals	19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

Message

The Bible we have today is 99.9% accurate to the original.

Action Points:

- Sunday School is a great idea for everyone!
- Folds are a great way to get to know the Bible too!