

How We Got The Bible

Understanding the Process
& History of the
Canonization of the Bible
Part II

Orthodox views of the Bible – The Bible is:

- Infallible – it cannot fail (Isaiah 55:11)
- Indestructible – it cannot be destroyed (Matt. 5:17,18; Isaiah 40:8)
- Indefatigable – It cannot be worn out or become ineffective (I Peter 1:23)
- Indefeasible – It cannot be made void or irrelevant

How We Got the Bible

- I. How the writing of scripture came to be
 - I. What initiated the writing process?
 - II. Who wrote the scriptures?
 - III. What are the different genres of scripture
 - IV. What time periods/events/information do the various scriptures cover?

How We Got the Bible

- I. The production, preservation, and editing of scripture
 - I. What were the scriptures written on?
 - II. What do the original scriptures look like?
 - III. How were they preserved and copied?
 - IV. Who edited or revised them and why?

How We Got the Bible

- I. The formulation of the canons
 - I. How did the scriptures come to be viewed as authoritative?
 - II. How did the separate scriptures come together to form a canon?
 - III. Who made the decisions of which scriptures should be included and what criteria was used to make that determination?
 - IV. How were the scriptures shaped and placed together in the canon

How We Got the Bible

I. The Christian (Protestant) Bible

I. How did the final canon come together?

II. What are the differences between the Catholic and Protestant Bible

- Apocryphal writings
- Deuterocanonical books

III. Modern versions and translations of the Bible

The Hebrew Bible

The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is comprised of different types of materials or genres of writings:

- ✓ Historical Narratives
- ✓ Legal Covenant Requirements
- ✓ Poetry/Hymns
- ✓ Prophetic Sayings
- ✓ Biographies and Genealogies
- ✓ Wisdom Sayings

The Hebrew Bible

Although our Christian tradition typically divides these materials/books into 39 books in five sections (Law-5; History-12; Poetry-5; Major Prophets-5; Minor Prophets-12), the original Hebrew Bible only divided them into 24 books in 3 sections

The Hebrew Bible

The *Tanakh* –

Torah (Law): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Nebiim (Prophets): Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Minor Prophets (all 12 considered one book)

Kethubim (Writings): Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah (one book), Chronicles

Why Scripture was written

Most of the scriptures of the Hebrew Bible were writings that were meant to record or respond to one of the major moments and/or events in the history of the God's chosen covenant people.

Major Moments & Events in Israelite History

Fall of Adam

Flood

God's covenant with Abram

Joseph's rise in Egypt

Israelite slavery in Egypt

Birth of Moses

The *EXODUS*

40yrs of wandering

Moses' Death / Rise of Joshua

The Conquest of Canaan

Rule of Judges/Prophets

Saul's Coronation

David's Reign

Solomon and the Temple

Division of the Kingdom

Fall of the North and South

The *EXILE*

Return from Babylon

Rebuilding of the Temple and
the Walls of Jerusalem

The Creation of Scripture

Major Event



Someone reflects
On the Event

Writes or Sings a
Hymn/Proverb/Reflection

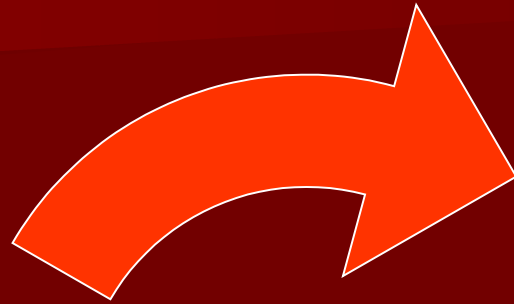


The Creation of Scripture

Major Event

Oral Transmission
of the Event

The Event is Recorded
by someone Inspired by
the Holy Spirit

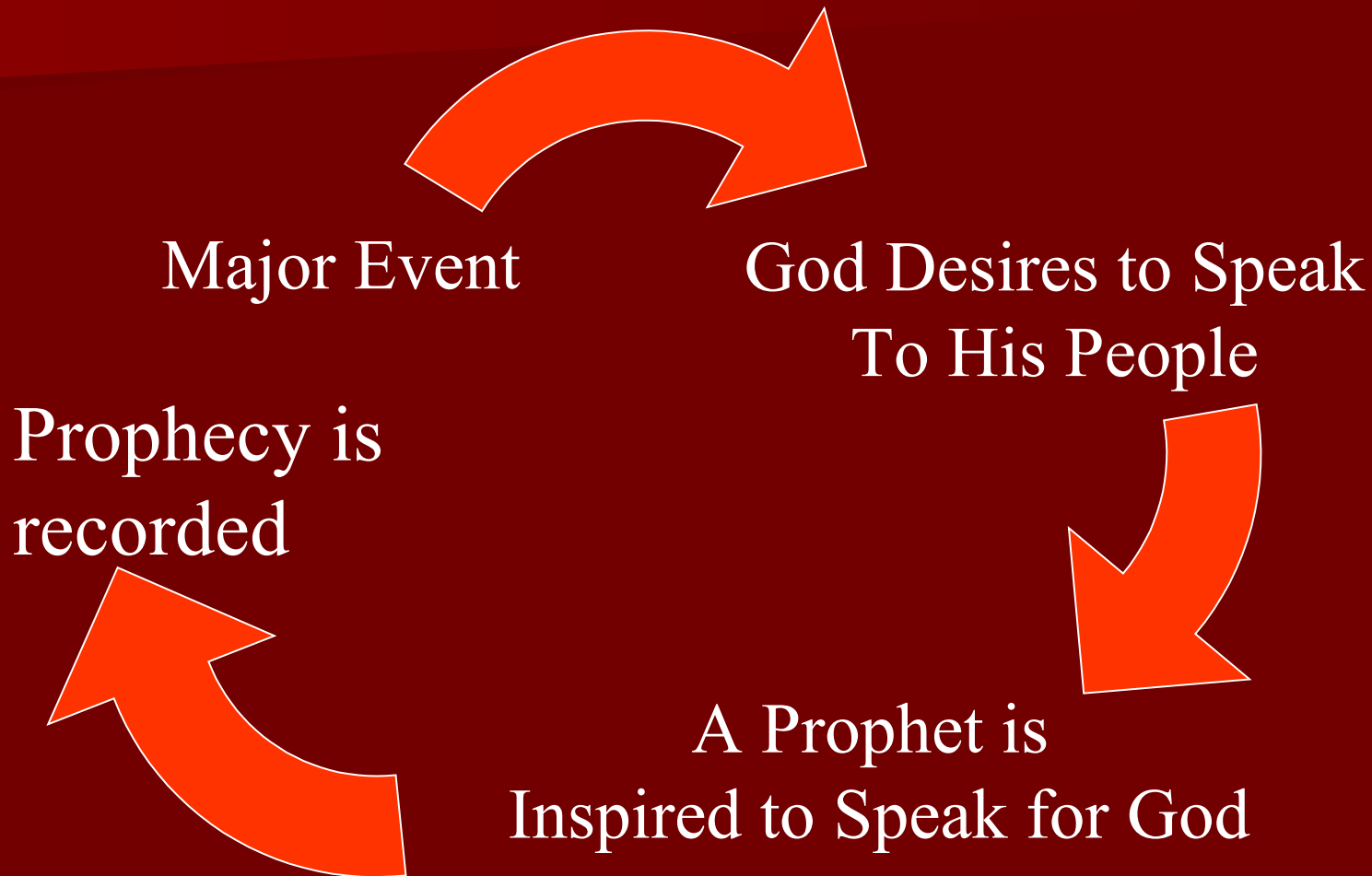


The intended goal of the biblical writers was not to establish historical accuracy but rather to build up a record of God's faithfulness and our response

Purpose of the Word of God

- To authenticate the divinity of Jesus Christ – John 20:31
- To build and encourage faith in Him as Savior – John 20:31
- To build our hope and faith in God – Romans 15:4
- To teach us through the example of others – I Corinthians 10:11
- To give knowledge of eternal life – I John 5:13
- To instruct us in Godly living as disciples – II Tim. 3:16

The Creation of Scripture



Notable Exceptions

- ✓ Covenant/Law written by God on the tablets that were carried in the Ark of the Covenant
- ✓ Responses to personal events in a writers life, e.g. some of the psalms
- ✓ Personal Correspondence, e.g. Proverbs
- ✓ Personal Reflections, e.g. Ecclesiastes and Lamentations
- ✓ Faith Narratives. e.g. Esther, Ruth, Job

Major Moments and Scripture

See handout