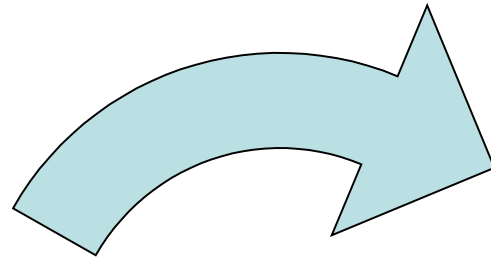


How We Got The Bible

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

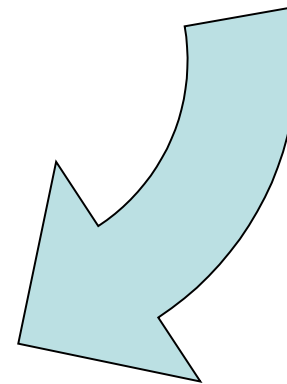
The Creation of Scripture

Major Event

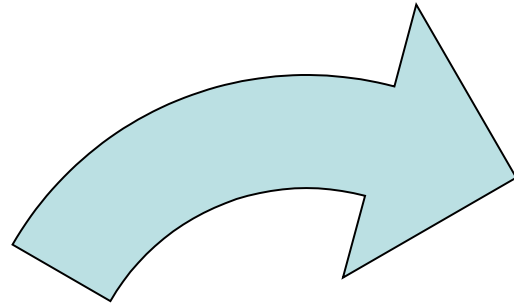


Someone reflects
On the Event

Writes or Sings a
Hymn/Proverb/Reflection



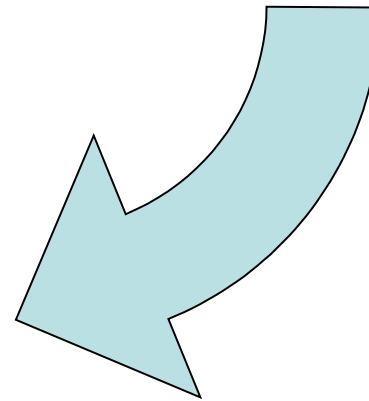
The Creation of Scripture



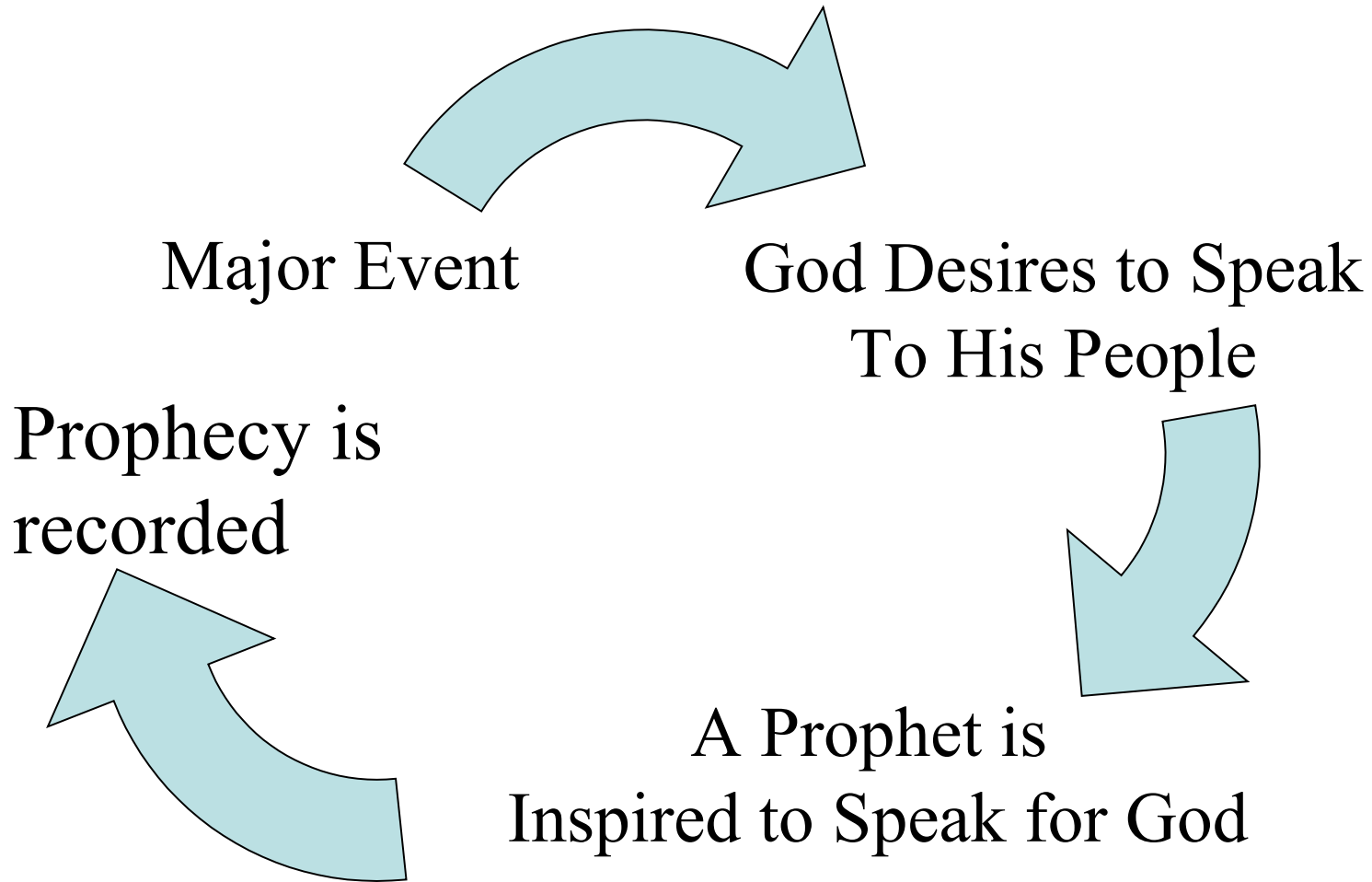
Major Event

Oral Transmission
of the Event

The Event is Recorded
by someone Inspired by
the Holy Spirit



The Creation of Scripture



The Torah

Genesis - Deuteronomy

- ✓ Records the events of the Creation through the covenantal relationship with Abram through the movement of the twelve tribes of Israel into and out of Egypt through the journey in the wilderness to the borders of the Promised Land by the Jordan river
- ✓ Genesis/ Exodus/ Leviticus/ Numbers/ Deuteronomy
- ✓ Was viewed as authoritative by the time of the reign of Josiah (II Kings 22,23)
- ✓ Took on prominence during the reforms of Ezra-Nehemiah

The Torah

Genesis - Deuteronomy

- ✓ Authorship is traditionally attributed solely to Moses
 - ✓ Dictated by God verbatim and letter for letter
 - ✓ Divinely inspired by God and written by Moses
- ✓ Many/most scholars challenge Mosaic authorship

Challenges to Mosaic Authorship

- Records the death of Moses and a statement comparing Moses to all the other prophets in Israel
- Records events prior to Moses that had to be passed down through oral traditions and likely resulted in different stories/sources
- There are different terms/names used for God which suggest different authors
 - *Elohim* : God
 - *YHWH* : Lord / Jehovah

Challenges to Mosaic Authorship

- Different terms used for the Mount of God: Horeb and Sinai
- Several stories are repeated as doublets:
 - ✓ 2 Creation stories: Genesis 1 & 2
 - ✓ 3 stories of patriarchs pretending their wives are their sisters: Genesis 12, 20, & 26
 - ✓ 2 stories of Moses hitting a rock to produce water: Exodus 17 & Numbers 20
 - ✓ 2 versions of the Ten Commandments: Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5

Challenges to Mosaic Authorship

Conclusion: Either Moses wrote under the influence of more than one oral tradition handed down or there were multiple writers and at some point the writings were attributed to Moses

Redactor Theory

Redact: to frame or edit a writing for publication or release

Redaction Theory: There were multiple writings (Mosaic or not) and/or oral traditions of the Torah's material, handed down for generations, which were compiled and edited by a redactor at some point (600BC)

Redactor Theory

- ✓ At least 4 traditions (written or oral) were brought together
- ✓ Attributed to Moses
- ✓ Duplication was preferable to omission
 - ✓ Traditions were combined
 - ✓ Left side by side
- ✓ The redactor was probably Ezra

Historical Narratives

- 1) Deuteronomistic Books: Joshua, Judges, Samuel (I&II), and Kings (I&II) – people and leaders were judged as “good” or “bad” based upon their faithfulness to Deuteronomy
- 2) Ezra-Nehemiah
- 3) Chronicles (I&II)

Historical Narratives

- No consensus among scholars of authorship or dating
- Dating only by inference and comparison
- Authorship attributed to famous individuals to ensure survivorship of the writings
- Not “history” as we define it
 - Not interested in balanced objective fact-telling
 - Written in a moral/religious framework to inspire the same
 - Not “fiction” – selective accounts retold

Historical Narratives

- Joshua: Conquest and settlement in Canaan.
- Judges: 200-300 year period before the monarchy (Samuel)
- Samuel: Unification of the tribes under the monarchy of Saul then David (Samuel)
- Kings: Division on the nation and tracing the kingdoms of the North and South and their falls (Jeremiah)

Historical Narratives

- Ezra-Nehemiah : Renaissance of Israel
 - 538: Edict of Cyrus of Persia
 - 520: Rebuilding of the Temple (Haggai & Zechariah)
 - 445: Rebuilding of the Walls
 - Religious renewal

Historical Narratives

- Chronicles : Post-exilic re-envisioning and retelling of the history of Israel from Joshua through Kings (Ezra)
 - Emphasis was on Israel as a religion and not a nation
 - Focus: Temple, Priests, Levites, Zion
 - Kings judged by how they dealt with the priests

Next Week

- ✓ Prophets
- ✓ Scrolls and their preservation
- ✓ Canonization of the OT
 - ✓ Apocrypha
 - ✓ Dead Sea Scrolls