



HYBRID

**BIBLE**  
**STUDY**

EVERY TUESDAY IN 2025



# Origins

THE STORIES OF THE BIBLE STORY



# Bible Study at Alfred Street Baptist Church

- Critical element of the Baptist Denomination
- Centrality of the Bible and the proclaimed word
- The Bible contains all things necessary for us and for our salvation
- Authoritative
- A part of ASBC's identity, with the opportunity to engage God's word and think!
- "Read your Bible, it will make you a better Christian." -HJW



# Objectives

- To have a better understanding of the Bible as God's word.
- To have a better understanding of the Bible as a cultural repository.
- To have a better understanding of the Bible as a historical artifact.
- To have a better understanding of the Bible as a literary document.
- To have a better understanding of the Bible as a theological text.
- To have a better understanding of the Bible as a dialogue=living word.



# Terms of Engagement

- Bible Study is a life-long enterprise.
- Learn to feel comfortable not knowing everything – scaffolding.
- It's OK if we don't agree.
- It's OK to change your mind.
- Listen with care to what others have to say.
- This is a space of mutual respect.
- Assume everyone else is as smart as you are.
- Assume everyone else loves Jesus as much as you do.
- Some of the best lessons come in the form of a surprise.



# Origins

THE STORIES OF THE BIBLE STORY



## origin, n.

- The point of origination – the place where something begins, arises or is derived
- Ancestry; derivation
- A coming into being
- *Anatomy* The point of attachment of a muscle
- *Math* The point of intersection of coordinate axes, as in the Cartesian coordinate system.



# Origin Stories

- An origin story is an account or backstory revealing how a character or groups of people came to be.
- In comic books, it explains how a superhero gained their power; how they becomes superheroes or villains.
- The Bible *contains* origin stories.
- The Bible *has* its own origin stories.



# An Origin Story: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."



- What does the text say?
- Where is it situated within the larger narrative?

### GROUP EXERCISE: 5 minutes

- Group 1: Identify all references to seeing.
- Group 2: Identify all references to hearing.
- Group 3: Identify all references to location, space, movement.



# 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; **visions** were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose **eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see**, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the **lamp** of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

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# Story of Samuel's Call: Prophet's Origin Story

Samuel's call story is also a story about biblical interpretation:

How to hear God's word

How to see/perceive what God is doing

Our location in relation to God and others



Physicality to the story: Material Culture





# Origins: Gutenberg Bible, 1454-1455



## Gutenberg Bible

Gutenberg invented the moveable type printing press at great financial expense.

This invention reduced the cost of printing and lowered the price.

Within a few decades there were printing presses in over 200 cities.

With the increase of production came a greater demand for Bibles.

The circulation of the Bible and other books resulted in a sharp increase in literacy.





# Origins: History of translation in brief

- Original Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, *koine* Greek
- Early Translations: Greek, Latin, Syriac
- English Bibles: John Wycliffe (1329-1384) translated the Bible into English from the Vulgate(1380/82). William Tyndale of the Protestant Reformation (1494-1536) translated the NT from Greek mss. and began work on the OT from Hebrew mss. Miles Coverdale (1488-1569)continued and finished Tyndale's work.
- Early Bibles – Wycliffe, Coverdale (Great Bible), Geneva Bible, Bishop's Bible, Douay Bible, King James (1611).



# Original Language does not mean Original Text

- Some translations worked from other translations (Vulgate, etc.).
- We have no *urtext* of the Old or New Testament books, only copies.
- For the OT, documents were curated and copied by scribes.
- Scribes worked in family groups.
- The oldest complete **ms.** of the OT is called the Leningrad **Codex**.
- The Old Testament we have today is translated from the Leningrad Codex.



# Reading a text in translation

Be like Samuel:

See it for what it is.

Listen for the surplus of meaning.

Be mindful of the passage's location in the text.

Be mindful of our location in relationship to the text.

It helps to do this work in community.



# Tips for Reading

1. The Bible is a work in translation - it was written in another language.
2. The Bible represents (an)other culture(s).
3. You are not a blank slate.
4. Assume a surplus of meaning .
5. What the story says cannot be separated from how it is told.
6. Why the story is told cannot be separated from how it is told.
7. History matters.
8. The Bible is rooted in history but not bound to it.



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