



HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

An open book is shown in a soft, out-of-focus light. The pages are white, and the text is overlaid in a bold, red, italicized font. The background is a warm, hazy glow, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

*Hasn't the Bible been copied a lot?
Surely they made mistakes.*

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The Scriptures are just so old; can we trust that what we have is what they actually wrote?

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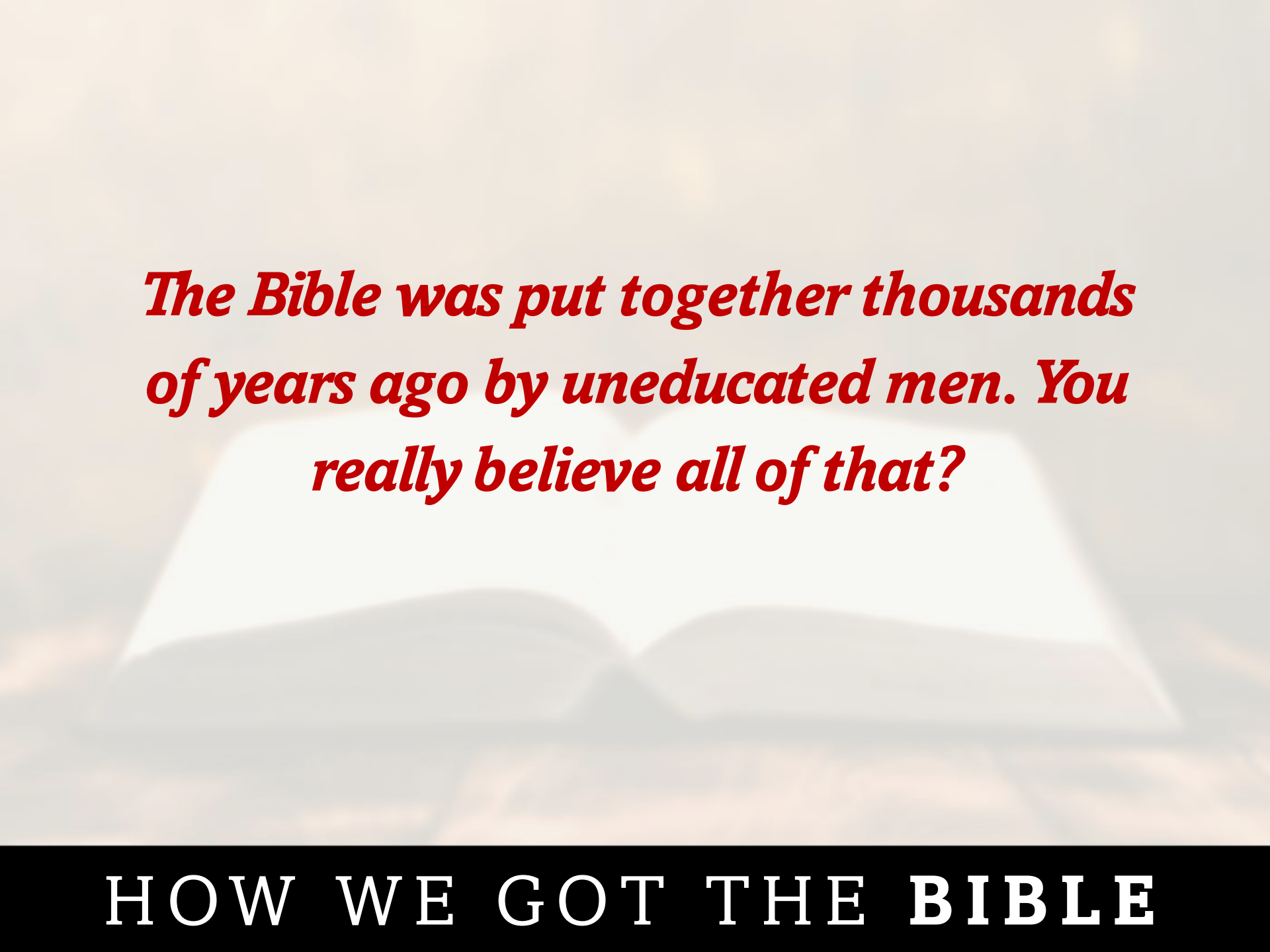


If the Bible wasn't even written in English, how can I be sure it really says what I'm reading?

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Why do you have these books in your Bible? Other versions have more, and some of the ones you use are disputed.

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The Bible was put together thousands of years ago by uneducated men. You really believe all of that?

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*Isn't the Bible full of contradictions
and errors?*

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OUR OBJECTIVES IN THIS STUDY

- To increase and solidify the faith of Christians who meet here
- To inspire those who do not currently believe to reevaluate the Bible
- To equip the saints here to defend the word when speaking with non-believers

HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

How did we get the Bible?

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How did we **Q get the Bible?**

God gave **A it to us.**

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CLAIMS OF INSPIRATION

- “God said,” or some variation, occurs over 3,800 times in the Bible
- “Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (**II Peter 1:21**)
- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (**II Timothy 3:16**)

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EVIDENCE FOR INSPIRATION

- Biblical prophets proved themselves as such

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Biblical prophets proved themselves as such

- “And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of all the people. So the people believed.” (**Exodus 4:30-31**)
- “Therefore they [Paul and Barnabas] stayed there [in Iconium] a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.”
(**Acts 14:3**)
- See also **I John 4:1; Acts 2:22; Deuteronomy 18:20ff**

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EVIDENCE FOR INSPIRATION

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- The Scriptures are uniform in theme despite diversity between books

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The Scriptures are uniform in theme despite diversity between books

- Biblical books were written over a span of ~1500 years
- Differing times (war, peace, etc.)
- Authors from all walks of life
- Written from three continents
- Various physical settings (prison, a palace, a ship, etc.)
- At least three languages are used
- Represents almost every imaginable literary style
- Controversial subjects are frequently addressed
- ***Yet the theme is consistent from beginning to end***

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Predictive prophecy would be impossible otherwise

- God's promises to Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-3; 15:4-21**)
- Cyrus, the servant of the Lord (**Isaiah 44:28-45:1**)
- Tyre's destruction decreed (**Ezekiel 26-28**)
- Daniel foretells a succession of four world empires (**Daniel 2:27-45; 7:1-27**)
- The Messiah had minute details of His life prophesied

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- The Bible honestly portrays bad as well as good

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The Bible honestly portrays bad as well as good

- **Abraham:** the father of all Hebrews lied (twice) about Sarah being his wife and is one of many biblical polygamists
- **Jacob:** the namesake of the nation of Israel is depicted as a questionably opportunistic trickster
- **The patriarchs:** Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery
- **Moses:** Israel's lawgiver was a murderer who did not want to take the burden of responsibility given to him by God
- **David:** the greatest king of Israel committed adultery and conspired to have one of his most trusted soldiers killed
- **The apostles:** Jesus Christ's twelve companions regularly disappoint with lack of faith or understanding
- **Paul:** the most prolific writer of the New Testament once helped to execute innocent Christians

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TOPICS FOR THIS STUDY

- How the Scriptures were copied
- Manuscript evidence
- What happens when manuscripts differ
- Biblical authors
- The apocrypha
- Establishing the canon of the Bible
- The translation process
- Modern English Bibles—translations, organization, verse and chapter divisions, etc.

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