




How we got the

Old Testament



A summary of how the documents were inspired by God, written, collected, protected, translated, & preserved so it can be trusted today as the Word of God!



Not written all at once!

the Bible was written over a
period of

1600 years


by

40 human authors.




However ...

the process was
completely
overseen &
guided by God.

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- The Old Testament is the most widely read book in the history of the world and has been translated into over 2,000 languages.
 - The Old Testament claims to be the inspired Word of God.

INSPIRATION

- 10 Commandments written by God's finger
- Ex 24:4 "Moses wrote all the words of the LORD."
- "Thus says the LORD" over 5,000 X

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- 2 Tim 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”
 - 2 Pet 1:21 “no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”




COLLECTION &

RECOGNITION *(Canonization)*

- Israel believed that there was a group of writings which were divinely inspired
- The OT Scriptures were in an accepted collection by the time of Malachi (around 400 BC)
- No councils of synagogues or churches, made the OT authoritative - by its very nature it had authority from God.

Human authors

- Pentateuch : Moses (1400 B.C.)
- Job : Moses (1400 B.C.)
- Joshua : Joshua (1350 B.C.)
- Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Sam : Samuel/Nathan/Gad (1000 - 900 B.C.)
- 1 & 2 Kings : Jeremiah (600 B.C.)
- 1 & 2 Chron, Ez, Neh : Ezra (450 B.C.)
- Esther : Mordecai (400 B.C.)

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- Psalms : Mostly David; also Moses, Solomon, sons of Korah , sons of Asaph (1000 - 400 B.C.)
 - Prov, Eccles, S of S : Solomon (900 B.C.)
 - The following books were authored by the person whose name they bear:-
 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



TRANSMISSION

- professional scribes who were specialists in writing and in the law
- “guardians of the text.”
- sought perfection in the transmission of the text.



Manuscript Evidence

1. Aleppo Codex
2. Leningrad Codex
3. Talmud, Midrash & Targums
4. Septuagint (LXX)



Testimonies that the OT is God's Word


1. Jesus, the apostles and the NT writers
2. Josephus



Evidence from archaeology

- **Dead Sea Scrolls**

One of the greatest confirmations
of the reliability of the
Old Testament text !!



We can be assured that the OT we have now is what was originally written.

The OT text was well preserved and accurately handed down to us today.



The message of the OT

- God (His person, character & attributes)
- Origins & purpose of the universe
- Man (who & what we are)
- Sin (its origin & consequences)
- God's requirements of people
- God's provision of salvation
- History of Israel
- Promises/ warnings of blessing/judgement
- The Coming of Messiah!