



The History of His Story

Author: Jennifer Smith

Preview

If we believe the Bible is God’s Word, we should know where it came from. Have everyone write three “facts” about themselves. Two should be true and one made up. As each person reads their list, the group decides which is not true.

Praise

Play Casting Crowns’ song “The Word Is Alive.” Name five things you’re grateful for that start with the letters B, I, B, L, and E.

Parable

Think the Bible was written in English? Think again. It was actually written in three different languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek—and then translated into Latin, the language of the Roman Catholic Church. It wasn’t until 1382 that a theologian named John Wycliffe translated the Bible from Latin into English. Corrupt religious leaders of the day believed the Bible should not be made available to the common people and declared Wycliffe a heretic.

One hundred years after Wycliffe’s death, William Tyndale was born. By age thirty, he had dedicated his life to translating the Bible into English from the original languages. The Roman Catholic Church was still opposed to giving common people access to the Bible, so in 1536, Tyndale was strangled and burned at the stake for his work. His last words were, “Lord, open the king of England’s eyes.”

Present

So where did the Bible come from? Did it come crashing down from the sky like some kind of sacred meteorite? First, the Bible is not actually one book, but a collection of 66 books—39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. It was authored over a period of 1500 years by more than 40 writers who were inspired by God.



“Testament” is another word for “covenant” or “agreement.” The Old Testament is the agreement God had with the human race before Jesus came to earth. The New Testament is His agreement with us now that Jesus has died for our sins. If you walk with God and are filled with His Spirit, you are part of the New Testament church. However, the Old Testament still speaks to us today, so it’s important to read and study the whole Bible.

The first books of the Bible were written in the days of Moses. God told him what to write, and his writings were kept safe in the Ark of the Covenant. Over hundreds of years other inspired books were written—books by shepherds, kings, poets, military leaders, and others from many different walks of life. Any time God inspired new writings, they were added to the collection.

Jesus approved the Old Testament books, which is how we know we can trust them. In **Luke 11:51**, Jesus began a statement by saying, “From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias ...” In Jesus’ day, the books of the Old Testament were arranged in a different order than they are today. The Old Testament started with Genesis, which contains the story of Abel’s death, but it ended with II Chronicles, which contains the story of Zacharias’ death. With this single reference then, Jesus gave credibility to the entire Old Testament.

After Jesus was crucified and received back into Heaven, the church began to follow the writings of the apostles—men who had walked and talked with Jesus and had direct encounters with God. These writings were compiled into the New Testament. In **II Peter 3:2**, Peter equated the authority of the apostles’ teachings with the Old Testament writings. In **Revelation 22:18-19**, three verses from the very end of the Bible, we are warned that no one should add to or take away from the words of “the prophecy of this book.”

Read **II Timothy 3:16** and **II Peter 1:20-21**. All Scripture was God-breathed and written by humans who were moved on by the Spirit of God. Throughout history, some have boldly predicted that the Bible will fade in popularity and vanish forever. In **Mark 13:31**, Jesus said that Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will never pass away. Since Jesus was God in human form, we know the entire Bible contains His words. They will ring true forever.

P ractice

Why do you think there have always been those who opposed the Bible?
Read **Psalms 119:11**. What are ways you can hide God’s Word in your heart?

P ray



Pray that God gives you a love for His Word that can never be stripped away. Pray that He shows you how to study in a way that seals the truths of God in your mind and heart.

Plus

Don't forget to take home a copy of the two-page handout that comes with this lesson!