

How did the writers know what to say?

It is not an easy project to expect someone else to write a book about what you would like to say. Yet that is exactly what God did. The Holy Spirit “breathed” all of the thoughts and words into the hearts and minds of the writers. This “breathing” is known as **inspiration**. God gave his select writers the zeal and the necessary talents to write the exact words he wanted. 2 Timothy 3:16 explains this very well: “*All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*”

How do we know that the bible does not contain errors?

Since the entire Bible is given through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for it to contain any error. God, the author, cannot make mistakes. He is a God of perfection and truth. Therefore we can be confident that his word is also perfect truth and in full agreement with itself.

What are teh Apocryphal Books?

TOBIT
JUDITH
THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON
ECCLESIASTICUS
BARUCH
THE LETTER OF JEREMIAH
1, 2, 3 & 4 MACCABEES
1 & 2 ESDRAS
TH PRAYER OF MANASSEH
ADDITIONS TO DANIEL & ESTHER

The Greek term **Apocrypha** (“hidden meanings”) is applied to certain writings not included in the canonical books. (Canon means “rule” or “standard”.) In some Bibles these 15 books are added to the Old Testament books. There are many good reasons why these books may not be included with the inspired writings of the Old Testament.

1. *None of these books were admitted into the canon by the Jews, the very people for whom the Old Testament was initially intended.*
2. *These books are never quoted by Christ or the Apostles anywhere in the New Testament.*
3. *They contain legends, false teachings and even contradictions to the inspired word of God.*
4. *These books were all written in Greek, not in Hebrew as were all other Old Testament books.*

Perhaps these books make interesting reading, but they are never to be considered part of the 66 inspired books of the Holy Bible.

What is the purpose of the Bible?

The purpose of the Bible can easily be seen in the words of John 20:31: “*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*” Without Jesus there would be no need for the Bible. It is the only book written which is necessary for both this life and life after death. The Holy Bible stands alone in its power for salvation. Let no one ever claim that additional books or writings are necessary to complete, compliment or explain the Holy Scriptures. Now we can see the great responsibility we have to share this Word with all people. We are the privileged ones who have this Word. What a responsibility for us to make God’s Word known to everyone!

In what language was the Bible written?

The forty men who wrote the Bible did not write it in English. Rather, it was first penned in two languages. The Old Testament’s 39 books were written in Hebrew. This language was and still is the language of the Jewish people. (Jewish people still read the Old Testament books in Hebrew in their synagogues. It is a great privilege for young Jewish boys to be given the honor of reading an Old Testament selection to the congregation.)

The following is an example of Hebrew. If you look at Genesis 1:1 in your Bible you will know what is being said here. In reading Hebrew, you must begin at the right and read to the left.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

The 27 New Testament books were written in Greek. Greek was the common language at the time of Jesus and the early church. For this we thank Alexander the Great of Greece who forced his language on the known world some time before Jesus was born. This universal language helped to easily spread the Word of God throughout the then-known world. Look up John 3:16 to find what is said here in Greek.

Οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

How are the books divided?

The Bible at first did not have chapters and verses neatly dividing each book. In the earliest copies of the Scripture which have been found, ~~note the words are divided like this!~~ History shows that the earliest use of chapters and verses came about in the Latin Bible written about AD 1250. These were added for the sake of clarity and ease of reference. (Did you know that the 66 books are divided into 1189 chapters which in turn are divided into over 31,000 verses? Approximately 845,000 words!)

Some versions of the Bible also include topical headings. This was also done by translators or Bible publishers to give readers a clearer picture of what was to come. Various versions also insert *italics* to show words that were not in the original Hebrew or Greek but were necessary to make good sense. A colorful addition used by some Bible publishers is red print showing the words spoken by Jesus. This is called a Red Letter Edition. All of these helps were added to make the Bible easier to follow and understand.



How do these passages prove that God is the author of the Holy Bible?

Jeremiah 36:2 _____

Ezekiel 1:3 _____

Acts 1:16 _____

What warning does God give here?

Deuteronomy 4:2 _____ Deuteronomy 12:32 _____

Proverbs 30:5,6 _____ Revelation 22:18,19 _____

The longest book of the Old Testament is _____ chapters.

The shortest book of the Old Testament is _____ chapters.

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm _____.

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm _____.

What distinction do you think John 11:35 has? _____

TOPICAL INSIGHTS

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