

LEARNING THE BIBLE – Part 1

3 Dangerous Realities – Biblical Illiteracy, Experience over Truth, Little Value in Study

Where Did the Bible Come From?

- God spoke through men by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20)
- 1600 years, 3 continents, 3 languages, 40 authors
- Men of God spoke – their words were recorded – tested – and then compiled.
- Not everything written passed the test and became Scripture (Apocrypha & Corinthians)

The Test

1. Was the book written by an apostle / prophet of God?
 2. Does the book tell the truth about God (Jesus) in accordance with the “rule of faith” already known, without contradiction?
 3. Does the book evidence Divine Authority to transform lives?
 4. Was the book accepted as God’s Word by the people to whom it was first delivered?
- OT canon established by Jews 200 BC (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - The Apocrypha is a collection of books written in the intertestamental period (Malachi-Matthew)
 - Our NT consists of 27 books written between AD 49- 95
 - The NT canon was not recognized as 27 books until sometime between AD 350 – 400.
 - WARNING – beware of YouTubers, podcasters, and ministers making claims about hidden truths from “hidden books.”
 - Our Bible, as we know it was not officially compiled until 1647 around the time of the Westminster Confession.

Translation Work

- The OT was written in:
- The NT was written in:

English Versions:

- Some falsely claim that the King James Version (KJV) is the only inspired version.
- AD 400 – Latin Vulgate, Jerome
- AD 1382 – John Wycliffe translated Bible (word-for-word Latin to English)
- AD 1388 – John Purvey improved translation (Purvey's Revision)
- AD 1440 – The _____ was invented
- AD 1526 – William Tyndale produced a NT translation from Greek to English
- AD 1560 – Geneva Bible is completed
 - "The Bible of Shakespear"
 - "The Bible of the Puritans"
 - "The Bible of the Pilgrim Fathers"
- AD 1604 – King James I authorized a new translation of the entire Bible, which was to be used universally across England as a solution to the fighting of translations.
- AD 1611 – the Authorized King James Version of the Bible is complete
- Mass production began of the KJV
- Two printing presses were used
- As a result, there were two editions of KJV because the two presses resulted in over 200 variations
- The variations were minor, but existed nonetheless
 - Ruth 3:15 – "she (Ruth) went into the city"
 - Ruth 3:15 – "he (Boaz) returned to the town"
- By 1769 (158yrs) the translation was on its 5th update
- Genesis 43:25 – "And they made ready the present against Joseph"
 - NLT – "they prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival"
- Exodus 19:18 – "Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke"
 - NLT – "Mount Sinai was covered with smoke"
- 1 Samuel 5:12 – "The men that died were not smitten with the emerods"
 - NLT – "Those who didn't die were afflicted with tumors"
- Psalm 5:6 – "Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing"
 - NLT – "You will destroy those who tell lies"

Conclusion

- 6000 years of humanity – only 644 years has the complete Bible been available in English