



SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

FOUNDATION LEVEL – Lesson 10 How The Scriptures Were Written and Compiled

Introduction

We would be approaching this matter from a spiritual context as well as from pragmatic empirical research. We need to be able to intelligently defend our faith even though our salvation is not based on mental cognitive foundations.

First of all let us understand one key factor about God; HE IS SOVEREIGN!

Proverbs 16:9

A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps

Proverbs 19:21

There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.

Ephesians 1:9

⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, ¹¹both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Ephesians 1:11

¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Psalms 22:28

All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the ¹nations Shall worship before ²You. ²⁸For the kingdom *is* the LORD's, And He rules over the nations.

Psalms 115:3

But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

Isaiah 14:24

The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand:

Isaiah 46:10-11

Declaring the end from the beginning,



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And from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' ¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken *it*; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed *it*; I will also do it.

Acts 4:28

²⁷"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

In other words

- God is able to do whatever He purposes
- God is sovereign over the nations and actions of men
- God has a way to accomplish His desires
- God moves men to fulfil His eternal plans
- Ultimately God is in control even through the bad circumstances

We see this from the following scriptures (ESV translation) that indicate God's involvement about His Word:

2 Peter 1:21

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 34:16

Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

Revelation 1:1-20

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus



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Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ...

2 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ...

2 Samuel 23:1-2

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

The Old Testament

In the days of Jesus Christ, the Tanakh was a collection of 24 books separated into THE TORAH (five books of Moses), the Nev'im (the prophets) and thee Ketuvim (the Writings comprised of poetry and wisdom books – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, 1,2 Chronicles).

Old Testament Authors Listed:

- Moses
- Joshua



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- Jeremiah
- Ezra
- David
- Solomon
- Isaiah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi
- other psalmists and proverb writers
- unknown authors
- possible authors: Samuel, Nehemiah, Mordecai

The Compilation of the Old Testament?

The writing, collection and authorisation or canonisation of the Old Covenant Scriptures took place over centuries. God sovereignly inspired the Men listed above to pen and scribe the prophecy of scripture on scrolls.



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Over time the recognition and liturgical use by Jewish communities developed and the united recognition of these writings as the Word of God was well established.

By the time of Jesus, the texts that Jesus affirmed as being the Word of God were complete. God is sovereign over all things including His Word.

Who Were the New Testament authors?

The New Testament authors were a mix of unparalleled **scholars** (e.g., St. Paul) and **businessmen** (St. Peter, a fisherman), **medical doctors** (St. Luke), and **clergy** (St. John). **Eight men**, some Apostles (those with a direct commission from Jesus Christ to minister in His name and to lead the mission of the Early Church), wrote the epistles of the New Testament over a course of about seventy years, with the Apostle John being the final author (Revelation written in c. 80-85, under Domitian according to a second-century bishop, Irenaeus).

New Testament Authors Listed:

- Matthew
- John Mark
- Luke
- John
- Paul
- James
- Peter
- Jude
- *unknown (Hebrews)
-

Who Compiled the New Testament?

The Apostle Paul wrote, "*For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you...*" ([1 Cor. 11:23](#)). Not only did Paul recognize his writings as inspired ("God breathed"), but Peter, with whom Paul had an obvious



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undulated relationship, nevertheless, taught the Church that Paul's writings were on the same inspirational canonical level as the Old Testament:

"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction" ([2 Peter 3:15-16](#)).

Like the Old Testament, the New Testament was not compiled by a committee or council. Rather, it was recognized as divinely inspired by the Early Church. To understand this process one can examine the letters of the Early Church leaders, like Clement of Rome, Papias of Hierapolis, Polycarp of Smyrna, Hermas; as well as documents like the Didache.

Who Compiled the Bible as a Whole?

The late New Testament scholar, F.F. Bruce, wrote convincingly,

"The Bible is not simply an anthology; there is a unity which binds the whole together."

Thus, the Early Church recognized the ancient Hebrew Scriptures that by then were canonized. They also recognized a singularity of purpose, of "voice," and of "redemptive history" in the Old and New Testaments. An old guide to the continuity between Old and New Testaments remains true and helpful, "The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed."

God wrote the Bible. As the [Westminster Confession of Faith](#) puts it with faithful brevity:

"The supreme Judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence, we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the scripture."



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The Bible is Sufficient

The Holy Bible is not only inspired. The Bible is sufficient. The Bible is sufficient for all things in faith and life. No revival of true religion was ever released in mass-converting power unless there was a rise in the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. So, let us attend to these important questions about who wrote the Bible with a humble, teachable heart, that says, "Lord, write Your Word upon my heart." Thus, the Book of Common Prayer's wonderful petition:

"BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen" (The Book of Common Prayer).

After all is said and done, the question remains, "Not merely 'who wrote the Bible,' but who will listen? And who will follow the living Word of the Bible, Jesus Christ?"