

Getting to Know Your Bible

Lesson 2

How Was the Bible Developed and Protected?

Quick Review of Lesson 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Bible is one complete book containing 66 booklets.2. The Bible is one complete story containing many storylines, which all fit together to complete the BIG storyline in the whole Bible.3. Five individuals or groups can be found in all the stories of the Bible: The LORD God, the main character(s), the Nation of Israel, the Gentile Nations, and the Church.4. The LORD reveals the stories in the Bible many times. The first time it will be with simple details, just to introduce the story. The second time, He will add more information to develop the story. The third time, to add more information. He will continue to repeat the story with added information until everything He wants us to know has been delivered from the different perspectives of the different individuals or groups.
	<p>Let's Look at One More Example from Genesis 1 - 15</p>

So, who wrote the Bible books? LOADED QUESTION – RIGHT!

When you ask that of a little child ... The child will say, "GOD DID," ... and the child is absolutely right.

But did God actually use pen, ink, and paper to write the Bible? Technically, NO! Although the LORD God did use His finger to carve the Ten Commandments on the stone tablets, He used the hands of men to put His words on paper with pen and ink.

Let's take a quick view of the men the **LORD** used to record His Words on paper for us.

Old Testament		New Testament	
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and most of Deuteronomy, Job	Moses (Joshua finished Deuteronomy to record the death of Moses. He also made a few summary inserts in all six books.)	Matthew	Matthew
Joshua	Joshua (With a few summary inserts by Samuel)	Mark	Mark (Recording Peter's Testimony)
Judges, Ruth	Samuel	Luke & Acts	Luke (Recording Paul's Testimony)
1 & 2 Samuel	Samuel, Gad, Nathan (See 1 Ch. 29:29-30 below)	John, 1 st 2 nd 3 rd John & the Revelation	John
1 & 2 Kings	Nathan, Jeremiah (Baruch was Jeremiah's scribe)	Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon	Paul
1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra	Ezra	Hebrews	Most Likely Paul
Nehemiah	Nehemiah	James	James
Esther	Mordecai	1 & 2 Peter	Peter
Psalms	David and others	Jude	Jude
Proverbs	Solomon, Agur & Lemuel		
Isaiah	Isaiah		
Jeremiah & Lamentations	Jeremiah (Baruch was Jeremiah's scribe)		
All the rest of the OT prophet books	The book name is the writer		

"Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet and in the chronicles of Gad the seer, with all his reign, his power, and the circumstances which came on him, on Israel, and on all the kingdoms of the lands." 1 Ch 29:29-30.

Now, let's begin to learn how the LORD communicated His Word with these writers.

Here is where things get interesting.

In the first lesson, I mentioned that the Book of Genesis covered 2352 lunar years.

(INTERESTING FACT: A lunar year is 12 lunar months of 354 days per year. The years mentioned in the entire Old Testament are based on lunar years. The solar year that we use on our calendar did not begin to be developed anywhere in the world until at least 300 years after the last book of the OT was completed - Malachi.)

Today, this lesson is being delivered first in the year 2022 AD. Tracing all the time markers in the whole Bible and adding all the years until today, this year, 2022 AD, is about 6305 years since the creation of Adam. Comparing that to the years in the book of Genesis, it means more than one-third of the time, or 37 % of the years, since the creation of Adam occurred in the book of Genesis. Moses was not an eyewitness to those years.

So here is the question we must ask.

How did Moses know what to write in the Book of Genesis as the absolute WORD-FOR-WORD of GOD?

ANSWER 1: Through the years, I have often heard, and many commentators, teachers, and preachers have said, that the story in Genesis was passed down from generation to generation until Moses finally wrote it down. From the early years of my life, that did not sit well with me. Why? Here is the reason. We used to play a game called "gossip." We would sit in a circle. The leader would whisper a story in the ear of the first person. Then, that person would whisper the story to the next person. And the story would go around the circle. When the story reached the last person, he told it to the whole group.

IT NEVER MATCHED THE ORIGINAL STORY. So, for me, that is a BAD ANSWER.

No wonder people say that the first 11 chapters of Genesis are nothing but myths!

Now I can show you how it is possible for the whole story from Creation to the end of Genesis could have been passed down those 2352 years through as few as five men who lived extremely long lives and knew each other (if you want to still hold to the "gossip" theory – which I do not).

FOR EXAMPLE: Methuselah was 242 years old when Adam died. They lived in the same area. They knew each other. Methuselah died the year of the flood. Shem, who rode on the Ark, was 100 years old when Methuselah died. They lived in the same area. They knew each other. Shem died when Isaac was 60 years old. Isaac's wife came from the same area where Shem lived. Shem was still alive when Isaac married. Isaac died when Joseph was 30 years old, 13 years after Joseph entered Egypt at the age of 17. They knew each other.

Through as few as five men, the story in Genesis **could have been passed down**, but that is not good enough for me. **There had to be a better answer.**

ANSWER 2: Here is the better answer. When Moses was 80 years old, the LORD called him to the burning bush. Before that, he had been in the Egyptian royalty for 40 years and did not know the LORD. Neither did he really know his Hebrew relatives. Then, for 40 years, he was a shepherd in the land of Midian, married into a family that worshipped pagan gods. But in Exodus 3:13-14, we read where Moses meets the LORD at the burning bush, and Moses finds out the LORD's name for the first time. (Three individuals or groups highlighted.)

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "
(Ex 3:13-14).

Now we have the first time Moses spoke with the LORD.
It is also the first time Moses heard the name of the LORD.

But in that same meeting with the LORD between Moses at the burning bush, we have an interesting Word from the LORD that tells us how Moses knew what to do and what to say. (Four individuals or groups highlighted.)

"You [Moses] are to speak to him [Aaron] and put the words in his mouth; and I [the LORD], even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do. Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him." (Exodus 4:15-16)

Wow! Do you see it? Moses does not know what to say or do but the LORD will put the words in Moses' mouth and teach him what to do!

... let's take a little time to see a little more of that story – just because we can!

Moses leaves the burning bush and goes to Egypt to rescue the Nation of Israel from slavery. You know the story. Ten plagues – the Red Sea Crossing – etc. Virtually every step of the way, the LORD and Moses talk face-to-face, One-on-one. The LORD is putting words in Moses' mouth and teaching him what to do.

Three months later, to the day, after leaving Egypt, Moses and the Nation of Israel are back where Moses met the LORD at the mountain of the burning bush, Mount Sinai, and the LORD calls Moses to come up the mountain.

There, the LORD instructs Moses with the covenant and the commandments and tells him all the architectural details for building the Tabernacle complex.

While the Tabernacle complex is being constructed in the camp, Moses is visiting with the LORD on the mountain, and the LORD is putting words in Moses' mouth and teaching him what to do.

Later, after the outer portion of the Tabernacle structure is complete, called the TENT OF MEETING, the LORD calls Moses to the Tent of Meeting. It is almost the end of the first year out of Egypt, and the LORD needs His religious law written and taught to the people before the whole Tabernacle complex can be set up. Moses and the priests need to know what to do during the worship time of setting up and consecrating the Tabernacle complex. The LORD calls Moses to the tent and dictates, word-for-word, the book of Leviticus (with the exception of chapters 9 and 10 which might have been Moses' eyewitness account). The book of Leviticus begins as follows:

"Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them... ." (Leviticus 1:1-2)

An interesting point here: When the LORD moved to speak to Moses to the Tent of Meeting, we never see or hear of the LORD being on the mountain again, and Moses never goes back to the mountain. Moses does not need to go to the mountain because the LORD's presence and the interaction with the LORD are at the Tent of Meeting. The LORD has made the Tent of Meeting His dwelling place.

Let's not miss the most important point here in this section of our study, and let's drive it home clearly.

In Moses' position with the LORD, he did not speak or do anything on his own!

(The one time he did, it was within 90 days of his death, and it cost him the honor of being the one to lead the Nation of Israel into the Promised Land – when he disobeyed the LORD by striking the rock for water after the LORD told him to speak to the rock instead. The LORD does not look past any disobedience.)

**Everything Moses said and wrote in the first five books of the Bible
was dictated and directed to him by the LORD or was Moses' eyewitness testimony.
GENESIS – EXODUS – LEVITICUS – NUMBERS - DEUTERONOMY**

Leviticus – is the **DRIVERS TRAINING MANUAL FOR THE JEWISH LIFE AND WORSHIP** until the **Lord's resurrection from the grave**. Every verse from Leviticus to the Gospel of John hinges on the LORD's Words found in Leviticus. Without it, you cannot understand why the Israelites did what they did, were blessed for what they did, and were punished for what they did. WE CAN NOT AND SHOULD NOT READ INTO THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES THAT DEAL WITH THE JEWS, OUR WESTERN GENTILE MINDSET, AND WORLD VIEW. The book of Leviticus is the LORD's worldview for the Jews, and it regulates everything about what they said and did, rightly and wrongly, from the book of Leviticus through the book of John and by extension to the book of Revelation.

In the same way, before the book of Leviticus was dictated, one of the times Moses was up with the LORD on Mount Sinai for 40 days, the LORD surely dictated the history in the Book of Genesis to Moses, word-for-word. There was no other way for Moses to know and record the content of that book with the surety that it was absolutely correct. Before we move on, it is the perfect time to start another important topic.

Who Kept and Protected the Bible Books?

The stage was set for the security protocol for the protection of the Bible books at the end of the first year out of Egypt for the nation of Israel.

Let's set the scene in our minds.

The nation of Israel had been camped at the foot of Mount Sinai for nine months. During those nine months at Sinai, Moses recorded the Book of Genesis, the Book of Exodus, and the Book of Leviticus.

GENESIS is a record of the heritage of the Nation of Israel, starting with creation and ending with Jacob (Israel), with his twelve sons, in Egypt, where their families grew into a huge nation over 430 years.

EXODUS is a record of Moses being selected to bring the Nation of Israel out of bondage from Egypt and prepare them for life as a nation in the Promised Land with the civil and religious laws of the LORD. At the end of the Book of Exodus, we see the details of the Tabernacle complex, which was built and completed just before the end of the nine months at Mount Sinai.

LEVITICUS is a record of the laws of the LORD (given to Moses in the Tent of Meeting while the rest of the Tabernacle complex was being constructed) which would govern offerings, worship, relationships, rewards, punishments, and tithes for life in the Nation of Israel. Of the three, it was completed last.

With that summary in place in our minds, here is where we pick up with the text in the 40th chapter of the Book of Exodus. The day is Nissan 1st, fourteen days short of one year after the nation left Egypt on Nissan the 15th. The Tabernacle complex is being set up, the consecration process is started, and we hear the Scripture say,

*"Now, in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ... ²⁰**Then he took the testimony and put it into the ark**, and attached the poles to the ark, and put the mercy seat on top of the ark. ²¹He brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up a veil for the screen, and screened off the ark of the testimony, just as the LORD had commanded Moses."* (Exodus 40:17-21)

What was the TESTIMONY that was placed inside the Ark?

It was the LORD's Words found in the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus, which were placed in the Ark to be **PROTECTED BY THE PRIESTS**. (Note: Numbers and Deuteronomy will not be written for another 38 years!) What is the significance of the books being placed in the Ark of the

Covenant/Testament? We will have to wait to see that answer in lesson 3.