

The History of The Bible

The Birth Of The Bible

As we open our discussion on this topic it is important to know that we are simply searching for the truth by asking growth questions in reference to the Bible. These questions are strategically intentional and intensively probing so we can reach beyond tribal and traditional knowledge to ask the uncomfortable and hard questions!

Definition

Bible - is a collection of divine scriptures or books.

- The term as we know it derives from *biblia* - literally means "the books"
- It is a collection of orated events, poems and songs

Growth Questions

1. Is the King James Version the right Bible to study?
2. Should we use other Bibles with the King James Version?
3. Should the Ethiopian Bible be our Bible of choice?
4. Should the Geneva Bible be our Bible of choice?
5. Why do we not use the Bishop Bible?
6. Who wrote the Hebrew Bible?

History of the Written Scriptures

The Bible no matter its origin was written over thousand of years.

1. King James Bible - 1611
2. Geneva Bible - 1560
3. Ethiopian Bible - between 4th & 7th Century (AD)
4. Hebrew Bible - between 11th & 10th Century (BC)
5. Bishop Bible - 1568

The birth of the Bible originated through oration. God communicated verbally with a select few like Adam, Noah, Moses Enoch and Abraham.

God speaks to Adam in the garden before the fall

Adam did not come into knowledge of God by reading about His existence! God spoke to them directly!

- **Genesis 2:16-17**
 - **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
 - **17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God speaks to Adam in the garden after the fall

- **Genesis 3:9-10**

- 9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?
- 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

The understanding that a monotheistic God existed was passed from person to person by verbal communication. This method of oration was the prevailing form of communicating the existence of a monotheistic and sovereign God especially during Israel's enslavement in Egypt.

It is important that we highlight the possible location of the Garden of Eden.

- **Genesis 2:10-14**

- 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.
- 11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;
- 12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.
- 13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.
- 14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

Before going into slavery in Egypt the Hebrews spoke a form of ancient Semitic, specifically a dialect of Canaanite. Their language was closely related to other languages in the region like Phoenician.

The language spoken by the Ethiopians in the Bible is an ancient Semitic language call Ge'ez

- Definition of Semitic:

1. relating to or denoting a family of languages that includes Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic and certain ancient languages such as Phoenician and Akkadian, constituting the main subgroup of the Afro-Asiatic family.
2. relating to the peoples who speak Semitic languages, especially Hebrew and Arabic.