

THE BIBLE—WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

The purpose of the Good News Postal Bible Club is to help us read, study and learn from the Bible. But how much do we know about where it came from, how it was written and how long ago that happened? In the next three lessons we will find answers to these questions and others about this precious book, the Bible.

What is the Bible?

The word Bible comes from a Greek word meaning "writings" or "books". The Protestant Bible is actually made up of sixty-six books that are divided into two sections called the Old and New Testaments. Testament comes from a Greek word meaning "covenant" or "agreement". We will discover more about this later.

Who wrote the Bible?

God wrote the Bible. It is the main way He communicates with human beings. God is said to have inspired or "breathed into" people His very words and thoughts.

2 Timothy 3:16 says,
"All scripture is inspired by God..."

Although we don't know the exact process, the Bible indicates God did this in various ways - directly into people's minds, through visions or dreams, through events, even by writing on stone. (see Exodus 24:12) These people then wrote down God's message to us.

Q 1. Who were the people God used? Look in your Bible to find as many of the people God used as you can and make a list below.

Use the contents page of your Bible and look at the book names, as some of the books are named after the person who wrote it. You can also use the introductions to each book.

When was the Bible written?

Knowledge of God and His dealings with people were passed down verbally for thousands of years until first written down by Moses as the first books of the Old Testament somewhere around 1450BC-1400BC. The last books were added to the Old Testament in approximately 400BC. The New Testament was written in a period as short as 40 to 50 years, the last book, Revelation, being written in around 95AD.

What language was the Bible written in?

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the language of the nation of Israel. The New Testament was written in Greek. We'll learn more about languages and translations later too.

What is the message of the Bible?

The Bible tells us about God and His creation. It is primarily the story of Israel (and its ancestors), a very small Middle Eastern nation. But the message of the Bible is for everyone because it is the message of God's "covenant" relationship with individual people as well as nations. It's the story of God's love for all people and His plan of salvation.

How can we know the Bible is true?

Christians believe that the authority for their faith is found in the Bible alone. We believe the Bible is reliable because it is true. The Bible is often referred to as 'God's Word' and numbers 23:19 tells us that God doesn't lie. The Bible is described as being both '**infallible**', which means unfailing & sure and '**inerrant**' which means without error.

Bible Quiz

Use the information from the Bible and in this lesson to answer these questions.

Q 2. Who wrote the Bible?

Q 3. Who inspired and guided men as they spoke (or wrote) God's message?
Check 2 Timothy 3:16 & 2 Peter 1:21

Q 4. How many books are in the Protestant Bible?

Q 5. What are the 2 sections of the Bible called?

Q 6. Was the Old Testament written in Hebrew or Greek?

Q 7. What language was the New Testament written in?

Q 8. What do Christians believe about the Bible and its reliability?

Q9. What do you think is the most important thing the Bible teaches?