

# How We Got the Bible

## Introduction

How the Bible has come down to us is an amazing story filled with adventure and heroic deeds.

### **First of all, WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE about how we got our Bible?**

In this series, we are going to answer several basic questions about our Bible.

I will add any you came up with tonight to the list to make sure we answer them all.

Here are some basic ones that students of the Bible typically have:

1. How and when did the books of the Bible get written?
2. How are the books of the Bible similar to other books, and in what ways are they different?
3. What did a book of the New Testament look like when it was first written?
4. How have these books been preserved and transmitted to us?
5. How was it decided as to which books would be included and which would be excluded from the canon of Scripture?
6. How can we be confident that we have the exact words that God the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors to write down?
7. Can we safely conclude that the New Testament as we have it today accurately represents what the authors of these books originally wrote?
8. Why are there so many different English versions of the Bible today?
9. Since there are differences in the Greek text found in different manuscripts, how is the “right” one determined?

These are some of the questions that thoughtful students of the Bible have.

The answers to these questions tell a story that covers thousands of years and takes us to many parts of the world and to many people who were dedicated to discovering and preserving God's Word.

The Bible is made up of 66 books. They were originally written in ancient times, thousands of years ago. And over the years they were passed on by people who preserved the text in writing.

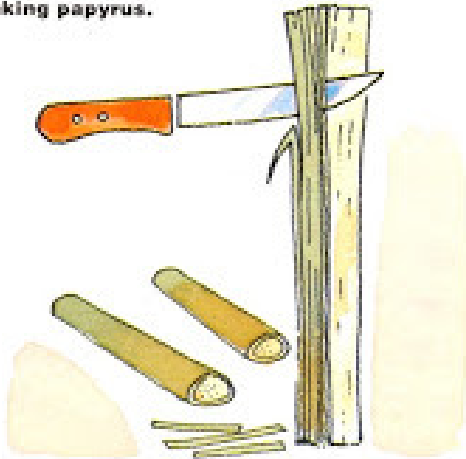
So we will begin by learning about writing and books in the ancient world.



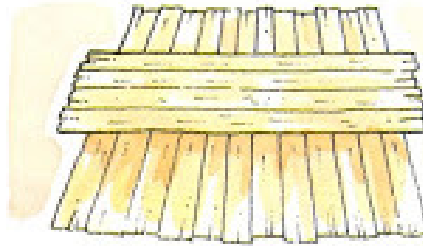


Papyrus

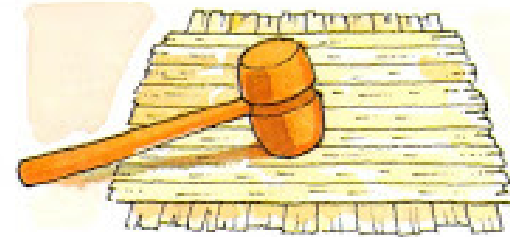
**Making papyrus.**



Slicing the outer green skin off the stem.



Layers of thin slices of pith are placed on top of each other at right angles.



Beating the layers gently with a mallet to facilitate bonding of the fibers.



uncontracted  
QEOS  
(line 2)

letters  
tend to  
"hang"  
from top  
of the line

PLitLondon 211 (Goettingen #925) Daniel 1.17f (Theodotion)  
British Library, London

parchment roll  
dated to early 4th century

## Vellum or Parchment