

**Summer Road Trip: A Journey into the Bible**  
**Sundays Part 3 – GPS: How We Got The Bible**

**STOP 1. The COMPOSITION of the Bible.**

- This process can include: The Writing, Compiling, and Editing of the Scriptures
- Old Testament written between 1200-165 BC, the New Testament written between AD 50-100

**STOP 2. The TRANSMISSION of the Bible.**

- Autographs - The original book written by the original author
- Manuscripts - The copies of the books of the Bible (in whole, partial, or fragments)
- 'Transmission' speaks of the copying of the Bible
- Scribes were tasked with meticulously copying texts by hand

Old Testament Manuscripts:

- Septuagint (3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC to 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD) – Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament
- Dead Sea Scrolls (2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD – 200+ fragments from nearly every OT book
- Masoretic Text (7<sup>th</sup> Century – 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD) – Authorized Text from Masorete Scribes

New Testament Manuscripts

- Papyri Manuscripts (2<sup>nd</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD) Early manuscripts written on papyrus, a plant-based paper
- Parchment Manuscripts (4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Century AD) Text in large capital letters on animal skin (parchment)
- Paper Manuscripts (9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Century AD) Text in smaller cursive script on paper
- Textus Receptus – Greeks NT text by Erasmus in early 16<sup>th</sup> century, the basis for KJV

We have approximately 5,800 Greek NT manuscripts from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**STOP 3. The CANONIZATION of the Bible.**

- The Canon of the Old Testament was generally and gradually accepted by the time of Jesus
- The Canon of the New Testament developed and was generally accepted during the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD
- The criteria for selecting the books to be included in the Bible was based off of: 1. Authorship, 2. Orthodox, and 3. Acceptance
- The first official list of canonized books of the Bible was at the Council of Carthage in AD 397.

**STOP 4. The TRANSLATION of the Bible.**

- Early Translations: Septuagint (Greek Translation of the Hebrew OT beginning in 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, and Latin Vulgate (Jerome's Latin translation in early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD).
- English Translations:
  - Wycliffe Bible (1382) first Bible translated into English from Latin
  - Tyndale Bible (1526) first English Bible translated from the Greek text.
  - Geneva Bible (1560) first English Bible to use verse numbers
  - King James Version (1611) commissioned by King James I, known as the 'authorized version' it became the most widely used and influential translation for centuries.

**STOP 5. The DISTRIBUTION of the Bible.**

- Before the printing press, personal copies of the Bible were virtually non-existent
- The invention of the Gutenberg Printing Press (1400's) revolutionized the production of books
- The 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Centuries saw the mass printing and distribution of Bible accelerate exponentially.