

01-WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the only book that tells us, accurately, who we are, what we are doing here and where we are going. The book we call the Bible is actually a library of books written over a period of about 1,500 years by about 40 different writers. God communicated with the writers of the original manuscripts and revealed to them tenets He wanted written. He allowed them to use their own words and their own way of expressing themselves but He "looked over their shoulder" to make sure they did not record doctrinal error.

"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."... (2nd Peter 1:21 New International Version)

"16. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproving, for correcting, for instructing in justice; 17. that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work". 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition)

The original manuscripts did not just contain the words of God. They **were** the words of God. Almost all of the original documents that constitute the Old Testament were written in the Hebrew language. The documents that compose the New Testament were written in the Greek language. These were the inspired words of God.

Often we base our understanding of God's word upon a key scripture that was clouded or corrupted when it was translated into our native language. Sometimes we erroneously base our understanding on comments that a writer has added next to a scripture in our Bible or wrote in a commentary even though they did not examine all the scriptures that deal with that particular subject.