

The Origin of the Bible – OT

*How do we **know** what books should be in God's Word, the Bible?*

REVIEW – Keys to Canonicity:

- a. It **Claims** to be God's Word (Exodus 20:1, Isaiah 55:11)
- b. **God's People** accept it as such, and do so **Immediately** (Exodus 17:14, Deuteronomy 25:17)
 - Writers are **Eyewitnesses**; Recipients are **Contemporaries**
 - Scripture is **Protected** (Exodus 40:20-21, Deuteronomy 31:24-26, 1 Samuel 10:25) and **Honored** (Leviticus 10:11, Deuteronomy 31:11-12, Deuteronomy 17:18-19)
- c. Writers are usually attested with **Signs and Miracles** (Exodus 4:29-31)
- d. It is accurate in all **Predictions** (Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Matthew 2:4-6)
- e. It does not **Contradict** earlier Scripture (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Galatians 1:8-9)
- f. It is **Confirmed** by subsequent Scripture (1 Kings 13:2, 2 Kings 23:16)

The Old Testament – Never Veers from this Principle:

The proof that it is God's Word is rooted in the visible/audible **demonstration** of God's approval of the writer to the writer's contemporaries.

1. The classic example of **emphatic** endorsement by God is at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 20+
 - a. Exodus 20:22 Before a **huge** crowd of e _____
 - b. Exodus 24:4 _____
 - c. Exodus 24:3-7 _____
 - d. Exodus 24:9 _____
 - e. Exodus 25:21 _____
2. S _____-term predictions which **validate** keeping L _____-term predictions
 - a. Example: 1 Samuel 9:6 "everything he says comes true" (10:1-7 → count the details!!)
 - b. Classic Example: Jeremiah 27-28
 - long term prediction, 27:12-15
 - contrast Hananiah's false prediction, 28:1-11
 - Jeremiah restates LT prediction, giving proof by ST prediction, 28:12-16
 - ST prediction comes true, 28:17
 - LT prediction comes true, Ch 39
 - Even Longer-term predictions come true (70 years: Daniel 9; New Covenant: Heb 8)
3. Signs and Miracles (all of the above, and...)
 - a. Moses – Exodus 34:29-35 _____
 - b. Gideon – Judges 6:14-17, 20-21, 36-40 _____
 - c. Isaiah & Hezekiah – Isaiah 38:4-8 _____

What about Transmission?

4. **OT Completion:** by Ezra around 400 B.C.; translated into Greek by 150 B.C. (LXX)
- a. **A history of careful transmission – meticulous** efforts of scribes (Deuteronomy 4:2)
 - b. Oldest Complete Text = A.D. 1100; Masorettes = A.D. 500-950
 - c. “For this reason the ancients [400-200 B.C.] were called Sopherim, because they used to number all the letters of the Torah.”
 - d. Bridging the gap: Dead Sea Scrolls ~ 200 B.C.
 - e. Oldest known text:
5. **YEAH, BUT... What about Oral Tradition? Don’t errors and myths creep in that way?**
- a. Could Moses write? (Exodus 17:14)
 - b. Oral tradition was primarily used to _____ members of one’s own generation, **not** to pass down Scripture.
 - c. What about Genesis? Who wrote it?
 - Patriarchal period (chpt 12-50) – only _____ generations away (Genesis 15:16, Exodus 6:16-20)
 - Pre-Abrahamic history (chpt 1-11):

Genesis 5:1 “This is the **written** account of ...” (Hebrew סֵפֶר literally means “book”)

Is it a **heading** or a **colophon** (“signature”)? → Key: Writers are _____

Every named individual had intimate knowledge of the preceding material, which occurred during his lifetime and before his death (obvious exception of God himself)

Section	Colophon	Writer
1:1-2:4	The generations of the heavens and the earth	_____
2:4b-5:1	The book of the generations of Adam	Adam
5:1b-6:9	The generations of Noah	Noah
6:9b-10:1	The generations of the sons of Noah	Shem, Ham, Japheth
10:1b-11:10	The generations of Shem	Shem (after Babel)
11:10b-11:27	The generations of Terah	Terah (and others)
11:27b-25:19	The generations of Isaac	Isaac (and Abraham and Ishmael)
25:19b-37:2	The generations of Jacob	Jacob (and Esau)
27:1b-Ex. 1:1	Now these are the names of the children of Israel	sons of Jacob

- Moses C_____ these records into Genesis. Important: Nowhere in the Bible will you find a quote from Genesis ascribing Mosaic authorship.
- d. **Details... details... details... !!**
- **later writings cited earlier writings**, often verbatim and in great detail, never adding any details (despite many being fairly obscure). This is solid evidence that they were available in written form for reference. (many 100s of examples)
 - Joshua 24:32 – Genesis 33:19 and 50:25 → details unlikely to be preserved in oral tradition
 - 1Kings 16:34 – Joshua 6:26 → “in accordance with the word of the Lord spoken by Joshua...”
 - 2Kings 18:4 – Numbers 18:4 → only reference to brazen serpent in OT
 - Psalm 113:7-8 – 1Samuel 2:8 → lengthy verbatim quotation
 - Ezra 2:62, Nehemiah 7:64 → only written records were sufficient to establish priestly lineage
6. **Bibliography:** Vasholz, Robert I., The Old Testament Canon in the Old Testament Church. (Ancient Near Eastern Texts and Studies, Volume 7 – Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press).