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Bible Study and Discussion Group

Topic: The Book of James – Authentic Faith
Handout #2 – Supplement: How We Got Our Bible

How We Got Our Bible

- a. What is the bible?
- b. What do we believe about the Bible?
- c. The Inspiration of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)
- d. The Origins of the Bible
 1. Origins
 - a. The OT is written 1500-400 BC
 - i. Ezra collects and arranges some books
 - ii. Septuagint Greek translation 450 BC
 - iii. The books are arranged by subject
 - iv. The Apocrypha
 - b. The NT is written 45-100 AD
 - i. Followers of Jesus write the Gospels, history, letters, and the Revelation between 45 and 100 AD
 - ii. The writings are copied and circulated so that they began to be referred to as the NT in about 150.
 - iii. The standard of 27 New Testament books was confirmed in 397 by the Synod of Carthage.

2. The books of the Bible were collected and arranged by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.
3. The Bible was copied by hand before the invention of the printing press (1455). The Gutenberg Bible/Latin Bible is the first book ever printed.
4. The division of the Bible into chapters and verses
 - a. Jerome divided the Bible into shorter passages called pericopes in the 5th century.
 - b. Stephon Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, is credited with dividing the Bible into chapters. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 and nearly all version since then have used his chapter divisions.
 - c. Robert Stephanus (aka Robert Estienne) is credited with created the verse numbering system in the mid-16th century.
 - d. The Latin Vulgate was the first Bible published with chapter and verse division in 1555. He used verse divisions created by a Jewish rabbi in 1448. The first English version to have full chapter and verse divisions was the Geneva Bible in 1560
5. A final word about translations. As the Bible was carried to other countries, it was translated into the language of the people by scholars so they could know the Word of God. The Bible has been translated into of 2,000+ languages.
 - a. The Vulgate – 400
 - b. The Wycliffe – 1380
 - c. King James – 1611
 - d. Modern Translations
 - i. NIV1978; NKJV 1982; NLT 1996; MSG 2002; HCSB 2004