

## How the Bible Came Together

Our modern Bibles are translated from the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament. The first was written over a period of over 1,000 years, the latter within a single generation. These two parts of Scripture have quite different transmission histories, and, as with everything to do with the Bible, there has been plenty of unhelpful speculation. But what does the Bible itself indicate about how it was written? Why do the Old and New Testaments have such different histories, and does this teach us anything about God as the ultimate author of Scripture? Using the Bible (and a bit of common sense), we will learn about how the Word of God came to us after a long history.

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### I. What are the differences between the Old and the New Testament?

A. Language (also comparative material; political status of the language; though note the use of Aramaic – e.g. Psalm 2)

B. Time span of its genesis

C. Community within which it came into being

1. Israel
2. Church

### II. Who looked after the Old Testament before the days of Jesus?

A. Moses and the Law

1. Stone tablets: Deuteronomy 10
2. Royal exercise: Deuteronomy 17

3. Safe-keeping: Deuteronomy 31:24-27

B. Josiah and the temple – 2 Kings 22

C. A royal committee – Hezekiah and Proverbs 25:1

D. Jeremiah

1. Jeremiah 36 – the cutting up of books

2. Jeremiah 31 – the New Covenant and a change in scribal culture

E. Jesus and the seat of Moses: 'Scribes'

1. Matt. 23:2

2. [Matt. 23:34]

3. [Matt. 13:32]

F. Where do you buy your Bible? The Ethiopian eunuch – Acts 8:26-27

G. The destruction of the temple

### **III. New Testament – inspired teaching**

A. Teaching of Jesus

B. The apostles and the teaching of Jesus – John 15

C. The churches and the apostles – 1 Cor. 11

D. Writing the teaching down – Luke 1

E. Collecting the teaching – 2 Peter 3

#### **IV. Differences between the church and the temple**

A. Central authority

B. Text of the rabbis – temple text

C. Church as temple of the Holy Spirit

D. Holy Spirit and the Word