

How the Bible came to us—O.T.

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0. First, my presuppositions:¹ the Creator certainly exists, and He directed a written revelation to our race. The project of that written revelation certainly existed in the thinking of the Creator before the foundation of the world, just like the Lamb slain.
1 Peter 1:19-20—the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.
Psalms 119:89—Forever, oh Jehovah, your word is settled in the heavens.
1 Chron. 16:15—the Word that He ordained for a thousand generations (there have yet to be 300 since Adam).
1. Adam was extremely intelligent, having the image of God without contamination. He named the animals and birds (Gen. 2:20) before the Fall. To do that he must have had a language—he was created with apparent age and with a language in his head (obviously, if God conversed with him—Gen. 2:16-17, 3:9-13). With so much intelligence and such a long life he must have developed a system to write his language. As God walked and talked with Adam in the Garden, surely a favorite topic would be how God created the world (actually, how many topics could there have been at that point?). I take it that Adam certainly left a written record of the creation, as well as the events of his life.
2. Enoch (seventh from Adam) wrote a prophecy that still existed in Jesus' day (Jude 14). If the pre-flood and pre-Babel language was a type of Hebrew, as I assume, then Jude could read it. Most of Enoch's life overlapped with that of Adam—if Enoch wrote, it was because Adam wrote first.
3. Noah presumably took into the Ark historical records prepared by Adam, Methuselah, etc., as well as other literature, including Enoch's prophecy (anything outside the Ark was totally destroyed). Noah himself doubtless registered the events surrounding the flood, as well as after. Since God knew very well that He would use Moses to write the inspired account later on, it seems to me obvious that He would have moved upon Adam, Methuselah, Noah, etc. to make accurate records.
4. Peleg was a great-great-grandson of Shem (Nimrod was a grandson of Ham) and a son of Eber (Hebrew—in Gen. 14:13 Abraham is called a Hebrew). Since the promised seed passed through Shem, and God was definitely involved, the documents that survived the flood would presumably be preserved by his line. The family of Eber and Peleg would not necessarily have been involved in the tower of Babel project. I take it that the Hebrew language (pre-flood and pre-Babel) was not changed when God created the other languages—in this way the recorded memory of the past was preserved unaltered (Peleg died before Noah). In the days of Peleg (Gen. 10:25) the earth was divided [by fissure], so the confusion of the languages [and cultures] must have occurred earlier.²
5. Job lived in the land of Uz (who was a grandson of Shem) and was presumably his descendent. Since he lived more than 200 years (presumably), his generation would have been prior to Abraham's, perhaps that of Nahor. Job is the first inspired book, written around 2000 BC. It would have been written in Hebrew, since it would be the prestige language, being the oldest and having an established literature—come to think of it, in Job's time, not long after the Flood, it may have been the only written language.
6. Abraham, father of faith who received the Covenant, whose life overlapped those of Shem and Eber (actually, he died before Eber), presumably received the collected literature which then went on to

¹ We must rigorously distinguish between fact/evidence and presuppositions/worldview and interpretation. That is because presuppositions control interpretation. The body of evidence should presumably be the same for everybody, but what they do with it will depend on worldview. I expressly reject the presuppositions that have controlled academia for a century and more. I attempt to take the Sacred Text at face value, believing it to be precisely a written revelation from the Sovereign Creator to the human race.

² As a PhD in linguistics I affirm that the tower of Babel is the only adequate explanation that I know of for the diversity of languages in the world. No amount of 'evolution' could bridge the chasm between Thai or Mandarin and English, or Navajo, or Maxakali, or However many basic language families there are in the world, that is the number of languages that God created at Babel (with the exception of the pre-flood language).

Moses (perhaps through Levi, Kohath and Amram). Recall that I am presupposing God's involvement in the process.

7. Moses, inspired by God, made inerrant use of the collection (which started with Adam) around 1500 BC. Since Moses wrote five canonical books, up to here we have six. Deut. 31:24 affirms that Moses wrote, and Deut. 17:18 orders the making of copies. Joshua 24:26 affirms that Joshua wrote. 1 Samuel 10:25 affirms that Samuel also wrote.
8. David and Solomon, between 1050 and 975 BC—they wrote most of the 'poetical' books. Up to here we have 13 or 14 canonical books. I take it that Ecclesiastes 12:9-11 affirms the inspiration of Proverbs.
9. Malachi, around 435 BC—the last book of the Hebrew canon to be written, unless it be Nehemiah. (In the order offered by the Massoretic Text the last book is 2 Chronicles, but that order is not based on date of composition.) Now we have 39 canonical books (Zech. 7:12 affirms the inspiration of the pre-exilic prophets).
10. Septuagint (LXX)—during the 3rd century BC (c. 285) the translation of the O.T. into Greek was begun, and the work was completed before the time of Jesus Christ (or so it is thought).³ The canon that was translated contained the 39 books that we know (the apocryphal books were added well into the Christian era, by Christians, not by the Hebrew community).
11. Jesus Christ ascribed absolute authority to the O.T. (He placed the writings of Moses on a par with His own word—John 5:45-47). He cited at least Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Jonah, Zechariah and Malachi. In Luke 24:44 He explicitly recognized the three divisions of the Hebrew canon: Law, Prophets and Writings (Psalms).
12. In ancient times Hebrew was written only with consonants. Beginning in the 7th century AD and ending in the 10th, a group of Jewish scholars called Massoretes added the vocalic pointing, at the same time defining the Text. That Massoretic Text became the standard, being the Hebrew text of the Protestant Reformation and the one still in use today.⁴

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Brasília, 12-15-2004

³ Recall that the LXX we know is based on codices Vaticanus, Sinaiticus and Alexandrinus, produced centuries after His time.

⁴ The Bible Code is based on this Text—to function, the Code depends on the exact sequence of letters; to the extent that it is true it is a hard proof of the preservation of that sequence throughout the centuries. I recommend *September 11 is in the Bible Code*, by Dr. Larry Mitcham (Pacific International University, 2001). He answers the claims that you can do the same thing with *War and Peace* or *Moby Dick*; he also criticizes certain exaggerations by Michael Drosnin. As the Lord Jesus said, "For assuredly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot nor one tittle shall pass away from the Law until everything happens" (Matthew 5:18).