



HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

FROM GOD'S MOUTH TO OUR HANDS

A 10-PART BIBLE STUDY SERIES



REVELATION



INSPIRATION



WRITING



PRESERVATION



CANON



TRANSLATION



OUR BIBLES



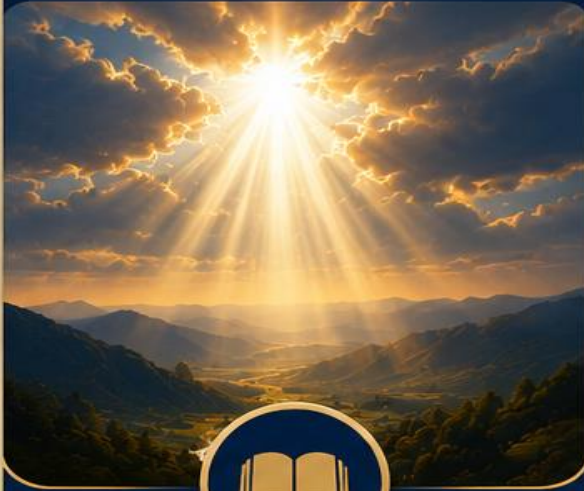
OUR RESPONSE

GOD HAS SPOKEN. HE HAS PRESERVED IT. WE CAN TRUST IT.

◆ PSALM 119:89 ◆

DEFINING FOUR IMPORTANT TERMS

REVELATION



God makes known truth that mankind could not discover on his own.

INSPIRATION



God guided the writers so that they wrote exactly what He intended.

TRANSMISSION



The written text was copied and passed down from one generation to another.

TRANSLATION



The message was translated into other languages so people can understand.

◆ *Four distinct steps in how God gave us His Word.* ◆

THE DEFINITION OF TRANSLATION

Translation is the process of accurately communicating the meaning of a text from one language into another.

HEBREW

(Old Testament)

GREEK

(New Testament)

ENGLISH

(Translation)

GOD'S WORD FOR ALL NATIONS



- **Nehemiah 8:8** “So they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood” the reading.”
- **Acts 2:11** “We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”
- **Esther 1:22** “...in every province according to its script and to every people in its own language.”



1. COMMUNICATES MEANING

Translation seeks to express the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Scriptures in another language.



2. NOT A NEW MESSAGE

Translation does not create a new message. A faithful translation communicates the meaning of the inspired original text as accurately and clearly as possible.



3. WORDS CHANGE, MEANING REMAINS

The wording changes from one language to another, but the message is faithfully communicated.



4. FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND

Because most people cannot read the original languages, translation makes God's Word understandable in their own language.



“The message is the same. The language is different. The purpose is the same—
THAT PEOPLE MAY KNOW AND OBEY GOD'S WORD.”



DISCUSSION: TRANSLATION

TRANSLATION

The meaning of God's Word is accurately communicated
from one language into another.

FROM THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES...

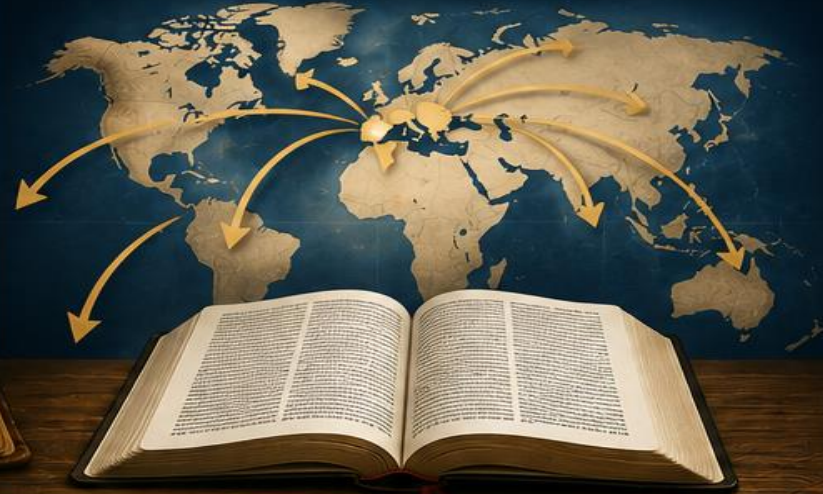
HEBREW

(Old Testament)

GREEK

(New Testament)

...TO ALL NATIONS



ONE MESSAGE. MANY LANGUAGES.

ENGLISH



SPANISH



FRENCH



CHINESE



ARABIC



KOREAN



... AND
MANY MORE



DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. SAME GOD. SAME TRUTH.



1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

Translation seeks to communicate the meaning of the original text so that people in every language can understand God's Word.



2. WHAT DOESN'T CHANGE?

The message, truth, and authority of Scripture remain the same. Only the language changes.



3. WHAT DOES CHANGE?

Words and grammar are translated into natural, understandable language for the reader.



4. HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S ACCURATE?

Faithful translators follow the original manuscripts carefully, compare with many copies, and use sound scholarship and prayer.



5. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

So every person, in every language, can read, understand, and obey God's Word.



"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

— Romans 10:17

**GOD'S WORD IS
FOR EVERYONE.
IN EVERY LANGUAGE.**



“8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”

Nehemiah 8:8 (ESV)

“5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.””

Acts 2:5 – 11 (ESV)

“6 Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? 8 And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? 9 So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. 10 There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”

1 Corinthians 14:6 – 12 (ESV)

Who Was Johann Gutenberg?

Johann Gutenberg was the inventor of the printing press with movable metal type.



Born Around 1400

Johann Gutenberg was born in Mainz, Germany, around the year 1400.



Skilled Craftsman

He was trained as a goldsmith and metalworker and had great skill and creativity.



Inventor of the Printing Press

Gutenberg developed a practical system of printing using movable metal type, oil-based ink, and a press.



His Most Famous Work

His most famous book is the Gutenberg Bible, printed in the 1450s in Latin.



Changed the World

His invention made it possible to produce books faster and in greater numbers—transforming how knowledge, including God's Word, is shared.



He lived and worked in Mainz, Germany.



Movable metal type made it possible to print many copies.



The Gutenberg Bible — one of the earliest major books printed with movable type.

Gutenberg's invention was a turning point in history, helping to spread the written Word to the world.



GUTENBERG'S PRINTING PRESS

REVOLUTIONIZED THE PRODUCTION OF BOOKS

Before the printing press, every book had to be copied by hand—one page at a time.

Gutenberg changed that forever.

THE POWER OF GUTENBERG'S PRESS

MOVABLE TYPE



Individual metal letters could be arranged to form words and pages.

REUSABLE LETTERS



After printing a page, the letters could be reused to print again.

PRINTING PRESS

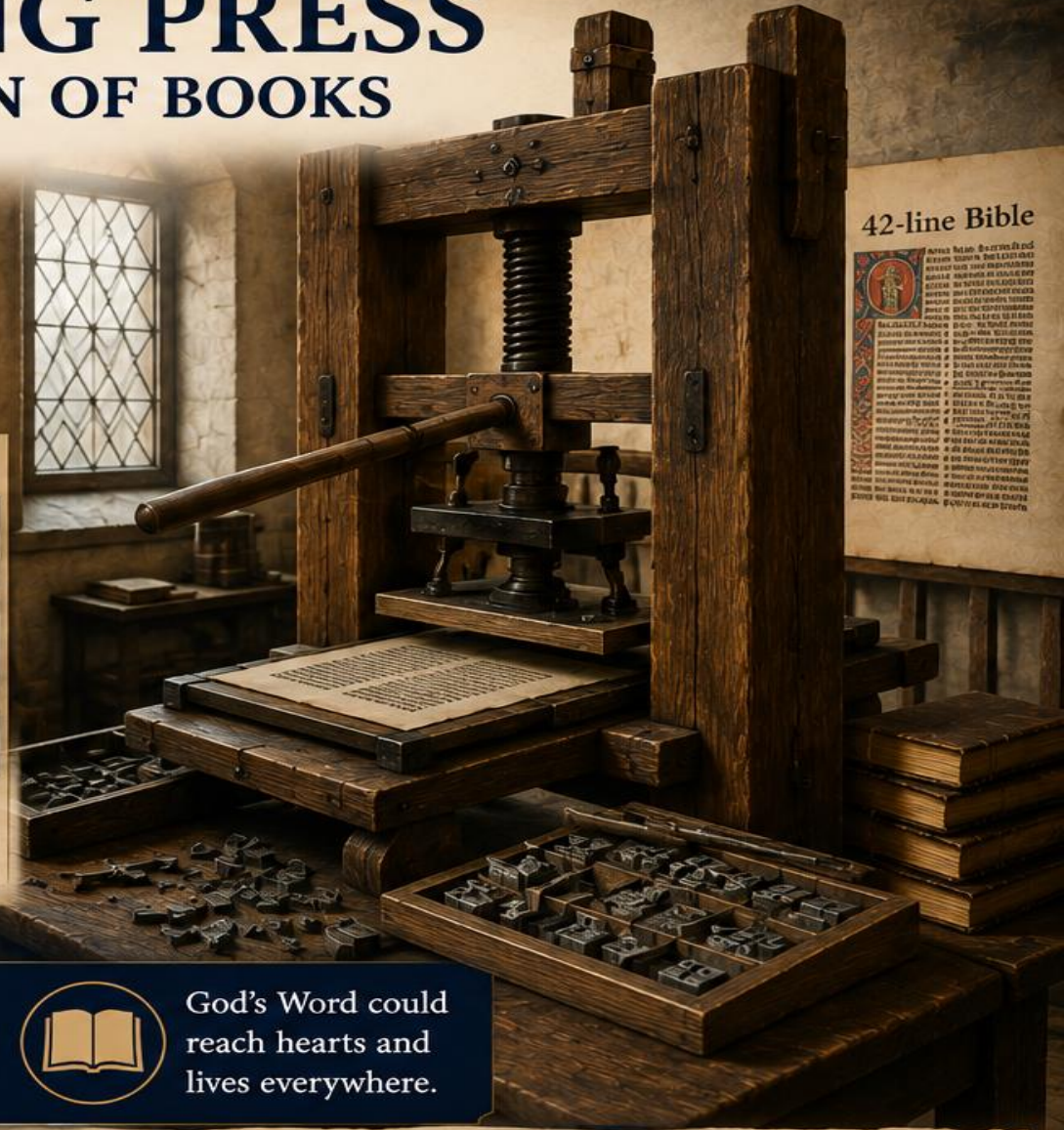


The press applied even pressure, transferring ink to paper consistently.

MANY COPIES



Many nearly identical copies could be produced much more quickly.



THE RESULT: A REVOLUTION IN BOOK PRODUCTION



Books could be produced much faster.



More books were available to more people.



Costs gradually became lower, access increased.



God's Word could reach hearts and lives everywhere.

The printing press did **not** change God's Word; it changed **how quickly** copies of God's Word could be produced and distributed.



"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

THE GUTENBERG BIBLE

THE FIRST MAJOR BOOK PRINTED WITH MOVABLE TYPE

A.D.
1454–1455

- Printed in Mainz, Germany
- Printed in Latin (Vulgate)
- Known as the 42-Line Bible
- About 180 copies were produced
- Fewer than 50 complete copies survive today



“The Gutenberg Bible proved that the Bible—God’s Word—could be printed and multiplied for many people to read.”

A MASTERPIECE OF EARLY PRINTING



Printed using movable metal type made of lead, tin, and antimony.



Used oil-based ink, which did not soak into the paper and produced sharp text.



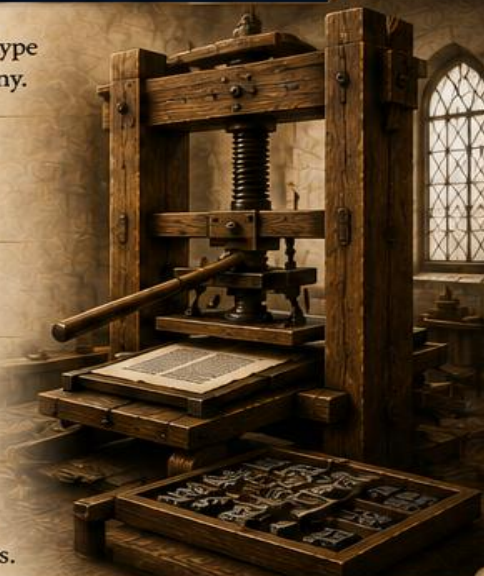
Each page has 42 lines of text in two columns.



Beautifully printed with red and blue initials and decorations.



A costly and labor-intensive work, but it opened the door to the spread of the Scriptures.



WHY IT MATTERS



Gutenberg’s invention did **not** change God’s Word, but it made it possible to produce **many copies** of the Bible more quickly and **share it with the world**.

FROM TYPE TO BOOK

1. SETTING THE TYPE



Movable letters are arranged by hand to form words and lines.

2. INKING THE TYPE



Oil-based ink is rolled onto the letters.

3. PRESSING THE PAGE



The paper is placed on the type and pressure is applied.

4. A PRINTED PAGE



The page is removed, dried, and ready to use.

5. MANY COPIES



The type is reset, and the process is repeated again and again.



For over a thousand years, Bibles were copied by hand. Gutenberg’s printing press changed the world by making **God’s Word** more available to more people.

God’s Word is eternal. Through faithful men and great innovations, He has preserved it for every generation.



Quinque epistole sancti Iheronimi ad
paulinum presbiterum de omnibus
omnibus huiusmodi libris capitula sunt

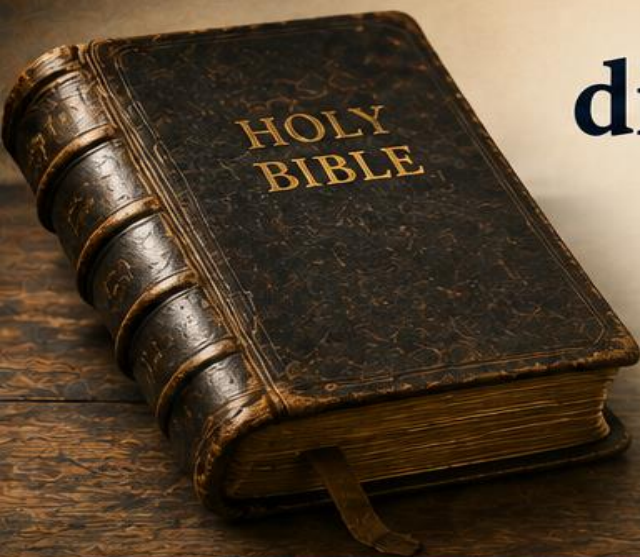
[illegible]

ingrediamus quia urbem queramus.
Apolloni? huius ille mag? ut vulgus
loquitur. huius plura ut paragona na
dunt. interius plas. possunt cannali
allumio. scilicet. maffagras. opul
nissima indit regna petuntur. et ad
extremum laetissimo phryon ampu
nissimillo puenit ad bragmannas. ut
hyacem in throno sedes auro et de
cannali font. porantem inter paucos
discipulos. de natura de moribus. ac de
sensu diu et sibi audire doceretur.
Huius plantinis. babylonios. chalde
os. mados. affridos. parthos. hircos.
phenices. arabes. palestinos. rursus
ad alligandis. peruenit ad ethiopias.
ut gignosophridas. lunoissimam au
solis nuntiam videtur in fabulis. An
umit ille ut ubique ty. disceret. et temp
prohibere. temp. de iudicio. facit. Semper
si super hoc plantissim. cito volumi
nibus. phryotrans. 7)

Quid loquar de seculi hominibus.
si aplos paulueras decem?
si magister gentium. qui de consuetudine
sani et de hospicio loquatur. dico. An
operumumis humis. nus qui in me
loquit? ipse. Post tamalati arabibus
lustrant. ascendit iherosolimam ut videret
perci? i. maste apud si dicto quindici.
Hoc in iustis thronomadis et opido
adit. huius? gentis? potestas. iustitiam
dus nar. K. uelut post. amos. quide
decim affimpo barnaba et pro. ego
fuit si aplos euangelium. ut fore in va
cium ammet aut. euemissit. Habi
necno qd lamme. nunc. vult. vobis
adus. et in auro discipuli et audior
ore manifestas. fortius. Et uidet
discipulus si vobis. eul. accit. a legaver

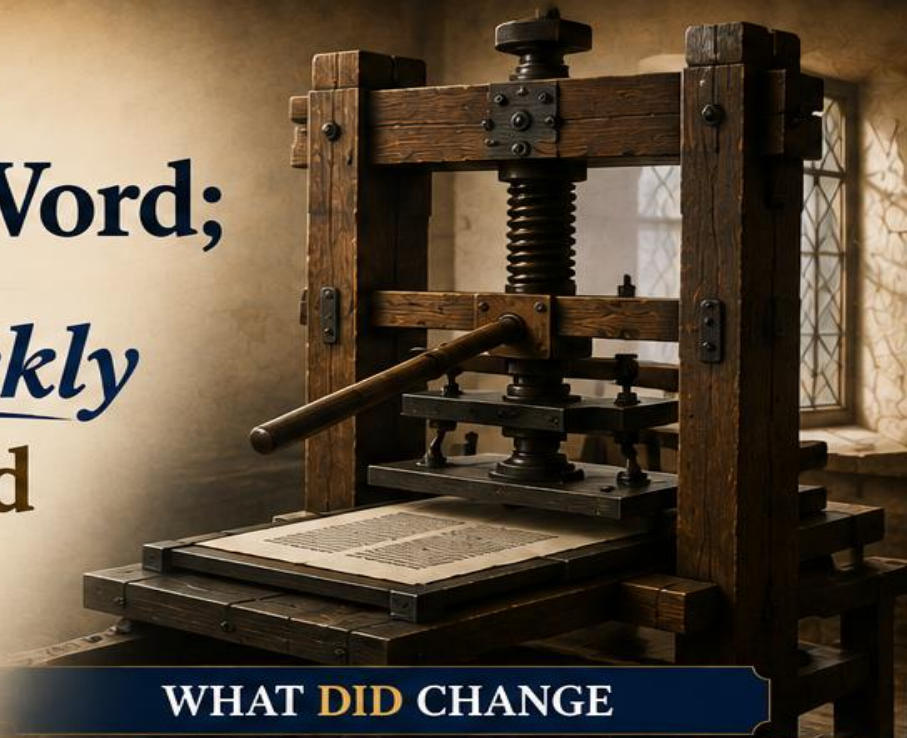
Incipit epistola sancti iheronimi ad
paulinum presbiterum de omnibus
diuine historie libris. capitulum primum.

Pater ambrosius
tua michi munus-
cula pferens. detulit
sibi et suauissimas
lras. q̄ a principio
amiciciae. fide pba-
te iam fidei ⁊ veteris amicitie noua:
pferbant. Vera enī illa necessitudo ē.
⁊ xp̄i glutino copulata. q̄m non utili-
tas rei familiaris. nō pūcia tantum
remor. nō s̄c̄d̄a nō pūcia tantum



The printing press did not change God's Word;

it changed how quickly copies of God's Word could be produced and distributed.



WHAT DID **NOT** CHANGE



God's Word is inspired
by God.

2 Timothy 3:16



God's Word is true
and without error.

John 17:17



God's Word has always
been preserved by God.

Matthew 24:35



*The message is the same—
God's truth never changes.*

WHAT **DID** CHANGE



Books could be produced
much more quickly.



Many more copies of Scripture
could be made.



God's Word could reach
far more people in many
places and languages.



Same Word. Greater Reach. More Lives Changed.



FOUR SIMPLE QUESTIONS

For Understanding How We Got the Bible

1

WHAT DID GOD
REVEAL?



Revelation – God made
His truth known.

2

HOW DID GOD
PRESERVE IT?



Transmission – God
preserved His Word
through faithful copying
and passing it down.

3

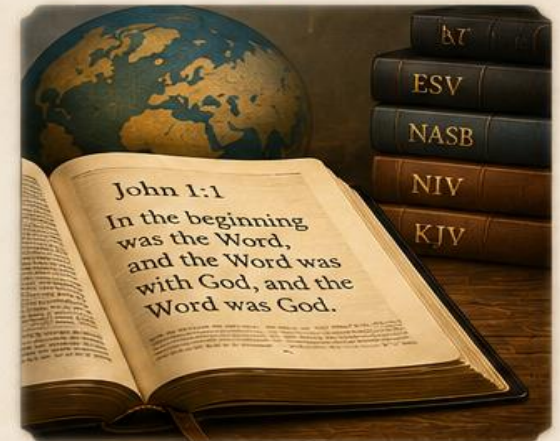
WHAT LANGUAGE
WAS IT WRITTEN IN?



Inspiration – God inspired
men to write His words
accurately in the original
languages.

4

HOW WAS IT
TRANSLATED?



Translation – God's Word
was translated into many
languages so all people
can understand it.



These four steps show God's perfect plan to reveal,
preserve, and make His Word known to all people.



ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a king sending an important message.

From the king's words to the people's understanding—every step matters!



1 THE KING SPEAKS



The king communicates his message.

2 THE MESSAGE IS WRITTEN



The king's words are written down accurately.

3 THE MESSAGE IS DELIVERED



The messenger carefully carries the message to its destination.

4 THE MESSAGE IS RECEIVED



The recipient receives and reads the message as it was sent.

5 THE MESSAGE IS UNDERSTOOD AND OBEYED



The people understand the message and respond as the king intended.

THE POINT:



God used a perfect plan—revelation, inspiration, transmission, and translation—so His message would reach us accurately and be understood.

His Word. His Authority. Our Responsibility.



HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

1 REVELATION

God makes His truth known.



God reveals His will to men by His Spirit through prophets and messengers.

2 INSPIRATION

God inspires men to speak and write His words.



The Holy Spirit moves men to record God's truth accurately in the original writings.

3 TRANSMISSION

God preserves and passes down His word faithfully.



God's word is carefully copied, preserved, and passed down through generations.

4 TRANSLATION

God's word is translated so all people can understand it.



God's word is translated into many languages so people everywhere can know His truth.

God's perfect plan—His word revealed, inspired, transmitted, and translated for all people.



IN OUR NEXT STUDY,
WE WILL EXAMINE

“The Revelation of the Old Testament.”



God
Reveals
His Truth



Through
His Chosen
Messengers



To His People
in Their Time
and Culture



For Our
Instruction
Today

Let's discover how God spoke through the Old Testament.

