

CHART 3:

Ancient Writings

Number of Surviving Manuscripts

Pliny the Younger (history)	7
Plato (Tetralogies)	7
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	10
Tacitus (Annals)	20
Aristotle	49
Sophocles	193
Demosthenes	200
Homer (Iliad)	643
New Testament (in different languages)	_____

**ESSENTIALS TO UNDERSTANDING
HOW WE RECEIVED THE BIBLE - Part One**

Reference: **Miscellaneous Scripture**
Pastor Larry Webb

QUESTION: How have we received the Bible in its present day form?
ANSWER: There is a unique four-stage process to how God has given us the Bible.

STAGE ONE is **REVELATION**.

Definition: Revelation is _____, of truth which man could not have otherwise ascertained by himself.

Divine revelation exists in two different categories.

- 1) _____
 - _____ -
Reference: **Romans 1:18-20**
 - _____ -
References: **Ecclesiastes 3:11** and **Romans 1:18-20**
 - _____ -
Reference: the entire book of **Esther**

- 2) _____ (specific) _____
 - _____ -
References: **John 1:1**; **Hebrews 1:1-2**; and **Revelation 19:13**
 - _____ -
References: the totality of **Scripture**

The Bible is full of information man could not have arrived at on his own. One reason we know that is because of already-fulfilled prophecies. There are two categories of prophecies: _____ prophecies and _____ prophecies.

Example of a biblical prophecy already fulfilled in more ancient times:
Prophecy: the _____ of the Jerusalem temple
Date: 30 AD
Fulfilment: 70 AD
Reference: **Mark 13:1-2** (see screen)

Examples of biblical prophecies already fulfilled in more recent times:
Prophecy: restored Israel would be _____ with _____
Date: 701-681 BC
Fulfillment: 1900's
Reference: **Isaiah 41:18-20**

Prophecy: restored Israel would become a major

Date: between 701-681 BC

Fulfillment: 1900's

References: **Isaiah 27:6** (see screen)

Biblical support for Revelation:

Reference: **Hebrews 1:1, Ephesians 3:2-3** (see screen)

The contents of Scripture have been revealed from God to man through different means.

1. through *Dreams* – **Daniel 7:1**
2. through *Visions* – **Ezekiel 1:1**
3. through an actual *Voice from God* – **Leviticus 1:1**
4. through *Symbols* – **Jeremiah 19:1-15**
5. through *Dictation* –* **Revelation 2:1 – 3:22**
6. through *Eyewitness reports* - I **John 1:1-3; Revelation 1:2**
7. through *Guidance from the Holy Spirit* – II **Peter 1:21**
8. through *Experiences and Testimonies of men* – **Psalm 23; Psalm 51**
9. through *Historical research* – **Luke 1:1-4**
10. through *Jesus Christ Himself* – **John 1:14; Hebrews 1:2**

STAGE TWO is **INSPIRATION**

Definition: Inspiration is assurance from God that this revelation from God has been _____.

Reference: **II Timothy 3:16** (see screen)

Conservative evangelical Christianity teaches the **plenary verbal inspiration** of Scripture.

- “Plenary” means “_____ or full and complete, extending to all parts”.
- “Verbal” means “_____”.
- “Inspiration” is from the Greek word “*theopneustos*” and means “_____ - _____”. Inspiration is God breathing out of His mouth His actual words for man to record

References: I **Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21** (see screen)

The Bible was written:

- Over 16 _____ and 40 different _____.
- Through 40 different _____ (all of them Jewish males, except possibly for Luke, who might have been a Gentile) from different backgrounds
- On 3 different _____: Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- In different _____: a wilderness, a palace, a dungeon, a cave, a prison island, etc.

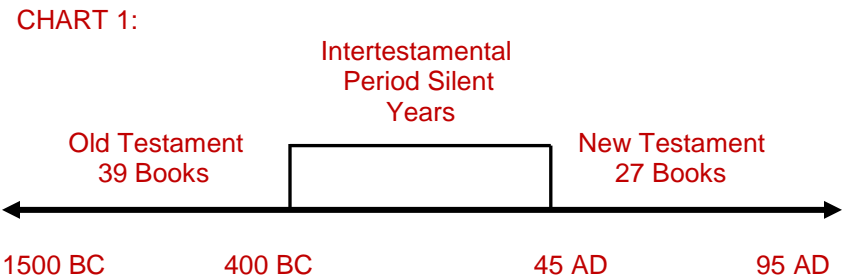
- In 3 different _____: Hebrew (Old Testament), some Aramaic (in parts of Daniel), and Greek (entire New Testament).
- In miscellaneous _____: poetry, historical narrative, song, romance, personal correspondence, memoirs, satire, biography, autobiography, law, prophecy, parables, etc.

Plenary verbal inspiration of scripture would also mean that each of the “original autographs” were inerrant. The term “inerrant” means to contain _____ at all.

Question: How was that revelation recorded?

Answer: The revelation we now call Scripture was first recorded on manuscripts.

DEFINITION: A **manuscript** is an ancient _____ - _____ copy of Scripture.



Talmudic and Masoretic scribes followed extremely strict disciplines in regard to copying the Scriptures. (see screen)

