

GOD WROTE THE BIBLE!

Yes, God did write the Bible, like I said, but it's not just me that's saying it. I didn't invent this. If someone comes to you and says the Old Testament and the New Testament were invented by human beings, well they've got it wrong! Very wrong.



The Bible is divided into two sections – the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament covers God's story from the time God made the world. The New Testament covers God's story from just before the birth of Jesus, through his life to the start of the church.



Creation (when God made the world).

Q: So it's not true that the Hebrew people invented the Old Testament?

No. It's not true! The history books in the Bible cover real events that happened to the Hebrew people. The Hebrew people were given God's Word but often disobeyed it. They were punished by God and even kicked out of their home country because of their sin.



Exiled (being forced out of your country).

If you were making up a story about your own country, you'd make sure that your people were the heroes in the book. The Hebrew people aren't really the heroes in the Bible. Sometimes they do the right thing but often, too often, they don't. So the Old Testament is not a Hebrew fiction book.

**Q: So what about the New Testament?
Some people say that the disciples
invented that.**



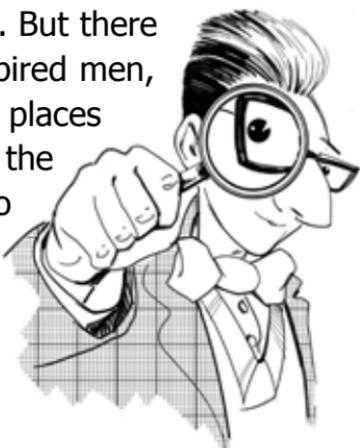
Disciples (followers of Jesus).

It's the same thing here as well. When you read about the disciples, you often read about how disobedient they were. Peter often got into trouble. And once he was given the opportunity to stand up for Jesus, but he didn't. So, did guys like Peter and the other disciples invent the story of Jesus? No, because if they had invented the story, they would have made themselves look better.

**Q: But I thought some of the disciples did
write the Bible?**

That's a good point. The Bible has an author – God. He's the one source of inspiration behind all the

words you'll see in the Bible. But there are co-authors too. God inspired men, from different times and places and backgrounds, to write the words he wanted them to write. The disciples of Jesus wrote some of the New Testament books: Matthew and John wrote two of the Gospels, Peter wrote two letters or epistles in the New Testament. They would have used a quill and parchment to physically write the words, but in a truly amazing way, God was the one behind every word they wrote.



Q: Were they like puppets then?

No. They weren't puppets or robots either. God gave these writers different talents and styles. If you and I wrote a story about the same subject, we'd write something quite different. That's because we have different personalities and backgrounds. Someone from a cold wet country might complain about a rainy day whereas someone from a desert would write poetry about how he longed for drizzle!

The writers that God chose for the Bible came from different times, countries and languages even. Different perspectives and styles can be seen throughout the Bible—but the message is the same!



The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was written in the Greek language.

God let the writers express themselves, but he inspired them with the words to write. It was as though he breathed the words into them.

So the words in the Bible are God's, but the style belongs to each of the writers. They're not puppets or robots. They're people. They're writers. It's just that there is one primary author behind every one of the writers: God!



2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is divided up into different sections. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. Each book is divided into chapters and each chapter into verses. The original manuscripts did not have chapters and verses in them.

These were added later, so that it was easier to look up a topic or to memorise parts of the Bible.

THE EVIDENCE

But even though there are lots of writers, it is a fact that the Bible is God's Word.

The words, 'This is what the Lord says,' or 'Thus says the Lord', occur over 400 times in the Old Testament. The words, 'God said' occur forty-two times in the Old Testament and four times in the New Testament. 'God spoke' appears nine times in the Old Testament and three times in the New Testament.

And we read, several times in the Bible, that God spoke through people.

EVIDENCE  2 Samuel 23:2; 2 Chronicles 20:14

Turn to the next chapter to find out about some of the people God used to write the Bible.

