

How Did We Get The **BIBLE**



A Comic

**Dr. Johnson C. Philip
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Bible: How Did We Get It?

Questions That Young People Ask



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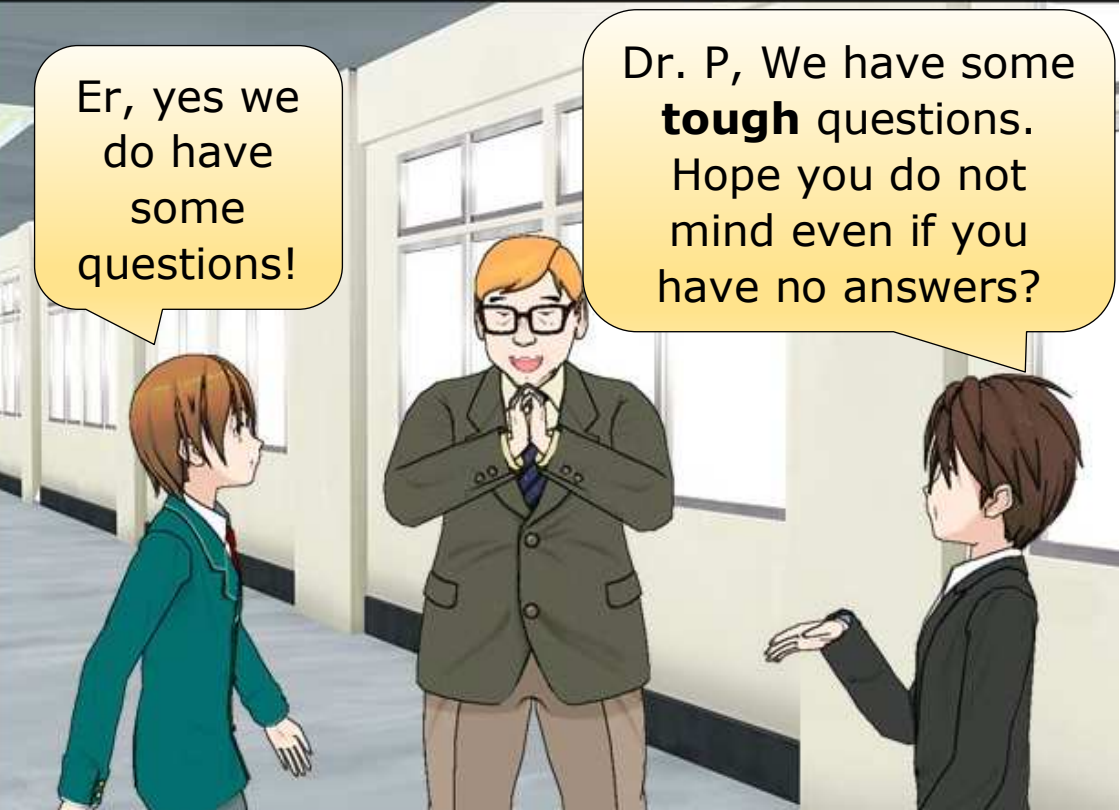
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Ah, Ashish
and Abhishek!

I am sure you
guys have come
up with more
questions!



Er, yes we
do have
some
questions!

Dr. P, We have some
tough questions.
Hope you do not
mind even if you
have no answers?



I do not mind at all!

We are all **students**, learning all our lives. **No-body** knows it all. So let us discover it together!



It's is about the origin and gathering of the Bible.

What **exactly** is your question?

Dr. P, you said the other day that Genesis to Deuteronomy were **written** by Moses.



The other day a newspaper clip said writing was **NOT** invented at the time of Moses!



Good question! Search the net on your smartphones and tell me exactly when Moses wrote these books!

Somewhere **around** 1500 to 1400 BC.



Good. Now search and tell me exactly when the Ebla Tablets were **written!**

Between 2500 to 2250 BC



Ashish, was that before or after the time of Moses?

Wow! That was Almost a **thousand** years **BEFORE** the time of Moses!



But Dr. P, if Moses wrote those books 3500 years ago, they could not probably have survived so long

Let us see! Abhishek, you search the net for the **oldest** surviving writing!

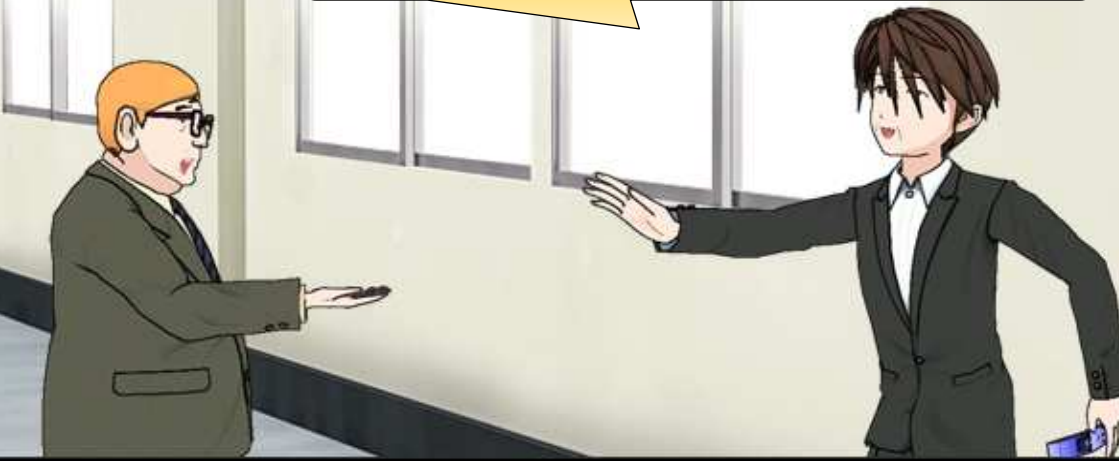


The Kish Tablets
(3500 BC) from
Sumer.



If a 5500 year old inscription survived till now, then what's the problem with writings of Moses?

You said the other day that Moses used leather which is **perishable!**



Ah Abhishek, I said that? Let's look at papyri, a thousand times **more fragile** and perishable material. What are the oldest papyrus writings that have survived? Check the net!



It says that in 2013 they discovered a large number of papyri documents produced around **BC 2600** by men who built the pyramid of Pharaoh Khufu – the largest pyramid.



Oh, I see your point Dr. P! If highly fragile papyri from 2600 BC can survive, then the more **resilient** leather from 1400 BC can easily survive – and that also in good condition!



Good point
Ashish!

But Dr. P, how can we be **sure** that they did write down things during Bible times?



Good question Ashish! Why don't you **read** Genesis 5:1 and Exodus 17:4 to me?



Genesis 5:1 says, "This is the **book** of the generations of Adam".

Exodus 17:14 says, "And the LORD said unto Moses, **Write** this for a memorial in a **book**, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua".



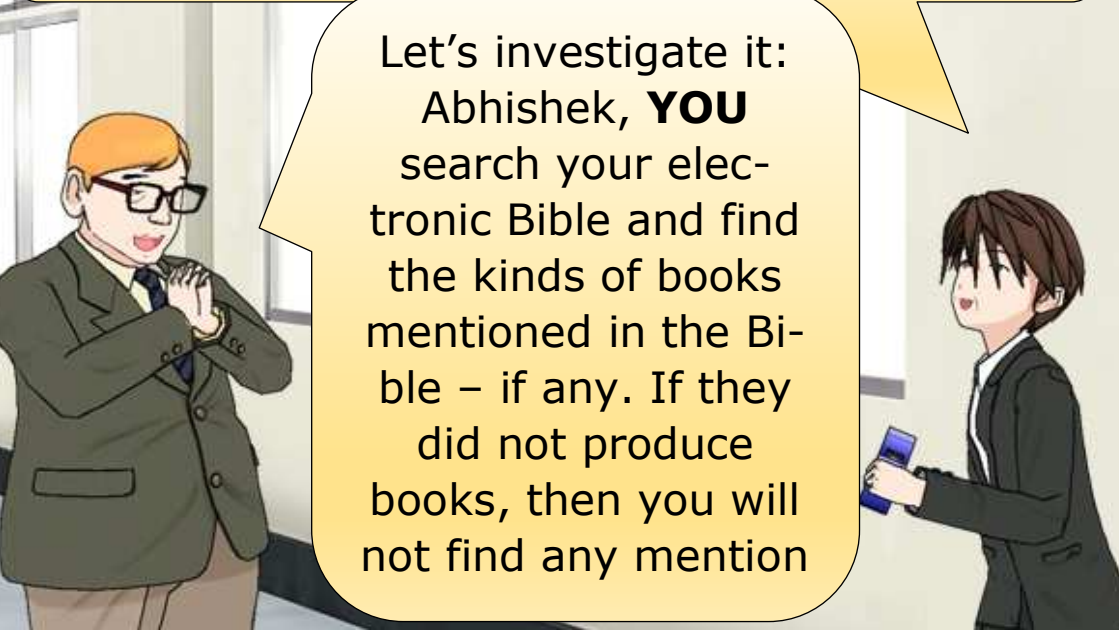
What do you say **NOW** Ashish?

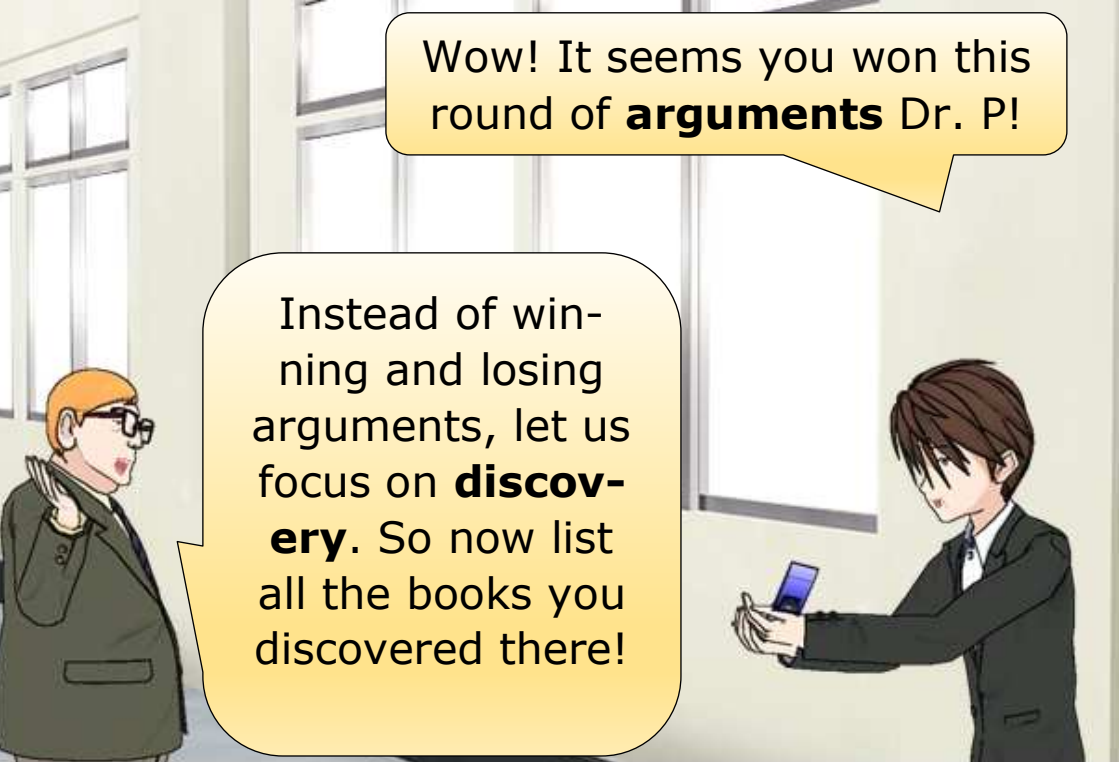
These verses show they **DID** write down much information in those days!



But **surely** they did not produce any **books** during those days Dr. P!

Let's investigate it: Abhishek, **YOU** search your electronic Bible and find the kinds of books mentioned in the Bible – if any. If they did not produce books, then you will not find any mention





Wow! It seems you won this round of **arguments** Dr. P!

Instead of winning and losing arguments, let us focus on **discovery**. So now list all the books you discovered there!

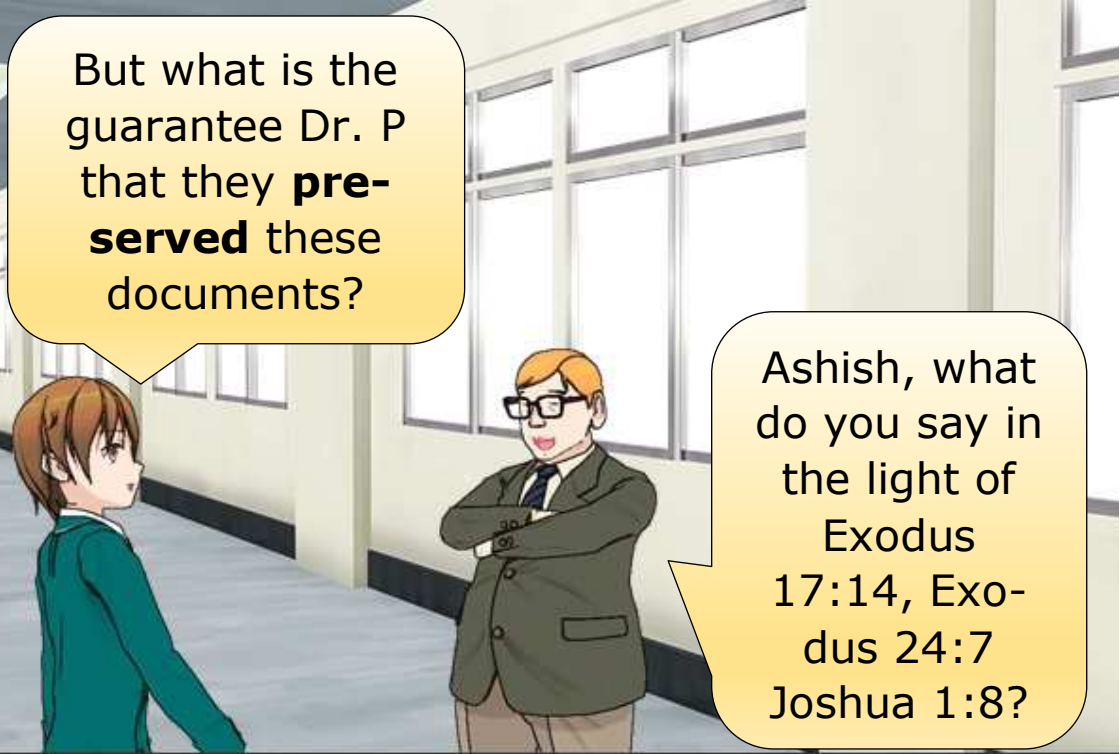


I find:

- BOOK of generations, Gen 5:1
- Memorial BOOK, Ex. 17:14
- BOOK of covenant, Ex. 24:6
- BOOK of curse, Num. 5:23
- BOOK of wars, Num. 21:14
- BOOK copied from Law, Due. 17:18

There are many **more**, but Dr. P I already have my answer!






But what is the guarantee Dr. P that they **pre-served** these documents?

Ashish, what do you say in the light of Exodus 17:14, Exodus 24:7, Joshua 1:8?

"And the LORD said unto Moses, **Write** this for a memorial in a book, and **rehearse** it in the ears of Joshua" (Exodus 17:14)



"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night" (Joshua 1:8)

You young guys are fast at search. Good!
Now tell me, in the light of what you read,
would they preserve these documents?



They would
Dr. P!

Yes, they would Doc!

Well, my young friends, that
answers your question via
your own research!



But Doctor P, are any ancient manuscripts of the Bible available?

Good question. Why don't you search for Dead-sea scrolls?



The encyclopedia says these are thousands of manuscripts and fragments produced from 300 BC onward. All books of the Old Testament are there among them – many as multiple copies.

That answers your question, Ashish!



Dr. P, meanwhile, I discovered that many Old Testament fragments older than the Dead-sea scrolls have also been discovered. So, they DID make and keep copies!



Ashish and Abhishek, the more you search, the more you will find the amazing ways in which the Bible was written down, preserved, copied from generation to generation and transmitted, all very faithfully!



Before we conclude the discussion, I want both of you to search for one more thing – how many ancient New Testament manuscripts are available today!



Doc P, I found that there are over 5,800 complete or fragmented catalogued Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin manuscripts and 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages including Syriac, Slavic, Gothic, Ethiopic, Coptic and Armenian.

Wow!



Ashish and Abhishek, it was wonderful talking to both of you.

I appreciate the spirit of inquiry that both of you demonstrated. That is very important when one tries to look at the Bible objectively.



The Word of God is very firm in its stand that those who have any questions about Spiritual matters should be willing to test and examine such things objectively and with an open mind. By 'objective' I mean you should keep your feelings away and go by the data. By 'open' I mean you should

be willing to accept what the data says.



When one investigates objectively and openly, one will realize that the 66 books of the Bible were written down by approximately 40 people over a time-span of approximately 1500 years. Numerous Prophets and, apostles and such people lived during this period to recognize, identify, and gather these books. Many of them also made sure that such books were promptly written down, copied, and circulated. The actual history will take countless hours to read, and has many more amazing details, but I

am sure this discussion has thrown enough light on the subject for both of you (and also the readers) to understand the core realities.

Thank you very much Doc for accommodating both of us and for not getting annoyed at our repeated questions. Both of us appreciate it very much.



Encouraged by your willingness to help us with answers, we will keep coming to you as you said.



We learnt that the Bible was written by around 40 people over a time-span of 1500

years and that the prophets, priests, and apostles contemporary to these writings recognized these to be God's word and preserved them.

We also recognize now that Scribes made numerous copies and this way the Bible went worldwide in multiple languages. Thank you very much once again.

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About The Authors



Dr. Johnson C. Philip is a senior Christian apologist and theologian. He specializes in Quantum-Nuclear Physics (PhD), Christian Apologetics, and Hermeneutics (ThD). He has authored countless books.

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