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The Collections of the Sixty-Six Books of the Bible

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ARTICLE SEVEN

THE COLLECTIONS OF THE SIXTY-SIX BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- I. The Writing Materials of the Bible – The Spirit of God moved upon the authors of the Bible to record their precious messages upon whatever object was in current use at the time of the writing. Thus once again we see the marvelous condescension of God. These writing materials would include:
- A. Clay (Jer. 17:13; Ezek. 4:1)
 - B. Stone (Exod. 24:12; 31:18; 32:15-16; 34:1, 28; Deut. 5:22; 27:2-3; Josh. 8:31-32)
 - C. Papyrus (made by pressing and gluing two layers of split papyrus reeds together in order to form a sheet) (2 John 12; Rev. 5:1)
 - D. Vellum (calfskin), parchment (lambskin), leather (cowhide) (2 Tim. 4:13)
 - E. Metal (Exod. 28:36; Job 19:24; Matt. 22:19-20)
- II. The Language of the Bible
- A. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, with the following exceptions appearing in Aramaic – These are: Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Daniel 2:4-7:28; Jeremiah 10:11.
Question: Why the Hebrew language? At least two reasons might be offered:
 1. It is a pictorial language, directed to the eyes of the reader.
 2. It is also a personal language, appealing to the heart.Both these attributes are clearly demonstrated as one reads the 23rd Psalm.
 - B. The entire New Testament was written in Greek.
Question: Why this language? Reasons:
 1. It is an intellectual language, addressed to the mind.
 2. It is more understood than the Hebrew.
 3. It can be expressed in technical format.
 4. It was, at the time, a universal language.
 5. It is best suited for describing the great terms such as justification, propitiation, etc.
(See Romans 5 and Philippians 2.)
- III. The Reason for the Writing of the Bible – Perhaps the one supreme difference between man and all other creatures (apart from his immortal soul, of course) is his God-given ability to express his thoughts on paper. It has been observed that while it was no doubt desirable to speak to the prophets “in diverse manners” in time past, the best way to communicate with all men of all ages is through the written record. The advantages of the written method are many, of course:
- A. Precision – One’s thoughts must be somewhat precise to be written.

- B. Propagation – The most accurate way to communicate a message is usually through writing.
- C. Preservation – Men die, and memories fail, but the written record remains. It may be said the New Testament especially was written for the following reasons:
 - 1. Because of the demands of the early church (1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - 2. Because of false doctrines (to counteract it)
 - 3. Because of missionary endeavors (to propagate it)

IV. The Possible Order of the Writing of the Bible

A. Old Testament books

1. Job – 2000 B.C. (?)
2. Genesis through Deuteronomy – 1405 B.C.
3. Joshua – 1390 B.C.
4. Judges – 1025 B.C.
5. Ruth – 1025 B.C.
6. Psalms – 1000 – 930 B.C. (for the most part)
7. Proverbs – 930 B.C.
8. Ecclesiastes – 930 B.C.
9. Song of Solomon – 930 B.C.
10. 1 and 2 Samuel – 920 B.C. (?)
11. Obadiah – 850 B.C.
12. Joel – 848 B.C.
13. Jonah – 785 B.C.
14. Amos – 760 B.C.
15. Hosea – 758 B.C.
16. Isaiah – 739 B.C.
17. Micah – 735 B.C.
18. Nahum – 650 B.C.
19. Zephaniah – 640 B.C.
20. Jeremiah – 627 B.C.
21. Habakkuk – 608 B.C.
22. 1 and 2 Kings – 590 B.C.
23. 1 and 2 Chronicles – 590 B.C.
24. Lamentations – 586 B.C.
25. Ezekiel – 560 B.C.
26. Daniel – 538 B.C.
27. Haggai – 520 B.C.

28. Zechariah – 520 B.C.
29. Esther – 470 B.C.
30. Ezra – 455 B.C.
31. Nehemiah – 445 B.C.
32. Malachi – 435 B.C.

B. New Testament books

1. James – A.D. 45
2. Galatians – A.D. 49
3. 1 Thessalonians – A.D. 51
4. 2 Thessalonians – A.D. 52
5. 1 Corinthians – A.D. 55
6. 2 Corinthians – A.D. 56
7. Romans – A.D. 57
8. Ephesians – A.D. 60
9. Colossians – A.D. 60
10. Philemon – A.D. 61
11. Philippians – A.D. 61
12. Luke – A.D. 61
13. Acts – A.D. 61
14. Hebrews – A.D. 61
15. 1 Timothy – A.D. 62
16. Titus – A.D. 64
17. 1 Peter – A.D. 64
18. 2 Peter – A.D. 65
19. Matthew – A.D. 65
20. Mark – A.D. 65
21. 2 Timothy – A.D. 67
22. Jude – A.D. 85
23. John – A.D. 90
24. 1, 2, 3 John – A.D. 92
25. Revelation – A.D. 95