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Question 25 - What objects or materials was the Bible written upon?

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

25. What objects or materials was the Bible written upon?

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. Tile, or brick

“Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and pourtray upon it the city, even Jerusalem” (Ezek. 4:1).

B. Stone

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them . . . And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God” (Exod. 24:12; 31:18).

“As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel” (Josh. 8:31-32).

C. Papyrus (made by pressing and gluing two layers of split papyrus reeds together in order to form a sheet).

“Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. . . And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals” (2 John, v. 12; Rev. 5:1).

D. Vellum (calfskin), parchment (lambskin), leather (cowhide)

“The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments” (2 Tim. 4:13).

E. Metal, gold

“And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD” (Exod. 28:36).

F. Wood

“Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions. . . Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever. . . And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it” (Ezek. 37:16; Isa. 30:8; Hab. 2:2).

G. Pottery, ostrich

“And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. . . My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. . . And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters’ vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit” (Job 2:8; Psa. 22:15; Isa. 30:14).