

It is not necessary to know the answers to these questions in order to be saved from our sins and to become children of God. It is not necessary to know them to be able to do a great deal of effective Christian work. Yet there are many times when the Christian has to meet questions and problems that cannot be satisfactorily dealt with unless he knows something about the facts in connection with these problems. If he can know these true facts, he avoids making statements that go beyond the situation ~~and~~ and that can be proven to be false. He can avoid making statements about the Bible which can easily be shown to be untrue and thus the faith of people who are uncertain or who are seeking may be injured. If he understands the process, he is put in a position where he can understand the Bible better. He is able to state his faith in a way that is less subject to misunderstanding or misrepresentation.

The process is a rather complex one. The mighty God who created this wonderful world that we have and who has established all of the complicated forces of nature used complex processes in bringing His Word down to us. We do not know all the details about these processes, but we do know a great deal about them, and if we understand them, it puts us in a position better to present the clear evidence of the fact that this is God's Word and is altogether dependable than we can possibly be if we do not know them. Let us try, then, to trace the Bible back to its source, to see just how ~~it can~~ much evidence we have as to its original condition, to see just how far back we can trace its exact words. We will first examine the evidence regarding the N. T. Then we will see what the situation is about the O. T., and then we will trace the history of our English Bible.