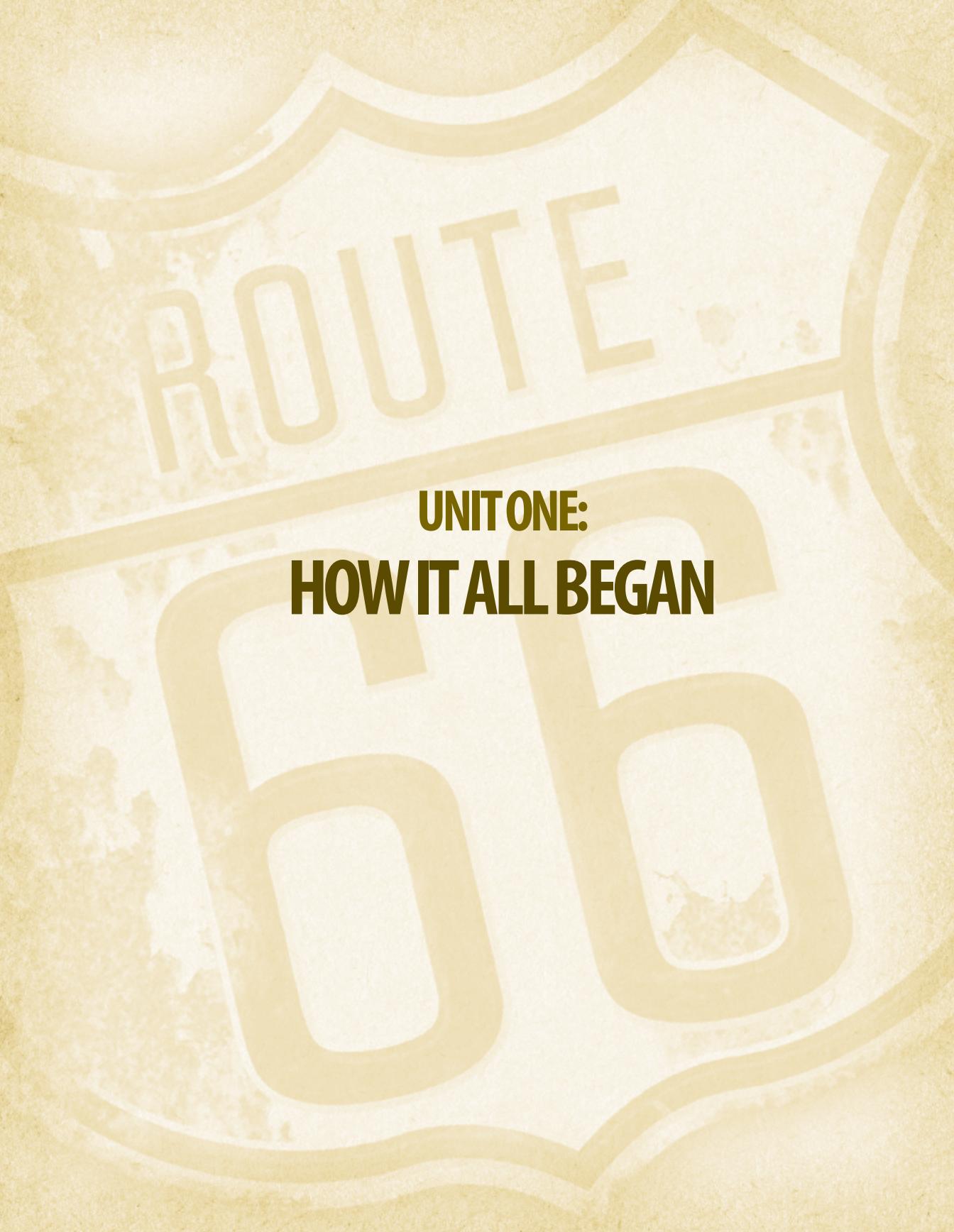


ROUTE 66

TRAVEL THROUGH THE BIBLE

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ROUTE

**UNIT ONE:
HOW IT ALL BEGAN**



WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM?

WHAT A BOOK!

- 1 The word *Bible* means book. The Bible is the most important book ever written. It has been translated into more languages, published by more companies in more versions and editions, and sold more copies than any other book in the world.

The Bible is also called Scripture, which means writings. Because this book contains the words that God spoke and commanded men to write down, it is called God's Word.

- 2 According to 2 Timothy 3:16–17, all Scripture is inspired, which means “God-breathed.” That is, the words in the Bible are from God. What was written down was precisely what God wanted to say.

According to 2 Peter 1:16–21, God inspired men through the Holy Spirit. He spoke to them. Then they wrote His words to other people. Using a Bible dictionary, write the definition of *inspiration* in the following box:

- 3 Define *inspiration*: **God empowered men through the Holy Spirit to speak and write His truth.**

God used many people to write the Bible—likely several dozen different individuals. Many of them are unknown. For example, no one knows for sure who wrote the books of Job or Hebrews, which were written around 1400 B.C. and A.D. 100, respectively. Some books like Joshua and the prophets would appear to be named after the authors, but we have no specific biblical evidence. Still, the Bible is one unit. All of the books fit together to tell one story. This harmony of writings by different authors who lived many years apart shows that one mind guided them.

Read Exodus 34:27 and 1 Corinthians 2:10–13 to learn how God guided the human authors of the Bible.

- God told Moses what to write.
- God's Spirit taught people.

4 God told some writers exactly what to write down. Moses, for example, wrote down the laws as God dictated them (Exo. 34:27–28). Other writers wrote about what they saw and heard. For example, Matthew, a disciple of Jesus, wrote about the things he saw Jesus do and what he heard Him say. Some writers, such as Luke, investigated and wrote down what others told them (Luke 1:1–4). Some authors copied the history from other books (2 Sam. 1:17–27). The Holy Spirit guided all of these men and their methods so that whatever they wrote was true.

People communicate in two basic ways.

- words
- actions

God has spoken to humankind in these two ways.

As you read John 1:1, 14; 14:9–11, and Hebrews 1:1–2, discover how God has spoken to us in these ways. Then fill in the following:

- God's words are summarized in the Bible.
- God's actions are summarized in Jesus Christ.

HOW IT ALL ADDS UP

As you read the following information, fill in the appropriate Bible division charts. Use the contents page in your Bible to fill in the name of each book.

OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS IN ENGLISH BIBLES

- 5**
- Law—Moses wrote these first five books of the Bible. They describe the beginning of time, the beginning of the world, and the beginning of God's nation, Israel.
 - History—The books Joshua through Esther cover 1,000 years of Israel's history, recording Israel's conquest of the land that God promised and how the nation rose and fell under its judges, kings, and prophets.
 - Poetry—This section is also called Wisdom Literature because wise men wrote their advice in these books. They include poems, songs, story-poems and wise sayings, and teachings. Except for Job, each of these books was written in the days of David and Solomon.
 - Major prophets—Because these books are longer than the other prophets' writings, they are called major. The four authors, all prophets, lived during the time of Israel's kings. Lamentations is also a book of poetry.

Define *prophet*: **God's spokesman; one who speaks to man for God**

Define *prophecy*: **words spoken by God through men (may include predictions of future events)**

- Minor prophets—These twelve prophets who wrote shorter books also lived during the time of Israel's kings.

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS AND DIVISIONS

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Law

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

History

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Poetry

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekial
Daniel

Major

Prophets

Hosea	Joel	Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi
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Minor Prophets

NEWTESTAMENT DIVISIONS

- Gospels—These four books record the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

Define *gospel*: **Good news!**

- History—Acts tells the story of how the church began. The four Gospels are sometimes placed in this category too.
- Paul’s letters—The apostle Paul wrote to churches and friends to teach them God’s will. Some Bibles use the word *epistle*, which simply means “letter.”
- General letters—Peter and other church leaders also wrote to churches and friends to explain God’s will. People who believe Paul wrote Hebrews include it with his letters. Because no one knows for sure who wrote it, we have placed it here.
- Prophecy—Revelation tells about the past as well as the present and the future. It reveals secret truths. Sometimes it is called the Apocalypse, which means revealed truth or revelation.

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS AND DIVISIONS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Acts

Gospels

History

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Paul's Letters

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Revelation

General

Epistles

Prophecy

THINKABOUTIT

What are some reasons you send messages to people? **Answers will vary.** _____

Why did God give us His message in the Bible? **Answers will vary.** _____
