

Biblical Origins

2500 Years of Speaking

Since the beginning, God communicated through speaking. We call this the "Word of God"

- God created all things through speaking. "Then God said..." shows up multiple times in Genesis 1. (Genesis 1:3)
- "the word of the Lord came to Abram" Genesis 15:1
- "And God spoke all these words, saying..." the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1)
- "the word of the Lord came to Samuel" (1 Samuel 3:10)



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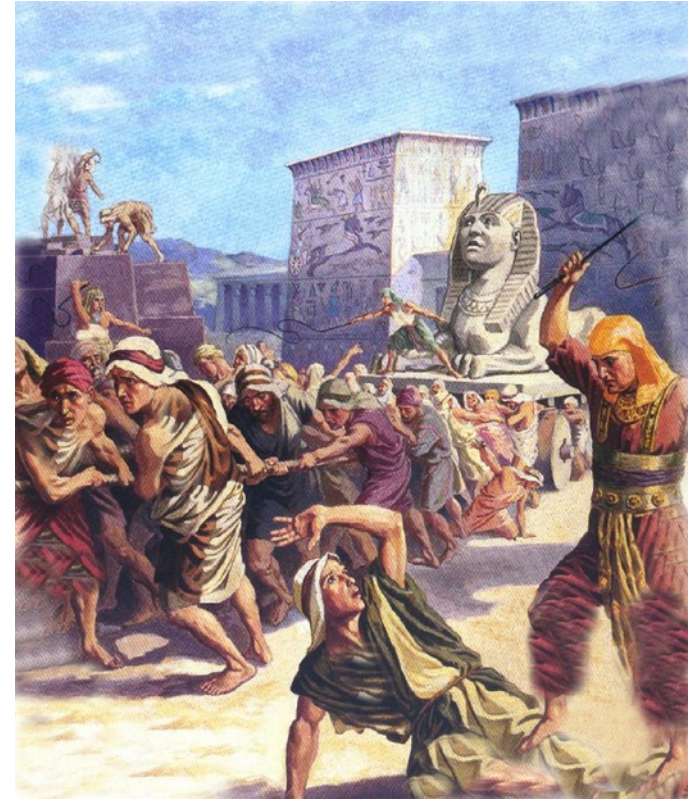
2500 Years of Speaking

“If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved in the ark by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a token or pledge, they would never have gone into idolatry or been suffered to go down into Egypt, and there would have been no necessity of God's proclaiming His law from Sinai and engraving it upon tables of stone and guarding it by definite directions in the judgments and statutes of Moses.” SR 148.3

Biblical Origins

Confused Ideas in Egypt

“There were but a few families that first went down into Egypt. These increased to a great multitude. Some were careful to instruct their children in the law of God, but many of the Israelites had witnessed so much idolatry that they had confused ideas of God's law...” SR 147.2



Biblical Origins

Confused Ideas in Egypt

“To leave them without excuse, the Lord Himself condescended to come down upon Sinai, enshrouded in glory and surrounded by His angels, and in a most sublime and awful manner made known His law of Ten Commandments. He did not trust them to be taught by anyone, not even His angels, but spoke His law with an audible voice in the hearing of all the people. He did not, even then, trust them to the short memory of a people who were prone to forget His requirements, but wrote them with His own holy finger upon tables of stone. He would remove from them all possibility of mingling with His holy precepts any tradition, or of confusing His requirements with the practices of men.” SR 148.1



Biblical Origins

Writing Already Well-developed in Egypt



Papyrus, a plant, was used in ancient Egypt to make parchment. Egyptians had their own written language.



Biblical Origins

First Written Messages

We find something new in Exodus 17 and 20. Until this point, about 2500 years after creation, God's law had been transmitted orally. Now, it was to be written.

- The first mention of writing in the Bible is when "The Lord said to Moses, 'Write this for a memorial in the book...'" (Exodus 17:14)
- The Ten Commandments were "written with the finger of God." (Exodus 31:18; 32:16)
- The Ten Commandments were produced in duplex format. "The tablets were written on both sides" (Exodus 32:15)



Biblical Origins

God Commanded to Write

When God gives a message and commands that it be written down, it shows that the message is important, and not to be forgotten. The writer also may write with authority, knowing the Source of his message. The writer must not write something different than what God has said.

- After writing the Ten Commandments in stone with His own finger, God instructed Moses to write laws in more detail.
- God spoke a message and then commanded that it be written down. (Jeremiah 30:2; 36:2)
- The Lord commanded to write the vision and make it plain on tablets. (Habakkuk 2:2)



Biblical Origins

God Commanded to Write

- A voice from heaven commanded John to write. (Revelation 14:13)
- He Who sat on the throne said, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (Revelation 21:5)
- It is important that writers write to preserve the messages from God. If nobody had taken the time to write, we would not have the Bible today. (Joshua 24:26)
- In Kings and Chronicles, many verses mention that the acts of this king and that king, are they not recorded in the chronicles of the kings?
Apparently, written history was important in Bible times, because a lot of history was written down.



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Written to be Remembered: [On our Hearts](#)

God's law was to be written where it would not be forgotten.

On the hand and forehead (Deuteronomy 6:8)

On the doorposts and gates (Deuteronomy 6:9; 11:20)

On the tablet of your heart (Proverbs 3:3)

Bind them on your fingers and on the tablet of your heart.

(Proverbs 7:3)

God promises to write His law in our hearts. (Jeremiah 31:33)

God promises to write His law in our minds and hearts. (Hebrews 8:10)

God promises to put his law in our hearts and write it on our minds. (Hebrews 10:16)

Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: [On our Hearts](#)

“You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”

(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: On our Foreheads

- Overcomers get God's name, the name of His city, and God's new name written on them. (Revelation 3:12)
- 144,000 have the Father's name written on their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1)

Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: [For New Kings](#)

New kings were instructed to write a copy of the law themselves (no copy and paste, and no printer).
(Deuteronomy 17:18) By copying the law with their own hand, they were forced to become familiar with the law. As much as possible, we should also be familiar with what we print and practice what we learn in our lives.



Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: For a Future Time

Certain messages were written for a time to come (Isaiah 30:8)

Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: [Memorial Stones](#)

When the Israelites crossed over the Jordan, they were commanded to prepare large stones and whitewash them and "write on them all the words of the law" and then set them up on the mountain where the people would worship God. (Deuteronomy 27:3) Joshua did build an altar on Mount Ebal and wrote a copy of the law. (Joshua 8:32)



Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: Memorial Stones

- They were instructed to "write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 27:8)
 - They were to "write very plainly" Here is a basic principle in publishing: let things be arranged on the page plainly so that people can read it well.
 - Another principle is that they were to write "all the words of this law." They were not to pick what truth they liked and publish only that. They were to publish the complete truth.

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Written to be Remembered: [Encourage Meditation](#)

Meditating on the Book of the Law day and night leads to prosperity and success. (Joshua 1:8)



Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: [As a Witness](#)

- Moses completed writing the words of the law in the book, and they were finished. (Deuteronomy 31:24) Moses knew that the Israelites were stubborn and stiff-necked, so he commanded (by God's authority) that the written law be placed beside the ark of the covenant. This was to serve as a witness, remaining after Moses' death. (Deuteronomy 31:26)
- The works of the Lord were written for future generations, that they would praise the Lord. (Psalm 102:18)

Biblical Origins

Written to be Remembered: To be Read

- Words are written to be read. Joshua read everything to the people. (Joshua 8:34) Joshua read the whole message, not hiding anything. He read it to everybody, including women, little ones, and strangers. (Joshua 8:35)
- Read the words that were written in this scroll to the people. (Jeremiah 36:6)

Biblical Origins

Why Written?

- So you may believe
 - These things were written so that you may believe and have eternal life. (John 20:31)
- For our admonition
 - These things were written for our admonition. (1 Corinthians 10:11)
 - I write these things for your edification (2 Corinthians 13:10)
- To reveal Christ
 - Revelation revealed in writing (Ephesians 3.3) so that when you read, you may understand the mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3.4)

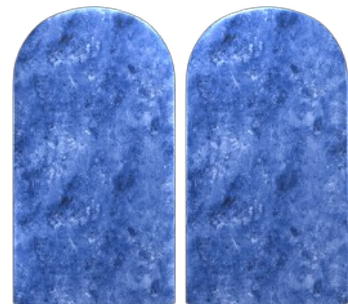
Biblical Origins

Why Written?

- So that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15)
- So that your joy may be full (1 John 1:4)
- So that you do not sin (1 John 2:1)
- Because your sins are forgiven (1 John 2:12)
- Because you have known the Father (1 John 2:13-14)
- Because you are strong, the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome (1 John 2:14)
- Because you know the truth (1 John 2:21)
- That you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13)

Biblical Origins

Why Written?



“There were but a few families that first went down into Egypt. These increased to a great multitude. Some were careful to instruct their children in the law of God. But many of the Israelites had witnessed so much idolatry that they had confused ideas of God's law. ... To leave them without excuse, the Lord himself condescended to come down upon Sinai, enshrouded in glory, and surrounded by his angels, and in a most sublime and awful manner made known his law of ten commandments. He did not trust them to be taught by any one, not even his angels, but spoke his law with an audible voice in the hearing of all the people. He did not even then trust them to the short memory of a people who were prone to forget his requirements, but wrote them with his own holy finger upon tables of stone. He would remove from them all possibility of mingling with his holy precepts any tradition, or of confusing his requirements with the practices of men.” 3SG 298.1

Biblical Origins

Why Written?

““The word of our God shall stand forever.” “All His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 111:7, 8. Whatever is built upon the authority of man will be overthrown; but that which is founded upon the rock of God's immutable word shall stand forever.” GC 288.3

Biblical Origins

Blessings and Curses

Blessings for the Obedient

God promises a blessing to those who read what has been written. (Revelation 1.3)

There is blessing in obeying what is written. "The Lord will again rejoice" (Deuteronomy 30:9) over those who obey the voice of the Lord as written in the law. (Deuteronomy 30:10)

Biblical Origins

Blessings and Curses

Curses for the Disobedient

There are curses in disobeying what is written. Curses might seem offensive to some people. But they were faithfully recorded in the Bible alongside the blessings. Curses were written as a warning so that when a group of people receive the curses, it would be understood that they had been clearly forewarned, but had chosen to disobey. (Deuteronomy 29:20,27)

Biblical Origins

Misc: Apostles wrote letters and "tracts"

The apostles wrote many letters. Sometimes it was instruction, reproof, encouragement.

- Peter suggested writing tracts or letters to send to the Gentiles to show them how they should abstain from unclean things. (Acts 15:20)
- The bretheren followed his advice and wrote a letter and delivered it to the Gentiles. (Acts 15:30)
- They rejoiced over the encouragement found in this letter. (Acts 15:31)
- The written letter was accompanied by further words in preaching. (Acts 15:32)



Biblical Origins

Misc: Faithful Reproduction Required

- A curse for anyone who adds to God's Word (Revelation 22:18)
- A curse for taking away from God's Word (Revelation 22:19)
- **All** the words which the Lord had spoken to you were written on the two tablets of stone. (Deuteronomy 9:10)
- Later, they were instructed to write "**all** the words of this law" on whitewashed stones. (Deuteronomy 27:8)

Biblical Origins

Misc: Literature distribution

Moses wrote a copy of the law and distributed it to various people before his death. (Deuteronomy 31:9)

Biblical Origins

Misc: Hymnals

Hymnals were produced

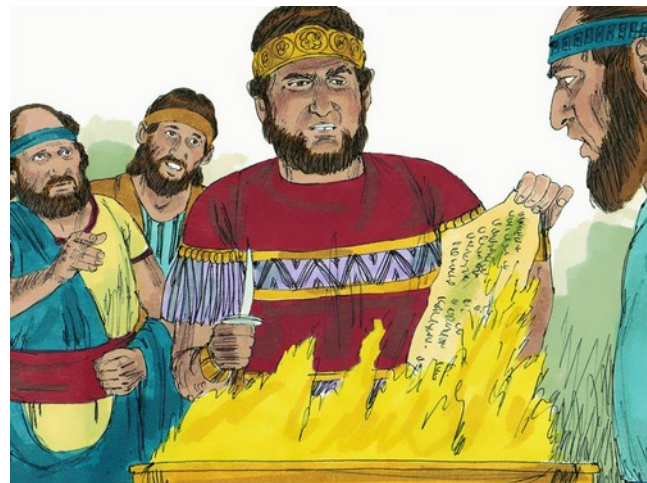
- "write down this song" (Deuteronomy 31:19) Moses wrote this song (Deuteronomy 31:22)
- What was the purpose of writing the song? That it would be a witness for God (Deuteronomy 31:22)

Biblical Origins

Misc: Opposition to literature

King Jehoiakim did not like the message that had been written, so he took a knife and began to cut the scroll into pieces and burned it in the fire. (Jeremiah 36:23)

While God's Word may be burned, it may not be destroyed. God instructed Jeremiah to make another duplicate copy of the scroll that was burned. (Jeremiah 36:28)



Biblical Origins

Misc: Consequences of writing evil

David wrote a letter decreeing the death of Uriah. We need to be careful what we write, as it has an influence on others.
(2 Samuel 11:15)