

# How did the Bible Come To Be?



*Cardens Design Photography*  
PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL IMAGING

## **Opening Prayer**

**Father, you created us and put us on earth for a purpose. Jesus, you died for us and called us to complete your work. Holy Spirit help us to carry out the work for which we were created and called. In your presence and name; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we begin this time together. May all of our thoughts and inspirations have their origin in you and be directed to your glory.**

**- Amen**

# **How Did The Bible Come to Us?**

**It did not suddenly fall from heaven written in Shakespearian English prose!\***

**It took almost 2,500 years of a revelation process, including Apostolic Tradition, to give us the compete Bible we Christians today embrace as;**

**“The Written Word of God!”**

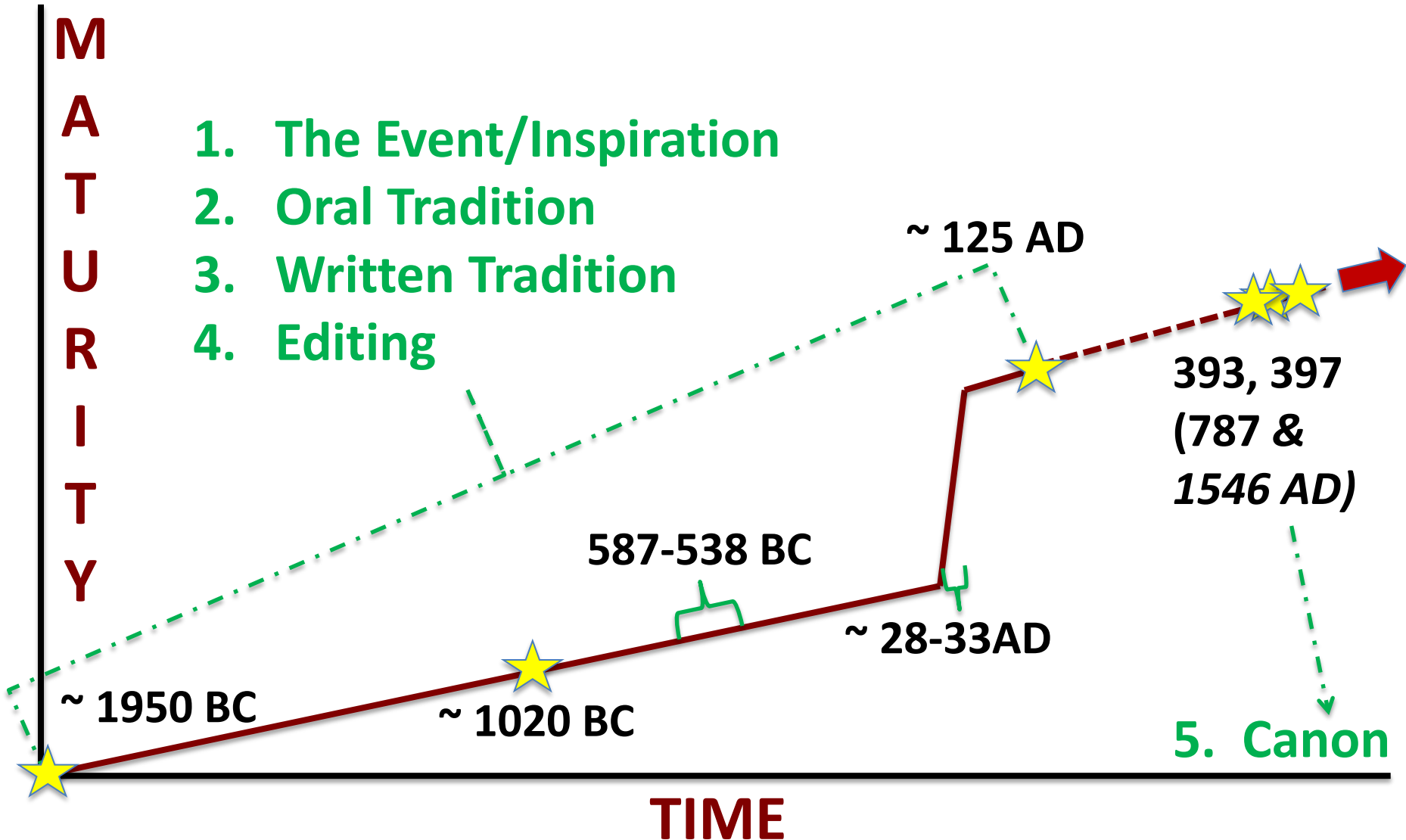
\* William Shakespeare, 1564 – 1616; KJV Completed 1611

# *It Came To Us Through Tradition*

- The first serious Christian crisis; Acts 15:1-2
- The solution; The Council of Jerusalem (~49 AD)  
Acts 15:23-28
- “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us”
- This TRADITION of an inerrant, Holy Spirit guided, council, gave us the Bible (46 OT/27 NT Books)
- BTW, this same TRADITION also defined:
  - Jesus Christ is: true God coeternal with the Father (Nicea 325)
  - The Blessed Trinity: three divine persons; Father, Son, Holy Spirit  
- only one God (Nicea 325, 1st Constantinople 381, 4th Constantinople 870)
  - Mary is: the Mother of God (Theotokos) (Ephesus 431)
  - Jesus is: truly God and truly man (two distinct natures) (Chalcedon 451, 2d Constantinople 553)

**Without this Tradition the Bible is just another book!**

# *Biblical Revelation Process*

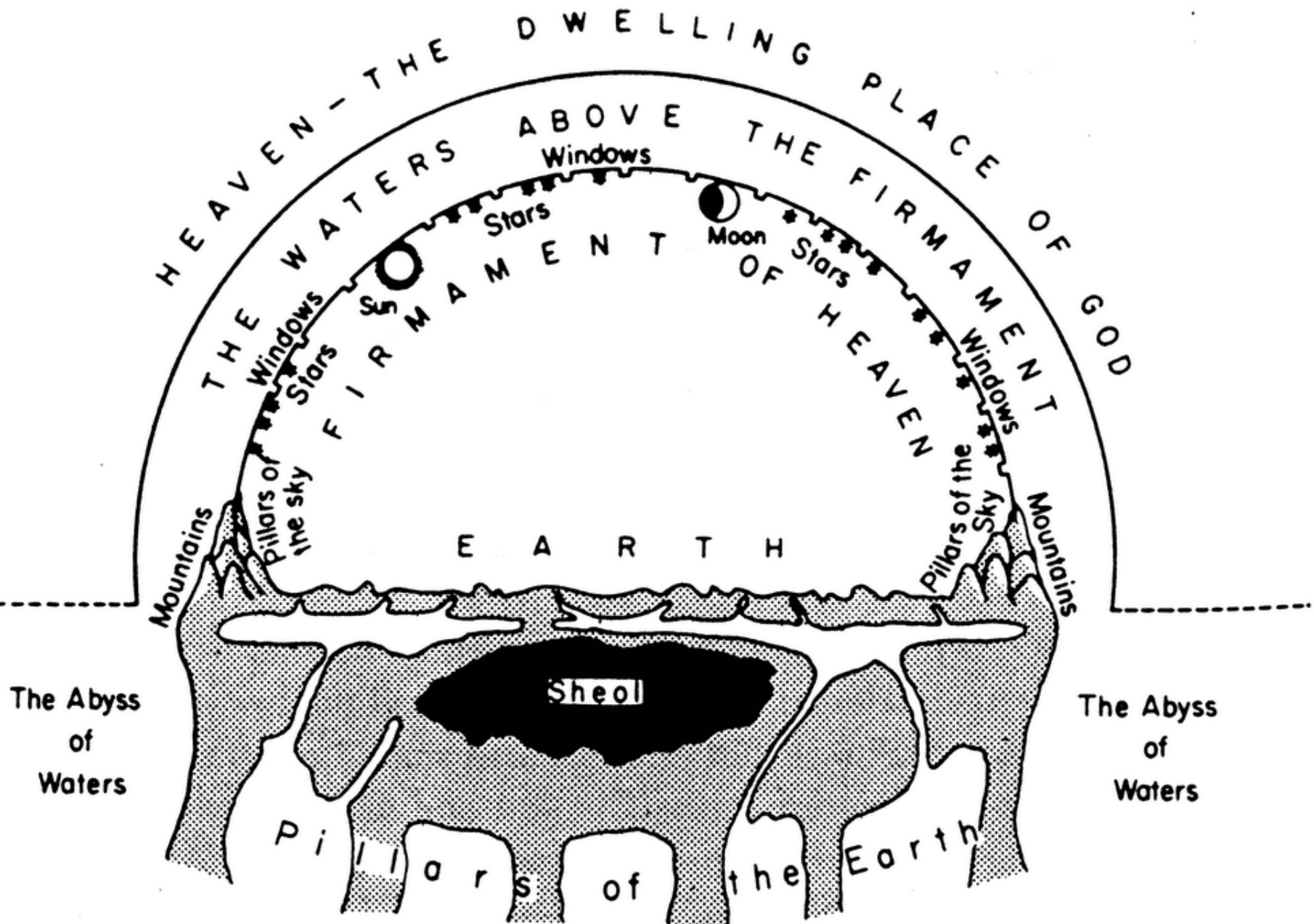




# **In The Beginning**

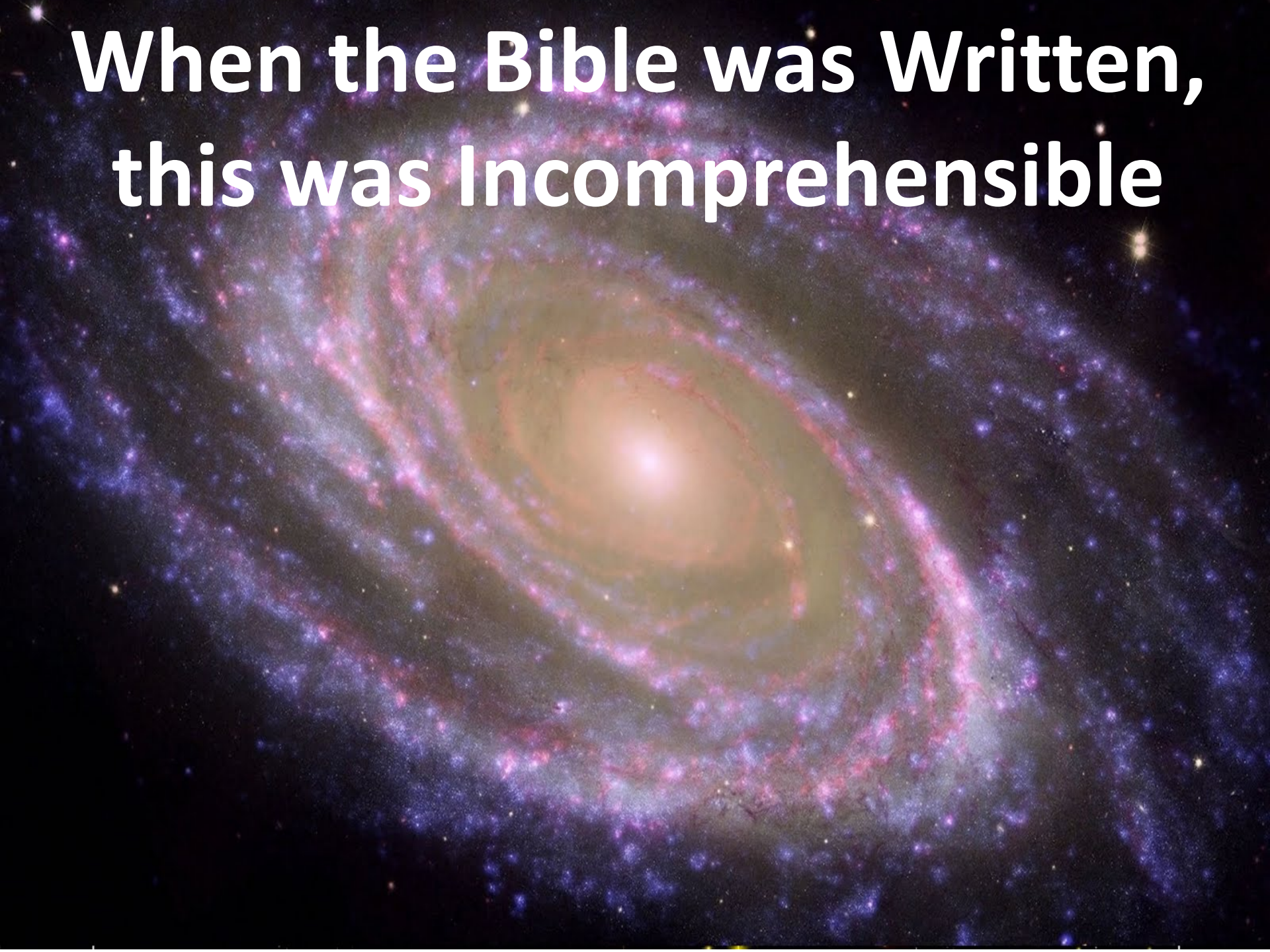
- **Genesis 1 – 11: Things/locations (East?)/times are vague**
  - Two creation stories and the first human sin
  - Cain and Abel
  - Noah and the flood
  - The Tower of Babel
- **“As literature, GN 1-11 is defined as ‘myth,’ in which every story seems to describe some sort of model, for bad or for good, of the proper relations of God to the world of humans.”** - The Catholic Study Bible, Genesis Reading Guide
- **“A ‘myth’ is an imaginative and symbolic story about a reality beyond our (*the writer's*) comprehension.”**
  - The Bible and the End of the World, pg 36 (Margaret Nutting-Ralph)
- **Biblical Myth & Legend were used to teach salvation truth**
- **Why would divinely inspired Biblical writers use myth or legend as a form of teaching literature at all?**

# How Biblical Writers Viewed the World





**When the Bible was Written,  
this was Incomprehensible**





# **Abraham Hears God's Call**

- **GN 11:31, “Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot, son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sari,,, brought them out of Ur of the Chaldeans,,, when they reached Haran, they settled there.”**
- **~1950 BC; GN 12:1 “The Lord said to Abram: ‘Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your Father’s house to a land that I will show you.’”**
- **Events from the time of Abraham on can be placed in the actual historical and social framework of the Near East in the early part of the 2nd millennium BC and documented by non-biblical sources.**

# *Ancient Near East*



# **Key Events/Dates in Bible Development**

- **~1950 BC: Abraham hears God's call, GN 12:1**
- **~1600 BC: Hebrews arrived in Egypt**
- **~1250 BC: Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt**
- **~1020 BC: Beginning of the Monarchy**
  - **Saul/David/Solomon,,,**
  - **This is “probably” when the transition from oral to written tradition began in earnest (first evidence of written Hebrew)**
- **922 BC: The Kingdom splits; Judah (S), Israel (N)**
- **721 BC: Israel (N) falls to Assyria (10 lost tribes)**
- **587 BC: Judah (S) falls to Babylon, exile begins**
- **538 BC: Persia (Cyrus) defeats Babylon, exile ends**
  - **Torah “probably” finalized during or shortly after the exile**



# **Key Events/Dates in Bible Development**

## ***(continued)***

- **~538 – 516 BC: Temple rebuilt & rededicated**
- **~515 – 398 BC: Restoration (Ezra & Nehemiah)**
- **~332 BC: Alexander the Great (Hellenism brings the Greek language & culture)**
- **~250 – 150 BC: The Septuagint – Hebrew sacred writings translated into Greek (no OT yet)**
- **~175 – 135 BC: Maccabean Revolt (brought Jewish independence 135 – 63 BC)**
- **63 BC: Pompey captures Jerusalem and Israel becomes part of the Roman province of Syria**

# **Key Events/Dates in Bible Development**

## ***(continued)***

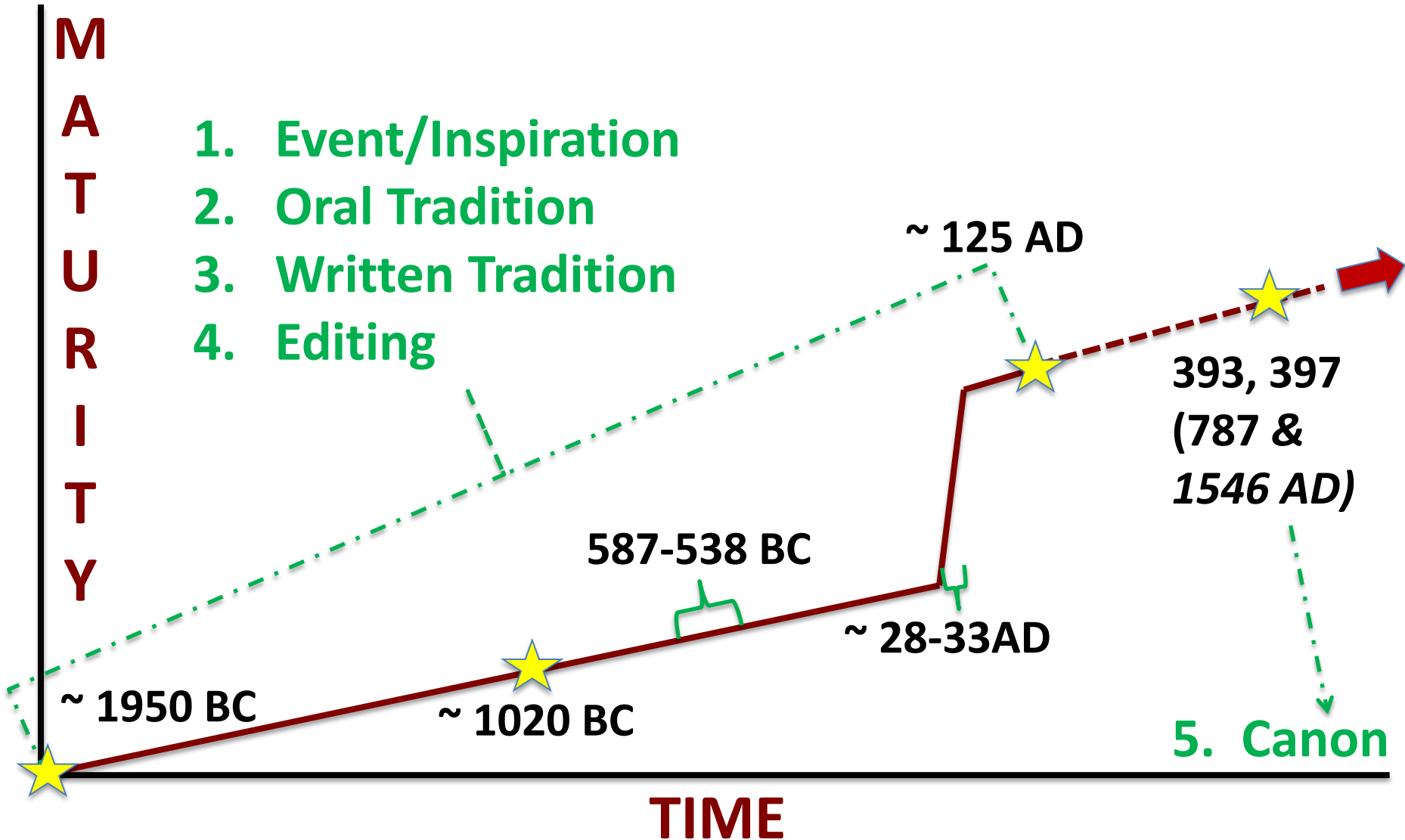
- ~7 – 4 BC: Jesus is born
- ~28 – 30 or ~31 – 33 AD: Jesus' public ministry
- ~49 AD: Council of Jerusalem
- 70 AD: Romans destroy the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerusalem Temple
- ~100 AD: End of the Apostolic Age (2 Peter?)
- ~200 AD: 1<sup>st</sup> Hebrew Canon with 39 OT books
- Three Christian Councils; 382 at Rome, 393 at Hippo, 397 at Carthage, defined the Biblical Canon (27 NT + 46 OT = 73 divinely inspired books)
- 1517: Protestant Reformation 27 NT + 39 (Hebrew Canon) OT = 66 books
- 787/1546: II Nicaea / Trent both reaffirmed the 73 book Bible (27 NT + 46 OT)

# *The Roman Empire*





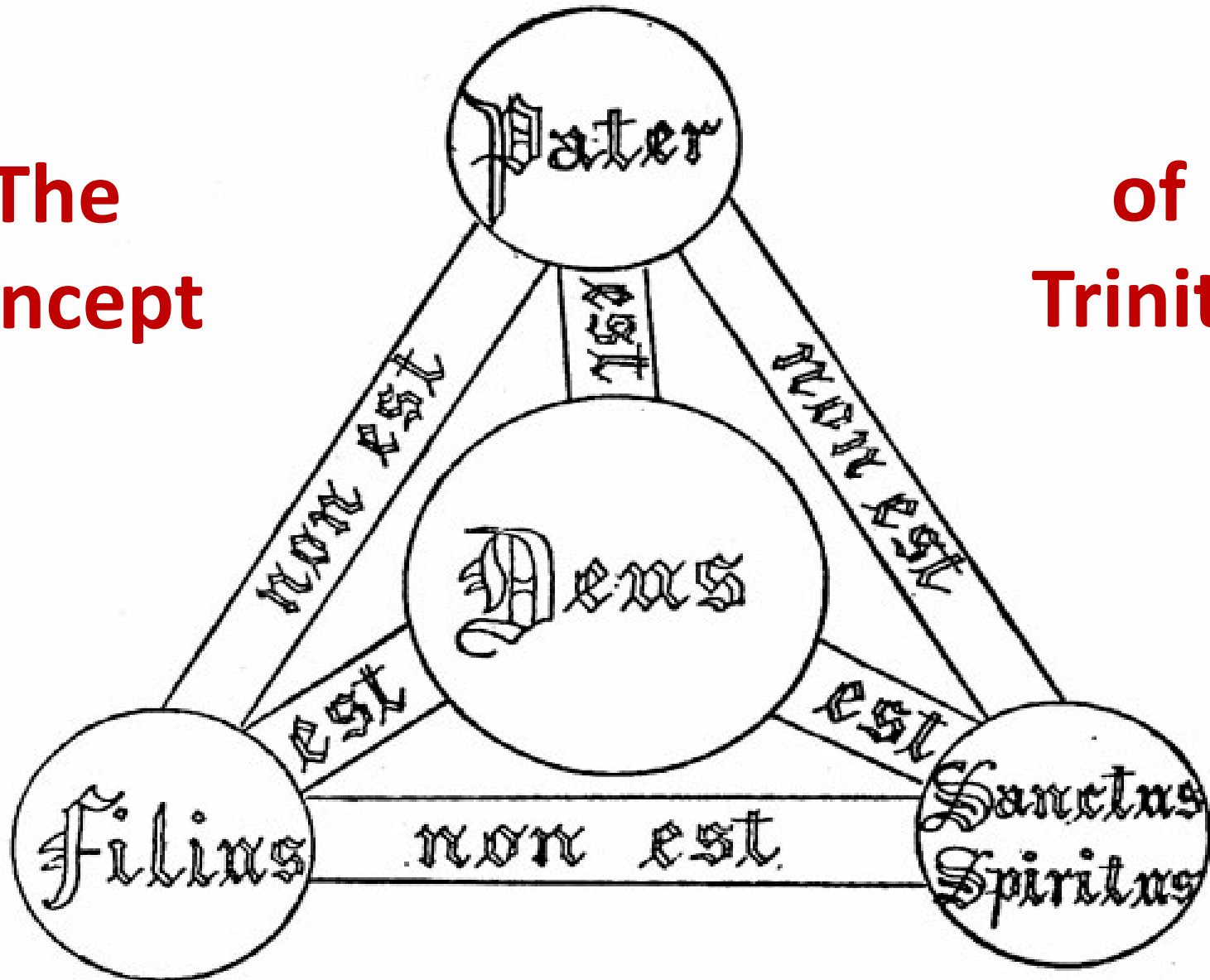
# *Biblical Revelation Process*



# *Not Understood by Biblical Authors*

The  
Concept

of  
Trinity



Thought to be from the 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Constantinople, 381 AD

# ***The Debate Over Bible Books***

- 19 of the current 27 Books in the NT were generally accepted without debate
  - The NT debate involved; Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, Jude, Revelation, Mark 16:9-20, plus 41 other various letters, epistles, and gospels
- 
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Jewish Canon** (~200 AD) eliminated; Tobit, Judith, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, and parts of Daniel and Esther from OT
  - The earliest Christian communities always used and accepted the Septuagint which included all 46 OT Books we use in our current Catholic Bible



# ***NT Writers Used the Septuagint***

- **"The quotations from the Old Testament found in the New are in the main taken from the Septuagint; and even where the citation is indirect the influence of this version is clearly seen."** JewishEncyclopedia.com, Feb 2012
- **Septuagint – "Behold, the virgin (Greek, parthenos) shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." – Mt 1:23; Is 7:14**
- **Hebrew Canon – "the young woman, (Hebrew, almah) pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel." – The Prophet Isaiah (Hebrew Canon)**
- **Apparently Matthew used the Septuagint!**

## ***In Summary***

- **Dead Sea Scrolls:**
  - Found in 11 caves
  - Excavated; 1947 – 1956
  - 981 separate texts (some only in fragments)
  - Scrolls dating from; ~385 BC to ~82 AD (predates Hebrew Canon)
  - Remnants of all 46 OT Books were found, except Esther

## ***The Real Bottom Line***

- **“Since, therefore, all that the inspired authors, or sacred writers, affirm should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error, teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures.”** – Vatican II, Dei Verbum 11

## ***Beware the Academic Seduction***

**“We can study the entire history of salvation, we can study all of theology, but without the Spirit, we cannot understand.”**

**- Pope Francis, homily during Mass, April 28, 2015**

**“Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.”**

**- Jesus Christ, from Matthew 11:25**

# **Surrender Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**I surrender to you with all of my heart and soul. Please come into my heart in a deeper way. I say, “Yes” to you today. I open all of the secret places of my heart to you and say, “Come on in.” Jesus, you are Lord of my whole life. I believe in you and receive you as my Lord and Savior. I hold nothing back. Holy Spirit, bring me to a deeper conversion to the person of Jesus Christ. I surrender all to you; my health, my family, my resources, occupation, skills, relationships, time management, successes, and failures. I release them all and let them go. I surrender my understanding of how things ‘ought’ to be, my choices and my will. I surrender to you the promises I have kept and the promises I have failed to keep. I surrender my weaknesses and strengths to you. I surrender my emotions, my fears, my insecurities, my sexuality. I especially surrender my personal journey to you Father.**

**Lord God, I surrender my entire life to you, the past, the present, and the future. In sickness and in health, in life and in death, I belong to you.**

**- Amen**