

# Origins of the Bible

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## Reading list

There is no need to purchase any materials other than the handouts.

A website will have additional material: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~mvz/bible/>

1. **Bible** (either Old Testament or Hebrew Bible (Tanach)). [It may be useful for looking up passages.]
2. **www.crosswire.org** - Good free Bible software (Sword project). Can download multiple translations of the Old and New Testament.
3. **Who wrote the Bible** by Richard Elliott Friedman, Harper & Row, 1989 (ISBN 0-06-097214-9) [A valuable book if you are interested in the topic. A good overview of the Documentary Hypothesis. Read this first.]
4. **The Bible Unearthed** by Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman, The Free Press (Simon & Schuster), 2001 (ISBN 0-684-86912-8) [A growing but controversial concept that states that the archeological evidence denies the existence of kings David and Solomon.]
5. **Secret Origins of the Bible** by Tim Callahan, Millennium Press, 2002 (ISBN 0-9655047-8-6) [Traces many of the stories in the Bible to earlier myths.]
6. **Who wrote the Gospels?** by Randel McCraw Helms, Millennium Press, 2000 (ISBN 0-9655047-2-7) [Similar treatment of 4 New Testament Gospels.]
7. **Mythology's Last Gods: Yahweh and Jesus** by William Harwood, Prometheus Books, 1992 (ISBN 0-87975-742-6) [Dissertation research by Dr. Harwood. Similar to the Callahan book in that it traces Bible stories to earlier myths. But makes even a stronger claim that essentially all of it is myth.]

## Additional readings

1. A "Centrist" at the center of controversy: BAR interviews Israel Finkelstein by Hershel Shanks, *Biblical Archeology Review* 28(6) (November, 2002) 38-49, 64-68.
2. Parting seas, magic stars, and miracles: Can science explain events in the Bible? by Bruce Martin Wildish, *Skeptic* 9(4) (2002) 80-88.