

--Verses were most likely originated by Stephanus about 1551. As far as we know his publication of the Vulgate in 1555 was the first Bible to be printed with a complete chapter and verse notation.

Note These divisions are vital for our study but it must be remembered they are not "inspired" and therefore must be regarded in the same light as all other helps given to aid in the study of the Bible.

--Paragraphs occur in some form in the oldest Hebrew manuscripts and were used to facilitate the use of the Scripture in divine service. New Testament paragraphs are more just a matter of broken text until more modern publications. The current system of printing Bibles with paragraph divisions (rather than verse divisions) is probably a very good step in the better understanding of the text.

--Many other devices are found in different Bibles...the use of italics, marginal reference, commentary notes, etc. Most of this sort of material began to be used in the post-reformation Bibles and, of course, today it is quite common. The wise Bible student will read carefully the introductory notes to his/her Bible and see what abbreviations are used, what systems of indexing are employed, what abbreviations are common. These are all things intended to help us in our Bible study...it is a good idea to be as familiar as possible with as many as possible.

B. The Origin of the Bible: The source of the Bible, of course, is God, Himself. But we break this down by noticing the following:

1. The Lord, Himself:

- a. Key Texts: 2 Peter 1:21
Hebrews 1:2-3
2 Timothy 3:16

To these would be added the many references of God speaking, writing, etc., the message of revelation.

b. Methods:

- God spoke (the voice of God)
--The word of the Angel of Jehovah