

# PART 1 BIBLIOLOGY: THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

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## Introduction

***Today man sees all his hopes and aspirations crumbling before him. He is perplexed and knows not whither he is drifting. But he must realize that the Bible is his refuge, and the rallying point for all humanity. It is here man will find the solution of his present difficulties and guidance for his future action, and unless he accepts with clear conscience the Bible and its great message, he cannot hope for salvation. For my part, I glory in the Bible. --Haile Selassie I (1891—1975) Emperor of Ethiopia***

## I. WHY STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINES?

- ***The Word Doctrine means “teaching.”***
  - **God’s teachings or lessons for mankind. (practical, spiritual and emotional)**
  - **The teachings found in God’s Word that reveal God, the Creator of all things, and His relationship to His creation.**
- **The study of Bible doctrines is the attempt to organize the different aspects of God’s revelation into parts (e.g., God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, man, salvation, the church, etc.).**

***A. It is important that we know Bible doctrines because God wrote the Bible.***

### **1. God is the Author of the Bible.**

- **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV)**
- **The Bible is the only book on earth written by God.**
- **And because God is eternal, and places such an importance on His word, we have the guarantee that His word is sure and firm**
- **“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” (Isaiah 40:8 NKJV)**
- **The Bible consists of two sections: the Old Testament, consisting of 39 books, and the New Testament, consisting of 27 books.**
- **Since God inspired about 40 writers over the course of 1,500 years,**

He must have felt it to be very important for mankind to have His written Word.

## 2. God is the Subject of the Bible.

- Nature can give us only an incomplete picture of God. It is only through God's Word that we can understand God's character.
  - *When people say, "I just can't believe in a God who would \_\_\_," they are showing their ignorance of God's character.*
  - *They most likely have never even study the Word of God which reveals the character of God*
- Paul's prayer in Philippians 3:10 was, "That I may know him."
- Simon Peter knew that the answer to difficult problems comes by growing "in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18)
- We can know God through His Word.

### ***B. God says it is very important that we know Biblical doctrines.***

- In Paul's final two epistles God continually emphasizes the importance of the study of God's Word.
  - Again the Holy Spirit says through Paul: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness **2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV**"
  - Paul wanted Timothy to understand that because "all scripture is given by inspiration of God" it is all, therefore, "profitable for doctrine"
  - "14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:14-15 NKJV**"
  - Be diligent [study] to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV**

- **“Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress [profiting] may be evident [appear] to all. 1 Timothy 4:15 NKJV**
  - **“Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1 Timothy 4:13 NKJV**
  - **“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV**
- **Notice the imperative verbs in the verses above.**
    - **God has clearly commanded us to study His Word “that the man of God may be complete [perfect or mature], thoroughly equipped [furnished] for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV**
    - **The study of the Word of God is not optional for the Christian.**
- **The Bible indicates that a Christian shows his love for God by keeping His commandments (John 14:15, 21, 23, 24; 15:10, 14; 1 John 5:2-3; and 2 John 6).**
    - **In Old Testament times the terms “love” and “obedience” were so closely related as to be indistinguishable.**
    - **A king might say, “This servant loves me” when that servant had obeyed the king’s command.**
    - **Certainly our Eternal King deserves that same love?**
    - **We cannot say, “I love God, and refuse to keep His commandments. Nor can we say, “I love God,” and refuse to study His precious Word.**
    - **“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16 NKJV**
- **There is a strong connection between loving God and reading His Word.**
  - **The Christian can daily show his love for God by obeying God’s command to study His Word. And studying His Word to know what He commands**

### ***C. Bible doctrines clarify for us what we believe and why.***

- There must come a time when we are able to “give a reason” for what we believe.
- It is not enough to say, “My teacher [pastor, parent, etc.] believes that, but I don’t know why.” It is important to be able to give a reason for what one believes.
- “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;” **1 Peter 3:15 NKJV**

### ***D. It is important that we know what not to believe.***

- One of the great dangers of our day is the rise of hundreds of cults. Many of these cults base some of their teaching on a few selected verses from the Word of God.
- If a Christian is not well-founded on the doctrines of the Bible, he is easy prey for false teaching.
  - Could you explain why you believe the Bible does not teach that someday we will become gods?
  - Could you Scripturally prove that Jesus Christ is God, not just “a god”? Do you believe that Jesus Christ will return to earth one day?
- A study of the key doctrines of the Bible will help you discern between “the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”
- “1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. **1 John 4:1-6 NKJV**

### ***E. It is important that we know how to tell someone else about our faith in***

## **Christ. 1 Tim 4:15**

- **“Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” 1 Timothy 4:15 NKJV**
- One of the “good works” of 2 Timothy 3:17 is effectively telling others what Christ has done for you in salvation.
  - The more you witness, the more you realize how important it is to know your Bible.
  - It is embarrassing not to know where to find important verses.
  - Yet if you study His Word, you will be a “workman” who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- It is the Bible, not arguments, that God honors in our efforts at leading people to Christ.
- God’s promise is that His “word” will be effective. . .
- **“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11 NKJV**
- **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NKJV**

### ***F. It is important that we appreciate our spiritual blessings.***

- **“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God.” 1 Cor. 2:12**
- **“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.” Eph. 1:18**
- Many Christians do not fully appreciate all that God has done for them because they fail to read His Word.
- They live defeated lives because they have never learned all that they have in Christ.
- They are like the woman who wallpapered a room with retirement checks because she never bothered to read what was written on the

face of that monthly piece of mail.

- Paul tells us to study the Bible so we will know “the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.”

## **BIBLE DOCTRINES CAN BE DIVIDED INTO 9 CATEGORIES**

### ***A. Bibliology: THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE***

1. Revelation and Inspiration
2. Authenticity of the Scriptures
3. Credibility of the Scriptures
4. Canonicity of the Scriptures

### ***B. Theology: The DOCTRINE OF GOD***

1. The Being and Attributes of God
2. The Arguments for His Existence
3. His Trinitarian Existence
4. His Works of Creation and Providence

### ***C. Christology: THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST***

1. Christ’s Theanthropic Person (fully God, fully man)
2. His Deity
3. His Humanity
4. The Humiliation and Exaltation of Christ
5. Historical Views of the Person of Christ

### ***D. Pneumatology: THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT***

1. His Divine Personality
2. His Work in Salvation

### ***E. Anthropology: THE DOCTRINE OF MAN***

1. Anthropology Proper

- a) **Origin and Nature of Man**
- b) **His Primitive State**
- c) **His Probation and Fall**
- d) **Actual Transgression**
- e) **Free Gift of Righteousness or Grace**

**2. Hamartiology or the Doctrine of Sin**

- a) **Original Sin**
- b) **Effects of Original Sin**
- c) **Nature and Character of Guilt and Penalty**

***F. Soteriology: THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION***

**3. Objective Soteriology, or the work of Christ in atoning for sin**

- a) **Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King**
- b) **Vicarious Atonement**
- c) **Various Theories of the Atonement**

**4. Subjective Soteriology, or the Application of the Work of Christ to the individual by the Holy Spirit**

- a) **Vocation or Call**
- b) **Repentance and Saving Faith**
- c) **Justification and Regeneration**
- d) **Sanctification**

***G. Ecclesiology: THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH***

- 1. The Idea or Nature of the Church**
- 2. The Organization of the Church**
- 3. The Ordinances of the Church**
- 4. The Mission of the Church**

## **H. Angelology: THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS**

- 1. Reality, Personality, and Classification of Angels**
- 2. Reality, Origin, Fall, and Methodology of Satan**
- 3. Reality. Origin, and Methodology of Demons**

## **I. Eschatology: THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS**

- 1. The Intermediate and Final State**
- 2. Second Advent of Christ**
- 3. The Resurrections**
- 4. The Final Judgment**

## **II. Who Wrote the Bible?**

***We believe in the plenary [all] verbal [scripture] inspiration [God-breathed] of the Bible. This lesson will teach what is meant by that vitally important phrase and will show how the Bible is unique among books.***

### **A. What is plenary verbal inspiration?**

- 1. Inspiration: The Bible is God-breathed.**

**“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Tim 3:16**

#### **a) What inspiration is**

- *The word inspiration in 2 Timothy 3:16 is translated from a compound Greek word which means “God-breathed.”***
- *Thus, this verse says that “all Scripture is God-breathed.”***
- *God breathed out His words over a period of about 1,500 years to approximately forty specially chosen and purposed men of God who wrote them down to give us our Scriptures, the Word of God.***
- *Just as a musician breathes into a trumpet to produce the notes he wants, so God breathed into these chosen writers of the books of the Bible the exact words that He wanted preserved for all mankind.***
- *The Bible is clear in revealing that God is the Author of the Bible:***
  - **Psalms 68:11**... The Lord gave the word; Great was the company of those who proclaimed it: NKJV “The Lord gave the word: great was**

the company of those that published it.' **Ps. 68:11 KJV**

- **2 Timothy 3:16**... All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... NKJV
- **Hebrews 1:1**... God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, NKJV
- **1 Corinthians 2:13**... These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. NKJV
- **Galatians 1:11-12**... 11 But I make known [certify] to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. NKJV
- *In 2 Peter 1:16-21, Simon Peter makes an amazing claim. He refers to the Transfiguration, at which he was an eyewitness to the Lord's glory and heard God speak audibly from Heaven.*
- **2 Peter 1:16-21**... 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. KJV
  - He declared that the inspiration of God was more reliable (a more sure word of prophecy) than actually seeing Christ glory and hearing God's declaration "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
  - See, eyewitnesses may disagree as to exactly what was seen, and even the best of minds would find it difficult to quote someone else verbatim.
  - Inspiration is superior to eyewitness accounts because it is not influenced by fallible man.
- *There can be no doubt that God breathed out the words of His wonderful Message to mankind.*

## **b) What inspiration is not**

- *As used today, the English word inspiration has a variety of meanings. Because of this, we may fail to get an accurate picture of the Biblical definition of inspiration.*
- *We sometimes use the word to refer to an athlete who is “inspired” to play above his ability because of a certain spectator in the stands.*
- *This is not what the Biblical term means, however.*
- *The ability of Handel to completely write out the score for his Messiah in less than one month’s time is phenomenal, but it is not “inspiration” in the Biblical sense. The music of Handel was not “God-breathed.”*
- *The inspiration of the Bible was a unique act of the Holy Spirit and cannot be duplicated by man.*

## **2. Verbal inspiration: The Words of the Bible are God-breathed.**

- **“This Bible is the writing of the living God: each letter was penned with an Almighty finger; each word in it dropped from the everlasting lips; each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit.” —C. H. Spurgeon**
- **The word verbal means “by means of words,” or “word for word.” As used of inspiration, it means the very words of the Bible were breathed out by God.**
- **It is important to understand that this is exactly the claim the Bible makes for itself.**
  - *Some people enjoy discussing what God could have done. But the study of Bible doctrine is not based on hypothetical situations but on the clear revelation of God’s Word.*
  - *This is especially important in the study of plenary verbal inspiration.*
  - *It is important to understand what God did do, not to speculate as to what He could do.*
- **The Scripture reveals unquestionably that God gave the exact words of Scripture.**
  - *“The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my*

*tongue.” 2 Sam. 23:2*

- *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but [in the words] which the Holy Ghost teacheth.” 1 Cor. 2:13*
- *“All scripture [writing] is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Tim 3:16*
- *“this scripture [writing] . . . which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake.” Acts 1:16*
- **The word translated scripture (graphe) in 2 Timothy 3:16 and Acts 1:16 means the actual writings of God’s Word.**
  - *These writings can consist of nothing else than the words actually written down by the human writer on his manuscript.*
  - *God dictated to the human writers the actual words that appeared on those original manuscripts, the “graphe” (writings) themselves.*
- **God reveals that not only the spelling of words but also the difference between the singular and plural form of a word is God-breathed.**
  - ***SPELLING***
    - *“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matt 5:18*
    - *A ‘jot’ is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and a ‘tittle’ is the small appendage that differentiates between two similar-looking letters in the alphabet.*
    - *Image Example title*
  - ***SINGULAR AND PLURAL***
    - *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many: but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Gal. 3:16*
- **Liberals attempt to discredit the Scriptural claim of verbal inspiration by suggesting it would make the human writers of Scripture mere robots.**
- **They want to minimize God’s part and emphasize man’s part by**

ridiculing the concept that “each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit.”

- **But how else could God breathe out the very words of Scripture than by dictating them to the human writers?**
- **The word dictate means to speak so another may write down.” This is exactly what God said He did to bring about His Word: “this scripture... which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake (Acts 1:16).**
- **Many Great Bible scholars throughout history such as John Calvin, Benjamin Warfield, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, and others have used the word dictation in referring to the word-for-word inspiration of the Scriptures.**
  - *“The Holy Spirit actually supplied, inspired, and dictated the very words and each and every term individually.” —Robert Prues*
  - *“Each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit.” —C. H. Spurgeon*
  - *“The Law and the Prophets are not a doctrine delivered according to the will and pleasure of men, but dictated by the Holy Spirit.” —John Calvin*
- **A secretary never becomes a robot when she takes dictation from her boss. She remains a human being with all of her faculties and personality. Similarly, the human writers of Scripture did not become robots or mechanical men when God breathed out to them the words of the Scriptures.**
  - *“Their intellectual faculties were at the time directed, not suspended. They knew, they felt, they willed, they recollected, they understood, they approved.” —Louis Gaussen*
- **Exodus 24:4 records that “Moses wrote all the words of the Lord.”**
- **Again, Deuteronomy adds, “I [God] will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him” (Deut. 18:18).**
- **Sometimes we are reminded that even the tenses of verbs are stressed by God.**

- Jesus said, “But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ‘I am [not was] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living” (Matt. 22:31–32).
- Paul based his argument on a singular noun versus a plural in Galatians 3:16, insisting “The Scripture does not say ‘and to seeds,’ meaning many people, but ‘and to your seed,’ meaning one person, who is Christ.”
- Even one letter (“s”) can make a big difference.
- Recall that Jesus went so far as to declare that parts of letters are inspired: “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matt. 5:18)

### 3. Plenary verbal inspiration: Every word of the Bible is God-breathed.

- The word plenary means “full”. In referring to inspiration it means that the “full” Bible is inspired, or that every word is breathed out by God.
- This is the claim of the Bible for itself. The historical parts of the Bible are as accurate as the parts that explain salvation.
- The verses that deal with science are as infallible as the description of Heaven.
- This is what the Bible claims and what Christians have always believed.
  - *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, hut by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*
  - **Matthew 4:4**... *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" NKJV*
  - *“Every word of God is pure”. Prov. 30:5*
  - *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” 2 Tim. 3:16*
- This deals with the extent of Biblical inspiration—PLENARY (Full)

- **Biblical inspiration is not only verbal (located in the words), but it is also plenary, meaning that it extends to every part of the words and all they teach or imply.**
- **The most important truth of all is that plenary verbal inspiration is the correct view of how we got our Bible, because it is God's view.**
- **“All [plenary] scripture [verbal] is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed] 2 Tim. 3: 16**

## ***B. How is the Bible different from any other book?***

### **1. The Word of God is eternal.**

- **By eternal we mean “from eternity past to eternity future.”**
- **The Bible is unique because it did not originate gradually over 1,500 years. It originated in the mind of God from the beginning. Scripture clearly reveals this amazing fact.**
  - *“For ever O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Ps. 119:89*
  - *“Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever” Ps. 119: 152*
  - *“Thy word is true from the beginning.” Ps. 119:16*
  - *“But the word of the LORD endureth for ever” 1 Pet. 1:25*

### **2. The Word of God is the only book inspired by God.**

- **God has given us a Bible of 66 books penned by 40 different human writers over a period of 1,500 years.**
- **This Bible is the only book on earth that is God-breathed.**
- **God has not given more Scripture since He inspired the last apostle, John, to write the Revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- **Surely if God spent this much time and effort to reveal Himself to us through His Word, we ought to make our Bible the object of our most intense study and devotion.**
- **If some have died for it, surely we should be willing to live for it**

### III. How Did God Write the Bible?

#### A. The Scriptural view of inspiration

##### 1. God set apart a special group of men to write His Word.

- “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”  
2 Pet. 1:21
- God would not trust His holy Word to unregenerate men. The word holy in 2 Peter 1:21 means “sanctified” or “set apart.”
- Before the foundation of the world, God set apart a special group of men to write the sixty-six books of our Bible.
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the apostle Paul gave testimony to God’s preparation of their lives even before they were born.
  - *“The LORD hath called me from the womb.” Isa. 49:1*
  - *“Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying. Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet onto the nations.” Jer. 1:4-5*
  - *“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen.” Gal. 1:15-16*
- One of the reasons the Scripture was so instantly accepted by God’s people was the fact that chosen men of God were the ones used by God to write it.
- Writings of unregenerate men would not have been considered worthy of the time and effort to read them.
- Although the forty men were not perfect, they had a deep reverence for God and were considered spiritual leaders of their day.
- The way they were addressed revealed their character
  - *(1) a man of God (1 Kings 12:22), meaning that he was chosen by God, and acted godly;*

- *(2) a servant of the Lord (1 Kings 14:18), indicating that he was faithful to God;*
- *(3) a messenger of the Lord (Isa. 42:19), showing that he was sent by God;*
- *(4) a seer or beholder (Isa. 30:9–10), revealing that his insight was from God;*
- *(5) a man of the Spirit (Hos. 9:7; Mic. 3:8), telling that he spoke by the Spirit of the Lord;*
- *(6) a watchman (Ezek. 3:17), reflecting his alertness for God; and*
- *(7) a prophet (by which he is most commonly called), marking him as a spokesperson for God.*

**2. God prepared these men, using and transcending their personalities, for the writing of His Word.**

- **These forty men were all different. Some were leaders, some were musicians, some were teachers, and some were preachers.**
- **Their backgrounds were different, their language was different, and their occupations were different.**
- **They each possessed a vocabulary and a writing style that was prepared by God.**
- **Since God is the Creator of language and the Master of all styles, He could give His Word in the styles of David, Peter, Paul, Jeremiah, and thirty-six other men, and yet God’s Word remained God’s Word.**
- **Just as a trumpet and a trombone, if “breathed into” by the same musician, all exhibit unique styles and sounds, so the forty writers of Scripture, when inspired by God, exhibited their own personal God-prepared styles when they wrote down the words that God breathed into them.**
- **2 Sam 23:1-3... 1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. 3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of**

## God. KJV

- **A bandmaster picks up a trombone and blows his breath through it, giving a trombone sound; he picks up a trumpet, and his breath in the trumpet gives a trumpet sound; his breath in a tuba gives a tuba sound.**
- **It is the musician's breath that flows through all the instruments to give the different sounds. So God breathed His Word through the human instruments of David, Peter, Paul, and thirty-seven others.**
- **Thus, it is God's Word through David, Peter, and Paul, each part with a different style that was created by God.**
- **These human writers of the Scriptures were the instruments that God chose and prepared to convey His Word to mankind.**
  - *Remember, throughout the entire life of the prophet the sovereign control of God (the hand of providence) had been preparing him with the particular talents, education and experience which would be needed for the message which he was to give.*
  - *This providential preparation of the prophets, which gave them the proper spiritual, intellectual and physical background, had begin even before they were born*
- **The result was that the right men were brought to the right places at the right times, and wrote the particular books or gave the particular messages which were designed for them.**
  - *When God wanted to give His people a history of their early beginnings, He prepared a Moses to write it.*
  - *When He wanted to give them the lofty and worshipful poetry of the psalms, He prepared a David with poetic imagination.*
  - *And since God knew we would need it to be logical and practical, He prepared a Paul, giving him a logical mind and the appropriate religious background which would enable him to set it forth in a manner that we could easily follow.*
- **In this natural way God so prepared the various writers of Scripture that with the appropriate assistance of His direction and illumination of the Spirit they freely and spontaneously wrote what He wished, as He wished, and when He wished.**

- These men prepared by God had a deep respect for His Word as they wrote it down.
- They eagerly studied and meditated upon everything they received (Dan. 7:15-16; 9:2-6; 1 Tim. 4:15-16; 2 Pet. 3:15-18).
  - **Daniel 7:15-16**... 15 "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: NKJV
  - **Daniel 9:2-6**... 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. 3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. NKJV
  - **2 Peter 3:15-18**... 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. NKJV
- It must have been exciting for them to read for the first time what they had just written, God's Word to man.

**3. God inspired these men to write some things they could not have known nor understood.**

- In Genesis 1 God described the Creation of the world. He gave

that information to mankind through Moses.

- **But neither Moses nor any other human being was an eyewitness to Creation. God breathed into Moses the description of something Moses knew nothing about.**
- **Daniel often admitted that he did not understand what he was writing.**
  - **Daniel 12:8-9... 8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" 9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. NKJV**
- **The Bible assumes to speak concerning a number of things which are absolutely beyond the reach of man's wisdom—the nature and attributes of God, the origin and purpose of man and of the world, man's fall into sin and his present helpless condition, the plan of redemption including our Lord's substitutionary life and death, the glories of heaven, and the torments of hell.**
  - *More than a general supervision is necessary if the truth concerning these great and glorious subjects is to be given without error.*
  - *Inerrancy requires that God chooses His own words. Each and every one of them."*
- **And who can deny that this is the exact picture of what we have in the following passage: 1 Peter 1:10-12... 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into. NKJV**
  - *Here were inspired writers, studying the meaning of what they themselves had written.*
  - *If they were prophets on the manward side, they were evidently*

*pupils on the Godward side.*

- *They must have been reporters of what they heard, rather than the originators of that which they had been made to understand.*

**4. God inspired these men to write about some things of which they had been eyewitnesses.**

- **“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;. . . That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us.” 1 John 1:1-3**
- **The writers of Scripture were normal human beings. In the course of their lives they observed many things, some of which they wrote down in the words that God breathed into them.**

**5. God makes it clear that being an eyewitness is not sufficient. He had Dr. Luke state that the uninspired accounts of many eyewitnesses of the life of Christ needed correction: Luke 1:1-4.**

- **Luke 1:1-4... 1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. NKJV**
  - *In the original the Greek language is very specific.*
  - *They were not “perfect,” nor could they give “certainty.”*
  - *It was only because Luke had perfect understanding from God (“from above”) that he could write an infallible book.*
  - *This was true also of Matthew, Mark, and John; even though they, like the men Luke mentions, were eyewitnesses, their perfect understanding came not from their senses but from above.*

**6. God inspired the men to write about things that human nature would normally ignore or minimize.**

- **The Bible is unique because it presents men as they really are:**

**sinners in need of salvation.**

- **Although man talks of the “little white lie,” God killed Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit.**
- **Uzzah lost his life because he minimized the importance of God’s command not to touch the Ark of the Covenant.**
- **The Bible does not ignore Moses’ anger, David’s sin of adultery, or Peter’s denial of his Lord.**
- **It reveals the heart of man to the world so all can see that there is no hope of salvation apart from Jesus Christ.**
- **Because “man’s thoughts are not God’s thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9), human beings left to themselves could never have written a book so revealing of human nature.**
- **“The Bible is not such a book as man would write if he could, or could write if he would.” —Lewis Chafer**

#### **7. The Biblical Writers Claim: “Thus Says the Lord”**

- a) Phrases such as “thus says the Lord” (Isa. 1:11, 18; Jer. 2:3, 5, etc.), “God said” (Gen. 1:3, 6, etc.), “the Word of the Lord came to me” (Jer. 34:1; Eze. 30:1, etc.) or the like are found hundreds of times in Scripture.**
- b) These reveal beyond question that the writer is claiming to give the very Word of God.**
- c) In the book of Leviticus alone there are some sixty-six occurrences of phrases like “the Lord spoke unto Moses” (cf. 1:1; 4:1; 5:14; 6:1, 8, 19; 7:22).**
- d) Countless times Ezekiel records “the word of the Lord came to me.” In one short section (chapter 12) there are eleven such examples (vv. 8, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25–26, 28 twice), and sometimes there are two in the same verse (Ezek 20:3).**
- e) The same is true of Jeremiah, Isaiah and other prophets. The overall impression leaves no doubt as to the confessed source of their messages.**

#### ***B. Four non-Scriptural views of inspiration***

- Once a man rejects the supernatural aspect of the Bible (liberalism) he leaves a vacuum which he attempts to fill with his own ideas.
- Four false teachings have arisen that boldly reject the Biblical view of inspiration.

### 1. False teaching: Natural Inspiration

- This idea teaches that the writers of the Bible were inspired men who reached high levels of creativity like Shakespeare, Milton, Michel-Angelo, Bach, and Beethoven.
- This modernistic idea is an incorrect use of the word translated inspiration (God-breathed). God did not breathe the words of Shakespeare or the music of Bach!
- Those who teach this are obviously ignorant of the Greek language.

### 2. False teaching: Partial Inspiration

- This false teaching claims that the Bible merely “contains” the Word of God.
- It claims that some of the Bible is inspired, but not all; the Bible may be accurate in morals and doctrine, but it is unreliable in areas of science and history. This falsehood is rejected for the following reasons:

a) The Bible claims that “all scripture [i.e., every word] is given by inspiration of God.” (2 Tim 3:16)

b) If the Holy Spirit could inspire some of the Scripture, why not believe that He could inspire it all?

c) This modernistic view ultimately makes man the final authority in determining which passages are inspired and which are not.

- *Any time a fallible human being becomes the final authority, the perfection of the Bible is in jeopardy.*
- *Each man would view the Bible differently, and the result would be chaotic and relativistic, not to mention fatalistic.*
- *Man’s authority would rise above the authority of the Bible. Each individual would have the authority to claim that only his favorite portions were inspired. If a given passage “stepped on his toes,” however, he could consider it uninspired.*

**d) If the Bible is truly God’s Word as it claims, then it must be perfect by definition (since the product of a perfect God can be nothing less than perfect).**

- *God is perfect and incapable of error*
- *The bible is God’s Word*
- *The word of God is perfect and without error*

**e) If the Bible is accurate in areas of “major importance,” why should it not be accurate also in areas of “minor importance?”**

- *We realize, of course, that all of the Bible is important, but those who use this teaching say that we can only trust it on the issues of eternal life (salvation, sanctification, etc.).*
- *But surely the book that is accurate in revealing the way to heaven can also accurately describe the laws of heaven and earth.*
- *If we can trust the Bible for our eternal destiny, we can also trust it to be accurate in every area of life and thought.*
- **“The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.**
  - *1. It could not be the invention of good men or angels; for they neither would nor could make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ when it was their own invention*
  - *2. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils; for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell to all eternity.*
  - *3. Therefore, I draw this conclusion, that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.” —John Wesley*

### **3. False teaching: Conceptual inspiration**

- **This unscriptural idea says that God inspired the thoughts of the Bible and man wrote those thoughts down in his own words.**
- **It rejects verbal inspiration, saying it is “too mechanical” to imagine God dictating every word, that man would lose his freedom if such a view were true.**
- **This false view is rejected for these reasons:**

**a) The Bible claims every word is inspired. 2 Tim 3:16**

- *The Greek word for scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16 is graphe and means “the writings.”*
- *The idea is that the words that were actually written down by the human authors were given by God to them.*
- *Thoughts were not written down, but words.*
- *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but [the words] which the Holy Ghost teacheth.” 1 Cor. 2:13*

**b) It is impossible to have wordless thoughts.**

- *If the words were not from God, how could we be sure the thoughts were from God?*
- *Very slight changes in words or grammar can cause dramatic changes in the thought of a sentence.*

**c) The writers themselves occasionally did not understand what they were writing.**

- *“I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this.” Dan. 7:15-16*
- *“I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.” Dan. 8:27*
- *“And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.” Dan. 12:8-9*
- *“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently. . . . Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister. 1 Pet. 1:10-12*
- *How could the human writers put God’s thoughts into their own words if they did not understand what they were writing?*
- *God had to dictate to them every word,*

**4. False teaching: The Bible “becomes” the Word of God**

- **This error, often called the “encounter theory.” Teaches that the**

**Bible only becomes the Word of God when it speaks to you personally (when you encounter a blessing).**

- *We know that the Bible is truth whether it is accepted or not.*
- *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth.” John 17:17*
- **An individual’s disbelief in the law of gravity does not annul the law.**
- **A rejection of the principles of mathematics does not change those basic principles.**
- **Likewise, the disregard for some portions of God’s Word does not change the fact that God’s “Word is truth.”**
- **“Let God be true. but every man a liar” Rom. 3:4**

**All of these false teachings can be rejected with one verse of Scripture: 2Tim. 3:16.**

MAN SAYS:	GOD SAYS: (2 TIM 3:16)
<b>Parts of the Bible are inspired.</b>	“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.”
The <b>thoughts</b> are inspired.	“All <b>scripture</b> [the writings—the <b>actual words</b> that were written down] is given by inspiration of God.”
Inspiration was <b>natural</b>	“All scripture is <b>given by inspiration of God</b> [God-breathed]
The Bible <b>becomes</b> the Word of God when it speaks to the individual.	“ <b>All</b> scripture... is <b>profitable.</b> ”

### C. What the Bible Says, God Says

- Another way the Bible claims to be the Word of God is expressed in the formula “What the Bible says, God says.”
  - This is manifested in that often an Old Testament passage will claim God said it, yet when this same text is cited in the New Testament it declares that the Scriptures said it.
  - Sometimes the reverse is true—in the Old Testament it is the Bible that records it, while the New Testament declares that it was God who said it.
- A couple of passages make the point. Consider:
    - **Genesis 12:1–3**: 1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." NKJV
    - But when this passage is cited in Galatians 3:8, we read, **Galatians 3:8**... 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." NKJV
    - Likewise, in **Exodus 9:13–16**: And the Lord said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.... But I [the Lord] have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’ ”
    - However, when the New Testament quotes this passage it says, “For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: ‘I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth’ ” (**Rom. 9:17**).
    - Again, often the order is reversed; for example, in **Genesis 2:24** the author of the book says, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”
    - Yet when this is cited by Jesus in the New Testament, He says, “Haven’t you read that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one

flesh'?" (Matt. 19:4–5).

- The same is true with **Psalm 2:1** (nkjv), where it is David who said, "Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?"
- But when this is cited in **Acts 4:24–25** (nkjv) we read: "So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who ... said: "Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?" ' ' "

<i>Compare The Scriptures</i>	
Isaiah 55:3	Acts 13:34
Psalms 16:10	Acts 13:35
Psalms 2:7	Hebrews 1:5
Psalms 97:7	Hebrews 1:6
Psalms 104:4	Hebrews 1:7
Psalms 95:7	Hebrews 3:7

- **Isaiah 55:3**... 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you — The sure mercies of David. NKJV **Acts 13:34**... 34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' NKJV
- **Psalms 16:10**... 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. NKJV **Acts 13:35**... 35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' NKJV
- **Psalms 2:7**... 7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. NKJV **Hebrews 1:5**... The Son Exalted Above Angels 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? NKJV
- **Psalms 97:7**... 7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. NKJV **Hebrews 1:6**... 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the

world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." NKJV

- **Psalms 104:4**... 4 Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. NKJV **Hebrews 1:7**... 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." NKJV
  - **Psalms 95:7**... 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: NKJV **Hebrews 3:7**... 7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, NKJV
- In one of these classes of passages the Scriptures are spoken of as if they were God; in the other, God is spoken of as if He were the Scriptures.
    - Thus in the two taken together, God and Scriptures are brought into such combination to show very straightforwardly that no distinction was to be made between the authority of God and the authority of His Word
      - He stands behind his word and his word stand behind him.

#### ***D. The Bible Claims to Have Divine Authority***

- There are many words, or phrases, the Bible uses to describe itself that claim divine authority.
  1. Jesus said the Bible has indestructibility in that it will never pass away (Matt. 5:17–18)
  2. It is infallible or “cannot be broken” (John 10:35)
  3. It has final authority (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)
  4. It is sufficient for faith and practice (Luke 16:31; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16–17).

### **IV. Can We Trust The Bible**

#### ***A. THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE BIBLE***

- The word infallible is not used in Scripture of itself; however, other statements are used of the Bible that imply its infallibility (unfailingness). It means it is absolutely trustworthy or sure. ROCK!
- Jesus said, “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).
- Matthew 5:17–18 also reveals that the Bible is imperishable.

- Further, God affirmed through Isaiah, “My word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isa. 55:11; cf. Matt. 15:3–6; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).

## ***B. THE INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF THE BIBLE***

- As we have seen, Jesus declared that the Bible is indestructible, saying, **Matthew 5:17-18**... 17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. NKJV
- Isaiah confirmed the same when he wrote, “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isa. 40:8).
- **Isaiah 40:8**... 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." NKJV
- The psalmist added, “**Psalms 119:89**... Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. NKJV”
- History is a testimony to the Bible’s durability. It has been banned, burned, and banished, but in spite of it all, it stands as the world’s all-time bestseller.

## ***C. THE INEXHAUSTIBILITY (INDEFATIGABILITY (in·de·fat·i·ga·bility )) OF THE BIBLE***

- What is more, the Bible has indefatigable power—it cannot be worn out; it is tireless and inexhaustible.
- Hebrews declares that “the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (4:12).
- God asked Jeremiah, “Is not my word like fire ... and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?” (Jer. 23:29).
- Paul said, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:4).
- One such weapon is the “sword of the Spirit which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17).

- This tireless power of Scripture comes from the infinite God whose inexhaustible power is manifest in his infallible Word.
- Paul reminded the Thessalonians: “When you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe” (1 Thess. 2:13).
- Indeed, Peter affirmed, “1 Peter 1:23... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, NKJV”

#### ***D. THE INDEFEASIBILITY (in-de-fea-si-bility) OF THE BIBLE***

- In addition, the Bible has the quality of being indefeasible; that is, it cannot be overcome, made void or ineffective—it always accomplishes its purpose. Can not be annulled or made void!
- Recall that God announced through Isaiah, “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isa. 55:11).
- This is true of those who receive its message as well as those who reject it.
- As Paul, who preached it, said, “For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing” (2 Cor. 2:15–16).
- Those who accept it magnify God’s mercy, and those who reject it manifest His wrath (cf. Rom. 9:21–22). But it always accomplishes God’s purpose.

#### ***E. THE INERRANCY OF THE BIBLE***

- As the Bible is firmly rooted in the God whose Word it is
- The doctrine of inerrancy is not directly taught in Scripture, although it is logically implied. Two things, however, are directly taught:
  - (1) The Bible is the Word of God (see chapters 13–14).
  - (2) God cannot err (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2; Rom. 3:4).
- The logically necessary result of these two premises is that (3) the Bible cannot err.

#### ***F. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIBLE***

- ***The Bible contains many powerful metaphors and figures of speech about itself that help us in visualizing one or more of the above characteristics.***
1. **The Bible Is Like a Seed That Saves Us (1 Peter 1:23)**
  2. **The Bible Is Like Milk That Nourishes Us (1 Peter 2:2)**
  3. **The Bible Is Like Meat (Solid Food) That Satisfies Us (Hebrews 5:14)**
  4. **The Bible Is Like Water That Washes Us (Psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:25–26)**
  5. **The Bible Is Like a Fire That Cleanses Us (Jeremiah 23:29)**
  6. **The Bible Is Like a Hammer That Shatters Us (Jeremiah 23:29)**
  7. **The Bible Is Like a Sword That Cuts Deeply Into Us (Hebrews 4:13)**
  8. **The Bible Is Like Medicine to Keep Us From the Sickness of Sin (Psalm 119:11)**
  9. **The Bible Is Like a Mirror to Reflect Ourselves to Us (James 1:23–25)**
  10. **The Bible Is Like a Lamp to Our Feet (Psalm 119:105)**
  11. **The Bible Is Like a Counselor That Comforts Us (Romans 15:4)**
  12. **The Bible Is Like a Forecaster That Never Fails Us (2 Peter 1:19)**

***“The evidence that the Bible is of divine origin is very strong. Unlike any other book in the world, the Bible bears the fingerprints of God. It has sanctity, divine authority, infallibility, indestructibility, indefatigability, indefeasibility, and inerrancy. Indeed, as we have shown, the denial of the inerrancy of the Bible is an attack on the authenticity of God the Father, the authority of God the Son, and the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. The infallibility of the Bible is as firm as the character of God, who cannot lie. The Word is like a seed that saves, milk that nourishes, meat that satisfies, water that washes, fire that cleanses, a hammer that breaks, a sword that cuts, medicine that heals, a mirror that reflects, a lamp that lights, a counselor that comforts, and a forecaster that never fails. Once again, The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isa. 40:8)”***

## **V. The Proofs of Inspiration (The Internal Evidence of the Bible’s Inspiration)**

- ***There are two form of evidence to be considered on the inspiration of the Bible: the evidence flowing from within Scripture itself (internal***

*evidence) and that coming from the outside (external evidence).*

- **Several proofs of internal evidence have been presented.**

A. The Bible Speaks With Authority

- **The leaders of Jesus' day were so impressed with Jesus' authority they said in **John 7:46**... "No man ever spoke like this Man!" NKJV**
- **Like Jesus, the Bible speaks with authority (No book ever spoke like this book). It gives every appearance of having come from God. Not only does it claim to have a divine origin, but it seems to have a supernatural character.**
- **Although this is not full proof of the Bible's inspiration, it is at least an indication that merits examination.**

B. The Bible has a ring of truth.

- **The Word of God is confirmed to the children of God by the Spirit of God. The inner witness of God in the heart of the believer who reads the Bible is evidence of its divine origin.**
- **The Holy Spirit not only bears witness to the believer that he is a child of God (Rom. 8:16) but that the Bible is the Word of God (2 Pet. 1:20-21). The same Spirit who communicated the truth of God also confirms to the believer that the Bible is the Word of God.**

C. Evidence from the transforming ability of the Bible [The Word Of God]. The Bible's power to transform lives is obvious

1. The ability of the Bible to convert the unbeliever and to build up the believer in the faith.
  - **The writer of Hebrews says, "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb 4:12).**
  - **Untold thousands have experienced this dynamic power. Drug addicts have been cured, ruined lives have been transformed, hate has been turned to love by reading the Bible.**
  - **Believers grow by studying it, sorrows comforted, sinners are rebuked, and the careless are exhorted by the Scriptures.**
  - **God's Word possesses the supernatural, transforming power of God. God supports the Bible's authority by its evangelistic, edifying**

and transforming powers.

- **Mark 16:20**... And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. NKJV

## 2. Scripture

- “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Ps. 119:9
- “Is not my word like as afire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” Jer 23:29
- “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17
- “It is the power of God unto salvation.” Rom. 1:16
- “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, . . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12
- “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” 1 Pet. 2:2

## 3. Examples of the Bible’s power to transform lives

**The Apostle Paul**: “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” 1 Tim. 1:12—15

**John Newton** (A.D. 1725—1807), hymn writer of “Amazing Grace”. John Newton of England was probably as wicked a man as has ever lived. As a young man he ran away to sea, where his sinful behavior almost cost him his life on several occasions. He was eventually sold as a slave in Africa and reduced to living on crumbs and roots he dug up under the secrecy of night. When he finally escaped, he accepted the vile life style of all with whom he came in contact. But through a missionary God laid hold on his life. Newton accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, and later God called him to preach. Although John Newton was a great preacher, he is probably best remembered as a writer of

hymns, many of which are still sung around the world. Perhaps his most famous hymn, “Amazing Grace,” was his personal testimony.

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

- He also wrote “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” and “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds.”
- In the church in London of which he was the pastor, there is still an epitaph which John Newton wrote for himself it reads:  
**Sacred to the memory of John Newton, Once a libertine and blasphemer and salve of slaves in Africa, but renewed, purified, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Gospel which he had laboured to destroy.**

a) George Muller (1805—1898). George Muller, as a German youth of sixteen, was already living a life of drunkenness, gambling, thievery, and rebellion. On one occasion he was arrested and imprisoned for theft. At the age of twenty he was invited by a friend to a home Bible study and prayer meeting. The sight of a dedicated young man there praying to a personal God gripped his heart. That night in the privacy of his room he cried out to God and asked Him to save his wretched soul. His life was dramatically changed.

- As a college student at the University of Halle he observed two things that were later to change the course of his ministry. He observed the tremendous ministry of the orphanage in the lives of young people, and he met workers in that ministry whose daily needs were met by God. When God called him to work as a missionary in London, and later Bristol, England, God used those impressions to motivate him to establish orphanages in Bristol (and elsewhere) by faith in God’s provisions.
- Throughout the rest of his life, George Muller made it a daily practice to read and study the Bible and appropriate God’s promises by faith and prayer. Although he engaged in no appeals for funds and did not make his needs known publicly, Muller was able to provide for his orphanages and for more than 2,000 orphans on the basis of taking God at His Word. In addition, Muller was able to contribute over \$135,000 to other missionary and charitable causes because of his faith in a prayer-answering God. His great answers

**to prayer and his dedication to the God of the Bible have inspired other Christians to pray and trust God for their needs.**

**D. Evidence from the unity of the Bible.**

- **A more formal evidence of the Bible’s inspiration is its unity. Composed of sixty-six books, written over a period of some fifteen hundred years by nearly forty authors using several languages and containing hundreds of topics, it is more than accidental or incidental that the Bible possesses an amazing unity of theme—Jesus Christ. One problem—sin—and one solution—the Savior—unify its pages from Genesis to Revelation.**
- **This is an especially valid point because no one person or group of men put the Bible together. Books were added as they were written by the prophets. They were then collected because they were considered inspired.**
- **It is only later reflection, both by the prophets themselves (cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-11) and later generations, that has discovered that the Bible is really one book whose “chapters” were written by men who had no specific knowledge of the overall structure or theme.**
- **Their individual roles could be compared to that of different men writing chapters of a novel for which none of them have even an overall outline. Whatever unity the book has must come from beyond them. Like a symphony, each individual part of the Bible contributes to an overall unity that is orchestrated by one Master.**

**E. The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God.**

- **The Bible is unique because it first claims to be written by God and then proves its divinity by many infallible proofs. Some would argue that it is circular reasoning to use the Bible’s claim as a proof of its inspiration. They say that any book could make such a claim. But the fact is that very few other books have claimed to be written by God Himself. And those which have claimed it, either did not stand the test of time or are of obviously inferior quality.**

**1. There are many powerful statements of inspiration in the Scriptures.**

- **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim. 3:16**
- **“For the prophecy’ came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by’ the Holy Ghost.” 2**

## **Pet. 1:21**

2. The phrase “Thus saith the Lord” and similar phrases are found over 3,800 times in the Old Testament.
3. The human writers realized that God was giving them the words.
  - **“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saving, . . . “ Exod. 25:1**
  - **"Hear, O heavens, and give ear; O earth: for the LORD hath spoken.” Isa. 1:2**
  - **“The words of Jeremiah . . . To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah.” Jer. 1-2**
4. The words of Moses are connected with the words of Christ.
  - **“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” John 5:46-47**
5. Christ placed His stamp of approval on the Scriptures.
  - **“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, hut by even’ word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matt 4:4**
6. The judgment attached to adding to or taking away from the words of Scripture shows God’s attitude toward the importance of His Word. In three different passages God warns against adding to His Word.
  - **“What thing soever I command you observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto. nor diminish from it.” Deut. 12:32**
  - **“Every word of God is pure. . . . Add thou not unto his words.” Prov 30:5 -6**
  - **“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this hook.” Rev. 22: I 8**
  - **It is interesting to note that these warnings occur at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of God’s Word.**
7. Very few other books claim to be the Word of God. Those that do (e.g., the Koran and the Book of Mormon) are filled with historical inaccuracies and lack proof.

8. We accept the authorship of reliable literature until proven otherwise.

- **We assume every book in the library or bookstore was written by the one whose name appears on the cover. We would never question that unless we knew someone was writing under a false name or we had other good evidence to the contrary. Should we not also accept the Bible's claims of being written by the One it claims to be written by until there is evidence of deceit?**

F. The bible has influenced every day life and thought. Every individual in the world has been influenced by it whether they realize it or not

- **The number of phrases from the Bible which have passed into common speech and everyday thinking clearly expresses this idea and reveals its influence.**

<b>COMMON PHRASES FROM THE BIBLE</b>	
<b>the apple of his eye</b>	<b>the handwriting on the wall</b>
<b>a coat of many colors</b>	<b>a good old age</b>
<b>the mantle of Elijah</b>	<b>the wife of thy bosom</b>
<b>the valley of decision</b>	<b>a still small voice</b>
<b>miserable comforters</b>	<b>the pride of life</b>
<b>from strength to strength</b>	<b>the little foxes that spoil the vines</b>
<b>precept upon precept, line upon line</b>	<b>as a drop in a bucket</b>
<b>the salt of the earth</b>	<b>the burden and heat of the day</b>
<b>the signs of the times</b>	<b>the children of light</b>
<b>the powers that be</b>	<b>the fashion of this world</b>
<b>decently and in order</b>	<b>a thorn in the flesh</b>
<b>a cloud of witnesses</b>	<b>a crown of life</b>
<b>labor of love</b>	<b>to entertain angels unaware</b>

<b>thou art the man</b>	<b>all things to all men</b>
<b>faithful unto death</b>	<b>the elder brother</b>
<b>the highways and hedges</b>	<b>a pearl of great price</b>
<b>stand in awe</b>	<b>the day is at hand</b>
<b>joy cometh in the morning</b>	<b>clear as crystal</b>
<b>the fat of the land</b>	<b>the four winds of heaven</b>
<b>we are the people</b>	<b>the end is not yet</b>
<b>a book of remembrance</b>	<b>the laborer is worthy of his hire</b>

## **VI. The Proofs of Inspiration continued... (The External Evidence of the Bible's Inspiration)**

### **A. The External Evidence Is Overwhelming and Hard to Deny**

- **The internal evidence of inspiration is mostly subjective in nature. It relates to what the believer sees or senses in his experience with the Bible.**
- **With the possible exception of the evidence from the unity of the Bible, the internal evidences are available only inside Christianity.**
- **The nonbeliever does not sense the witness of His Spirit, nor experience the edifying power of Scripture in his life. Unless he steps by faith to the inside, these internal evidences may have little convincing effect on his life.**
- **This is where the external evidence plays a crucial role. It provides signposts indicating where the “inside” really is. It is public witness to something very unusual, which serves to draw attention to the voice of God in Scripture.**

### **B. Evidence from the historical accuracy of the Bible.**

1. Much of the Bible is historical and as such, is subject to historical examination. The most significant area of confirmation in this regard has come from the field of archaeology.

- **The renowned archaeologist William F. Albright said, “There can**

**be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament tradition.”**

- **Nelson Glueck adds, “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”**
- **Millar Burrows notes that “more than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine.”**

2. Archaeology has confirmed the existence of peoples who were once questioned by Bible skeptics.

- **Note: The Jewish historian Josephus recounted the story of the destruction of Sodom and the transformation of Lot’s wife into a “stele” (or pillar of salt). He added, “And I have observed it, for it still remains even to this day.”**
- **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, wrote in the second century that Lot’s wife remained “a pillar of salt unto this day. . . no longer corruptible flesh, but a pillar of salt which endures forever.”**
- **The existence of the Hittites was questioned in spite of numerous Biblical references to them (Exod. 33:2; Deut. 7:1, 20:17; Josh. 3:10 24:11). In 1906 Hugo Winkler of Berlin began excavations at Boghazkoy, 90 miles east of Ankara. He discovered it was an ancient Hittite capital. Numerous clay tablets were discovered which were inscribed in the cuneiform characters of the Hittite language.**
- **Now it is known that two great periods of Hittite power are to be noted. The first goes back to 1700 B.C. and the second to c. 1450—1200 B.C. The great Hittite Empire collapsed in 1200 B.C. and the Hittite capital of Boghazkoy fell at that time.**

3. Archaeology has confirmed the accuracy of the names, times, and places of reign of over forty different kings by means of documents contemporary with the Bible.

4. Those who have accepted the premise that the Bible is historically accurate have made some amazing discoveries.

- **“The fact that the Standard Oil Company discovered oil and is**

operating wells in Egypt is generally known, but the reason for its going to that ancient land to look for oil is probably not so well known.

- **"It is asserted that one of the directors of the company happened to read the second chapter of Exodus. The third verse caught his attention. It states that the ark of bulrushes which the mother of Moses made for her child was 'daubed with slime and with pitch.'**
- **"This gentleman reasoned that where there was pitch, there must be oil, and if there was oil in Moses' time, it is probably still there. So the company sent out Charles Whitshott, its geologist and oil expert, to make investigations, with the result that oil was discovered." —Patti Lee Tan**

5. No historical discovery is a direct evidence of any spiritual claim in the Bible, such as the claim to be divinely inspired; nevertheless the historicity of the Bible does provide indirect verification of the claim of inspiration.

#### C. Evidence from the testimony of Christ

- **In connection with the evidence from the historicity of the biblical documents is the evidence of the testimony of Christ.**
- **Since the New Testament has been documented as historical, and since those same historical documents provide the teaching of Christ about the inspiration of the Bible, one needs only to assume the truthfulness of Christ in order to argue for the inspiration of the Bible.**
- **In other words, if Christ possesses any kind of authority or integrity as a religious teacher, then the Scriptures are inspired, for He taught that they are God's Word.**
- **The evidence from Scripture conclusively reveals that Jesus held to the full divine authority of the Scriptures.**
- **The gospel records, with ample historical backing, show that Jesus was a man of integrity and truth. The argument, then, is this:**

*If what Jesus taught is true,  
And Jesus taught that the Bible is inspired,  
Then it follows that it is true that the Bible is inspired of God.*

- **In order to deny the authority of Scripture one must reject the integrity of Christ.**

## D. Evidence from prophecy

1. Another forceful external testimony to the inspiration of Scripture is the fact of fulfilled prophecy.

- **According to Deuteronomy 18, a prophet was false if he made predictions that were never fulfilled.**
- **No prophecy of the Bible about events to the present day has gone unfulfilled. Hundreds of predictions, some of them given hundreds of years in advance, have been literally fulfilled.**
- **The time (Dan. 9), city (Mic. 5:2), and nature (Isa. 7:14) of Christ's birth were foretold in the Old Testament, as were dozens of other things about His life, death, and resurrection (Isa. 53). Each and every one were fulfilled in exact detail**
- **Numerous other prophecies have been fulfilled, including the destruction of Edom (Obad. 1), the curse on Babylon (Isa. 13), the destruction of Tyre (Ezek. 26) and Nineveh (Nah. 1-3), and the return of Israel to the Land (Isa. 11:11).**
- **Other books claim divine inspiration, such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon. But none of those books contains predictive prophecy. As a result, fulfilled prophecy is a strong indication of the unique, divine authority of the Bible.**

2. The fulfilled prophecies of the Bible is an inexhaustible topic; here is a partial listing of Old and New Testament prophecies that have already been fulfilled.

<b>PROPHECY</b>	<b>OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE</b>	<b>NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT</b>
<b>His virgin birth</b>	<b>Isa. 7:14</b>	<b>Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:30—35</b>
<b>His birthplace in Bethlehem</b>	<b>Mic. 5:2</b>	<b>Luke 2:4—7</b>
<b>His forerunner, John the Baptist</b>	<b>Isa. 40:3</b>	<b>John 1:6—8, 19—23</b>
<b>His Triumphal Entry</b>	<b>Zech. 9:9—10</b>	<b>John 12:12—19</b>

<b>His side pierced at Calvary</b>	<b>Zech. 12:1 0</b>	<b>John 19:34</b>
<b>His cry, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”</b>	<b>Ps. 22:1 *</b>	<b>Matt. 27:46</b>
<b>Darkness at His crucifixion</b>	<b>Ps. 22:2</b>	<b>Matt. 27:45</b>
<b>Mocking at His crucifixion</b>	<b>Ps. 22:6—8</b>	<b>Matt. 27:39—43</b>
<b>His hands and feet pierced</b>	<b>Ps. 22:16</b>	<b>John 20:24—29</b>
<b>Casting lots for His vesture</b>	<b>Ps. 22:18</b>	<b>Matt. 27:35</b>
<b>His unbroken bones</b>	<b>Ps. 34:20</b>	<b>John 19:36</b>
<b>Given vinegar to drink</b>	<b>Ps. 69:21</b>	<b>Matt. 27:34, 48</b>
<b>Buried in a rich man’s grave near the wicked</b>	<b>Isa. 53:9</b>	<b>Matt. 27:57—60</b>
<b>Christ’s Resurrection</b>	<b>Ps. 16:10 Hos. 6:2</b>	<b>Luke 24:1—7</b>
<b>Christ’s Ascension</b>	<b>Ps. 110:1 Ps. 24:3—10</b>	<b>Acts 1:8—11</b>

- **\*Note: An amazing aspect of David’s prophecies in Psalm 22 is that David was not aware of crucifixion as a form of capital punishment. As he was writing (approximately 1000 B.C.), the most common form of capital punishment for the nation of Israel was stoning.**
- **“When it is remembered that crucifixion was a Roman, not Jewish, form of execution, the proof of inspiration is irresistible.” —C. I. Scofield**

a) The destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70

- *“And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Matt. 24:2*
- *In A.D. 70 the Roman armies under Titus besieged Jerusalem for 143 days. Josephus states that Titus finally ordered the entire city to be burned to the ground. The city wall “was so completely leveled with the ground that there was no longer anything to lead those who visited the spot to believe that it had ever been inhabited.”*
- *It was said that the heat of the burning city melted the gold of the temple. The resulting liquid seeped between the large foundational stones. The greedy soldiers (regularly paid by plunder) took the temple apart stone by stone in order to reach the gold.*

b) The unnatural death of Simon Peter prophesied by Jesus Christ

- *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, ...when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.” John 21:18—19*
- *Jerome states that Simon Peter (at his request) was crucified upside down. Peter felt he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Master.*

E. Evidence from the influence of the Bible

- **No book has been more widely distributed and has more broadly influenced the course of world events than the Bible.**
- **The Bible has been translated into more languages, been published in more copies, influenced more thought, inspired more art, and motivated more discoveries than any other book in history.**
- **The Bible has been translated into over one thousand languages representing more than ninety percent of the world’s population. It has been published in billions of copies.**
  - **There are no close seconds to it on the all-time bestseller list. The influence of the Bible and its teaching in the Western world is clear for all who study history. And the influential role of the West in the course of world events is equally clear.**
  - **Civilization has been influenced more by the Christian Scriptures than by any other book or series of books in the world.**

- **No great moral or religious work in the world exceeds the depth of morality in the principle of Christian love, and none has a more lofty spiritual concept than the biblical view of God. The Bible presents the highest ideals known to men, ideals that have molded civilization.**

#### F. Evidence from the apparent indestructibility of the Bible

1. Despite its importance (or maybe because of it), the Bible has suffered more vicious attacks than would be expected to be made on such a book. But the Bible has withstood all its attackers.

- **The Roman emperor Diocletian (A.D. 245—313) decreed in A.D. 303 that every Bible should be destroyed. He had been told that if he could destroy the Bible he would destroy Christianity because “Christians are a people of the Book.” Feeling he had succeeded, Diocletian raised a column with the inscription (in Latin): “the name of Christian is extinguished”. He attempted to exterminate it and yet it is the most widely published book in the world today.**
- **The French atheist Voltaire (1694—1778) boasted, “One hundred years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker.” Twenty years after the death of Voltaire, the Geneva Bible Society purchased his house for printing the Bible. It later became the Paris headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society, which stored and distributed Bibles throughout Europe. “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa. 40:8).**
- **Biblical critics once regarded much of it as mythological, but archaeology has established it as historical.**
- **Skeptics have cast doubt on its authenticity, and yet more men are convinced of its truth today than ever. And the bible is the reason many of those same skeptics are not bible apologists**
- **Attacks on the Bible continue to arise from science, psychology, and political movements, but the Bible remains undaunted.**
- **Like the wall four-feet high and four-feet wide, attempts to blow it over accomplish nothing. The Bible remains just as strong after the attack.**

- **Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Mark 13:31).**

2. The indestructibility of the Bible was promised.

- **“The word of our God shall stand for ever” Isa. 40:8**
- **“My word . . . shall not return unto me void.” Isa.55: 11**
- **“My words shall not depart out of thy mouth.” Isa. 59:21**
- **“One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law.” Matt. 5:18**
- **“My words shall not pass away.” Man. 24:35**
- **“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one little of the law to fail.” Luke 16:17**

3. YET IT LIVES

**Generation follows generation—yet it lives.  
 Nations rise and fall—yet it lives.  
 Kings, dictators, presidents come and go—yet it lives.  
 Hated, despised, cursed—yet it lives.  
 Doubted, suspected, criticized—yet it lives.  
 Condemned by atheists—yet it lives.  
 Scoffed at by scorners—yet it lives.  
 Exaggerated by fanatics—yet it lives.  
 Misconstrued and misstated—yet it lives.  
 Ranted and raved about—yet it lives.  
 Its inspiration denied—yet it lives.**

**Yet it lives—as a lamp to our feet.  
 Yet it lives—as a light to our path.  
 Yet it lives—as the gate to heaven.  
 Yet it lives—as a standard for childhood.  
 Yet it lives—as a guide for youth.  
 Yet it lives—as an inspiration for the matured.  
 Yet it lives—as a comfort for the aged.  
 Yet it lives—as food for the hungry.  
 Yet it lives—as water for the thirsty.  
 Yet it lives—as rest for the weary.  
 Yet it lives—as light for the heathen.  
 Yet it lives—as salvation for the sinner.  
 Yet it lives—as grace for the Christian.**

**To know it is to love it.  
To love it is to accept it.  
To accept it means life eternal.**

—Author Unknown,

#### G. Evidence from the integrity of the human authors

1. There are no good reasons to suppose that the authors of Scripture were not honest and sincere men. From everything that is known of the disciples' lives—even their deaths for what they believed—they were utterly convinced that God had spoken to them.

- **What shall be made of men—over five hundred of them (1 Cor. 5:6)—who claim as evidence for the divine authority of their message that they saw Jesus of Nazareth, crucified under Pontius Pilate, alive and well?**
- **What shall be made of the claim that they saw Him on about a dozen occasions over a period of a month and a half? That they talked with Him, ate with Him, saw His wounds, and handled Him, and even the most skeptical among them fell at His feet and cried, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28)?**
- **It reveal their gullibility and ignorance to believe that the disciples were all drugged or deluded, especially in view of the number and nature of their encounters and the lasting effect on them. Not to mentioned the fact that ALL of them were willing to die rather than to renounce this truth!**

2. The honesty and integrity of the biblical writers support and certify the divine authority of their writings.

3. “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Gal 1:11-12 KJV)

#### H. Evidence from miracles

1. Another support for the inspiration of Scripture comes from miracles. A miracle is an act of God and confirms the Word of God by a prophet of God.

- **Nicodemus said to Jesus, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs [miracles] that You do unless God is with him” (John 3:2).**

- **Peter said to the crowd at Pentecost, “Jesus the Nazarene, [was] a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him” (Acts 2:22).**
2. The same is true of other spokesmen for God in the Bible.
    - **Moses, for example, was given the ability to perform miracles so that Egypt would believe his message was from God (Ex. 4:1-9).**
    - **So were other prophets, such as Elijah (1 Kings 18) and Elisha (2 Kings 4).**
  3. In the New Testament the apostles’ message was confirmed by miracles.
    - **Hebrews says, How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. (Heb. 2:3-4)**
    - **Because there were miracles to confirm the prophetic messages given by authors of Scripture, then the Bible is confirmed to be the Word of God by acts of God (miracles).**
  4. One of the most interesting arguments for the inspiration of the Bible has been suggested by Charles Wesley.

**The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.**

(1) It could not be the invention of good men or angels; for they neither would or could make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying “Thus saith the Lord,” when it was their own invention.

(2) It could not be the invention of bad men or devils; for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell to all eternity.

(3) Therefore, I draw this conclusion, that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.

5. One apologist put it this way:

**“Of course these arguments do not rationally demonstrate the divine origin of Scripture beyond all question. Even if they did objectively prove the inspiration of the Bible, it would not necessarily follow that they would persuade everyone. Rather, they**

are evidences, testimonies, and witnesses. As witnesses they must be cross-examined and evaluated as a whole. Then, in the jury room of one's own soul—a decision must be made—a decision that is based not on rationally inescapable proofs but on evidence that is 'beyond reasonable doubt.'"

Perhaps all that need be added here is that the claim for the inspiration of the Bible is on trial, and each individual is part of a jury called upon for a verdict. That being the case, based on a comprehensive examination of the claim and alleged credentials of the Bible to be inspired, the jury would be compelled to vote that the Bible is "guilty of being inspired as charged."

For those who tend to be indecisive, one is reminded of the words of Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). In other words, if the Bible—with its clear-cut claim to be inspired, as well as its incomparable characteristics and multiple credentials—is not inspired, then to what else can one turn? It has the words of eternal life.

6. The Bible claims to be and proves to be the Word of God. There are general claims for the Bible as a whole and more specific claims for sections and even individual books. This is true of both Old and New Testaments.
7. Support for the Bible's claim to be the written Word of God comes from many sources.

**First, the very nature of the Bible itself.**

**Second, the witness of the Spirit to the heart of the believer adds further confirmation to the Bible's inspiration.**

**Third, the transforming ability of Scripture is indication of its divine origin.**

**Fourth, the very unity of the Bible amid all its diversity of authors, languages, and topics bespeaks of a divine Mind behind it.**

**Fifth, the historicity of the Bible as confirmed by a multitude of archaeological discoveries, lends further support to its claim to divine authority.**

**Sixth, the testimony of Christ is a clear indication it is the very Word of God.**

**Seventh, uniquely the Bible offers numerous fulfilled prophecies as confirmation of its divine character.**

**Eighth**, the influence of the Bible has been more widespread than any other book in the world.

**Ninth**, the apparent indestructibility of the Bible is another indication it is from God.

**Tenth**, the integrity of the human authors also lends support to their claims for inspiration.

**Eleventh**, miracles confirm the Bible to be the Word of God.

**Twelfth**, there is the argument from alternate possibility, suggesting the unlikeliness that it was invented by either good or evil creatures but rather that it truly came from God as claimed.

8. Some of these arguments alone are indecisive. But when all of them are taken together they form a very persuasive argument that the Bible is indeed the Word of God.

9. In fact, no other book in the world has such widespread and unique support for its claim to be the inspired Word of God.

#### I. THE BIBLE IS—

**The charter of all true liberty.  
The forerunner of all civilization.  
The molder of institutions and governments.  
The fashion of law.  
The secret of national progress.  
The guide of history.  
The ornament and mainspring of literature.  
The inspiration of philosophies.  
The text-book of ethics.  
The light of the intellect.  
The soul of all strong heart life.  
The illuminator of darkness.  
The foe of superstition.  
The enemy of oppression.  
The uprooter of sin.  
The comfort in sorrow.  
The strength in weakness.  
The pathway in perplexity.  
The escape from temptation.  
The steadier in the day of power.  
The embodiment of all lofty ideals.  
The begetter of life.**

The promise of the future.  
The star of death's night.  
The revealer of God.  
The guide and the hope and the inspiration of man.

—Bishop Win. F Anderson

## **VII. The Proofs of Inspiration continued... (The scientific accuracy of the Bible)**

A. Although the Bible was not written as a science book, yet when the Bible speaks concerning matters of science, it is scientifically accurate.

- ***Science has demonstrated that there is a supernatural, super-intelligent Creator of the universe, just as the book of Genesis declares (1:1, 27; 2:4). In addition, the Bible foresaw many things that have only been known by science centuries later.***

1. Moisture in the atmosphere goes through a cycle of evaporation and condensation.

- **The process we know of as evaporation, condensation, and precipitation was described in the Bible in these terms centuries before scientists knew how it worked:**
- **“All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again” (Eccl. 1:7).**
- **Before it rained in the Garden of Eden, it says, But streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground—the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Gen. 2:6–7)**
- **He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures. (Ps 135:7)**
- **Here again, the biblical author’s description, perhaps without being aware of the modern technicalities, is in perfect accord with what the Bible declared centuries in advance.**

2. The earth is round in shape

- **Unlike the ancient belief that the world was square, the Bible**

**declares that the earth is round. Isaiah wrote, “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in” (Isa. 40:22).**

3. The earth rotates upon its axis.

- **“The earth - . . . is turned as clay to the seal,” Job 38:13—14**

4. The earth is suspended in space.

- **One of the oldest books in the Bible, whose story goes back to around four thousand years ago, declared that the earth was hung in space. While other myths in the ancient world held that the earth rested on the back of Hercules or rested on pillars, Job said of God, “He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing” (Job 26:7).**

5. The Sea Has Paths and Boundaries

- **The Bible also states well in advance of modern science that the sea has paths.**
- **Psalm 8:8 wrote of “the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.”**
- **Proverbs 8:29 adds, “He gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and ... he marked out the foundations of the earth.”**
- **The continental shelf that makes this possible is a fairly recent discovery of modern science.**
- **Matthew Maury (1806—1873). Matthew Maury spent much of his life as a United States naval officer traveling on the oceans of the world. During an illness he read in the Psalms a reference to “the paths of the seas” (Ps. 8:8). Believing in the complete scientific accuracy of the Bible, he searched and found what the Bible had revealed thousands of years earlier: the ocean currents travel in specific paths. He was able to gather enough information from many voyages to be able to chart those currents on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. As a result, those who followed his charts were able to cut down their sailing time considerably.**

6. Tides vary in the late evening and early morning hours.

- **“He hath compassed the waters with. bounds, until the day and night conic to an end.” Job 26:10**
7. The stars cannot be numbered.
- **“The host of heaven cannot he numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured.” Jer. 33:22**
  - **Note: In 130 B.C. Hipparchus counted 1.022 stars, and in A.D. 200 Ptolemy counted 1,026 stars. Man still does not know the total number of stars in the universe.**
8. The atmosphere has weight.
- **“to make the weight for the winds” Job 28:25**
  - **Note: This was not known by scientists until the seventeenth century.**
9. The stars travel in certain paths.
- **the stars in their courses” Judg. 5:20**
10. Life Is in the Blood... The blood sustains life.
- **Another secret of modern science, hidden for centuries, was announced over three thousand years ago in the Bible.**
  - **Moses wrote in Leviticus (17:11): “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”**
  - **It is likewise known by modern science that life is in the blood, a fact attested to by a loss of blood bringing death.**
11. The universe is running down.
- **“The earth . . . and the heavens. . . . shall wax old like a garment.” Ps. 102:25—26**
12. The stars are a great distance from the earth.
- **“And behold the height of the stars, how high they are!” Job 22:12**
13. The stars differ in magnitude.
- **“One star differeth from another star in glory.” 1 Cor 15:41**

14. The chemical composition of man and the earth is identical. (Human Bodies Were Made From the Earth)

- **Many ancient polytheistic beliefs claim that humans came from the gods or that they evolved from lower animals.**
- **Modern naturalistic science concurs with the latter, though the means of evolving has changed. Other religious books claim equally unscientific views. The Qur'an, for example, teaches that human beings were created from a "blood clot" (Sura 23:14).**
- **By contrast, the Bible declares, "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7).**
- **Solomon added that at death, "The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7).**
- **For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Ps 103:14)**
- **Modern science confirms the biblical record, showing that, in addition to being largely water, the human body is made of the very same elements found in the earth.**

15. Everything Reproduces After Its Kind

- **Further, the first chapter of Genesis informs us that everything reproduces "after its kind," a scientific fact contrary to many ancient and even earlier modern "hopeful monster views" that in effect a reptile laid an egg and a chicken hatched from it.**
- **Both repeated observation and the fossil record demonstrate that each type of life produces its own kind. Indeed, even noted evolutionist Stephen J. Gould declared, Most species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on earth. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear; morphological change is usually limited and directionless. [Further,] in any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors: it appears all at once and "fully formed" ("EEP" in NH, 13–14).**

16. The Laws of Sanitation

- **The book of Leviticus, long before there was any knowledge of**

**bacteria and germs, set forth laws of sanitation and cleansing that presuppose a knowledge that diseases spread by germs invisible to the naked eye (cf. Lev. 12–15).**

- **Cleansing of hands, dishes, and clothes, as well as laws for disposing, of human waste all reveal a source in touch with knowledge known by the Creator.**
- **While modern science has demonstrated that there is a supernatural, super-intelligent Creator of the universe, the writer of Genesis had access to this information thousands of years in advance.**

## B. WHAT GREAT SCIENTISTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. “Why will people go astray when they have this blessed Book to guide them?” --Michael Faraday
2. “I all the great books of the world were given life and were brought together in Convention, the moment the Bible entered, the other books would fall on their faces as the gods of Philistia fell when the ark of God was brought into their presence in the temple of Dagon.” —sir Isaac Newton
3. “I like to study the Guide Book to the country where I am going.” —Samuel F. B. Morse
4. “All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more strongly the truths contained in the Holy Scriptures.” --Sir William Herschel
5. “The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God and which He revealed to us in the language of mathematics.” --Johannes Kepler

## C. The inerrancy of the Bible.

- ***The doctrine of inerrancy is not directly taught in Scripture, although it is logically implied. Two things, however, are directly taught:***

1. The Bible is the Word of God.(All scripture is God breathed)
2. God cannot err (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2; Rom. 3:4).
3. The logically necessary result of these two premises is that (3) the Bible cannot err.

## 4. SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- **Some important definitions:** The terms *inspiration*, *infallibility*, and *inerrancy* are all related. *Inspiration* means “breathed out by God,” “what comes from God Himself” (2 Tim. 3:16–17). *Infallibility* means “what has divine authority,” “what cannot be broken” (John 10:34–35). *Inerrancy* means “what is without error,” “wholly true.”
- **What is inspired is infallible**, since *inspired* means to be breathed out by God, and what is God-breathed cannot be in error.
- **Likewise, what is infallible**, since it has divine authority, must also be inerrant—a divinely authoritative error is a contradiction in terms.
- **However, not everything inerrant is divinely authoritative.** A phone book could be without error, but it would not thereby have divine authority. Hence, inerrancy is implied in a proper understanding of infallibility, but infallibility does not follow from inerrancy.

D. Inerrancy means the Bible is without error throughout, whether it is speaking historically, scientifically, morally or spiritually.

1. An inerrant Book indicates a perfect Author.
  - **(Inaccurate writings or speeches would reveal a less-than-perfect author.)**
  - **“How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Law hath not spoken.” Deut. 18:21—22**
2. The Bible claims that every detail within its pages is without error.
  - **“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Mats. 5:18**
3. Christ authenticated the passages which have most often been challenged as to their accuracy.

<b>Matthew 12:40</b>	<b>Jonah and the great fish</b>
<b>Matthew 12:41</b>	<b>Repentance of the city of Nineveh</b>

<b>Matthew 19:3—9</b>	<b>creation and marriage</b>
<b>Luke 17:26—27</b>	<b>The Flood</b>
<b>Luke 17:28—29</b>	<b>Destruction of Sodom</b>
<b>Luke 17:32</b>	<b>Lot’s wife turned into a pillar of salt</b>
<b>Luke 4:27</b>	<b>Miraculous healing of Naaman’s leprosy</b>
<b>John 3:14</b>	<b>The brazen serpent</b>

4. Those who most often question the accuracy of the Bible are those who do not give it serious study. “The Bible is full of errors” is an expression usually repeated by an individual ignorant of Biblical truth.

5. WHAT OUTSTANDING MEN AND WOMEN HAVE SAID ABOUT THE BIBLE

- **“What is the secret of England’s superiority among the nations? Go tell your prince that this is the secret of England’s political greatness.” —Queen Victoria of England**
- **“Forty years I have loved the Word of God. I feel the blessed pages under my hand with special thankfulness, as a rod and a staff to keep my steps firm through the valley of shadow of depression and world calamity. Truly, the Bible, the teaching of our Savior, is the ‘only way out of the dark.’ “ --Hellen Keller**
- **“The Bible, a book in comparison with which, in my eyes, all others are of minor importance, has never failed to give me strength.” — Robert E. Lee**
- **“If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.” --Daniel Webster**

- ***The Word of God needs no proof. It has self-vindicating authority because it is God's Word. After all, God is the highest authority (Heb. 6:13). Hence, there is nothing greater than God to which one could appeal for authority. So the Word of God is its own authority. And if the Bible is God's Word, then the same is true of the Bible it too would speak with ultimate authority.***

## **VIII. The Canonicity of the Bible:**

A canon is a measuring rod, rule, or standard. In reference to the Bible, the Canon means those books measured and found satisfactory as a part of the inspired Word of God. Canonicity is a book's right to be included in the Biblical Canon because 1) God has determined it so and 2) man has recognized it as inspired by God.

### **A. Canonicity is determined by God.**

- **Canonicity must be viewed in two stages. Canonicity is determined by God and recognized by man. But man's attitude does not dictate whether or not a book is canonical. A specific book is valuable because it is canonical, not canonical because it is valuable. If the latter were true, man would become the final authority in determining God's Word.**
- **In spite of the fact that the Bible does not discuss the canonization of the Bible per se, it may not be as difficult to determine as might first be imagined. Little else was being written when the books of the Old Testament were being recorded. The Scripture was given by God to men who were in positions of authority and were consistently considered to be the spokesmen for God. Moses, for example, simply preserved in writing what God had orally given to him. Fifty percent of Exodus and ninety percent of Leviticus are direct quotations from God.**
- **In the New Testament, the words of Christ (God incarnate) revealed much about the books He determined to be canonical. Jesus Christ quoted freely from many of the books of the Old Testament and referred to them as Scripture from God. He also stamped with divine approval the books that would be written (the New Testament).**

#### **1. Christ quoting Psalm 118:22—23:**

- **The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.  
Ps 118:22-23 NKJV**

- **Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Matt 21:42**

## **2. Christ quoting Isaiah 61:1—2:**

- **"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, Isa 61:1-2**
- **So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" Luke 4:16-22**

## **3. Christ pre-authenticating the New Testament:**

- **However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. John 16:13-14**

### ***B. Canonicity is recognized by man.***

- **How did the early church leaders recognize God's Word? The following five questions were posed by the early church leaders as an aid in accurately recognizing God's Word. By means of the following questions they were able to recognize the canonicity of the 66 books of our Bible.**

### **1. Is it authoritative?**

- **The first question they asked was: “Does a particular book have the authority of God behind it?” Use of phrases such as “thus saith the Lord,” and “the word of the Lord came” were considered significant. No Hebrew individual would have lightly added phrases such as those to any book unless he knew it was actually the Word of God.**

### **2. Is it prophetic?**

- **The next question they asked was whether or not a book was written by a man of God (e.g., a prophet or one with apostolic authority). Some books were temporarily questioned because of differences in style from one of an author’s writings to another. But it was quickly realized that one person can easily write in two different styles depending upon the content of his writing. A lawyer writes far differently when he is preparing a legal brief than when he is writing a love letter to his wife.**
- **It should be pointed out that the fact that a book was questioned does not mean its case for canonicity is weak. On the contrary, solid testing makes it stronger because it has passed the test and come forth as gold. These early scholars had such a holy reverence for the Word of God that they wanted to make sure they were not guilty of adding to the Word of God a book that had no right to be considered such. Who were these human writers of the words that were breathed of God? Although some are unknown, the ones that are known were clearly men of God (see chart in Appendix Page 1).**

### **3. Is it authentic?**

- **This question attempts to determine whether or not a certain book reveals God’s truth. A book that taught lying for the glory of God or prayer for the dead was quickly rejected. It was not considered to be authentic. Most of the Apocrypha (books written between the Old and New Testaments) was denied canonicity because of its failure to agree with the Scriptures. The Apocrypha is not authentic; therefore, it is not a part of the Canon.**
- **It should also be noted that the Lord does not approve of all the sentiments which the Bible records. Inspiration indicates the accuracy of the record but does not indicate that God is pleased with the sins and some of the statements that are recorded. God**

cannot condone sin nor approve Satan's lies. These revelations were given to us so we could see the folly of sin and life apart from God.

- The book of Ecclesiastes is an example of this. In Ecclesiastes God shows us that the best of the conclusions that a man can reach on his own about the wisdom of life is "vanity."

#### 4. Is it dynamic?

- This question seeks to discover whether a book possesses the power of God. Is the book able to change lives? Each book has as its theme Jesus Christ. Luke 24:44 records that the entire Old Testament speaks of Christ. The Old Testament as well as the New Testament is sufficient to lead a person to the Savior. Each book possesses the power of God.

*But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 3:14-15*

#### 5. Was it received, used, and preserved by the people of God?

- 2 Peter 3:15—16 indicates that the writings of Paul were immediately accepted as canonical.

*Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:14-16*

- The other books of the Bible were quickly accepted and used as Scripture as they became available. The early Jews went to great lengths to preserve the writings of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The writings of the early church leaders consistently quoted from these sources as being authoritative.
- Many years ago in England a group of Bible scholars were discussing different thought-provoking questions. The question arose, "Suppose the New Testament had been destroyed and every

copy lost at the end of the third century; could it be reconstructed from the writings of the Church Fathers of the second and third centuries?” One individual at that meeting, Sir David Dalrymple (1726—1792), accepted the challenge. For the next two months he searched through all the documents of the second and third century church leaders. He reported back to the group that, in spite of his limited time and resources, he had been able to reconstruct from the writings of those early expositors of God’s Word the entire New Testament except for eleven verses.

6. See appendix for quotes of the immediate acceptance of the scriptures (see [Appendix Page 1](#)).

7. See appendix for what American Presidents have said about the bible (see [Appendix Page 2](#)).

## IX. The Canonicity of the Bible (continued)

*We have seen how God determined in eternity past which books to include in the canon of Scripture. We also learned the process by which man was able to recognize the Scripture as being from God. Any question of canonicity was removed when Jesus Christ, God Himself, approved of the 39 books of the Old Testament and pre-authenticated the 27 books of the New Testament.*

### **A. The canonicity of the Old Testament was approved by Christ.**

1. The Old Testament’s three main sections were approved by Christ. ‘

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." Luke 24:44

- It is clear that the threefold division of the Old Testament that Christ alluded to was the typical division of the Old Testament in His day. Josephus, Jewish historian of the first century, described the Old Testament canon in this exact threefold manner:

- **See Appendix Page 3 for - JOSEPHUS DIVISION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT\***

a) \*Several books seem to have been grouped as one during the time of Christ (and Josephus). In addition, one book often stood as the title for all other books in its section, For example, “Psalms” was the title for

the poetic section in the first century.

## 2. Jesus Christ approved the Old Testament Canon.

From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. Luke 11:51

- **See Appendix Page 3 for - MODERN DIVISION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**
- The “blood of Abel” is found in Genesis 4:8, and the “blood of Zacharias” is found in 2 Chronicles 24:21. While Genesis is the first book of the Hebrew Old Testament, 2 Chronicles is the last book (see chart below). Christ is putting His stamp of approval on every book of the Old Testament from the first to the last.
- **See Appendix Page 3 for - ORDER OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS IN THE HEBREW BIBLE**
- **See Appendix Page 4 for – CHRONOLOGY OF HEBREW HISTORY**
- It must also be kept in mind that our present listing of Old and New Testament books is not chronological. The major and minor prophets were writing during the times of the kings, the Babylonian exile, and the return of the Jews to Jerusalem. The chart above may be helpful in getting the correct perspective of our Old Testament books and Hebrew history. (The entire New Testament was written during the first century, closing with the book of the Revelation, which was written in A.D. 95—96.)

## 3. Quotations of the Old Testament by Christ show His approval of the canon.

- **See Appendix Page 4 for – In the four Gospels there are at least thirty-five direct references to the Scriptures by the Son of God:**

### ***B. The canonicity of the New Testament was preauthenticated by Christ.***

#### **1. Christ preapproved of the New Testament by promises He made to the apostles.**

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. John 16:13

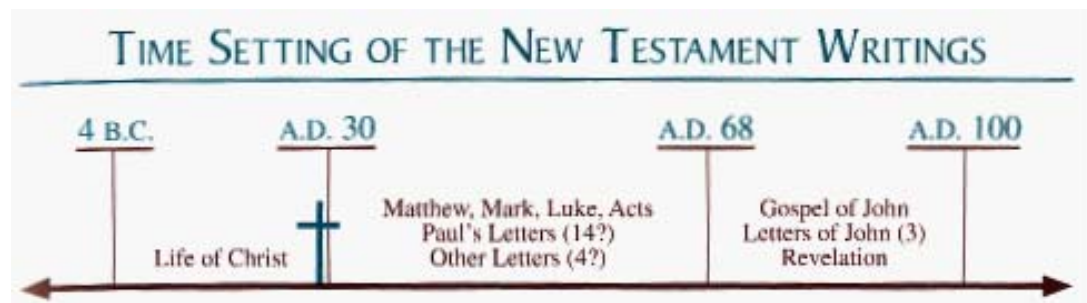
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26

## 2. The apostles were aware that God was giving them His precious Word.

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:30-31

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 1 Cor 2:13

- **See Appendix Page 4 for – MODERN DIVISION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**
- **The writer of a New Testament book had to be an individual with apostolic authority. We believe, therefore, that when the apostle John finished writing the book of the Revelation the New Testament canon was complete.**



### C. *The canonicity of the Apocrypha is rejected.*

- **The Apocrypha is a group of books written during the period between the Old and the New Testaments and found in the Roman Catholic versions of the Bible. They are denied canonicity for the following reasons:**
  1. **They never claim inspiration for themselves.**
  2. **Some of their teaching is heretical.**

- The Apocrypha teaches such un-Scriptural doctrines as sinless perfection, the worship of angels, prayer for the dead, and almsgiving for salvation. Notice the obviously wrong statements of the Apocrypha given at the top of p. 58.

3. They were never sanctioned by the early church leaders. On one occasion Augustine argued Bible doctrine with a contemporary. His antagonist proceeded to quote from 2 Maccabees. Augustine replied that his case must be weak if he had to resort to a book not in the same category as those received and accepted by the Jews.

4. They were never allowed a place in the canon for the first four centuries after Christ.

- In A.D. 404 Jerome, in translating the Latin Vulgate, distinguished the Apocrypha from the Canon, which in effect accorded to them a secondary status. Some of the apocryphal books were included with early copies of the English Bible, but mainly as a historical reference. Those same English Bibles also included detailed genealogical records and a complete hymnal. Since printed material was at a premium the early church member could find everything he needed in one volume, some inspired (the Bible) and some not (the Apocrypha, genealogies, expository notes, and hymns).

#### Apocryphal Heresy

*“For alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin. Those that exercise alms and righteousness, shall be filled with life.” Tobit 12:9*

*“For if he had not hoped that they that were slain should have risen again, it had been superfluous and vain, to pray for the dead.” 2 Maccahees 12:44*

5. Books in the Apocrypha not only contradict the Bible, but they also contradict each other.

6. The quality of the Apocrypha is far below that of the Bible, even to the point of occasionally teaching immorality.

- The Apocrypha teaches that lying can be all right on occasion if it is done “for the glory of God.” It also recommends suicide, assassination, and black magic as viable alternatives in critical situations.

7. The books of the Apocrypha were never received by the people of God.

- **See Appendix Page 5 for – THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS**
- **See Appendix Page 5 for – WHAT INTELLECTUALS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE BIBLE**

## **X. The Study and Interpretation of the Bible**

- **See Appendix Pages 5 to 7 for – Greek Verb System Chart**

### **A. Principles of Bible study**

- **We have the wonderful privilege as Christians of being able to understand the Scriptures. This is possible because we have the Holy Spirit as our teacher. We call this illumination. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit giving the Christian the ability to understand the Scriptures. This truth is clearly taught in God's Word.**
  - **“Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father.” Matt. 16:17**
  - **"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13**
  - **“But the natural [unsaved] man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ” 1 Cor. 2:14**

### **Important Definitions**

**Revelation--God's disclosing to man things about Himself that man could not know otherwise.**

**Inspiration--God's unique "breathing" of His words into the human writers of Scripture.**

**Illumination--God's teaching Christian the truths of His Word. (Like the light being turned on)**

- **Although we have the Holy Spirit as our teacher, He cannot guide us if we do not read God's Word. The Bible is simple enough so all Christians can understand it. Theologians refer to the perspicuity [pur-spl-ku-i-ti] of Scripture, that is, the fact that it is easily understood. Since God gave the Bible to us, it would be worthwhile to learn some principles of Bible study.**

- 1. Be persistent in Bible study.**

- **The greatest difficulty for the average Christian in his Bible study is simply faithfulness. One day he may read twenty chapters, and the next day he will not read any chapters. It is no wonder he lives a defeated life. Someone has compared Bible reading to the Old Testament manna. The Christian must gather enough for each day. One cannot “stockpile” his devotions for several days and hope to survive spiritually. He must learn daily to come to God’s Word for spiritual nourishment.**
- **There will be days when we will not feel like reading God’s Word. At other times the reading will appear dull and uninteresting. The greatest of Christians have gone through times when their Bible reading was not a joyous experience. It was then they learned the lesson of persistence and soon the joy of Bible reading returned. We are commanded to faithfully read God’s Word. Our desire to read or not to read should not affect our regular devotions.**

*“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” Josh. 1:8*

- **The word meditate is an interesting word. It means to muse or to ponder, but the intensity of that meditation is what is stressed in Joshua 1:8. The same word in the Hebrew is found in several other places in the Old Testament.**

*“They that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.” Ps. 38:12*

*“For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief”  
Prov, 24:2*

- **The word is compared to an enemy who spends every waking moment plotting his next attack. The stress is on that enemy’s attitude. He is obsessed with vengeance. Similarly, God is commanding Joshua to become obsessed with the Word of God. The result will be a “prosperous way” (satisfactory accomplishment of all intended) and “success” (insight into the way God thinks).**

## **2. Make it personal.**

- **Each Christian must find a method of Bible study that works best for him. Often we try a pattern that worked for someone else, but we find it doesn’t work for us. One man said he read God’s Word**

until his heart burned within him (Luke 24:32). Someone else always reads the same number of chapters each day. Another reads through his Bible every year. Still another said he reads until he wants to read some more. Often those reading through the Bible become discouraged once they finish the easily read narratives. Find a plan that works best for you. Everyone who is successful at personal Bible study has a plan.

- Martin Luther said, “I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.”
- At a normal rate of reading it will take the average Christian 3 hours to read the Gospel of Luke, 41/2 hours to read the book of Psalms, 52 hours to read the Old Testament, 19 hours to read the New Testament, and less than 72 hours to read the entire Bible.

### 3. Let it purify you.

- It seems that occasionally the reading of Scripture does not result in a specific blessing to the reader. Has anything been accomplished? Many of God’s great truths will become a part of our lives without our realizing it. The Bible has the wonderful ability to cleanse our minds and motivate us to think like God Himself. Just as water does not need to be retained in order to cleanse, so the Word of God does not need to be completely retained in order to cleanse our minds of wrong thinking (Ps. 119:9; John 17:17; Eph. 5:26).

a) **See Appendix Page 7 for – How To READ THE BIBLE? —F. B. Meyer**

### ***B. Principles of Bible interpretation***

- As we study God’s Word, it is important to understand some basic principles of interpretation. These principles will keep us from the foolish mistakes of false religions which twist the Scripture “unto their own destruction” (2 Pet. 3:16). Sincere Bible students have formulated six principles to aid us in “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
- Some of these principles may require the study of Bible commentaries and other sources of information about the Bible. But remember that the Bible is the best commentary on the Bible. Whereas we can appreciate the work of godly men who dedicated their lives to the study

of God's Word, these principles are designed to be used by anyone who daily reads God's Word on his own.

## 1. Literal principle

a) The literal principle teaches that the words of Scripture should be interpreted in a normal, natural, proper way.

- *Because the Bible is God's message to mankind, it should not be looked upon in some mystical way. The Bible follows basic literary patterns of interpretation. A verb is still a verb and a noun is still a noun. We should not try to figure out special codes hidden in the letters and spellings of the Biblical language. In this sense the Bible is to be viewed as any other book. It is to be interpreted according to the normal rules of grammar, interpreted as literature.*
- *The narratives of Scripture are events which actually took place. They are not fables used to teach some higher "moral" or "spiritual" truth. If the Bible says a great fish swallowed Jonah, then that is exactly what it means. If the Bible says Jesus fed 5,000 men with five loaves and two fishes, we take it at its word.*

b) The literal principle does not reject the Bible's use of figurative language.

- *We realize that any good literature makes abundant use of similes, metaphors, and other figures of speech. But we should never interpret the Bible figuratively unless the Bible clearly indicates the use of non-literal language.*
- *"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense." —David L. Cooper*
- *Jesus Christ said on one occasion, "I am the door." We understand that He was not saying He was a literal door. We accept the fact that this passage should be interpreted "normally" as a picture of what Christ is in salvation: the only "way" to Heaven. A good question to ask as you read the Bible is this:*
- *If I were reading this passage for the first time without any preconceived ideas. what does this passage seem to be saying?*
- *Further examples of figurative language that are indicated as such are found in the book of Revelation:*
  - *"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And Power was given unto*

them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger; and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.” Rev. 6:8

- *Since Death and Hell cannot actually ride horses, we must conclude that this is figurative language. An excellent rule of interpretation is this: If the literal, normal interpretation of a Bible passage makes good sense, then it is to be taken literally: if the literal does not make good sense, then it is probably symbolic or figurative.*
  - “And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength” Rev. 1:16
- *The “stars” cannot actually be stars because the context tells us differently. Verse 20 explains that the “stars” are “angels of the seven churches.” The Bible will often explain its own symbolism.*
  - “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” Rev. 13:3
  - “And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.” Rev. 15:2
- *Phrases such as “as it were” allow us to assume the expression is like something else and can be interpreted figuratively. But unless the Bible explicitly gives us that right we should not become guilty of interpreting all passages in a figurative, symbolic sense.*

## 2. Historical principle

- We must be careful to view a passage in its original cultural and historical setting. The more we understand the times of the Bible characters the better we will be able to rightly divide the Word of God.
- A good illustration of this is Christ’s admonition to his disciples in Luke 10:3—4: “Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way,”
- If a person does not understand the culture of Christ’s day, he may conclude that this last command (“salute no man”) would result in a very rude group of soul-winners. But anyone who has traveled in the countries of Central and South America could explain what

Christ meant. “Saluting” is far more than simply saying hello to someone as they pass by. It was an elaborate form of greeting which often involved sitting down with an individual, asking about the welfare of each member of his family and discussing what might appear to an American as “small talk.” It is not unusual in these countries for “saluting” to last more than an hour. Christ knew these seventy disciples would not have time to spend an hour with each person they met if they were going to preach to hundreds.

### 3. Contextual principle

- A passage can be correctly interpreted by the correct understanding of the context in which it is found. This includes Old or New Testament, the book itself, the chapter, and the verses before and after the given passage.
- One passage that is occasionally taken out of context is found in Matthew 10:19: *“Take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.”*
- Some preachers have used this passage to justify their lack of sermon preparation. They believe God will give them the message as they stand to speak. But the context reveals that God is giving instructions to those who are brought before “the councils” and the “synagogues.” God’s promise was for those who were being persecuted not preachers preparing for Sunday.
- Without regard to the context of Scripture it is even possible to say that the Bible teaches “there is no God.” But in context the Scripture says: *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”*  
*Ps. 14:1*

### 4. Grammatical principle

- A passage cannot be fully understood unless the grammar of that passage is understood. Although some knowledge of Hebrew and Greek may be helpful, the grammatical principle also applies to the English syntax.
- A verse that shows the importance of the grammatical method is 1 John 5:18, “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not.”

- This verse, however, seems to contradict a verse found earlier in the same epistle, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:10).
- This problem can be reconciled by the grammatical principle. The present tense of the verb (sinneth) in 1 John 5:18 indicates a continual or habitual action. It would be perfectly acceptable to interpret the passage to read, “We know that whosoever is born of God doth not habitually commit the same sin.” A true Christian cannot continually live in sin without being chastised by his heavenly Father.

#### 5. Synthetical principle

- We must always interpret a verse of Scripture in the light of other passages of Scripture. The obscure passage should always be interpreted in the light of clear passages dealing with the same subject. It should be obvious that a verse that seems to teach that salvation is by works should be considered in the light of many verses that indicate salvation is by grace.
- The cults have become masters of taking one verse out of context and making it a pretext for false doctrine. It is never good Biblical exposition to base any doctrine on one isolated verse. When we do, we begin to interpret the Bible in a highly subjective manner.

#### 6. Practical principle

- We must ask ourselves the question: “What does this passage mean to me today?” We must view the Bible as more than an account of what God has done in the past. We need to ask the Lord daily to speak to our hearts through His Word.
- With these six principles in mind the student of God’s Word will not be guilty of misinterpreting Scripture.

*“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” 2 Cor. 2:17*

*“But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully.” 2 Cor. 4:2*

**C. See Appendix Page 7 for – PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION BY: Dr. R. A. Torrey**

- D. See Appendix Page 8 for – How TO DEAL WITH BIBLE DIFFICULTIES**
- E. See Appendix Page 9 for THIS BOOK CONTAINS & READ YOUR BIBLE**
- F. See Appendix Pages 9-12 for extra material on various bible publications**

