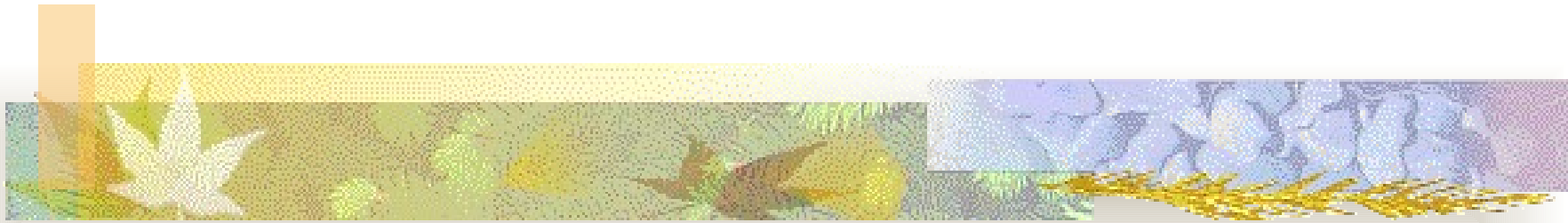


Is The Bible God's Word?



Dr. Heinz Lycklama

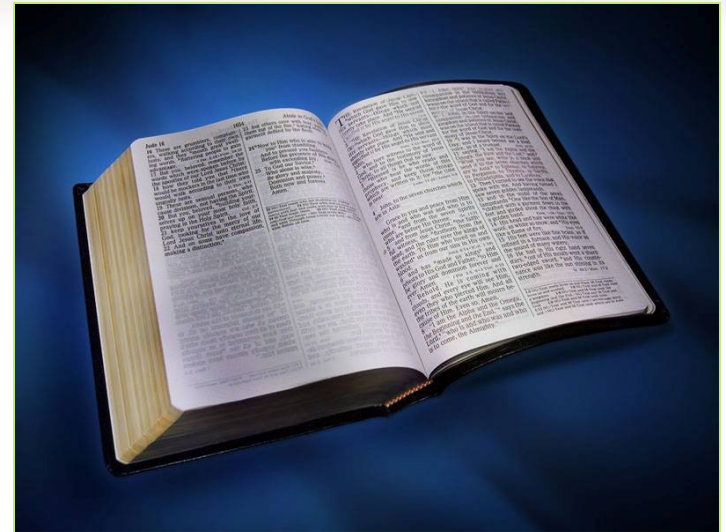
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Overview

- The Bible is unique
- How we got the Bible
- Is Scripture inspired?
- Christ's teaching on the OT
- Christ's view of the NT
- Historical reliability of the OT
- Historical reliability of the NT
- Supernatural wisdom of the Bible





Introduction

- How Do We Know That The Whole Bible Is God Speaking?
- Isn't the Bible just another religious book?
- **2 Tim. 3:16**, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
- **Heb. 1:1-2**, “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”



The Bible is Unique

- Bible is comprised of 66 books written by 40 different authors over a period of 1500+ years
- Yet the Bible tells one cohesive story that reveals our Creator's love and plan for a relationship with each of us
- The Bible makes many claims of supernatural origin
- How can we know that the events and thoughts in the Book are divine?



Bible was Written ...

- From 1450 BC to 90 AD
- By 40 different authors – kings, statesmen, philosophers, fishermen, poets, scholars, peasants, shepherds, tax collector, etc.
- In different places – wilderness, palace, dungeon, prison, island
- In different environments – war, peace
- On 3 continents – Asia, Africa, Europe
- In 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek



Bible Literary Styles

- Historical narrative
- Poetry
- Song
- Romance
- Personal letters
- Memoirs
- Biography
- Law
- Prophecy
- Parable
- Allegory
- Autobiography



Unique In Its Teaching

- Prophecy – 1000+, many already fulfilled
- History – 5 centuries, **1 Sam. -> 2 Chron.**
- Character
 - Deals with sins of its characters that reflect badly on God's leaders and chosen people
 - Sins of the patriarchs, **Gen. 12:11-13**
 - Sins of the people, **Deut. 9:24**
 - King David's adultery, **2 Sam. 11-12**
 - Gospel writers point out faults of the Apostles, **Matt. 8:10-26**
 - Disorder within the church is exposed, **1 Cor. 1:11**



How We Got The Bible

- OT originally written in Hebrew & Aramaic
 - Canonized around 300 BC
- NT originally written in Greek
 - Canonized around 375 AD
- First translation into English in 1382 AD by Wycliffe
- First printed in 1454 AD by Gutenberg
- Geneva Bible published in 1560 AD
 - Divided into chapters and verses
 - Prepared by the Reformers in Geneva



The Books of the Bible as Canon

- Canon – officially accepted list of books
- How were the books recognized?
 - Was the book written by a prophet of God?
 - If yes, then it was the Word of God
 - Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?
 - Did the message tell the truth about God?
 - Does it come with the power of God?
 - Was it accepted by the people of God?

Writer Confirmed By Acts of God?

- Moses given miraculous powers to prove his call of God, **Ex. 4:1-9**
- Elijah triumphed over the false prophets of Baal by a supernatural act, **1 Kin. 18**
- Jesus was attested to by God with miracles, wonders and signs, **Acts 2:22**
- A miracle is an act of God to confirm the Word of God given through a prophet of God to the people of God





Tell the Truth About God?

- God cannot contradict Himself,
2 Cor. 1:17-18
 - God is trustworthy
- God cannot lie, **Heb. 6:18**
 - “... it is impossible for God to lie ...”
- Church Fathers policy:
 - “If in doubt throw it out”



Come With the Power of God?

- The Fathers believed the Word of God is “living and active”, **Heb. 4:12**
- Ought to have a transforming force for edification, **2 Tim. 3:17**
- Ought to have a transforming force for evangelization, **1 Pet. 1:23**
- Should demonstrate the power to change a life



Accepted By the People of God?

- “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, ...”, **1 Th. 2:13**
 - The people knew Paul and accepted his writings
- “as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, ... , as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” **2 Pet. 3:16**
 - Peter recognizes Paul’s writings as Scripture



Recognition of the OT Canon

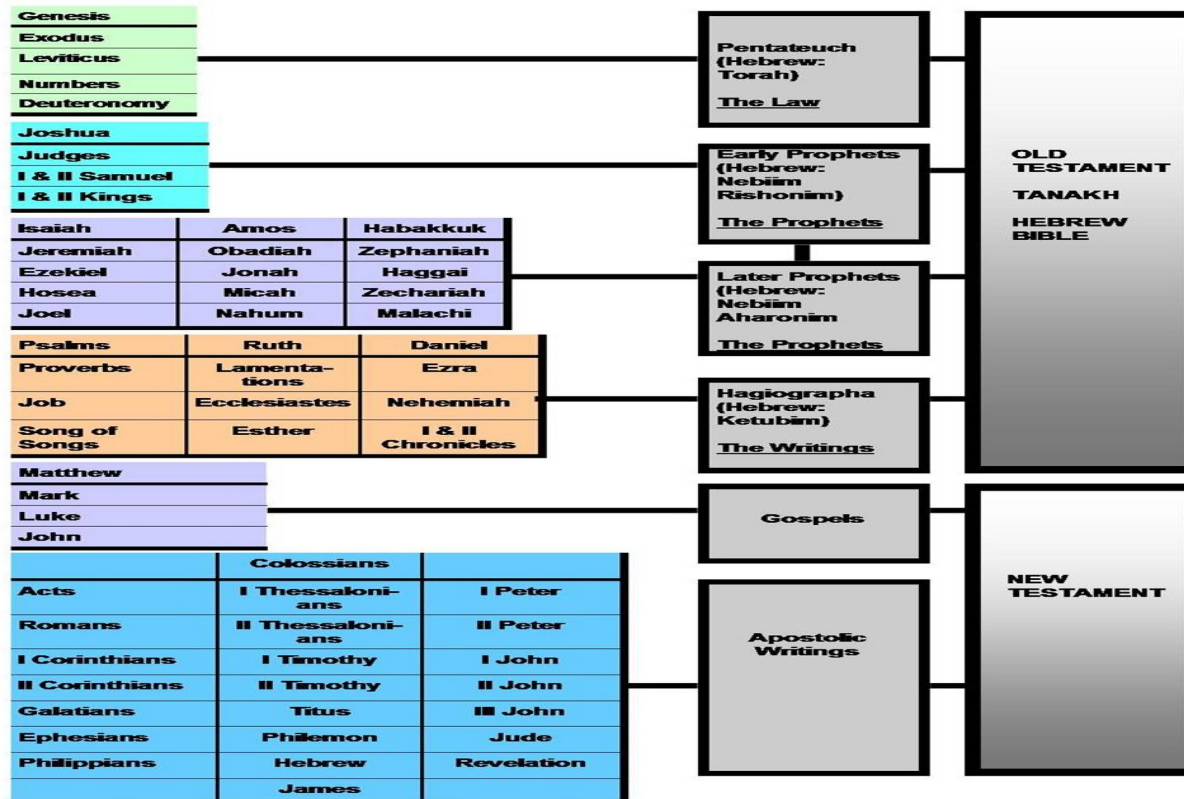
- Hebrew canon of “24 books” established between 300 BC and 150 BC
 - 3 divisions – Law, Prophets, Writings
 - Same as today’s Bible OT with 39 books
 - Minor prophets in one “book”
- Septuagint comprised 250 – 150 BC
 - Greek translation of Hebrew canon (OT)
- Today’s 39 books of OT listed in a topical order rather than an “official” Hebrew order



Jesus Confirms the OT

- **Luke 24:44**, “... that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”
 - Jesus refers to the 3 sections of the Hebrew canon
 - Jesus confirms the divine authority and inspiration of the entire Hebrew canon
- **Matt. 23:35**, “...from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah ...”
 - Jesus refers to the first and last OT martyrs

The Books of the OT & NT



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Extra-Biblical Testimony

- Three-fold division of Hebrew canon:
 - Prologue to Ecclesiasticus in ~ 130 BC
 - Philo in 40 AD
 - Josephus at end of 1st century AD
- The Jewish Talmud testifies to the OT books
 - Referred to Gospel and other books as heretical
 - Only the canon books made the “hands unclean”
- Bishop Melito compiled OT list of books in 170 AD
- Mishnah kept three-fold division of OT books in 5th century AD



NT Refers to OT as Scripture

- Jesus refers to Scripture in the Gospels
 - **Matt. 21:42; 22:29**
 - **Matt. 26:56**, “But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”
 - **Luke 24:13-32**, on the road to Emmaus
 - **John 5:39**, “ ... which testify of Me.”
 - **John 7:38**, “ .. as the Scripture has said, ..“
 - **John 10:35**, the authority of Scripture



More References to OT as Scripture

- In the Acts of the Apostles
 - Acts 17:2,11; 18:28
- In the NT Epistles
 - Rom. 1:2; 4:3; 9:17; 10:11; 16:26
 - 1 Cor. 15:3-4
 - Gal. 3:8,22; 4:30
 - 1 Tim. 5:18
 - 2 Tim. 3:16
 - 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; 3:16



Hebrew Apocryphal Literature

- Called Apocrypha by Jerome in the 4th century AD
- Apocrypha – hidden or concealed
- Jewish scholars of Jamnia (90 AD) did not recognize the Apocrypha
- No canon or council of the church recognized the Apocrypha as inspired for about four centuries
- Rejected by the Protestant Church
 - Never quoted by Jesus or NT writers
 - Never quoted by Philo as Scripture
 - Never quoted by Josephus as Scripture



More Apocrypha History

- Early church fathers spoke out against the Apocrypha
 - Origin, Cyril of Jerusalem, Athanasius
- Jerome (340-420 AD), translator of the Latin Vulgate, rejected the Apocrypha as part of canon
- Many RC scholars rejected the Apocrypha through the Reformation
- Luther and the Reformers rejected their canonicity
- Not added to the OT by the Roman Catholic Church until 1546 (counter Reformation)

Apocrypha Excluded Because

...

- Historical and geographical inaccuracies and anachronisms
- False doctrines and practices at variance with inspired Scripture
- Use literary types out of keeping with inspired Scripture
- No distinctive elements such as prophetic power or poetic feeling of Scripture



Recognition of the NT Canon

- NT books were in use by early church fathers
 - Polycarp (115 AD), Justin Martyr (100-165 AD), Irenaeus (180 AD), Clement of Alexandria (200 AD)
- Athanasius in 367 AD
 - Provided list of 27 NT books
 - Same as our list of 27 books today
 - Confirmed by Jerome and Augustine, thereafter
- Synod of Hippo in 393 AD
 - Provided list of 27 NT books
 - Confirmed by 3rd Synod of Carthage in 397 AD



Inspiration of Scripture

- The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God
- The authors of the OT called this holy book the “Word of God” 394 times
- The authors used various synonyms to describe the OT – law, statutes, precepts, commands, ordinances, decrees
- The writers of the NT referred to the OT as the “Word of God”



Inspiration of Scripture – 2

- **II Pet. 1:20-21**, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”
- The ideas come from God’s will (not human thoughts) and His divine character is revealed through human words
- God worked through the personality of each author and directed them to write



Inspiration of Scripture – 3

- The Bible's claims to supernatural origin appear throughout
- In **II Sam. 23:2**, David declares “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”
- In **Jer. 1:9**, Jeremiah declares “Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.’”



Inspiration of Scripture – 4

- In the NT, Paul refers to prophetic writings as words spoken by God
- **Gal. 3:8**, “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.’”
- Scripture is identified with the “speaking of God”
- Paul claimed prophetic authority



Inspiration of Scripture – 5

- **I Cor. 14:37**, “If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.”
- Peter refers to Paul’s letters on the same level as “the other Scriptures”
- **II Pet. 3:16**, “as also in all his [Paul’s] 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.”



Christ's Teaching on the OT

- Jesus' credibility has been established
- Jesus affirmed the Old Testament
- Jesus considered the entire OT (what the Jews of His day called “the Law and the Prophets”) to be the inspired Word of God
- **Matt. 5:17-18**, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 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.”



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 2

- **Matt. 15:3-4**, “He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded saying, Honor your father and your mother’, and ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’” [Ex. 21:17]
- **Matt. 22:31-32**, “But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ... ” [Ex. 3:6]



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 3

- **Mark 12:36**, “For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’” [**Ps. 110:1**]
- See **Heb. 1:13**, “But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?”
- In **John 10:35**, Jesus said “The Scripture cannot be broken.”



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 4

- He referred to the OT authors as prophets, i.e. proclaimers of God's Truth
- **Matt. 11:13**, “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.”
- **Matt. 24:15-16**, “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (...) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” [**Dan. 11:31; 12:11**]



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 5

- **Matt. 12:39**, “But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.’”
- **Matt. 22:40**, "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
- **Matt. 26:56**, "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."
 - Peter's action at Jesus' arrest; see **Acts 2:23**



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 6

- **Luke 16:16-17**, “The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.”
- **Luke 16:31**, “But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'”
- **John 6:45**, “"It is written in the prophets, '*And they shall all be taught by God.* Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.'”



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 7

- **Luke 18:31**, “Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge *Him* and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.’”
- **Luke 24:44**, “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.’”



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 8

- Jesus spoke of the prophets from Abel to Zechariah, covering all of the OT
- **Luke 11:49-51**, “Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute, that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, 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.’”
 - See also **Matt. 23:31-35**



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 9

- **Is. 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.” [**Luke 4:18**]
 - Jesus read this from an 800 year old scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue
- Jesus spoke of Himself and of events surrounding His life as being fulfillments of Scripture
 - **Luke 4:21**, “And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”



Christ's Teaching on the OT – 10

- OT prophecies were fulfilled in Him
- The Law and the Prophets were fundamental to the Scriptures
- Jesus was the Promised One
- The Scriptures are true



Christ's View of the NT

- Christ ascended to heaven before the NT was written
 - But the promises He made to His apostles guaranteed that the NT would be the inspired Word of God
- **Matt. 28:19-20**, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



Christ's View of the NT – 2

- **Mark 13:31**, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”
- **John 14:25-26**, “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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.”



Christ's View of the NT – 3

- **Acts 1:8**, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



Christ's View of the NT – 4

- **John 15:26-27**, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”
- **John 16:13**, “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.”



Christ's View of the NT – 5

- Five conclusions we can draw from this:
 1. Jesus promised that His teachings would be preserved
 2. The Holy Spirit would remind the apostles of all that He told them
 3. The Holy Spirit would reveal future events to the apostles
 4. The Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into the truth (avoiding doctrinal errors)
 5. The Holy Spirit would empower the apostles to be Christ's authoritative representatives to the world



Christ's View of the NT – 6

- Jesus' teachings are preserved through the apostles' writings (the NT)
- Jesus taught only the OT and the apostles teachings (NT) were the Word of God
- The NT speaks of Jesus as “the Word became flesh” in **John 1:14**
- Jesus is spoken of in both the OT and the NT - the fulfillment of the Bible's promises



Jesus Teaches: The Bible is True

- The Bible:
 - Has divine authority, **Matt. 4:4**
 - Is imperishable, **Matt. 5:17-18**
 - Is infallible, **John 10:35**
 - Is inerrant, **Matt. 22:29**
 - Is historically reliable, **Matt. 12:40; 24:37-38**
 - Is scientifically accurate: **Matt. 19:4-5**
 - Has ultimate supremacy, **Matt. 15:3,6**
- Jesus is God -> Jesus teaches Truth ->
Jesus teaches that the Bible is true



Historical Reliability of the OT

- Reliability tests
 - Textual transmission, i.e copy accuracy
 - Confirmation by hard evidence uncovered through archaeology
 - Documentary evidence uncovered through archaeology
- NT confirmation of the OT
 - By Jesus
 - By biblical writers



OT Manuscripts (MSS)

- More than 700 Hebrew manuscripts of the OT have been identified, including
 - Cairo Geniza, discovered in 1890's
 - Dead Sea scrolls, discovered in 1947
- Septuagint (Greek translation) between 3rd and 1st century BC
- MSS dated from 3rd century BC to 14th AD
- Dead Sea scrolls date from 3rd century BC to 1st century AD



Accuracy of Copying Process

- Jewish scholars preserved the biblical text over the years by meticulous copying
 - Stringent rules such as letter counts
- With the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, an effort was made to standardize:
 - Consonantal text
 - Punctuation and use of vowels
- Masoretes Jewish scholars gave form to the text of the OT from 500 to 950 AD
- Remarkable agreement between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint copies



Archaeological Confirmation of OT

- Some key archaeological finds

- Sodom and Gomorrah – demise of 5 cities
- Jericho – walls fell outward, **Josh. 6:20**
- Saul, David, Solomon

“... it is no longer possible to reject the substantial historicity of the Bible, at least as far back as the time of Abraham, because of the remarkable discoveries of archaeology.” – Henry M. Morris

- Details covered in next module on Archaeology



Documentary Confirmation of OT

- OT history is reliable
 - Accurate copies of the OT books
 - Contents of the MSS are historically reliable
- Creation – Gen. 1-11
 - Extrabiblical accounts – history turned into myths
 - Ebla tablets list some biblical towns, names
- Flood of Noah
 - More realistic than other flood stories
 - Many cultures have a “flood story”
- Tower of Babel, patriarchs, etc.



NT Confirmation of the OT

- Jesus' confirmation of Torah & Moses
 - Mark 7:10; 10:3-5
 - Luke 5:14; 16:29-31
 - John 5:45-47
- Biblical writers' confirmation of Torah & Moses
 - Mark 12:19
 - John 1:17
 - Rom. 10:5
 - Heb. 9:19
 - Rev. 15:3

Development of the OT *

2000 BC	Authors begin writing, preserving literary heritage
465-424 BC	OT writings gathered, Canon formed (Ezra)
280-250 BC	Septuagint translation into Greek
150 BC	Qumran Community (Essenes), originated in the north (Damascus), persecution drove them to Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls)
45-96 AD	Many OT verses quoted by NT authors in the books of the NT

* Summary by Probe Ministries



Historical Reliability of the NT

- Tests for reliability of ancient literature
 - Bibliographical test
 - Internal evidence test
 - External evidence test
- These tests can be applied to all historical documents, including Scripture
- These tests do not “prove” inspiration



Bibliographical Test

- Examines the textual transmission by which documents reach us
- Number of manuscripts (MSS)
- Time interval between original and extant (currently existing) copies
- Important NT manuscripts
- Accuracy of MSS supported by various versions
- Accuracy of MSS supported by early church fathers



Number of NT Manuscripts

- Greek copies – 5686 partial and complete manuscript portions copied by hand from 2nd to 15th centuries
- Latin Vulgate MSS – 10,000
- Ethiopic MSS - 2000
- Slavic copies – 4101
- Other MSS – 3200
- About 25,000 MSS copies in total



Importance of the Number of MSS

“to be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no document of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”

John Warwick Montgomery

- In second place, Homer’s Iliad has 643 MSS surviving copies

Time, Original to Earliest MSS

Work/Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Years Elapsed	Number of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1300	7
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1500	49
Iliad (Homer)	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
Herodotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
New Testament	40-95 AD	125 AD	30	24,000



Importance of Elapsed Time

“The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”

Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*



Important NT Manuscripts

- John Rylands' MS (125 AD)
 - Oldest extant fragment of Gospel of John
 - Found in Egypt
- Bodmer papyrus II (150-200 AD)
 - Purchased in Egypt in 1950's and 1960's
 - Fragments of Gospels of John and Luke
- Chester Beatty papyri (200 AD)
 - Purchased from Egyptian dealer in 1930's
 - Contains major portions of the NT
 - Includes "Harmony of four gospels" composed by Tatian, an Assyrian Christian, in 160 AD



More Important NT MSS

- Codex Vaticanus (325-350 AD)
 - Maintained in Vatican library
 - Contains most of the Bible
 - Considered one of the most trustworthy MS of the NT text
- Codex Sinaiticus (350 AD)
 - Discovered in Mt. Sinai Monastery in 1859
 - Contains most of NT and half of the OT
 - Also contains many other early writings
- Various Codex's dated in 400's and 500's AD



Accuracy of MSS - Translations

- Translated into multiple languages
 - NT translated into Syriac in 150 AD
 - NT translated into Latin in 3rd century AD
 - NT translated into Coptic in 3rd/4th century AD
 - Armenian, Gothic in 4th/5th century AD
 - Georgian in 5th century AD
 - Ethiopic and Nubian in 6th century AD
- Accuracy of MSS supported by various versions
- More than 19,000 MSS in other languages



Accuracy of MSS – Church Fathers

- Early church fathers quoted NT in their writings
- Numerous quotations (up to early 4th century) from Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement, Origen, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Eusebius – 36,289 in all
- 86,489 quotations counted by one historian when later century writings are included
- NT could be recreated from the writings of the early church fathers alone



Internal Evidence Tests for NT

- Benefit of the doubt given to document itself
- Free of known contradictions?
 - Most alleged contradictions resolved using the Bible itself
 - Use set of understood principles, e.g.
 - Understand the context of the passage
 - Bible uses non-technical, everyday language
 - NT citations of OT not always exact
- Did the writer use primary sources?
 - **Luke 1:1-3; Luke 3:1; Acts 2:22; Acts 26:24-26**
 - **John 19:35; 2 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 1:3**



External Evidence Tests for NT

- Early Christian writers outside the Bible

“The Elder [Apostle John] used to say this also:
‘Mark, having been the interpreter of Peter,
wrote down accurately all that he (Peter)
mentioned, whether sayings or doings of
Christ, not, however, in order. ...’”

“Matthew recorded the oracles in the Hebrew
(i.e. Aramaic) tongue.”

Papias, Bishop of Heirapolis, 130 AD



Other Early Christian Writers

- Clement of Rome (95 AD)
 - Used Scripture as a reliable authentic source
- Ignatius, writer of Epistles
 - Based his faith on accuracy of the Bible
- Polycarp, disciple of John (70-156 AD)
 - Martyred for his belief in accuracy of Scripture
- Tatian (170 AD)
 - Wrote the first “Harmony of the Gospels”



Early Non-Christian Confirmation

- Tacitus, 1st century Roman historian
 - “Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered ...”
- Seutonius, secretary to Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD), confirms report in **Acts 18:2**
 - “And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.”



Josephus, Jewish Historian

- Testimony to Protestant view of OT canon
 - Apocrypha not included in list of 39 books
- Testimony to the NT
 - Refers to Jesus as the brother of James
 - Refers to Ananias, the High Priest, e.g. **Acts 23:2**
 - Confirmed the life and martyrdom of John the Baptist, the herald of Jesus
 - Provided a brief description of Jesus and His mission – “Jesus, a wise man, ... , for he was a doer of wonderful works, ... He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate ... had condemned him to the cross, ... For he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had ... “



Evidence From Archaeology

- Made major contributions to building confidence in the reliability of the Bible since 1800's
- “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.” – Nelson Glueck
- “Archaeology has confirmed the New Testament record.” – F. F. Bruce
- We look at multiple examples of important archaeological finds in the next module



Supernatural Wisdom of the Bible

- As seen in Science
- Fulfilled Messianic prophecies
- Predictions about kings, nations, cities
- Predictions about the Jewish people



Earth as a Sphere

- When men thought the earth was flat, the Bible taught it was a sphere, **Is. 40:22**, written in 700 BC
- **Is. 40:22**, “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.”



Earth Suspended in Space

- When men thought the earth rested on the back of a giant turtle, the Bible taught it was suspended in space, **Job 26:7**, written in 2000 BC
- **Job 26:7**, “He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.”

Innumerable Stars

- **Gen. 15:5**, “Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’”
Written in 1500 BC
- In 150 AD, a Greek astronomer, Ptolemy, taught that there were exactly 1056 stars
- Today astronomers confirm that the stars are innumerable





Laws of Science

- 1st Law – no new energy is being created
- 2nd Law – the amount of usable energy in the universe is running down
- The Bible taught that God is resting from His Creation work
- **Gen. 2:1-2**, “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.”



Universe is Finite

- The universe will someday pass away
- **Mark 13:31**, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”
- **2 Pet. 3:10**, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”



As Seen in Science *

- Modern science was not practiced in biblical times
- The science recorded in the Bible requires a supernatural source
- In 1861 the French Academy of Science published a brochure of 51 “scientific facts” which supposedly contradicted the Bible
 - Today all 51 so-called “facts” have been shown to be false by modern scientists

* SEE Presentation on [Biblical Reliability](#) for more details

Fulfilled Prophecies *

- More than 1000 prophecies in the Bible
- Fulfilled Messianic prophecies
 - 300+ messianic prophecies in the OT
 - More than 100 fulfilled in First Coming
- Other biblical prophecies have also come to pass
 - Kings, nations, cities
 - Regathering of the Jewish people

* SEE Presentation on Prophecies for details

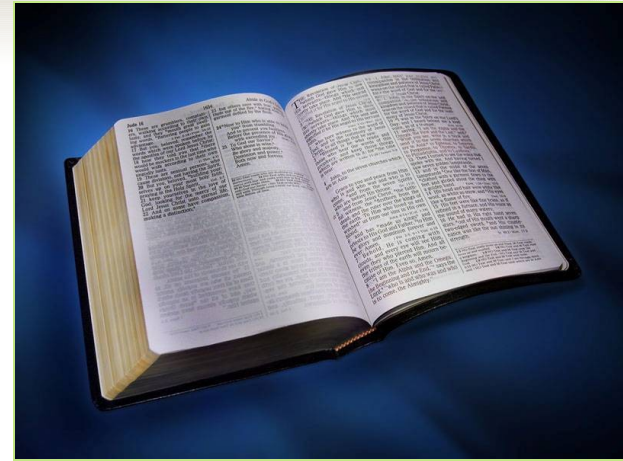


Conclusions

- The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God
- What evidence do we have that the Bible is God's Word?
 - The deity of Christ has been established
 - Jesus performed miracles
 - Prophecies were fulfilled
 - Evidence for Jesus' Resurrection is overwhelming
 - There is strong evidence for the historical reliability of the Bible

Conclusions – 2

- More evidence:
 - Archaeology confirms the events, places and people of the Bible
 - The Bible is reliable scientifically
- The Bible **IS** the inspired Word of God
- Implications:
 - Since God can only proclaim truth, God's Word is inerrant in its original version
 - God's Word is authoritative, and everything can be tested by its truth
 - We are to obey God's inerrant and authoritative Word





Thank You!

II Tim. 2:2, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”