

Christian Fundamentals III – What Is The Bible

Review: Salvation – Roman Road, only through Jesus, permanent, necessary (Hell is real).

History of the Bible

Over 1600 years, more than 40 authors, in 3 languages. Yet consistent and without contradiction or error.

“**Canon**”: The writings included in the Bible and recognized as **God’s Word**.

The Old Testament was completed around 435 BC.

The Apocrypha

Historical books between the O.T. and N.T. included in Catholic Bibles. Not accepted by Jews as canon.

170 AD, Bishops agreed on the current O.T. books, not including the Apocrypha. (Still fine to read. Just not canon.)

The New Testament

A decree by Pope Damasus from 367 AD is the earliest written list the complete canon.

Council of Carthage in 397 AD agreed on this same list.

Began with the Apostles:

- Saw resurrected Christ.
- Called by Christ.
- Includes Paul
 - **1 Corinthians 9:1** Am I not free? **Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?
 - **2 Peter 3:15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, **just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote** to you according to the wisdom given him,

Then by “Disciples of Disciples”:

- Mark – Commonly held to be **Peter’s account** written by his disciple, Mark.
- Luke, Acts – Luke was a disciple of **Paul**.
- James – (Not the Apostle) **Half brother of Jesus** and leader in the early church.
- Jude – Commonly held to be the **brother of James and half brother of Jesus**.

The Holy Spirit allowed them to recount the stories of Christ **and teach further**.

- **John 14:26** 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 that I have said to you.**
- **John 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

But, but... [That] didn’t really happen.

For centuries, skeptics have insisted that the Bible is not true.

- “David didn’t exist. He was just a mythical hero.” In 1993, the Tel Dan inscription was discovered. Carved in the 9th century BC, it tells of the victory of Assyrian King Hazael defeating “the House of David.”
- “Pontius Pilot didn’t exist. There’s no *real* historical record of him.” In 1961, The Pilate Stone was discovered in Caesarea. It notes that a temple was dedicated by “Pontius Pilatus, Prefect of Judea”.

Then there are the surviving manuscripts.

- There are 14,000 fragmentary manuscripts of the O.T. and 24,000 of the N.T. These are all copies, not originals.
- 1st Century “Early Church Fathers” wrote TONS of letters, books, commentaries, etc. All compiled, these thousands of writings quote all but 11 verses of the entire N.T.

What the Bible Says About Itself

Word of God - Authority

O.T. prophets always spoke under God’s direction: “The Word of the Lord came to...”, “Thus says the Lord”, etc.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is **breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Can this include the N.T.? Yes! The N.T. refers to itself!

- **1 Timothy 5:18** quotes **Luke 10:7**.
- **2 Peter 3:15** Peter referred to Paul’s letters. (Above)

Inerrancy

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; **your word is truth.**

Jesus (while praying) claims the **“Word is Truth.”** Not **“true” (adjective).** **“Truth” (noun).**

God is Holy, Perfect. The Bible is God's Word. Therefore, the Bible is Holy and Perfect.

How To Use the Bible

- **Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
 - Lamp to my feet (to **avoid obstacles**) and a light to my path (to **stay on track**).
- **Matthew 4:4** But he answered, “It is written, ‘**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**’”
- **1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn infants, **long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up into salvation.
 - Scripture is soul food! Eat it up! **Feed regularly!**
- **1 Timothy 3:16-17** – Teaching, correction, and **equipping**.
- **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active, **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - Jesus used scripture as a weapon. (Matt 4:4, 7, 10, Matt 21:13, Mark 7:6)

Next week: What is the Church?