

How We Got The Bible

Understanding the Process & History of the Canonization of the Bible

presented by

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Issues or Topics to Cover

- ✓ How different scriptures were:
 - ✓ Received
 - ✓ Passed on
 - ✓ Written – how, by whom, on what?
 - ✓ Formulated and Collated
 - ✓ Preserved

Issues or Topics to Cover

- ✓ The transmission and authentication of scriptures
- ✓ Translations and manuscripts – Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint, Vulgate, etc.
- ✓ Different parts and versions of the Bible – Tanakh, Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Apocrypha, New Testament, Deuterocanonical books

Issues or Topics to Cover

- ✓ Process of Canonization
 - ✓ History & Criteria
- ✓ Structuring of the books of the Bible
- ✓ Modern versions and translations of the Bible
- ✓ Traditional and modern attacks against the authenticity and authority of the Bible
- ✓ Orthodox doctrine and perspectives of the Bible
- ✓ Answering the challenges to the Bible

Questions:

- How critical is the Bible to Christianity?
- What exactly is the Bible and what makes the Bible different from other literary works?

What makes the Bible unique and essential?

Revelation and Inspiration

Revelation:

We believe that God is ultimately a mystery to humanity (Isaiah 55:8,9; Job 38-42) that is and can only be known through God's own self-disclosure, i.e. revelation

Jesus Christ (the incarnate Word of God) and the Bible (the written Word of God) are the primary and definitive revelations of the will and nature of God

The Bible is:

- ✓ Our standard of God's eternal truths to discern right v. wrong (Matthew 22:9)
- ✓ The foundation of our knowledge about and faith in God
- ✓ Our weapon against Satan protecting us from iniquity (Eph. 6:17, Ps. 119:11)
- ✓ Complete for our salvation and sanctification (I Peter 1:23)

The Bible is:

- ✓ Our spiritual food (Deut. 8:3)
- ✓ Our cleansing agent (Ps. 119:9; Eph. 5:25,26)
- ✓ Sword which purges and purifies us (Heb. 4:12,13)
- ✓ A Mirror for self-reflection (James 1:23-25)
- ✓ Our roadmap for Godly living (Ps. 119:105)
- ✓ Our counselor (Romans 15:4)

The Bible is absolutely essential for
salvation, discipleship, and the
work of the church

Inspiration:

The Bible was neither written nor formulated solely under human discretion or authority but rather under the guidance of God

II Peter 1:20, 21 & II Timothy 3:16

God is the ultimate Cause and Scripture is the Authoritative result

On The Inspiration of Scripture:

Old Testament: Deut. 8:18; II Sam. 23:2; Isaiah 59:2; II Chron. 34:14; Zech 7:12

New Testament: II Peter 3:15,16; I Timothy 5:18; I Cor. 2:10,13, 14:37; Gal. 1:12; Rev. 1:1

Biblical writers acknowledged God as the source of their writings: “Thus says the Lord”, “The word of the Lord came to me”, “The Lord spoke unto...”, cf Ezekiel 12; Jeremiah 1; Isaiah 1

What the Bible implies about itself – The Bible:

1. Has a divine origin – God is the source of scripture breathed out of the mouth of God
3. Came through human agency – God used human hands as His writing instruments (II Peter 1:21, Heb. 1:1. God did not disregard the culture or personality of the biblical writers. Their freedom was not suspended, they wrote in the style they were accustomed to

What the Bible implies about itself – The Bible:

- Is a written authority – the *writings* were inspired. God’s authority for His people in His written word
- Authority is located in the original texts – The authority of scripture lies in what God breathed out = the original manuscripts. Not all copies are perfect. The original texts of the Bible are without error

Augustine

“If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say ‘The author of this book is mistaken’; but either the manuscript is faulty, or the translation is wrong, or you have not understood correctly.”

Taken from: *Reply to Faustus*

What the Bible implies about itself – The Bible:

1. Alone has final authority – Ps. 119:89; Mat. 5:18;

The inspiration of scripture guarantees the truth of all the Bible teaches and touches explicitly and implicitly.

Inspiration does not guarantee:

- ✓ Every part of a parable is conveying truth as opposed to the truthfulness of the parable
- ✓ That no hyperboles are used (Colossian 1:23)
- ✓ All statements about God and creation are literal (Job 38:7)
- ✓ That all factual assertions are technically precise by modern standards
- ✓ All citations of scriptures are verbatim v. faithful

Inspiration does not guarantee:

- ✓ The same truth can only be said in *one* way, e.g. the Gospels
- ✓ That truth is exhaustively revealed as opposed to adequately presented (I Cor. 13:12)

Orthodox Doctrine of Biblical Inspiration:

Inspiration is the supernatural operation of the Holy Spirit, who through the different personalities and literary styles of the chosen human authors invested the very words of the original books of Holy Scripture, alone and in their entirety, as the very Word of God without error in all that they teach or imply, and the Bible is thereby the infallible rule and final authority for faith and practice of all believers.