The Bible

_____ *about the Bible*

The Bible contains _____ books

It is divided into _____ sections—Old Testament and New Testament

The OT was recorded before the birth of Jesus

The NT tells about Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and return to heaven, as well as the beginnings of the Church.

The books of the Bible are arranged by _____ as opposed to time

- History
- Literature
- Prophets
- Gospels
- Epistles (Letters)

_____ *wrote the Bible?*

God is the sole _____ of the Bible

> *2 Timothy 3:16*
> *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

God Himself is the author of the Bible, and although He used human penmen, the content itself is directly from Him. The Bible is His direct message to us so that we can be sure of His desire for us and His thoughts towards us. We do not have to rely on a man to tell us what God has said—God told us Himself.

God used two methods to record the Bible—

_____ and _____

Revelation is God communicating previously unknown/unrevealed truth. Inspiration is God having that truth specifically recorded. Not all revelation is inspiration (In the book of Revelations, John talked about seeing things that

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he was instructed not to record).

The Bible is the most valuable source of _____ available to us.

> *2 Peter 1:19-20*
> *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.*

Despite Peter having had personal interaction with Jesus, he believed that Christians had a greater form of truth available to them in the scriptures.

God used human _____ to record scripture

> *2 Peter 1:21*
> *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.*

God did not supernaturally come down and write scripture with His own hand. Instead, He used Godly men to record His words. God describes the men He used to write down God's inspiration as holy and men of God. We should also highlight that when God inspired these men, the inspiration was not that of a musician writing a song or a painter creating a mural. Instead, the word "inspiration" here means "God-breathed". God breathed the words and the human penmen wrote them down.

> *Matthew 4:4*
> *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

While God did allow the personalities and experiences of these men to be part of the written Word of God, it did not make the Bible any less His words. The thoughts and truths did not originate with these men but were given to them directly from God Himself. The book we hold in our hands is, without question, the Word of God.

The Bible is consistent and _____

The Bible has the most incredible accuracy and validation of any book ever written. Consider the following facts while understanding that the Bible never contradicts itself.

- It has more than 40 human penmen
- It was written over a timespan of 1500 years
- It was written on 3 different continents
- It was written in 3 different languages

The _____ of the Bible

The preservation of scripture is a _____ from God

Psalm 12:6-7

Psalm 119:89, 152, 160

Isaiah 40:8 & 1 Peter 1:25

Matthew 24:35

God had people _____ and _____ scripture

Many people try to argue against the trustworthiness of scripture with statements like "The Bible comes from a culture that only passed it's history down through word of mouth." Statements like this show a clear ignorance of history and the Jewish culture.

- Moses
  - Exodus 17:14
- Isaiah
  - Isaiah 8:1
  - Isaiah 30:8
- Habakkuk
  - Habakkuk 2:2
- Fathers
  - Deuteronomy 6:7-9
- Priests & Kings
  - Deuteronomy 17:18

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God preserved the Bible through _____

[2]"There are over five thousand preserved manuscripts of the New Testament alone—all tediously copied with the utmost care— dating all the way back to approximately ad 130.1 This is more evidence than any secular author such as Pliny or Aristotle have that their work is credible and authentic. The New Testament is the most well-attested to piece of ancient literature in the world."

The _____ *of the Bible*

God uses the church to _____ **and**

_____ **the Bible**

> *John 17:17*
> *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
>
> *1 Timothy 3:15*
> *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

As an organism created by God, it is the responsibility of the church to treat scripture with the greatest importance. The Word of God is our direct source of truth and is enough for us to live the Christian life. (2 Peter 1:3) The church must use truth to hold up it's teaching and practice in every area.

God uses _____ **to propagate the Bible**

> *Matthew 28:19-20*
> *19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

It is the responsibility of every Christian to teach the Word of God to others. While we are learning truth, we are instructed to "teach others also". (2 Timothy 2:2)

2 Chappell, Paul. "The Word Of God." In Continue: A Biblical Journey in Personal Discipleship, 10. Lancaster, CA: Striving Together Publications, 2015.

Our _____ to the Bible

Understanding the Bible _____ the Holy Spirit's guidance

> *1 Corinthians 2:12-14*
> *12 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 of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural 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.*

An unsaved person will have a very limited ability to understand the Word of God. The Christian, however, is led by the greatest aid to understanding the truths contained in scripture—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit illuminates the Bible for us to have a full understanding of it.

Truth for the Christian life is _____ on the Bible.

> *John 17:17*
> *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
>
> *2 Timothy 3:17*
> *That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

When living the Christian life, all truth must come from the Bible. We will never be directed by God to any other source of truth than His Word. The Holy Spirit will never speak to us outside of what is clearly contained within scripture itself. (John 16:13)

We are responsible to _____, _____,

and _____ the Bible

> *2 Timothy 2:15*
> *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of*

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truth.

Joshua 1:8
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.

Assignments

- Make a determination now that you will obey whatever is plainly revealed in scripture. The Bible is an inexaustable book that you will be learning from the rest of your life. Remember that you are responsable to obey it.
- Decide today that you will make the Bible a regular part of your life. We cannot obey the Bible or trust it's wisdom if we never open and read it. Determine to have a daily time in God's Word dedicated to learning it for yourself. Write down the time and place this will happen for you.

Memorize

2 Timothy 3:16-17
16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Meditate

What does it mean that scripture helps us to be "perfect" as a man (or woman) of God? How can we make sure we apply this correctly in our lives?