

Level Up Theological Intensive: *The Doctrine of Scripture*

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Session 1 – The Revelation and Authority of Scripture: *What do we believe about the Bible?*

“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.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Bible Foundations

What is the Bible? The Bible is the true, _____, _____, written Word of God.

- The Bible is written by _____ different human authors over a period of about 1500 years.
- The authors of the Bible were primarily prophets in Old Testament (OT), apostles in the New Testament (NT), or close eyewitness accounts.
- The Bible was written in three original languages: _____ (OT), Greek (NT), some Aramaic.
- The Bible consists of variety of literary genre: history, poetry, wisdom, law, gospel, letter, narrative, prophecy, apocalyptic.
- The Bible contains 66 books: _____ in the Old Testament; _____ in the New Testament.

Our church’s doctrinal confession on Scripture: Baptist Faith and Message 2000

“The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.”

What do we believe theologically about the Bible?

1. We believe the Bible is God’s _____.

*“And **God said**, ‘let there be light’ and there was light.” Gen 1:3*

“For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.” Psalm 33:9

*“And **God said to them**, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”*

*²⁹ And **God said**, ‘**Behold, I have given you** every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.’” Genesis 1:28-29*

*"God **called to him** out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God." Exodus 3:4-6*

God has commanded his revelation to be written.

"Write what you see in a book." Revelation 1:11

Therefore, Scripture is the _____ Word of God. The written Word then **cannot be separated** from God himself.

"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." 1 Thess. 2:13

Revelation: Two Primary Kinds

General Revelation: how God has revealed himself to us through _____.

"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse." Romans 1:19-20

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge." Psalm 19:1-2

_____ Revelation: how God has revealed himself to us in Scripture (Written Word) and through Christ (Incarnate Word).

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days **he has spoken to us** by his Son [and the Son would give his words to the apostles to write down], whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." Hebrews 1:1-2*

*"And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory, glory as of the one Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

*"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** .. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:13-14*

The _____ of Scripture: the doctrine that shows our need for Scripture in order to know God through saving faith in Christ.

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

2. We believe in the _____ of Scripture.

Inspiration means that the _____ of all the words of Scripture are God's words which he spoke through men who were inspired and anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

*"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." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as **they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**" 2 Pet 1:19-21*

God speaks his word to us through _____ agents.

"This word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Take a scroll, and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah, and all the nations from the time I first spoke to you during Josiah's reign until today." Jeremiah 36:2

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but what he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." John 16:13

The Bible has both a Divine Author and _____ Authors.

We affirm the _____ inspiration Scripture: This means that these men were consciously, actively present in choosing the words to write God's true Word.

*"I, Paul, **write this greeting** with my own hand." 1 Cor. 16:24*

*"This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who **has written these things**, and we know that his testimony is true." John 21:24*

Why so many translations? Which translations should I trust?

3. We believe in the final _____ of Scripture.

"The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ." – Catechism of the Catholic Church, 85

Sola _____: *Scripture Alone* is our final authority.

4. We believe in the _____ of Scripture.

Inerrancy means that the Bible is entirely truthful, reliable, without _____ in its original manuscripts.

“Sanctify them by your truth, your word is truth.” John 17:17

*“The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”
Psalm 119:160*

“The grass fades, the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8

Chicago Statement of Biblical Inerrancy:

Article I:

We affirm that the Holy Scriptures are to be received as the authoritative Word of God.

We deny that the Scriptures receive their authority from the Church, tradition or any other human source.

Article XII:

We affirm that Scripture in its entirety is inerrant, being free from all falsehood, fraud or deceit.

We deny that Biblical infallibility and inerrancy are limited to spiritual, religious or redemptive themes, exclusive of assertions in the fields of history and science. We further deny that scientific hypotheses about earth history may properly be used to overturn the teaching of Scripture on creation and the flood.

Why is inerrancy so important? Because if you deny it, you lose the authority of the Bible!

Theological _____ (progressive Christianity) is a denial of the authority and inerrancy of Scripture.

Session 2 – The Reliability of Scripture: Can I trust the Bible?

Andy Stanley's Issue with, "The Bible tells me so."

Stanley says, "_____ does not exist because of the Bible."

*"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in **accordance with the Scriptures**, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in **accordance with the Scriptures**." 1 Cor. 15:3-4*

You cannot detach the _____ of God _____ from the Word of God.

"so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

How did we get our Bible?

Canon: The _____ of 66 recognized books of the Bible that Christians recognized as authoritative.

Question: *How can a group of men decide which books can make it in the Bible? What if they were wrong?*

The process was recognizing which books already had inherent authority and were already _____ as Scripture.

Question: How did we get the 39 Old Testament books?

OT Facts:

-The OT books were written between 1400-_____ BC.

-By Jesus' arrival, there was strong agreement which books were considered to be Scripture.

-The Hebrew Scriptures (our OT) were claimed to have been settled from of time of Persian King Artaxerxes (died 423 BC).

-The Jews in Jesus day ordered the Hebrew Scriptures differently, resulting _____ books, but it was the same Old Testament Scripture equaling our 39.

Question: How did we get the 27 New Testament Books?

NT Facts:

-The NT books were written between AD _____.

-They were collected and read in the churches in AD 100-200. All NT documents were viewed as _____ and were circulating among the churches as early as 90-100. (See Col 4:16).

-They were carefully examined and compared with other writings in AD 200-300.

-The church was in complete agreement in _____ our 27 books as Scripture in AD 397 (at the Synod of Hippo).

Three criteria for recognizing the New Testament books as Scripture

1. _____ *Authority* – Written by an apostle, or by an authorized eyewitness who had close relationship with an apostle:
2. _____ / *Wide Recognition* – widely recognized authority by the churches.
3. _____ – *No contradiction to any other apostolic book or doctrine.*

Question: What about the Apocrypha? What are all those other books?

Josephus, Jewish historian(born AD 37) wrote: “From Artaxerxes (end of OT era) to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets.”

There are a number of reasons why these books are not counted as Scripture:

1. The Apocrypha contains clear factual and theological error (such as praying for the dead, 2 Macc 12:43-45).
2. The writers of the books never _____ their own books into the Hebrew Canon.
3. None of the apocryphal books are referred to as Scripture by Jesus or the apostles.

The Bible that we have is the final revelation of God!

Comparison of Old Testament Canons		
Hebrew Bible (Tanakh)	Roman Catholic and Orthodox Canons	Protestant Canon
Torah Bereshith - Genesis Shemot - Exodus Vayikra - Leviticus Bamidbar - Numbers Devarim - Deuteronomy	Pentateuch Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Pentateuch Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy
Nevi'im Y'hoshua - Joshua Shophim - Judges Sh'muel - Samuel (I & II) M'lakhim - Kings (I & II) Y'shayahu - Isaiah Yirm'yahu - Jeremiah Y'hhezqel - Ezekiel	History Joshua Judges Ruth Samuel Kings Chronicles Ezra and Nehemiah Tobit* Judith* Esther + Additions to Esther	History Joshua Judges Ruth 1-2 Samuel 1-2 Kings 1-2 Chronicles Ezra and Nehemiah Esther
The Twelve Prophets Hoshea - Hosea Yo'el - Joel Amos - Amos Ovadiah - Obadiah Yonah - Jonah Mikha - Micah Nakhum - Nahum Havakuk - Habakkuk T'yphanyah - Zephaniah Khagai - Haggai Z'kharyah - Zechariah Mal'akhi - Malachi	Poetry & Wisdom Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon Wisdom of Solomon* Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of ben Sirach)*	Poetry & Wisdom Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon
Ketuvim The "Sifrei Emet," "Books of Truth" T'hillim - Psalms Mishlei - Proverbs Iyov - Job The "Five Megillot" or "Five Scrolls" Shir Hashirim - Song of Songs Rut - Ruth Eikha - Lamentations Kohelet - Ecclesiastes Isther - Esther The rest of the "Writings" Dan'el - Daniel Ezra v'Nehemia - Ezra-Nehemiah Divrei Hayamim - Chronicles (I & II)	Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Baruch, + The Letter of Jeremiah (Roman Catholic Only) Ezekiel Daniel, + Additions to Daniel (Prayer of Azariah; Song of the Three Young Men; Susanna; Bel and the Dragon)* Osee (Hosea) Joel Amos Abdias (Obadiah) Jonas (Jonah) Micheas (Micah) Nahum Habacuc (Habakkuk) Sophonias (Zephaniah) Ageus (Haggai) Zacharias (Zechariah) Malachias (Malachi) 1 Maccabees* 2 Maccabees* (Roman Catholic Only)	Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
	*Apocryphal in the Protestant Canon	

The _____ of Scripture: the truth that have all we need in the Bible to know God and know his Son truly.

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.” 2 Peter 1:3-4

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.” Rev. 22:18

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Heb. 1:1-3

Question: How can we be sure that the original manuscripts were copied correctly over the centuries?

Old Testament manuscripts:

- Currently there exists over _____ Hebrew manuscripts of the OT; 1500 of the Septuagint (Greek translation)
- No remaining original manuscripts (“autographs”) of the OT exist today.
- Transmission has been preserved by scribes who have meticulously copied the originals by hand over the centuries to preserve its accuracy.

New Testament Manuscripts:

- Currently there exists _____ Greek manuscripts of the NT.
- Handwritten copies of the original 27 books must be relied upon to determine the wording of the original 27 books.
- Copied manuscripts can be dated from as early as the ____ century through sixteenth century.
- By comparison, the average remaining manuscripts for a classical Greek or Latin work is no more than 20 copies. We have more than 1,000 times the manuscript data for the NT than we do for the average Greco-Roman author.
- The average Greek or Latin classical work copied manuscripts are dated to no earlier than _____ years after the time of writing.

Question: What if there errors when it was being copied?

Douglas Stuart said, “It is fair to say that the verses, chapters, and books of the Bible would read largely the same, and would the same impressions with the reader, even if one adopted virtually every possible alternative reading to those now serving as the basis for current English Translations.”

Internal Witness of Scripture: *Scripture* _____ *Scripture*.

*"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the **sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*

2 Tim. 3:14-15

*"For whatever was written in former days was **written for our instruction**, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

Romans 15:4

*"That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."²³ But **the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone,** ²⁴ **but for ours also.** It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 4:22-24

*"And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days **he reasoned with them from the Scriptures**,³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead."*

Acts 17:2

*"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in **accordance with the Scriptures**,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in **accordance with the Scriptures.**"*

1 Cor. 15:3-4

*"Just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, **as they do the other Scriptures.**"*

2 Pet. 3:15-16

Reading Jesus' Bible: What did Jesus say about the Scripture?

1. Jesus considered OT Scripture to be the _____ of God.

"But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

2. Jesus considered every single word of Scripture _____ and authoritative.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." Matthew 5:17-18

"Scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35

3. Jesus said that Scripture was _____ on him.

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that

bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” John 5:39-30

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:27

4. Jesus said he was the _____ of all of the Old Testament.

“Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Luke 24:44-45

5. Jesus’ Old Testament was the _____ as ours.

“Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ ⁵⁰ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, ⁵¹ from the **blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah**, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.” Luke 11:49-51

Q: So is our Bible historically reliable? _____.

Peculiar Glory of the Bible

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Matthew 11:27

“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 16:15-17

“But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because **only through Christ is it taken away.**” 2 Cor 3:14

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

Session 3 – Reading Scripture: *Can I really understand the Bible?*

“The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:130

The _____ of Scripture – doctrine that teaches “the Scriptures can be understood by all who have ears to hear it.” - Kevin DeYoung

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

Who gets to determine what a biblical text means?

The _____ Determines the meaning of the biblical text (both human and divine).

The Meaning of a text is found by discovering the reality the biblical _____ to communicate through the text.

“A text cannot mean what it never meant.” – Douglas Stuart, Gordon Fee

Hermeneutics: The conviction for how to _____ Scripture to discover what it means.

Two good general rules of hermeneutics:

a. Your aim is to look for the _____ and clear meaning of the text. We are not looking for obscure, hidden, or periphery.

b. A text has one meaning with _____ applications.

Exegesis: the process of study for finding the _____ meaning intended by the biblical author.

Context _____ the meaning of a passage. Context is KING!

Circles of Context:

Test Case: Psalm 46:5 - “God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.”

Dig deeper: Pay attention to the following contexts of your passage

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

“The center and reference point for the meaning of all Scripture is the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God.” – Graeme Goldsworthy

Jesus is the _____ of the Whole Bible.

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:27

“Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Luke 24:44-45

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.” John 5:39

How do I find the Christ-centered meaning of my passage?

1. Learn the four main redemptive _____ of the Bible: *The Bible is One Story with One Hero, Jesus!*

Draw Redemption Narrative:

2. Avoid making _____ into mere examples of good morals.

3. Travel down correct _____ to Jesus.

1. _____ - *Does my text Promise the Savior? How does Christ fulfill the promises in the OT?*

2. _____ - *Does my passage contain a direct prophecy that Christ fulfills?*

3. _____ - *Does my text directly proclaim, show, or explain Christ?*

4. _____ - *“Gospel Threads.” Is there a theme here that finds its way to Christ? (Ex: Judgment, Kingdom, Covenant, Exile, Presence of God, Rest, Justice, Judgment)*

5. _____ - *These are patterns seen in persons, events, institutions, or objects that are intentionally set up by God in history to point us forward to a greater reality of those things fulfilled in later gospel events. (Rom 5:14; Heb 10:1, 9-10)*

4. Look for how the gospel enables you to _____ your passage.

“If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to the death the deeds of the body you will live.” Rom 8:13

How should we read our Bible?

1. Read _____.

“But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” – Isaiah 66:2

2. Read _____.

“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.” Heb 4:12

3. Read _____.

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” Acts 17:11

4. Read _____.

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.” Psalm 1:2

5. Read _____.

“Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” Eph 6:17-18

6. Read _____. *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” Psalm 119:103*

Resources Used and Further Reading:

Peter Adam, *Speaking God's Words*

Daniel Akin, *A Theology for the Church*

Barry Cooper, *Can I Really Trust the Bible?**

Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word**

Katherine Forster, *Transformed by Truth: Why and How to Study the Bible for Yourself as a Teen**

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*

Jeremy Kimble, *How Can I Get More Out of My Bible Reading?**

John Piper, *A Peculiar Glory**

David Platt, *Secret Church 2017: Scripture and Authority in an Age of Skepticism*

David Platt, *Secret Church 2018: Cults and Counterfeit Gospels*

Robert Plummer, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*

Douglas Stuart and Gordan Fee, *How to Read the Bible for all Its Worth.**

Mark Thompson, *The Doctrine of Scripture: An Introduction*

Paul Wegner, "The Reliability of the Old Testament Manuscripts," ESV Study Bible, 2008

Daniel Wallace, "The Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts," ESV Study Bible, 2008

Article on Andy Stanley: <https://www.davidprince.com/2016/09/07/andy-stanleys-statements-bible-not-cutting-edge-theyre-old-liberalism/>

***Recommend for further reading**

