

# THE BIBLE

WHY THE “GOOD BOOK” ISN’T JUST ANOTHER GOOD BOOK.

## OBJECTIVE

In this lesson, we will look at the Bible and reliable history to confirm the Bible as the inspired Word of God. The following lessons will be based on the Bible, so this lesson will help us know we can trust the Bible.

We will also see how the Bible came from Bible heroes like Moses and David and ended up in our hands.

### The Bible Claims to Be the Word of God

II Timothy 3:16 teaches, “All Scripture is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God...”

- 1) perspiration      2) indigestion      3) inspiration

The Scripture (Bible) was inspired by God. What does that mean? Glad you asked. It literally means the Bible is “God breathed.” It’s as if God breathed His life into the Bible, making the Bible you have in your hands the very Word of God.

Men may have written the Bible, but \_\_\_\_\_ authored the Bible.

- 1) God      2) just some guys      3) Adam and Eve

Prophecies are one of the greatest proofs that the Bible is not just another good book. All these prophecies were made and fulfilled in and by Jesus Christ:

#### Just to name a few...

Jesus would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).

Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6).

Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15).

Jesus would be pierced (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34).

Jesus’ executioners would gamble for His garments (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35).

None of Jesus’ bones would be broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36).

Jesus would be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).

Jesus would rise from the grave (Psalm 16:10; Matthew 28:5-6).

Could these prophecies have just been good guesses? The probability of one man fulfilling just eight prophecies, like the ones above, is \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) 1 in 100    2) 1 in 1,000    3) 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

The prophets weren't just guessing. They were inspired by God.

### **The Bible Claims to Be the Word of God**

The Bible is remarkably accurate in its history.

T or F The Bible was written on three different continents.

T or F The Bible was written by nearly forty different men.

T or F The Bible was written over a period of sixteen centuries.

T or F The Bible was written in three different languages.

T or F The Bible was written in several different genres.

T or F The Bible is remarkably specific, even naming people before they were born.

It's amazing to realize the Bible was written by shepherds, kings, prisoners, pastors, prophets, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, musicians, etc. And these men were separated by a period of 1600 years.

Think about one man beginning to write a book and nearly forty others trying to finish it sixteen centuries later. If it wasn't the Word of God, it would be filled with contradictions and inconsistencies. Yet the Bible is miraculously consistent all throughout because the Bible is the Word of God.

Both Old and New Testaments were originally written without \_\_\_\_\_ divisions.

- 1) chapter    2) verse    3) chapter and verse

What's remarkable about the Bible is it reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of its heroes.

- 1) sins    2) hair color    3) shoe size

What to Include in the Bible The question concerning what to include in the Bible is called \_\_\_\_\_.

1) New York City

2) Kansas City

3) Canonicity

**Vocabulary lesson:** The word “canon” means “reed”; the reed was used as a measuring rod and implies “standard”; later the term meant “an officially accepted list of books.” The canon is the official list of books included in the Bible.

You probably like tests at school as much as a cat likes to swim, but there needed to be some tests to make sure the books that found their way into the Bible belonged there.

### Tests for Inclusion in the New Testament

Match the question below with the answer that best completes it.

Was the book written by a _____ of God?	acts
Was the writer confirmed by _____ of God?	story
Did the message tell the _____ about God?	people
Does it come with the _____ of God?	man
Was it accepted by the _____ of God?	power

Once the books passed the tests, they were included in the New Testament canon.

### How Do We Know We’re Not Missing Books?

#### The Old Testament

The New Testament never quotes anything after the book of \_\_\_\_\_.

1) Genesis

2) Malachi

3) Psalms

Jesus makes the statement, "From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zecharias" (Luke 11:51).v  
This is similar to us saying, "From Genesis to Malachi."

When God ceased speaking after the Book of Malachi was written, the Old Testament canon was \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) closed until further notice    2) closed for good    3) closed on Labor Day

### **The New Testament**

The major test of a New Testament book was its apostolic \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) music    2) offering plates    3) authority

T or F The New Testament was written and circulated while some of the apostles were still alive.

\_\_\_\_\_ was the last book of the New Testament canon.

- 1) II John    2) III John    3) Revelation

### **From Them to Us**

Just as there were tests to determine what books should be included in the Canon, there were also very stringent rules for scribes copying the Scripture. In his book, *New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Josh McDowell lists the following:

- Each sheet was measured with exact guidelines.
- Lettering had exact rules and shapes; no two letters were allowed to touch; all letters were spaced by exactly a hair.
- Not a single letter was to be written from memory; every word was to be looked at and pronounced aloud before writing.
- To write the name of the Lord, the pen had to be cleaned, the scribe consecrated, and he was not to respond to a distraction even if a king addressed him.

- If more than three marks had to be corrected, the entire sheet of parchment was to be condemned.
- At the end of each sheet, every word and letter was to be counted. The scribes knew the exact middle word, even letter, in the book.
- At the end of the fifth century, the scribes worked in the presence of a proofreader who checked each word before proceeding.

### Conclusion

From the beginning of this lesson, we have seen that sources both inside and outside the Bible confirm the “good book” we have in our hands and in our hearts as the inspired Word of God.

We’ve seen how the Bible was written by so many men, and yet without contradiction. And we see how it was preserved and saved for us to be able to read the Word of God in our day.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, we can trust its principles and commandments with our very souls. And further, we can trust the One who authored it.

### Notes: