

TITLE: BIBLE BASICS

Tonight we are going to talk more about the Bible itself.

I. WHO IS THE BIBLE FOR AND WHAT IS ITS' PURPOSE?

- A. The Bible is for all persons of every generation. And its purpose is to teach people how to be saved and to know God's plan for them...

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

What two things does the word of God produce in us?

1. endurance – patience
2. encouragement – comfort

What do these two things together produce? HOPE

God intends to bless us every time we read his word

The more we read the greater the blessing

Because the word speaks to every need.

II. WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

The Bible was written by 40 men over a period of 1600 years

Of – course we know that these words are God Brethed according to 2 Timothy 3:16

This means that this word is inspired

Let me give you a definition of inspiration

“Supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon divinely chosen men to guide their writings.”

Here are three wrong ideas about inspiration

1. though the Bible does contain truth it also contains errors
If it is inspired then it is without error
2. parts of the Bible become the inspired word of God to each person
when God speaks to people through these particular bible words
It is not a menu – we cannot pick and choose truth – all truth
3. God dictated the Bible word for word to men who wrote it without
thinking about the words.
God did not use men like robots

Ephes. 3:4-5

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5] which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

III. THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BIBLE

For a long time there was no written revelation from God to man

But God did speak to people and guided them in their actions

But God's word came to each person in a direct way

For example Abraham was called by God and told that his descendents would become the Hebrew nation...

Then God inspired Mosos to write a revelation that would explain the creation of the earth and Give God's law and promises...and everything Changed.

Exodus 24:4

Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

The writings that we as Christians consider the revelation of God is called The Canon.

What is the Canon

“It is a group of Books the early church acknowledged as the rule of faith and practice. These books are considered unsurpassed in their spirituality and are the standard by which all others are measured and found to be of lesser value.

Moses the first to write the Bible is responsible for the first five books of the Bible called the Pentateuch. And known as the LAW

Thereafter God’s word came to other OT writers

Their writings were categorized as the writings or the prophets

So the Old Testament contained the The Law, The Writings, and the Prophets

But not everything written in the OT was canonized

(ie. Recognized as authoritative)

The OT itself even mentions some of these ancient writings.

Numbers 21:14

That is why the Book of the Wars of the Lord says:

Joshua 10:13

So the sun stood still,
and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies,

as it is written in the Book of Jasher.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.

1 Kings 11:41

As for the other events of Solomon's reign--all he did and the wisdom he displayed--are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon?

1 Chron. 29:29

As for the events of King David's reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer,

The OT took over 1000 years to write

During this 1000 years there was no closed canon

But by the time of Jesus the OT had been closed and collected into the 39 books of LAW, PROPHETS, & WRITING which included the **PSALMS**

Luke 24:44

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

The NEW Testament CANON was selected at the Council of Carthage in 397

It was made up of the writings of Peter who gave Paul's writings the OK in 2 Peter 3:16

He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

What did Peter say about Paul's writing...He said that they were Scriptures (Holy Writings)

The gospels and other writings that had been widely accepted and circulated throughout the church

The Council of Carthage declared “Nothing should be read in the church under the name of divine scriptures except the canonical writings

And that was it

The 27 books of the NT we have today are the sealed NT Canon

The OT was written in Hebrew but translated into Greek – called the seputigent
and the NT in Greek

By the time of the council of Carthage the whole of canonized scripture had been translated to Latin

Called the Vulgate

Of course no one could read Latin – thus the term dark ages arose..

The first English version appeared in 1382 by John Wycliff
Followed by William Tyndale’s version in 1525

And 6 others

Until in 1604 King James authorized the translation of a new version that came to bear his name

47 scholars spent 6 years...

It was first published in 1611 and was revised 4 times

The KJV is the most widely circulated version of the Bible

And was really the only one

Until the 20th century

The 20th century brought about a widening language barrier

In the 19th century kids were taught from the KJV
But in the 20th secularism did away with the Bible in schools and new versions began to appear

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 niv

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

CONCLUSION

All 66 books of the Bible were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This should be enough to assure us that the transmission of the Bible was without error

But there is one more factor that tips the scale.

The Unity of the Bible

The central figure of Both Old and New Testaments is Jesus

1. He reveals him self in human form (theophany)
2. He is mentioned throughout the OT as Messiah
3. He is prefigured in all of the leading men throughout the OT.
4. Jesus is in some way mentioned in all 39 OT books
5. Malachi chapter 4 – do you see Jesus

Psalm 119:130

The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.