

CAN WE  
TRUST  
THE  
BIBLE?



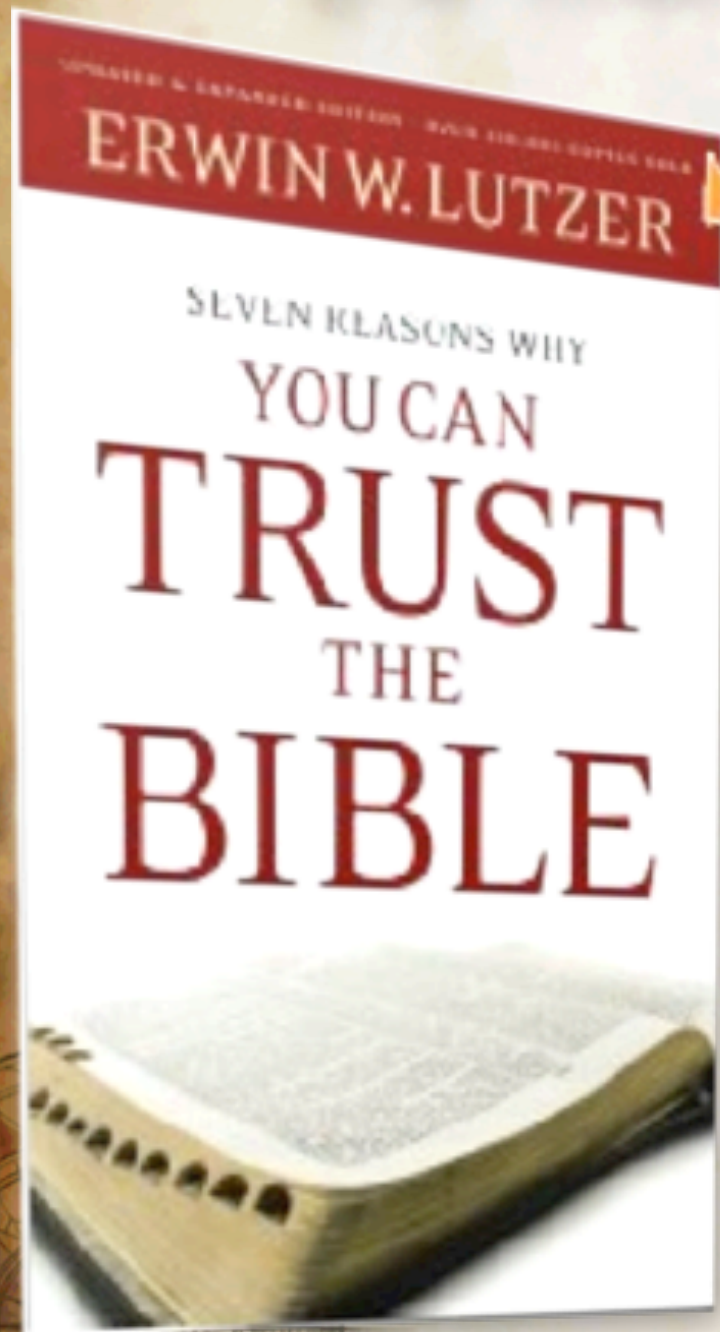
**How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?**  
*What Books Belong In The Bible?*



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# Can We Trust The Bible?

*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*



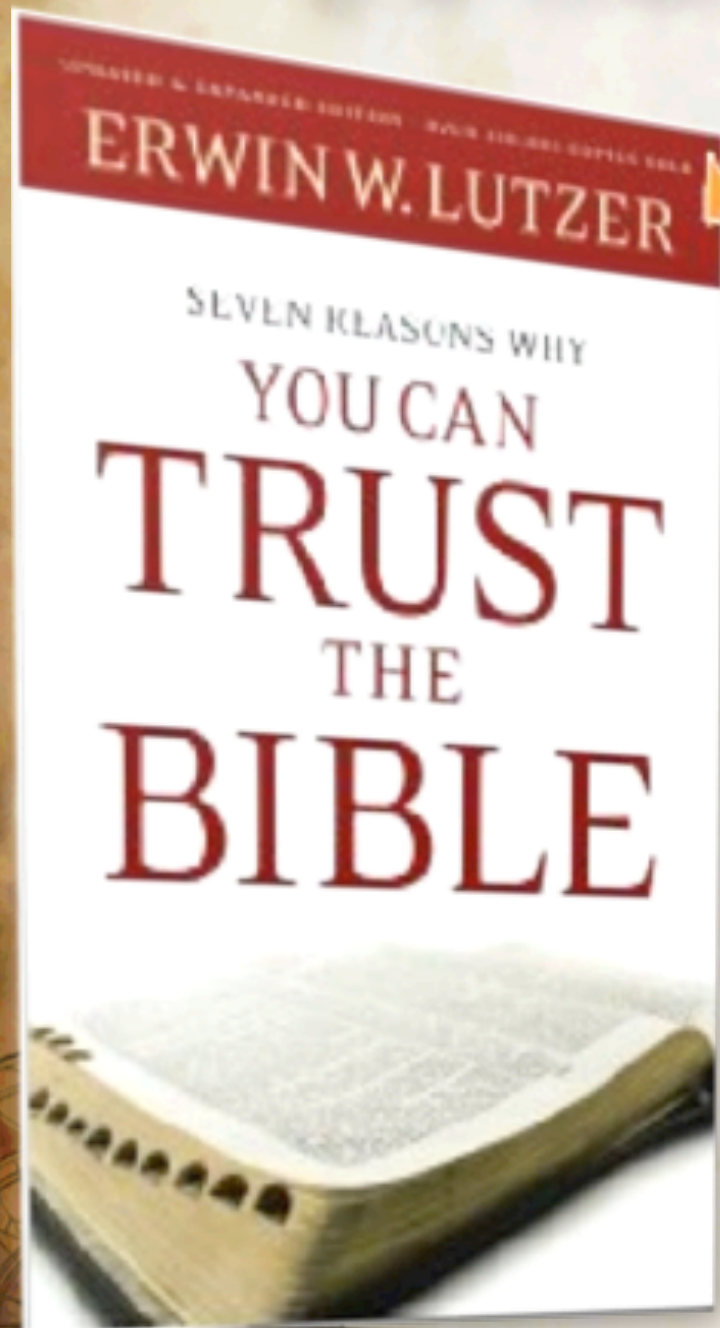
- ◆ Where did the Bible come from?
- ◆ What are the oldest copies we have of the Bible?
- ◆ How do we know the right books are in the Bible?
- ◆ Does the Bible contain errors?
- ◆ How do we know that the Bible hasn't been changed over the years?
- ◆ Why are there so many translations of the Bible, and which one should I use?



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# Can We Trust The Bible?

*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*



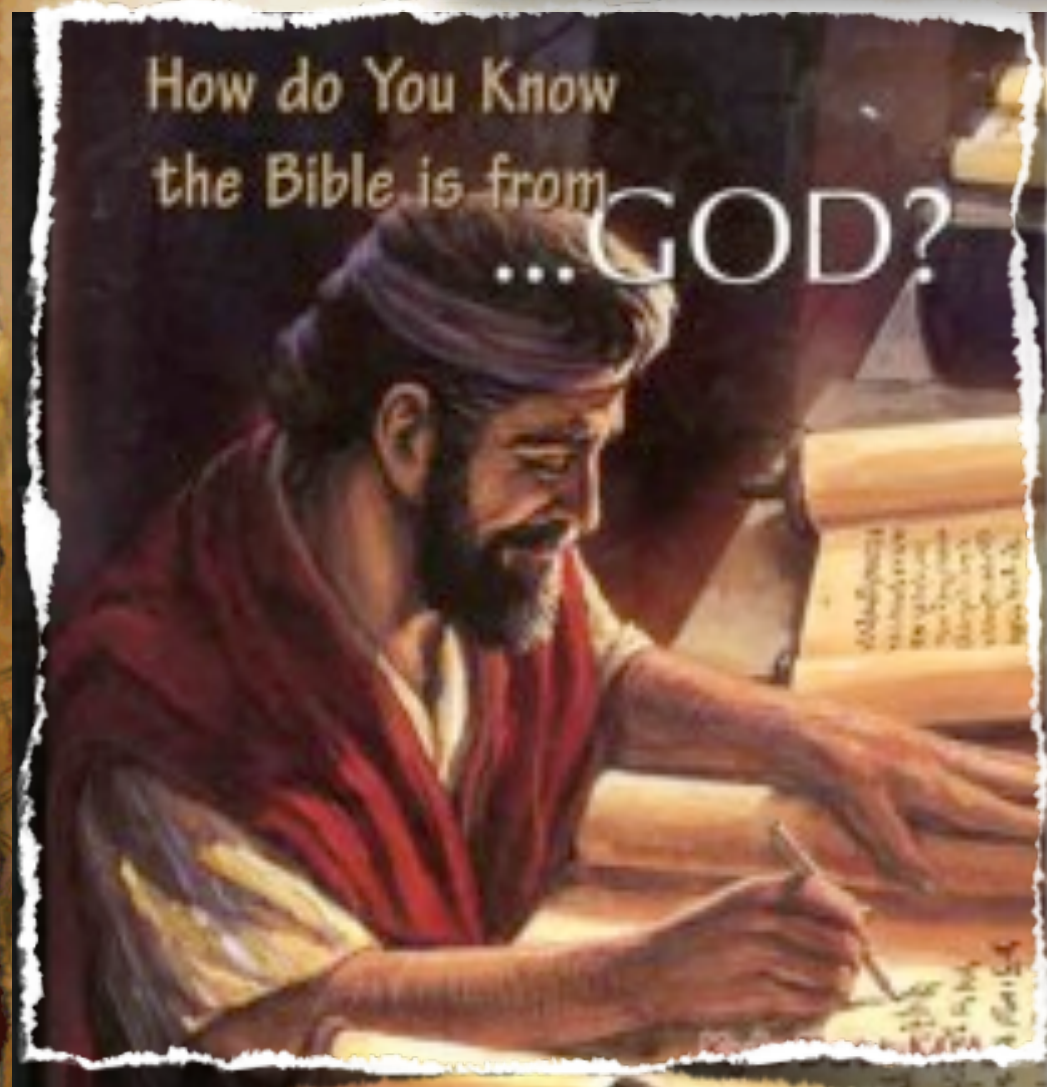
- ◆ God Is!
- ◆ God Has Provided Divine Confirmation!
- ◆ It Answers Every Human Need!
- ◆ It Is One Harmonious Thought!
- ◆ It claims to be the word of God!



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# **The Biblical Teaching About Inspiration**

**Plenary, verbal inspiration**



Thus, every word in every part of the original manuscript is there because The Holy Spirit directed it to be there . . .



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**How does the New Testament compare to other books of antiquity.**



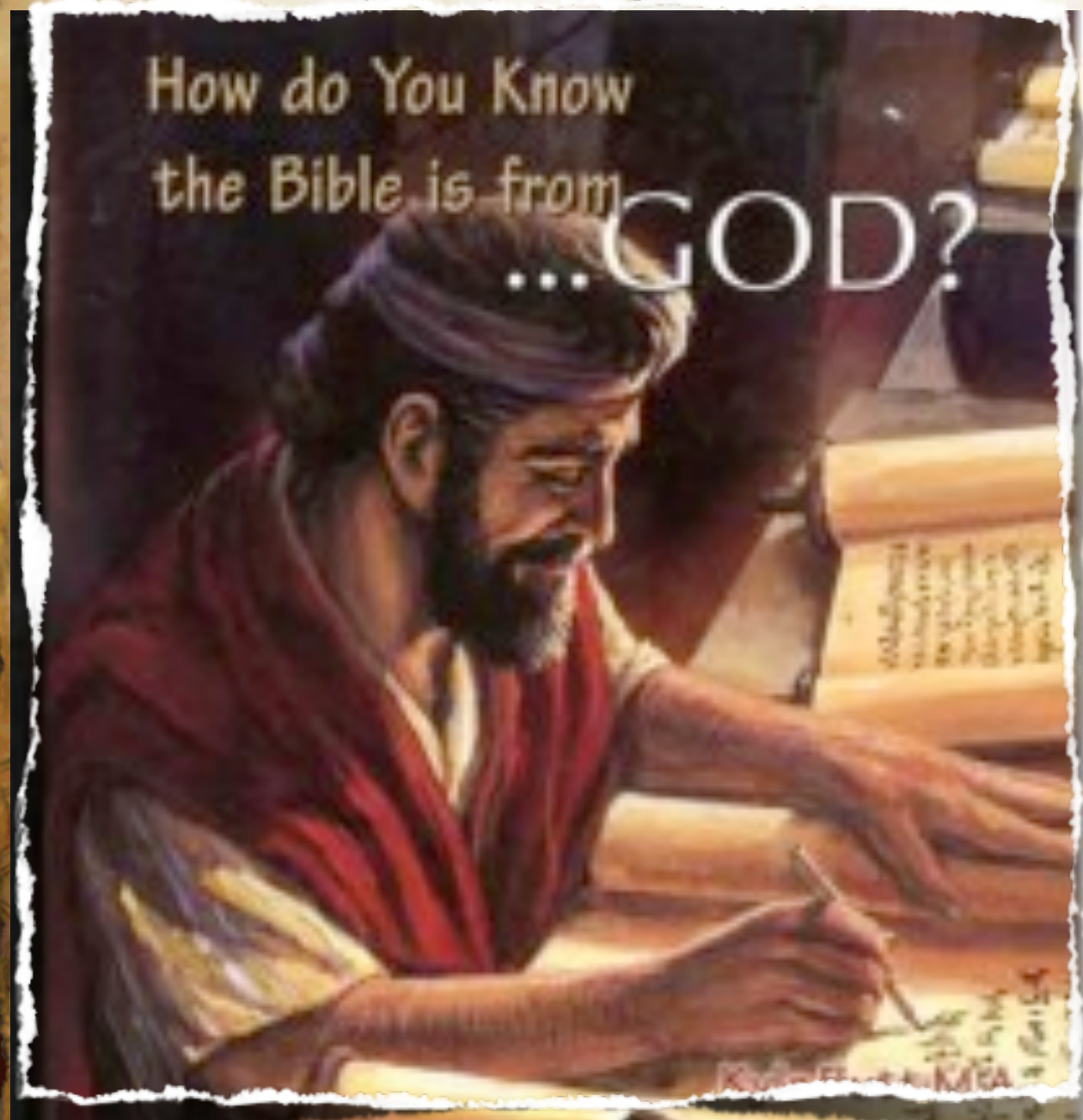
The New Testament is  
the best attested  
book of antiquity by  
far! - (Mt. 24:35)



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# **From God To Us -**

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*



**Inspiration /  
Revelation**

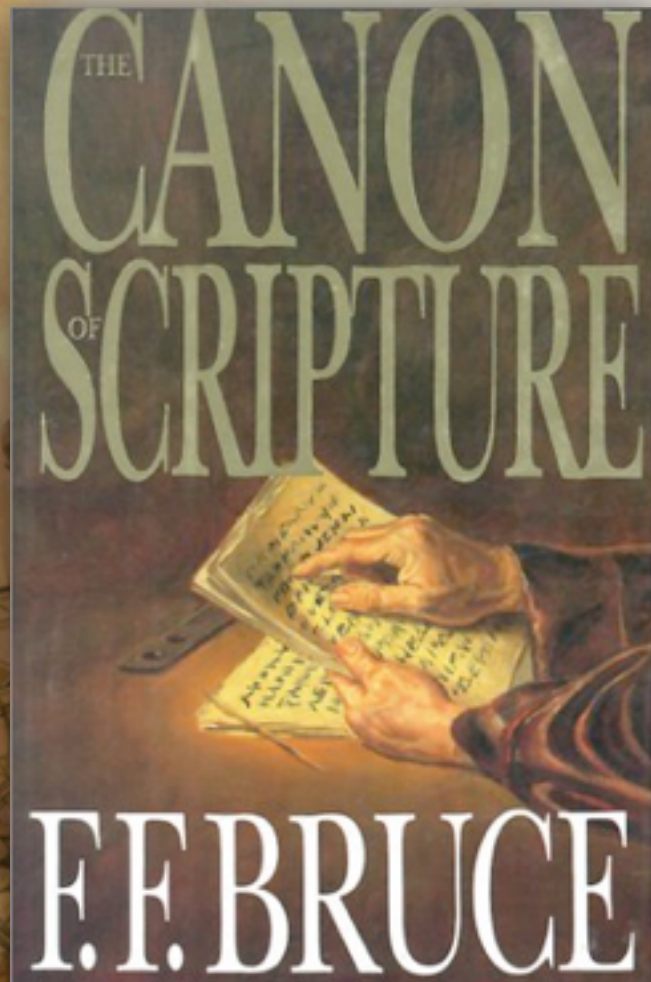
**Words of God  
Written & Copied  
Canonization -**



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## What Books Belong In The Bible?



**QANAH** (Hebrew) - a “reed, rod” (cf. Ezekiel 40: 3-8; 42:16-19).

**KANNA** (Greek) - “a straight rod used as a measuring rule,” thus qualifying it to be a **KANON** (Greek): “a rule, standard” (cp. Galatians 6:16).

**CANON** (Latin > English) - As applied to the Bible: “the list of sacred books acknowledged to be the rule (standard) of faith and practice”



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## The Old Testament Canon

- ◆ The Hebrew Canon
  - 24 Books divided into three sections
- ◆ The Protestant Canon - 39 Books divided into five sections

**The Law, Prophets, & Writings**

**Same, identical content!**

**The Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, & Minor Prophets**



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**

✦ The Roman Catholic Bible contains 7 more books for a total of 46

**Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, Baruch, (Epistle of Jeremiah), Additions to Daniel (Susanna, Bel and the Dragon), Tobit, Judith, Additions to Esther, First & Second Macabees,**



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**

- ✦ Written mostly in Hebrew
- ✦ By the 1st century A.D., Hebrew scripture was already widely circulated as a complete unit and found in synagogues throughout the Roman world.
- ✦ Established among the Jews well before the time of Christ
- ✦ They came to a close during the time of Artaxerxes
- ✦ God entrusted the Jews with His word (Romans 3:2). (They knew what belonged in the Hebrew canon.)
- ✦ The Greek version of the OT: the Septuagint (LXX).



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**

- ✦ Jesus referred to the OT as an identifiable body of text (Matthew 5:17; 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; 26:56; Luke 16:16,29,31; 24:27,44; John 5:45-47; 7:19). (Jesus did not quote from every OT book, but He did quote from all three divisions – The Law, [Torah], The Prophets, [Nebhiim], The Writings, [Kethubhim])
- ✦ He spoke of it as one unit (“all the Law and the Prophets,” Matthew 22:40) with three major parts (“all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms,” Luke 24:44).



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**

- ✦ Jesus did not dispute the books of the Hebrew canon with the Jews. In fact he urged them to read, believe, and follow the Scriptures they had as authoritative for truth.
- ✦ He used the authoritative phrase, “It is written” (Matthew 4:4,7,10; 21:13; 26:24,31; Mark 7:6; 9:12,13; 11:17; 14:21,27; Luke 4:4,8; 7:27; 10:26; 18:31; 19:46; 20:17; 21:22; 22:37; 24:44,46; John 6:45; 8:17; 10:34; 15:25).
- ✦ He rebuked the Jews for their ignorance when they did not know the scriptures. Matthew 22:29-32.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**

- ✦ Jesus referenced the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah, and Malachi. He referred to the Hebrew Scriptures at least 82 times
- ✦ He spoke of these Old Testament people by name: Adam, Eve, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Lot's wife, Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Isaiah, Zechariah, Daniel. He spoke of the prophets as a group of inspired men.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**

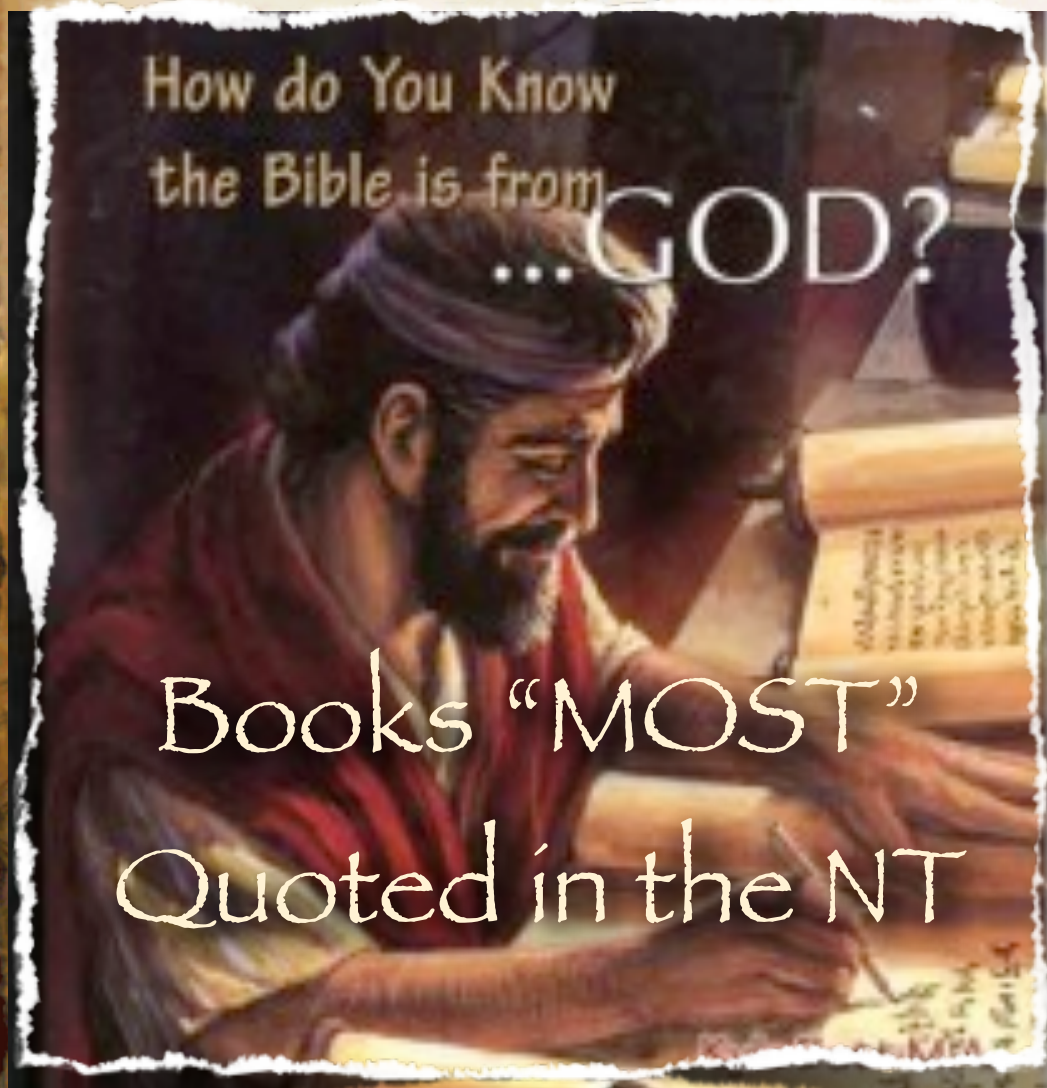
- ✦ Paul acknowledged the Hebrew canon as written for our learning - Ro 15:4 - As written for our admonition - 1 Co 10:11 - As profitable for doctrine, etc.- 2 Ti 3:14-17
- ✦ The apostles and NT writers frequently quoted from those books in the Hebrew canon - Mt 1:22-23; 2:17-18; Jn 12:37-41; Ac 17:2-3; Ro 3:9-10; 4:3; 1 Pe 2:6
- ✦ Books “MOST” Quoted in the NT - . . .



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Old Testament Canon**



- ◆ Isaiah, 419 in 23 books.
- ◆ Psalms, 414 times in 23 books
- ◆ Genesis, 260 times in 21 books.
- ◆ Exodus, 250 times in 19 books.
- ◆ Deuteronomy, 208 times in 21 books.
- ◆ Ezekiel, 141 times in 15 books.
- ◆ Daniel, 133 times in 17 books.
- ◆ Jeremiah, 125 times in 17 books.
- ◆ Leviticus, 107 times in 15 books
- ◆ Number, 73 times in 4 books.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The New Testament Canon**



- ✦ Liberal scholars claim much of the NT wasn't written until the late second or early third century A.D.
- ✦ The Roman Catholic Church delay's the legitimacy of the NT books until the late fourth century A.D.
- ✦ After each book of the NT was written, it was circulated and read among Christians and was considered authoritative (Col 4:16; 1 Thes 5:27).



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## The New Testament Canon



**First and  
Second  
Century  
witnesses to  
the  
spreading of  
the written  
word:**

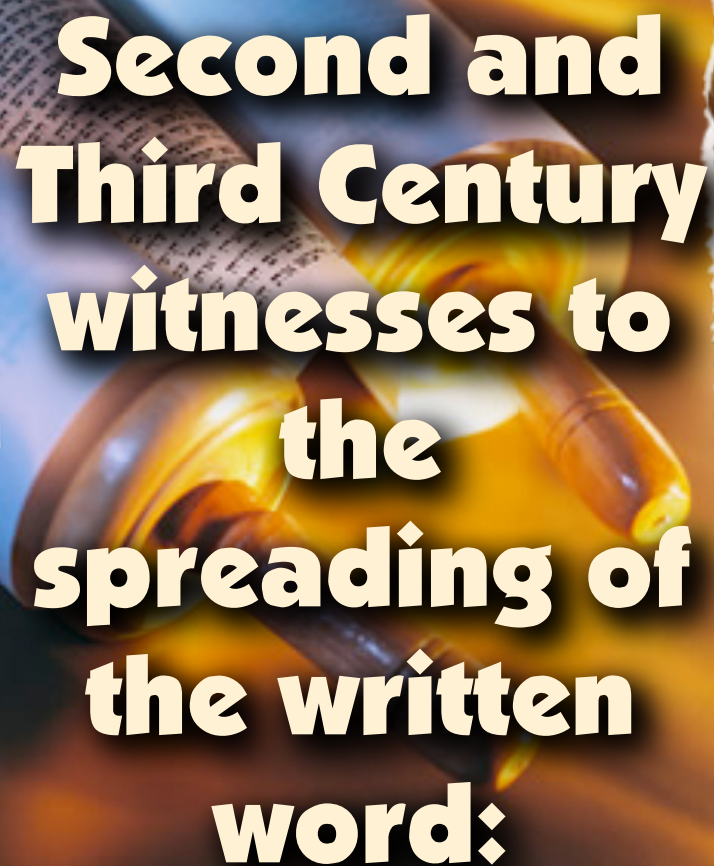
- ✦ Clement of Rome (ca. A.D. 30-100).
- ✦ Ignatius of Antioch (ca. A.D. 30-115).
- ✦ Polycarp (ca. A.D. 69-155)
- ✦ Papias (ca. A.D. 70-140)
- ✦ Marcion (ca. A.D. 144)
- ✦ Justin Martyr (ca. A.D. 100-165)
- ✦ The Muratorian Canon (A.D. 170)
- ✦ Theophilus (ca. A.D. 115-188)



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## The New Testament Canon



**Second and  
Third Century  
witnesses to  
the  
spreading of  
the written  
word:**

- ✦ Irenaeus (ca. A.D. 140-203)
- ✦ Tertullian (ca. A.D. 150-222)
- ✦ Clement of Alexander (ca. A.D. 155-215).
- ✦ Origen (ca. A.D. 185-254)

(Their testimony shows that the NT books were widely circulated, read, and in general use among churches not long after they were written.)



## The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

## *How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

| Date          | Event   |
|---------------|---|
| c. 45-96 A.D. | Books of the New Testament written  |
| 2nd century   | Codex (modern form factor) of books developed   |
| c. 110 A.D.   | Papias refers to the Gospels of Mark & Matthew  |
| c. 125 A.D.   | Earliest extant fragment of any part of the New Testament copied<br>(John 18:38)  |
| c. 140 A.D.   | Gnostic Marcion attempts first canonical list   |
| c. 150 A.D.   | Justin Martyr refers to Christians gathering together and "the memoirs of the Apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as time permits" |
| c. 160 A.D.   | Tatian compiles a "harmony" of the four gospels, called the "Diatessaron"   |



## The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

## *How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

| Date           | Event   |
|----------------|---|
| c. 180 A.D.    | Christian prisoners in Scilla, Libya, refer to "the books, and letters of a just man, one Paul" as their defense          |
| c. 180 A.D.    | Ireneaus confirms four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John   |
| c. 200 A.D.    | Muratorian Canon compiled   |
| 324 A.D.       | Constantine becomes undisputed emperor of the Roman Empire  |
| 325 A.D.       | Council of Nicea; Eusebius writes his Church History  |
| 332 A.D.       | Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea is ordered by Constantine to create 50 volumes "on prepared parchment" of the Holy Scriptures |
| 325 - 350 A.D. | Codex Vaticanus created; contains the complete New Testament as we have it today  |





## The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

| Date        | Event  |
|-------------|--|
| c. 350 A.D. | Codex Sinaiticus written; (now in the British Museum) contains most of modern day New Testament, plus the Shepherd of Hermas, and the Letter of Barnabas |
| 367 A.D.    | Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, writes his Paschal letter, listing the modern day New Testament canon  |
| 393 A.D.    | Council of Hippo affirms modern day canon  |
| 397 A.D.    | Council of Carthage affirms modern day canon   |
| c. 400 A.D. | Jerome (A.D. 346-420) translates Bible into common Latin (the "Vulgate"), using the list of Athanasius   |





# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

**Considered Canonical When Written**

| <b>The Incorrect view</b>                    | <b>The Correct view</b>                      |
|--|--|
| <b>The Church is the Determiner of Canon</b> | <b>The Church is the Discoverer of Canon</b> |
| <b>The Church is the Mother of Canon</b>     | <b>The Church continues via the Canon</b>    |
| <b>The Church is the Magistrate of Canon</b> | <b>The Church is the Minister of Canon</b>   |
| <b>The Church is the Regulator of Canon</b>  | <b>The Church is the Recognizer of Canon</b> |
| <b>The Church is the Judge of Canon</b>      | <b>The Church is the Witness of Canon</b>    |
| <b>The Church is Master of Canon</b>         | <b>The Church is Servant of Canon</b>        |





# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## What About The Apocrypha

- The Wisdom of Solomon (30 B.C.), known as the Book of Wisdom\*
- Ecclesiasticus (132 B.C.), also known as Sirach\*
- Tobit (200 B.C.)\*
- Judith (150 B.C.)\*
- 1 & 2 Maccabees (110 B.C.)\*
- Prayer of Azariah (100 B.C.)\* placed as **Daniel 3:24-90**
- Susanna (100 B.C.)\* placed as **Daniel 13**
- Bel and the Dragon (100 B.C.)\* placed as **Daniel 14**
- Baruch (150-50 B.C.)\* placed as **Baruch 1-5**
- Letter of Jeremiah (300-100 B.C.)\* placed as **Baruch 6**
- Additions to Esther (140-130 B.C.), placed as **Esther 10:4-16:24\***
- 1 Esdras (150-100 B.C.), [3 Esdras]
- 2 Esdras (150-100 B.C.), [Esdras]
- Prayer of Manasseh (100 B.C.)



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Apocrypha Rejected...**



- ✦ Never sanctioned or quoted by Jesus, the apostles, nor any NT writer.
- ✦ Never part of the Hebrew canon; the Jews recognized them to be spurious.
- ✦ Rejected by the early “church fathers.”
- ✦ It wasn’t until the fourth century A.D. that the apocryphal books were placed alongside canonical books, (397), yet they were still in dispute.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Apocrypha Rejected...**



- ✦ It wasn't until the Council of Trent (1546) that the Roman Catholic church officially pronounced their equality with the other books.
- ✦ Their inclusion provided the Catholic church with texts to support their pet false doctrines which lacked support in (and contradicted by) the other books.
- ✦ The extra books do not claim to be inspired texts, and in some places admit the possibility of error.



The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Apocrypha Rejected...**



- ✦ They contain historical inaccuracies and teachings inconsistent with God's word.
- ✦ Realizing all of this, we must do what so many have done (including many Catholics in the past) and reject these extra books as uninspired works of men - (cf. Revelation 22:18-19).



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Criteria For Canonical Books**



- ✦ An inspired book is absolutely infallible and errorless in its facts and doctrines as presented in the original manuscript.
- ✦ An inspired book must present only holy and pure doctrines.
- ✦ Since God is absolute truth, one inspired book cannot contradict another.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Criteria For Canonical Books**



- ✦ An inspired book should reflect the characteristics of God, (omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent) in such ways as fulfilled prophecy and accurate statements with regard to geography, astronomy, science, math, psychology, and all areas of knowledge to the extent that it makes reference to these. If God is the Creator of both the world and man, He could not make an inaccurate statement about them.



# From God To Us -

*How Did We Get The Bible As It Is Today?*

## **The Criteria For Canonical Books**



- ✦ Written by an inspired man –
- ✦ For the purpose of instructing the people of God –
- ✦ Recognized by the people of God as authoritative at the time –
- ✦ Inherent and true –
- ✦ Preserved by the providence of God –



**OLD  
TESTAMENT**

**History**

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

ESTHER

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Songs of Solomon

**Poetry**

**Laws of Moses**

**Prophecy**

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

LAMENTATIONS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

MALACHI

**Major Prophets**

**Minor Prophets**

**Biography**

**History**

**Paul's Letters**

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

1 CORINTHIANS

2 CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

COLOSSIANS

1 THESSALONIANS

2 THESSALONIANS

1 TIMOTHY

2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEMON

**(The Gospels)**

**Other Letters**

**Prophecy**

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

REVELATION

**NEW  
TESTAMENT**







The Trustworthiness of The Scriptures

# Can We Trust The Bible?

*Is It True? Is It Accurate? Is It From God?*

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared November 18, 2012

Preached November 18, 2012

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010

Email - [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/donmaccla/2010SermonPage.html>

Note – Many of the transition effects used in this presentation may be lost using PPT 2007 Viewer

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?>

[FamilyID=cb9bf144-1076-4615-9951-294eeb832823&displaylang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=cb9bf144-1076-4615-9951-294eeb832823&displaylang=en)