

GOD WROTE A BOOK!

THE BIBLE IS...

INSPIRED

the words of Scripture are spoken by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

AUTHORITATIVE

all the words of Scripture are God's words (Psalm 119:89)

SUFFICIENT

contains everything God wants us to know for salvation, for trusting him completely, and for obeying him rightly (Psalm 19:7-14)



CLEAR

clear to all who seek understanding with the desire to know and obey God (Psalm 19:7)

NECESSARY

we need Scripture to tell us how to live and be saved (1 Corinthians 2:6-13)

INERRANT

without error in the original manuscripts (Psalm 12:6; Titus 1:2)

HOW DID WE GET OUR BIBLE?

“CANON”: measuring rod; ruler

OLD TESTAMENT

- Moses wrote the words of God (Deut 31:24-26)
- Joshua wrote the words of God (Joshua 24:26)
- Many others were used by God to write the Old Testament Scriptures (i.e., Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc.)
- It's commonly held outside Old Testament literature that the Old Testament canon had closed with the writing of Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

- The New Testament is the writing of Jesus' disciples who became apostles (leaders in the early church)
- The apostles held authority equal to the Old Testament prophets (1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 3:2)
- The Holy Spirit of God gave the apostles the ability to recall, interpret, and teach the words and deeds of Jesus for their generation and all who would follow

FACT!

Jesus and the New Testament authors quote the Old Testament at least 295 times as being authoritative. They never quote any other extra-biblical sources as having the same authority.

TO BE IN THE BIBLE, A BOOK MUST:

HAVE AN APOSTOLIC CONNECTION

It had to carry the authority of the apostles because they were the ones to whom Jesus had given the task of writing his words

TEACH ORTHODOX DOCTRINE

Any writing that contradicted the early teaching of the apostles was rejected and not given a place in the canon

HAVE BROAD-BASED ACCEPTANCE

There had to be a recognition of its authoritative nature across the spectrum of the early church

363 AD

THE SYNOD OF LAODICEA

did not affirm a canonical list but excluded several letters as not belonging in the canon

393 AD

THE COUNCIL OF HIPPO

affirmed the 27 books of the New Testament as canonical

397 AD

THE SYNOD OF CARTHAGE

affirmed only the 27 New Testament canonical books should be read in the church

419 AD

THE COUNCIL OF CARTHAGE

reaffirmed the canon

APOCRYPHA:

the collection of additional books that are not part of the canon, but which Catholic and Eastern Orthodox religions recognize as divine and, therefore, part of their authorized religious writings

WHAT ABOUT THE APOCRYPHA?

WHY DON'T WE USE THE APOCRYPHA?

- Because it is not inspired by God
- Because Jesus and the apostles did not see these books as inspired by God and, therefore, not on the same level as Scripture
- Because Jesus and the apostles quoted the Old Testament many times as authoritative but never quoted the Apocryphal writings (as authoritative or otherwise)
- Because the Jews who wrote the Apocrypha did not believe it was part of the canon inspired by God and they say so in their writings
- Because there are grave theological errors in the Apocrypha that contradict inspired Scripture
- Because the Catholic Church did not affirm the Apocrypha until 1546 as a reaction to the Protestant Reformation