

# THE FIREPLACE

“The place where Wisdom is transacted”



# APOLOGETICS

## SESSION NINE

# AUTHENTICITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE



# BIBLICAL CRITICISM

**Form Criticism** (Herman Gunkel):

Pentateuch considered as sagas-myths

**Redaction Criticism:** Editors, collectors, scribes or tridents (redactors)

**Canon Criticism:** Why some and not others

# HOW OUR BIBLE CAME TO US

## **Inspiration:**

This is the supernatural influences of the Holy Spirit upon the scripture writers which rendered their writings an accurate record of the revelation or which resulted in what they actually wrote being the word of God They were moved or born or carried along by the spirit.

## 2 Peter 1:20-21 NASB

*“20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

## **2 Tim 3:16-17 NASB**

*“16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

# Theories of Inspiration:

## 1. Natural inspiration or the intuition:

The authors just had a superior insight.

## 2. Dynamic or Partial inscription: The

Bible only inspired in matters of faith and practice but not of an immediately religious character.

## 3. The thoughts not the words are

**inspired:** God left it up to man to put the revelation into words.

# THEORIES OF INSPIRATION CONTINUED

**1. The Bible contains the word of God**

**2. Dictation theory:** God dictated to the authors what to write.

**3. Verbal inspiration:** Inspiration is affirmed of only the autographs not of any of the versions, whether ancient or modern nor of any Hebrew or Greek manuscript in existence nor of any critical text. This does not reduce the trustworthiness of the manuscripts. Both thoughts & choice of words.



## **Other related words:**

1. Revelation (Lk. 1:1-4; 1Jn 1:1-4)
2. Authority
3. Illumination (Rom 1:21; 1Cor 2:6-16; Eph1:18)
4. Inerrancy: Without Error

## **Writing Materials:**

**Papyrus:** Most common material used for writing was papyrus made from the papyrus plant. Earliest manuscripts (mss) were on papyrus and it was difficult for any to survive except in dry areas such as sands or caves similar to those of Qumran where the Dead Sea scrolls were found

### **Parchment:**

Prepared skins of sheep, goats, antelopes and other animals. These skins were “shaved and scraped” in order to produce a more durable writing material.

**Vellum:** Calfskin. Often vellum was dyed purple.

## Types of Writings:

**Uncial Writings:** Used capital letters that were deliberately and carefully executed. Vaticanus and Sinaiticus are uncial *mss.*

**Miniscule Writings:** A script of smaller letters in a running hand (connected) was created for the production of books

### Divisions:

1. The first division (586BC) were of the Pentateuch into 154 groupings (*Sedarim*) to facilitate its reading in a 3-year cycle.
2. The Greeks made division around 250AD. The oldest system of chapter division is from 350AD in the margins of codex Vaticanus.
3. In 1227 Stephen Langton, a professor at the University of Paris and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury divided the Bible into the modern chapter divisions.

# CANONICITY:

- Meaning of Canon: “Reed”-measuring rod or a ruler. (Standard).
- A closed collection of documents regarded as the Holy Scripture.

# Tests for inclusion in the Canon:

1. Is it authoritative- Did it come from the hand of the Lord. Does it come with a , “Thus Says the Lord?”
2. Is it prophetic
3. Is it authentic
4. Is it dynamic- does it come with the life transforming power of God?
5. Was it received Collected, read and used –  
Was it accepted by the people of God
6. Does it agree with the rest of Scripture?

## **Peter acknowledged Paul's work as scripture:**

*15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16 NASB)*

# The Hebrew Canon

## The Law (Torah)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

## The Prophets

### A. Former Prophets

1. Joshua
2. Judges
3. Samuel
4. Kings

### B. Latter Prophets

1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah
3. Ezekiel
4. The Twelve

# The Writings:

## A. Poetic Books

1. Psalms
2. Proverbs
3. Job

## B. Five Books

1. Songs of Solomon
2. Ruth
3. Lamentation
4. Esther
5. Ecclesiastes

## C. Historical Books

1. Daniel
2. Ezra-Nehemiah
3. Chronicles



## **OT Apocryphal Literature:**

The word apocrypha means hidden or concealed. Apart from not making the requirements of canonicity, they:

1. Abound in historical and geographical inaccuracies and anachronism.
2. Teach doctrines which are false and foster practices which are at variance with inspired scripture
3. These resort to literary types and display an artificial dealing with the subject matter and styling out of keeping with inspired scripture.
4. Lack the distinctive elements which give genuine scripture their divine character such as prophetic power and poetic and religious feeling.

# RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

## Bibliographical Test of the New Testament

An examination of the textual transmission by which the documents reach us is important here:

1. Scholars testify of the manuscript authority cf. *Book of Mormon* and *Egyptology*.

## 2. **Manuscript evidence of the NT:**

**A.T Robertson:** “There are 8,000 mss of the Latin Vulgate and at least 1000 for the early versions. Add over 4,000 Greek mss and we have 13,000 mss copies or portions of the NT. Besides all this much of the NT can be reproduced from the quotations of the early Christian writers.”

## **J.W. Montgomery:**

“To be skeptical of the resultant text of the NT books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the NT.”

## NT MSS compared to other works of Antiquity: Other Materials

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. OfCopies
Cesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1,000 yrs	10
Livy	59 BC -AD 17			20
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 BC/900 AD		1,200 yrs	7
Tacitus (Annals)	100AD	1,100AD	900 yrs	20 (-)
also minor works	100AD	1,000AD	900yrs	1
(History)	61 - 113 AD/850 AD		750 yrs	7
Thucydies (History)	460-400/ BC	900 AD	1,300 yrs	8
Suetonius				
(De Vita Caesarun)	75 - 160 AD/950 AD		800 yrs	8
Herodotus (History)	480-425 BC/900AD		1,300 yrs	8
Horace			900 yrs	
Sophocles	496-406 BC/1,000 AD		1,400 yrs	100
Lucretius	Died 55 or 53 BC		1,100 yrs	2
Catullus	54 BC	1,550 AD	1,600 yrs	3
Euripedes	480-406 BC/1,100 AD		1,500 yrs	9
Demonsthenes	383- 322 BC/1,000 AD		1,300 yrs	200*
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 yrs	5+
Aristophanes	450- 385 BC	900 AD	1,200 yrs	10

\* All from one copy

+ of any one work.

Available NT mss: Dating  
procedure: to determine age of  
mss:

1. Materials
2. Letter size and form
3. Punctuation
4. Text Division
5. Ornamentation
6. The colour of the ink

## Conclusion of NT Authority:

F.F Bruce, “There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the NT.”



# Norman Geisler.

“Next to the NT, there is more extant *mss* of the ILIAD (643) than any other book. Both it and the Bible were considered “sacred” and both underwent textual challenges and criticism of their GK Mss.



# **Bibliographical Test of the OT**

Until the recent discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest MS was around 900 AD. This made a time gap of 1300 years since the OT was completed in 400BC. With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls a number of OT manuscripts have been found which scholars date before the time of Christ.

- 1. The Talmudist (AD 100-500)**
- 2. The Masoretic Period (AD 500-900)**
- 3. The Hebrew Text**
- 4. Other Witnesses to the OT**
- 5. External Witnesses**
  - 1. History**
  - 2. Archeology**

# The External Evidence:

## 1. Historical:

Eusebius

Irenaeus (AD 180)

Clement of Rome (AD 95)

Ignatius  
(AD 70-110)

Polycarp (AD 70-156)

Flavius Joseph

Tatian (AD170)

All of these give testimony to the authenticity of the scripture and some were not Christians.

# Alleged Biblical Discrepancies

## *Numerical Discrepancies in Historical Books*

There are about 18 numerical discrepancies in Chronicles and Samuel/Kings. This is probably because of the difficulty in copying from a worn-out manuscript. This kind of error is Scribal and does not necessarily mean they were also appearing in the autograph or originals.

## *Genealogies of Jesus Christ:*

Matthew and Luke differ from the reign of David onward.

Matthew gives the lineage of Joseph (his legal father) while Luke gives the lineage of Mary; his mother. The list is also not exhaustive.

# Conclusion:

1. Internal consistency
2. Life Transforming power
3. Miraculous Abilities

If the Bible is true, which it is, then I need to live with it day and night.

**The Bible was written for the  
simple man, student, and  
worker in the village.**

***“Thy word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.”***

**Ps 119:105**