



Introduction

“The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.” - BF&M 2000

Revelation

In order for us to know anything about God, He must reveal himself to us.

Revelation is a divine activity: not, therefore, a human achievement. Revelation is not the same thing as discovery or the dawning of insight, or the emerging of a bright idea. Revelation does not mean man fording God, but God finding man, God sharing his secrets with us, God showing us himself.

J. I. Packer

General Revelation: General revelation is God's testimony to his _____ and _____ given to _____ human beings _____ through the _____ order.

Romans 1:19-20 ESV

¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

General revelation makes us....

1. _____ of God.
2. _____ to God.

Romans 1:21-23 ESV

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Special Revelation: Special revelation is the teaching about God and his works that he has given to us through the _____ and _____ and which is now contained in the _____.

- Gerald Bray

Notes:

How We Got The Bible

Terms

Inspiration: That _____ influence of the Holy Spirit upon the Scripture writers which rendered their writings an accurate record of the _____ or which resulted in what they actually wrote being the Word of God. (Millard Erickson)

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Peter 1:21 ESV

²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Autographs: the _____ copies of the biblical documents.

Extant: Still in existence

Manuscripts: Handwritten _____ of a document.

Dead Sea Scrolls: A collection of over ____ manuscripts of both the OT and NT texts found in 11 caves near the Dead Sea in 1947.

Notes:

Old Testament Canon

Canon: The _____ authorized collection of books that God has given to govern his people.
(John Frame)

_____ The translation of the Old Testament into Greek; read in the early church and often quoted by the New Testament writers.

Apocrypha: A group of books or parts of books not part of the Jewish canon of the Hebrew Scriptures.

“We have but twenty-two [books] containing the history of all time, books that are justly believed in; and of these, five are the books of Moses, which comprise the law and earliest traditions from the creation of mankind down to his death. From the death of Moses to the reign of Artaxerxes, King of Persia, the successor of Xerxes, the prophets who succeeded Moses wrote the history of the events that occurred in their own time, in thirteen books. The remaining four documents comprise hymns to God and practical precepts to men...” - Flavius Josephus (*Against Apion*, 1.38-1.42)

_____ The Law // first 5 books

_____ The Prophets

_____ : Writings

“Apocrypha, that is books which are not held equal to the sacred Scriptures, an nevertheless are useful and good to read.” – Martin Luther

Notes:

New Testament Canon

Reasons for Canonization

The canonization of the NT was begun in the early 2nd century. Norman Geisler and William Nix provide these 5 reasons for the canonization in the book *A General Introduction to the Bible*.

1. _____

The books were intrinsically valuable and worthy of preservation.

2. _____

There was great need for resources that conformed to the teaching of the apostles

3. _____

In the early 2nd century, some began to question the validity of Luke's gospel and Paul's letters. In an effort to affirm that which was legitimate and snuff out the voices of the heretics, canonization was necessary.

4. _____

Early in the 2nd century, many Christian writings were beginning to be translated into Syriac and Latin. This made it necessary to determine which books were authoritative.

5. _____

When the edict of Diocletian ordered all sacred books of the Christians to be burned, this caused the Church to need to know which writings were most important and in need of protection and preservation.

Notes:

Criteria for Canonization

1. _____

2. _____

Did the teaching contained in the book/letter conform to the apostles teaching?

3. _____

Was the piece of writing produced during the time of the apostles?

4. _____

Was the document in circulation among the churches already.

Three church councils debated and eventually affirmed the 27-book canon of Scripture

Council of Laodicea (363)

Council of Hippo (393)

Council of Carthage (397)

NT Manuscript Evidence

There are 2 main ways that we grade the quality of ancient writings.

1. How _____ the earliest manuscript is to the date of authorship.

2. The number of _____ _____

Notes:

Important Doctrines of Scripture

_____ : The Scriptures are incapable of erring.

_____ : The Scriptures are free from error.

_____ : God is the ultimate authority in the world.

He has spoken once and for all in his Word. Therefore, his Word hold the ultimate authority of being God's Words.

“A famous bumper sticker reads as follows: God says it. I believe it. That settles it.” What is wrong with this statement? It adds an element that is unsound. It suggests that the matter of biblical authority is not settled until the person believes the Bible. The slogan should read: “God says it. That settles it.” If God reveals something, that revelation carries the weight of his authority. There is no higher authority. Once God opens his holy mouth, the matter is settled.” - R. C. Sproul

_____ : Scripture is sufficiently clear to leave people no excuse for disobedience (Frame).

“All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.” - WCF 1.7

_____ : In order to know and obey God, we MUST have Scripture as our guide.

_____ : Scripture alone is more than enough to guide the believer and the church in life and practice.

“Christians sometimes say that Scripture is sufficient for religion, or preaching, or theology, but not for auto repairs, plumbing, animal husbandry, dentistry, and the like. And of course, many argue that it is not sufficient for science, philosophy, or even ethics. That is to miss an important point. Certainly Scripture contains more specific information relevant to theology than to dentistry. But sufficiency in the present context is not sufficiency of specific information, but sufficiency of divine words. Scripture contains divine words sufficient for all of life. It has all the divine words that plumbers need, and all the divine words that theologians need.” - John Frame

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