

The Doctrine of the Bible

Part One: How the Bible Came into Being.

I. Revelation.

A. He often spoke to men through angels.

1. Angels reassured Abraham of the birth of Isaac and informed him of God's decision to destroy Sodom (Gen. 18:10, 20-21).
2. Angels warned Lot to flee Sodom before the awful destruction took place (Gen. 19:12-13).
3. The angel Gabriel explained the nature of the tribulation to Daniel (Dan. 9:21-27).
4. Gabriel informed Zacharias he would have a son who would become the forerunner of Christ (Lk. 1:11-20).
5. Gabriel informed Mary that God had chosen her as his vessel for Christ's birth (Lk. 1:26-37).
6. Angels announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds (Lk. 2:8-14).
7. An angel announced the resurrection of Christ to some women (Mt. 28:5-7).
8. An angel directed Philip to the seeking eunuch (Acts 8:26).
9. An angel directed Peter out of a Roman prison (Acts 12:7-10).

B. He spoke to men through a loud voice.

1. He spoke directly to Adam (Gen. 3:9-19).
2. He spoke directly to Noah (Gen. 6:13-21).
3. He spoke directly to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3).
4. He spoke directly to Moses (Ex. 20:1-17).
5. He spoke directly to Joshua (Josh. 1:1-9).
6. He spoke directly to Samuel (1 Sam. 3:1-14).
7. He spoke directly to Nathan, about David (2 Sam. 7:4-16).
8. He spoke directly to Elijah (1 Ki. 17:2-4).
9. He spoke directly to Jeremiah (Jer. 1:4-5).

C. He spoke to men through a still, small voice (1 Ki. 19:11-13; Ps. 32:8).

D. He spoke to men through nature (Ps. 19:1-3; Acts 14:15-17; Rom. 1:18-20).

E. He spoke to one man through the mouth of an ass (Num. 22:28).

F. He spoke to men through dreams. On a number of occasions God chose this method.

1. Jacob received the confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant in a dream (Gen. 28:12).
2. Solomon received both wisdom and a warning in a dream (1 Ki. 3:5; 9:2).
3. Joseph in the New Testament received three messages in three dreams.
 - a. Assuring him of Mary's purity (Mt. 1:20).
 - b. Commanding him to flee to Egypt (Mt. 2:13).
 - c. Ordering him to return to Palestine (Mt. 2:19-22).
4. The wise men were warned of Herod's evil intentions in a dream (Mt. 2:12).

G. He spoke to men through visions.

1. Jacob was instructed in a vision to go to Egypt (Gen. 46:2).
2. David was warned of judgment in a vision (1 Chron. 21:16).
3. Isaiah saw God's holiness in a vision (Isa. 6:1-8).
4. Daniel saw the great Gentile powers in a vision (Dan. 7-8).
5. Daniel saw the glories of Christ in a vision (Dan. 10:5-9).
6. Daniel saw the rise and fall of Alexander the Great in a vision (Dan. 8:2-8).
7. Ezekiel saw the regathering of Israel in a vision (Ezek. 37:1-12).
8. Ananias was ordered to minister to Saul in a vision (Acts 9:10).
9. Cornelius was instructed to send for Peter in a vision (Acts 10:3-6).
10. Peter was ordered to minister to Cornelius in a vision (Acts 10:10-16).

11. Paul was ordered to Macedonia in a vision (Acts 16:9).
 12. Paul was comforted at Corinth in a vision (Acts 18:9-10).
 13. Paul was comforted at Jerusalem in a vision (Acts 23:11).
 14. Paul viewed the glories of the third heaven in a vision (2 Cor. 12:1-4).
 15. The Apostle John received the book of Revelation in a vision (Rev. 9:17).
- H. He spoke to men through Christophanies. A Christophany is a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Christ. Some theologians have seen a number of these appearances in the Old Testament, believing that the term "the Angel of the Lord," is actually another name of Christ. If this is true, the following examples of Christophany communication could be submitted.
1. The Angel of the Lord wrestled with Jacob (Gen. 32:24-30).
 2. The Angel of the Lord redeemed Jacob from all evil (Gen. 48:16).
 3. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Moses from the burning bush (Ex. 3:2).
 4. The Angel of the Lord protected Israel at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:19).
 5. The Angel of the Lord prepared Israel for the Promised Land (Ex. 23:20-23; Ps. 34:7; Isa. 63:9; 1 Cor. 10:1-4).
 6. The Angel of the Lord commissioned Gideon (Jdg. 6:11-12).
 7. The Angel of the Lord ministered to Elijah (1 Ki. 19:7).
 8. The Angel of the Lord reassured Joshua (Josh. 5:13-15).
 9. The Angel of the Lord saved Jerusalem (Isa. 37:36).
 10. The Angel of the Lord preserved three godly Hebrew men (Dan. 3:25).

II. Inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16).

A. Various theories of inspiration.

1. The natural theory. This theory is totally rejected by the Apostle Peter (2 Pet. 1:20).
2. The mechanical theory (Lk. 1:1-4).
3. The content (or concept) theory. This theory is refuted by many biblical passages (Mt. 5:18; 2 Sam. 23:1-2).
4. The partial theory. Paul refutes the partial theory in 2 Timothy 3:16.
5. The spiritual-rule-only theory. This theory is soundly refuted by Jesus himself in John 3:12.
6. The plenary verbal theory. This view alone is the correct one (Mt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:13; Jn. 6:63; 17:8).

B. Scripture texts on inspiration.

The Bible, of course, strongly claims its writings are from God. Compiling a few choice texts, we discover that:

1. No Old Testament Scripture was thought up by the prophet himself (2 Pet. 1:20-21).
2. All Old Testament Scriptures were given by the Holy Spirit as he moved upon men (2 Pet. 1:21).
3. This Spirit-breathed inspiration was given in many ways (Heb. 1:1).
4. Once it was given, this inspired writing:
 - a. Could not be broken or shaken down (Jn. 10:35).
 - b. Is exact in all details, down to the smallest stroke and letter (Mt. 5:18).
 - c. Would abide forever (Mt. 5:18; 1 Pet. 1:25).
5. The Old Testament writers did not always understand the nature of everything they wrote about (Lk. 10:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:10-12).
 - a. They did not completely understand the details of Christ's suffering.
 - b. They did understand that the mysteries would be clearer to a generation other than theirs.
6. The four Gospels were given by inspiration of God (Heb. 1:1; 2 Pet. 3:2).
7. Paul believed his writings were inspired by God (1 Cor. 2:4; 15:3; 1 Thess. 2:13; 4:15).

8. Paul used the Holy Spirit's words to explain the Holy Spirit's facts (1 Cor. 2:13).
 9. Paul's writings were received through a special revelation from Christ (Gal. 1:11-12).
 10. Paul's writings were to be read by all (1 Thess. 5:27).
 11. Peter believed his writings were inspired by God (2 Pet. 3:2).
 12. Peter believed Paul's writings were inspired (2 Pet. 3:15-16).
 13. John believed his writings were inspired (Rev. 22:18-19).
- C. Implications of inspiration.
1. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not teach that all parts of the Bible are equally important, but only that they are equally inspired.
 2. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not guarantee the inspiration of any modern or ancient translation of the Bible, but deals only with the original Hebrew and Greek languages.
 3. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not allow for any false teaching, but it does on occasion record the lie of someone.
 4. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not permit any historical, scientific, or prophetic error whatsoever.
 5. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not prohibit personal research (Lk. 1:1-3).
 6. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not deny the use of extra-biblical sources (Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12; Jude 14-15).
 7. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not overwhelm the personality of the human author.
 8. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not exclude the usage of pictorial and symbolic language.
 9. Plenary-verbal inspiration does not mean uniformity in all details given in describing the same event.
 - a. Old Testament example (2 Ki. 21:1-18; 2 Chron. 33:1-20).
 - b. New Testament example (Mt. 27:37; Mk. 15:26; Lk. 23:38; Jn. 19:19).
 10. Plenary-verbal inspiration assures us that God included all the necessary things he wanted us to know, and excluded everything else (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
- D. Importance of inspiration.
1. One may have inspiration without revelation (Lk. 1:1-4; 1 Jn. 1:1-4).
 2. One may have inspiration without illumination (1 Pet. 1:11). But without inspiration, the Bible falls.
- E. Completion of inspiration. (Rev. 22:18-19).

III. Illumination.

- A. Reasons for illumination.
1. It is necessary because of natural blindness (1 Cor. 2:14; Mt. 16:16-17).
 2. It is necessary because of satanic blindness (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
 3. It is necessary because of carnal blindness (1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 1).
- B. Results of illumination.
1. Sinners are saved (Ps. 146:8; 119:130).
 2. Christians are strengthened (1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Cor. 2:10; 4:6; Ps. 119:105).
- C. Implications of illumination.
1. The Holy Spirit looks for a certain amount of sincerity before he illuminates any human heart (Heb. 11:6; Jn. 4:24).
 2. The Holy Spirit often seeks out the aid of a believer in performing his task of illuminating the hearts of others. This is seen:
 - a. In the ministry of Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:30-31, 35).
 - b. In the ministry of Paul to the Jews at Thessalonica (Acts 17:2).
 - c. In the ministry of Aquila and Priscilla to Apollos (Acts 18:26).
 - d. In the ministry of Apollos to the Jews at Corinth (Acts 18:28).

Part Two: Views on the Bible.

- I. The Position of Israel (Deut. 6:4-9).
- II. The Position of the Early Church.
- III. The Position of Agnosticism.
- IV. The Position of Liberalism.
- V. The Position of the Cults.
 - A. Christian Scientist.
 - B. Jehovah's Witnesses.
 - C. Mormonism.
- VI. The Position of Romanism.
- VII. The Position of Mysticism.
- VIII. The Position of Neo-Orthodoxy.
- IX. The Position of Neo-Evangelicalism.
- X. The Position of Orthodoxy.
 - A. This was the view of the Old Testament writers concerning the Old Testament.
 1. Moses (Ex. 4:10-12).
 2. Samuel (1 Sam. 8:10).
 3. Joshua (Josh. 23:14).
 4. David (2 Sam. 23:2-3).
 5. Isaiah (Isa. 1:10).
 6. Jeremiah (Jer. 1:6-9).
 7. Ezekiel (Ezek. 3:10-12).
 8. Daniel (Dan. 10:9-12).
 9. Joel (Joel 1:1).
 10. Amos (Amos 3:1).
 11. Obadiah (Obad. 1:1).
 12. Jonah (Jonah 1:1).
 13. Micah (Micah 1:1).
 14. Nahum (Nahum 1:1).
 15. Habakkuk (Hab. 2:2).
 16. Zephaniah (Zeph. 1:1).
 17. Haggai (Hag. 1:1).
 18. Zechariah (Zech. 1:1).
 19. Malachi (Mal. 1:1).

Here it should be kept in mind that the Old Testament refers to itself as the Word of God some 3,808 times.
 - B. This was the view of the New Testament writers concerning the Old Testament. The New Testament writers refer to at least 161 Old Testament events and quote from over 246 Old Testament passages.
 1. Old Testament events referred to in the New Testament (from the 161 events, twenty-two of the more important ones are listed here):

- a. Creation (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3).
 - b. Man made in God's image (Gen. 1:26; 1 Cor. 11:7).
 - c. God resting (Gen. 2:2-3; Heb. 4:4).
 - d. The institution of marriage (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-6).
 - e. The fall (Gen. 3:6-8; Rom. 5:12-19).
 - f. The murder of Abel (Gen. 4:8; 1 Jn. 3:12).
 - g. Enoch's translation (Gen. 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5).
 - h. The ark of Noah (Gen. 6:14-16; 7:1-12; Lk. 17:26-27; 2 Pet. 3:6).
 - i. The call of Abraham (Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8).
 - j. The meeting of Abraham and Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-4).
 - k. The destruction of Sodom (Gen. 19; Mt. 11:24; Lk. 17:32).
 - l. Isaac's birth (Gen. 19:26; Gal. 4:22-23).
 - m. The offering up of Isaac (Gen. 22:10; Heb. 11:17-19).
 - n. The burning bush (Ex. 3:2; Lk. 20:37; Acts 7:30).
 - o. The Exodus (Ex. 12-14; Acts 7:36; Heb. 11:29; 1 Cor. 10:1).
 - p. The giving of manna (Ex. 16:15; Jn. 6:31).
 - q. The giving of the law (Ex. 20; Gal. 3:19).
 - r. The serpent of brass (Num. 21:8-9; Jn. 3:14).
 - s. Elijah and the drought (1 Ki. 17; Lk. 4:25; Jas. 5:17).
 - t. The healing of Naaman (2 Ki. 5:14; Lk. 4:27).
 - u. Daniel in the lion's den (Dan. 6:22; Heb. 11:33).
 - v. Jonah in the belly of the fish (Jonah 1:17; Mt. 12:40; 16:4).
2. Old Testament passages referred to in the New Testament:
- a. Be ye holy, for I am holy (Lev. 11:44; 1 Pet. 1:16).
 - b. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee (Josh. 1:5; Heb. 13:5).
 - c. Be ye angry and sin not (Ps. 4:4; Eph. 4:26).
 - d. There is none righteous, no not one (Ps. 14:1; Rom. 3:10).
 - e. Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:6).
 - f. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes (Isa. 25:8; Rev. 21:4).
 - g. Death is swallowed up in victory (Hosea 13:14; 1 Cor. 15:54).
 - h. I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17).
 - i. Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13).
 - j. The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof (Ps. 24:1; 1 Cor. 10:26).
 - k. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord (Prov. 3:11; Heb. 12:5).
 - l. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (Ps. 118:26; Mt. 21:9).
 - m. Charity covereth a multitude of sins (Prov. 10:12; 1 Pet. 4:8).
 - n. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15).
- C. This was the view of the New Testament writers concerning the New Testament.
1. Peter's testimony (2 Pet. 3:2).
 2. Paul's testimony (1 Cor. 2:4, 13; 15:3; 1 Thess. 2:13; 4:15).
 3. John's testimony (Rev. 22:18-19).
 4. James' testimony (Jas. 1:21; 4:5).
 5. Jude's testimony (Jude 3).
- D. This was the view of the Lord Jesus Christ concerning the entire Bible.
1. Our Lord began his ministry by quoting from the Old Testament. Compare Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 with Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:13, 16.
 2. Our Lord ended his ministry by quoting from the Old Testament. Five of his last seven statements on the cross were lifted from the pages of the Old Testament. Compare:
 - a. Luke 23:34 with Isaiah 53:12.

- b. Luke 23:43 with Isaiah 53:10-11.
 - c. Matthew 27:46 with Psalms 22:1.
 - d. John 19:28 with Psalms 69:21.
 - e. Luke 23:46 with Psalms 31:5.
3. Our Lord preached one of his first public messages from an Old Testament text. Compare Luke 4:16-19 with Isaiah 61:1-2.
 4. Our Lord informed the Pharisees they erred, "not knowing the scriptures" (Mt. 22:29).
 5. Our Lord justified his own actions by referring to the Old Testament:
 - a. When he ate on the Sabbath (Mt.12:1-8).
 - b. When he healed on the Sabbath (Mt.12:10-21).
 - c. When he cleansed the Temple (Mt.21:13).
 - d. When he accepted the praise of the crowds at his triumphal entry (Mt. 21:16).
 6. Our Lord believed in the history of the Old Testament. He referred to:
 - a. Creation (Mk. 10:6).
 - b. Noah's ark (Mt. 24:38).
 - c. Lot's wife (Lk. 17:32).
 - d. Destruction of Sodom (Lk. 17:29).
 - e. Jonah and the fish (Mt. 12:40).
 - f. The Queen of Sheba and Solomon (Mt. 12:42).
 - g. The repentance of Nineveh (Mt. 12:41).
 - h. Naaman the leper (Lk. 4:27).
 - i. Elijah and the widow (Lk. 4:25-26).
 - j. Moses and the serpent (Jn. 3:14).
 - k. The first marriage (Mt. 19:5-7).
 - l. The blood of Abel (Lk. 11:51).
 - m. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Mt. 22:31-32).
 - n. The burning bush (Lk. 20:37).
 - o. The wilderness manna (Jn. 6:31).
 - p. The murder of Zacharias (Mt. 23:35).
 7. Our Lord said the law would be fulfilled (Mt. 5:18) and the Scriptures could not be broken (Jn. 10:35).

Part Three: What Great Personalities Have Said about the Bible.

- I. United States Presidents.
 - A. George Washington.
 - B. John Adams.
 - C. Thomas Jefferson.
 - D. John Quincy Adams.
 - E. Andrew Jackson.
 - F. Zachary Taylor.
 - G. Abraham Lincoln.
 - H. Ulysses S. Grant.
 - I. Rutherford B. Hayes.
 - J. Benjamin Harrison.
 - K. William McKinley.
 - L. Theodore Roosevelt.
 - M. Woodrow Wilson.
 - N. Herbert Hoover.
 - O. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 - P. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

- II. World Leaders.
 - A. William Gladstone.
 - B. Winston Churchill.
 - C. Chiang Kai-Shek.
 - D. Halle Selassie.
 - E. Syngman Rhee.

- III. Generals.
 - A. Douglas MacArthur.
 - B. William K. Harrison.
 - C. Robert E. Lee.
 - D. Stonewall Jackson.
 - E. Oliver Cromwell.

- IV. Scientists.
 - A. Sir Isaac Newton.
 - B. Sir Francis Bacon.
 - C. Sir John Herschel.
 - D. Michael Faraday.
 - E. James Dwight Dana.

- V. Historians.
 - A. Arnold J. Toynbee.
 - B. H. G. Wells.
 - C. Thomas Carlyle.

- VI. Physicians.
 - A. Mark Hopkins.
 - B. Charles W. Mayo.

- VII. Lawyers.
 - A. Daniel Webster.
 - B. Benjamin Franklin.
 - C. Patrick Henry.

- VIII. Educators.
 - A. Timothy Dwight.
 - B. William Lyon Phelps.
 - C. Henry Van Dyke.

- IX. Philosophers and Writers.
 - A. Charles Dana.
 - B. Horace Greeley.
 - C. Immanuel Kant.
 - D. John Locke.
 - E. Count Leo Tolstoy.
 - F. John Ruskin.
 - G. John Milton.
 - H. William Cowper.

- I. John Dryden.
 - J. Sir Walter Scott.
 - K. Charles Dickens.
- X. People from Various Fields.
- A. J. Edgar Hoover.
 - B. Bernard Baruch.
 - C. Helen Keller.
 - D. Lowell Thomas.
 - E. King George V.
- XI. The Church Fathers:
- A. Augustine.
 - B. John Chrysostom.
 - C. Athanasius.
 - D. Origen.
 - E. Jerome.
 - F. Luther.
 - G. Calvin.

Part Four: Symbols for the Bible.

- I. A Mirror (Jas. 1:23-25).
It is called a mirror because it reflects the mind of God and the true condition of man.
- II. A Seed (1 Pet. 1:23; Jas. 1:18; Mt. 13:18-23).
It is called a seed because, once properly planted, it brings forth life, growth and fruit.
- III. Water (Eph. 5:25-27).
It is called water because of its cleansing, quenching and refreshing qualities.
- IV. A Lamp (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23; 2 Pet. 1:19).
It is called a lamp because it shows us where we are now, it guides us in the next step and it keeps us from falling.
- V. A Sword (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17).
It is called a sword because of its piercing ability, operating with equal effectiveness upon sinners, saints and Satan.
- VI. Precious Metals.
- A. Gold (Ps. 19:10; 119:127).
 - B. Silver (Ps. 12:6).
- It is referred to as precious metals because of its desirability, its preciousness, its beauty and its value.
- VII. Nourishing Food.
- A. Milk (1 Pet. 2:2).
 - B. Meat (Heb. 5:12-14).
 - C. Bread (Jn. 6:51).
 - D. Honey (Ps. 19:10).
- It is referred to as nourishing food because of the strength it imparts.

- VIII. A Hammer (Jer. 23:29).
It is referred to as a hammer because of its ability to both tear down and build up.
- IX. A Fire (Jer. 20:9; Lk. 24:32).
It is called a fire because of its judging, purifying, and consuming abilities.

Part Five: The Supreme Authority of the Bible.

(2 Tim. 3:15-17). This authority would exceed that of the following:

- I. Human Reason (Prov. 3:5-7; Isa. 55:8-9).
- II. The Church. The Savior, it must be remembered, gave birth to the Church, and not the other way around. (See Mt. 16:18.) Thus the Christian must look to the Bible and not to any earthly church for final instruction. Sometimes even those local churches mentioned in the Bible itself were grievously wrong.
- A. The church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:4-5).
 - B. The church at Pergamos (Rev. 2:14-16).
 - C. The church at Thyatira (Rev. 2:20).
 - D. The church at Sardis (Rev. 3:1-3).
 - E. The church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:15-19).
- III Tradition (Mt. 15:5-6; Col. 2:8).
- IV. Popes and Preachers.
- V. Feeling and Experiences (Ps. 27:13; 42:5; 77:1-10; 116:11).
Listed below are the various functions of this authoritative book called the Bible.
- A. It upholds (Ps. 119:116).
 - B. It orders steps (Ps. 119:133).
 - C. It produces joy (Ps. 119:162).
 - D. It strengthens (Ps. 119:28; 1 Jn. 2:14).
 - E. It gives hope (Ps. 119:74, 81).
 - F. It gives light (Ps. 119:105, 130).
 - G. It gives understanding (Ps. 119:169).
 - H. It shows God's will (Isa. 55:11).
 - I. It builds up (Acts 20:32).
 - J. It produces fruit (Jn. 15:5, 7).
 - K. It convicts of sin (Heb. 4:12).
 - L. It converts the soul (Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23).
 - M. It cleanses the conscience (Jn. 15:3).
 - N. It consecrates life (Jn. 17:17).
 - O. It corrects the wrong (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - P. It confirms the right (Jn. 8:31-32).
 - Q. It comforts the heart (Ps. 119:50, 54).

Part Six: How the Sixty-Six Books of the Bible Were Collected and Preserved.

- I. The Writing Materials of the Bible.
- A. Clay (Jer. 17:13; Ezek. 4:1).
 - B. Stone (Ex. 24:12; 13:18; 32:15-16; 34:1, 28; Deut. 5:22; 27:2-3; Josh. 8:31-32).
 - C. Papyrus (made by pressing and gluing two layers of split papyrus reeds together in order to form a sheet) (2 Jn. 12; Rev. 5:1).
 - D. Vellum (calf skin), parchment (lamb skin), leather (cowhide) (2 Tim. 4:13).

E. Metal (Ex. 28:36; Job 19:24).

II. The Original languages of the Bible.

A. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, with the following exceptions appearing in Aramaic: Ezra 4:8--6:18; 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11; Daniel 2:4--7:28.

B. The entire New Testament was written in Greek.

III. The Reason for the Writing of the Bible.

The advantages of the written method are many, of course.

A. Precision.

B. Propagation.

C. Preservation. It may be said that the New Testament especially was written for the following reasons:

1. Because of the demands of the early church (1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
2. Because of false doctrines (to counteract them).
3. Because of missionary endeavors (to propagate them).
4. Because of persecution and politics.

IV. The Old Testament.

A. The order of the books in the Hebrew Old Testament.

1. The Law (Torah).
 - a. Genesis.
 - b. Exodus.
 - c. Leviticus.
 - d. Numbers.
 - e. Deuteronomy.
2. The Prophets (Nebhiim).
 - a. Former Prophets--four books:
 - (1) Joshua.
 - (2) Judges.
 - (3) Samuel.
 - (4) Kings.
 - b. Latter Prophets (major and minor):
Major Section.
 - (1) Isaiah.
 - (2) Jeremiah.
 - (3) Ezekiel.Minor Section.
 - (1) Hosea.
 - (2) Joel.
 - (3) Amos.
 - (4) Obadiah.
 - (5) Jonah.
 - (6) Micah.
 - (7) Nahum.
 - (8) Habakkuk.
 - (9) Zephaniah.
 - (10) Haggai.
 - (11) Zechariah.

- (12) Malachi.
- 2. The Writings.
 - a. The poetical books.
 - (1) Psalms.
 - (2) Proverbs.
 - (3) Job.
 - b. The Scrolls.
 - (1) Song of Solomon.
 - (2) Ruth.
 - (3) Lamentations.
 - (4) Ecclesiastes.
 - (5) Esther.
 - c. Prophetic--historical.
 - (1) Daniel.
 - (2) Ezra--Nehemiah.
 - (3) Chronicles.
- B. The suggested order of the writings.
 - 1. Job--2150 BC.
 - 2. Pentateuch--1402 BC.
 - 3. Joshua--before 1350 BC.
 - 4. Judges and Ruth--before 1050 BC.
 - 5. Psalms--before 965 BC.
 - 6. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon--before 926 BC.
 - 7. 1 and 2 Samuel--before 926 BC.
 - 8. 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles--before 848 BC.
 - 9. Obadiah--848 BC.
 - 10. Joel--835 BC.
 - 11. Jonah--780 BC.
 - 12. Amos--765 BC.
 - 13. Hosea--755 BC.
 - 14. Isaiah--750 BC.
 - 15. Micah--740 BC.
 - 16. Jeremiah and Lamentations--640 BC.
 - 17. Nahum--630 BC.
 - 18. Habakkuk and Zephaniah--625 BC.
 - 19. Ezekiel--593 BC.
 - 20. 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles--before 539 BC.
 - 21. Daniel--before 538 BC.
 - 22. Haggai and Zechariah--520 BC.
 - 23. Esther--after 476 BC.
 - 24. Ezra--after 458 BC.
 - 25. Nehemiah--after 445 BC.
 - 26. Malachi--432 BC.
- C. The location of the Old Testament books.
 - 1. Before the Babylonian captivity (Ex. 24:3-4, 7; Deut. 31:24-26; 2 Ki. 22:8-10; Josh. 24:25-26; 1 Sam. 10:25).
 - 2. During the Babylonian captivity (Dan. 9:2).
 - 3. After the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 3:10-11; 6:15-18; Neh. 8:1-8).

V. The New Testament.

- A. A suggested chronological order and possible dating of the New Testament books.
 - 1. James--AD 49 (written from Jerusalem).
 - 2. 1 and 2 Thessalonians--AD 52 (written from Corinth).
 - 3. 1 Corinthians--AD 56 (written from Macedonia).
 - 4. 2 Corinthians--AD 56 (written from Macedonia).
 - 5. Galatians--AD 57 (written from Ephesus).
 - 6. Romans--AD 58 (written from Corinth).
 - 7. Luke--AD 59 (written from Caesarea).
 - 8. Acts--AD 60 (written from Rome).
 - 9. Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon--AD 61-62 (written from Rome).
 - 10. Matthew--AD 63 (written from Judea).
 - 11. Mark--AD 63 (written from Rome).
 - 12. Hebrews--AD 64 (written from Jerusalem).
 - 13. 1 Timothy--AD 65 (written from Macedonia).
 - 14. 1 Peter--AD 65 (written from Babylon).
 - 15. 2 Peter--AD 66 (unknown).
 - 16. Titus--AD 66 (written from Greece).
 - 17. Jude--AD 67 (unknown).
 - 18. 2 Timothy--AD 67 (written from Rome).
 - 19. John--AD 85-90 (written from Ephesus).
 - 20. 1 John--AD 90-95 (written from Judea).
 - 21. 2 and 3 John--AD 90-95 (written from Ephesus).
 - 22. Revelation--AD 90-95 (written from the Isle of Patmos).
- B. The human writers.
 - 1. Matthew--author of Matthew.
 - 2. Mark--author of Mark.
 - 3. Luke--author of Luke and Acts.
 - 4. John--author of John, 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation.
 - 5. James--author of James.
 - 6. Jude--author of Jude.
 - 7. Peter--author of 1 and 2 Peter.
 - 8. Paul--author of the fourteen remaining New Testament epistles.

VI. The Determination of the Canon.

- A. The tests given to the biblical books.
 - 1. Authorship.
 - 2. Local church acceptance.
 - 3. Church fathers' recognition.
 - 4. Book subject matter (content).
 - 5. Personal edification.
- B. The writings that were unacceptable. After the Old Testament canon was recognized by the Jews as officially closed, and prior to the New Testament period, there arose a body of literature called the Apocrypha. This word literally means "that which is hidden" and consists of fourteen books.
 - 1. The contents of the Old Testament Apocrypha.
 - a. 1 Esdras.
 - b. 2 Esdras.
 - c. Tobit.
 - d. Judith.
 - e. The remainder of Esther.
 - f. The Wisdom of Solomon.

- g. Ecclesiasticus.
 - h. 1 Maccabees.
 - i. 2 Maccabees.
 - j. Baruch.
 - k. The Song of the Three Children.
 - l. The story of Susanna.
 - m. Bel and the Dragon.
 - n. The Prayer of Manasses.
2. Reasons for rejecting the Apocrypha.
- a. The Apocrypha was never included in the Old Testament canon by such recognized authorities as the Pharisees, Ezra the prophet, etc.
 - b. It was never quoted by the Jews, by Jesus or by any other New Testament writers.
 - c. The great Jewish historian Josephus excluded it.
 - d. The well-known Jewish philosopher Philo did not recognize it.
 - e. The early church fathers excluded it.
 - f. The Bible translator Jerome did not accept the books as inspired, although he was forced by the Pope to include them in the Latin Vulgate Bible.
 - g. None of the fourteen books claim divine inspiration; in fact, some actually disclaim it.
 - h. Some books contain historical and geographical errors.
 - i. Some books teach false doctrine, such as praying for the dead.
 - j. No Apocryphal book can be found in any catalogue list of canonical books composed during the first four centuries A.D.
- C. Some canonical books were at first doubted but later fully accepted.
- 1. Old Testament books.
 - a. The Song of Solomon.
 - b. Ecclesiastes. (See 9:5).
 - c. Esther.
 - d. Ezekiel.
 - e. Proverbs. (See 26:4-5.)
 - 2. New Testament books.
 - a. Hebrews.
 - b. James.
 - c. 2 and 3 John.
 - d. Jude.
 - e. Revelation.

VII. The Finalization of the Canon.

- A. The Old Testament.
- B. The New Testament.

Part Seven: Important Historical Translations of the Bible.

- I. Publications Up to the Time of Jesus.
 - A. The Dead Sea Scrolls.
 - B. The Greek Septuagint.
- II. Publications up to the Seventh Century A.D.
 - A. The Papyri.
 - B. The Latin Vulgate.
 - C. Codex Sinaiticus.

- D. Codex Vaticanus.
- E. Codex Alexandrinus.
- F. The Coptic Version.
- G. The Ethiopic Version.
- H. The Gothic Version.
- I. The Armenian Version.

III. Publications in English from the Seventh Century to the Present.

- A. Old English Period--AD 450 to 1100.
 - 1. Caedmon (died in 680).
 - 2. Bede (674-735).
 - 3. Alfred (king of England, 871-901).
- B. Middle English Period--AD 1100 to 1500.
 - 1. John Wycliffe (1320-1384).
- C. Modern English Period--AD 1500 to date.
 - 1. Tyndale's Version (1525).
 - 2. The Coverdale Version (1535).
 - 3. Matthew's Version (1537).
 - 4. The Great Bible Version (1539).
 - 5. The Geneva Version (1557). This Bible became important for the following reasons:
 - a. It was the first version to divide the text into verses.
 - b. It was the first to omit the Apocrypha.
 - c. It was kissed by Queen Elizabeth (daughter of Henry VIII) at her coronation, a policy which is still followed by English kings and queens.
 - d. It was the most-loved Bible of the common people up to that time and went through more than 160 editions.
 - e. It was the Bible of Shakespeare and John Bunyan.
 - f. It was the Bible the pilgrims brought with them on the Mayflower in 1620 to America.
 - 6. The Bishop Bible (1568).
 - 7. The Rheims Douai Bible (1582).
 - 8. The King James Version (1611).
 - 9. The English (1881-1885) and American (1901) Revision.
 - 10. The Revised Standard Version (1952).
 - 11. The Amplified Bible (1954).
 - 12. Good News for Modern Man (1966).
 - 13. The Jerusalem Bible (1966).
 - 14. The New American Bible (1970).
 - 15. The Living Bible (1971).
 - 16. The New American Standard Bible (1971).
 - 17. New International Version (1978).

Part Eight: Proofs That the Bible is the Word of God.

- I. First Supernatural Element--Its Amazing Unity.
 - A. This unity is achieved in spite of the long period of time involved in its writing.
 - 1. More than fifteen centuries elapsed between the writing of Genesis and Revelation.
 - 2. Nearly 400 years elapsed between the writing of Malachi and Matthew.
 - B. This unity is achieved in spite of the many authors (some forty) and their various occupations (approximately nineteen) (Ps. 68:11).
 - 1. Moses was an Egyptian prince.

2. Joshua was a soldier.
 3. Samuel was a priest.
 4. David was a king.
 5. Esther was a queen.
 6. Ruth was a housewife.
 7. Job was a rich farmer.
 8. Amos was a poor farmer.
 9. Ezra was a scribe.
 10. Isaiah was a prophet.
 11. Daniel was a prime minister.
 12. Nehemiah was a cupbearer.
 13. Matthew was a tax collector.
 14. Mark was an evangelist.
 15. Luke was a physician.
 16. John was a wealthy fisherman.
 17. Peter was a poor fisherman.
 18. Jude and James probably were carpenters.
 19. Paul was a tentmaker.
- C. This unity is achieved in spite of the different geographical places where the Bible was written.
1. In the desert (Ex. 17:1).
 2. On Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20).
 3. In Palestine (most of it was written here).
 4. In Egypt (Jer. 43:8).
 5. On the Isle of Patmos (Revelation).
 6. In Babylon (Daniel).
 7. In Persia (Esther).
 8. In Corinth (1 and 2 Thessalonians).
 9. In Ephesus (Galatians).
 10. In Caesarea (Luke).
 11. From Rome (2 Timothy).
- D. This unity is achieved in spite of the many different styles of its writing.
1. As history.
 2. As prophecy.
 3. As biography.
 4. As autobiography.
 5. As poetry.
 6. As law.
 7. In letter form.
 8. In symbolic form.
 9. In proverb form.
 10. In doctrinal form.

II. Second Supernatural Element--Its Indestructibility.

- A. Its indestructibility in spite of political persecutions (from the Roman Emperors).
- B. Its indestructibility in spite of religious persecutions.
 1. As seen through the persecutions by Roman Catholic popes.
 2. As seen through the persecutions leveled against John Wycliffe and William Tyndale.
- C. Its indestructibility in spite of philosophical persecution.
 1. Voltaire.
 2. Thomas Paine.

3. Joseph Stalin.

III. Third Supernatural Element--Its historical accuracy.

- A. Sir William Ramsey.
- B. William F. Albright.
- C. Robert Dick Wilson.
- D. Authenticated by archaeology
 1. The Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8-14).
 2. The fall of man (Gen. 3:1-24).
 3. The longevity of early mankind (Gen. 5:1-32).
 4. The universal flood (Gen. 6:1--9:29).
 5. The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9).
 6. Abraham's birthplace (Gen. 11:27-31).
 7. Abraham's visit to Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20).
 8. Abraham's battle with the kings in Genesis 14.
 9. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18-19).
 10. Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39).
 11. The seven-year famine (Gen. 41:46-57).
 12. Israel's entrance into Egypt (Ex. 1:1-6).
 13. The episode of the bricks without straw (Ex. 1:11; 5:7-19).
 14. Moses' birth (Ex. 2:10).
 15. The death of Pharaoh's firstborn (Ex. 12:29).
 16. The Exodus (Ex. 12:1--14:31).
 17. The fact of Rahab's house located on Jericho's wall (Josh. 2:15).
 18. The fall of Jericho (Josh. 6:1-27).
 19. Deborah's victory of the Canaanites (Jdg. 4:23-24; 5:19).
 20. Saul's reign (1 Sam. 9:1--31:13).
 21. David's conquests (2 Sam. 1:1--24:25).
 22. Solomon's gold (1 Ki. 14:25-26).
 23. Solomon's stables (1 Ki. 9:19; 10:26-29). The Oriental Institute has found the ruins of his stables with their stone hitching poles and mangers.
 24. Solomon's copper furnaces (1 Ki. 7).
 25. Solomon's navy (1 Ki. 9).
 26. Jeroboam's calves (1 Ki. 12:25-33).
 27. Shishak's invasion (1 Ki. 14:25-28).
 28. The building of Samaria by Omri (1 Ki. 16:24).
 29. The rebuilding of Jericho (1 Ki. 16:34).
 30. Ahab's house of ivory (1 Ki. 22:39).
 31. Jezebel's cosmetic box (2 Ki. 9:30). The actual saucers in which she mixed her cosmetics have been found in Samaria among the ruins of Ahab's ivory house.
 32. The Assyrian captivity of northern Israel (2 Ki. 15:29).
 33. The tunnel of Hezekiah (2 Ki. 20:20; 2 Chron. 32:3-4).
 34. Manasseh's reign (2 Ki. 21:1-15).
 35. Esther's palace (Est. 1:2).
 36. The Babylonian captivity of Judah (2 Ki. 25).
 37. The reign of Belshazzar (Dan. 5).
 38. The fall of Babylon (Dan. 5).
 39. The edict of Cyrus (Ezra 1:2-3; 2 Chron. 36:22-23).
 40. The repentance of Nineveh in Jonah's day (Jonah 4).

- IV. Fourth Supernatural Element--Its Scientific Accuracy.
- A. The fact that the earth is spherical (Isa. 40:22).
 - B. The fact that the earth is suspended (Job 26:7).
 - C. The fact that the stars are innumerable (Gen. 15:5).
 - D. The fact that there are mountains and canyons in the sea (2 Sam. 22:16).
 - E. The fact that there are springs and fountains in the sea (Gen. 7:11; 8:2; Prov. 8:28).
 - F. The fact that there are watery paths (ocean currents) in the sea (Ps. 8:8).
 - G. The fact of the hydrologic cycle (Job 26:8; 36:27-28; 37:16; 38:25-27; Ps. 135:7; Eccles. 1:6-7).
 - H. The fact that all living things are reproduced after their own kind (Gen. 1:21; 6:19).
 - J. The facts involved in health and saturation.
 1. Concerning sickness.
 2. Concerning sanitation.
 3. Concerning circumcision.
 - J. The facts concerning the human bloodstream (Lev. 17:11).
 - K. The facts involved in the two laws of thermodynamics.

The First Law of Thermodynamics--that of energy conservation.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics--that of energy deterioration.

 1. Passages describing the First Law (Gen. 2:1-3; Ps. 33:6-9; 102:25; Heb. 4:3, 10).
 2. Passages describing the Second Law (Ps. 102:26; Rom. 8:18-23; Heb. 1:10-12).
- V. Fifth Supernatural Element--Its Prophetical Accuracy.
- A. Prophecies dealing with the nation Israel.
 1. Israel would become a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3).
 2. Her kings would come out of the tribes of Judah (Gen. 49:10).
 3. She would spend 400 years in Egypt (Gen. 15:13).
 4. The nation would suffer a civil war (1 Ki. 11:31).
 5. The nation would spend seventy years in Babylon (Jer. 25:11; 29:10).
 6. She would return (in part) to Jerusalem after the seventy years (Dan. 9:1-2).
 7. Israel would eventually be scattered among the nations of the world (Deut. 28:25, 64; Lev. 26:33).
 8. Israel would become a byword among these nations (Deut. 28:37).
 9. Israel would loan to many nations, but borrow from none (Deut. 28:12).
 10. She would be hounded and persecuted (Deut. 28:65-67).
 11. Israel would nevertheless retain her identity (Lev. 26:44; Jer. 46:28).
 12. She would remain alone and aloof among the nations (Num. 23:9).
 13. Israel would reject her Messiah (Isa. 53).
 14. Because of this, her enemies would dwell in her land (Lev. 26:32; Lk. 21:24).
 15. Jerusalem would be destroyed (Lk. 19:41-44; 21:20).
 16. Israel would, in spite of all these things, endure forever (Gen. 17:7; Isa. 66:22; Jer. 31:35-36; Mt. 24:34).
 17. Israel would return to Palestine in the latter days prior to the Second Coming of Christ (Deut. 30:3; Ezek. 36:24; 37:1-14; 38:1--39:29).
 - B. Prophecies dealing with various Gentile nations.
 1. Edom (Jer. 49:17-18; Ezek. 35:3-7; Obadiah; Mal. 1:4).
 2. Babylon (Isa. 13:17-19; Jer. 51:11; Dan. 5).
 3. Media-Persia (Dan. 8:1-7, 20-21).
 4. Greece (Dan. 7:6; 8:8, 20-21).
 5. Rome (Dan. 2:40-41).
 6. Egypt (Ezek. 29:1-2, 15).
 7. Russia (Ezek. 38:1-9).

- C. Prophecies dealing with specific cities.
1. Tyre (Ezek. 26:3-4, 7).
 2. Jericho (Josh. 6:26; 1 Ki. 16:34).
 3. Nineveh (Nahum 1:1-3, 7).
 4. Jerusalem (Mt. 24:1-2; Lk. 19:41-44; 21:20-24).
- D. Prophecies dealing with particular individuals.
1. Josiah (1 Ki. 13:1-2; 2 Ki. 23:15-16).
 2. Cyrus (Isa. 44:28; Ezra 1:1-2).
 3. Alexander the Great (Dan. 8:3-8).
 4. Antiochus Epiphanes (Dan. 8:9-14).
 5. John the Baptist (Isa. 40:3-5).
- E. Prophecies fulfilled by our Lord during his earthly ministry.
1. He would be born of a virgin (cf. Isa. 7:14 with Mt. 1:22-23).
 2. He would be given the throne of David (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12-13 with Lk. 1:31).
 3. He would be called Emmanuel (cf. Isa. 7:14 with Mt. 1:23).
 4. He would be rejected by his own (cf. Isa. 53:3 with Jn. 1:11; 7:5).
 5. He would have a forerunner (cf. Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1 with Mt. 3:1-3; Lk. 1:76-78; 3:3-6).
 6. He would be born in Bethlehem (cf. Micah 5:2-3 with Mt. 2:5-6).
 7. He would be visited by the magi and presented with gifts (cf. Isa. 60:3, 6, 9 with Mt. 2:11).
 8. He would be in Egypt for a season (cf. Hosea 11:1 with Mt. 2:13).
 9. His birthplace would suffer a massacre of infants (cf. Jer. 31:15 with Mt. 2:17-18).
 10. He would be called a Nazarene (cf. Isa. 11:1 with Mt. 2:23).
 11. He would be zealous for his father (cf. Ps. 69:9 with Jn. 2:13-17).
 12. He would be filled with God's Spirit (cf. Isa. 61:1-3; 11:2 with Lk. 4:18-19).
 13. He would be a light to the Gentiles (cf. Isa. 42:1-3, 6-7 with Mt. 4:13-16; 12:18-21).
 14. He would heal many (cf. Isa. 53:4 with Mt. 8:16-17).
 15. He would deal gently with the Gentiles (cf. Isa. 9:1-2; 42:1-3 with Mt. 12:17-21).
 16. He would speak in parables (cf. Isa. 6:9-10 with Mt. 13:10-15).
 17. He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem (cf. Zech. 9:9 with Mt. 21:4-5).
 18. He would be praised by little children (cf. Ps. 8:2 with Mt. 21:16).
 19. He would be the rejected cornerstone (cf. Ps. 118:22-23 with Mt. 21:42).
 20. His miracles would not be believed (cf. Isa. 53:1 with Jn. 12:37-38).
 21. His friend would betray him for thirty pieces of silver (cf. Ps. 41:9; 55:12-14; Zech. 11:12-13 with Mt. 26:14-16, 21-25).
 22. He would be a man of sorrows (cf. Isa. 53:3 with Mt. 26:37-38).
 23. He would be forsaken by his disciples (cf. Zech. 13:7 with Mt. 26:31, 56).
 24. He would be scourged and spat upon (cf. Isa. 50:6 with Mt. 26:67; 27:26).
 25. His price money would be used to buy a potter's field (cf. Zech. 11:12-13 with Mt. 27:9-10).
 26. He would be crucified between two thieves (cf. Isa. 53:12 with Mt. 27:38; Mk. 15:27-28; Lk. 22:37).
 27. He would be given vinegar to drink (cf. Ps. 69:21 with Mt. 27:34, 48).
 28. He would suffer the piercing of his hands and feet (cf. Ps. 22:16; Zech. 12:10 with Mk. 15:25; Jn. 19:34, 37; 20:25-27).
 29. His garments would be parted and gambled for (cf. Ps. 22:18 with Lk. 23:34; Jn. 19:23-24).
 30. He would be surrounded and ridiculed by his enemies (cf. Ps. 22:7-8 with Mt. 27:39-44; Mk. 15:29-32).
 31. He would thirst (cf. Ps. 22:15 with Jn. 19:28).

32. He would commend his spirit to the Father (cf. Ps. 31:5 with Lk. 23:46).
33. His bones would not be broken (cf. Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Ps. 34:20 with Jn. 19:33-36).
34. He would be stared at in death (cf. Zech. 12:10 with Mt. 27:36; Jn. 19:37).
35. He would be buried with the rich (cf. Isa. 53:9 with Mt. 27:57-60).
36. He would be raised from the dead (cf. Ps. 16:10 with Mt. 28:2-7).
37. He would ascend (cf. Ps. 24:7-10 with Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:50).

VI. Sixth Supernatural Element--Its Universal Influence Upon Civilization.

- A. Western civilization is founded directly upon the Bible and its teachings.
- B. The world's calendar and most of its holidays stem from the Bible.
- C. It was the Bible which elevated the blood drinking savages of the British Isles to decency.
- D. The Bible has influenced, if not directed, the advancement of all fine arts.
 1. Literature.
 2. Art.
 3. Music.
- E. The Bible has produced the law of the Western world.

VII. Seventh Supernatural Element--Its Care and Copy.

- A. No book in history has been copied as many times with as much care as has been the Word of God.
- B. Today there are almost 5,000 ancient Greek manuscripts of the New Testament.

VIII. Eighth Supernatural Element--Its Amazing Circulation.

Only one-half of one percent of all books published survive seven years. Eighty percent of all books are forgotten in one year. For example, let us imagine that during this year, 200 new books are published in America. Statistics show that by next year only forty of the 200 will remain. At the end of the seventh year, of the original 200, only one lonely book will survive.

IX. Ninth Supernatural Element--Its Absolute Honesty.

- A. Because of the bad things God writes about some of his friends.
 1. Noah (Gen. 9:20-24).
 2. Moses (Num. 20:7-12).
 3. David (2 Sam. 11).
 4. Elijah (1 Ki. 19).
 5. Peter (Mt. 26:74).
- B. Because of the good things God writes about some of his enemies. This can be seen in the accounts of Esau (Gen. 33); Artaxerxes (Neh. 2); Darius (Dan. 6); Gamaliel (Acts 5:34-39); Julius (Acts 27:1-3).

X. Tenth Supernatural Element--Its Life-Transforming Power.