

Baptist Distinctives- Biblical Authority

What is the Bible?

Who wrote the Bible?

Where/How did we get our Bible?

Why can we trust that the Bible is true?

What is the Bible?

- The Bible is a collection of 66 individual documents that tell a cohesive story of who God is, who we are, things that happened as well as things to come.
- It is not a roadmap.
- It is not an instruction booklet.
- It is the divinely inspired Word of Almighty God that tells of the glory of God.
- The OT is separated into 4 categories: The Law(Genesis-Deuteronomy), Historical Books(Joshua-Esther), Poetic Books(Job-Song of Solomon), and Prophetic Books(Isaiah-Malachi).
- The NT is separated into 4 categories: The Gospels(Matthew-John), History(Acts), Epistles/Letters(Romans-Jude), and Prophecy(Revelation).

Who wrote the Bible?

- As mentioned above, the Bible is a collection of 66 individual documents and it was written by around 40 different authors over a span of 1500 years.
- These 40 or so authors were under the direct inspiration and supervision of the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Where/How did we get our Bible?

- The Bible was written in 3 original languages: Hebrew(OT), Greek(NT), and a little bit of Aramaic(NT).
- The Hebrew OT was intact throughout all of Church history.
- The New Testament is a collection of writings that were never formally united until AD 325 at the Council of Nicaea.
- The Council of Nicaea took place in Iznik, Turkey under the oversight of the Christian emperor Constantine I.

Why can we trust that the Bible is true?

- Unlike many other religious works, the Bible is written by many different authors instead of one man.
- The consistency of the message of the Bible while being authored by so many people over such a span of time lends credibility to its divine origins. No human or group of humans could ever keep it all straight without divine oversight.

1) Eyewitness accounts

- 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- Luke 1:1-4
- The Bible, specifically the NT, is a collection of eyewitness testimony that witnessed first-hand supernatural events in fulfillment of specific prophecies from many years before.
- These accounts were written in the time and presence of other eyewitnesses.

2) Fulfillment of specific prophecies

- Isaiah 53- 722 years before Christ
- Psalm 22- 1,000 years before Christ

3) Harmony of the texts

- Written by a multitude of authors.
- Written over a period of 1,500 years.
- 3 Different languages.
- Same message with no contradiction.

4) Number of original manuscripts

- Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars- Around 10 (900 years after the original)
- Aristotle's Poetics- Around 5 (1,400 years after the original)
- Herodotus- Less than 10
- Homer- Less than 10
- New Testament- Over 6,000 (A few decades after the originals)
- Telephone Game
- The early church fathers wrote extensive commentary on the Scriptures. If all we had were the writings of the early church fathers we would have all but 11 verses in the NT based on their writings.

Sola Scriptura