

GIC 101:

The Word of God

Understanding **Christianity** does not start by defining God, or Jesus Christ, or **salvation**. But the basis of Christianity is found in the authority of **Scripture**. If we can't identify what is Scripture, then we can't properly distinguish any theological **truth** from error.

The Word of God as the Person of Jesus

The Eternal Word made **Flesh**

John 1:1

1 John 1:1

The Word of God as the Speech by God

God's **Decrees**

Powerful statements of God that causes things to happen or to coming into being.

Gen 1:1, Ps 33:6, Heb 1:3

The Word of God as Personal Address

God speaks directly to man who hears His very voice – trustworthy, absolute, clear

Gen 2:16-17, Ex 20, Matt 3:17

The Word of God as Speech Through Human Lips

Prophets – those who would speak the words God puts in them. Deut. 18:18-20

The Word of God in Written Form (the Bible)

God's **special** revelation of His redemptive plan and His personality given to men throughout history to write it down.



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II. EPC Essentials of the Faith Preamble:

*All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The **infallible** Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully **inspired** by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final **authority** on all matters on which it speaks.*

- **Self-Attesting** – self authorizing and self-verifying
- **Truth** – it is the unveiled reality of God, man and creation
- **Requires our submission** – Being truth from God it requires our allegiance
- **Infallible** - what the Bible says regarding matters of faith and Christian practice is wholly useful and true
- **Complete and Unified witness**– contains one message of redemption
- **Unique and Inspired by Holy Spirit** – there is no other book like it, it alone is God's Word
- **Supreme and final authority on all matters on which speaks**
- **Sure Foundation** – from this book alone we have knowledge of God and salvation from Him.

Scripture is, therefore....

Inspired – 2 Tim 3:16 “God-breathed”

Inerrant – The original manuscript is without errors - Ps 19:7, Jn 17:17, 10:35

Authoritative – from God directly and thus has His authority behind it by the Holy Spirit - Heb 3:7, 10:15

Eternal – His words will never pass away - Luke 21:33, Ps 119:89

Therefore **Scripture must be the source for which we examine Christianity and all its parts.**

III. Inspired and Unique

Translation

Original Languages

- Faithfulness of preservation and translation
- Example:
 - Dead Sea Scroll of Isaiah – 200 BC, original at 700 BC
 - 95% similar, with only slight variations in grammar

Translation over the Ages

- Jewish Scribes – exact number of letters on a page
- Early Church Letters – faithfully copied and shared
- Church Scribes- faithful science to this day

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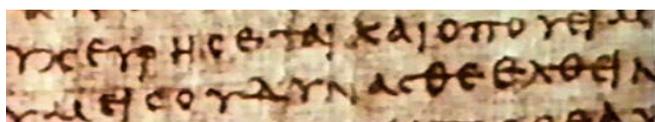
Hebrew – right to left



Alphabet is only consonants:
CN Y NDRSTND WHN LTTRS R MSSNG?

Aramaic - in Daniel and Ezra

Greek – left to right



Structure

66 Books , **40** Authors, **1600** years of writing
Shepherd, king, physician, tax collector, prophet, priest, disciple, cup bearer, king's chronicler, etc...

Old Testament – **39** books

Law/History,

Poetry/Wisdom

Prophets (Major and Minor) – Israel and Judah

New Testament – **27** books

Gospels/History

Epistles (General, Pastoral, Other)

Apocalyptic

The Septuagint was the Greek translation of the Old Testament used in Synagogues during Jesus' time – Greek was the common language

Luke 1:1-3 – Luke acts as a **historian**

Luke 24:27 – Jesus uses **Scripture** to explain **Scripture**

Luke 4:17 – Jesus uses a **Translation**

2 Peter 3:15-16 – Peter calls **Paul's** writings **Scripture**

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IV. Canon

What is the “canon” of Scripture?

- It is the list of books that comprise the Bible.
- New Testament books were received based on several criteria:
 - They need apostolic authorship or endorsement
 - They must have been received as authoritative by the early church
 - They must be in harmony with books about which there is no doubt

Apocrypha – written between Malachi and the New Testament. These books were never considered authoritative by the Jews, but historical. Included in the Catholic canon after the Reformation in 1546.

Interpreting Scripture by Charles Hodge

- Assume the sacred writers were honest and meant to be understood.
- Scripture cannot contradict Scripture. God cannot teach in one place anything that is inconsistent with what he teaches in another. Scripture will explain scripture.
- Guidance of the Holy Spirit is needed.

Scripture is a unity and the patterns of God’s work are generally consistent throughout time

Consider

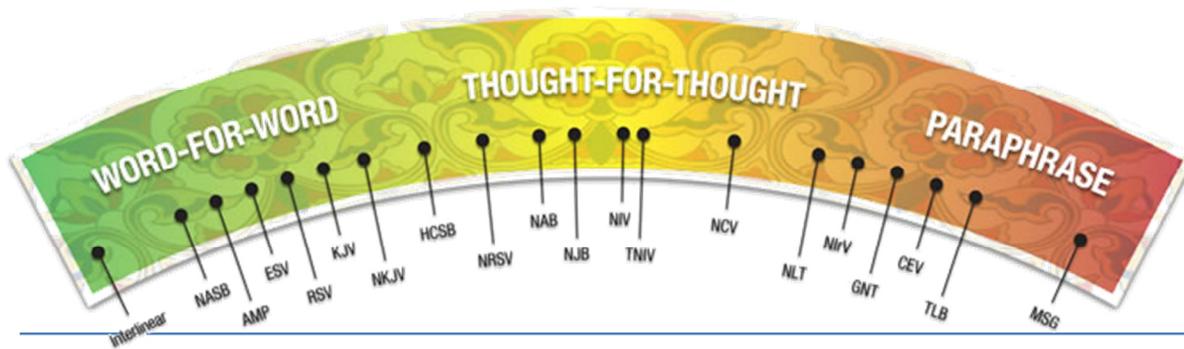
*If the Old Testament is not true, neither is the **New Testament** (Heb. 1:1-2).*

*If the Bible is fallible, **God** is fallible.*

*If the written Word of God is a sham, so is the **Living** Word of God (Christ).*

*If the Scriptural faith (Jude 3) is bogus, so is your **salvation**.*

Types of Bible Translations



NASB - New American Standard Bible
AMP - Amplified Bible
ESV - English Standard Version
RSV - Revised Standard Version
KJV - King James Version
NKJV - New King James Version

HCSB - Holman Christian Standard Bible
NRSV - New Revised Standard Version
NAB - New American Bible
NJB - New Jerusalem Bible
NIV - New International Version
TNIV - Today's New International Version
NCV - New Century Version
NLT - New Living Translation

NIV - New International Reader's Version
GNT - Good News Translation
(also Good News Bible)
CEV - Contemporary English Version
TLB - The Living Bible
MSG - The Message