

# Bible Study

## Basics

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a dark, textured surface. The text on the pages is small and difficult to read, but it appears to be a standard printed text. The book is open to two pages, and the text is arranged in columns. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of fabric.

OR

“How to read your  
bible without  
becoming a heretic”

Topic 1

What is

Hermeneutics?

“The science that teaches  
the principles, laws and  
methods of interpretation”

Louis Berkhoff

“HERMENEUTICS is the science and art of Biblical interpretation. It is a science because it is guided by rules within a system; and it is an art because the application of the rules is by skill, and not by mechanical imitation.”

Bernard Ramm

Hermeneutics explores the conditions and criteria that operate to try to ensure responsible, valid, fruitful, or appropriate interpretation.

Anthony Thiselton

“The Spirit of the Lord entered into the prophets and apostles themselves and so employed and led them that they themselves examined and reflected, spoke and wrote as they did. It is God who speaks through them; at the same time, it is they themselves who speak and write.”

H. Bavink

# Topic 2

An introduction  
to the Bible



# Terminology



# Terminology About Scripture:

## a. Inspiration



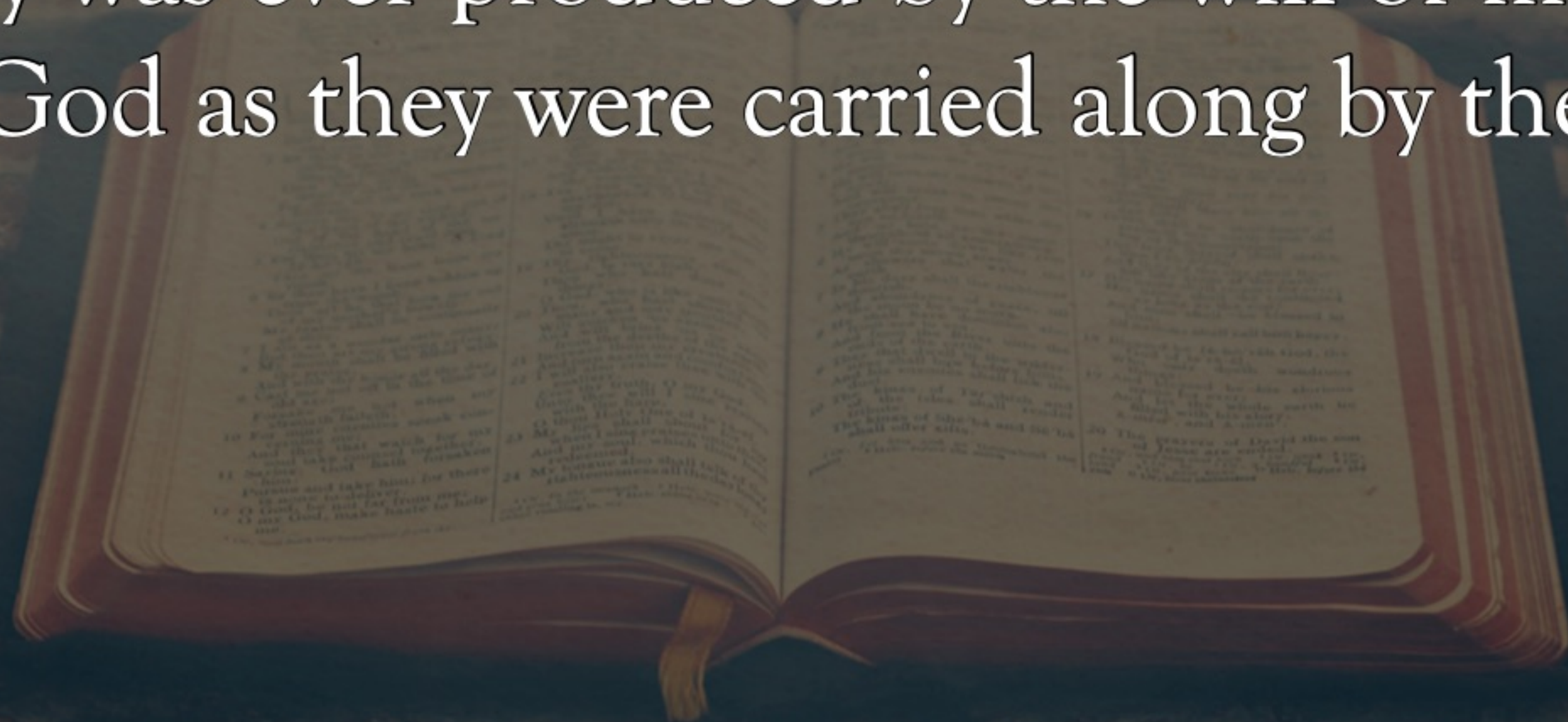
## 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,  
17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



## 2 Peter 1:19-21 (ESV)

19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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.



# Belgic Confession

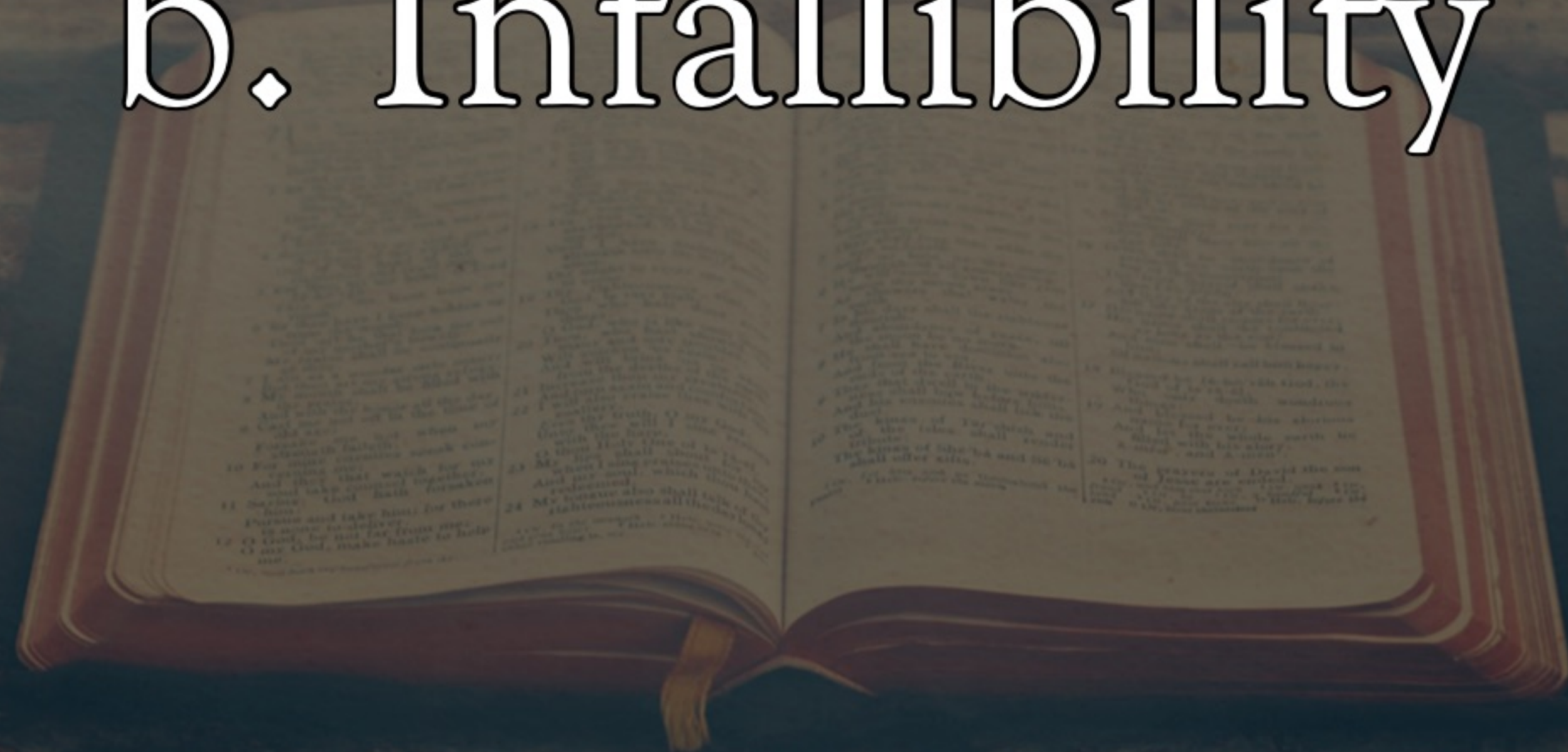
## Article 3 & 4



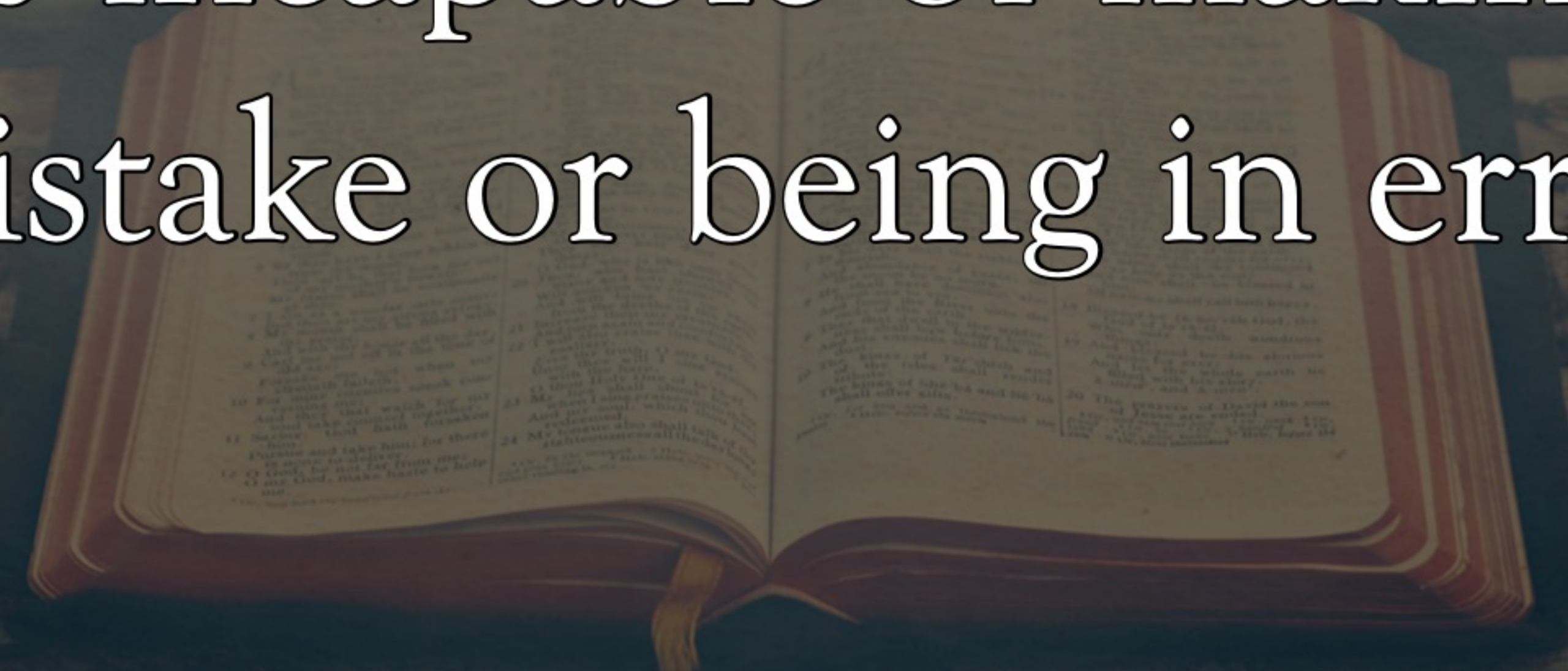
# Terminology About Scripture:

a. Inspiration

b. Infallibility



Infallibility:  
Scripture cannot err;  
it is incapable of making a  
mistake or being in error

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# Terminology About Scripture:

a. Inspiration

b. Infallibility

c. Inerrancy



Inerrancy:

Scripture does not err;

Scripture in the original

manuscripts are the Word of

# Terminology About Scripture:

a. Inspiration

b. Infallibility

c. Inerrancy

d. Canon

Canon:

The sixty-six books (39 OT, 27 NT)  
together function as the supreme  
measuring rod or authority for the  
church

# Attributes of Scripture:

- a. Authority
- b. Necessity
- c. Clarity
- d. Sufficiency

# Attributes of Scripture:

## a. Authority

The last word always goes to the Word of God. Teachings of human experience, and even church councils cannot take precedence over Scripture.

## Attributes of Scripture:

### b. Necessity

General revelation is not enough to save us. We cannot know God savingly by means of personal experience and human reason.

We need God's Word to tell us how to live, to reveal who Christ is, and how we are to be saved.

# Attributes of Scripture:

## C. Clarity

The saving message of Jesus Christ is plainly taught in the Scriptures and can be understood by all who have ears to hear it. We don't need official church leaders to tell us what the Bible means (but they can help)!

## Westminster Confession of Faith 1.7 –

“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.”

## Attributes of Scripture:

### d. Sufficiency

The Scriptures contain everything we need for knowledge of salvation and godly living.

We don't need any new revelation from heaven.

# Translations of Scripture

## Necessity of Translations:

Bible originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic for the OT and Greek for the NT

Two main translation philosophies

Formal equivalence (word-for-word approach)

Dynamic equivalence (phrase-for-phrase approach)

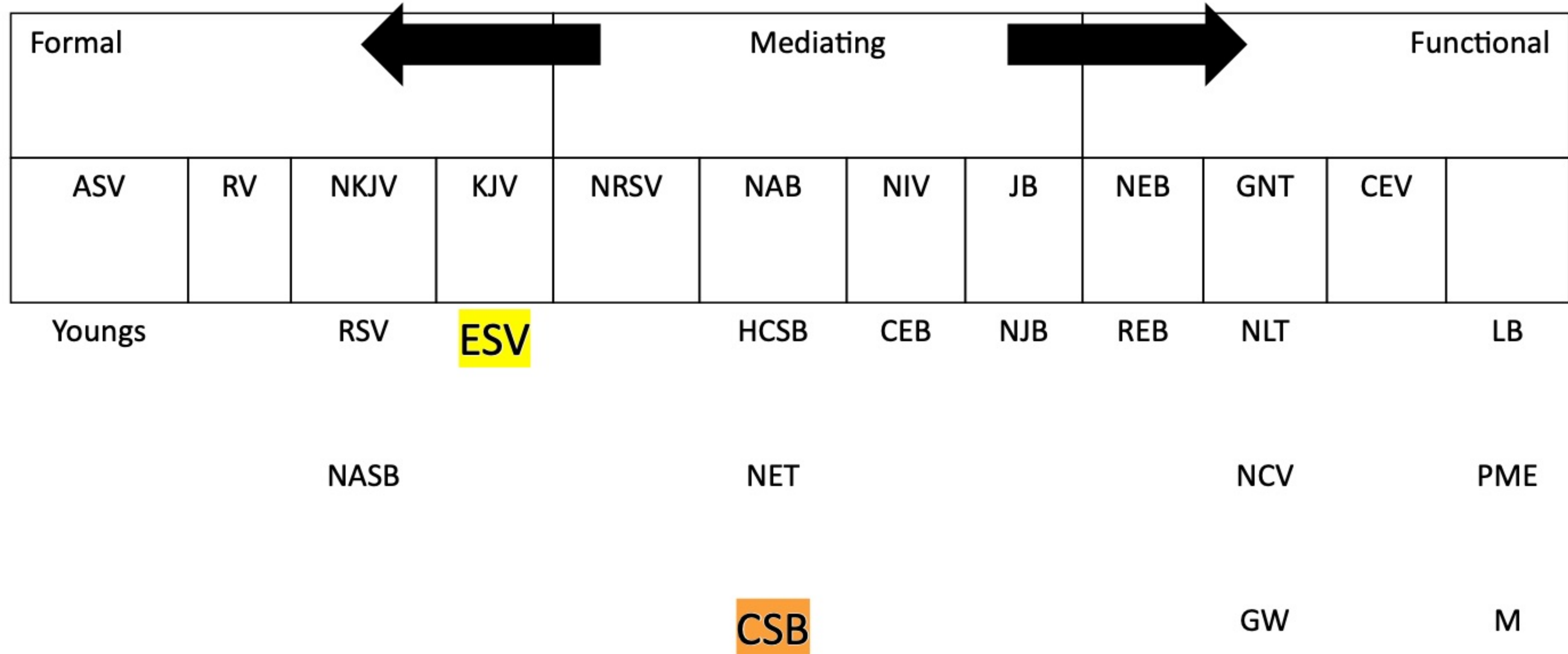
Approaches of Translations:

Formal equivalence  
(word-for-word approach)

Dynamic equivalence  
(phrase-for-phrase approach)

Paraphrasing  
(thought-for-thought approach)

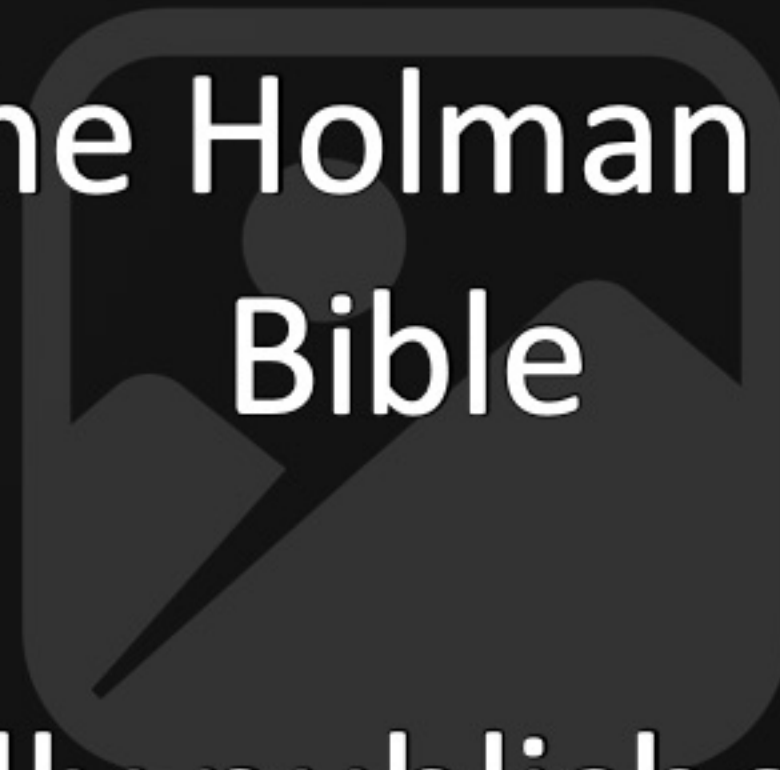
# Continuum of Versions\*



\* Fee, Gordon D., and Mark L. Strauss. How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding and Using Bible Versions. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007. pg. 147

The **Christian Standard Bible** is a translation of the Bible in contemporary English.

Published by Holman Bible Publishers in 2017 as the successor to the Holman Christian Standard



Originally published: 2017

Abbreviation: CSB

Reading level: 7.0

Version revision: 2020

The **Christian Standard Bible** utilizes a translation philosophy called optimal equivalence.

***OPTIMAL EQUIVALENCE:***

*“the CSB places equal value on fidelity to the original language and readability for a modern audience, resulting in a translation that achieves both goals.”*

- <https://csbible.com/about-the-csb/>.

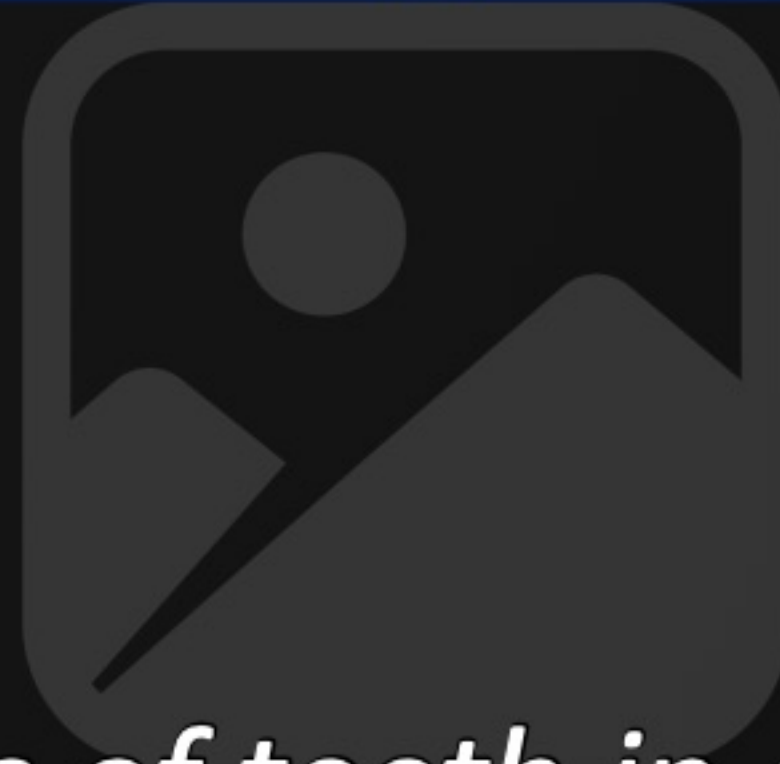
*Idiom:*

*language or phrases that are peculiar to a culture, community, or century.*

*Ex: “It’s raining cats and dogs”*

Amos 4:6a

ESV:



*“I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities...”*

CSB:

*“I gave you absolutely nothing to eat in all your cities...”*

# Topic 3

The Bible is a book,  
two books and a  
library.

The bible is

A Book

At the highest level, Scripture  
is one unified story.

# The bible is Two Books

Scripture is divided into the Old Testament  
and New Testament

The New is in the Old concealed;  
the Old is in the New revealed.

The bible is

A Library

The Bible is also a collection  
of 66 distinct books