



I. God wrote a book

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.¹

[Exodus 24:4](#); [Deuteronomy 4:1-2](#); [17:19](#); [Joshua 8:34](#); [Psalms 19:7-10](#); [119:11,89,105,140](#); [Isaiah 34:16](#); [40:8](#); [Jeremiah 15:16](#); [36:1-32](#); [Matthew 5:17-18](#); [22:29](#); [Luke 21:33](#); [24:44-46](#); [John 5:39](#); [16:13-15](#); [17:17](#); [Acts 2:16ff.](#); [17:11](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [16:25-26](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [Hebrews 1:1-2](#); [4:12](#); [1 Peter 1:25](#); [2 Peter 1:19-21](#).

- **God** is the author of the Bible.
- **Men** are the instruments God used to write the Bible.
- The Bible is an **inspired** book – “God-breathed”.²
- The Bible is an **inerrant** book – without error.³
- The Bible is the **final authority** on what we should believe and how we should live.⁴
- The Bible is a **preserved** book – written down for us and preserved for eternity.

II. God is the author and men are the instruments .

- Instruments = Prophets/Apostles
 - Chosen by God (1 Kings 12:22)
 - A faithful servant of the Lord (1 Kings 14:18)
 - A messenger sent by the Lord (Isa. 42:19)
 - Someone who received insight from the Lord (Isa. 30:9-10)
 - A man who spoke by the Spirit of the Lord (Hos. 9:7; Mic. 3:8)

¹ The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000.

² “By inspiration we mean that supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the Scripture writers that rendered their writings an accurate record of the revelation or that resulted in what they wrote actually being the Word of God.” Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013), 169.

³ Ibid., 189. “Inerrancy” – The Bible is fully truthful in all of its teachings.

⁴ Ibid., 211.

- A watchman (Ezek. 3:17)
 - Prophet – a spokesman for God
 - Apostle – Must have seen the resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ
- The prophets received their messages from God various ways:
 - Dreams (Gen. 37)
 - Visions (Dan. 7)
 - Audible voice (1 Sam. 3)
 - Inner voice (Hos. 1; Joel 1)
 - From angels (Gen. 19)
 - Miracles (Ex. 3; Judg. 6)
 - Casting lots (Prov. 16:33)
 - Meditating on general revelation in nature (Psalm 19)
- **(Heb. 1:1)** – *“Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways.”*
- The Ten Commandments – written by the finger of God on two tablets of stone (Ex. 31:18; 32:16; 34:1,28).
- Moses wrote what God told him to write (Deut. 31:9-13).
 - What Moses wrote was then deposited beside the ark of the covenant (Deut. 31:24-26)
 - Eventually, the writings of the OT prophets would be protected in the OT temple
 - The OT temple served as a global library for important documents (holy, government, historical, etc...)
- Further writings were added to Moses’ book from:
 - Joshua (Josh. 24:26)
 - Isaiah (Isa. 30:8)
 - David (2 Sam. 23:2; Acts 4:24-25; Heb. 4:7)
 - Jeremiah (Jer. 30:2; 36:2-4, 27-31; 51:60)
 - Zechariah (Zech. 7:12)
- In the NT, the Holy Spirit brought to remembrance the words Jesus spoke to the disciples and these words would be written down (John 14:26; 16:12-13)
 - Paul claimed that his letters to the churches were “a command of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Pet. 3:2)
 - Peter believed Paul’s writings to be Scripture (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
 - John claims that his revelation came from Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1)
- God’s Word was written down by trustworthy sources, a systematic method, and preserved in a protective place.

III. The Bible is an inspired book.

- **(2 Tim. 3:16)** – *“All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*
- **(2 Pet. 1:20-21)** – *“Above all, know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet’s own interpretation, because no prophecy every came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

IV. The Bible is an inerrant book – without error.

- Simple logic:
 - (1) God cannot err
 - (2) The Bible is God’s Word
 - (3) God’s Word cannot err
- Translation can error, but the original manuscripts are inerrant

V. The Bible is the final authority on what we should believe and how we should live.

- God’s Word is the final court of appeal on the truth as it relates to all things and the actions of all living things.
- Jesus spoke about Scripture as words that come from God’s mouth (Matt. 4:4)
- Scripture is exalted above man’s words (Psalm 138:2; Matt. 15:3-6)
- Scripture speaks with the authority of God (John 10:34-35)
- “Scripture” is sometimes used interchangeably with God Himself
- The Scriptures will never pass away (Psalm 119:89; Matt. 5:18)

VI. The Bible is a preserved book – written down for us and preserved for eternity.

God spoke → prophets wrote → scribes transmitted (transcribed) → translators translated

Recommended Resources

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.

Geisler, Norman L. *Systematic Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2011.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Meade, John D., and Peter J. Gurry. *Scribes and Scripture: The Amazing Story of How We Got the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.