SHORT ANSWERS JUBSINONS

OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Big Questions

- Week 1: How do I know God exists and created all things?
- Week 2: Who is Jesus and why is He the only Way to God?
- Week 3: How do I know the Bible is the inspired, trustworthy Word of God?
- Week 4: How does man's free will and God's sovereignty coexist?
- Week 5: If God is good, why is there sin and suffering in the world?
- Week 6: What does God's Word say about current social issues?
- Week 7: What does it look like for me to be salt and light in the world?
- Week 8: How do I communicate the Gospel to people far from God?

Movement Statement of Faith

Christian & Missionary Alliance

Section 1.15 The Bible

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.

The Bible came to us through:



REVELATION

God makes Himself known



INSPIRATION

God makes Himself known in human words



INSCRIPTURATION

God causes His Word to be written



TRANSMISSION

God's Word copied



TRANSLATION

God's Word is made available in other languages



CANONIZATION

God's Word recognized by the Church as authoritative



Definition:

God made Himself known

Two Kinds of Revelation:



GENERAL



SPECIAL



General Revelation

EXTERNAL



Creation

INTERNAL



Conscience



Special Revelation THE BIBLE



"For the word of God is alive and active.

Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12



Definition: God makes Himself known in human words

Two Key Verses:

The Writings

2 Timothy 3:16 2 Peter 1:20-21 The Writers



The Writings are "God-Breathed"

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

2 Timothy 3:16



The Writers were "Carried Along" by the Holy Spirit

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

2 Peter 1:20-21



The Writings are "God-Breathed"

The Writers were "Carried Along" by the Holy Spirit



VERBAL-PLENARY is a dynamic view of Inspiration



God inspired the writer's choice of words and the whole of Scripture, not just parts.



Evidence for Inspiration

1,000+ prophecies found in 66 books written by 40 authors over 1,500 years

The consistent and accurate **fulfillment** of **prophecy** throughout the ages proves one author, **God Himself**!



God's Inspired Word

Eternal

rooted in the eternal nature of God, timeless

Immutable

cannot change, always the same

Absolute

free from restrictions, exceptions and conditions, singular, stands alone

Inerrant

free from error and contradiction, self-consistent,

<u>Infallible</u>

cannot fail, always true



Definition: God causes His Word to be written

2 Main Divisions in 3 Languages:

OLD TESTAMENT

Hebrew & Aramaic

NEW TESTAMENT
Greek



Definition: God's Word Copied

Two Helpful Phrases:

"Skillful Scribes" "Many Manuscripts"





OT

NT



Copying the Old Testament "SKILLED SCRIBES"

Two Historical Examples

ESSENES

Best known for...

- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Reverence/Care

MASORETES

Best known for...

- Oldest O.T. Copy
- Meticulous Process



DEAD SEA SCROLLS DISCOVERED



OUR BIBLE



MASORETIC O.T. TEXT



c. 700BC

29 AD

69 AD

980 AD

1947 TODAY

AD

BC

2000 YEARS



TRANSMISSION

How does the New Testament stack up against other ancient literature?

	NEW TESTAMENT	HOMER'S ILIAD
DATE WRITTEN	c. AD 50-100	c. 900 BC
# OF COPIES	24,000	600
EARLIEST COPY	Fragment - 30 yrs Book - 100 yrs All - 250 yrs	500 yrs
VARIANT WORDS	0.2%	5%



Definition: God's Word made Available in other languages

Two tips about Translation

Process

Begins with the

Original language

Purpose
Translated for
Various audiences



Definition: God's Word made Available in other languages

Two tips about Translation

Process Begins with the

Purpose Translated for Original language Various audiences



¿Cómo se llama?

How you call?

What is your name?

La casa roja

The house red

The red house



Three Main Theories of Translation

WORD-FOR-WORD

THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT

PARAPHRASE

Divine PROVIDENCE

God's hand worked invisibly and powerfully behind the scenes to give us His Word.

Holy REVERENCE

Those who worked with the text revered and respected its divine origin.

Scholarly CARE

The text was handled professionally with many safeguards to ensure accuracy.

The Bible

Many authors

Forty writers over 1500 years in three languages.

One collection, 66 books

One author...God

When we trust the truth in the Bible, we are trusting ourselves to the author, God.



The Canon is a collection of books Recognized by the Church as authoritative.



canon - cane/reed
kanon - rod/ruler
qaneh - measuring rod



Canonical

They measure up to the standard of being divinely inspired.

Canonicity is determined by God and discovered by man.



NT was recognized as authoritative, not made authoritative by man.



3 TESTS OF CANONICITY

1. APOSTOLIC Origin

2. DOCTRINAL Soundness

3. Wide ACCEPTANCE by the Church



CANONIZATION

4 Reasons for a Canon:

1. Use in public

WORSHIP

2. What to quote as TRUTH

3. What to reject as FALSE

4. To endure

PERSECUTION



Claims for Canonicity

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

Internal Claims

2 Timothy 3:16

"all Scripture is God-breathed"

External Claims

Dead Sea Scrolls

Josephus (1st C. Historian)

Internal Claims

2 Peter 3:16

Peter calls Paul's writings "Scripture"

External Claims

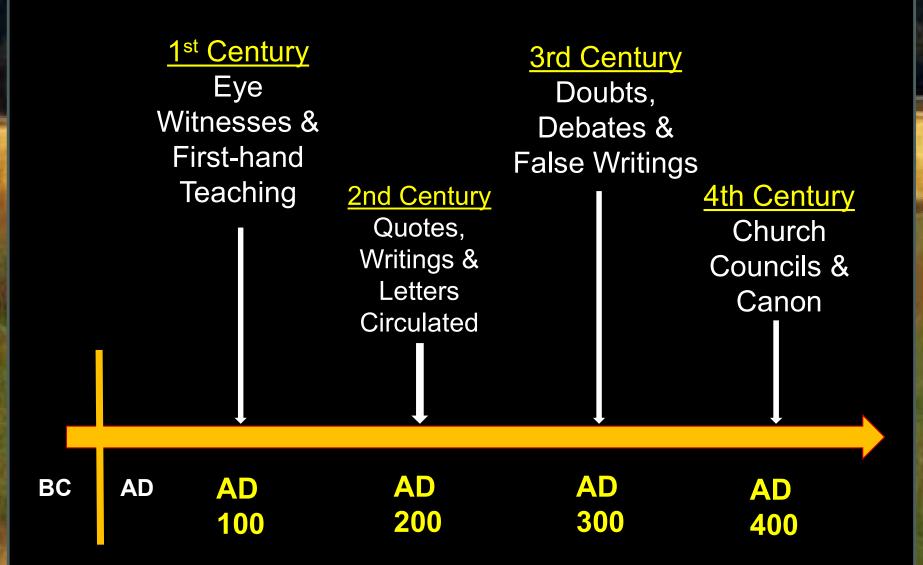
Early Church Leaders

Council of Carthage (AD 397)

The Latin Vulgate (AD 400)

First 66-book Bible translated by Jerome

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY The First 400 Years



<u>Summary</u>

Jesus is the final word. (Heb 1:1-2)

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

"The Bible is alive. It speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me. The Bible is not antique or modern. It is eternal."

Martin Luther

