

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

THE WORD OF GOD

6

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the authority and reliability of the inerrant Word of God.

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*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”
(2 Tim. 3:16).*

Every word and verse that we have in the Scriptures is inspired of God. By inspiration, we mean that “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). The writers of the New and Old Testament penned the Scriptures under the anointing of the Spirit of God. The Bible is the inerrant Word of God that has been tested throughout the ages.

THE BIBLE

The Bible contains 66 books that were individually written by more than 40 writers—all from different backgrounds such as prophets, priests, kings, musicians, farmers, fishermen, and apostles. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. All of this was written over a span of 1500 years. With all of the diverse backgrounds and various eras of writing, there exists no contradictions in the Bible. The Bible is the inerrant Word of God given to mankind.

The divisions and details of the Bible can be very important for understanding and interpreting the Word of God properly.

1 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The New Testament is divided by the following:

- **Gospels** – These books provide the details of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ which include the ministry of Jesus as the Messiah and the calling and formation of the apostles.
- **Acts** – This book is the only one that gives the history of the beginning of the Early Church and the exact words that the apostles used when they gave the gospel message of salvation.
- **Epistles** – These letters were written for the individuals and series of churches that were addressed to correct, admonish, and guide them in their Christian walk with God.
- **Revelation** – This revelatory book opens the understanding of the things past, present, and future kingdom of God and addresses last day events such as the Great Tribulation and the Millennium.

THE RELIABILITY

The Bible in its entirety has been so well preserved more than any ancient secular book in existence. Its reliability is without comparison. Jesus promised us that nothing could destroy his Word.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic while the New Testament was written in Greek. With the New Testament, there exists over 24,650 ancient manuscripts (mss) of the Bible written: 5366 in Greek and 19,284 in other languages. These are ancient copies of the text that have been preserved throughout history. No other ancient literature exists even close the extent of the Bible. Some of the ancient manuscripts were copied only decades after its initial writing. Compare that to other ancient secular writings.

Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings				
Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span in Years	Number of Manuscripts
Caesar	100-44 BC	AD 900	1,000	10
Plato	427-347 BC	AD 900	1,200	7
Thucydides	460-400 BC	AD 900	1,300	8
Tacitus	AD 100	AD 1100	1,000	20
Suetonius	AD 75-160	AD 950	800	8
Homer's Illiad	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
New Testament	AD 40-100	AD 125	25-50	24,650

THE INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF THE BIBLE

Throughout the ages, people have tried to destroy, burn, or eliminate the Holy Scriptures completely. In 303 AD the Roman Emperor, Diocletian called for the destruction of the Holy Scriptures. After years of burning bibles and trying to eliminate the Word of God, there was a heap of ashes in front of a sign with the words, “Extincto nomene Christianorum” which translated “Extinct is the name Christian.” In 313 when Christianity became legal, Emperor Constantine ordered the preparing of 50 copies of the Bible and it was performed quite quickly since there were so many copies in hiding. There have been other world leaders that have tried to remove the Bibles from the hands of men including Pope Innocent III, who ordered the burning of all Bibles. There were many other councils and popes that ordered the destruction of Bibles including:

- Council of Toulouse in 1229
- Council of Tarragon in 1234
- Council of Trent in 1546
- Pope Pius IV in 1559
- Pope Leo XII in 1812
- Pope Pius VIII in 1829
- Pope Gregory XVI in 1836
- Pope Pius IX in 1866
- Pope Leo XIII in 1897

William Tyndale translated the New Testament from Greek into English in 1526 and stated, “I defy the Pope and all his laws; if God spares my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know ... the Scripture.” In 1535, he was burned at the stake. Since his death

the Bible has been translated into 3,589 languages with billions of copies worldwide. No one can destroy or eliminate the Word of God!

1 Peter 1:24-25

“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

Mark 13:31

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”

THE BIBLE IS THE AUTHORITY

The Word of God is the highest authority of mankind. It is the same book that gives us promises of salvation, blessings, and wisdom and will be the measuring stick to judge us in that Great Day of Judgment.

John 12:48

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

“...if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.”

John 14:15

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

For more Information
Paul Baumeister
P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759

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