



The Bible

Elements Class - Oct 19 / Choir Room - 10:45-11:45

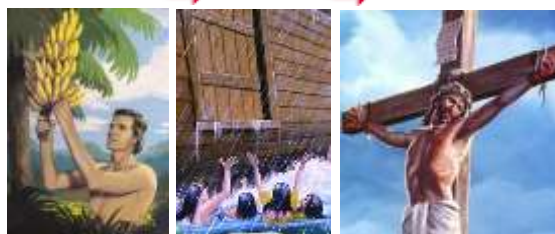


The Bible is God's way of showing us himself, through all of human history, and what he wants from us; all from his perspective.



We are going to study the Bible in **chronological order** and **doctrinal order**

Creation  Sin  Salvation



Movies are best in the Director's scene order...

So is the Bible!



God will be the center of our study; who he is, what he does & what he wants...



The Bible is God's **spoken word**. His communication to man...making it the most important book in the world!



Our goal is not to build your faith that the Bible is indeed the Word of God because of great historical, scientific and documentable data.



In that case, our faith would be in history and facts.

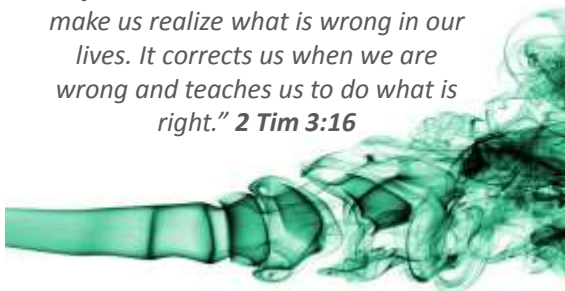


Rather, our goal is to build your faith that the Bible is indeed the Word of God because:

- **God said it is.**
- **Your heart convicts you that it is.**

God said it is:

*"**All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." 2 Tim 3:16*



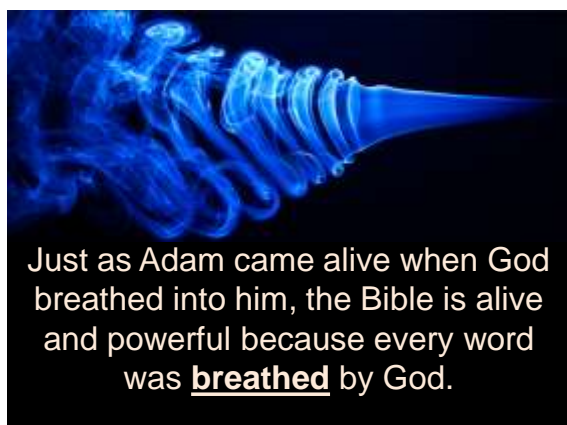
God said it is:
*'...**men spoke from God** as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.'*

2 Peter 1:21





*"...the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils **the breath of life**, and the man became a living being." **Gen 2:7***



Your heart convicts you that it is.

*"...it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." **Hebrews 4:12***



Your heart convicts you that it is.

*"...the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them." **Rom 2:15***



God wants us to believe that the Bible is his perfect, true, unaltered message to us.



The greatest evidence that it is indeed His communication to us is that when it tells us something; we feel the conviction of it in our heart, soul and mind.



For those who have been submitting to and obeying that conviction...they have seen the evidence of it's power, it's authority, it's warnings and it's promises in their life.



Already we can see two major themes:

God wants...

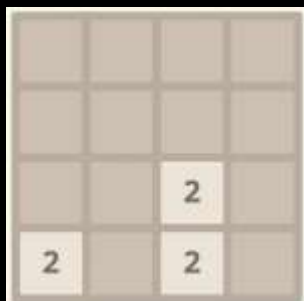
- to communicate with us.
- humans to trust him.

The Bible:

The most important book of all time.



It is hard to argue with the numbers:



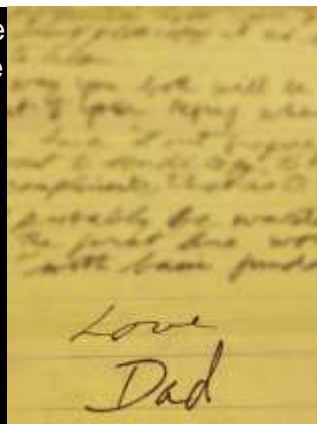
The Bible is the #1 Selling book of all time:



...it is also the most shop
lifted book of all time!



As Christians we
believe the Bible
is the most
important book
because
it is the God of
the Universe's
communication
to each and
every person.



The Bible is the **only** book
in the world authored
by the One true God.



The Bible is not mans ideas,
but God's own word.



The Bible has absolute unity from
beginning to end because God is
its true one author.



Where the Bible **appears** to contradict or
lack unity, we should assume the error is
on our part in understanding, not on God's
part in communicating or **preserving** His
word.



Theme: God's Word is perfect, containing no error.

Perfection

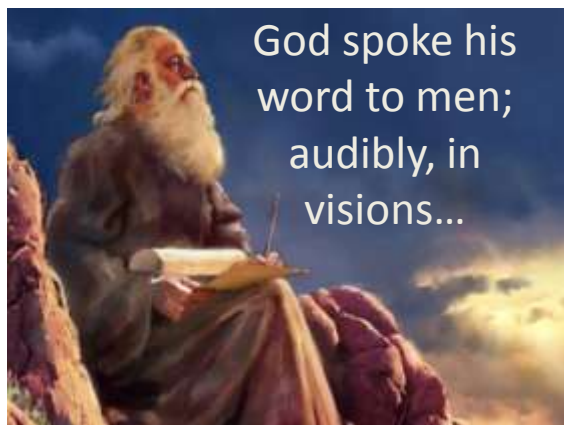
**HOW DID WE
GET THE
BIBLE**



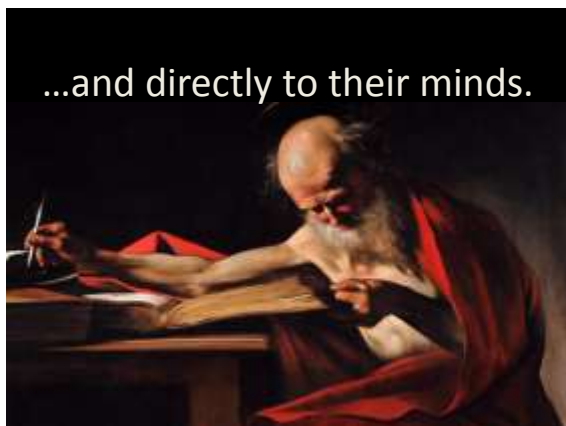
**When we talk about the
'Bible' or 'God's Word':**

We mean, we believe that this book is God's Word (communication) to us, in written form, preserved until now.

God spoke his word to men; audibly, in visions...

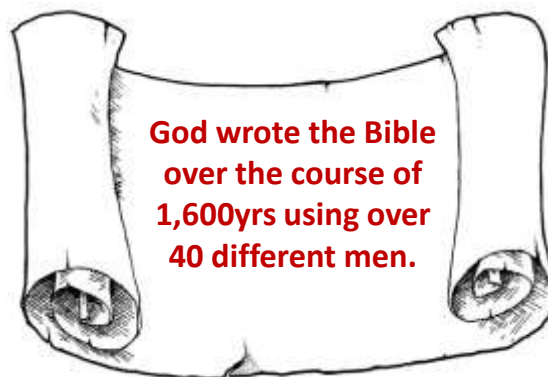
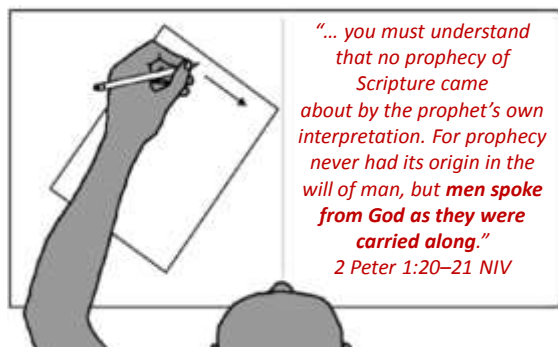


...and directly to their minds.

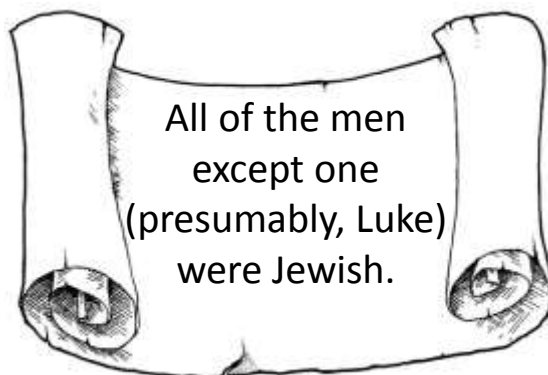


God caused these prophets and writers to write exactly what he intended to communicate to the world.

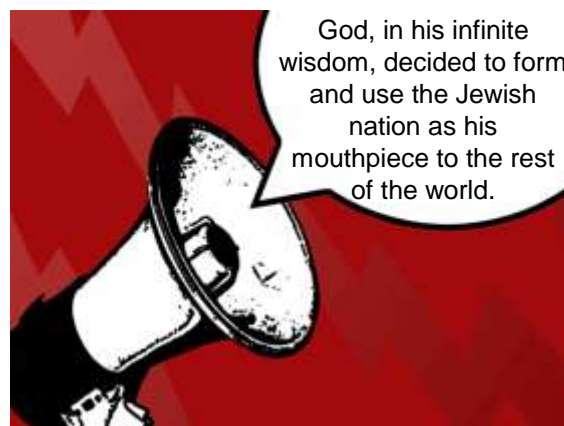




Another major theme we will see over and over is that: **God wants to work with humanity to accomplish his will.**



The Bible is God's message to the world which he gave through the Jewish people.



"You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he."

Isaiah 43:10

-God used one group of people to express his message to and for the whole world.

-Israel was God's megaphone, broadcasting God's message to the whole world.

Again we see a theme that:

God wants to work with humanity to accomplish his will...

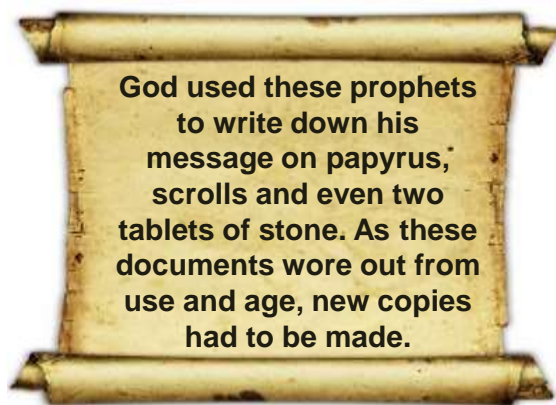
Again we see a theme that:

God wants to communicate with us.

The Bible has been passed down to us intact and with extreme accuracy.



God used these prophets to write down his message on papyrus, scrolls and even two tablets of stone. As these documents wore out from use and age, new copies had to be made.



The copying by men called Scribes was done with extreme care.



*“They used every imaginable safeguard, no matter how cumbersome, to ensure the accurate transmission of the text. **The number of letters in a book was counted and its middle letter was given. Similarly with the words, and again the middle word was noted.** This was done with both the copy and the original autograph to insure that they were exactly the same.”*
(The Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Part 3, J.D. Douglas p.1538)

The original manuscripts were written in: **Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek**. We have it in many English versions today via translation.

*Below is the **Hebrew** word in **Mal 3:1** for “my messenger” (Malaki) and the **Greek** word in **1 Cor 1:1** for “a messenger” (Apostolos)*

מַלְאכִי ἀπόστολος

Though every word was copied by hand, there are more ancient **manuscripts** of the Bible than any other ancient document.



The Bible is an accurate historical record of what we can & do know (*science, history*) and events/history that we know actually happened (*places, culture, disasters, names, dates*). The Bible agrees with other historical documents.



On several occasions places or people specifically mentioned in the Bible were not discovered until centuries later...

such as an island mentioned in the New Testament or the underground springs/water system that Solomon built in Israel mentioned in Ecclesiastes 2:6.

The Bible appeared to be ‘in error’ until these discoveries were made.

New discoveries only serve to echo and reinforce the absolute accuracy, authority and authentic of every word God has given us in his book!



We will see over and over again that God's Word is perfect, containing no error.
We can trust it.

In 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were recovered. Prior to these scrolls being found, the earliest **original** biblical writings we had were dated **980 AD**.



The Dead Sea Scrolls were dated back to **250 BC**. Getting us nearly 1,300yrs closer to the original copies.

Sections of the Dead Sea Scrolls on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem in 2008.



Before these scrolls; the **earliest original** copy of the Book of Isaiah was 1700 years removed from the time of Isaiah (**The Masoretic Text**).

The Dead Sea Scrolls dated within 500 years of the writing of Isaiah, they contained 22 manuscripts of Isaiah.

“When scholars compared **The Masoretic Text of Isaiah** to the **Isaiah Text in the Dead Sea Scroll** (*nearly 1,300 years of copying*) the correspondence was astounding...”

The texts from Qumran proved to be word-for-word identical to our Standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text.

The 5 percent of variation consisted primarily of obvious slips of the pen and spelling alterations.”

(Archer, 1974, p. 25)

What that means is; the book of Isaiah we have now in our Bibles today, translated from the Standard Hebrew Bible is identical to the copies of the book of Isaiah written 250 years before Christ, minus some spelling variations (cultural, periodic spelling alterations).

• *“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:18)*

• *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Matt 24:35)*



The Bible is not just another ‘religious’ book. Many men have written books trying to tell men about God.



God is the author of the Bible...



and in it He reveals Himself to us. In the Bible God tells us who He is and what He wants us to know about Him.

In the Bible God tells us about ourselves; our relationship to Him, to the world around us, to one another, for now and for all eternity.



The Bible is God's personal message to each one of us.



It is the only book with absolute authority on the most important issues in life. It can tell us about **who God is**, **what God wants**, **who were are** and **what matters forever...**

No one can 'prove to you' that the Bible is accurate, or that God indeed spoke it.



I can not convince you that the Bible is exactly as God spoke it or that there even is a God...I could show you a lot of science, research and facts that come pretty close to proving it...and only confirm even more what I already know to be true.

The Bible (and God) doesn't need proving, evidencing or defending... our heart, mind and soul and **bears witness** to the fact that they both are real, alive, powerful and true.

We either choose to accept that conviction from Him or reject it.



God wants us to believe, trust and have confidence that the Bible is his word, simply because he says it is...not primarily because you hear a great scientific or historic argument for the validity of the Bible.

Evidences do exist and are a great encouragement to our faith. But the aim of Christianity is for mankind to believe what God says...regardless of what the evidence says...and believing that 'the Bible is the inerrant word of God' is a good place to start.