

Take your bibles and open them to the first page with writing on them. All of mine begin, “**the Holy Bible.**” The Hebrew word *Qadosh*, is the word **holy** in English. It means unique for a purpose, set apart for a purpose, or distinct or sanctified for a purpose. From the seventh day of Creation, to the eternal new Jerusalem; from the temple prostitutes in pagan worship, to the prophets who spoke for Yahweh, from Israel, to the Church, for God’s works, words, and will, a form of *Qadosh* is used to describe them. Your Bible is **holy**. Your Bible is unique, & distinct from books or religious material and it serves a divine purpose.

What makes this book holy? This morning we will begin to discover what makes Your Bible a holy book as we start a new series called, “The History of God and His Creation.” We begin in the most appropriate place where we find “The History of God and His Creation,” the Holy Bible.

It has been said of the Bible, “This book is the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.”

The King James Translators said of their work in 1611, “God’s sacred Word is that inestimable treasure that excellet all the riches of the earth.”

George Washington: ‘It is impossible to **rightly** govern the world without God and the Bible.’

Thomas Jefferson: ‘The Bible is the **cornerstone** of liberty.’

Patrick Henry: ‘This is a book **worth more than all other books** which were ever printed.’

Yet few in our day understand the worth and uniqueness of the Bible as it rests dormant on bed stands, kitchen counters, and book selves. Few come to know its Divine author revealed through its pages. Few know its history, and it's compelling message.

This morning, my goal is to give you an objective understanding about

1. What Your Bible claims about itself
2. How Your Bible came to be
3. How Your Bible claims to impact you

I warn you, some of today's message will not be the typical Sunday morning style of preaching. There are going to be points of education that will require attention and thought. Stay with me, this will help you understand your Bible, its worth, and its divine author. Let's begin ~ Have your bibles open to 2 Timothy 3:16 & 2 Peter 1:21. Those will be our main texts for this morning. The first question the Bible answers ...

I. What does the Bible say about itself?

1. Your Bible is the **only book** that claims to be the actual, *breathed out words of God, for you.*

- a. 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God."

~ *Breathed out by God* has to do with **how the Bible originated**. Your bible originates from the breath of God. We call this **inspiration**. The Bible, like mankind in creation, is the result of God's breath. You hold God's breathed out Words in your hands, not man's words. The bible claims to be God's words.

b. 2 Peter 1:21 “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

~ *From God* speaks to the author of men's speaking. Your Bible says, God is it's author. HOW?

~ *Carried along* is a word that is used in the book of Acts to describe a ship being carried out of control by a storm. The captain and crew were powerless to change the course of the ship. The ship ran aground because it was carried by the storm. When God breathed, his words were so powerful they could not be changed by the authors.

~ *by the Holy Spirit* explains how these men were moved by the breath of God. God the Holy Spirit was that which powerfully influenced men to record God's breathed out words.

YOUR BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE GOD'S WORDS FOR YOU!

2. Your Bible claims to be truth.

a. Psalm 119:160 “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever”

~ *sum* is a math word that means the total. The Sum of 1 and 1 is 2. The total of God's word is truth. It is without deception.

b. John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

~ *Your word is truth* is Jesus' words about the Bible. Jesus claimed the word of God to be truth. Not a truth, not to contain truth, but is truth.

- c. **Psalm 119:**⁴¹ Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; ⁴² then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word. ⁴³ And *take not the word of truth* utterly out of my mouth, for *my hope is in your rules*.

~ *Word of truth* you will notice is directly related to **the trust of God's words related to his rules**. The author is concerned that truth will not exist in his own words because they are different from God's words. His confidence is the truth of God's rules given through his words which are found in scripture.

- d. 2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

~ *Word of truth* is how the Bible is described to Timothy and to us. The instruction is to handle it correctly because it is truth.

YOUR BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE GOD'S WORDS.

YOUR BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE TRUTH.

3. Your Bible claims to **contain everything you are responsible to God to know and do**.
- a. 2 Timothy 3:¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you *have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.* 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.

- i. *The sacred scriptures* ~ this term reflects the OT writings and Paul's understanding/God's view of the OT.
- ii. *Able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus* ~ salvation is found in the knowledge and act of faith in Christ Jesus which is taught the Bible. Jesus said in John 5:39-40 **“³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”**
- iii. *All scripture is profitable* ~ These 66 books which God breathed out to men is worth studying, knowing, believing, and living in 4 ways.
 1. *Teaching* ~ Truth of what is right – if you want to know what is right, God's word will tell you.
 2. *Reproof* ~ Truth of what is wrong – If you want to know what is wrong your Bible will tell you.
 3. *Correction* ~ How to get right – If you want to know how get right before God, your Bible will tell you.
 4. *Training* ~ How to stay right – If you want to know how to live right, believe right, stay right before God, Your bible will tell you.

There is a purpose in God's Word instructing you in these areas.

- iv. *That the man of God is perfect*~ this is you, the learner, disciple of Jesus has the result in of being complete in the knowledge God requires as well as the acts God requires.

THEREFORE ...

because YOUR bible claims to be Gods words for you;

because YOUR bible claims to be truth;

because YOUR bible claims to contain everything you are responsible to God to know,

YOUR BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE TRUSTWORTHY. You can trust what the bible says. Unfortunately, mankind trusts more in what we hear about the bible than the bible itself. I don't care what you have heard about the Bible, your concern is to be what is in the Bible. It Claims to be God's breathed out Words for you that are trustworthy.

Yet the bible did not just magically appear. God had a divine process to get your bible to you.

II. How your Bible came to be. This section is more educational than spiritual but it has a profound impact on the spiritual. Stay with me as I go deeper but this is good to know.

1. GOD SPOKE TO MEN:

2 Peter 1:21 "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Hebrew 1:1 “Long ago, at many times, and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets”

a. *Men spoke from God* ~ Your bible was authored and originated from God's breathed words.

i. God used men to physically write down his words.

ii. These men wrote as they were carried by the Holy Spirit.

iii. We see this specifically in

1. Deuteronomy 27:8 “And you shall write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly.”

2. Duet. 31:¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses, ...

¹⁹ “Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel.

²⁴ When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end,

3. Revelation 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

b. In all about 40 men wrote 66 books of the OT & NT over 1600 years. The original writings are called **autographs** and were written on animal skins, papyri, or parchment paper. These writings began with Moses or Job, and are completed by John.

i. These men had varying education, upbringing, occupation, economical status, political influence, and popularity, yet all their writing form a cohesive history

of God and His creation because **God authored the words.**

- ii. These men used their backgrounds, talents, and experiences in recording God's words. The words **WERE NOT DICTATED** but God allowed the words to flow from God's breath to their hands in a manner that was unique to the writer and perfect to HIS message. This enabled the words they wrote to be the exact words of God yet true to the authors personality and background.
- iii. These men wrote God's words in **3 languages;** Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic and **from 3 continents;** Asia, Africa, or Europe.

GOD SPOKE TO MEN, MEN WROTE DOWN HIS WORDS.

2. From the pens of the prophets, - scribes, monks, and holy men **ACCURATELY COPIED THOSE WORDS FOR MILLENNIA.** These are called **MANUSCRIPTS.**
 - a. Meticulous care and precautions were taken in copying the scriptures.
 - i. Every letter and word was counted in a book to confirm a correct copy.
 - ii. Scribes checked backwards and forwards noting the middle word of a book as well as the middle letter of words.
 - iii. If an error was made or discovered the manuscript was burnt, totally destroying the false document.

- iv. Scribes ensured accuracy through using notes in the margins. In the margins beside the biblical verses they put little letters and symbols. These symbols told the scribe copying the text information about unusual forms or words that should not be changed. For instance, they might put a circle over a word that occurred nowhere else in the Bible. In the margin they would then put the letter "I" which told the scribe, "yes, this is a unique word, but it is not an error, so just copy it the way it is."
- v. IT WAS DIFFICULT, TEDIOUS, WORK!
"GODISNOWHERE" God is no where, God is now here.
- vi. The truth of accuracy was confirmed when the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947. The Dead Sea Scrolls were copied back in 100 BC. The previous oldest manuscripts dated 900 AD, that's 1000 years difference. There were no significant textual differences. It was the scroll of the book of Isaiah, which only had a few words missing which pointed this out. Comparing the Masoretic text to the Dead seas text copied 1000 years earlier, the two matched almost word for word with only a few small variations.
- vii. There were tests that confirmed God's Words. If there were known historical errors a manuscript we

throne out. If there were prophetic errors it was throne out. God's Word is Truth without deception.

1. Deuteronomy 18:¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or^[f] who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

2. A prophets words had to be 100% true.
- The Bible contains 3200 fulfilled prophecies.
 - The Bible contains 3100 prophecies yet to be fulfilled that were futuristic.

3. The content of Your Bible has been affirmed throughout history through several individuals and councils, concluded in what is called the “**CANON OF SCRIPTURE.**”
 - a. The OT Canon was formed by
 - i. Ezra is the first to compile the O.T. around 400 B.C.
 - ii. In 280 bc, the 39 Books of the O.T. were translated from Hebrew to Greek essentially canonizing the OT by 70 Alexandrian scholars.
 - iii. Council of Jamnia affirms the 39 books of the OT and rejects all of the Apocryphal writings as Canon in 90 AD.
 - b. The 27 books in the NT was first affirmed by the Council of Carthage in 397 A.D. Your bible has undergone a litmus test for centuries.
 - c. **YOUR BIBLE, IS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THIS CANON**
4. The Canon manuscripts were compiled into **texts.**
 - i. The Old Testament texts provided some difficulties.
 1. The OT was standardized by the **Masoretic Jews between the 6th and 11th centuries.** All manuscripts however that deviated from the Masoretic Text were eliminated by 1000 AD.
 2. By 280 B.C. OT manuscripts had been formed into texts because those manuscripts were translated into the Septuagint. The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the OT.

3. The discovery of the existing Hebrew manuscripts by the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint (a third-century B.C. Greek translation of the Old Testament), the Samaritan Pentateuch, and the Targums (ancient paraphrases of the Old Testament), as well as the Talmud (teachings and commentaries related to the Hebrew Scriptures) provide that the Masoretic Text was an extremely accurate text. There are over 15,000 OT HEBREW and ARAMAIC manuscripts that make up the OT Texts.
- ii. The New Testament has over 6000 GREEK manuscripts that exist today. The oldest date back to the second century. These manuscripts contain all or parts of the New Testament writings. Compilations these manuscripts make up the New Testament Text.
 1. The first **printed** N.T. text was compiled by **Erasmus of Rotterdam**. He compiled this text and printed it in under six months, in fact he was forced to do such so quickly and with such few manuscripts that portions of Revelation he translated from Latin into Greek because he could not find any manuscripts. Erasmus' first print was 1516. By 1522 it had 2 more revisions and those portions of Revelation had been replaced with manuscript writings.

2. The **Textus Receptus** came from Norway in 1633. The TR is based on several revisions of Erasmus' text and others. It was used widely in Europe and exists today as the basis of one revised version you all are familiar with. The TR eventually became known as the majority Text as 90% of all manuscripts today align with the TR however 95% percent of those text date later than 700 AD.
3. In the 19th century after 3 centuries of discovering many older N.T. and O.T. Greek manuscripts were discovered that differed from the TR, another Greek text was compiled by two men named **Westcott and Hort**. These texts differ in four areas but only in a few places.
 - a. Omitted or added significant passages –
 - b. Omitted or added shorter passages
 - c. Differing words (substitutes)
 - d. Omitted or added word(s)

Westcott and Hort studied these manuscripts carefully comparing them with the TR. Because of the numerous manuscripts that had been found, dating earlier than the manuscripts used for the TR, these two men compiled the *New Testament in the Original Greek*.

4. In the 20th century more manuscripts had been found. The United Bible Society set forth to put together a Greek Text that analyzed all available

manuscript and compiled a Greek text that considered all texts, and all variations. Compiled from Erasmus, TR, Nestle Aland, and all available texts, in 1966 the UBS first edition was published.

ALL OF THESE GREEK TEXT HAVE HAD MINOR REVISIONS. THEY ARE REMARKABLY SIMILAR.

5. Your Bible is a translation from these texts.

- i. Your Bible's ENGLISH Old Testament has been translated from The HEBREW and ARAMAIC Masoretic Text compared along-side the Septuagint. Modern Bibles also reflect the text work those manuscripts discovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- ii. Your Bible's ENGLISH New Testament has been translated these 4 main Greek text.
 1. The Tyndale Bible was translated in 1525 from Erasmus' Text. Likewise the King James Bible was first translated from the 1522 revised version of Erasmus' text in 1611. Both of these Bibles you would have extreme difficulty reading because of the old English. The KJV has undergone 4 revisions the last few stemming from the TR text. The KJV in your hands dates back to 1769. In 1982 a modern translation of the KJV came out as the NKJV which is translated from the TR.
 2. If you hold an NIV, ASV, or NASB, the text your N.T. is translated from is the 1881 Westcott and

Hort. The ASV in 1901, which is now mostly read as the NASB. The NIV was translated in 1970 from this text.

3. If you have an ESV it translated in 2001, or NIV translated in 2011, your N.T. was translated from the UBS text 4th edition from 1993.

Your bible is **NOT** an autograph **NOT** a manuscript, **Not** a text, but Your Bible is **A TRANSLATION. Your Bible was translated from texts, compiled from manuscripts, copied for centuries from the autographs, written by the prophets who received the words from God.**

This may alarm some who would say there must be significant error based upon the process. Let me assure through Jesus' example and that of the NEW Testament writers that your translation is the word of God. Protestant authors Archer and Chirichigno list 340 places where the New Testament cites directly from the Septuagint (Greek OT) but only 33 places where it cites from the Hebrew Masoretic Text. Jesus Quotes numerous times from the Septuagint. (G. Archer and G. C. Chirichigno, *Old Testament Quotations in the New Testament: A Complete Survey*, 25-32). You can be confident you have the words of God. BUT WE DON'T END HERE.

- iii. Your Bible has a few differences from others based upon the text from which it was translated and the purpose of the translators. There are three distinct purposes that translators have tried to accomplish when translating your Bible.

1. First is a literal word for word translation focused on accuracy. The New American Standard Bible is the most literal English translation that we find prevalent today. The KJV is right behind the NASB. These are word for word translations even at the cost of cultural misunderstanding or offense.
2. Second is called, “dynamic equivalent,” which focuses on readability. These translations focus on “thought for thought.” The NIV and NLT are the two main translations in this category. Translators of these versions have taken liberty to place words so that their reader would understand the thought or message in their culture more adequately.
3. A third translation purpose is called “essentially literal.” This philosophy is in the middle. The ESV and NKJV are considered essentially literal.

Yet out of all the English translations I have mentioned, if you and a neighbor took two of those, you one your neighbor the other, read it, believed, lived it, your faith, your life, your convictions, would be identical.

THAT'S HOW AWESOME OUR GOD HAS PRESERVED HIS WORDS.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass

away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

That's how the Psalmist can promise, “Forever, O Lord, Your word is fixed in Heaven.”

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the **word** of our God will stand **forever**.

1 Peter 1:25

but the **word** of the Lord remains **forever**.” And this **word** is the good news that was preached to you.

Your Bible is God's words to You! It has been supernaturally preserved for you to read, hear, believe, and live. That is how your Bible came to you.

Therefore based upon God breathing the words to men who wrote the autographs; the autographs being copied to manuscripts. Manuscripts being combined into texts, and texts being translated into languages, Faith Baptist Churches doctrinal position on the Bible is this. (included in the Bulletin)

We believe that the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, **as originally written**, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21)

God's words have accurately and carefully been handed down to us, Your Bible is a big deal! Your bible, God's Words is meant to change you, guide you, and train you! There are eternal consequences given in the bible for those who do not respond to God's Words.

1. Your Bible is meant to change you!

- a. Hebrews 4:11 ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”
- b. Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.”
- c. Psalm 119:11 “I have stored up my word in your heart, that I might not sin against you.”

2. Your Bible is meant to guide you.

- a. Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.”
- b. Psalm 119:24 “Your testimonies are my delight, they are my counselors.”
- c. Joshua 1:8 “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For

then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

3. Your Bible is meant to disciple you.

a. John 8:31-32 ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

b. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 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."

4. Your Bible explains their consequences for not obeying God's Word.

a. Beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden who ate the fruit of the only tree they were told not to, through the Great White Throne after Satan is defeated at the Battle of Gog and Magog, there are eternal consequences for not obeying God's Word. Hear this from He who is seated on the throne in the New Jerusalem, "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

b.

Your Bible Can Be Trusted because it has been proven over centuries to be trustworthy. Your Bible can be read because it has been copied,

compiled, and translated. Your Bible can be lived because it contains everything God requires of you. Your Bible is Gods Words.