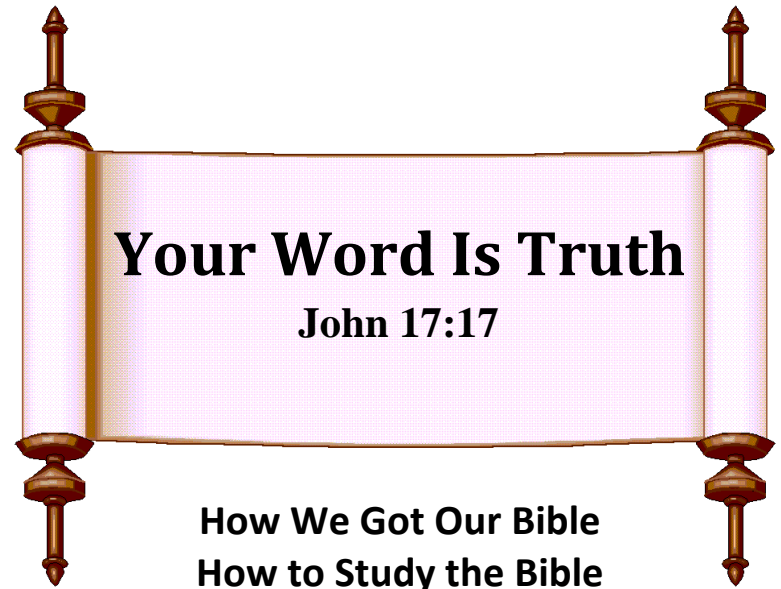


Your Word Is Truth  
John 17:17

21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Winter Conference

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Including such great truths as:

Revelation      Inspiration  
Inerrancy      Authority  
Canonization      Illumination  
Interpretation

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**Galilean Bible Camp**  
Blind River, ON

February 20-22, 2009

## ***Psalm 19 (The Message)***

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<sup>1-2</sup> God's glory is on tour in the  
skies, God-craft on exhibit across  
the horizon.

Madame Day holds classes  
every morning,

Professor Night lectures each  
evening.

<sup>3-4</sup> Their words aren't heard,  
their voices aren't recorded,  
But their silence fills the earth:  
unspoken truth is spoken  
everywhere.

<sup>4-5</sup> God makes a huge dome  
for the sun—a superdome!

The morning sun's a new  
husband  
leaping from his honeymoon  
bed,

The daybreaking sun an athlete  
racing to the tape.

<sup>6</sup> That's how God's Word vaults  
across the skies

from sunrise to sunset,  
Melting ice, scorching deserts,  
warming hearts to faith.

<sup>7-9</sup> The revelation of GOD is  
whole

and pulls our lives together.

The signposts of GOD are clear  
and point out the right road.

The life-maps of GOD are right,  
showing the way to joy.

The directions of GOD are plain  
and easy on the eyes.

GOD's reputation is twenty-four-  
carat gold,

with a lifetime guarantee.

The decisions of GOD are  
accurate  
down to the nth degree.

<sup>10</sup> God's Word is better than a  
diamond,

better than a diamond set  
between emeralds.

You'll like it better than  
strawberries in spring,  
better than red, ripe  
strawberries.

<sup>11-14</sup> There's more: God's Word  
warns us of danger  
and directs us to hidden  
treasure.

Otherwise how will we find our  
way?

Or know when we play the  
fool?

Clean the slate, God, so we can  
start the day fresh!

Keep me from stupid sins,  
from thinking I can take over  
your work;

Then I can start this day sun-  
washed,  
scrubbed clean of the grime of  
sin.

These are the words in my  
mouth;

these are what I chew on and  
pray.

Accept them when I place them  
on the morning altar,

O God, my Altar-Rock,  
God, Priest-of-My-Altar.

## Friday pm: Introduction, Psalm 19

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### 1. THE REVELATION OF GOD IN NATURE (VV. 1 – 6)

- What does creation reveal about God? (See Romans 1:19, 20)
- Is this revelation limited in any way?

### 2. THE REVELATION OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE (VV. 7 – 11)

List the following in verses 7-11:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Effect</b>
Law	Perfect	Converts the soul

*“You’ll like it better than strawberries in spring, better than red, ripe strawberries.” (v.10 MSG)*

- Why do you think Eugene Peterson paraphrases this verse like this?

### 3. THE REVELATION OF GOD IN THE SOUL (VV. 12-14)

- What is the relationship between the words of David’s mouth and the meditation of his heart?
- Eugene Peterson uses the word “**chew**” for meditation. What is suggested by this word?
- What names of God does David use in Psalm 19?

## Saturday: Session 1 – Revelation, Inspiration, Inerrancy

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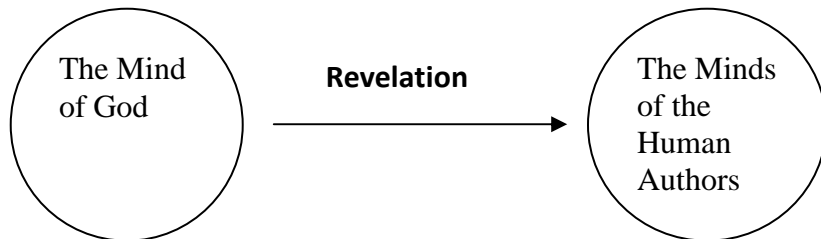
**Warm up: 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Romans 1:19, 20; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 17:17**

### REVELATION

Greek: *apokalupsis* – an uncovering or unveiling what has been hidden and unknown.

**Definition:** *Revelation is the divine act of communication to man what otherwise man would not know.*

- What are some things that we would not know about if it were not for them being revealed to us by God?
- List some of the means of revelation
  - Exodus 19:9      Mouth to mouth
  - Isaiah 6:1
  - Daniel 2
  - Genesis 18:1ff
  - Luke 2:10
  - Acts 2:22
  - 2 Timothy 3:16



#### ❖ ENCYCLOPEDIAS

- WYCLIFFE BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA (CHARLES F. PFEIFFER, HOWARD F. VOS, JOHN REA)
- NELSON'S NEW ILLUSTRATED BIBLE DICTIONARY (R.F. YOUNGBLOOD, F.F. BRUCE, R.K. HARRISON)
- UNGER'S BIBLE DICTIONARY

#### ❖ ATLASES

- THE MOODY ATLAS OF BIBLE LANDS

#### ❖ COMMENTARIES

- BELIEVER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY (WILLIAM MACDONALD)
- THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY (WALVOORD & ZUCK)
- THE BIBLE EXPOSITION COMMENTARY (WARREN WIERSBE)

NOTES PREPARED BY SEAN O'BYRNE; MUCH OF THE MATERIAL WAS ADAPTED FROM *THE BIRTH THE BIBLE* BY WILLIAM J McREA (UNDER NEW TITLE – A BOOK TO DIE FOR), *LIVING BY THE BOOK* BY HOWARD G. HENDRICKS & WILLIAM D. HENDRICKS.

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## APPENDIX 3 – BIBLE STUDY HELPS

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### ❖ BIBLES

- THE KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)
- THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)
- THE SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE
- THE RYRIE STUDY BIBLE
- THE LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE
- THE NEW TESTAMENT, AN EXPANDED TRANSLATION BY KENNETH WEUST

### ❖ PARAPHRASES

- THE LIVING BIBLE
- THE NEW CENTURY VERSION
- THE MESSAGE

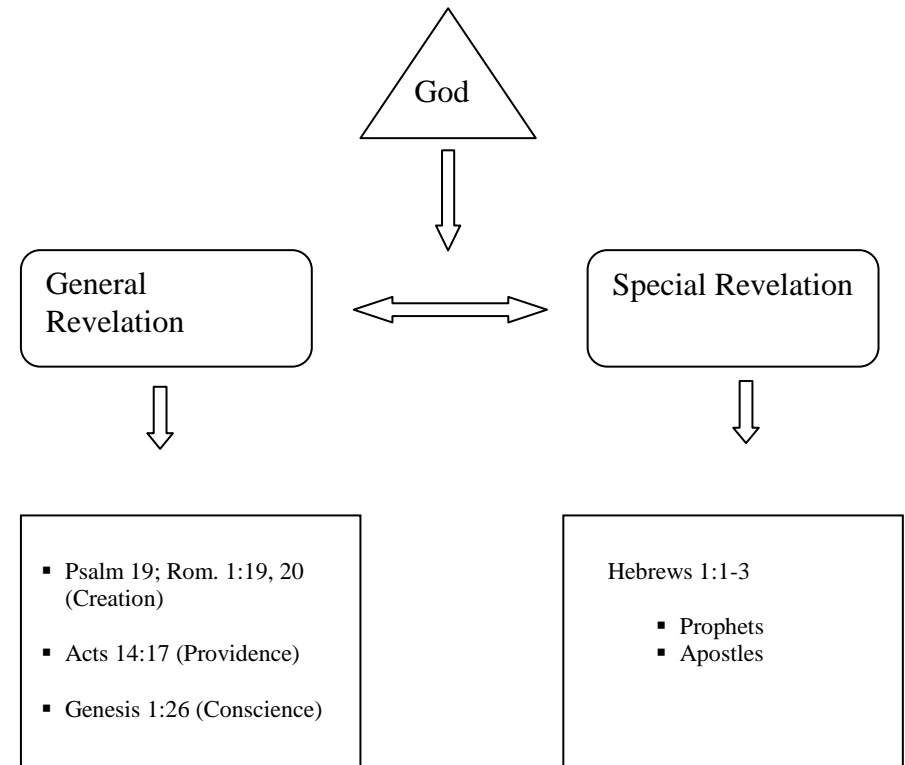
### ❖ CONCORDANCES

- STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE
- YOUNG'S ANALYTICAL CONCORDANCE
- CRUDEN'S CONCORDANCE

### ❖ WORD STUDIES

- VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS
- THEOLOGICAL WORDBOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (HARRIS, ARCHER & WALTKE)
- WORD STUDY DICTIONARY BY SPIROS ZODHIATES

## Revelation – Two Major Classifications



## INSPIRATION

*“All scriptures is God breathed...”*

**Definition:** “Biblical inspiration may be defined as God’s superintending human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.”

(Charles C. Ryrie)

❖ **2 Timothy 3:16** – “*All scripture is given by \_\_\_\_\_*”

Inspiration is the Greek word *thoepneustos*

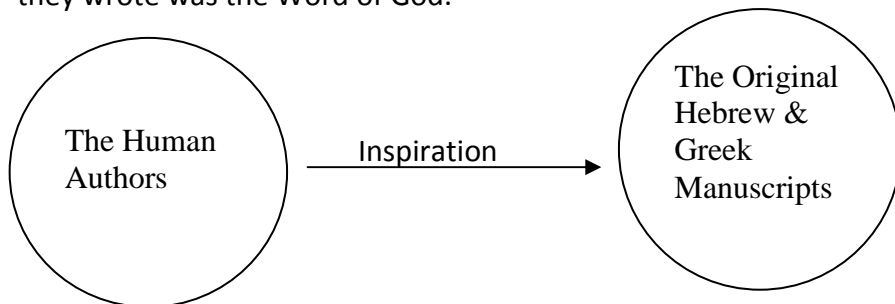
- Theo = \_\_\_\_\_
- Pneo = \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **2 Peter 1:21** – “*...holy men of God spoke as they were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.*”

❖ **Acts 27:17** – “*...they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be \_\_\_\_\_ .*” (NIV)

“Driven along” is from the Greek *Phero* = *to bring, carry or lead*

As the ship was driven by the wind on the sea, so the authors of scripture were “*carried along*” by the Holy Spirit, so that what they wrote was the Word of God.



## 2. INERRANCY ALLOWS FOR OTHER FORMS OF TRUTH IN HUMAN LANGUAGE BESIDES TECHNICALLY LITERAL TRUTH.

A) **Approximations** – In Acts 7:6, Stephen may be approximating when he says the Egyptians captivity was 400 years while Exodus 12:40 says it was 430 years.

“The four hundred years mentioned in verse Acts 7:6 and in Genesis 15:13 refer to the time when the Jewish people were afflicted in Egypt. The four hundred and thirty years cited in Exodus 12:40 and Galatians 3:17 cover the period from the arrival of Jacob and his family in Egypt to the Exodus and the giving of the law. The Israelites were not persecuted during their first thirty years on Egypt; in fact, they were treated quite royally.” (William MacDonald)

B) **Figures of speech** – Christ is obviously not literally a “door” (John 10:7). He is the “entrance” in eternal life, however. Scriptural truth involves many figures of speech and symbols. But all such truth is still literal in that even figures of speech convey literal truths.

C) **Language of appearances** – When the Bible says the “sun set,” it merely is using a language of appearances, as we do, to convey the literal truth that the day ended.

See Joshua 8:29. Scientifically speaking, what is the apparent difficulty with this verse and others that say that the sun “went down” or speak of “the rising of the sun” etc.? See also Joshua 10:12-14.

Notes

## APPENDIX 2 – INERRANCY & BIBLE DIFFICULTIES

Critics of inerrancy are quick to point out that there are supposedly contradictions in the Bible and that some statements in scripture are not literally or scientifically true. Two principles must guide our thinking about inerrancy.

### 1. APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS ARE NOT NECESSARILY REAL CONTRADICTIONS.

A) Some writers do not give all the truth about a certain event, but they do give only the truth. Parallel accounts may give different details. But they are not contradictory – merely complimentary.

How many angels were at Christ's tomb? [Matthew 28:1-7](#) refers to "an angel; [Luke 24:4](#) speaks of two angels. ANSWER: Two angels were at the tomb. Where there are two angels, there is also one angel.

B) Some errors are errors in copying. These do not discredit inerrancy which simply claims the originals are inerrant.

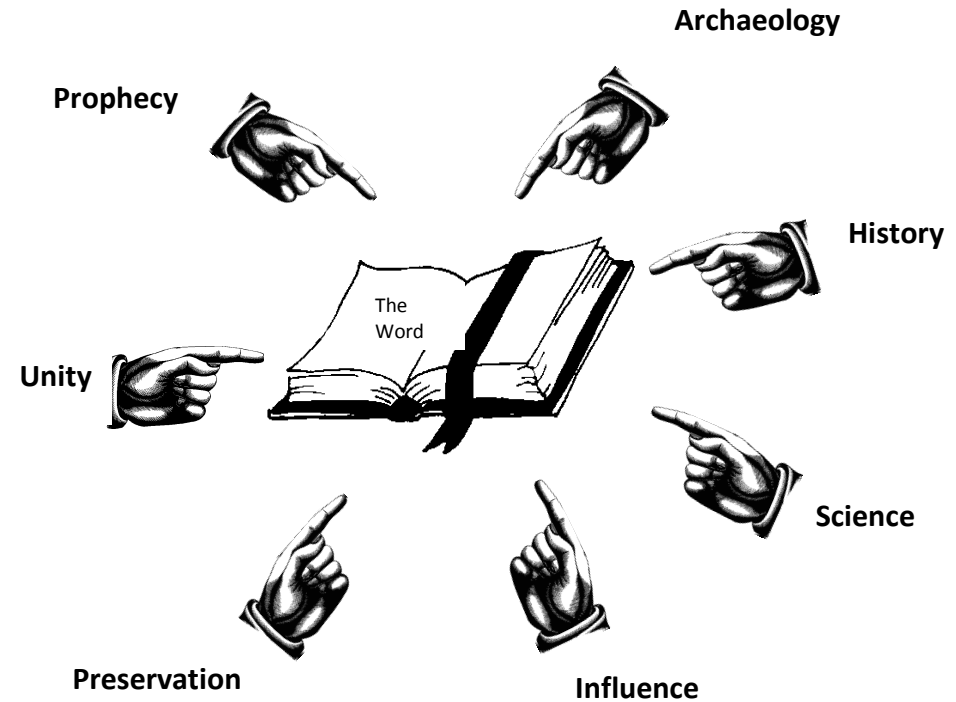
Look up the following verses in the NIV:

- Mark 9:44 & 46.
- Acts 8:37
- Compare 1 John 5:7, 8 in the NIV with the same verses in the NKJV or KJV.

C) SOME APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS ARE SOLVED BY FACTS WE DO NOT KNOW.

- I. [2 Samuel 24:24](#) says David paid 50 shekels of silver for the threshing floor property. [1 Chronicles 21:25](#) says 600 shekels. Perhaps the threshing floor was 50 shekels, and with the surrounding property, the total was 600.
- II. [2 Samuel 21:19](#) says Elhanan killed Goliath. [1 Samuel 17:50](#) says David did. Maybe David had 2 names (like Solomon did – [2 Samuel 12:24;25](#)). Or maybe Elhanan killed Goliath's brother ("the brother of" was maybe omitted by a copyist). Or maybe there is another legitimate explanation.

## THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORD



## EVIDENCES OF INSPIRATION

The above wonders of the Word all point to the divine inspiration of the Bible. Many a hammer has been worn out or broken against the anvil of God's Word.

1. **Prophecy** – Only God can accurately predict future events. (Isaiah 42:9; Deut. 18:20-22)
2. **Unity** – 66 Books written over 1500 years by more than forty human authors from different backgrounds, countries and languages. Yet, an organic unity can be

traced from Genesis to Revelation. Christ is the key (Luke 24:27).

3. **Preservation** – In spite of the passing of time, the Bible still stands. Voltaire predicted that in one hundred years the Bible would be an outmoded and forgotten book. When the one hundred years had passed, Voltaire’s house was owned and used by the Geneva Bible Society.
4. **Influence** – “For more than a thousand years the Bible, collectively taken, has gone hand in hand with civilization, science, law – in short, with the moral and intellectual cultivation of the species, always supporting and often leading the way”. (Samuel Taylor Coleridge)
5. **Science** – The Bible is not a scientific book; however, when it does make scientific statements, they are stunning in their accuracy. Consider weather cycles governing evaporation, cloud formation, thunder, lightning and rain (Ecclesiastes 1:6,7; 11:3; Job 28:24-26; 37:16)
6. **History** – Again and again the Bible has stood the test of time as critics and scientists have confirmed the historical accuracy of Scripture.
7. **Archaeology** – “Of the hundreds of thousands of artifacts found by the archeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause, or sentence of the Bible, but always confirms and verifies the facts of the biblical record.” (Dr. J. O. Kinnaman)

## APPENDIX 1 - CHRIST AND INERRANCY

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The greatest testimony to the authenticity of the Bible as God’s Word is the Lord Jesus. From boyhood to the cross and by His resurrection, His whole life and ministry confirmed the divine inspiration, inerrancy and authority of the Old Testament. Note what Christ taught about the inspiration of the Old Testament:

1. **Its entirety;** The whole of the Bible is inspired (Matt. 4:4; 5:17-18). Not even the smallest Hebrew letter, the *yodh*, which looks like an apostrophe (’), or stroke of a letter, a small distinguishing extension or protrusion of several Hebrews letters (cf. the extension on the letter R with its absence on the letter P), would pass away until all is fulfilled.
2. **Its historicity;** He taught the OT as actual history.
  - ❖ Adam and Eve (Matt. 19:3-5; Mark 10:6-8).
  - ❖ Jonah and the whale (Matt. 12:40).
  - ❖ Noah’s ark and the flood (Matt. 24:38-39; Luke 17:26-27).
3. **Its reliability;** The Scripture must be fulfilled (Matt. 26:54).
4. **Its sufficiency;** Sufficient to witness to the truth of God and His salvation (Luke 16:31).
5. **Its indestructibility;** Heaven and earth will not pass away until it is all fulfilled. Nothing can stop its fulfillment (Matt. 5:17-18).
6. **Its unity;** Christ pointed to the whole OT as a witness to His person and work (Luke 24:27, 44). To Him it was not a fragmentary collection, but a unity, ‘scripture’ (singular: John 10:35)
7. **Its inerrancy;** men are often in error, but the Bible is not; it is truth (Matt. 22:29; John 17:17).
8. **Its infallibility;** the Scripture cannot be broken, it always stands the test (John 10:35).

## APPLICATION – HOW DOES IT WORK?

*“Observation plus interpretation without application equals abortion.”*

The Bible was not written to satisfy our curiosities but to transform our characters. Not only should we mark our Bibles; we should allow our Bibles to mark us!

Questions to ask:

1. Is there an example to follow?
2. Is there a sin to avoid?
3. Is there a promise to claim?
4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
5. Is there a command to obey?
6. Is there a condition to meet?
7. Is there an error to mark?

### YOU TRY

Try applying the principles of observation, interpretation & application with the following verses: **Matthew 5:29, 30**

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

## INERRANCY

**Definition:** “Inerrancy” is a term used to explain that the Bible is completely true and contains no errors in the original autographs.

“Inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything they teach, whether that teaching has to do with doctrine, history, science, geography, geology, or other disciplines or knowledge.” (James Montgomery Boice, *Does Inerrancy Matter?* pg. 13)

### REVELATION + INSPIRATION = INERRANCY

*“If there be any mistakes in the Bible, there may well be a thousand. If there be one falsehood in that book, it did not come from the God of truth”* (John Wesley)

Q: Why must there be flawless originals if our copies are not?

A: Because God gave them and God cannot err.

Q: Why didn’t God preserve the copies from all error?

A: He did preserve them from significant error.

Q: How accurate are our copies of the original Hebrew and Greek texts?

A: About 99.5%

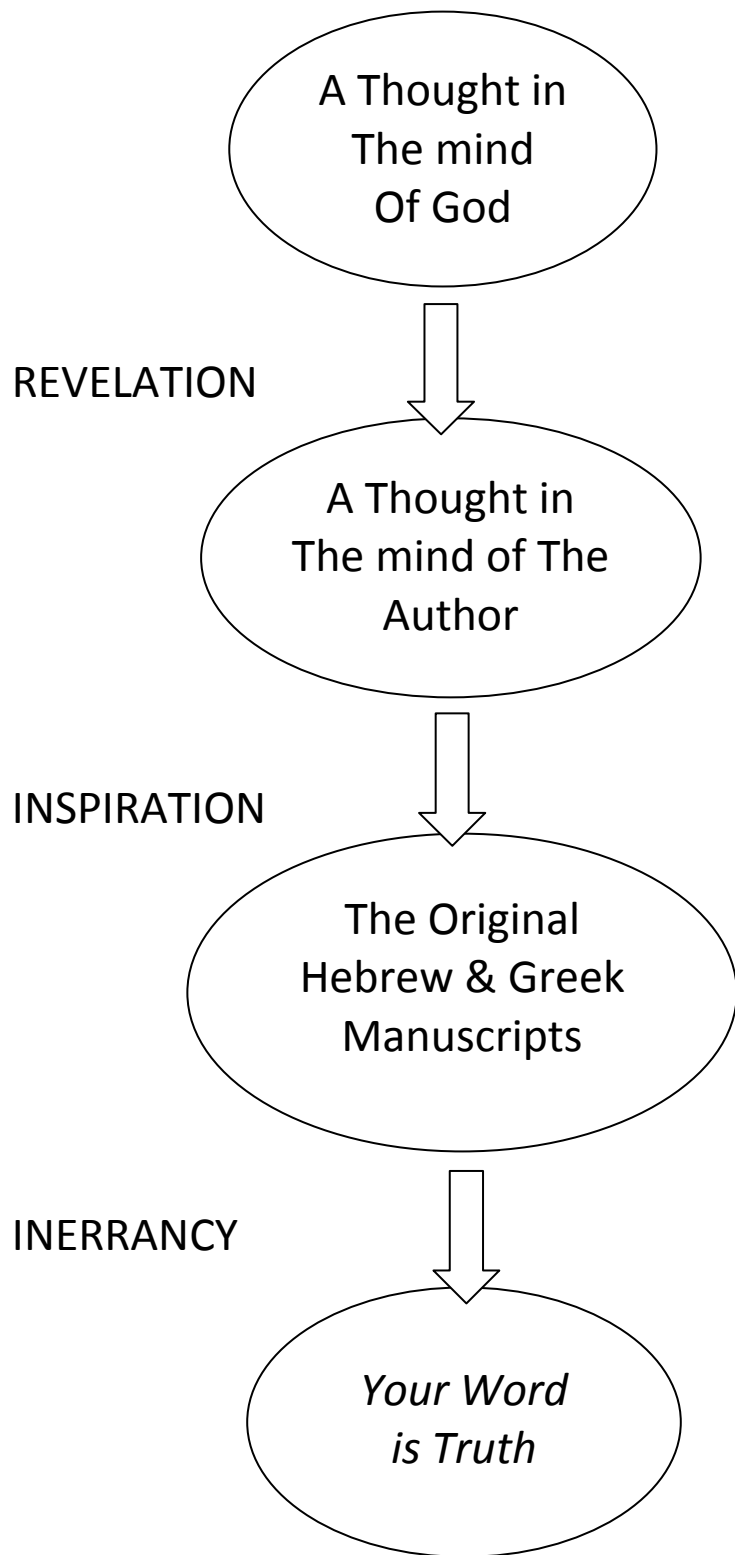
Example: If you would receive 3 e-mails, each containing an error.

#OU HAVE WON \$1,000.

Y#U HAVE WON \$1,000.

YO# HAVE WON \$1,000.

The truth is clear, even if the e-mails disagree on their errors.



## INTERPRETATION – *WHAT DOES IT MEAN?*

In observation we excavate the text, looking at every detail and answering the question, “What do I see?” In interpretation we take all the information that we’ve uncovered and gathered and bring it together to construct the meaning of the passage. (Drawing a chart is often helpful at this stage)

Contrast the difference between *exegesis* and *eisogesis*.

## IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT

“Text without context is pretext”

**Context** – that which comes before and follows after a verse or passage.

There are several kinds of context which are crucial at arriving at the correct interpretation:

1. **Literary context** – Paragraph, section, book. Ultimately the Bible as a whole.
2. **Historical context** – Where does the passage fit in history?
3. **Cultural context** – Manners and customs of Bible times
4. **Geographic context** – What was the terrain, topography & weather like? Distances, travel, populations etc.
5. **Theological context** – Where does the passage fit in the Bible as a whole? Compare scripture with scripture and find out how the text relates to the rest of God’s revelation (progressive revelation).

## YOU TRY!

Take a few minutes and look at the verse below in your Bible. Read, re-read, reflect and then record your observations about the text. On the verse below mark your findings.

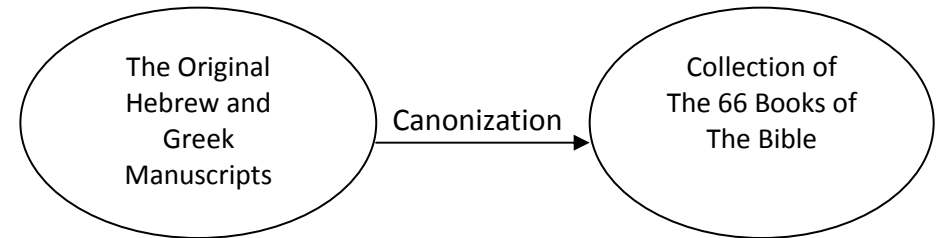
### Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- ✓ List key words to look up, places, names...
- ✓ Relate the verse to the chapter, book as a whole

## CANONIZATION

The Collection Begins



**Canon** – “canon” originally meant a staff, straight rod, rule, or standard.

**Definition** – Canonization is the process by which the various books of the Bible were collected and brought together and recognized as the inspired Word of God. The Bible is also called the canon because it is the objective rule for measuring or judging all matters of faith and practice.

### The Canonicity of the OT

**Luke 24:27, 44**

“Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ concerning Me.”

## The Hebrew Bible (The Bible Jesus read?)

### I. The Law of Moses

- a) The Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy. **(5 books)**

### II. Prophets

- a. *Former*: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings.
- b. *Latter*: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Twelve [minor prophets]. **(8 Books)**

### III. Writings

- a. *Poetry and Wisdom*: Psalms, Proverbs, Job.
- b. *Rolls*: Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther.
- c. *History*: Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles. **(11 Books)**

**Luke 11:51** – “*from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah...*”

Here the Lord gave the extent of the OT Canon. He charged the Jewish leaders with the murders of God’s messengers (Abel, Gen. 4 to Zachariah, 2 Chronicles 24) throughout the OT history. 2 Chronicles is the last book of the Hebrew Bible. Evidently the Lord Jesus did not acknowledge the Apocryphal books as authoritative or part of the Canon of Scripture.

**Malachi 4:5** indicates that the prophetic witness would end with Malachi and not begin again until the coming of an Elijah-type prophet in the person of John the Baptist.

## Canonicity of the NT

What do verses like John 14:26; 16:13 suggest about the apostolic witness and the NT yet to be written?

## OBSERVATION – *WHAT DO I SEE?*

“You see, but you do not observe.” – Sherlock Holmes

### ❖ Observe Terms

- Try to identify key words: example, ‘believe’ in John’s gospel (John 20:30, 31), ‘righteousness’ (in Romans) etc.

### ❖ Observe Structure

- Pay close attention to **grammatical structure**: subject & object, verbs, modifiers (descriptive words such as adjectives and adverbs), prepositional phrases (where the action is taking place, *in, on, upon, through, to* etc.), connectives (*and, but* – big doors swing on big hinges! Romans 6:23)
- Try to follow the **literary structure**: cause and effect, climax, question & answer, biographical, geographical, historical, Ideological (Paul’s letters)

### ❖ Observe Literary Form

The message of the Bible is often communicated through **figures of speech**: anthropomorphism, euphemism, hyperbole, metaphor, paradox, personification, simile, allegory, poetry, satire, parable, apocalyptic writing.

Most of our work occurs in observation. We ask the text every question imaginable: who, why, when, where, what, how!

**Martin Luther** alluded to the practice of careful observation when he said... “I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf....Pause at every verse of Scripture and shake, as it were, every bough of it, that if possible some fruit at least may drop down.”

## Saturday: Session 3 – Illumination, Interpretation

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*Warm up:* Nehemiah 8:8; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; 2 Timothy 2:15

### SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

1. **Dedication** (Ezra 7:10; John 7:17; 2 Corinthians 8:5 etc.)

What is the starting point for all true Bible study?

2. **Supplication** (Psalm 119:18, 34; Proverbs 2:1-6)

3. **Illumination** (Luke 24:32, 45; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 John 2:27)

4. **Observation**

5. **Interpretation**

6. **Application** (Luke 6:46)

7. **Proclamation** (2 Timothy 4:2; Mark 16:15 etc.)

The early Christians used several questions to determine which books were part of the NT Canon of Scripture:

1. Did the Holy Spirit give them internal witness to their inspiration? (John 14:17; 16:13)
2. Was the book written by an Apostle? (1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13)
3. Do the contents of the book agree with the teachings of Christ and do they present a high view of the person and work of the Lord Jesus (1 John 4:1-3; 5:1).
4. Is the writing in question authentic? Did it originate in the place it claims to be from? Was it written by whom it claims to be written?
5. Was the book universally accepted by Christians everywhere?

Questions

What about the Apocrypha?

What about the so-called 'lost' letters? (1 Corinthians 5:9, *"I wrote to you in my epistle..."*)

What does Revelation 22:18, 19 indicate as to the extent of the canon? See also Jude 3.

## AUTHORITY

**Warm up:** Exodus 31:18; John 18:38; Luke 6:46

What is the authority for our conduct as Christians? Everyone has an authority that dictates the direction of life and determines one's principles.

### 1. The Rule of Reason

*The rationalist* – whose intellect reigns supreme. If it's reasonable, it's in; if it's unreasonable, it's out. Pascal, the French philosopher and mathematician, pointed out that the supreme function of reason is to show us that some things are beyond reason.

- How do the following scripture reveal the inadequacy of human reason unaided by the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Romans 3:11; Ephesians 4:17, 18)
  
- What kind of lifestyle does rationalism lead to? (See Romans 1:24-32). What about Nazi Germany?

### 2. The Test of Tradition

*The Traditionalist* – the teaching of the institutional Church is his rule for life and faith. This view accepts that the Bible is given by God, but that it is not sufficient, perspicuous (clear, plain to the understanding) or self-interpreting. The Council of Trent (1546), declared tradition of equal authority with the Bible. The Vatican Council (1870) claimed infallibility of the Pope in matters of faith and morals.

Read Romans 4:3a: What did Paul appeal to in matters of faith?

Read 1 John 2:27: What does John say about the source for truth and teaching?

### 3. The Empire of Experience

*The Existentialist* – his feelings and emotions rule. "If it feels good, do it!" The existentialist is subjective, rejecting any objective authority beyond himself.

Read the last verse of Judges (21:25). What was society like in "those days"?

*"We shouldn't worry because the government won't allow children to have Bible in school. They'll get free Bibles when they go to prison."* (Vance Havner)

Read John 8:32 and 17:17: What are the effects of the truth of God's Word?

### 4. The Standard of Scripture

*The Biblicist* – this is Sola Scriptura! (Scripture Only). Scripture alone is the Christian's rule of life, faith and practice.

What does our Lord's "It is written" (Matthew 4:4) reveal about His confidence in the authority of Scripture?

Martin Luther, on trial for heresy, acknowledges this authority when he said: *"I put the Scriptures above all the sayings of the fathers, angels, men and devils. My conscience is subject to the Word of God. Here I stand, I can do no other. Help me God."*

**REVELATION + INSPIRATION = INERRANCY + AUTHORITY**