

1. Question 3: What is the Bible - and how is it different from other books?
2. Humanity's hope rests upon the Word of God.
3. One of the most common phrases of the Scripture is, "*Thus saith the Lord.*"
4. The Bible does not merely contain the Word of God - nor is it just a means to experience the Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16)
5. Literally, "*given by inspiration of God*" - means "breathed out by God." A summary of what the Bible claims about itself is found in two main texts.
6. Peter said the writers were moved by the Holy Spirit, and Paul claimed their writings were "breathed out by God." (2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16)
7. In 2 Peter 1 the prophetic Scriptures (of the Old Testament) did not originate with man but with God moving on men called prophets of God.
8. Paul in 2 Timothy 3 confirms that all Scripture came from God. God is the ultimate Cause, and the Scriptures are the authoritative result.
9. Paul cites the gospel of Matthew as Scripture along with the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. (1 Timothy 5:18 quoting Deuteronomy 25:4 and Matthew 10:10)
10. The Bible contains 66 books known as the "Canon" - 39 books in the O.T. and 27 books in the N.T.
11. The Bible is true in all that it teaches. (Proverbs 30:5-6)
12. The Bible - at first sight - appears to be a collection of merely literature - mainly Jewish.
13. Biblical manuscripts were written at different intervals of time over a span of nearly 1400 years.
14. Earliest forms of the O.T. were written during the Hebrew exodus out of Egypt. (1400-1200 BC)
15. All the books of the N.T. were completed by the second half of the first century AD.
16. In comparison to other literary and historical works - the Bible is exceptional in that it was written and assembled by different writers over a vast number of generations.
17. The Bible is our supreme authority. Scripture alone is the divine rule of faith and obedience. (1 Thessalonians 2:13 and 2 Timothy 3:17)
19. The basic message of the Bible is clear. (2 Peter 3:15-16 and Psalm 119:105)
20. "A book is not the Word of God because it is accepted by the people of God. Rather, it was accepted by the people of God because it is the Word of God. That is, God gives the book its divine authority, not the people of God. They merely recognize the divine authority which God gives to it."
(Geisler and Nix)

Examples of the some of the world religions and their handling of the 66 books of the Canon.

Who	Added to the 66 Books	Subtracted/Changed from the 66 books
Roman Catholicism	Added Apocrypha Added papal authority	
Orthodox (Eastern)	Added Apocrypha Added authority of patriarchs	
Jehovah's Witness	Added Charles Taze Russell's writings (<i>Studies in the Scriptures</i>) and <i>Watchtower</i> and <i>Awake</i> publications as supreme over the Bible. Added Modern governing authorities of JW's.	Changed the Bible to mean things other than what it plainly says (New World Translation)
Mormons (LDS)	Added Joseph Smith's writings (<i>The Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, Doctrines and Covenants</i>) Added modern prophets	Changed nearly 4,000 verses in the Bible to conform to their theology (Joseph Smith Translation, aka KJV 1833)
Islam (Muslims)	Added Muhammad's sayings (Koran and the Hadith) as superior to the Bible	Demoted the Bible as supreme, and Islamic scholars today say it was corrupted even though Muhammad said it was true and to be believed
Traditional Seventh Day Adventists	Added Ellen White's teachings	
Unitarian Universalism	Adds outside sources from other world religions	Demotes biblical teachings that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the one true God along with the Father (Triune nature of God) Demotes the Bible in favor of false religions
Generic cults	Elevates a leader's teachings to be supreme above the Bible	Because of a leader's authority, the Bible is usually seen as second rate and demoted
Ba'hai Islamic background (1817-1892)	Added the teachings of Shoghi Effendi with the writings of Baha'u'llah, the Bab, and Abdu'l-Baha	Denies the Bible is authoritative but recognizes the Bible as a holy text among others