

INTRODUCTION:

- Tonight we are going to start a series on “The Uniqueness of the Bible.”
- As we do that we will look at topics like: The Bible is God's Word, The Bible Can Be Trusted, The Bible Tells Us About the Existence of the Triune God, The Bible Tells Us About Jesus, The Bible Tells Us About Sin, The Bible Tells Us About How to Be Saved, The Bible Tells Us How We Are to Live Now as Christians, and The Bible Tells Us About Heavenly Things.

- When we look at the Bible, we may first notice that it is divided into two parts: the OT and The NT.
- There are 39 books in the OT and 27 in the NT for a total of 66 books.
- It was written by 40 different authors covering a span of 1500 years.
- Even if we were to be more specific we would learn:
- Old Testament Statistics

39 books, 929 chapters, 23,214 verses, 593,493 words, Longest book—Psalms, Shortest book—Obadiah, 17 historical books, 5 poetical books, 17 prophetic books

- New Testament Statistics

27 books, 260 chapters

Note: It was not until A.D. 1250 that the Bible was divided into chapters. At that time Cardinal Hugo incorporated chapter divisions into the Latin Bible. His divisions, although for convenience, were not always accurate; however, essentially those same chapter divisions have persisted to this day. In 1551 Robert Estienne introduced a Greek New Testament with the inclusion of verse divisions. He did not fix verses for the Old Testament. The first entire English Bible to have verse divisions was the Geneva Bible in 1560.

7959 verses, 181,253 words, Longest book—Acts, Shortest book—3 John, 4

Gospels, 1 historical book, 22 epistles
(Willmington, H. (1987). Willmington's book
of Bible lists (34–35). Wheaton, IL:
Tyndale).

Now let's address the first major point in our
message tonight..

LESSON

I. The Bible Claims to be God's Word

- In the OT, Psalms 12:6 (NASB) The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.
- Throughout Genesis 1 we hear the phrase “God said” (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29) or “the word of the Lord

came to me saying” (Jer.1:5) or “the Lord said to me”(Jer.1:7).

- In 2 Timothy 3:15-16 (NASB) and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”
- Verse 15 refers to the Scripture as “the sacred writings.” Other translations says, “the Holy Scriptures”(Gr. Hieros grammata, “sacred writings.”) This refers to the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament)

- Verse 16 uses a different word for Scripture and it is the word *graphe*. This word was commonly used in the early church not only of the Old Testament but also of God's newly revealed Word, in what came to be called the New Testament.
- "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" - "inspired by God" is in Greek *Theopneustos* which literally means, "breathed out by God," or simply, "God-breathed."
- The ESV correctly translates the verse: "All Scripture is breathed out by God."
- God sometimes breathed His words into the human writers to be recorded much as dictation.

- He said to Jeremiah: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth" (Jer. 1:9).
- But, as clearly seen in Scripture itself, God's divine truth more often flowed through the minds, souls, hearts, and emotions of His chosen human instruments.
- Yet, by whatever means, God divinely superintended the accurate recording of His divinely breathed truth by His divinely chosen men.
- In a supernatural way, He has provided His divine Word in human words that any person, even a child, can be led by His Holy Spirit to understand sufficiently to be saved.

- It is of utmost importance to understand that it is Scripture that is inspired by God, not the men divinely chosen to record it.

- When speaking or writing apart from God's revelation, their thoughts, wisdom, and understanding were human and fallible.

- God also wrote down His Word
 - Exodus 31:18, When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.

- Exodus 32:16, The tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing engraved on the tablets.
- Exodus 34:1, Now the Lord said to Moses, "Cut out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered.
- Exodus 34:28, So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

- Further writing was done by Moses and said to be God's Word - Deut 31:9-13

Wayne Grudem, says in his book, *Systematic Theology*, "This book which Moses wrote was then deposited by the side of the ark of the covenant: "When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, "Take this book of the law, and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you" ' (Deut. 31:24–26).

Further additions were made to this book of God's words. "And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God" (Josh. 24:26).

God commanded Isaiah, “And now, go, write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book that it may be for the time to come as a witness for ever” (Isa. 30:8). Once again, God said to Jeremiah, “Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you” (Jer. 30:2; cf. Jer. 36:2–4, 27–31; 51:60).

In the New Testament, Jesus promises his disciples that the Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance the words which he, Jesus, had spoken (John 14:26; cf. 16:12–13). Paul can say that the very words he writes to the Corinthians are “a command of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37; cf. 2 Peter 2 Peter 3:2).

Once again it must be noted that these words are still considered to be God’s own words, even though they are written down mostly by human beings and always in human language.

Still, they are absolutely authoritative and absolutely true: to disobey them or disbelieve them is a serious sin and brings judgment from God (1 Cor. 14:37; Jer. 36:29–31).”

It’s important to hear how each writer of Scripture viewed one another’s writings...

II. The Writers of Scripture Understood Each Other’s Writing as Scripture

In 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul wrote, “For the Scripture (graphe) says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

It is important to note that the first quotation is from the Old Testament (Deut.25:4) and the second is from Jesus’ own lips (Lk.10:7), that is, from the New Testament.

- Peter claimed Paul's epistles were Scripture

2 Peter 3:14-16 (NASB) Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

- Jude also understood Peter's writings as Scripture (Jude 1:17-18)

Jude 1:17-18 (NASB) But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁸ that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”

- All Scripture, both the Old and New Testament, is inspired by God

“The Pentateuch (The first five books of the Old Testament) contains at least 680 claims to divine inspiration. Such claims are found 418 times in the historical books, 195 times in the poetic books, and 1,307 times in the prophetic books.

The New Testament contains more than 300 direct quotations and at least 1,000 indirect references from the Old Testament, almost all of them declaring or implying that they were God's own Word.

The book of Hebrews opens with the declaration "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son" (Heb. 1:1-2).

The writer was speaking of both testaments, God's speaking through "the prophets" representing the Old and His speaking through "His Son" representing the New" (John MacArthur, 2 Timothy, p.146).

CONCLUSION

- The Bible is God's Word. Believe it, trust it, and obey it.
- Let's pray