

Can We Trust The Bible?

2 PETER 3:1-2, 14-18

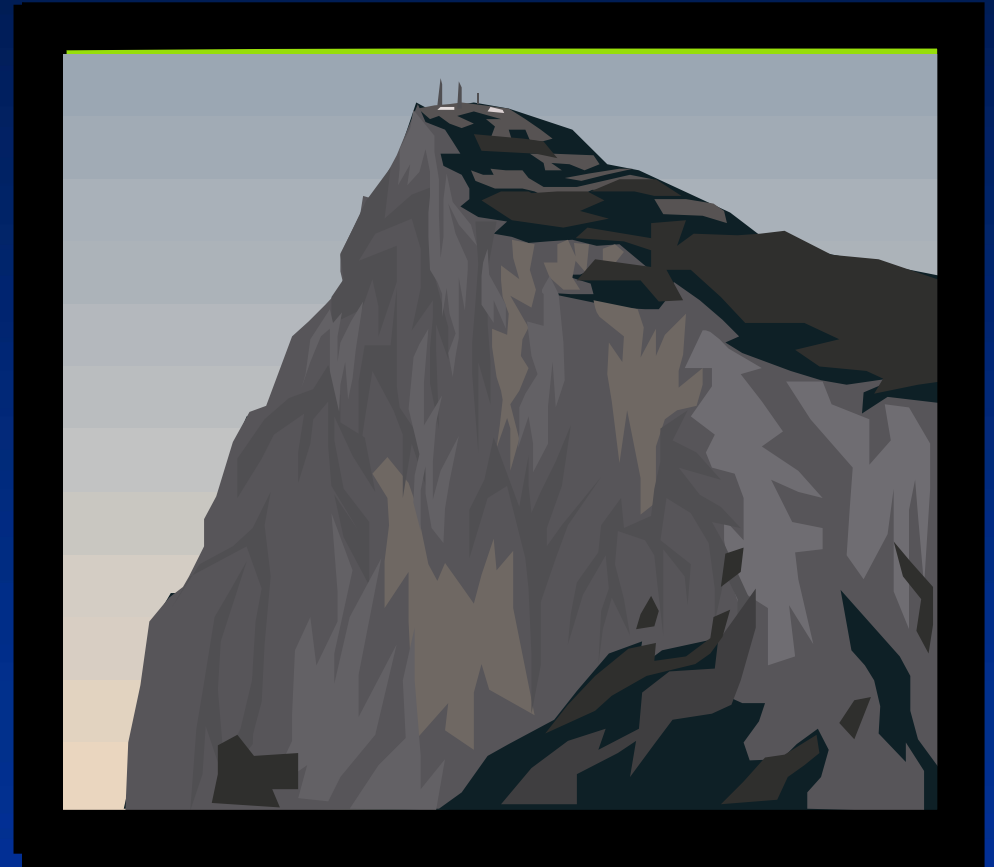


²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴because “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.*” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:22 - 25 (NKJV)

How We Got Our Bible

- Conception
- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Canonization
- Preservation
- Translation



Canonization

- The Old Testament was settled prior to the time of Christ, and the apostles recognized this canon through quotations and references.



Old Testament Books Quoted in the New Testament

THE LAW

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

HISTORICAL BOOKS

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles



Old Testament Books Quoted in the New Testament

BOOKS OF POETRY

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

MAJOR PROPHETS

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel



Old Testament Books Quoted in the New Testament

MINOR PROPHETS

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Jonah
- Micah
- Habakkuk
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

SUMMARY

▪ The Law	100%	5/5
▪ History	70%	9/13
▪ Poetry	100%	5/5
▪ Major Prophets	100%	5/5
▪ Minor Prophets	75%	9/12

New Testament Book	Old Testament Quote/ Reference	New Testament Book	Old Testament Quote/ Reference
Matthew	96	Colossians	3
Mark	34	1 Thessalonians	2
Luke	58	2 Thessalonians	2
John	40	1 Timothy	6
Acts	57	2 Timothy	2
Romans	74	Hebrews	86
1 Corinthians	41	James	16
2 Corinthians	13	1 Peter	20
Galatians	16	2 Peter	10
Ephesians	11	1 John	6
Philippians	3	Revelation	249
		Total	845 Times *



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- The Old Testament was settled prior to the time of Christ, and the apostles recognized this canon through quotations and references.
- Under apostolic oversight the New Testament Scriptures were being circulated, preserved, and canonized.



Apostolic Oversight

- Letters were circulated among the churches. – Colossians 4:16



¹⁶Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

Colossians 4:16 NKJV

Apostolic Oversight

- Letters were circulated among the churches. – Colossians 4:16
- Scriptures to be preserved. – 2 Peter 1:15; 3:16



¹⁵Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

2 Peter 1:15 NKJV

¹Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ²that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

2 Peter 3:1-2 NKJV

Apostolic Oversight

- Letters were circulated among the churches. – Colossians 4:16
- Scriptures to be preserved. – 2 Peter 1:15; 3:16
- Apostles quoted and referred to other New Testament writers. – 1 Timothy 5:18



¹⁸For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*”
and, “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”

1 Timothy 5:18 NKJV

Apostolic Oversight

- Letters were circulated among the churches. – Colossians 4:16
- Scriptures to be preserved. – 2 Peter 1:15; 3:16
- Apostles quoted and referred to other New Testament writers. – 1 Timothy 5:18
- Referred to other writings as Scripture. 2 Peter 3:15,16



¹⁵and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

Why Was This Necessary?

- Deceivers were falsely claiming to be apostles, even during the lifetime of the Lord's true apostles.



¹³For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:13 NKJV

Why Was This Necessary?

- Deceivers were falsely claiming to be apostles, even during the lifetime of the Lord's true apostles.
- Others forged documents, assigning notable names to them of apostles, prophets, and others.
 - i.e. the “Hitler Diaries”
- These frequently contained doctrines contrary to the teaching of the apostles.



⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:8-9 NKJV

The “Gospel of Judas”

- Gospel of Judas was written by an early author, certainly not Judas.
- Touted today as a “lost” or “suppressed” writings.
- Likely one of the early “gnostic” cults the apostles opposed, or that appeared after close of 1st century.
- Contradictory to the history recorded in the Gospels.



The “Gospel of Judas”

- The teaching that Jesus commanded Judas to betray Christ, has pernicious consequences...
 - Jesus did not *fulfill* the prophecies
 - Jesus was *forging* prophetic fulfillment.
 - Jesus *deceived* the other apostles.
 - Jesus was *complicit* in the death of Judas.
 - The canon Scripture is *incomplete*.



Canonization

- The Old Testament was settled prior to the time of Christ, and the apostles recognized this canon through quotations and references.
- Under apostolic directions the New Testament Scriptures were being circulated, preserved, and canonized.
- Unauthorized, and uninspired councils acknowledged the work which had already been done.



The Method of “Canonization”

- Churches preserved the *authoritative* writings.
- The letters were further circulated among the churches.
- Lists were compiled that *recognized* the writings.
- As early as the second century AD *all 27* books of the New Testament were recognized as “canon”.



“Ecumenical Councils”

- It took some time for the letters to be collected from all over the Roman Empire.
- They did not *decide* what was canon, they *recognized* as canon.
- Council of Nicaea (325 AD) – all but seven books were recognized.
- Council of Carthage (397 AD) – all 27 were recognized as canon.



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- The promise of God to preserve His word was fulfilled providentially through these efforts.



The Council of Nicea (325 A.D.)

A. Purpose

1. To address false teaching concerning the nature of Christ
2. To affirm what the churches already believed and taught

B. Work of the Council

1. Condemned the Arian heresy (denial of Christ's full deity)
2. Affirmed the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is fully God
3. Produced the Nicene Creed as a clear statement of orthodox belief

C. What the Council Did Not Do

1. Did **not** decide the canon of Scripture
2. Did **not** grant authority to the Bible

These *unauthorized* Councils did not create doctrine
— they clarified and defended it.

The *Original* Nicene Creed (325 AD)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten,
begotten of the Father before all ages.

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made,
of one essence with the Father by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven,
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became man.

And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,
and suffered, and was buried.

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead;
whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit.

But as for those who say, There was when He was not, and, before being born He was not, and that He came into existence out of nothing, or who assert that the Son of God is from a different hypostasis or substance, or is created, or is subject to alteration or change – these the Catholic Church anathematizes.

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