



HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

FROM GOD'S MOUTH TO OUR HANDS

A 10-PART BIBLE STUDY SERIES



REVELATION



INSPIRATION



WRITING



PRESERVATION



CANON



TRANSLATION



OUR BIBLES



OUR RESPONSE

GOD HAS SPOKEN. HE HAS PRESERVED IT. WE CAN TRUST IT.

◆ PSALM 119:89 ◆

SCHEDULE OF STUDIES

- 
- 1 Why Does it Matter?
 - 2 Inspiration, Revelation, Transmission, and Translation
 - 3 The Revelation of the Old Testament
 - 4 The Revelation of the New Testament
 - 5 The Canon of Scripture**
 - 6 Preservation of Scripture
 - 7 Manuscripts, Chapters, and Verses
 - 8 The Development of English Translations
 - 9 Answering Bible Objections
 - 10 Proper Interpretation of the Scripture



The Canon of Scripture

Review of Previous Lesson:



- 1 God's revelation reached its climax in **Jesus Christ**.
- 2 Jesus chose **apostles** to carry His revelation to the world.
- 3 Jesus promised that the **Holy Spirit** would **guide the apostles into truth**.
- 4 The apostles spoke and wrote by **inspiration**.
- 5 New Testament revelation was **written down**.
- 6 New Testament revelation was **progressive** as God revealed His completed message through Christ and His apostles.

Main Questions for This Study



1

What does the word **canon** mean?

2

Who determined which books belong in Scripture?

3

How was the **Old Testament canon** recognized?

4

How was the **New Testament canon** recognized?

5

What about the **Apocrypha**?

6

What about the so-called “**lost books of the Bible**”?

7

Can we have **confidence** that our Bible contains the books God intended?

What Is the “**Canon**” of Scripture?

The Meaning of “Canon”

- 1 The English word **canon** comes from the Greek *kanōn*.
- 2 It originally referred to a **reed, measuring rod, rule, or standard**.
- 3 The word eventually came to describe the recognized collection of writings that constitute Scripture.

A Simple Definition

The **canon of Scripture** is the collection of writings recognized as the **inspired Word of God**.

Men Did Not Make a Book Inspired

1

A council could not take an **uninspired book** and make it Scripture.

2

Neither could **rejecting** an inspired book remove its God-given authority.

3

Consider **2 Timothy 3:16**:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God...”

4

The authority of Scripture comes from **God**, not from the people who recognize it.

**Key
Principle:**

The question of the canon is not,
“Which books did men decide should be Scripture?”
but,
“Which books had God given as Scripture?”

God's People Recognized Authoritative Writings from the Beginning

1 Moses' Writings Were Treated as Authoritative

Deuteronomy 31:24–26

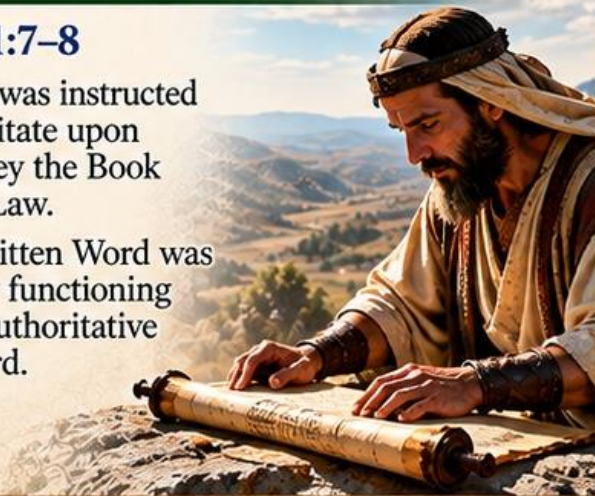
- Moses completed writing the Law and commanded that it be placed beside the Ark of the Covenant.
- These writings were authoritative because they contained God's revelation.



2 Joshua Recognized the Written Law

Joshua 1:7–8

- Joshua was instructed to meditate upon and obey the Book of the Law.
- The written Word was already functioning as an authoritative standard.



3 Later Writers Recognized Earlier Scripture

Daniel 9:2

- Daniel understood God's prophecy concerning Jerusalem through the writings of Jeremiah.
- This demonstrates that earlier prophetic writings were being received as authoritative revelation.



4 The Same Pattern Appears in the New Testament

2 Peter 3:15–16

- Peter refers to Paul's letters alongside "the other Scriptures."

Colossians 4:16

- Paul instructed congregations to exchange and read his letters.

1 Thessalonians 5:27

- Paul commanded that his letter be read to the brethren.



5 An Important Observation

- God's Word was being recognized as authoritative long before later councils formally listed biblical books.
- The process involved writings being:

Written

Received

Read

Copied

Circulated

Preserved

