



Study Guide

Many times we struggle to get a solid biblical understanding of the different topics in the Bible. Are we really punished for Adam's sin? What is the purpose of angels? What do the end times look like?

This course will tackle these topics and many more and unpack them in a way that isn't just theoretical but actually relates to your Christian life.

Corresponding teaching videos can be found online at:

churchoftherock.ca/watch-online/series/crashcoursecreeds/

 **CHURCH OF THE ROCK™**
1397 Buffalo Place, Winnipeg, MB R3T 1L6
churchoftherock.ca / 204-261-0070

BIBLIOLOGY – Doctrine of the Scriptures

A Crash Course in Creeds - Session 1



Systematic Theology – a topical method of studying theology

Bible = “book” (*biblos*)

- Matthew 1:1 “The book [BIBLOS] of the generation of Jesus Christ”
- Other words: *Scripture, God’s Word, Holy Scriptures, Sacred writings, Oracles of God, Word of God*

New Testament - 27 Books

Old Testament - 39 Books

Divisions of Scripture

A) OLD TESTAMENT

- 1) HISTORICAL
 - a) *The Law*: 5 Books of Moses (“Torah” or “Pentateuch”)
 - b) *The Writings*: Joshua–Esther
- 2) POETIC: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- 3) PROPHETS
 - a) *Major Prophets* (5): Isaiah–Daniel
 - b) *Minor Prophets* (12): Hosea–Malachi

B) NEW TESTAMENT

- 1) BIOGRAPHICAL – 4 Gospels: Story of Good News, Parables
- 2) HISTORICAL: Acts
- 3) PEDAGOGICAL – Epistles (letters): Romans–Jude
- 4) PROPHETIC (Apocalyptic): Revelation

C) CHAPTER & VERSE

- The chapters & verses are not in the original texts
- Added c. 1228 AD Stephen Langton – Archbishop of Canterbury

D) AUTHORS

- 66 Books written over 1500 Years by 40 Authors
- 55 Books identify authors, 11 do not (Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, Esther, Job, Hebrews)

Occupations:

- *Kings*: David & Solomon
- *Priests*: Jeremiah & Ezekiel
- *Physicians*: Luke
- *Fishermen*: Peter & John
- *Shepherds*: Moses & Amos
- *Pharisee*: Paul
- *Statesman*: Daniel
- *Tax Collector*: Matthew
- *Soldier*: Joshua
- *Scribe*: Ezra
- *Butler*: Nehemiah

Canon of Scripture

- How the Bible came about (lots of ancient manuscripts did not make the cut)

1) CANON “Measuring Standard”

- Historical Councils of Church recognized the books widely regarded as inspired Scriptures

2) TESTS OF CANONICITY

a) Apostlicity

- Written by apostle or someone closely associated with apostle

b) Spiritual Content

- Practical
- Was it being read in churches?
- Was its content proved as a means of spiritual edification?

c) Doctrinal Soundness

- Was there any heresy or contradiction of established books?

d) Usage

- Used by the church & quoted by the church fathers
- Every verse of all 27 NT books are quoted in the writings of the early church fathers.

e) Divine Inspiration

- Inspired by the Holy Spirit
- Did it give true evidence of divine inspiration?

3) OLD TESTAMENT (OT)

- God commanded Moses to write a memorial in a book (Exodus 24:3)
- By time of Christ the Old Testament was accepted as we have today
- Jesus validated the Old Testament (Luke 24:44)

4) NEW TESTAMENT (NT)

- By end of Second Century, 20 books considered Scripture
- By 300 AD, 27 books
- By 397 AD (Third Council of Carthage), same 27

THE ORIGIN OF SCRIPTURE

1) AUTOGRAPHS

- original handwritten letter
- None exist today

2) ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

a) Old Testament = Hebrew

- A few places in Aramaic – places in Daniel & Esther

b) New Testament = Greek

- Specifically, Koine Greek or “common” Greek, the language of communication in that time

c) Septuagint = the Greek Old Testament (used by early church)

- Translated from Hebrew

3) OLDEST MANUSCRIPTS

- Dead Sea Scrolls (200 BC)
 - Hebrew & Aramaic parts of OT & others found in cave in Israel in 1947
- 175–200 AD (Fragments)
- 300–400 AD (Complete)

4) THE APOCRYPHA

- Roman Catholics believe it to be a part of the Sacred Canon
- 14 books that were added to the Old Testament, written during the period of time between the book of Malachi and the Gospels
- contained inconsistencies with Protestant Doctrine (e.g. prayer for the dead, intercession to the saints)

TYPES OF ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

1) FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Original Form, word-for-word
- *KJV, NASB, NKJV*

2) DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE

- Keep meaning, modern, flow
- *NIV, NLT*

3) PARAPHRASE

- Somewhat interpretive
- *Living Bible, The Message*

INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17 (NKJV)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- God-breathed, superintended
- Not “verbal diction” or “automatic writing,” but God used man’s personalities & perceptions to communicate HIS exact inspired Word to us.

INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE

2 PETER 1:19–21 (NKJV)

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- In the original autographs the Bible contains NO errors, omissions, or mistakes
- Some believe in “limited inerrancy” (i.e. Anglican Church) – matters of faith and practice



Discussion Questions

1. **Did Jesus take all Scripture literally? How did Jesus' authoritative view of Scripture come through in His life and teaching?** (e.g. when tempted in the desert, Sermon on the Mount)

2. **Which part of how the Bible was put together increases your confidence?** (e.g. tests of apostolicity, canonicity, spiritual content, doctrinal soundness, usage, divine inspiration)

3. **Many things from the Old Testament are seen in their fullness in the New Testament. Discuss how we can see a progressive revelation in Scripture regarding these areas:**

- Jesus as Messiah
- The Afterlife
- Prophecy
- Sexual Ethics
- Other areas?

- 4. Which type of translation (formal, dynamic, paraphrase) is best suited for which application (devotional, in-depth study, etc.)?**

- 5. Why do many of us like to be inspired by what the Bible says but are reluctant to submit to what it says? What prevents us from applying Scripture to areas in which we are reluctant to submit?**