

The Seven Wonders of the Bible

Part 3 - Translational Consistency

Outline

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- Dynamic theory
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- Verbal plenary theory

3. Why do we have 66 books in our Bible?

Hebrew Bible 24

Protestant Bible - 66 books

Catholic Bible - 73 books

Greek Orthodox Bible - 81 books

4. How were the books of Bible chosen and compiled?

The Biblical Canon

Apostolic - does it come from an apostle

Authentic - does it have the ring of truth?

Ancient - has it been used from the earliest times?

Accepted - are most of the churches using it?

Accurate - does it conform to the teaching of the churches?

5. Why do we have so many Versions of the Bible?

Manuscript Families

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Introduction: Queen Elizabeth appears to have had a sincere personal faith in Jesus. During her 1953 coronation ceremony, after she was presented a Bible, the Archbishop of Canterbury charged her with these divine and noble words.

“Our gracious Queen to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.” The Moderator then added, “Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.”

In the Christmas message given in 2000, Queen Elizabeth said, “To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ’s words and example.”

1. How did God communicate with His people?

1. God walked and talked with people face to face.

Genesis 3:8, 9 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

In the rest of the early chapters of Genesis, some people (like Enoch) still had a close relationship with God.

2. God spoke through angels

Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

Daniel 9:20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

3. God spoke in dreams and visions -

1 Kings 3:5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

Acts 10:17 Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate.

How dreams and visions of "Isa" are awakening the Islamic world

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 - MARK LEGG

Fuller Theological Seminary found that a little over 25 percent received a dream prior to their faith.

In his ministry to the Middle East, Tom Doyle finds that around one in three MBBs had a dream or vision prior to their salvation experience.

“I’ve personally heard such testimonies in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Tunisia. Someone is searching for answers to life. Jesus appears in a dream announcing that He is “Issa” who you are looking for.” They wake up and start their search until they come across a website, church, or Christian. The mission to reach Muslims is on God’s heart. Where the Church failed to make an impact, we find God working in amazing ways. The key for us is to discern where God is at work and join Him.”

4. God spoke through prophets and seers

1 Samuel 3:11 Then the Lord said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

5. God Spoke through Jesus Christ His son

Hebrew 1:1, 2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

2. How was the Bible written?

Bible was written in three different languages. Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.

God asked Moses to write what was given to him. **Exodus 17:14** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

- **Intuition theory.** According to this view, the writers of the Bible have a “natural religious intuition.
- **Illumination theory.** This view does hold that the Spirit of God did work on the minds of the authors but not in any way different than how he communicates with the rest of humanity.
- **Dynamic theory.** This is sometimes called the concept theory—because this view holds that God gave “definite, specific impressions or concepts” to the biblical authors but allowed them to communicate these concepts in their own words.
- **Dictation theory.** This is sometimes called the mechanical or type-writer theory because it believes that God dictated the exact words to the human authors.
- **Verbal plenary theory.** That is a pretty fancy way of saying “God inspired the complete text(s) of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, including both historical and doctrinal details. This view holds to dual authorship of the Scriptures. The authors of the Bible wrote as “thinking, feeling, human beings” but God “mysteriously superintended the process that every word written was the exact word he wanted to be written—free from all error.” Sum: Supernaturally, Moses freely wrote exactly what God wanted him to.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

3. Why do we have 66 books in our Bible?

Hebrew Bible 24

Protestant Bible - 66 books

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Old Testament - Judaism recognizes the twenty-four books of the Masoretic Text, commonly called the *Tanakh* (Hebrew: תנ"ך) or Hebrew Bible.

OT books were determined before the time of Jesus.

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

2 Timothy 4:13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come and the books, especially the parchments.

Twenty-four books of the Hebrew Bible

The Five Books of Moses (Chumash)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

The Eight Books of the Prophets (Neviim)

Joshua

Judges

1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Kings

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekial

The Twelve (minor prophets)

The Eleven Books of the Writings (Kesuvim)

Psalms

Proverbs

Job

Song of Songs

Ruth

Lamentations

Ecclesiastes

Esther

Daniel

Ezra/Nehemiah

1 & 2 Chronicles

The Major Divisions of the Old Testament

1. The Pentateuch - Genesis to Deuteronomy
2. History - Joshua to Esther
3. Poetry or Writings - Job to Song of Solomon

4. Major Prophets - Isaiah - Daniel
5. Minor Prophets - Hosea to Malachi

The Major Divisions of the New Testament

1. Gospels - Matthew to John
2. History - Acts of the Apostles
3. Pauline Epistles - Romans to Hebrews
4. General Epistles - James to Jude
5. Prophecy - Revelation

4. How were the books of Bible chosen and compiled?

Since Bible is a unique book many have raised questions about how these books were collected together to form a single volume. When did this happen? Who made the critical decisions? And why should we think they got it right? All these questions pertain to what is known as the biblical *canon*.

What is the Biblical Canon - “Canon” is a word that comes from Greek and Hebrew words that literally means a **measuring rod**. So canonicity describes the standard that books had to meet to be recognized as scripture.

What was the NT Canon?

1. **Apostolic—does it come from an apostle?** The first Christians asked, “Was it written by an apostle or under the direction of an apostle?”

2 Thessalonians 3:17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

2. **Authentic—does it have the ring of truth?** The authoritative voice of the prophets, “Thus says the Lord, It is written, This is what the Lord says,” is matched by the apostles’ claim to write not the words of men but the words of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

3. **Ancient—has it been used from the earliest times?** Most of the false writings were rejected simply because they were too new to be apostolic.

4. **Accepted**—are most of the churches using it? The early Church used these writings and was deeply edified by them. The final acceptance of the recognition of the 66 books of the Bible as Scripture took place at the Senate of Carthage in A. D. 397.

5. **Accurate**—does it conform to the teaching of the churches? Was there an agreement among the churches across the empire as to the content of the Christian message?

What is Apocrypha?

The word *apocrypha* literally means “hidden away.” In an esteemed sense, these writings were “‘hidden’ or withdrawn from common use because they were regarded as containing mysterious or esoteric lore, too profound to be communicated to any except the initiated.”

APOCRYPHA

1 Esdras

2 Esdras

Tobit
Judith
*Additions to Esther**
Wisdom of Solomon
Ecclesiasticus
Baruch
Epistle of Jeremiah
*Song of the Three Children***
*Story of Susanna***
*Bel and the Dragon***
Prayer of Manasseh
1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees

Why Were the Books of the Old Testament Apocrypha Rejected as Holy Scripture by the Protestants?

1. The Apocrypha were written roughly between 400 BC and AD 50. This period of time is frequently referred to as “the four hundred silent years” or “Second Temple Judaism” or “the time between the testaments.”
2. The Apocrypha Has Different Doctrine And Practices than the Holy Scripture.

2 Maccabees 12:41-45 “Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.”

Wisdom 8:19,20 As a child I was naturally gifted, and a good soul fell to my lot; or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body.

3. The Apocrypha is never cited in the New Testament as scripture.

What is Pseudepigrapha?

The term "Pseudepigrapha" comes from Greek words meaning false writings (*pseudo*=false and *epigrapha*=to inscribe) and refers to works that attempt to create

Scripture under false names. Pseudepigrapha refers to both the Apocrypha of the Old Testament as well as writings that claim to be part of the New Testament that together cover the general time period of 300 BC to AD 300.

II Thessalonians 2:1, 2 1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, **as if from us**, as though the day of Christ had come.

The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Judas, The Gospel of the Holy Twelve, The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, The Gospel of Philip.

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown released in 2003 is a classic example of how these pseudepigrapha's are still influencing the modern culture.

It is not surprising that *The Da Vinci Code* builds on the idea that many early gospels were hidden and previously unknown. Dan Brown has said that part of his inspiration was one of these so-called Gnostic Gospels. It took only three lines from the Gospel of Philip to send Brown off to write his novel. (Jesus and Mary Magdalen were married and they had children).

As Darrell Bock observes in *Breaking The Da Vinci Code*, "The bulk of this material is a few generations removed from the foundations of the Christian faith, a vital point to remember when assessing the contents."

5. Why do we have so many Versions of the Bible?

One of the reasons we see different versions of the Bible is because of the number of manuscripts available. There are over 5,800 Greek New Testament manuscripts

known to date, along with over 10,000 Hebrew Old Testament manuscripts and over 19,000 copies in Syriac, Coptic, Latin, and Aramaic languages.

Manuscript Families - Scholars have divided these ancient manuscripts into two main families: Alexandrian text-type (also called Neutral or Egyptian) and the Byzantine text-type (also called the Majority Text).

- The Byzantine text (5th Century) - Over 5000 manuscripts, this text type looks at all the manuscripts and determines the final reading by what the majority of the manuscripts say.
- The Alexandrian text (2nd Century) - 200 manuscripts, this text type looks mainly at the date of the manuscript and the region of the world it's from.

Chart of the different versions of the Bible.

1. Word for Word: Formal Equivalence focuses on translating word-for-word and strives to be as literal as possible. Bibles that fall under the formal equivalence philosophy would be the NASB, ESV, NET, KJV, and NKJV.

2. Meaning for Meaning: Optimal/Natural Equivalence is a balance of word-for-word and thought-for-thought where needed for the reader to better understand. The HCSB and GW would be considered an optimal equivalence approach.

3. Thought for Thought: Functional Equivalence focuses on a thought-for-thought translation. Its goal is making the text easy to read and easier to understand. Bibles that fall in this camp are would be the CSB, NIV and NLT.

4. Paraphrase/Retelling: You will also find Bibles that are paraphrased but lack accuracy and sometimes go beyond a thought-for-thought approach. These Bibles

are good to better understand the story or text, but not for doctrinal teaching and expository preaching. NIRV, MSG and GNT.

Why do we have so many english versions of the scripture?

John Wycliffe Bible 1382 - John Wycliffe/ morning start of the reformation, an Oxford professor produced the first hand-written English language Bible manuscripts in the 1380's. He strongly believed in having the scriptures available to the people. They were translated out of the Latin Vulgate, which was the only source text available to Wycliffe. The Pope was so infuriated by his teachings and his translation of the Bible into English, that 44 years after Wycliffe died, he ordered the bones to be dug-up, crushed, and scattered in the river.

Genesis 1:1, 2 In the bigynnyng God made of nouyt heuene and erthe. 2 Forsothe the erthe was idel and voide, and derknessis weren on the face of depthe; and the Spiryte of the Lord was borun on the watris.

William Tyndale Bible 1526 - In England it was forbidden to translate the Bible into a vernacular language. Tyndale had to take his English translation of the New Testament to Cologne to have it printed, but his endeavor was uncovered and he was forced to halt the printing and flee. was held prisoner in the castle of Vilvorde in Belgium, was convicted as a heretic and strangled and burned at the stake in October 1536. His translation, however, survived and found its way into subsequent editions of the Bible very soon after his death.

Verses Effected: Which Bible Can We Trust? Les Garrett, Christian Center Press, 1982.

909 - New American Standard

788 - Revised Version

767 - New World Translation

695 - New International Version

614 - Good News

484 - Amplified

421 - Douay

120 - Old Jehovah's Witnesses

Differing or Missing verses

NKJV - Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work...

NIV - Exodus 20:10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... Deuteronomy 5:14 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God.

NKJV - Daniel 3:35 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

NIV - Daniel 3:25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

NKJV - Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

NIV - Isaiah 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

NKJV - Acts 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

NIV - Missing

NKJV - I John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

NIV - I John 5:7 For there are three that testify:

In 1968, the USS Pueblo, a Navy intelligence ship, was captured by North Korea, a week before the start of the “Tet Offensive” in Vietnam. The sailors were held prisoners for nearly a year. To help them get through their captivity and mistreatment, they compiled a “Pueblo Bible” of all the verses they could remember from their memory.

Lt. Commander Stephen Harris reported that a deep belief in God helped the ship's eighty-two crewmen survive their eleven-month imprisonment. His own Bible was taken from him at the point of a bayonet, but the enemy could not take away God's Word which was at home in the hearts of the crewmen.

Harris gave this account: Snatches of hymns, elements of worship services, precious bits of Scripture were written on leftover scraps of paper. This unorthodox, but living, vital document became known as the Pueblo Bible.

Harris said when the Pueblo Bible was discovered by his captors, he received a new set of bruises and was tortured even more than before, but was aided out of despondency by the memorized Scripture.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.