

An Intentional Life

Reconciling Science and the Bible

Lesson 8: What is Truth

Is the Bible True and Can You Trust it?

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Lessons: Reconciling Science and the Bible

1. 7 days of Creation
2. In the Beginning (the Big Bang)
3. Did dinosaurs really exist? How old is the Earth?
4. The Existence of God: The Ontological Argument
5. The Existence of God: The Anthropological Argument
6. The Existence of God: The Argument from Logic
7. The Existence of God: The Argument from Intelligent Design
8. **What is truth? Is the Bible true and can you trust it?**
9. Was Jesus a REAL person?
10. Why does God allow evil to exist?
11. Is there life after death?
12. Is God multidimensional?
13. Living an intentional life!



What is Truth? (Seven Undisputable Truths about Truth)

Truth (noun)

\ 'trüth \

1. The body of real things, events, and facts
2. The state of being the case
3. A judgment, proposition, or idea that is true or accepted as true
4. The property of being in accord with fact or reality
5. Fidelity to an original or to a standard
6. Sincerity in action, character, and utterance

/ Truth /

Seven Truths about Truth

1. Truth is a statement of fact

- If I state my father's legal first name was Thomas (when his birth certificate says his first name was John), this is untruthful



2. Truth is exclusive

- A statement of truth is exclusively and expressly true. It cannot be anything other than true. My father's legal first name was John. It cannot be anything other than John.



3. Truth is Discovered



<https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/disney/images/f/f5/Pinocchio.png/revision/latest?cb=20160614021722>

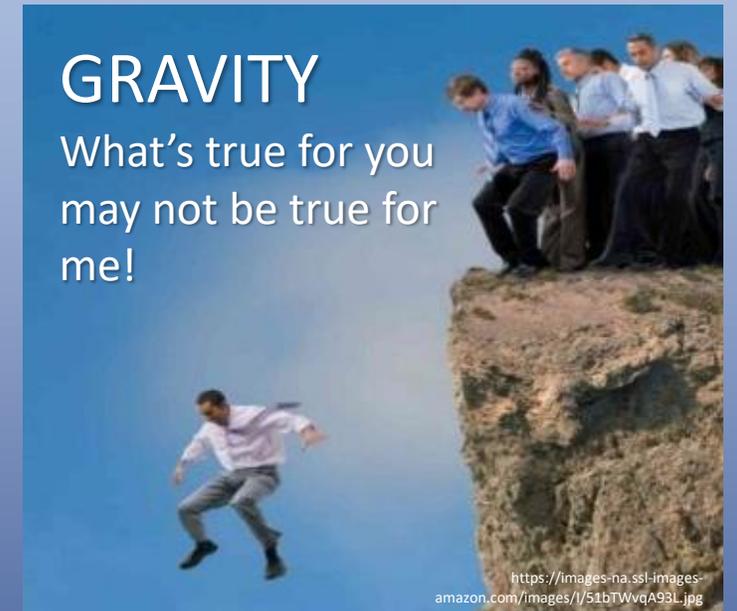
- This means we have to search for and find the truth.

But, if we have not found the truth about something, does that make it false? No! We have to search and find the truth.

What if I find the truth and do not believe it. Does that make it untrue? No. If something is true, it is true regardless of our belief about it.

4. Truth is absolute

- All truth is absolute. It is true for me, and you, and everyone.
- You may say: “What is true for you may not be true for me!”
- I would ask: “Is that an absolute statement? Does your truth apply to everyone or just to you?”
- If something is true, it is true for everyone.
- *Note: Please do not jump off a cliff to prove it!*



5. Truth is Unchanging



- If something is true today, it will be true in 1,000 years.
- We may believe something to be true and discover the truth later.
- What we “assume” is true today may be disproven later.
- But, what is true will never change. Ever.

6. Truth Does Not Depend on You Believing It

- What is the truth about Tinkerbell?
She CAN fly!
- If you know something to be true
 - You may profess it
 - The rest of the world may disbelieve
 - But, if it is true, whatever I or you believe about it does not matter!



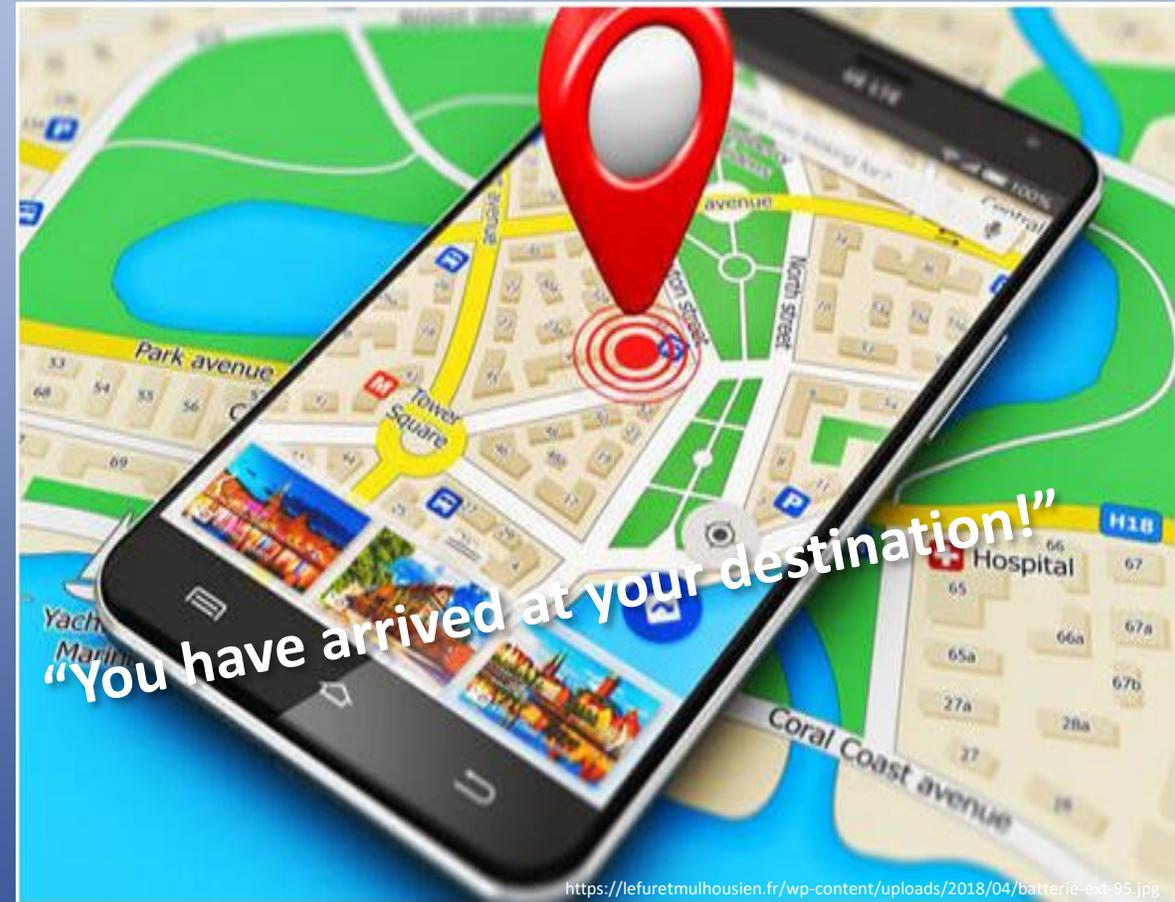
7. Truth Does Not Depend Upon the Attitude of the One Professing it



- An arrogant known liar telling the truth does not make it a lie.
- When a humble person known for telling the truth tells a lie, it does not make it true.
- The attitude of the one professing a truth has NO impact on its trueness.
- Swearing on the Bible does not make all statements true!

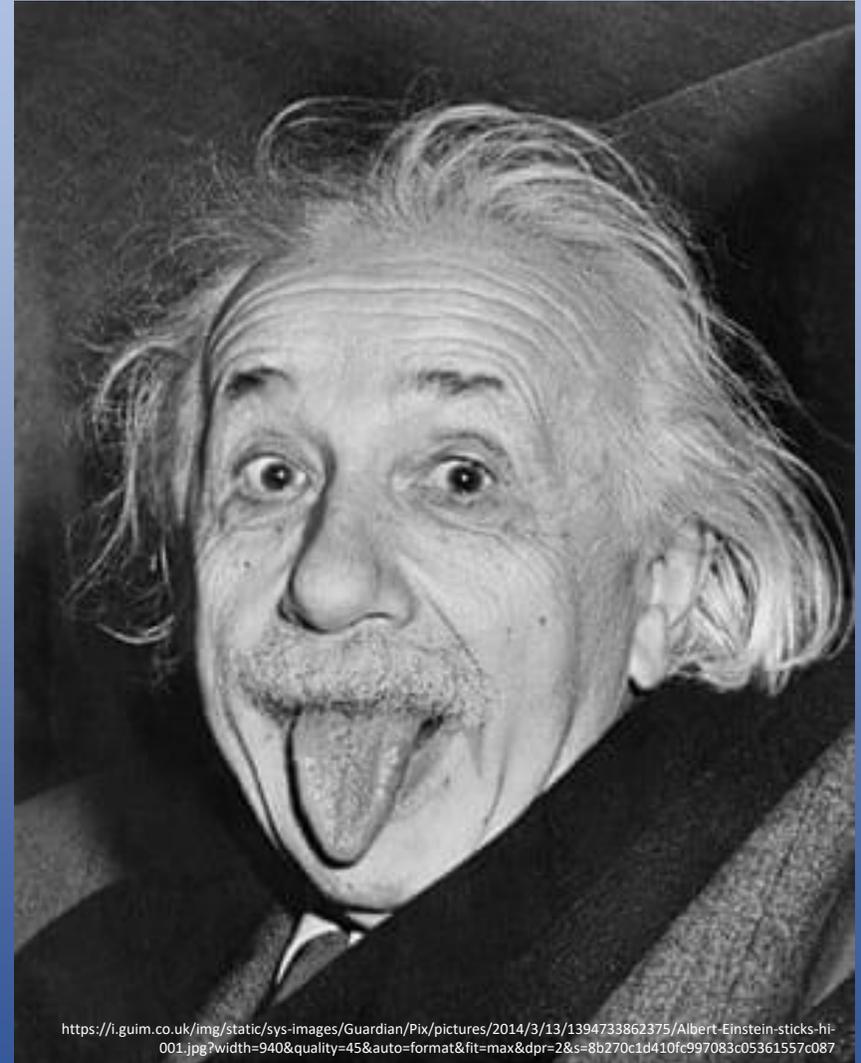
What Would Happen if there Were No Absolute Truth?

- In Math
 - $1+1$ may sometimes mean 2 and other times mean 23
 - Sometimes a foot may be 12 inches and 37 inches other times
 - Google Maps may tell you your destination is 300 ft away when it is 6,347.7 miles away



What Would Happen if there Were No Absolute Truth?

- In Einstein's Theory of Relativity
 - The universe would have no end
 - And, it would not have had a beginning
 - So, "Goodbye Big Bang Theory!"



<https://i.guim.co.uk/img/static/sys-images/Guardian/Pix/pictures/2014/3/13/1394733862375/Albert-Einstein-sticks-hi-001.jpg?width=940&quality=45&auto=format&fit=max&dpr=2&s=8b270c1d410fc997083c05361557c087>

What Would Happen if there was No Such Thing As Absolute Truth?

- All buildings would lean like the Tower of Pisa, Italy
 - Sometimes the tape measure would say 12 inches
 - Sometimes it would say 1,345 feet

Veer Towers
Luxury Condos
Center City, Vegas Strip
Las Vegas, Nevada
July 14, 2010



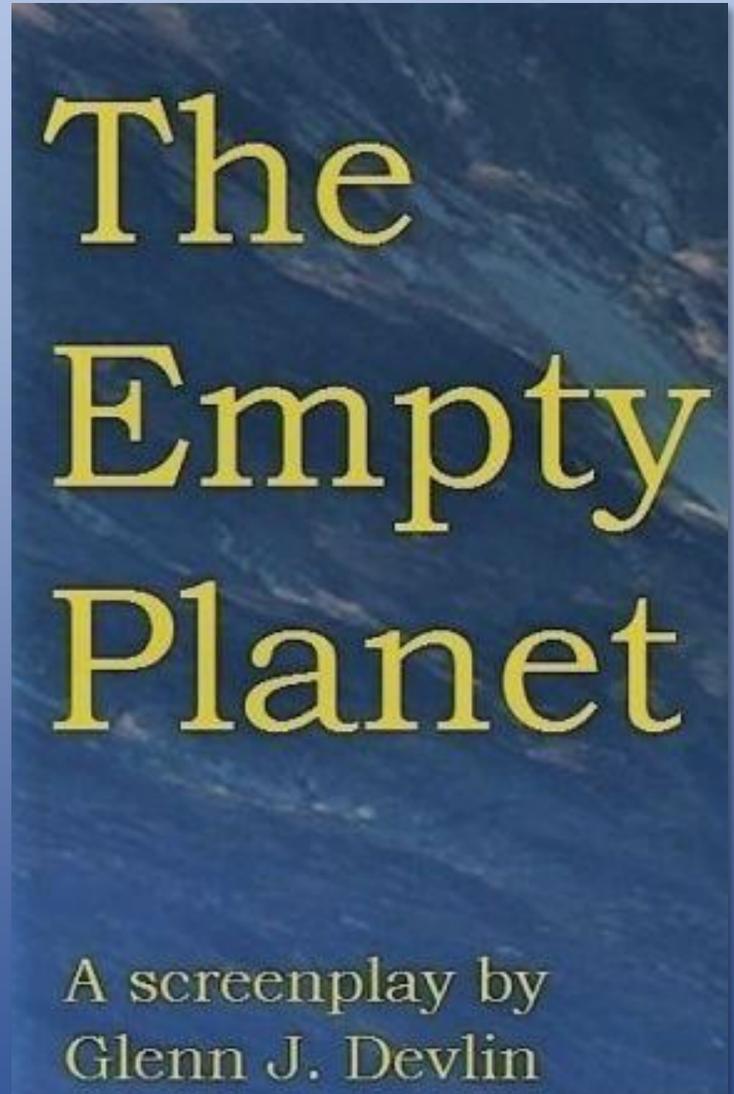
What Would Happen if there Were No Absolute Truth?

- No one would agree on dates, times, distances, or speed.



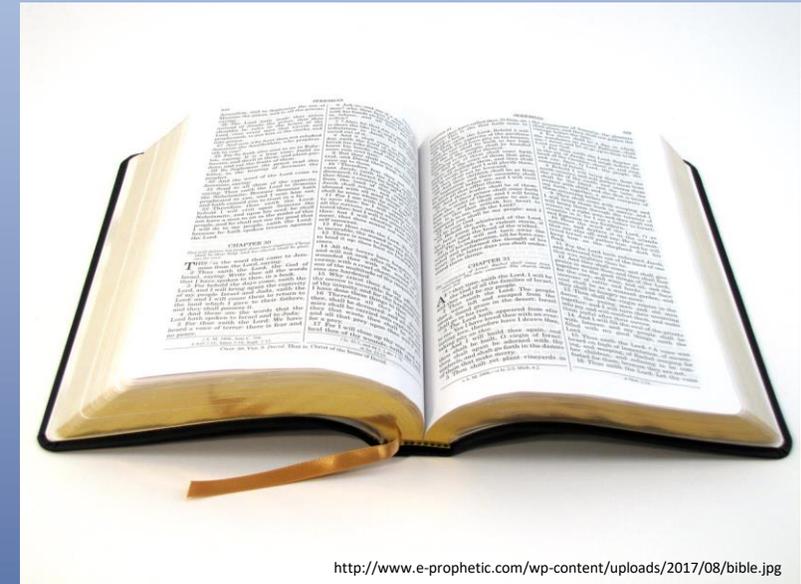
There HAS to be Absolute Truth or We Would Not Exist

- Our entire existence upon Earth depends upon the presence of Absolute Truth



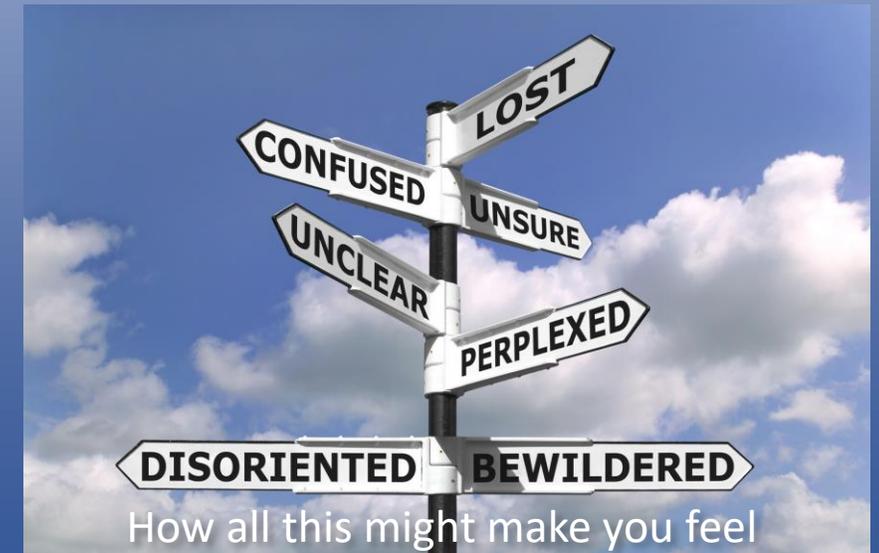
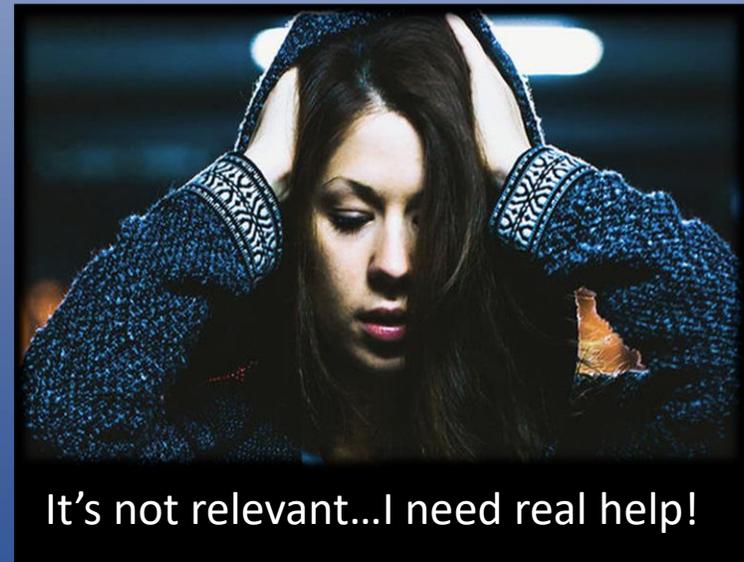
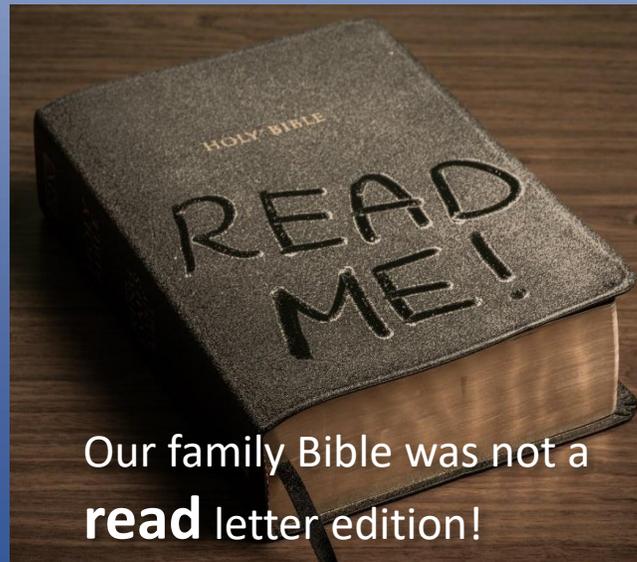
Is the Bible True? Can You Trust It?

- What “they” say...
 - It a waste of time for you to read it!
 - It has so many translations, which is the right one?
 - It may have been relevant earlier, but it is not relevant in today’s society!
 - It says being “gay” is wrong!
 - It says sinners are going to hell for all eternity!
 - At the same time it says “God is Love” so which is it?



<http://www.e-prophetic.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/bible.jpg>

What You Will Find



What You Should Do



https://www1.cbn.com/sites/default/files/styles/image_xl_640x480/public/young-woman-reading-bible_Sl.jpg?itok=6ndbY-Vi

- Read the Bible for yourself to see
- It will give you comfort when you're hurting
- It will give you peace when you're worried
- It will give you hope when you're exasperated and lost
- It will give you strength when you feel weak
- It will be a lamp to lead you to God

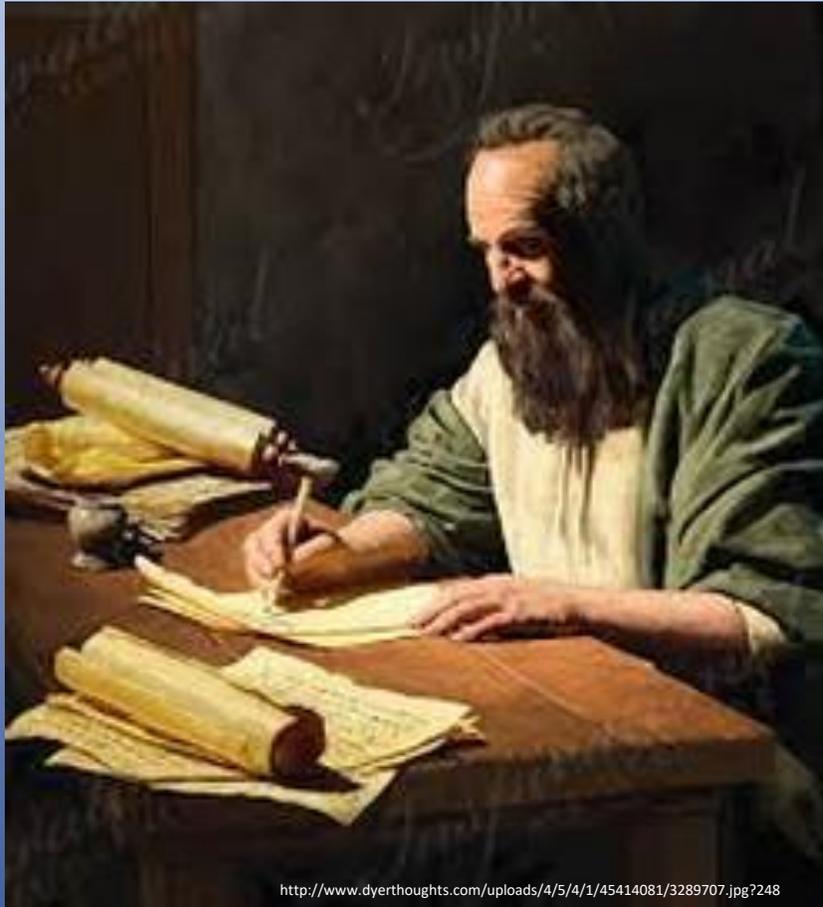
Common Misconceptions about the Bible



<http://www.dyerthoughts.com/uploads/4/5/4/1/45414081/3289707.jpg?248>

- It is a Book
- One Author
- One Writing
- Chronological
- Written in Israel
- Not a best seller
- Sainly Authors

Common Misconceptions about the Bible



<http://www.dyerthoughts.com/uploads/4/5/4/1/45414081/3289707.jpg?248>

- It is a Book It is a collection of 66 books-- 39 in Old , 27 in New Testaments
- One Author 40 authors
- One Writing Written over 1,500 years
- Chronological Compiled in some order within categories (history, poetry ,etc.)
- Written in Israel Written in 3 different continents
- Not a best seller 100M each year, \$5B total sales!
- Sainly Authors Kings, servants, shepherds, priests, fishermen, old men, and young men

Want a handy way to remember how many Books are in the Old and New Testament?

- Here's how to remember the number of books in the Old Testament.
 - The word Old has 3 letters in it
 - The word Testament has 9 letters in it
 - So, 39 books in the Old Testament
- Then, the number of books in the new testament is...

$$3 \times 9 = 27$$

How Did We Get the Bible: Inspiration

- It was written by men “inspired” to write (2 Tim 2:6 “God breathed”)
- It is inerrant. The writer, his message, and his pen were inspired.
- But, that only applies to the original document...we only have copies
- Yes, but we can be assured that what you read is what was written with only minor errors of no consequence
- This has been determined by meticulous comparison of many copies of the same writings
- The result is an INERRANT and ACCURATE Bible which is the word God intended you to have.

How did we get the Books to include? The Canon

The Old Testament:

- Who selected the books that make up the Bible? God.
- God made sure the books in the Bible were the ones He intended.
- The Old Testament has 24 books as canonical...these have been broken into 39 books in our Bibles today
- The Old Testament books were selected based on a lot of factors: tradition, spiritual authority of the books themselves, recognition of use in the Temple, references of Jesus to the scriptures

How did we get the Books to include? The Canon

The New Testament:

- The New Testament books were written over 50 years (50-100 AD)
- All New Testament books were written by an Apostle (or companion)
- Copies of the original books began to be circulated among churches
- Around 100 AD, the number of books in the New Testament was established
- We have copies of the letters and writings, but not the originals
- But, we have so many copies (5,500) that we can compare and are sure they are the books as God intended for us to have.

Fulfilled Prophecy

- Prophecies about Jesus...
 - Of the seed of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3,22:18)
 - Of the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10)
 - In the lineage of King David (2 Sam 7:12)
 - Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - Would come while Temple still standing (Mal 3:1)
 - Born of a virgin (Isa 7:14)
 - Open the eyes of the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, lame to walk (Isa 35:6)
 - He would be rejected by his own people (Ps 118:22, 1 Pet 2:7)
 - His death foretold (Ps 22:16-18, Isa 53, Zech 12:10)
 - He would rise from the dead (Ps 16:10, Acts 2:27-32)

Archaeological Evidence

- “No archeological discovery has ever controverted [overturned] a Biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.” [Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert*, p. 31.]
- "A wave of archaeological discoveries is altering old ideas about the roots of Christianity and Judaism—and affirming that the Bible is more historically accurate than many scholars thought." [James Mann, “New Finds Cast Fresh Light on the Bible,” U. S. News and World Report, August 24, 1981, 34.]
- "It is remarkable that where confirmation is possible and has come to light, the Bible stands investigation in ways that are unique in all literature. Its superiority to attack, its capacity to withstand criticism, its amazing facility to be proved right after all, are all staggering by any standards of scholarship. Seemingly assured results “disproving” the Bible have a habit of backfiring. Over and over again the Bible has been vindicated." [Clifford Wilson, *Archaeology—the Bible and Christ*, volume 17, (Victoria, Australia: Pacific Christian Ministries)

Extrabiblical Writings

- About people

- 50 people in the Old Testament and 30 in the New have been validated by extrabiblical writings
- Jesus was a historical figure identified in extrabiblical sources including Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus, Emperor Hadrian's chief secretary Gaius Suetonius, and the Jewish Talmud (Sanhedrin 43A)

- About events

- Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem in 605 BC taking many of the Jews back home with them. The Babylonian Chronicle tablets tell about this siege.
- Flavius Josephus tells of Herod Antipas beheading John the Baptist (Matt 14:1-5,10)...he also mentions 12 people identified by name in the Bible

Manuscript Evidence

- 25,000 partial and complete handwritten manuscripts of the New Testament have been discovered
- Thousands of complete copies of the Old Testament written before Jesus have been discovered
 - Copies of every book in the Old Testament (except Esther) discovered by a Bedouin boy on a hillside each leather manuscript secured in a clay jar in 1947
- Quotations from the early church fathers during the 1st three centuries AD
 - Quotations of scripture from the Old and New testament books by Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Eusebius, and Tertullian
 - We have enough just from the Early Fathers to reconstruct almost every verse in the New Testament

Jesus' Disciples Willingness to Die

- Matthew was slain with an axe in a city of Ethiopia
- Mark died in Alexandria, in Northern Egypt after having been cruelly dragged through the streets of that city.
- Luke was hung to death in Greece
- John was tortured and then banished to the island of Patmos (**Rev. 1:9**)
- James, the brother of John, was beheaded in Jerusalem (see **Acts 12:2**)
- James the Less (as he's called in **Mark 15:40**) was thrown from a pinnacle of the temple and then stoned
- Philip was hung up against a pillar in Heiropolis and then stoned
- Bartholomew was flayed alive
- Andrew was bound to a cross and left to die
- Jude was shot to death with arrows
- Barnabas was stoned to death
- Paul, after a variety of tortures and imprisonments, was beheaded in Rome
- Thomas was run through the body with a spear in southeast India
- Peter was crucified upside down in Rome