

# INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY BIBLE

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The word *Bible* comes from the Greek word *biblos*, meaning a book. The Bible is also called...

- "The Holy Scriptures" ([Romans 1:2](#); [2 Tim. 3:15](#))
- "The Scriptures" ([1 Cor. 15:3-4](#); [Matthew 21:42](#); [Matthew 22:29](#); [Luke 24:32](#); [John 5:39](#); [Acts 8:32](#); [Acts 18:24](#); [Gal. 3:22](#))
- "The Word of God" ([Hebrews 4:12](#))

The Bible—"the Word of God"—did not originate in the mind of man, but in the mind of God. However, God used men as instruments and authors to communicate His message to the world. Over a period of some 1500 years, God chose people from all kinds of backgrounds—kings, soldiers, peasants, farmers, scholars, priests, statesmen, approximately forty authors from different nations, professions, and classes of society—to write the Holy Bible. The original manuscripts were written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

## **CONTENTS**

The Bible is not a book, not in the technical sense. Rather, it is a collection of books, a great library of sixty-six books. However, the Bible naturally falls into two divisions that are separated by the birth of Jesus Christ. The two parts are...

- The *Old Testament*, which was written before Jesus Christ came to earth.
- The *New Testament*, which was written after Jesus Christ came to earth.

The word *testament* means a *covenant or an agreement*. Therefore, the Bible is God's covenant with man. The Old Testament is His covenant with man before Christ came, and the New Testament is His covenant with man after Christ came.

1. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books which were known by the Jews in Jesus' day as "the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms" ([Luke 24:44](#)). Today, the thirty-nine books are usually divided as follows:

a. Five Law Books:

- ⇒ Genesis
- ⇒ Exodus
- ⇒ Leviticus
- ⇒ Numbers
- ⇒ Deuteronomy

These five are known as the Pentateuch.

b. Twelve History Books:

- ⇒ Joshua
- ⇒ Judges
- ⇒ Ruth
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Samuel
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Kings
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Chronicles
- ⇒ Ezra
- ⇒ Nehemiah
- ⇒ Esther

c. Five Poetic Books:

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

d. Seventeen Prophetic Books:

- ⇒ Isaiah
- ⇒ Jeremiah
- ⇒ Lamentations
- ⇒ Ezekiel
- ⇒ Daniel
- ⇒ Hosea
- ⇒ Joel
- ⇒ Amos
- ⇒ Obadiah
- ⇒ Jonah
- ⇒ Micah
- ⇒ Nahum
- ⇒ Habakkuk
- ⇒ Zephaniah
- ⇒ Haggai
- ⇒ Zechariah
- ⇒ Malachi

2. The New Testament has 27 books which are divided as follows:

a. Four Gospels:

- ⇒ Matthew
- ⇒ Mark
- ⇒ Luke
- ⇒ John

b. One History Book: Acts

c. Fourteen Pauline Epistles: Letters written by Paul the Apostle.

- ⇒ Romans
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- ⇒ 1 & 2 Timothy
- ⇒ Corinthians
- ⇒ Galatians
- ⇒ Ephesians
- ⇒ Philippians
- ⇒ Colossians
- ⇒ Titus
- ⇒ Philemon
- ⇒ Hebrews (probably)

d. Seven General Epistles: Letters written by several authors.

- ⇒ James
- ⇒ 1 Peter
- ⇒ 2 Peter
- ⇒ 1 John
- ⇒ 2 John
- ⇒ 3 John
- ⇒ Jude

e. One Prophetic Book: Revelation

## **ORIGIN**

The Bible is the Word of God, but God Himself did not take a pen and write His Word down for man. God did what He has always done when He wished to speak to the human race: He chose certain persons to communicate His Word to the world. God inspired—"breathed His Word"—into the hearts of holy men and they proclaimed and wrote God's Word down for us all. In the words of the Bible itself, *holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit* ([2 Peter 1:21](#)). It was these holy men who wrote and left us the heritage of the Word of God. Harold Lindsell and Charles J. Woodbridge state it well:

*"The Scriptures originated in the mind of God, but the manner in which He arranged for their human authorship and compilation is interesting.*

*"1. The Old Testament, according to the traditional view, was prepared somewhat as follows: Moses wrote the five books of the Law and placed them in the Tabernacle beside the Ark of the Covenant. Joshua added his record to the volume (see [Joshua 24:26](#)), and Samuel continued the story (cf [1 Samuel 10:25](#)). This entire library was subsequently lost. When rediscovered and publicly read, it produced a revival. (See [2 Kings 22:8](#).) The writings of the earlier prophets were then added to the series. The later prophets were familiar with these writings (e.g. [Zech. 7:12](#)). Thus the collection gradually expanded.*

*"The assembling of the Old Testament books into an official canon began shortly after the captivity (586 B.C.). The word 'canon' means a 'rod,' or 'rule,' i.e. a standard of that which is to be believed. (See [Galatians 6:16](#).) When Haggai [the prophet] and others had completed their ministry, the need was felt for a formal collection of the documents which the people already regarded as of divine origin. According to the best tradition Ezra and Nehemiah, and after them a group of scribes, completed the canonization of the Old Testament.*

*"2. The New Testament canon came into being as follows. When the books appeared, addressed usually to particular churches, copies were made and sent to other congregations. Exchanges of books took place. (See [Col. 4:16](#).) Lists of these apostolic books were prepared. By the fourth century some fifteen such catalogues had been published. Gradually, not by the vote of any particular church council, but by the consent of the 'universal church consciousness' [it was recognized] that these books, and these alone were the inspired Word of God. The New Testament canon emerged as we have it today. We have here a magnificent example of the preserving and superintending power of the Holy Spirit" (Harold Lindsell and Charles J. Woodbridge. *A Handbook of Christian Truth*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, A Division of Baker Book House, 1953, p.20-21).*

## **TRANSLATIONS**

The original manuscripts of the Bible were written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Great care—strict, meticulous, and painstaking care—was always taken in

translating and copying the Bible. There were two professions of men among the Jews, called Mosorettes and Scribes, who dedicated their lives to the task of translating and copying the Scriptures. (See [Deeper Study #1—Luke 6:2](#); [Deeper Study #4—Luke 6:7](#) for more discussion.) In their translating and copying functions they were strict copiers, meticulously keeping count of every letter and syllable in every word and every word in every sentence and passage and book. (See the chapter on "The Reliabilities of the Bible" by Josh McDowell. *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Vol.1, p.39-65.) This exactness was necessary, for God Himself had given the written law to the Jewish nation. Therefore, the law was not only the very Word of God, it was the greatest thing in the life of the Jewish nation. It was considered the most precious possession in all the world; consequently, the Jewish nation was committed to the preservation of the law (the whole Word of God, [Neh. 8:1-8](#)).

1. The Old Testament was translated into Greek some time between 250-150 B.C. It is called the *Septuagint* and is symbolized with the letters *LXX*. However, the oldest copies that we have today date back somewhere around 400-500 years after Christ.

2. "Other translations in Greek appeared soon after the beginning of the Christian era. Parts, at least, of the OT were rendered into Syriac as early as the first century; and a Coptic translation appeared probably in the third century. The NT was translated into Latin and Syriac c. 150 and into Coptic c. 200. In subsequent centuries versions appeared in the Armenian, Gothic, Ethiopic, Georgian, Arabic, Persian, and Slavonic languages" (Taken from the book, *The New Compact Bible Dictionary* Edited by T. Alton Bryant. Copyright 1967 by Zondervan Publishing House, p.83. Used by permission.)

3. Around 400 A.D. Jerome translated the Latin version of the Bible known as the *Latin Vulgate*, which was used as the basic Bible for about 1000 years.

4. During the Reformation Period there were numerous versions of the Bible that flooded the scene. The most well known were...

- John Wycliff's version translated into English for the very first time in 1382.
- William Tyndale's New Testament which was based upon the original Greek, published in 1525.
- Martin Luther's German translation in the 16th century.
- The King James version in 1603.

There have been numerous versions of the Bible since the Reformation, and today the Bible has been translated in most of the languages and dialects of the world.

## **INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY**

The Bible is the Word of God. How do we know this, know it for sure?

1. Honest Reason and Logic: God is a God of love, not of indifference and hate. A God of love would never leave man in the dark about the truth of life, feeling, searching, grasping, and stumbling about after the truth, ever seeking and never able to come to the truth. A God of love is bound to reveal the truth of life in the most perfect way possible. What is the most perfect way?

- a. The most perfect way is not nature (natural revelation). The hand of God can be seen in nature, but revealing Himself in nature is not the most perfect revelation that God can make.

- b. The most perfect way is not conscience (moral revelation). The righteousness of God can be sensed in conscience, but revealing Himself in conscience is not the most perfect revelation.
- c. The most perfect way to reveal Himself is by doing just what any person does when he wishes to communicate some truth:

- ⇒ He writes the truth down in a permanent form.

- ⇒ He presents the truth in person (if he is able).

This God has done. He has given us both the *Written Word of God* and the *Living Word of God*.

- ⇒ The Bible is the Written Word of God.

- ⇒ Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God.

- ⇒ The Written Word testifies to the Living Word, and the Living Word (Christ Himself) testifies to the Written Word (cp. [Matthew 5:17-18](#)).

Again, how do we know the Bible is the Word of God? By logic and reason, *honest logic and honest reason*. God is bound to reveal the truth to us in the most perfect way possible, both in writing and in person. (See [Deeper Study #1—John 1:1-5](#); note—[John 14:6](#); note—[John 14:7](#); and note—[2 Tim. 3:16](#).)

2. *Changed Lives*: millions of lives have been changed down through the centuries by the Bible. Some persons were changed when they were reading or else being confronted with its message; others were changed when they were hearing the Bible taught or preached. They had been living lives that were...

- worldly
- immoral
- drunken
- selfish
- secular
- lonely
- empty
- meaningless
- greedy
- covetous
- indulgent
- materialistic
- indifferent
- wasted
- agnostic
- atheistic

But the Bible—the Word of God—changed them. They were *born again*—spiritually converted, changed inwardly—by the Bible. The Bible does this for us: it *converts us spiritually*, makes a new creature and person out of us ([2 Cor. 5:17](#); [Ephes. 4:24](#)).

**"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" ([1 Peter 1:23](#)).**

The Bible stirs us to live for God, to live righteous and godly lives. But in return, the Bible gives us the perfect assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are going to live eternally with God. The Bible stirs us to live moral and upright lives, unselfish and giving lives, the kind

of lives that make a community and society strong in love and true justice, in joy and peace. As stated, millions of lives have been changed, and thousands are still being changed every day—spiritually converted—by the Bible. This is strong evidence that the Bible is truly the Word of God: it transforms lives.

3. *Unbelief and opposition*: the ungodly and worldly of this earth reject and deny the Bible, that it is the Word of God. Sometimes they have become vocal and oppressive, and they have ridiculed and persecuted those who profess and teach the Bible. The persecution has even become inflammatory:

- ⇒ Deliberate plots have been made to stamp out the Bible; even to the point of having community bonfires to burn them.
- ⇒ Governments have outlawed its presence within their lands, actually making it a crime for a citizen to own a Bible.
- ⇒ Worldly scholars attack the Bible, denying that it is the Word of God, attempting to water down its authority and meaningfulness in life.
- ⇒ The worldly and carnal neglect, reject, and deny the Bible and often ridicule those who hold its teachings dear to their hearts.

Why? Why do so many of this earth oppose the Bible? Because it tells us the truth about God and ourselves, demanding that we live righteous and godly lives. The Bible demands...

- ⇒ that we live lives that are moral, just, and good
- ⇒ that we accept, love, and live at peace with all people of all races and nations
- ⇒ that we sacrificially give to meet the needs of the poor and the spiritually lost.

Very few people are willing to give their lives up to God and to accept and love people as brothers. And fewer still are willing to give to the point of sacrifice in meeting the needs of the poor and in carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. This is why so many reject the Bible and its followers so much. Very simply, the Bible reminds people that they cannot live like they want.

But note: belief in the Bible has always grown when there has been a deliberate attempt made to stamp it out. Persecution stirs the flame of evangelism: it weeds out the weak and carnal—those who hold to a false profession—and it strengthens the true believers, making them more courageous and determined to stand true for the Word of God. How? How could the Bible, the Word of God, actually grow and be strengthened when it has been ridiculed and persecuted like it has? If any other book had been attacked, opposed, and burned as much as the Bible, that book would have disappeared long ago. How has the Bible endured so much denial and persecution?

There is only one answer: God. God has supernaturally protected His Word and kept it alive and working upon the earth. This is evidence—strong evidence—that the Bible is the Word of God.

**"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" ([Matthew 24:35](#)).**

**"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" ([Hebrews 4:12](#)).**

**"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" ([Jeremiah 23:29](#); cp. [Jeremiah 5:14](#)).**

4. *The Unity of the Bible*: the unity of the Bible is a miracle of God. Think of the facts: approximately forty different authors from a number of diverse backgrounds wrote over a 1500 year period. Think of the number of diverse subjects that would be covered in detail within any book when written by so many different authors over so long a period of time. And think how much the subjects would change from generation to generation over a 1500 year period. Yet, when we study the Bible we find an amazing fact: the Bible follows one purpose and theme...

- God's eternal program for the ages, His eternal redemption and plan for the future of the universe and man.

The glorious salvation of God—the great redemption that He has provided for man through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—is the great theme of the Bible. The whole Bible—all sixty-six books—focuses upon this one story, this one theme, and no writer ever conflicts or contradicts another writer. The harmony of purpose and theme in the Bible is astounding. There is only one explanation: God has spoken and has preserved an authoritative record of His message. *Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit* ([1 Peter 1:21](#)).

5. *The Writers of the Old Testament*: the very writers of the Old Testament claimed that the Bible is the Word of God, that it is revealed truth.

- a. David claimed that the Spirit of God spoke through him:

**"The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me"** ([2 Samuel 23:2-3](#)).

- b. Scripture claims that it was God who spoke through all the prophets of God:

**"And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying"** ([2 Kings 21:10](#)).

- c. Nehemiah claimed that it was God who spoke through Moses.

**"Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: and madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant"** ([Neh. 9:13-14](#)).

d. Isaiah claimed that his writings were what the Lord had given him:

**"Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen" ([Isaiah 8:1](#)).**

**"For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand" ([Isaiah 8:11](#)).**

e. Jeremiah claimed to be speaking and writing the Word of God itself:

**"Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth" ([Jeremiah 1:9](#), cp. [Jeremiah 5:14](#); [Jeremiah 7:27](#); [Jeremiah 13:12](#)).**

f. Ezekiel claimed that his writings were the very Word of God:

**"And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them" ([Ezekiel 3:4](#), cp. [Ezekiel 3:10-11](#); [Micah 3:8](#)).**

g. Habakkuk claimed that his writings were the Word of God:

**"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it" ([Habakkuk 2:2](#)).**

h. Zechariah claimed that God actually gave him His Word:

**"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying" ([Zech. 4:8](#), cp. [Zech. 7:12](#)).**

- i. The writers of the Old Testament used the phrase "thus saith the Lord" or a similar expression over two thousand times.
  - j. The writers of the Old Testament referred to Scripture as "the Word," "the Statutes," "the Law," and "the Testimonies" claiming the authority of God for the Scriptures (cp. [Psalm 19:1f](#); [Psalm 119:1f](#)).
6. The Writers of the New Testament: these writers confirmed the claims of the Old Testament authors.
- a. The New Testament writers declared that the word and prophecies spoken by the Old Testament prophets had to be fulfilled.

**"Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying" ([Matthew 1:22](#)).**

**"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet" ([Matthew 2:15](#)).**

**"Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake" ([Acts 1:16](#)).**

**"And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers" ([Acts 28:25](#)).**

- b. Paul declared that the gospel itself was given to us by God through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures:

**"[The gospel] which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures" ([Romans 1:2](#)).**

- c. The New Testament writers actually claimed this: that the Old Testament was not written by the will of man, but by the guidance and inspiration of God and of His Spirit.

"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" ([2 Peter 1:21](#)).

"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" ([1 Peter 1:10-11](#)).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets" ([Hebrews 1:1](#)).

7. *The Writers of the New Testament*: these writers also claimed that their own writings are the Word of God.

a. Paul claimed that his writings are the Word of God:

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you" ([1 Cor. 11:23](#)).

"What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only: If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" ([1 Cor. 14:36-37](#)).

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" ([Gal. 1:11-12](#)).

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" ([Ephes. 1:13](#)).

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" ([1 Thes. 2:13](#)).

b. Paul and Peter both claimed that the writings of the New Testament writers are the Word of God.

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" ([1 Cor. 2:13](#). Note the word "we.")

**"That ye 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 Saviour" ([2 Peter 3:2](#). Note how Peter ascribes to the apostles the same authority as the prophets.)**

c. Paul claimed that all Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God.

**"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)). (Second Timothy was the last book Paul wrote; thus he was including the New as well as the Old Testament writings in the phrase "All Scripture." Cp. all the verses in this point, pt.7.)**

d. John claimed that what he wrote is the witness of God.

**"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son" (Note the word "this": what John is writing is the witness of God. [1 John 5:9](#).)**

8. *Jesus Christ*: the Lord Himself claimed that the Bible is the Word of God.

a. Jesus Christ verified the Scripture time and again, and He actually verified most of the major events that are often questioned by scoffers. Jesus Christ said...

- that "Scripture cannot be broken" ([John 10:35](#)).
- that Scripture "must be fulfilled" ([Luke 24:44](#)).
- "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle, shall in no wise pass from the law [Scripture]" ([Matthew 5:18](#)).
- that not knowing the Scripture is a terrible mistake: "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God" ([Matthew 22:29](#)).
- that Adam and Eve actually existed and were created by God ([Matthew 19:4](#)).
- that Cain really did kill Abel ([Matthew 23:35](#)).
- that the Great Flood really happened in the days of Noah ([Luke 17:27](#)).
- that God really did speak to Moses in the burning bush ([Luke 20:37](#)).
- that Elijah did perform miracles ([Luke 4:25](#)).
- that Jonah did survive in the belly of a large fish for 3 days ([Matthew 12:40](#)).
- that Daniel did make true predictions ([Matthew 24:15](#)).

b. Jesus Christ verified the writings of the New Testament. Before He left the earth and ascended into heaven, Christ promised these things:

⇒ that the Holy Spirit would supernaturally guide and teach the truth to the apostles and show them things to come.

**"But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" ([John 14:26](#)).**

**"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" ([John 16:13](#)).**

⇒ that the Holy Spirit would supernaturally speak through them.

**"For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you" ([Matthew 10:20](#), cp. [Mark 13:11](#)).**

⇒ that they would have all the authority of heaven and earth in teaching men and that He (His presence and authority) would be with them until the end of the earth.

**"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).**

(Please note: Norman Geisler has an excellent and thorough discussion on "Christ and the Inspiration of the Bible" for those who wish to research the subject more: *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1977, p.11-15.)

9. *The Holy Spirit*: the Holy Spirit of God Himself is the Author of the Bible. Scripture makes this clear. (Also see pt.7b immediately above.)

a. Holy men of God spoke and wrote as they were moved upon by the Spirit of God.

**"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" ([2 Peter 1:21](#)).**

The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures ([2 Peter 1:19-21](#), esp. [2 Peter 1:21](#)). The *word of prophecy* is more accurately translated *prophetic word*. The origin of Scripture is found not in the will of man, that is, in his attempt to find truth and to interpret truth. But it is found in the Word of the Holy Spirit who reveals truth to man (cp. [John 16:12-15](#); [1 Cor. 2:9-10](#)).

b. God inspired the Scripture by His Spirit.

**"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)).**

Scripture is inspired of God. The phrase "inspired of God" (theopneustos) means *God-breathed*. What does this mean? What does it mean to say that *God breathed* the Holy Scriptures? No one can say for sure, but this much can be said.

⇒ The idea is that *God breathed out* the Scripture or *God produced* the Scripture somewhat like He did creation.

**"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" ([Psalm 33:6](#)).**

This must mean at least this: God supernaturally created His Word by the creative breath of God; that is, God's Word came from His mind and heart and His mind and heart alone. God Himself gave—supernaturally and creatively breathed—His Word to man.

Note: it is the Scripture that is inspired, not the man. The Bible does not claim to be written by inspired men. It does claim that the writing is supernaturally given or breathed by God. The Scripture is *breathed out by God*, not *breathed into by God*. The

Bible claims to be given by the creative breath of God, by the power of His Holy Spirit. *Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).*

10. *Fulfilled Prophecy*: there are over eight thousand prophecies in the Bible and over three hundred of these are Old Testament references to the Messiah. A prophecy is the prediction of some future event. Just imagine! The Bible has predicted over 8000 future events, and the astounding fact is this: thousands have been fulfilled exactly as they were predicted within the Holy Scripture. Just how accurate the prophecies of the Bible are fulfilled can be clearly seen by referring to the following notes in *The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible* (see [Deeper Study #1—Luke 3:23-38](#); notes—[Luke 3:24-31](#); [Luke 3:32-38](#); [Deeper Study #3—John 1:45](#); note—[Matthew 17:23](#); [Deeper Study #1—Rev. 20:4-6](#); and [Deeper Study #2—Rev. 20:4-6](#)). The accuracy and detailed fulfillment of Biblical prophecies is strong evidence for the inspiration and authority of the Bible. Fulfilled prophecy can mean only one thing: *holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)*. (Note: the enormous number of prophecies that have been fulfilled tell us another fact as well: the events that the Bible has predicted for the future will come to pass; future prophecies of the Bible will be fulfilled even to the most minute detail. *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* by the great scholar J. Barton Payne lists every prophecy in the Bible book by book and has several excellent charts to help the student of prophetic events. (Published by Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, 1973.)

11. *Archeology*: hundreds of archaeological discoveries have been made that verify various facts and events mentioned in the Bible. The accuracy of the Bible is being constantly supported by these discoveries, and although they do not prove the inspiration of the Bible, the findings do show how reliable the facts of the Bible are. Archeology definitely adds support to the inspiration and authority of the Bible. (The following two sources will give the interested reader specific examples of archaeological evidence for the Bible's authority: *The New Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, The Archaeological Supplement in the back of the Bible. Indianapolis, IN: B.B. Kirkbride Bible Co., Inc., 1964. Also Josh McDowell's *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Vol.1. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1979, p.65-74.)

12. *The Trustworthiness of the Bible*: the Holy Scripture is absolutely trustworthy.

**"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" ([1 Thes. 2:13](#)).**

**"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)).**

**"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" ([2 Peter 1:21](#)).**

## **THE STORY**

The Bible has only one story: the story of God and man, of God's dealings and struggle with man. The Bible is a portrait of human history, a plot where man struggles to be his own master,

ruling his own life and the lives of others, and doing his own thing, committing all kinds of evil ranging from murder, enslaving people, and cursing God over to just telling "little white lies" and deceiving people. The Bible reveals a true picture of man, where man is seen bungling and making a mess of things, but God in His love intervenes and saves man. How God intervenes time and again and saves man is the story of the Bible. God's supreme intervention and salvation in human affairs is seen in *the promised seed*—the Savior and Messiah of the world—Jesus Christ. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is the great subject of the Bible. But there is another major subject seen in the Bible as well: the great struggle of Satan where he is seen fighting against God and His purposes for man.

In fact, the Bible reveals three great struggles operating in human history. The great story of the Bible can be seen by studying these three great struggles: one visible, one invisible, and one redemptive.

⇒ God and Man: The Visible Struggle

⇒ God and Satan: The Invisible Struggle

⇒ God and Man and Satan: The Redemptive Struggle

### **I. God and Man: The Visible Struggle**

The struggle between God and man is a visible struggle, a conflict that every person experiences within his heart and mind every day of his life. Every temptation—whether thought or act—arouses the struggle within us, the struggle to follow God or self, to do right or wrong, to reject the temptation or to give in to it, to obey God or to disobey God. This struggle between God and man has existed from the beginning of human history. The *pivotal points* of the struggle are clearly seen in the Bible.

1. Adam and Eve: Man's perfect relationship with God was broken by man ([Genesis 1-3](#)).
  - a. The Perfect Relationship ([Genesis 1-2](#)). When God created man, God's purpose was to shower man with His love, goodness, and grace. Therefore, God put man in *the paradise of God, the Garden of Eden*, and established a perfect relationship with man. Man's responsibility was to keep the relationship alive. The way chosen to maintain the relationship with God was to obey God ([Genesis 2:15-17](#)). If man disobeyed God, man would be showing distrust and unbelief in God, thereby rejecting God and severing the relationship. The consequences for such disobedience was death, which meant both physical and eternal death, an eternal separation from God. For an unknown period of time, man walked as God willed, obeying and keeping the relationship alive. Man was unselfish, obeying God in all things. Man loved, worshipped, and served God; and he shared in God's love, goodness, and grace.
  - b. The Broken Relationship ([Genesis 3:1-7](#)). But the day came when man chose to disobey God. He chose to do as he willed and to walk as he wanted. Man became selfish: he rebelled against God and rejected God and His Word. He broke fellowship; he severed the perfect relationship with God. The penalty for disobedience had been pronounced ([Genesis 2:17](#)). Now the penalty took effect: man's perfect relationship with God was severed; man was separated from God and doomed to die both physically and eternally ([Genesis 3:22-24](#); cp. [John 5:24](#); [Romans 5:12](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [1 Tim. 5:6](#); [Ephes. 2:1, 5](#); [Col. 2:13](#); [Hebrews 9:27](#); [Ezekiel 18:4, 20](#)).

- c. The Restored Relationship ([Genesis 3:8-24](#)). However, God, who is love, intervened and sought man. When God found man, He promised to save man and to restore the perfect relationship through the *seed of the woman*, the Savior of the world, who was to be the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Noah and the Flood ([Genesis 6-10](#)).
    - a. Man continued to disobey God and became extremely immoral, lawless, and violent ([Genesis 6:1-7](#)).
    - b. But in love, God intervened and found one righteous man, Noah, and saved the human race through him ([Genesis 6:8](#) through [Genesis 10](#), esp. [Genesis 6:8-10](#)).
  3. The Tower of Babel ([Genesis 11:1-9](#)).
    - a. Man is seen attempting to build a worldwide empire and religion that were secular, that stood totally opposed to God ([Genesis 11:1-4](#)).
    - b. But again in love, God intervened and saved man from becoming totally secular, saved him by confusing the languages of the people and forcing them to scatter over all the earth ([Genesis 11:5-9](#)).
  4. Abraham and Israel ([Genesis 11:10](#) through [Genesis 50](#)).
    - a. Man is seen doing nothing for God worthy of mentioning after the Tower of Babel, except bearing offspring and continuing the line of the human race ([Genesis 11:10-26](#)).
    - b. But God intervened in human history by choosing one man, Abraham, to father a new nation of people, Israel ([Genesis 11:27-32](#); [Genesis 12:1-3](#)). God chose and raised up a new nation of people for five basic purposes:
      - 1) To be a people who would love God supremely and give Him their first loyalty.
      - 2) To be a witness to the other nations of the earth, that God exists and that He is the only living and true God.
      - 3) To be *the chosen line* through whom God could send *the promised seed*, the Savior and Messiah, to the world (Cp. [Genesis 3:15](#); [Genesis 17:7](#); [Genesis 22:18](#); [Gal. 3:16](#); [John 4:22](#).)
      - 4) To be the recipient and channel of God's *written revelation* to the world, that is, His Word, the Holy Bible.
      - 5) To give Israel *the promised land* (Canaan) and to set before the world the goal of *the promised land* (a symbol of heaven).
    - c. However, throughout the rest of Genesis, the immediate descendents of Abraham are seen failing God time and again. The Book of Genesis closes with Israel in bondage as slaves to Egypt ([Genesis 12-50](#)).
  5. Moses and the Law (Exodus - Deuteronomy).
    - a. God, in love, intervened by raising up another man, Moses, to lead Israel out of the Egyptian bondage. Through Moses God also gave His law to both Israel and the world. He gave man the law of God for three primary reasons:
      - ⇒ to teach man that God is holy, just, and good ([Romans 7:12](#)).
      - ⇒ to teach man's inability to save himself ([Romans 3:20](#); [Gal. 3:10](#)).
      - ⇒ to teach man's need for *the promised seed*, the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ ([Gal. 3:24](#)).
    - b. But the people of Israel did not obey God's law nor follow God consistently. They deliberately chose to turn away from God and to go their own way all throughout their wilderness wanderings. Consequently, they constantly broke the heart of God and

aroused His disapproval time and again (cp. [Exodus 16:2f](#); [Exodus 17:1f](#); [Exodus 32:1f](#)).

6. The Establishment of a Kingdom: Joshua, the Judges, Saul, David, Solomon, and the other Kings of Israel (Joshua - Esther).

- a. Through the great courage of Joshua and the Judges, Israel was able to conquer enough of *the promised land* to gain a foothold and to move the whole nation into Canaan. But eventually the people began to look around and see how the worldly nations of the earth were ruled by kings. The result: they rejected the rule of God through His chosen prophets and law, and they demanded a king.
- b. God intervened and gave the people of Israel a line of kings; some turned out to be good and some bad. Over the generations of the kings, Israel became more and more like the kingdoms and nations of the world. The people became more and more worldly minded, immoral, covetous, prideful, and prejudicial. And, most tragic of all, they refused to be a witness to other nations; they failed to be the missionary force for which God had chosen them. In fact, they became so corrupted that they began to follow the religion of other nations, becoming idolaters themselves.

The result: the kingdom of Israel fell just as all worldly kingdoms fall. The people were eventually conquered by a foreign power and led into captivity.

7. The Cry of the Poets and Prophets (Job - Malachi). God raised up poets and prophets throughout the history of Israel. His purpose: to plead with the people to return to Him. But the people continued to live like they wanted, rejecting God and turning further and further away from Him.

8. God's Supreme Intervention: Jesus Christ (Matthew - Jude).

- a. In the New Testament, God is seen intervening in the affairs and history of man in the greatest way possible: He sent *the promised seed*, His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to save man (Matthew - John).
- b. But man rejected God's Son and killed Him upon the cross.
- c. However, God still did not wipe man off the face of the earth. Despite man's terrible deed of killing God's Son, God intervened once again:
  - ⇒ God laid the sins of the world upon Christ while He was dying upon the cross. Jesus Christ died for man's sins.
  - ⇒ God raised His Son from the dead.
- d. The result was astounding: thousands and thousands of people trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior. They believed this glorious truth: that Jesus Christ had actually died for their sins upon the cross; and when they believed, they received the power of God's Spirit to live for God. Their belief in Christ gave them the power of God's Spirit, the power to follow God consistently day by day. Thereby the church was born, and began its triumphant march toward the glorious day of redemption (Acts - Jude).

9. God's Climactic Intervention: Jesus Christ Shall Return Again (Revelation). God is going to intervene into history just one more time: to end human history. This climactic movement is yet to take place: it will happen when Jesus Christ returns to earth to bring all men into judgment (cp. [John 5:28-29](#); [2 Peter 3:3-12](#)).

## **II. God and Satan: The Invisible Struggle**

The struggle between God and Satan is an invisible struggle, an invisible conflict that goes on behind the scenes of this world. If the curtain between this world and the spiritual world could be rolled back, it would show that Satan is behind all the evil and lawlessness, conflict and struggle of this world; it would show that a great spiritual warfare is being fought for the souls of men. Scripture says that Satan was probably the highest angel ever created by God, but he fell because of selfishness and pride ([Isaiah 14:12](#); cp. [1 Tim. 3:6](#). See note—[Rev. 12:3-4](#); [Deeper Study #1—2 Cor. 4:4](#); note—[2 Cor. 11:13-15](#); and note—[1 Peter 5:8](#).)

Satan's purpose in making war against God is twofold:

First, Satan's purpose is power and worship, to receive as much of the power and worship of the universe as possible ([Isaiah 14:12-17](#); [Ezekiel 28:11-17](#)). He goes about this in three ways.

⇒ He opposes and disturbs God's work in the world ([Isaiah 14:12-17](#); [Ezekiel 28:11-17](#); [Job 1:6](#); [Job 2:1-6](#); [Matthew 4:10](#); [Mark 1:13](#); [Luke 4:8](#); [Rev. 12:7-9](#)).

⇒ He discourages believers through various strategies (see notes—[Luke 22:31](#); note—[Ephes. 6:10-12](#)).

⇒ He arouses God's justice against people by leading people to sin and to deny and rebel against God. And when they do, God's justice has to act and judge people to the fate of their choice: that of living apart from God and with Satan eternally (see notes—[Matthew 12:25-26](#); note—[John 13:31-32](#)).

Second, Satan's purpose is to hurt and cut the heart of God. Why? Because God has judged and condemned him for rebelling against God. Therefore, Satan does all he can to get back at God. The best way he can do this is by trying to defeat the purposes of God, by turning the hearts of people away from God and leading them to sin and to follow the way of evil. (See notes, pt.3—[Rev. 12:3-4](#); note, pt.2—[Rev. 12:7-9](#); and note, pt.2—[Rev. 12:10-11](#) for more discussion.)

However, God purposed from the beginning of human history that Satan's power would be broken by the *seed of the woman*, the Savior of the world, who was to be the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the *seed of the woman* was to be born of mankind, the devil has attempted from the beginning of history to corrupt and destroy man. If he could destroy man, in particular the promised line of God's people, he could prevent the birth of the Savior and defeat God's purposes. History flows with the traces of man's corruption and warring destruction. But it is the Bible that reveals the *invisible struggle* behind the scenes of history's corruption and destruction. It is the Bible that reveals the pivotal points of the *invisible struggle* waged by Satan against God, the *invisible struggle* of the devil to corrupt and destroy man and to defeat God's plan for man.

#### 1. The Creation of Man: Adam and Eve.

a. The devil is first seen attempting to frustrate the purposes of God in the creation of man. He tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God, knowing that the consequences of disobedience was to be death, that is, separation from God.

b. But God intervened and promised to give the woman *a seed*—a descendent—who would save man. This seed of the woman is *the promised seed*—the Savior, the Messiah—mentioned all throughout the Bible ([Genesis 3:15](#)).

#### 2. Cain's False Worship and Murder.

a. The devil is seen prompting Cain, Adam's oldest son, to worship in self-will, rejecting the worship of God ([Genesis 4:1-7](#)). Then knowing that Abel, Cain's brother, was faithful in worshipping God, the devil prompted Cain to attack *the faithful line* of God's people by killing Abel ([Genesis 4:8-9](#)).

- b. But God intervened again and gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth, whose name means "*the appointed one*" ([Genesis 4:25](#)). Seth was appointed to carry on *the godly line* of God's people through whom *the promised seed* was to be born.
- 3. The Terrible Corruption of the Whole Human Race.
  - a. Momentarily set back, the devil began to lead man into such vile corruption that eventually God was compelled to remove man from the face of the earth through the judgment of the flood.
  - b. But God in love intervened again and saved the godly line by raising up Noah ([Genesis 6-10](#)).
- 4. The Tower of Babel: Man's Secularism and False Worship.
  - a. The devil instilled pride and selfishness in the heart of man and led man to reject God at the Tower of Babel, and the race had to be judged and scattered.
  - b. But God intervened and raised up a righteous man, Abraham, who was to father a righteous nation of people, Israel. Through that nation of people, God was to send *the promised seed*, the Savior, to the world ([Genesis 11:1-9, 31-32](#); [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Genesis 17:1-8](#)).
- 5. Abraham and Sarah: Their Being Childless.
  - a. Sarah, Abraham's wife, bore no children, and *the promised line* was once again threatened ([Genesis 16:1](#)).
  - b. But God intervened and Isaac was miraculously born when Abraham was 100 years old. Thus the righteous line was continued ([Genesis 17:15-16](#); [Genesis 21:1-8](#)).
- 6. Esau and Jacob: Their Worldliness.
  - a. Esau, Isaac's older son and inheritor of his father's estate by law, was a worldly man ([Genesis 25:27-34](#); [Hebrews 12:16-17](#)). Jacob, Isaac's other son, was "a cheat and deceiver" ([Genesis 27](#)). Corruption of the "seed" seemed inevitable.
  - b. But God intervened once more by confronting Jacob with his sin and leading him to repentance. Jacob became "a prince with God" and *the godly line* was saved. The hope of *the promised seed* was still alive ([Genesis 28:1-4](#); [Genesis 32:24-30](#)).
- 7. The History of Israel and of Man
  - a. This history is recorded in the Bible from the Egyptian bondage to the coming of Christ. The history consists of threat after threat to *the godly line* of God's people. Time and again it looked as though Satan would be successful in his spiritual conflict against God, successful in his attempt to keep *the promised seed*, the Savior, from ever being born. (See note 5—[Genesis 3:15](#) for a chart on most of the attacks against *the promised seed* by Satan.)
  - b. But God in love always intervened and saved the righteous line for *the promised seed*. The coming Savior was to provide permanent deliverance for man, deliverance from sin, death, and hell. The coming Savior was to bring the hope of eternal life to man, the hope of being restored to the original perfection known by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- 8. Jesus Christ: The Attempts Upon His Life. The devil was frustrated throughout history in his attempt to destroy *the godly line*; consequently, when *the promised seed*, Jesus Christ, was born, he spared no effort in his attacks to destroy Christ.
  - a. The events of Christ's life: the devil made unrestrained efforts to kill Christ...
    - through leading ungodly men to give Him no place in a crowded inn where He could be born ([Luke 2:7](#)).

- through Herod's slaughter of the infants ([Matthew 2:13f](#)).
- through the flight into Nazareth from Archaleaus, Herod's son and successor to the throne ([Matthew 1-2](#)).
- through the devil's temptations in the wilderness ([Matthew 4](#)).
- through the persistent reaction of the Jews against His life ([John 7:20-21, 25, 34-52](#)).
- through the betrayal by Judas ([Matthew 26:14f](#)).
- through the death upon the cross ([Matthew 27:33f](#)).

All this and much more seemed to indicate possible victory for the devil, and then the cross itself seemed to indicate that *the seed* had already perished. His "heel has been bruised" ([Genesis 3:15](#)).

- b. But God intervened just as He had at every attempt upon the Saviour's life: He raised up Christ from the dead. Through the resurrection, the consequences of man's disobedience, death, and separation from God were conquered.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the devil's "head has been bruised [the very seat of his faculties]" ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)). The way back to a perfect relationship with God has been paved—all through *the promised seed*, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now man can approach God in Jesus Christ once again, face to face. The devil and his seed of unrighteousness—the ungodly—are defeated. The victory has been won. And the victory will become a living reality when God's desired number of the righteous have been converted and redeemed by *the promised seed* Himself, Jesus Christ ([Rev. 21:1-8](#); [Rev. 20:7-10](#); [Romans 16:20](#)).

9. The Church: The Attempts to Stamp Out God's People (Acts - Revelation; and Church History).

- a. Since Christ, Satan has continued his attempt to destroy *the godly line*, the followers of Christ. His attacks have taken two forms...
- that of persecution. He leads the world—the ungodly, both individuals and governments—to oppress, threaten, attack, and martyr believers.
  - that of false teaching. He leads unbelievers to infiltrate the church and question the Word of God and the truth of Christ, and he leads carnal believers and ministers within the church to question the truth of Christ and the Scriptures and to teach false doctrine.

These two forms of attack are seen all throughout the New Testament (Acts - Revelation), and they have been used to oppress the church down through the centuries of history. The history of the true church has been but a trail of persecution and blood down through the ages.

- b. But God has always intervened and preserved *the godly line*—His true church—through all the onslaught and persecution of the devil and his ungodly seed. And God will continue to preserve His church until the glorious day of redemption, the final triumph over the devil and those who have chosen to follow the ungodliness of his ways. The final triumph over Satan and all evil is assured—has already been secured—through *the promised Seed*, the Lord Jesus Christ (The Book of Revelation).

### **III. God and Man and Satan: The Struggle of Redemption and Salvation**

There is a third struggle that runs throughout Scripture: the struggle of God to provide redemption and salvation for man. As seen in the first two struggles above, both man and Satan have fought against God and His plan of salvation from the beginning.

⇒ Satan seeks to hurt God, to cut His heart in order to get back at God for having judged and condemned him.

⇒ Man seeks to gain recognition and to exalt himself, to gain his independence and self-sufficiency; thus he ignores, rejects, and denies God. If he professes God at all, man claims to be religious and righteous, good enough to be accepted by God and good enough never to be rejected by God. Man rejects the death of Christ for his sins, rejects any need for the cross. Man fights against God's plan of redemption.

Consequently, from the very beginning of history, God has had to struggle to provide redemption and salvation for man. This struggle is seen in the seed of the woman, who is the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. God promised to send *the promised seed* to Adam and Eve in Genesis, and He has struggled throughout the centuries to send His Son so that He could provide redemption and salvation for man.

The struggle of redemption and salvation is seen by studying how Christ is the theme of the Bible, the underlying subject of every book of the Bible. Example after example can be found in each book: just one example is listed here to demonstrate the point. Christ is the focus of the Scripture, of every book of the Bible. The excellent commentator Norman Geisler has worded it well: Christ is within...

- Genesis: "The seed of the woman" ([Genesis 3:15](#)).
- Exodus: "The Passover Lamb" ([Exodus 12:3f](#)).
- Leviticus: "The Atoning Sacrifice" ([Leviticus 17:11](#)).
- Numbers: "The Smitten Rock" ([Numbers 20:8, 11](#)).
- Deuteronomy: "The Faithful Prophet" ([Deut. 18:18](#)).
- Joshua: "The Captain of the Lord's Host" ([Joshua 5:15](#)).
- Judges: "The Divine Deliverer" ([Judges 2:18](#)).
- Ruth: "The Kinsman Redeemer" ([Ruth 3:12](#)).
- 1 Samuel: "The Anointed One" who is coming ([1 Samuel 2:10](#)).
- 2 Samuel: "The Son of David" who is to sit upon the throne ([2 Samuel 7:13-14](#)).
- 1 & 2 Kings: "The Coming King."
- 1 & 2 Chronicles: "The Builder of the Temple" ([1 Chron. 28:20](#)).
- Ezra: "The Restorer of the Temple" ([Ezra 6:14-15](#)).
- Nehemiah: "The Restorer of the Nation" ([Neh. 6:15](#)).
- Esther: "The Preserver of the Nation" ([Esther 4:14](#)).
- Job: "The Living Redeemer" ([Job 19:25](#)).
- Psalms: "The Praise of Israel" ([Psalm 150:6](#)).
- Proverbs: "The Wisdom of God" ([Proverbs 8:22-23](#)).
- Ecclesiastes: "The Great Teacher" ([Eccles. 12:11](#)).
- Song of Solomon: "The Fairest of Ten Thousand" ([Song 5:10](#)).
- Isaiah: "The Suffering Servant" ([Isaiah 53:11](#)).
- Jeremiah: "The Maker of the New Covenant" ([Jeremiah 31:31](#)).
- Lamentations: "The Man of Sorrows" ([Lament. 3:28-30](#)).
- Ezekiel: "The Glory of God" ([Ezekiel 43:2](#)).
- Daniel: "The Coming Messiah" ([Daniel 9:25](#)).
- Hosea: "The Lover of the Unfaithful" ([Hosea 3:1](#)).

- Joel: "The Hope of Israel" ([Joel 3:16](#)).
- Amos: "The Husbandman" ([Amos 9:13](#)).
- Obadiah: "The Savior" ([Obadiah 21](#)).
- Jonah: "The Resurrected One" ([Jonah 2:10](#)).
- Micah: "The Ruler in Israel" ([Micah 5:2](#)).
- Nahum: "The Avenger" ([Nahum 2:1](#)).
- Habakkuk: "The Holy God" ([Habakkuk 1:13](#)).
- Zephaniah: "The King of Israel" ([Zeph. 3:15](#)).
- Haggai: "The Desire of Nations" ([Haggai 2:7](#)).
- Zechariah: "The Righteous Branch" ([Zech. 3:8](#)).
- Malachi: "The Sun of Righteousness" ([Malachi 4:2](#)).
- Matthew: "The King of the Jews" ([Matthew 2:2](#)).
- Mark: "The Servant of the Lord" ([Mark 10:45](#)).
- Luke: "The Son of Man" ([Luke 19:10](#)).
- John: "The Son of God" ([John 1:1](#)).
- Acts: "The Ascended Lord" ([Acts 1:10](#)).
- Romans: "The Believer's Righteousness" ([Romans 1:17](#)).
- 1 Corinthians: "The Believer's Sanctification" ([1 Cor. 1:30](#)).
- 2 Corinthians: "The Believer's Sufficiency" ([2 Cor. 12:9](#)).
- Galatians: "The Believer's Liberty" ([Gal. 2:4](#)).
- Ephesians: "The Exalted Head of the Church" ([Ephes. 1:22](#)).
- Philippians: "The Christian's Joy" ([Phil. 1:26](#)).
- Colossians: "The Fullness of Deity" ([Col. 2:9](#)).
- 1 Thessalonians: "The Believer's Comfort" ([1 Thes. 4:16, 17](#)).
- 2 Thessalonians: "The Believer's Glory" ([2 Thes. 1:12](#)).
- 1 Timothy: "The Christian's Preserver" ([1 Tim. 4:10](#)).
- 2 Timothy: "The Christian's Rewarder" ([2 Tim. 4:8](#)).
- Titus: "The Blessed Hope" ([Titus 2:13](#)).
- Philemon: "The Substitute" ([Philemon 17](#)).
- Hebrews: "The High Priest" ([Hebrews 4:15](#)).
- James: "The Giver of Wisdom" ([James 1:5](#)).
- 1 Peter: "The Rock" ([1 Peter 2:6](#)).
- 2 Peter: "The Precious Promise" ([2 Peter 1:4](#)).
- 1 John: "The Life" (1 John).
- 2 John: "The Truth" (2 John).
- 3 John: "The Way" (3 John).
- Jude: "The Advocate" (Jude).
- Revelation: "The King of Kings and Lord of Lords" ([Rev. 19:16](#)).

(Norman Geisler. A Popular Survey of the Old Testament, p.24-25.)

We wish to acknowledge two excellent sources that have helped tremendously in preparing the material on "[The Introduction to the Holy Bible](#)."

Harold Lindsell and Charles J. Woodbridge. *A Handbook of Christian Truth*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1953.

Norman Geisler. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1977.

There are others, but these two have stirred numerous thoughts and provided excellent research and overview of the subjects covered in this particular Introduction.

Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Genesis I.