



“The Bible: the Book God Wrote—Part 2”

2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21

Lesson 3

In A Nutshell

We learned in Lesson 2 that the Bible is one form of special revelation. In this lesson we will study the truth that the Bible is the book God wrote. Three works of God touch our lives each time we pick up a copy of the Scripture and are blessed by it.

First, God accomplished a work of revelation that gave mankind the original copies of Scripture, called *the autographa*. This supernatural direct act of God prepared human authors for the production of the books of the Bible, moved upon them to bring their work to an intended result, and breathed out their written Word as His own breath (inspiration).

Second, the Lord accomplished a work of providence that has allowed many to have a copy of His Word that they can read. Not everyone has been so blessed. Our Bible is actually a collection of 66 books, and the Lord guided His church to understand which books belonged to this category of Scripture (canonization). He disbursed His Word through the diligence of copyists and translators over many centuries, some of whom were martyred in their struggle for a readable copy of the Bible (preservation and translation).

Finally, the Lord’s work of salvation in our lives includes His use of Scripture to sanctify us and to make us more like Christ (illumination). His Spirit enables us to correctly understand the meaning of Scripture (hermeneutics), as He assures us that the Bible was written for each of us to understand (perspicuity) and for each of our needs to be met (sufficiency). With the Book God wrote, we have all we need for faith and practice.

To The Testimony!

God’s Work of Special Revelation Gave Mankind the Bible

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| Exod.
4:10-16
Jer.
1:4-5
Gal.
1:15-16 | 1. Moses, Jeremiah, and Paul have in common that they were all used of God to author Scripture. After reading the passages noted, describe what else they had in common as authors of the Scriptures. |
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2 Pet. 1:16-21 2. Peter remembers his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration in this passage, especially that he and the others with him heard a voice from heaven or from the excellent glory, a reference to God the Father (vv. 17-18). That was a form of special revelation. Continuing in the same category as this voice from heaven, Peter describes what he calls *a more sure word of prophecy* (v. 19), *the prophecy of the Scripture* (v. 20), and *the prophecy that came in old time* (v. 21). His concern especially is to tell us how Scripture did not come, and then how it did come. How did Scripture not come, and how did it come (vv. 20-21)?

2 Tim. 3:14-17 3. The phrase *given by inspiration of God* is actually a single word in Greek (*theopneustos*). It is an adjective that means *God-breathed*. Were the authors of Scripture God-breathed, was Scripture God-breathed, or were both the authors and the Scripture God-breathed? With help from the passages listed, what are some consequences of this truth?

Matt. 5:18, 22:32, 43-45 4. In the previous passage, we learned that *God-breathed* is an adjective that applies to all Scripture. This is called *plenary inspiration*—God’s work of inspiration applies equally to every part of Scripture. That still leaves one question to be answered, namely, to what detail is every part of Scripture God-breathed? Is it just the thoughts or the very words themselves? Support your answer.

God's Work of Providence Gave Us a Copy of the Bible

Luke 24:44 5. We affirm that the Bible God wrote is comprised of 66 separate books. 39 of these belong to the Old Testament, and 27 belong to the New Testament. There were, of course, other religious works circulating at the various times the books of the Bible were written that are not included in our Bibles. The process by which God providentially enabled His people to understand which books were inspired and which were not is called canonization. *Canon* means *standard*. The standard a book had to meet to be included in the canon of Scripture is that it had to be God-breathed. God guided His people to recognize which books met this standard. When it comes to our Old Testament canon, the views of the Lord Jesus Christ on this matter are especially conclusive. What three divisions of books did Jesus recognize as His Old Testament according to Luke 24:44?

John 14:25-26
16:12-15 6. Just as the practice of Jesus Christ confirms for us the canon of the Old Testament, His promise assures us that the canon of the New Testament would be equally confirmed. What does Jesus promise His apostles about New Testament truth in these passages from the Upper Room Discourse?

Deut. 4:2, 2:32
Prov. 30:5-6
Rev. 22:18-19 7. The Scripture is clear that the passages it contains were written not only for their original readers, but also for future generations as well (Deut. 29:29, Rom. 4:23-24, 15:4, 1 Cor. 10:6, 11, 1 Pet. 1:10-12). But God nowhere guaranteed that every person would have an accurate copy of God's entire written Word to read. In fact, it speaks of times when many did not (2 Kings 22:8). We know that kings (Deut. 17:18-19) and local churches (Col. 4:16, 1 Thess.

5:27) were to make copies of Scripture. In recognition of the need to make copies, the Scripture includes a twofold warning we find throughout the Bible. What is that warning, why is it necessary, and what does it say about the nature of making copies?

God's Work of Salvation Helps Us Understand the Bible

Ps.
119:18
Eph.
1:17-18
2 Tim.
2:7
Eph.
4:11-16
2 Tim.
2:15

8. It is a great blessing to have a copy of the Bible, God's Word, to read. Yet reading the Bible is not very helpful unless we understand and apply correctly to our lives the meaning of what we are reading (Acts 8:30-31). Whom should the believer ask first for help with this correct understanding and application? Once asked for, how does this help typically come to the believer?

Six Key Principles of Bible Interpretation (Hermeneutics)

Authorial intent	Ascertain the intended meaning of the human author.
Context	Ascertain the grammatical and historical context.
Analogy of Scripture	Clear passages help interpret less clear passages.
Dispensationalism	Different applications for different dispensations.
Perspicuity	God intended everyone to read the Bible with profit.
Sufficiency	The Bible addresses the believer's every need.

NBBC Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration, Divine authenticity and authority of the Old and New Testaments—66 books in all. We hold to the Divine inspiration, by the Holy Spirit through holy men of old, of each book, of every word and of every letter down to the smallest particle of a letter in the original manuscripts. We believe this revelation is accurate and all-sufficient for both faith and practice (Jeremiah 36:2-6, 17-18; Matthew 5:18; Mark 12:26, 36; Luke 24:24-27, 44; Acts 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21).