

## Series Intro & The Bible (Bibliology)

### Meet Your Bible

- The word Bible means “Book”
- 2 Main Sections: Old Testament & New Testament
- Comprised of 66 Books (39 in OT, 27 in NT)
  - 1,189 Chapters
  - 41,173 Verses
  - Approx. 775,000 words (varies with translations)
- Written over span of 1,600 years
- Penned by 40 different writers from 20 different occupations or life stations, located in a range covering more than 2,000 miles
- Originally written in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic)
- Includes the genres of historical narrative, biography, autobiography, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, apocalyptic, epistles (letters), and Gospel (proclamation biographical narrative)

### Four Essential Concepts on the Doctrine of the Bible

#### Inspiration

Definition: Biblical Inspiration teaches that ***the Bible was written by God through people***, with each penman writing from their own perspective, historical context, language and grammar.

*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

*Nobody has seen God on their own, unless God showed himself to them (John 1:18)*

*But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:20-21)*

### Why Inspiration Matters

- The Bible's inspiration means the Bible is **holy**...it is uniquely set apart among books and is uniquely in alignment with God's supernatural power and glory.
- The Bible's inspiration means the Bible is **universal**...its message spans all cultures and all time.
- The Bible's inspiration means the Bible is **normative**...its message is for all believers, everywhere.
- The Bible's inspiration means the Bible is **authoritative**...it reveals truth on theology, doctrine, and morality. It has authority over personal feelings and emotions, over intellectual conclusions, opinions, human reason, and personal experiences.

#### Inerrant

Definition: Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

#### Qualifiers

- **Minor uncertainties** - there are only a few places in the original manuscripts where minor details are not in Series Intro & Know What You Believe about The Bible (Bibliology)

agreement or are unclear. These minor instances do not affect any conclusions of ethics or doctrine.

- **Self-disclosure.** In a few instances, the Bible points to extra-biblical writings. These self-disclosures never contradict what has been included in the Scriptures.

#### **Why Inerrancy Matters**

The Bible's inerrancy means the Bible is reliable to **communicate God's truth** and to **build your faith**.

#### **Infallible**

Definition: The Bible is trustworthy as a guide to salvation and faith life; it will accomplish its purpose.

#### **Qualifiers**

- human ignorance – lack of knowledge about what the Bible states or reveals about God.
- human prejudice – disbelief.

#### **Why Infallibility Matters**

The Bible's infallibility means **the Bible is effective to accomplish its purpose**.

#### **Integrity**

Definition: The Bible has not been corrupted or degraded.

#### **Qualifiers**

- Scholarship - A lack of scholarship can affect the integrity (Joseph Smith, JW World Translation)
- Hermeneutics - interpretation of the Scriptures. Again, prejudices or biases can affect the integrity. (Modern attacks on sexual ethics, other doctrines of God).

#### **Why Integrity Matters**

The Bible's integrity means **the Bible has the unique ability to enlighten the reader to the truth and revelation of God**.