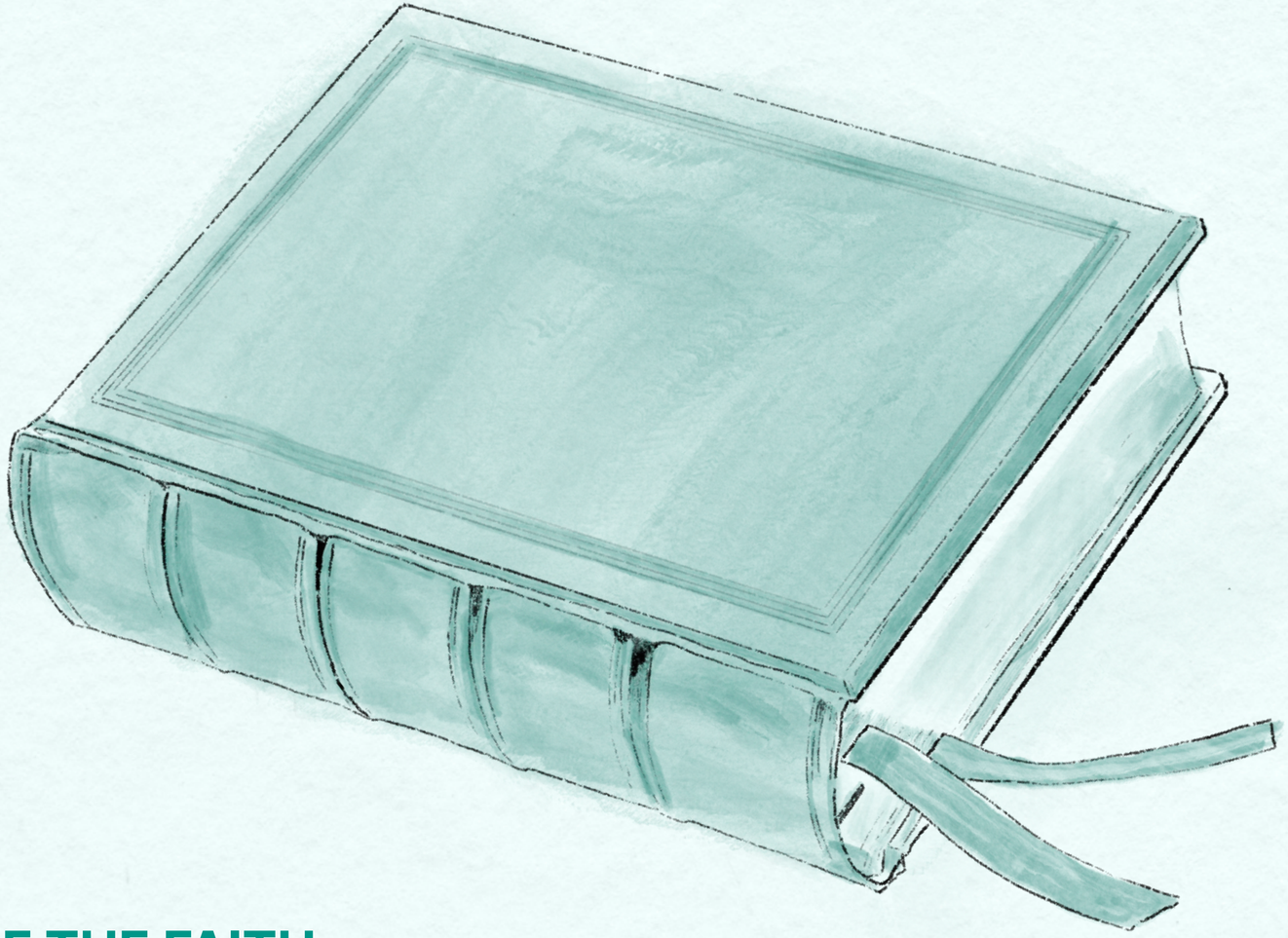


FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Introduction to the Bible

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Memory Verse

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Questions We Will Seek to Answer

- ✓ Where did the Bible come from?
- ✓ How do we know the Bible is God's inspired Word?
- ✓ How can men have written the Bible and yet we say God wrote the Bible?
- ✓ Why are there so many different Bible translations?



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Roadmap

- ✓ **Revelation**: Natural and special
- ✓ **Inspiration**: The Bible's claim to be the very words of God
- ✓ **The Bible Itself**: General information, structure, content, themes



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Revelation



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Natural Revelation

- ✓ AKA General Revelation
- ✓ God revealing Himself to man through creation and conscience.

18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

ROMANS 1:18–20

14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature
do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves,
even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that
the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their
conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting
thoughts accuse or even excuse them

ROMANS 2:14-15

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Natural Revelation

- ✓ AKA General Revelation
- ✓ God revealing Himself to man through creation and conscience.
- ✓ Through creation (Romans 1:18–20)
- ✓ Through conscience (Romans 2:14–15)



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Special Revelation





NATURAL REVELATION



SPECIAL REVELATION

[1]Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to
our fathers by the prophets, [2]but in these last days he has
spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of
all things, through whom also he created the world.

HEBREWS 1:1-2

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The Suffiency of Special Revelation

- ✓ Sufficient But not Exhaustive



15and how from childhood you have been acquainted with
the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for
salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is
breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
17that the man of God may be complete, equipped for
every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:15–17

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

DEUTERONOMY 29:29

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

ROMANS 11:33

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Inspiration



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Inspiration

- ✓ What does inspiration mean?

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is **breathed out** by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”

ESV

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

B.B. Warfield

"In a word, what is declared by this fundamental passage is simply that the Scriptures are a Divine product."



B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (Phillipsburg, NJ: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1948)., 132–33.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the
Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the
things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in
words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the
Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are
spiritual.

ESV



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

2 Peter 1:20–21

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture
comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no
prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men
spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy
Spirit.

ESV

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Inspiration

- ✓ What does inspiration mean?
- ✓ Dual authorship

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Matthew 1:22

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

ESV

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Matthew 2:15

and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

ESV

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Inspiration

- ✓ What does inspiration mean?
- ✓ Dual authorship
- ✓ Inspiration is the basis for inerrancy

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The Bible



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

How Did We Get the Bible?

- ✓ God spoke through men to write His words.
- ✓ Manuscripts were written over 1600 years (~1500 B.C. to A.D. 100)
- ✓ 40 different authors
- ✓ 66 books (39 Old Testament; 27 New Testament)
- ✓ Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Titles of the Bible

- ✓ **Bible**—just means “book” or “scroll”
- ✓ **Canon**—From the Greek κανών (kanṓn) meaning rod or standard. We use it to mean the complete 66 books of the Old and New Testaments
- ✓ **Scripture**—Means writings or specifically “sacred writings” (John 7:38)
- ✓ **The Writings**—2 Timothy 3:15
- ✓ **The Word of God**—1 Thessalonians 2:13
- ✓ **The Law, Prophets, and Psalms**—Luke 24:44



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The Old and New Testament

- ✓ “Testament” derives from Latin *Testamentum*, meaning a will. Carries the idea of a legal agreement or covenant.
- ✓ The Old Testament is based on the Old Covenant (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronoy 28:1, 15). This was a covenant wherein obedience to God would lead to blessing, “Do this and live.”
- ✓ The New Tesatment is based on the New Covenant



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Why These 66 Books?

- ✓ “How was the Bible Canon as we know it today recognized?”
- ✓ Keyword: Recognized
- ✓ The church did not determine the Canon, they simply recognized and recived that which God had alreadyy inspired and preserved.

The Old Testament Canon

- ✓ By A.D. 250 there was nearly universal agreement on the canon of Hebrew Scripture.
- ✓ But there remained debate about the place of the “apocrypha.”



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The Apocrypha

- ✓ *Apocrypha* means “hidden”
  - ✓ Historically, it referred to writings intended for private reading, but not meant for public church services.
- ✓ Sometimes called Deuterocanonical Scriptures (or second canon) by those who accept them as inspired
- ✓ 14 Apocryphal Books (Plus Psalm 151)



WHO ACCEPTS THE APOCRYPHA?

CRAIG EVANS, NONCANONICAL WRITINGS AND NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION (PEABODY, MA: HENDRICKSON PUBLISHERS, 1992), 189.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

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JUDITH
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
WISDOM OF SOLOMON
SIRACH
BARUCH
LETTER OF JEREMIAH
SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON

1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES

GREEK ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS

TOBIT
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ADDITIONS OF ESTHER
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SONG OF THREE
SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH
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4 MACCABEES
PSALM 151

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS
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SUSANNA
BEL AND THE DRAGON
PRAYER OF MANASSEH
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PSALM 151

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Why We Don’t Accept the Apocrypha

- ✓ **Reason #1**: Never quoted in the New Testament (Jesus does not reference them in His summary of the OT book in Luke 24:44)
- ✓ **Reason #2**: Universally rejected by the Jewish community
- ✓ **Reason #3**: Problems of content
- ✓ **Reason #4**: Early Christian scholars and theologians rejected the Apocrypha (Melito, Origin, Eusebius, Cyril of Jerusalem, Athanasius, Jerome…)
- ✓ **Reason #5**: Not self-authenticatingly glorious



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Why Does the Roman Catholic Church Include the Apocrypha in their Canon?

- ✓ Originally, they did not.
- ✓ The Roman Catholic Church officially added the Apocrypha to its Bible canon at the Council of Trent in 1546.
- ✓ This was primarily in response to the Protestant Reformation.
- ✓ These texts lended authority to RCC claims that the Reformers were challenging on Scriptural grounds—such as purgatory, praying for the dead, and the concept of the treasury of merit.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The New Testament Canon

- ✓ Process of recognition and collection began in the first century Christian church
- ✓ Some were recognized very early
  - ✓ Paul recognized Luke's writings as of equal Scriptural authority as the Old Testament (1 Timothy 5:18; see also Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7)
  - ✓ Peter recognized Paul's writings (2 Peter 3:15-16)
  - ✓ Some NT books were already circulating among the churches (Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27)



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The New Testament Canon

- ✓ The first “canon” was the Muratorian Canon (compiled AD 170)
- ✓ The Muratorian Canon included all of the New Testament books except Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, and 3 John.
- ✓ In AD 363, the Council of Laodicea stated that only the Old Testament (along with one book of the Apocrypha) and 26 books of the New Testament (everything but Revelation) were canonical and to be read in the churches.
- ✓ The Council of Hippo (AD 393) and the Council of Carthage (AD 397) also affirmed the same 27 books as authoritative.



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

The New Testament Canon

- ✓ Was the author an apostle or have a close connection with an apostle?
- ✓ Is the book being accepted by the body of Christ at large?
- ✓ Did the book contain consistency of doctrine and orthodox teaching?
- ✓ Did the book bear evidence of high moral and spiritual values that would reflect a work of the Holy Spirit?



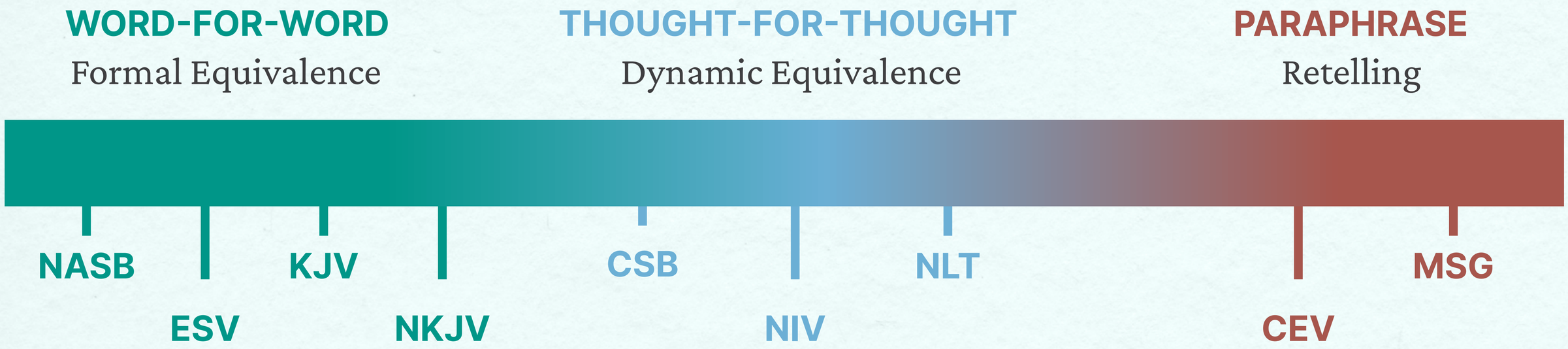
“No early church council decided on the canon. It was God, and God alone, who determined which books belonged in the Bible. It was simply a matter of God’s imparting to His followers what He had already decided. The human process of collecting the books of the Bible was flawed, but God, in His sovereignty, and despite our ignorance and stubbornness, brought the early church to the recognition of the books He had inspired.”

“HOW AND WHEN WAS THE CANON OF THE BIBLE PUT TOGETHER?” GOT QUESTIONS.



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Bible Translations



NASB	New American Standard	**NKJV**	New King James Version	**NLT**	New Living Translation
ESV	English Standard Version	**CSB**	Christian Standard Bible	**CEV**	Contemporary English Bible
KJV	King James Version	**NIV**	New International Version	**MSG**	The Message