**Lesson 1- Transmission of Scripture**

1. What is the Bible?
2. A collection of 66 books written by multiple authors over the span of thousands of years.
3. Old Testament- 39
4. New Testament- 27
5. Pentateuch- First five books. What Jesus sometimes refer to as “the book of Moses.” Tells the story of creation through the journey in the wilderness.
6. History- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
7. Psalms and Wisdom- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
8. Prophets
9. Major (In length, not importance)- Isaiah, Jeremiah (Inc. Lamentations), Ezekiel, Daniel
10. Minor- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
11. Gospels and Acts- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
12. Pauline Epistles- Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews (debated over whether it is written by Paul or a different apostle)
13. Other Epistles- James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude
14. Apocalyptic- Revelation
15. What does it claim for itself?
16. God-breathed- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
17. For our instruction- Romans 15:4
18. Not of man- 2 Peter 1:21
19. Word of God- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
20. It must be read and pursued with diligence.
21. Joshua 1:8
22. Psalm 119:2,4, 6, 9, etc.
23. More details on the books
24. What books are in the Old Testament?
25. Protestants have the same books that the Hebrew Bible has both today and in the time of Jesus.
26. Roman Catholics add what are referred to as “apocrypha” or the “deuterocanonical books.” These books were not officially recognized by the Roman Catholic church as scripture until the Council of Trent in 1546.
27. Septuagint: Greek Translation of the Old Testament. Includes deuterocanonical books.
28. Tanak or TNK- the Hebrew Old Testament- Made up of *Torah* (Law), *Nevi’im* (Prophets), and *Ketuvim* (Psalms/Writings). The Hebrew Bible only includes the same Old Testament books protestants include. The only difference is in the order in which the books are laid out. One thing worth pointing out is that the TNK ends with 1 & 2 Chronicles as a means of summarizing Old Testament history.
29. Christ references the TNK many times. One example is Luke 24:44- **These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses (Torah) and the Prophets (Neviim) and the Psalms (Chetuvim) must be fulfilled.**
30. Christ used the phrase **“From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah” (Luk 11:51)**. This is a reference to the first bloodshed in Genesis and the last bloodshed mentioned in the TNK, the book of 2 Chronicles. Again, the TNK is identical to our Old Testament with the exception of the order the books are placed, with 2 Chronicles being their final book listed. In other words, we read the exact same books Christ acknowledged when quoting the Old Testament. There are many more reasons to know that our Old Testament is reliable, but demonstrating that we read the same Old Testament as the Lord Himself is the most significant.
31. Archaeological evidence
32. Details on dates, names, and locations.
33. These details are constantly verified.
34. Ancient artifacts such as worship items, clothing, household items, documents that describe legal codes, trade route descriptions, societal norms, etc. demonstrating accurate understanding of the times.
35. Textual Criticism- Multiple copies leads to examining these copies to determine what the original author most likely wrote.
36. Dead Sea Scrolls
37. In 1948, full copies or portions of every book in the Old Testament except for Esther were found by the Dead Sea, perfectly preserved. A major verifier that the text is not corrupted.
38. Prophecy
39. See Isaiah 45:1-4 and Daniel 8:19-26 as examples.
40. Historical Reliability of New Testament
41. Historical and literary support
42. Ancient writings are reliable when we have multiple and early sources.
43. Example for comparison- 0 copies of documents on the life of Alexander the Great until 400 years after his existence. Yet, no one doubts these are reliable because we have multiple sources and 400 years is not considered too far off since we have many other reasons to trace them back to the time of Alexander the Great.
44. Consider the gospels: We have over 5,800 Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament in Greek alone. We also have copies of the Greek into Latin, Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Gothic, and various other languages.
45. No other ancient writing has anywhere near the documentation and literary support of the New Testament.
46. Early- Acts ends abruptly in the life of Paul whom many agree died around 69 AD. This means Luke wrote Acts no later than 69 AD (which is an extremely late date). Acts is a sequel to the Gospel According to Luke, which means the Gospel According to Luke must have been written before 69 AD. Thus, the latest Luke could possibly have been written was in 68 AD (this is an almost unbelievable suggestion, but even when going by the most liberal of standards, this proves the legitimacy of the gospels). Matthew and Mark were written before that. Eyewitness testimony is certain.
47. Textual Variants
48. Spelling errors= 75% of all variants
49. Untranslatable words- English example: “You need not be afraid.” Or “You do not need to be afraid.”
50. Meaningful, but non-viable variants- Variants that might make a difference, but they do not even claim to be original.
51. Meaningful and viable variants- Differences that are meaningful and might affect what events actually took place. Less than 1% of all variants. Zero variants would change any of the essential beliefs of Christianity. These differences are not hidden. They are clearly inserted into virtually any version of the bible you might buy today as they will explain: “This is not found in these particular texts” or “This is found in these particular texts.”
52. Accuracy on details
53. Details of names, locations, governmental rulers of the time, geographical accuracy etc.
54. By looking at ancient tombstones and other documents, confirmed accurate names of the time and location.
55. Translations
56. Textus Receptus Bibles
57. Vulgate
58. In the late 300s, Damascus I, bishop of Rome, commissioned a man named Jerome to take Latin translations of the Biblical texts and combine them into one accurate and consistent version. The goal was to give one reliable Latin translation. Why Latin? Because that was the language of the people. This translation became known as the Vulgate, which means “Common.” This was a Bible created because the commoners were to read it in the common tongue.
59. Attempts to translate into other common languages later in history were suppressed.
60. 1400s- printing press invented. Constantinople, the major city of the eastern church, invaded and conquered by Islam. With that, many Christians fled. With those fleeing Christians came many manuscripts holding the Biblical text. These are manuscripts Jerome would not have had access to.
61. Textus Receptus- Erasmus
62. Erasmus took Vulgate as well as many other manuscripts including the texts from the Byzantine empire and translated into a Greek New Testament.
63. Became known as the Textus Receptus or “The Text Received by All.”
64. This was the text used to translate many older European versions of the Bible, most importantly for us, the King James Version. The New King James Version is textus receptus as well
65. Textual Criticism Bibles
66. Access to far more manuscripts than Erasmus had access to has given us greater advantage in discovering what the original text most likely could have been.
67. Textual criticism is the process of evaluating as many of the texts we have available to us and critically comparing them to determine what the original authors might have said.
68. Bibles that use this method would include most newer translations. Most popular ones include: ESV, NASB, NIV, CSB, The NET Bible, NLT, etc.
69. What difference does this make?
70. Some differences in how they read: One example is Mark’s ending. This should not make anyone stumble: (1) Virtually everything possibly added is practically a direct quote from the other gospels (2) The text adds absolutely nothing new in doctrine or in the knowledge of the events of the resurrection.
71. Things to consider when choosing a translation:
    1. Readability
    2. Memorability
    3. Italics to note what is/is not in manuscripts.
    4. (4) Verse-by-verse or paragraph format.
    5. (5) Study bible- Pay attention to the theological background of the publishers/commentators.
    6. (6) Cross references/red letters

**Bible Study Questions:**

1. What are some key characteristics of the Bible as outlined in our lesson, and why are they significant?
2. How do the different genres within the Bible contribute to its overall message and purpose?
3. In what ways does the Bible claim authority and reliability for itself, and how does this impact our understanding of its contents?
4. Reflect on 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it mean for Scripture to be "God-breathed," and how does this impact our understanding of its authority and reliability?
5. Explore the implications of Romans 15:4, which describes the purpose of Scripture as providing instruction and encouragement. How does this verse inform our approach to studying the Bible?
6. Discuss the significance of 2 Peter 1:21 in asserting that Scripture is not of human origin but inspired by God. How does this verse reinforce the divine authority of the Bible?
7. Consider Joshua 1:8 and its exhortation to meditate on God's law day and night. How can we practically apply this principle to our lives?