

# BREAKING GROUND: DOCTRINAL BUILDING BLOCKS

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18*



## EQUIPMENT

BREADCRUMBS  
MINISTRIES



† We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments in their entirety, to be the verbally inspired Word of God.
† They are the final authority for faith and practice.
† The Scriptures are inerrant in the original manuscripts, infallible and God-breathed.
† How do we know the Bible is: Reliable? Trustworthy? Authoritative?

**WE LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE:**

**Where did the Canon come from?**

1. What is the LITERAL definition of <b>CANON</b> ?	†
2. How does Ezekiel 42:17 fit in with the idea of canon?	†
3. PRACTICALLY, what is the canon?	†
4. What is the Canon of Scripture for the Christian? John 14:15; 23-24; 2 John 1:6; Matthew 4:4	† †
5. THEOLOGICALLY, what is the canon?	†
6. ULTIMATELY what is the canon? 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20	†
7. What did church councils NOT do?	†
8. What determines a books divine authority?	†
9. What has to happen to a book BEFORE it makes it into the canon?	†
10. What was the earliest written collection of God's Words?	†
11. Where were writings considered <i>sacred</i> or <i>holy</i> kept? Deuteronomy 31:24-26; 2 Kings 22:8	†
† The Collection of absolutely authoritative words from God grew in size throughout the time of Israel's history. Contributing to the Canon:	
Leaders:	Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah
Prophets:	Samuel, Elijah, Nathan, Gad, Jehu, Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea), 12 Minor Prophets.
Kings:	David, Solomon
Priests:	Ezra

**THERE WERE OVER FORTY WRITERS OF THE BIBLE, AND ROUGHLY 32 IN THE OT ALONE!**

Moses-Joshua-Samuel(Nathan,Gad)-Jeremiah-Ezra-Nehemiah-Mordecai-Job  
David-SonsofKorah-Asaph-Heman-Ethan-Hezekiah-Solomon-Agur-Lemuel-Isaiah  
Ezekiel-Daniel-Hosea-Joel-Amos-Obadiah-Jonah-Micah-Nahum-Habakkuk  
Zephaniah-Haggai-Zechariah-Malachi

**HOW DID THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS SEE THE OLD TESTAMENT?**

12. How did Paul refer to the Old Testament in 2 Timothy 3:15?	†
13. How many times did Jesus quote from the OT?	†
14. The NT writers began with "it is written" when referring to the OT how many times?	†

15. According to Luke 24:44, how much of the Scriptures are written about Jesus?	†
16. How many separate quotations from the books of the Old Testament in the New Testament did the index in the <i>Jewish New Testament</i> catalog? <i>Jewish New Testament Publications, Jerusalem, 1989</i>	†
17. What is the number that quotations and references in the New Testament to the Old may be as high as? Roger Nicole, <i>The Expositor's Bible Commentary</i> , Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1979, Vol. I, p. 617	†
† Jesus and the apostles quote the OT in a way that shows it was considered authoritative, i.e. canonical. † He clearly taught that Scripture is inspired by God.	
18. What three critical things did Jesus regard the truth of the OT Scriptures as?	†
19. In Matthew 22:31-32, how does Jesus use the OT to correct the Sadducees? (Exodus 3:6,15)	†
† Jesus maintained that not one jot or tittle would pass from the law until all was accomplished (Matt. 5:18)	
20. In Matthew 4:4-10, what is Jesus' defense for Satan's arguments?	†
21. What did Jesus say about God's Word in John 10:35?	†
22. In John 17:17, what did Jesus declare in the prayer to his Father on the night before he was crucified?	†

**WHOM/WHAT DOES JESUS AFFIRM THE HISTORICITY OF IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES:**

23. Matthew 12:40	†
24. Matthew 19:4	†
25. Mark 9:43-46	†
26. Mark 10:6-9	†
27. Luke 11:51	†
28. Luke 17:26	†
29. Matthew 12:40	†
† It is highly significant that Christ never appealed to tradition as a standard of authority; instead he used Scripture to correct the errors of tradition. † The Jews were depending on their tradition instead of on their Father.	
<b>How does Jesus demonstrate this in Mark 7:1-23?</b>	
23. v.1-5 The Pharisees "found fault" with the disciples because they were not following the traditions of the elders by washing their hands in a "special" or ceremonially way. This also included washing pitchers, cups, etc.	
24. These ceremonies were considered as binding as the written Law, and to ignore them was considered actual, real sin, but to follow them was the essence of goodness and service to God!	
25. v.6-13 "In reply Jesus made no reference to His disciples' conduct. Rather He addressed two issues underlying the inquiry: (a) the true source of religious authority - tradition not Scripture (Mark 7:6-13), and (b) the true nature of defilement - ceremonial and moral (vv. 14-23)."	
26. v. 6-7 Jesus rebuked them with Isaiah 29:13: "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"	
27. How were they hypocrites? Jesus says in v.8 they were laying aside the commandments of God for the traditions of men. But it gets worse:	
28. The Jews were making an outward show of worship by their rituals and ceremonies, but their hearts were far from God. Jesus goes on to prove this fact by using the Scriptures:	

29. v.9 “Jesus restated His charge that the religious leaders were clever at sidestepping God's Law in order to observe their own traditions (cf. v. 8). He supported this verdict by citing a striking illustration (vv. 10-12) which exposed their sin.”
30. v.10 Jesus quotes Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16. “Such responsibility included adequate financial support and practical care for their needs in their old age (cf. 1 Timothy 5:4,8). A person who treated his parents with contempt would face the death penalty.”
31. v.11-13 The Jews were sidestepping the fifth commandment by using their tradition to declare all their possessions to be Corban (a gift devoted to God). They get this from Numbers 30:1-2. Jesus said this made the word of God of no effect! Tradition became more important than the word of God. This is what Jesus meant in v.12 when He said, “then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother”
32. v.14-23 Jesus goes on to show that ceremonially washing hands is NOT what defiles a man, but what comes out of the heart is what defiles! “A person is defiled morally by what he thinks in his heart even though he may scrupulously observe outward purity rituals. So Jesus contradicted the Rabbinic view by stating that sin proceeds from within and not from without.”
33. If you really want to get technical. Jesus proves that the heart of the Law is not acts, but obedience. Why is one unclean in Leviticus 11:46-47? It wasn't the touching or eating, but not “distinguishing between the unclean and the clean.”

† THE OLD TESTAMENT CANON	† WHERE DID THE OT COME FROM?
34. To begin, why did the Jews consider their canon closed? Two points:	†  †
35. What evidence does the Talmud offer to support the fact that the Jews believed the canon was closed?	†  †

#### DOES THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE SUPPORT A CLOSED CANON?

36. Josephus (1st century AD Jewish historian) speaks of 22 OT books. (We'll get to this number shortly) “We do not possess myriads of inconsistent books conflicting with each other. Our [inspired] books, those which are justly accredited, are but two and twenty, and contain the record of all time...for although such long ages have now passed, no one has ventured either to add or to remove or to alter a syllable, and it is an instinct with every Jew from the day of his birth to regard them as the decrees of God; to abide by them and if need be cheerfully die for them.”	
37. At the time of the Jamnia discussions (c. A.D. 90) the Hebrew canon was already closed and was comprised of the same books in our OT Bible today.	
38. A.D. 170 - Melito, Bishop of Sardis, named all the O.T. books as canonical except Esther (excluded the Apocrypha)	
39. A.D., 185-254 - Origen, theologian and philosopher from Alexandria, (quoted by Eusebius) affirms O.T. canon including Esther.	
40. A.D. 367 - Athanasius of Alexandria, in Paschal Letter lists all the books of our present N.T. and O.T. canon except Esther.	
41. Before the Dead Sea Scrolls, what was the earliest OT manuscripts we had?	†
42. What was significant about the dates of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Isaiah specifically? Three Points;	†  †  †
43. How do the Scrolls compare with modern versions of the OT?	†
44. What is significant about the fact that the Dead Sea Scrolls and the modern OT we have today are almost identical?	†

† WE CAN PROVE THIS BY EXAMINING THE TRANSMISSION OF THE TEXT!

- 45. The Jewish scribes were people who feared God and had a great reverence for his Word.
- 46. The Masoretes were a group of people who were chosen to preserve the Old Testament text. For centuries they kept strict guidelines for copying manuscripts.
- 47. The scroll must be written on the skin of a clean animal. Each skin must contain a specified number of columns, equal throughout the entire book.
- 48. The column breadth must consist of exactly thirty letters; space of a thread must appear between every consonant; breadth of nine consonants had to be inserted between each section.
- 49. A space of three lines had to appear between each book.
- 50. Nothing – not even the shortest word – could be copied from memory; it had to be copied letter by letter.
- 51. The scribe must count the number of times each letter of the alphabet occurred in each book and compare it to the original.
- 52. If a manuscript was found to contain even one mistake, it was discarded.
- 53. The OT we have today is reliable, trustworthy, and authoritative.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

- Why did early believers need to know which books to read and use?
- 54.
  - 55.
  - 56.
  - 57.  
†
  - 58. How were Paul's letters viewed in 2 Peter 3:15-16      †
- Circular letters were meant to be copied, spread, and read aloud to congregations. How do the following passages fit the circular model?
- 59. Colossians 4:16      †  
   †
  - 60. 1 Corinthians 16:19 – Galatians 1:2      †
  - 61. How might these passages, ideas, and historical events relate to the canon?      †  
   †

† IS THERE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF A NT CANON?

- 62. Justin Martyr (A.D. 110-165) was an early example:      †
- 63. As early as A.D. 140, the heretic Marcion developed his own, incomplete canon, and began propagating it.
- 64. He believed that the wrathful Hebrew God was a separate and lower entity than the all-forgiving God of the New Testament.
- 65. He rejected the entire Old Testament, and edited Luke and 10 of Paul's epistles. That was his canon.
- 66. Why would it be necessary to create a canon given Marcion's actions?      †  
   †  
   †
- 67. How much of the canon had been settled by A.D. 180?      †

68. By the middle of the second century, every book of our NT was referred to by the church fathers. Three examples:	† † †
69. Where do we find the earliest complete list of our NT canon?	†
70. What actions did the Church Councils take to establish the canon?	† † † †

#### NEW TESTAMENT TRANSMISSION

† Transmission simply means how the Bible documents came to us over the years.
† Since we do not have the original documents – the autographs – how reliable are the copies we have?
† What is the time interval between the originals and the copies we have?
† How to other books from antiquity compare with the Bible?

#### TRANSMISSION: THE NUMBER OF COPIES

71. How many Greek manuscripts (hand written) to we have today?	† † †
† “Indeed so extensive are these citations that if all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the New Testament were destroyed, they would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the entire New Testament.” Bruce Metzger, <i>The Text of the New Testament</i> , p. 86	

#### TRANSMISSION: DEGREE OF ACCURACY

72. What is the significance of having so many manuscripts?	† †
† A. T. Robertson suggests that the real concern of Textual Criticism is of a “thousandth part of the entire text.”	
† B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort said, “If Comparative trivialities such as changes of order, the insertion or omission of the “the” article with proper names, and the like are set aside, the words in our opinion still subject to doubt can hardly amount to more than a thousandth part of the New Testament.”	

#### TRANSMISSION: THE TIME INTERVAL

73. The N.T. has earlier manuscripts closest to the time of original writings compared to other works from antiquity.	† † † †
74. What do the close time intervals mean?	
† The manuscript copies we have are so close to the original, as to know for certain that we have the exact content from the original autographs.	
† God has given us 5,760 manuscripts containing all or parts of the Greek NT. It is the most remarkably preserved book in the ancient world.	
† “In real terms, the New Testament is easily the best attested ancient writing in terms of the sheer number of documents, the time span between the events and the documents, and the variety of documents available to sustain or contradict it. There is nothing in ancient manuscript evidence to match such textual availability and integrity.”	

†	Even though textual scholars may not yet have been able to reproduce all the original autographs word perfect, they have been able to come very close by analyzing the thousands of hand copies left by the copyists here on Earth.
†	Conservative scholars have made a strong case that the Masoretic Hebrew text and the Greek Textus Receptus (or something very similar) are so close to the originals that we can use any literal translation based on them (such as the King James) with confidence that it is essentially the actual written Word of God, while yet allowing the possibility here and there of occasional copyist errors or inadequate translations—which can often be resolved and corrected by further study.
†	God has, indeed, preserved His Word for us!

#### EXTERNAL EVIDENCE TEST

†	<b>DO OTHER HISTORICAL MATERIALS CONFIRM OR DENY THE INTERNAL TESTIMONY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?</b>
†	<b>THE TEST ASKS: WHAT OTHER SOURCES ARE THERE, APART FROM THE DOCUMENTS UNDER ANALYSIS, THAT SUBSTANTIATE THE BIBLE'S ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, AND AUTHENTICITY?</b>
75. What is significant about the Church Fathers quoting the New Testament?	<p>†</p> <p>†</p>
†	<p>“Indeed so extensive are these citations that if all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the New Testament were destroyed, they would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the entire New Testament.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bruce Metzger, The Text of the New Testament, p. 86</i></p>

#### CHRISTIANITY AS HISTORY

†	What some critics have said about the Bible...
†	<p>“There is no history written at the time Jesus Christ is said to have lived, that speaks of the existence of such a person, even as a man.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Thomas Paine, Age of Reason, p. 234</i></p>
†	<p>“Historically it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all, and if he did we do not know anything about him.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bertrand Russell, Why I am not a Christian, p.16</i></p>
76. Thallus	Histories-Darkness at Christ's death(eclipse)
77. Flavius Josephus	Life/Death of Jesus
78. Mara Bar-Serapion	Calamities brought by deaths of Socrates, Pythagorus and Jesus
79. Philegon	Darkness (Eclipse)
80. Suetonius	Christ-The reason for Jews expulsion from Rome
81. Pliny	Christians bound not to sin - Jesus
82. Cornellius Tacitus	Death of Jesus at the hands of Pilate
†	<p>Josephus says,</p> <p>“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and (he) was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly He was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”</p>

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JOSEPHUS

83.
84.
85.
86.
87.
88.

#### JEWISH SOURCE: THE TALMUD – HISTORICAL JESUS

†	<p>“On the eve of Passover Yeshua was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, ‘he is going to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.’ But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The Talmud, Sanhedrin, 43a (cf. John 11:8, 16)</i></p>
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✚ THE TALMUD: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JEWISH WRITINGS ABOUT JESUS:

89.

90.

91.

92.

**ACCURACY ESTABLISHED**

✚ Is the Bible we have today accurate?

✚ How do we know our text is the same as when it was originally written?

✚ Let's go back and reexamine three pieces of manuscript evidence:

93.

94.

95.

**DATES OF THE MANUSCRIPTS**

✚ The Torah was composed between 1446 BC and 1406 BC, with the remaining books composed between 1400 BC to 400 BC.

96. What is the oldest fragment written in Hebrew that we have?

✚

97. What is the oldest known Torah fragment we have?

✚

✚

98. How old is the Septuagint?

✚

99. What is the age of the Dead Sea Scrolls?

✚

100. While there are far fewer OT manuscripts than NT, there's four good reason:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

101. What is the earliest NT fragment that we have?

✚

102. Why is it significant that we have fragments so close to the original autographs?

✚

103. How early can we date P52?

✚

104. Why is the A.D. 110 date important?

✚

✚

**GOD ABSOLUTELY PRESERVED HIS WORD**

<p><b>105. What is the earliest NT manuscripts we have of a complete book and complete NT?</b></p>	<p align="center">†</p>
<p><b>106. What do 25,000 manuscripts plus the 86,000 citations of the New Testament in the writings of the early church fathers who lived before A.D.325 tell us?</b></p>	<p align="center">†</p>

**INTERNAL EVIDENCE**

**Bible by the Numbers:**

**107. Even though it is really \_\_\_\_\_ individual books, written on three continents, in \_\_\_\_\_ different languages, over a period of approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years, by more than \_\_\_\_\_ authors who came from many walks of life, the Bible remains \_\_\_\_\_ unified book from beginning to end without contradiction. This unity is unique from all other books and is evidence of the divine origin of the words which God moved men to record.**

<p><b>108. What does God say about Himself and about idols concerning prophecy in Isaiah 41:21-24; 42:9; Isaiah 46:9-10?</b></p>	<p align="center">†</p>
<p><b>109. So, just how many prophecies are in the Bible?</b></p>	<p align="center">†</p>
<p><b>110. What percentage of the Bible is prophetic?</b></p>	<p align="center">†</p> <p align="center">†</p>
<p><b>111. So, just how many prophecies are in the Bible about Jesus?</b></p>	<p align="center">†</p> <p align="center">†</p> <p align="center">†</p>



118. Mark 10:35-41	†
119. Galatians 2:11-12	†
120. John 20:11-16	†
121. Matthew 16:22-23	†

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

†	Noted archaeologist Nelson Glueck writes, “As a matter of fact, however, it may be clearly stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”
†	The Hittites were a powerful force in the Middle East from 1750 B.C. until 1200 B.C. Prior to the late 19th century, nothing was known of the Hittites outside the Bible, and many critics alleged that they were an invention of the biblical authors.
†	The Hittite Empire’s capital was discovered along with thousands of tablets proving the Bible correct about the Hittite people.
†	Sodom and Gomorrah were discovered and excavated from 1924 to modern day.
†	Most intriguing was evidence that a massive fire had destroyed the city. It lay buried under a coating of ash several feet thick. A cemetery one kilometer outside the city contained charred remains of roofs, posts, and bricks turned red from heat.
†	Dr. Bryant Wood, in describing these charnel houses, stated that a fire began on the roofs of these buildings. Eventually the burning roof collapsed into the interior and spread inside the building. This was the case in every house they excavated. Such a massive fiery destruction would match the biblical account that the city was destroyed by fire that rained down from heaven. Wood states, "The evidence would suggest that this site of Bab edh-Drha is the biblical city of Sodom."
†	The Walls of Jericho: current archeological evidence supports the Bible's account of when and how Jericho fell.
†	The House of David: in 1993 the ruins of a black basalt stele was discovered engraved with the phrases “The King of Israel” and “House of David.”
†	It wasn't long ago when many scholars were questioning the actual existence of a Roman Governor with the name Pontius Pilate, the procurator who ordered Jesus' crucifixion. In June 1961 Italian archaeologists led by Dr. Frova were excavating an ancient Roman amphitheatre near Caesarea-on-the-Sea (Maritima) and uncovered this interesting limestone block. On the face is a monumental inscription which is part of a larger dedication to Tiberius Caesar which clearly says that it was from "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea."
†	John 5:2 “Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.”
†	Until the 19th century, there was no evidence outside of John’s Gospel for the existence of this pool; therefore, scholars argued that the gospel was written later, probably by someone without first-hand knowledge of the city of Jerusalem, and that the ‘pool’ had only a metaphorical, rather than historical, significance.
†	In the 19th century, archaeologists discovered the remains of a pool fitting the description in John’s Gospel.