

The Bible #4

WELCOME TO FOOTHILLS

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus on a personal level
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

FHNew - If you would like to start your journey of faith with us or get to know us a little better, text **FHNew** to **72000** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church.

FHBaptism - Following both services today, we will have a Baptism of Believers meeting in or near the Chapel for you to learn more about baptism

OR

You can text **FHBaptism** to **72000** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

INTRODUCTION

The Scientific Method has changed the world

- Few things have actually changed the world
- Scientific Method is one of them
- Why – because of an incredible change in the “way” people thought

There is a direct link between the scientific method and how the Bible came into existence.

The Christian library of genuine books (The Bible) is unlike any other

- The Vedas -- Hindu religious literature written in Vedic Sanskrit
- Tripitaka -- Buddhist religious literature
- Qur'an -- Islamic religious literature
- Tanakh -- Jewish religious literature (Torah, Nevi'im and the Ketuvim)
- The Christian Bible -- a library of sacred literature that combines the Tanakh, Old Testament and New Testament
 - The New Testament is about Jesus and how He is the new revelation of God. This new revelation was birthed out of an existing structure

How the Old Testament was assembled

- 39 books in the library
- Written over a 1,000-year period
- 25 different authors

The Old Testament was established as a library of 39 sacred texts in the 3rd century BC. This is when it was translated from its original Hebrew into Greek; known as the Septuagint (LXX)

- There were a number of other books from this time but they were not included because they were not considered genuine

The main reason the Old Testament was included in the Christian Bible is because it revealed the overall plan of what God is doing and it proves that Jesus is the Messiah

- 300 prophecies in Old Testament about the Messiah

How the New Testament was assembled

- 27 books in the library
- Written over a 50-year period
- 12 different authors

The New Testament is about Jesus as the Christ (Jewish Messiah)

- 4 Biographies on the life of Jesus
- 1 book of history that covers the period from the resurrection of Jesus and the growth of the church in the first 30 years
- A bunch of letters called Epistles
- 1 book of prophecy called Revelation

The most popular criticism against the New Testament

- It was created in the 4th century by the Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicaea in order to consolidate his power in Rome
 - This has been proven false
 - The **illusory truth effect** is when we hear the same false information repeated again and again and we come to believe it to be true
 - This even happens when people should know better—that is, when people initially know that the misinformation is false
 - **Athanasius (300-375 AD)**, lead counsel at the Council of Nicaea states
 - *“Again it is not tedious to speak of the [books] of the New Testament. These are, the four Gospels, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Afterwards, the Acts of the Apostles and Epistles (called Catholic), seven, viz., of James, one; of Peter, two; of John, three; after these, one of Jude. In addition, there are fourteen Epistles of Paul, written in this order. The first, to the Romans; then two to the Corinthians; after these, to the Galatians; next, to the Ephesians; then to the Philippians; then to the Colossians; after these, two to the*

Thessalonians, and that to the Hebrews; and again, two to Timothy; one to Titus; and lastly, that to Philemon. And besides, the Revelation of John.

- **Cyprian of Carthage (200-258 AD)**
 - *“Whence comes this tradition? Does it descend from the Lord’s authority, or from the commands and epistles of the apostles? For those things are to be done which are there written . . . If it be commanded in the gospels or the epistles and Acts of the Apostles, then let this holy tradition be observed,” (Cyprian of Carthage, Ep. 74 ad Pompeium).*

- **Origen (185?-252 AD)**
 - *“No man ought, for the confirmation of doctrines, to use books which are not canonized Scriptures,”*

- **Clement of Alexandria (150?-213 AD)**
 - *“They that are ready to spend their time in the best things will not give over seeking for truth until they have found the demonstration from the Scriptures themselves,” (Stromata 7:16:3).*

- **Irenaeus (130-202 AD)**
 - *“We have known the method of our salvation by no other means than those by whom the gospel came to us; which gospel they truly preached; but afterward, by the will of God, they delivered to us in the Scriptures, to be for the future the foundation and pillar of our faith,” (Adv. H. 3:1).*

- **Timothy (35-120 AD)**
 - **2 Timothy 4:13 (NIV)** *When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.*

- **John Mark was involved in writing**
 - **1 Peter 5:12-14 (NIV)** *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

- **Peter calls Paul’s letters, the ones being read in churches, the “Wisdom of God”**
 - **2 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)** *Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters,*

speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

- **The first century church believed the 27 books of the New Testament were scripture**

Copies and Translations

- **Colossians 4:16 (NIV)** *After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:27 (NIV)** *I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.*
- **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (NIV)** *Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.*
- **The process of reproducing the copies of the early books is directly connected to the scientific method**

CONCLUSION

The Bible is the most accurate, trustworthy, tested, scrutinized, investigated library of books of all time

- Simon Greenleaf
 - Founding member of Harvard Law school
 - Wrote the definitive work on evidence
 - It is the primary influence on what is accepted today in our court system
 - Challenged anyone who could use evidence to disprove the Bible
 - His challenge remains even today

Discussion Questions

1. What impact does it have on your faith when you learn how the Bible was assembled, proving its trustworthiness?
2. What truth does the Bible reveal that impacts your life the most?
3. What could you do to go deeper in your knowledge of the Bible and the truths it holds for you?