

# CONSTRUCTING THE BIBLE

## A SERIES ON HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

*"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."*

~ 1 Corinthians 14:37

### 1. Introduction

- a. The Bible is called holy, because it is set apart. Authoritative in 2 degrees:
- b. Lesser → It is true; Greater → it is the words of God magnified above his name– Ps 138:2
- c. Inspiration ~ God's words in writing; God used men to write what he intended.
- d. God intended to write a Bible – the way he constructed it is a witness to its divine origins

### 2. Timeline of the Books of the Bible

- a. What occurred in the books, and when they were inspired (written) are different
- b. Genesis is compiled of 12 different "books" – Gen 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:19
  - i. A long period (~2500yrs) – but men lived longer then.
  - ii. The next 1500 years would produce the Bible by ~40 different men.
- c. Law | History | Psalms | Prophets | MMLJ | Paul | Hebrew apostles | Revelation
- d. Authors:~3 Jewish historians-9 wisdom writers-16 warning prophets-2 exile historians-8 NT

### 3. How They were Recognized/Collected

- a. Recognized by God's miraculous nation, by prophets and priests, preserved in belief
- b. Israel existence was miraculous – they were given oracles – Rom 3:1-2, 9:4-5
- c. Prophecy was recognized by people – 1 Sam 10:10-13; it ceased – Amos 8:11
- d. Maccabees recognized there was no prophets in Israel – 1 Macc 4:46; 9:27
- e. Jesus affirmed the canon of the OT – Luke 11:51, 24:44; Mt 23:35-26
- f. The NT writers were accompanied by miracles as well – 1 Cor 14:22-24; 2 Cor 12:12
- g. Prophets confirmed each other and inspired scripture – 1 Cor 14:36-37, 2Pe 3:16, Col 1:25
- h. Tests of canonicity: apostolic, claims inspired, miraculous, teaching of God, veracity, belief

### 4. Why it Matters

- a. The canon is not something man invented, it is something God intended – Ps 119:89
- b. The age of the book is unique (oldest, yet modern enough to be recorded history)
- c. The time it was written in history reflect what God said he was doing in that time
- d. For prophecy to come to pass it had to be written in stages.
- e. 1500 years, 40 diff men = 1 single unit (theme, scope, truth, teaching, prophecy) –Eph 1:10
- f. The continuity of the Bible is remarkable given how it was constructed over time.
- g. The unity of purpose is proof of a mind/purpose that transcends history, place, people
- h. The construction of the Bible is proof of divine inspiration