

Has God Spoken?

Lesson #03

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Dean Bible Ministries

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“DID GOD REALLY SAY?”

**Can We *REALLY*
Trust the Bible?**

**How Would Such a God
Reveal Himself?**



Gen. 3:1, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’”

Gen. 3:2, “And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

Gen. 3:3, “ ‘but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” ’ ”

Gen. 3:4, “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.

Gen. 3:5, “ ‘For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

Gen. 3:6, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Who is This God?

ESSENCE OF GOD

HOLY

Sovereign/Creator

Omniscient

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

Immutability

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God's Holiness: He is one of a kind, distinct, unique. He alone is God.

Deut. 32:39, “Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.”

Questions About the Bible

Questions About the Bible

Isn't the Bible just another human book, subject to error and expressing different opinions about God?

Many scholars believe there was no real Moses, no Exodus, no real David. How can we trust a book that makes up people as the authors?

Isn't the Bible full of contradictions and errors?

Hasn't the Bible been changed over the years because it has been copied and translated so many times?

Questions About the Bible

Doesn't the vast number of translations indicate that we can't really know what the Bible says? It seems that the translators just make up things as they go along.

How can we be sure the Bible we have today is the same as what was originally written?

Didn't the church (a few powerful men, Constantine, etc.) just arbitrarily decide which books should be included in the Bible and which books should be rejected (and didn't this just reflect their male-dominated, power-hungry agenda)?

Questions About the Bible

What about the gospels that were hidden or rejected or prevented from being in the Bible? Why shouldn't these missing or hidden gospels be included also?

There are so many different interpretations of the Bible, how can we know which is right?

Isn't the Bible the product of an evolving religion that originated with the Babylonians and Assyrians?

Doesn't the Bible contain historical and scientific errors?

Does God Exist?

Does God Exist?

NO

Does God Exist?

NO

Then:

- **all claims to universal truth,**
- **all claims to any concept of right or wrong,**
- **any claim to the existence of a deity**
- **are just random products of subjective, personal experience and has no value**

Does God Exist?

NO

Why do people answer NO?

- **Intellectual reasons**
- **Personal reasons**
- **Spiritual reasons**

Does God Exist?

Yes

NO

Then if it exists it can be known:

- **it is discoverable**
- **it reveals itself**
- **or both**

First Assumption:

- **This God of infinite knowledge and ability exists.**

Second Assumption:

- **This omniscient, omnipotent God is able to communicate what He wishes in a comprehensible way.**

This leads to the next question:

2. Has this God communicated to man?

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YES

Maybe

NO

What I have just shown you is that the Bible and biblical interpretation is not irrational, subjective, or emotional. It is not anti-rational. It is not a circular reasoning either because a God who reveals Himself, a perfect, omnipotent, omniscient, God of truth, will also have a revelation that fits such patterns or conforms to certain characteristics which will confirm or discredit the claim. So Reason, as well as Empiricism, are used but *only* within a certain framework.

It is only claimed to be wrong, irrational, unscientific, or anti-rational because it does not conform to the presupposition of the critic that God doesn't exist, doesn't communicate, and if He did, we couldn't understand Him.

In other words, they begin with a bias that is anti-supernatural and thus on that basis deny any other claim based on any other presupposition.

Now that is irrational and unscientific!

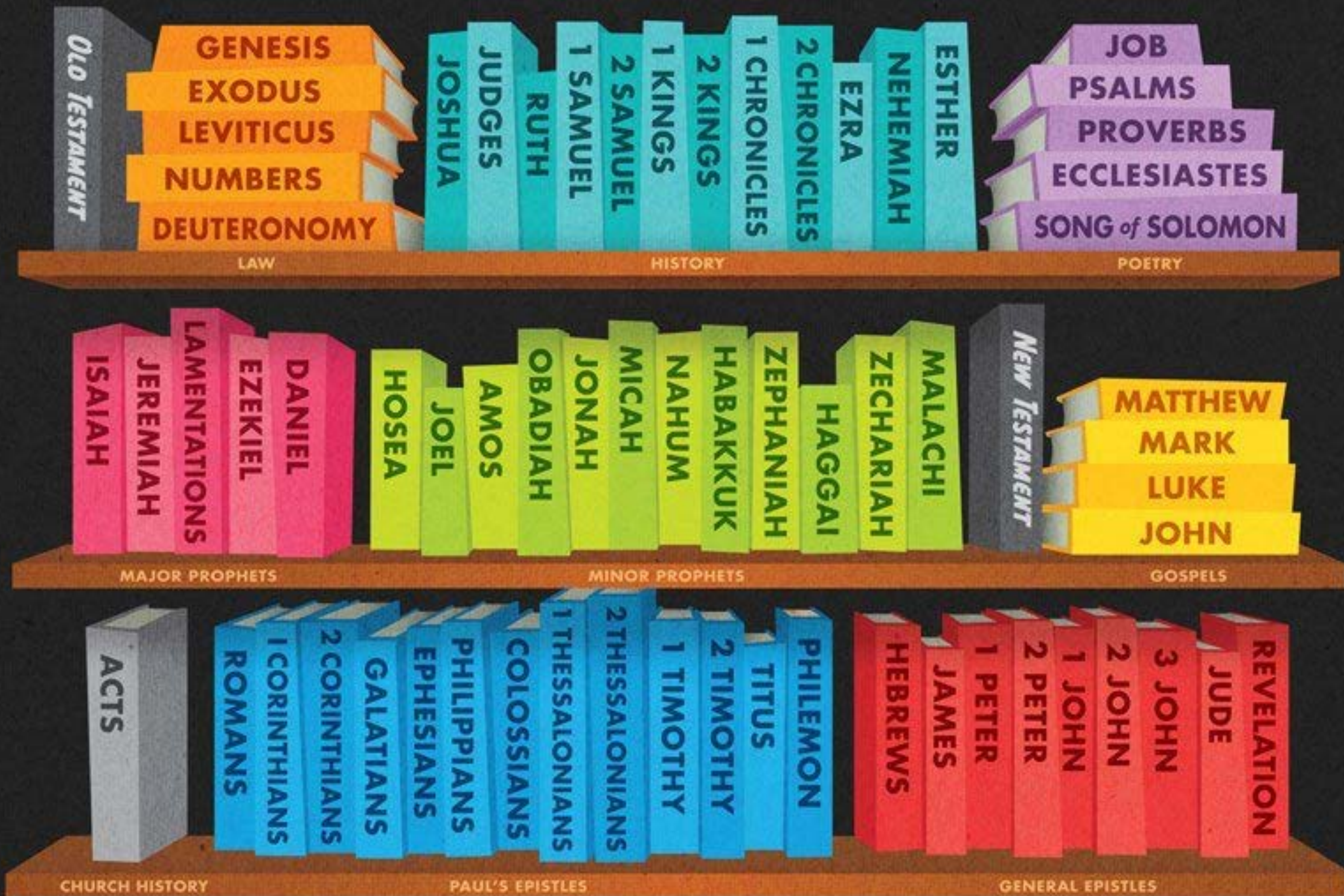
The Uniqueness of the Bible



1. “Bible” comes from the Latin word, *biblia*, Greek word, *biblia*, French *bible*, meaning “books.” It refers to a specific collection of books accepted as authoritative for Christianity. Sometimes the word *canon*, which means a rule or standard, is also used.

2. The Bible has two sections, Old Testament and New Testament. 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books. Roman Catholics accept another group of books in their Old Testament canon called the Apocrypha, “the hidden writings.” The Ethiopic church accepts a few others, as does the Syrian church.

The Books of the Bible



**3. The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years.
(Perhaps longer if Job was written before Moses
lived.)**

4. The Bible was written by over 40 authors from a wide variety of backgrounds and education. Also from three continents: Asia, Africa, Europe; Several different empires: Egyptian, Israelite, Babylonian, Persian, Roman, Judean.

- **Moses was trained from birth to be Pharaoh of Egypt, yet turned his back on that to follow God.**
- **Joshua was a general.**
- **Samuel was a prophet.**
- **David was a shepherd, who became a warrior, who became a king. He was also a musician and poet.**
- **Amos was a herdsman and figpicker.**
- **Isaiah was part of the aristocracy in Israel.**
- **Solomon was a king.**

- **Daniel was a captive taken hostage to Babylon who eventually became Prime Minister.**
- **Nehemiah was the cupbearer (the highest bureaucratic position in the government) to Artaxerxes.**
- **Matthew was a Jew who worked as a Roman tax collector.**
- **John was a commercial fisherman.**
- **Luke was a physician.**
- **Paul was trained to be a Rabbi.**
- **Peter also was a commercial fisherman.**

5. Yet the Bible presents one unified theme, no contradictions, though written over 1,500 years, on three continents, in three different languages [Hebrew, Aramaic (Dan. 2–7; Ezra 4–7), and Greek] by over 40 men from diverse backgrounds, stations in life, training, education, and culture.

6. The Bible covers all of the most controversial topics yet without contradiction: marriage, family, government, morals, absolutes, sexuality, existence of God, salvation, sin, the future of humanity.

7. The Bible is written in a wide variety of styles and literary genre.

8. In its unity, its focus is always upon demonstrating the glory of God in the midst of a vast angelic revolt which enveloped the human race occasioning the revelation of God's love, justice, righteousness through the promised Redeemer, the fulfillment of the Promise, the accomplishment of Redemption and promise and provision of a future Kingdom ruled by that divine-human promised Messiah.

The Law provides the “foundation” for Christ, the historical books show the “preparation” for Christ, the poetical works “aspire to Christ”, and the prophecies display an “expectation of Christ”. In the New Testament, the Gospels . . . “record the historical manifestation of Christ”, the Acts relate the “propagation of Christ”, the Epistles give the “interpretation of him”, and in Revelation is found the “consummation of all things in Christ”.

~(from J. McDowell, *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, 6, with quotes from Geisler, Nix, *Introduction to the Bible*, 29.)

9. The Bible remains the most popular book of all time.

**5 billion Scriptures distributed in 2020 according to
*Guinness Book of Records***

Gideons more than 2 billion

Bible Societies – 1.8 billion in the last 5 years

10. The Bible is unique in its preservation.

“... no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”

~JW Montgomery

“Jews preserved it as no other manuscript has ever been preserved. With their *massora* (*parva*, *magna*, and *finalis*), they kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word and paragraph. They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity—scribes, lawyers, massoretes. Who ever counted the letters and syllables of Plato or Aristotle? Cicero or Seneca?”

~Bernard Ramm

“A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put.”

~Bernard Ramm

“No other book has been so chopped, knifed, sifted, scrutinized, and vilified. What book on philosophy or religion or psychology or *belles lettres* of classical or modern times has been subject to such a mass attack as the Bible? with such venom and skepticism? with such thoroughness and erudition? upon every chapter, line and tenet?

The Bible is still loved by millions, read by millions, and studied by millions.”

~Bernard Ramm

11. The Bible is unique in the way it presents its heroes; they are described with all of their sins and flaws.

- **Noah's sin of drunkenness is described.**
- **The sins of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are blatantly obvious.**
- **The description of the spirituality of the Jews is rarely flattering.**
- **David's adultery with Bathsheba, conspiracy to murder Uriah her husband, and cover up is made clear.**
- **The Gospels make clear the faults, obtuseness, and failures of the apostles.**
- **The flaws in the early churches are described.**



“The Bible is not such a book as man would write if he could, or could write if he would.”

~L. S. Chafer

What Does the Bible Claim for Itself?

