

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,... 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV)

The Bible tells us to treat the books of our New Testament with the same authority as the books of our Old Testament.

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV)

Application: Don't put yourself as an authority over the Bible. Humbly put yourself under the authority of the Bible.

(the Bibles) writers sometimes provide differing and even contradictory views of God's word, ways and will... We sometimes conclude either that the writer's culture or personal experience (e.g., subordination of women or keeping of slaves) seems to have prompted his missing what God was saying or doing, or that God now is saying or doing something new. — <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/New-or-Returning-to-Church/Dig-Deeper/The-Bible.aspx>

Life Group Questions

1. Have you watched Marvel movies? In what ways are the Marvel movies story lines similar to the Bible's story line?
2. In what ways have Christian denominations and colleges drifted away from a trust in the Bible's authority? Why is accepting only part of the Bible as your authority the beginning of no trust in the Bible as your authority?
3. What is the big-picture of the Bible story? Where can you find it in the Old and the New Testament?
4. Read Matthew 5:17-20. Instead of ignoring our Old Testament, how does Jesus tell us he meshes with it? When we read our Old Testament today, what role should it play in our life?
5. If someone was to ask you how we can know the books in the New Testament should be treated with the same kind of respect and authority as the books of our Old Testament, how would you answer their question after hearing this week's sermon?

Can I Trust My Bible?

May 19, 2019

The prophets and apostles as such, even in their office, even in their function as witnesses, even in the act of writing down their witnesses, were real historical men as we are, and therefore sinful in their action, and capable and actually guilty of error in their spoken and written word. — Karl Barth

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1:10–12 (ESV)

What does the Old Testament say about itself?

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The Old Testament considers itself the flawless words of God.

The Bible is about our salvation.

Who were the prophets?

How could the Old Testament prophets speak about the future with accuracy?

What is Verbal Plenary Inspiration?

The Old Testament is all about Jesus.

Jesus shows up in direct prophecy.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2 (ESV)

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;... Isaiah 35:5–6 (ESV)

Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter. Zechariah 11:12–13 (ESV)

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet...— Psalm 22:16 (ESV)

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Isaiah 53:7–9 (ESV)

Jesus shows up as the Angel of the Lord.

Jesus shows up in figures and events that are types of Christ.

How did Jesus view the Old Testament?

Jesus viewed the Old Testament as the flawless words of God.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until

heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Matthew 5:17–18 (ESV)

"I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." Matthew 22:32 (ESV)

Jesus viewed the Old Testament as all about him.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,... John 5:39 (ESV)

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:25–27 (ESV)

Application: Don't look at the Bible the wrong way

What does the New Testament say about itself?

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1:12 (ESV)

Just as the Holy Spirit insured the prophets wrote the Old Testament accurately, the Holy Spirit insured the apostles wrote the New Testament accurately.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26 (ESV)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,... John 16:13 (ESV)

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 2 Peter 1:16–18 (ESV)