

# RELEVANT

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

## SESSION 3 - THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

### God's Word as Special Revelation

- \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the Bible (its original writings) being completely true in all that it affirms, to the degree of precision intended by the author, in all matters relating to God and his creation (2 Pet. 1:20-21; John 17:17).
- \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the work of the Holy Spirit in revealing truth through the writing of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the work of the Holy Spirit in revealing truth through the understanding of Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

### Article on Biblical Inerrancy

- Sam Storm, What is "Inerrancy & How "Inerrant" is the Bible? March 28, 2018 (<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/how-inerrant-is-the-bible.html>)

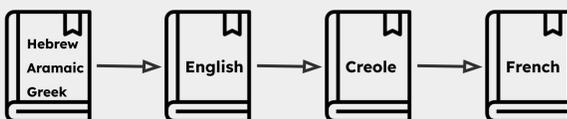
## Bible Translations

**What is Translation?** -A Rendering or Conversion from One Language into Another.

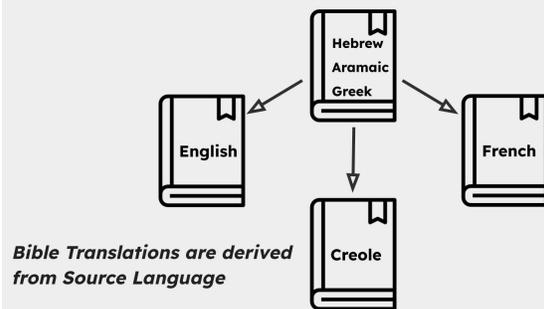
- Three Components:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ — The Source Language
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ — The Receiver Language
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Bible Translation Misconception

*Translation of a translation of a translation*



### Bible Translation Reality





## Old Testament Variants

- OT Textual Criticism
  - Narrow in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia - \_\_\_\_\_ (MT)
- Quality of O.T. Variants
  - Much fewer textual variants than NT.
  - Samaritan Pentateuch contains about 6,000 variants from the MT.
- Reasons for Fewer O.T. Variants
  - Copying manuscripts entrusted to a specific class of Jewish \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Scribes followed strict \_\_\_\_\_.

## New Testament Variants

- Quantity of N.T. Variants
  - \_\_\_\_\_ words in the N.T.
  - Some scholars say up to \_\_\_\_\_ textual variants.
- Common Misconceptions about N.T. Variants
  - The number of manuscripts used to calculate variants is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Variants are often counted multiple times resulting in higher \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Variants are not \_\_\_\_\_ across all of the manuscripts.

## New Testament Variant Categories

- Neither Viable nor meaningful
- Viable but not meaningful
- Meaningful but not viable
- Both meaningful and viable

## Conclusion

- Focus on the vast amount of evidence we have, not \_\_\_\_\_.
- Compared to other ancient works, the Bible has been well \_\_\_\_\_.
- No variants affect any basic \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian Faith.

## Canon

Definition of Canon — \_\_\_\_\_ or standard.

Biblical Canon — The books of the Bible accepted by Christians as the \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Scope of the Old Testament Canon

- The \_\_\_\_\_ — Genesis through Deuteronomy
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ — Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings, and Isaiah through Malachi.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ — Ruth, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and Daniel.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ — Non-Canonical Books, but accepted by Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox (i.e. 1 and 2 Esdras, 1 and 2 Maccabees)
- Old Testament Criteria for Canonicity
    - They do not contain contradictions
    - They were written by the prophets or by persons recognized as having divine authority.
    - They originated through inspiration from God.
    - They were accepted by the Jews as authoritative.

## The New Testament Canon

- Reasons for the N.T. Canon
  - The Demise of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Roman \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Rise of \_\_\_\_\_
- New Testament Criteria for Canonicity
  - \_\_\_\_\_ — written by or associated with an apostle.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ — Dated from the time period of an apostle.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ — Consistent with early church doctrines.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ — Used by churches in all Christian communities.

## Conclusion

- The O.T. Canon
  - 39 Books Considered Authoritative.
  - Evidence outside O.T. Scriptures provides proof.
  - Jesus declares the scope and authority of OT.
- The N.T. Canon
  - Jesus gave the authority (Jn. 17:17).
  - The Apostles believed they had the authority.
  - The church received the books as authoritative.
- Final Thought - “It is the simple truth to say that the New Testament books became canonical because no one could stop them from doing so.” - William Barclay
- Addition Resource - *Why Trust the Bible?* by Greg Gilbert