

***RCC Phoenix – 4.24.22 – The Bible (Week 1)***

*Question:* What is the Bible?

The word Bible means **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

HOLY Bible literally means **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Book.

The Bible is a collection of books, writings and letters from approximately **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, God inspired writers over the span of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** years.

The Bible contains **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** “books” in total. The Old Testament has **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. The New Testament has **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

*Question:* What distinguishes the Bible in comparison to all the other religious writings?

1. The Bible is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2 Timothy 3:16 NLT**

“All Scripture is *inspired* by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

The Bible was written **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** us not **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** us.

These men of God would write in the context of their own **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and with a specific **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in mind.

The Greek word used for “inspired” literally means **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

This may sound mysterious but it is simply identifying that the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of Scripture is God Himself, not a human being.

**2 Peter 1:20-21 NLT**

“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”

God is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

**Deuteronomy 32:3-4 NLT**

“I will proclaim the name of the Lord; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!”

**Psalm 18:30 ESV**

“This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.”

1. The Bible is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

*Definition:*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of making mistakes or being wrong

If we hear anyone say, “God showed me…” or “God told me to tell you…” it **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** contradict Scripture.

**Proverbs 30:5-6 NLT**

“Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection. Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.”

No argument against the Bible is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. Nearly every argument today against the Bible is an old idea re-dressed in modern clothing.

1. The Bible Has Been Verifiably **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Question:*

How do we know the Bible we read today is the real thing?

1. The number of available copies of the literary work

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ancient Literature** | **Number of Available Copies** |
| Plato "The Republic" |  |
| Julius Caesar "Gallic Wars" |  |
| Writings of Aristotle |  |
| Homer "Illiad" |  |
| New Testament |  |

Presently, historians have in their possession more than **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** fragments or complete copies of the New Testament written in the original language of Greek.

They also have approximately **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** additional copies of the New Testament written in other languages up until the invention of the printing press.

1. The time between the original writing and our earliest copy of the literature

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ancient Literature** | **Time Between Original Writing & Earliest Copy (years)** |
| Plato "The Republic" |  |
| Julius Caesar "Gallic Wars" |  |
| Writings of Aristotle |  |
| Homer "Iliad" |  |
| New Testament |  |

There is far less time between the known dates of original writings of the NT and the earliest copy in our possession. This lends extensive credibility to the literary accuracy of the New Testament.