

WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM SYLLABUS

Exploring the Canon, Texts, and Translations of Scripture

Study Length:

6 Weeks (Ideal for 60–90-minute sessions)

Purpose:

To equip believers with a deeper understanding of how we got the Bible, how it was preserved, and why we can trust it. This study explores the history of canon formation, ancient translations, manuscript differences, and the role of divine providence in preserving Scripture.

WEEK 1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE? INSPIRATION, REVELATION, AND AUTHORITY

- **Key Themes:**
Nature of Scripture, inspiration, progressive revelation, authority
 - **Key Scriptures:**
2 Timothy 3:16–17, Hebrews 1:1–2, Luke 24:44, Revelation 22:18–19
 - **Supporting Paper:**
How Did We Get the Bible? (P)
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WEEK 2: HOW WAS THE CANON RECOGNIZED? OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT FORMATION

- **Key Themes:**
Canon recognition, apostolic authority, providence in preservation
 - **Key Scriptures:**
Luke 24:44, Exodus 24:3–4, 2 Peter 3:15–16, Revelation 22:18–19
 - **Supporting Paper:**
The Recognition of the Biblical Canon (A)
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WEEK 3: THE SEPTUAGINT AND THE MASORETIC TEXT – WHY THEY MATTER

- **Key Themes:**
Textual traditions, translation accuracy, New Testament use of the LXX
 - **Key Scriptures:**
Deuteronomy 32:8–9, Psalm 22:16, Hebrews 10:5
 - **Supporting Paper:**
Septuagint and Masoretic Text (A)
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WEEK 4: HOW ANCIENT TRANSLATIONS SHAPED THE BIBLE

- **Key Themes:**
Early translation traditions, interpretive influence, divine use of language
 - **Key Scriptures:**
Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 7:14, Acts 15:16–17, 2 Timothy 3:15
 - **Supporting Paper:**
How Ancient Translations Shaped the Bible (P)
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WEEK 5: THE PROTESTANT BIBLE AND THE APOCRYPHA

- **Key Themes:**
Canon differences, Apocryphal value, 1825 Bible Society decision
 - **Key Scriptures:**
Hebrews 11:35, Luke 11:51, Revelation 22:18–19
 - **Supporting Notes:**
Drawn from *The Recognition of the Biblical Canon* and historical context
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WEEK 6: TRUSTING THE BIBLE – TEXTUAL INTEGRITY AND FAITHFULNESS

- **Key Themes:**
Reliability of Scripture, manuscript transmission, God's providence
- **Key Scriptures:**
Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:89, John 10:35
- **Supporting Paper:**
How Did We Get the Bible? (P), final synthesis from all readings