

CrossTrek

Restart Your Bible Journey

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For
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Introduction

- What are the challenges that get in the way of your Bible reading?

Introduction

- Vision for the Class
 - 1) To answer questions about the Bible's origins and qualities.
 - 2) To offer suggestions on how to read and interpret the Bible.
 - 3) To leave you better enabled and more excited about reading your Bible.

Introduction

- Overview of the Class Sessions
 - 1) What is the Bible?
 - 2) How is the Bible Organized?
 - 3) How is God Speaking?
 - 4) What am I Missing Here?
 - 5) How can I Interpret the Bible?
 - 6) What Resources Are Most Helpful?

Introduction

- Tools
 - Bible
 - PowerPoint slides (emailed)
 - Handouts (emailed)
 - *Understanding Your Bible* (available at the SOTH church office)
 - Your questions and concerns

Question/Comment
Break



What is the Bible?



Definition

- The Bible is a book that contains the thoughts of God.

Misperceptions Corrected

- The Bible does not set out to prove that God exists, but assumes he does.
- The Bible does not present God as an abstract thought but a personal being capable of thought and communication.
- The Bible is not merely a history of how people thought about God but a book of how God thinks.

General Content

- The Bible tells us who God is.
- The Bible tells us how God thinks about us.
- The Bible tells us how God wants us to think about the natural world, ourselves, and others.

Primary Purpose of the Bible

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

(John 20:30-31 NIV)

Delivery by Divine Inspiration



Divine Inspiration--θεόπνευστος

“All Scripture is **God-breathed**”

(2 Tim 3:16 NIV)

“All Scripture is **breathed out by God.**”

(2 Tim 3:16 ESV)

“Every Scripture passage is **inspired by God.**”

(2 Tim 3:16 GW)

God's
Thoughts

Biblical Writers

Written
Word of God

A Divine and Human Side

“For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, **though human,** **spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

(2 Peter 1:21 NIV)

Divine Inspiration

- The human side of the Bible
- The divine side of the Bible

Question/Comment Break





The Bible's Human Side—Fast Facts

- About 40 authors/poets who come from a variety of backgrounds including politics, animal husbandry, medicine, fishing, and tax collecting
- Written between the 15th century BC through the 1st century AD

Time Block

1446 BC	Moses, Exodus and Mount Sinai
1011 BC	David, King of Israel
931 BC	Division of the Kingdom
400 BC	End of Old Testament reporting
7 BC	Birth of Jesus
32 AD	Paul's conversion
95 AD	John writes Revelation

The Bible's Human Side—Fast Facts

- Written from a variety of places including Israel, Asia Minor, Africa, and Europe
- Written in known languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek



וְהָיָה אַחֲרַיְכֶם מִשָּׁח עֲבָדַי
וְהָיָה וְיֹאמְרוּ הַיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ שֶׁ
בָּנוּ מִשָּׁח לְאֶמְרֵי:

... μένει και ἡ ἀγάπη ἐστίν, καὶ
ἡμῖν.
Ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη καὶ ὁ θεὸς ἐν
... μένει καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη μεθ'
... κρίσεως

The Bible's Human Side—Impact

- The authors and poets present the same idea in more than one way (influenced by time, audience, region, or genre).
- Bible books sound real and relevant because they flow from the lives of ordinary people who experience life as we do.



Question/Comment Break



Divine Inspiration

- The human side of the Bible
- The divine side of the Bible

The Divine Side

“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.”

(1 Corinthians 2:13 NIV)

The Bible's Divine Side—Fast Facts

- The Holy Spirit prevented misremembering, misunderstanding, and the introduction of error.
- The Bible is true in all that it asserts as truth.

TRUTH

The Bible's Divine Side—Fast Facts

- The Bible does not contradict itself.

**Difference is not necessarily
contradiction.**



The Bible's Divine Side—Fast Facts

- The Bible does not contradict itself.
 - Contradiction occurs only when the same thing is said to be and not to be...at the same time, for the same person, in the same place, in the same way.

The Bible's Divine Side—Impact

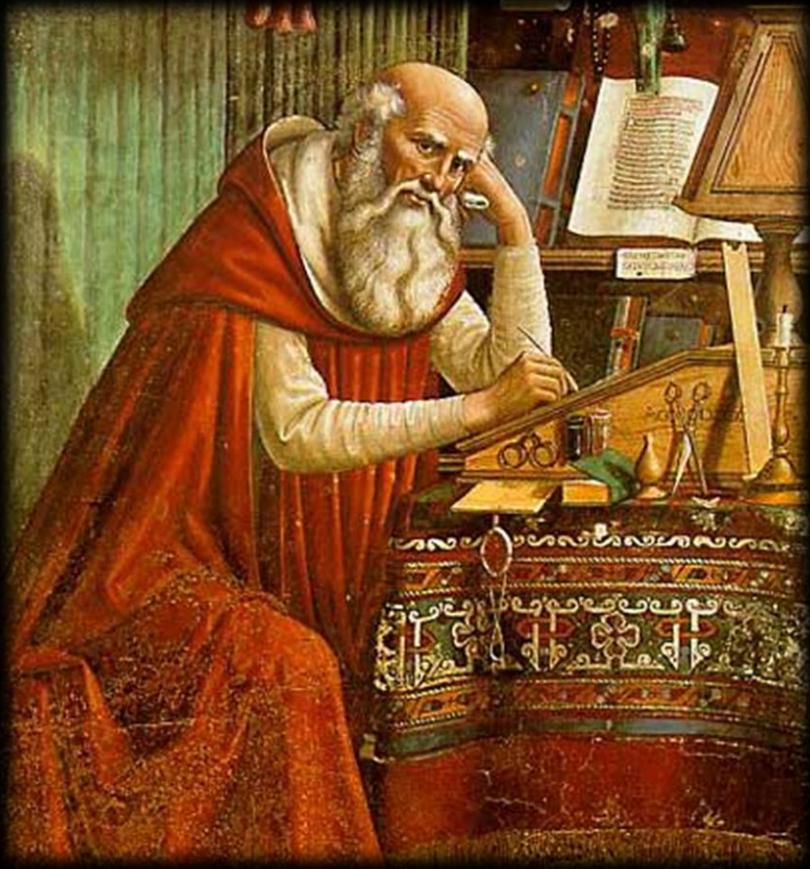
- The Bible is the most reliable source for life-changing questions.

Big Questions of Life

- Who is God?
- How does God think about us?
- How does God want us to think about the natural world, ourselves, and others?

The Bible's Divine Side—Impact

- The Bible is the most unique book in the world, worthy of our attention, time, and trust.



“The Scriptures are shallow enough for a babe to come and drink without fear of drowning and deep enough for a theologians to swim in without ever touching the bottom.”

St. Jerome

God's
Thoughts

Biblical Writers

Written
Word of God

Question/Comment Break



What is the Bible?

