

Baptist Beliefs: Scripture

Scripture – Written by divinely inspired men and is God’s revelation of Himself to man.

66 Books – 39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament

Old Testament – 5-12-5-5-12

5 – Law (Pentateuch)

12 – History

5 – Poetry

5 – Major Prophets

12 – Minor Prophets

New Testament – 4-1-21-1

4 – Gospels

1 – Acts (of the Apostles)

21 – Epistles (Letters)

1 – Prophecy

Apocrypha – Mostly written during the 435 years of “silence”. Not divinely inspired, so not accepted as Scripture. Still accepted as canonical by the Roman Catholic and the Coptic, Greek, and Russian Orthodox churches.

Jesus and New Testament authors quote various parts of the Old Testament scriptures as divinely authoritative over 295 times, but not once do they cite any statement from the books of the Apocrypha or other writings as having divine authority. Grudem, Wayne, Systematic Theology, pg. 57

The Word of God - The Bible is the very Word of God, not merely a book containing the Word of God.

Genesis 2:16-17, Genesis 3:16-19, Exodus 20:1-3

God speaks through the Word, the same way He SPOKE the Word to the authors.

The Word convicts and converts, and keeps us from sin.

We walk by it, live by it, and one day will die by it. *Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 1 Peter 1:24-25*

- A Christian’s assurance of Heaven is only through the Word of God.

It is the foundation of life, without it our souls wither and die. *1 Corinthians 14:37*

- God repeatedly told Moses to obey the Word for your good, because disobedience leads to death and disaster. *Jeremiah 36:29-31*
- The Word is fully able to accomplish God’s intent. *Isaiah 55:11, Hebrews 4:12*

“The absence of neglect of God’s Word is a scandal in any generation, but we can see the devastating loss that comes to churches, denominations, families, and individual lives when God’s word is ignored, distorted, or disobeyed. The absence of God’s Word lead to death.” Kelley, Charles S. Jr., Land, Richard, Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. The Baptist Faith & Message, p. 20

Inspired by God

Bible - God's (the Author of all Scripture) revelation of Himself to humanity.

Written by divinely inspired men.

- 1) NOT just from Godly people's wisdom. *Deuteronomy 18:18-20, Jeremiah 1:9*
- 2) NO parts more "Godly" than others.

Dynamic Theory – Theory that God gave the human authors basic ideas and they developed their own text.

Dictation Theory – Humans were passive instruments of the Holy Spirit's inspiration – they only wrote divine dictation.

Verbal Plenary Theory – Bible's inspiration is verbal, extending to the words themselves, and plenary or FULL. Every Word Is Fully Inspired! *2 Peter 1:21*

Revealed by God

General Revelation – God making known His nature and purpose through nature and history.

Special Revelation – God making known His nature and purpose through the written Word and His Son Jesus Christ.

Both declare God's greatness and glory. *Romans 1:20*

Moral Revelation – God revealed through the sense of: conscience, knowledge of good and evil, knowledge of right and wrong.

Purpose of Scripture

Primary Purpose – to tell people how to be saved.

- Points us to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word
- The focus of every verse of scripture is Christ, the ULTIMATE revelation of God.
 - o Written Word
 - o Incarnate Word

No Contradiction
No Competition

Old Testament = Old Covenant, New Testament = New Covenant

- Just as God is perfect, so is His Word. *Psalm 19:7*

The Bible Is

Authoritative – God is the author, every word bears God's authority. *Genesis 1, Psalm 33:6*

Infallible – God never fails and neither does His Word. *2 Timothy 3:16*

Inerrant – All truth. *Deuteronomy 31:12-13, John 17:17*

Sufficient – No need to add to or take away from. *Deuteronomy 4:2, Romans 15:4, Psalm 1:1-2, Hebrews 1:1-2, Revelation 22:18-19*

Eternal – Cannot be superseded by another word or revelation. Was completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, and it's truth endures forever. *2 Peter 1:24-25*