

THE INSPIRATION, RELIABILITY, AND FINALITY OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES Text: Rev. 1:1, 11

INTRO: In this lesson we will show the following claims that the New Testament Scriptures make for themselves. (1) Its entire message was revealed by God, (2) It has not, will not, and cannot pass away, (3) It is God's final & complete revelation to man.

I. THE INSPIRATION OF THE APOSTLES.

John 14:26, But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13, However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Acts 22:14-15, [Ananias] said [to Saul], 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

Acts 26:16, But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

Gal 1:11-12, But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

II. THE PROMISE OF PERMANENCE.

Matt 24:35, Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

John 12:48, He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Rev 14:6, Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--

III. THE EVIDENCE THAT THE PROMISE WAS KEPT.

A. Basically, the NT had free reign for 300 years. NT writings were copied & circulated from Christian to Christian & from church to church.

1. Several copies of some of them were most likely made at the outset. Rev. 1:11; Gal. 1:2

2. 1 Peter was addressed “to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (1:1)

3. His readers were already familiar with Paul’s writings.

2 Peter 3:14-16, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot & blameless; & account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, 2 Peter 3:14-16

be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

B. After all these centuries have passed, literally thousands of Greek ms have been discovered extending from the 2nd to the 13 century.

1. There are 250 mss from the 2nd to the 7th century. They are not all complete, but together they contain the complete NT text.
2. The Vatican ms goes back to about 325 A.D.
3. The Sianatic ms dates back to 340 & is complete. When it was discovered in 1858 it proved that the NT text had not changed in all those centuries. The text back in 340 was the same as already being used in the 19th cent. No precious truths had dropped out, no errors had crept in.
4. Several other early mss exist: Ephraen (345); Alexandrian (425)

C. The NT text was also translated into several other languages in ancient times.

1. In the 300's -- Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopian, Gothic
2. In the 400's -- Georgian, Sogdian, Arabic.

IV. THE COMPLETENESS & FINALITY THE NEW TESTAMENT CLAIMS FOR ITSELF.

2 Peter 1:3, His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

Acts 20:20, I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.

Acts 20:26-27, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Gal 1:8, But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

And on the Bible's last page:

Rev 22:18-19, For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; & if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 27, 2000

Westview, Athens, AL, April 1, 2001

Fairfield, Pa, April 29, 2001

Jonestown, TX, June 1, 2004 (meeting)