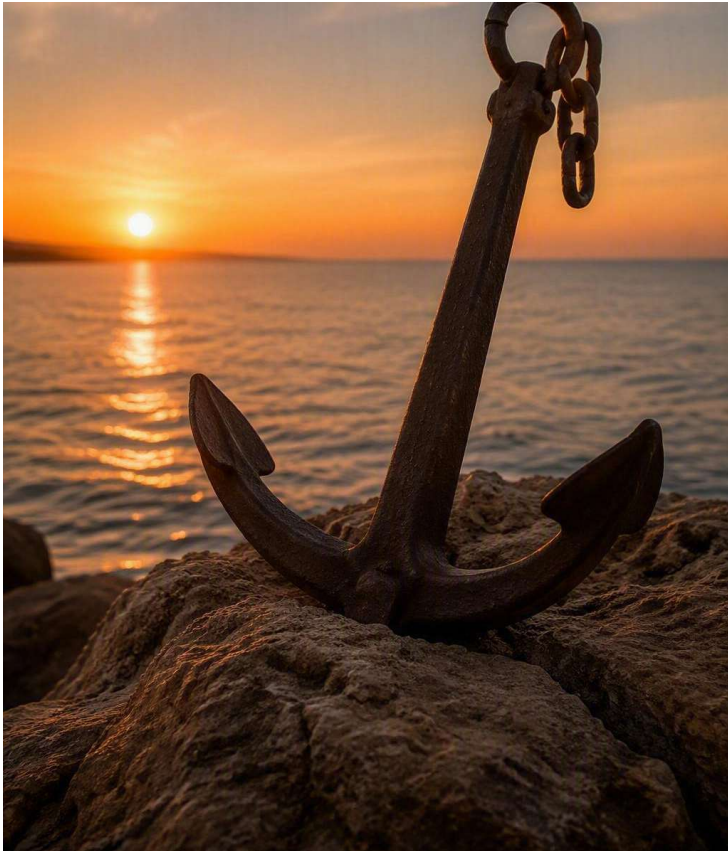


WEEK TWO: THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

WHY WE CAN TRUST IT



A BIT OF HOUSE CLEANING



THIRDLY, IT MEANS SCRIPTURE IS TRUSTWORTHY.

If God is the ultimate author, then the Bible is without error in all that it affirms. It is true historically, scientifically, doctrinally, and morally. We need not be embarrassed by its claims. We need not apologize for its doctrines. We need not trim its edges to fit the preferences of a fallen culture.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER FOR THE CHURCH?

If the Bible is merely a human book, then it is subject to human revision. It can be edited, updated, and corrected by the latest scholarship or the prevailing cultural mood. But if the Bible is theopneustos, if it is the very breath of God, then it stands above every human opinion, every cultural trend, and every philosophical system.

It is the fixed point in a turning world. It is the anchor of the soul.

NO ANCIENT BOOK COMES CLOSE

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE COMPARED

Author of Work	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	100–44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	10
Livy (History of Rome)	59 B.C.–17 A.D.	N/A	N/A	20
Plato (Tetralogies)	400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	7
Pliny the Younger (History)	61–113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs.	7
Thucydides (History)	460–400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Herodotus (History)	480–425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Sophocius (History)	469–406 B.C.	100 A.D.	600 yrs.	193
Aristotle	384–322 B.C.	1,100 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	193
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 A.D.	1, 500 yrs.	643
New Testament	50–90 A.D.	125 A.D.	25 yrs.	>25,000

FOUR STOPS AT THE CROSSROADS OF SCRIPTURE



STOP AT THE WORD BEFORE YOU TURN, TRUST IT, OBEY IT, BUILD ON IT

WHY WE CAN TRUST IT

UNITY OF SCRIPTURE

PSALM 19:7-11

IT TRANSFORMS

Perfect, sure, right, and pure - it converts the soul and makes the simple wise. Sweeter than honey, and in keeping it there is great reward.

ISAIAH 40:8

IT ENDURES

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God shall stand for ever. Cultures change; the text outlasts them.

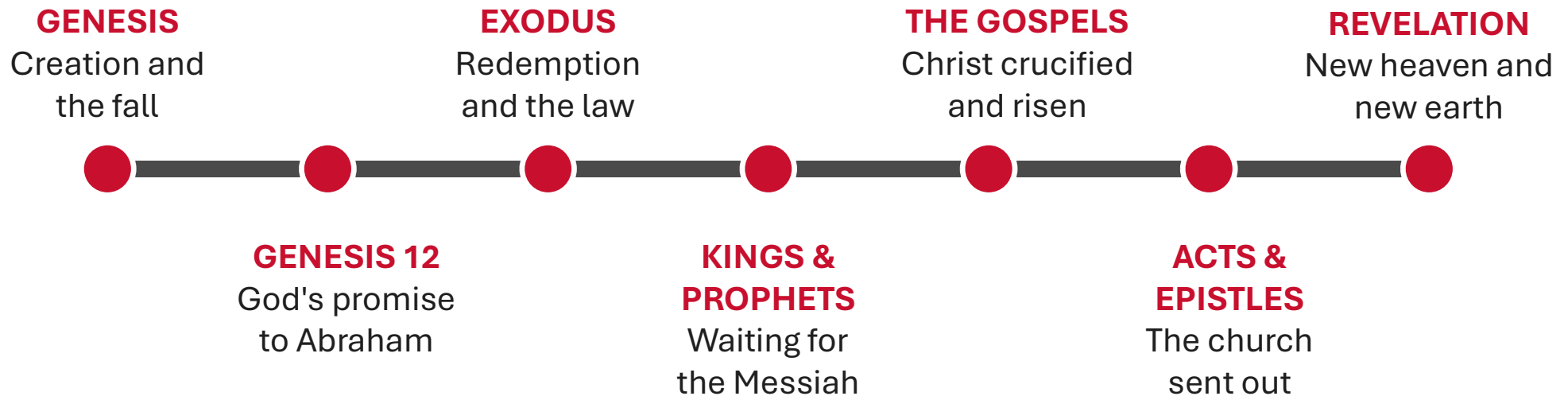
HEBREWS 4:12

IT PENETRATES

Living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword - it reads us, discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.

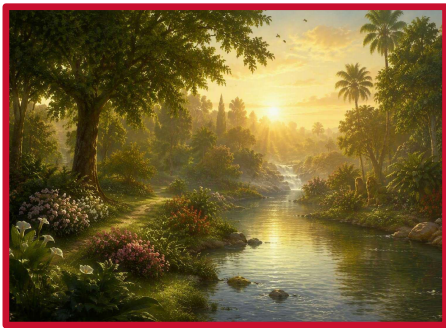
ONE BOOK THAT CHANGES US, OUTLASTS US, AND SEES RIGHT THROUGH US

FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION: ONE STORY



Sixty-six books, many writers, one unfolding story of redemption.

RED THREAD OF REDEMPTION



EDEN

Genesis 3:15 - the
promised seed



THE PASSOVER

Exodus 12 - the
lamb's blood



ISAIAH 53

The suffering
servant foretold



THE CROSS

John 19 - the
promise fulfilled

One scarlet thread runs from the garden to the cross.

FULFILLED PROPHECY

PROPHECY	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLED
✓ Preceded by a messenger	Malachi 3:1	Mark 1:2-4
✓ Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
✓ Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Luke 1:26-31
✓ From the line of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:31-32
✓ Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 26:14-15
✓ Silent before his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-14
✓ Wounded for our transgressions	Isaiah 53:5	1 Peter 2:24
✓ Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 19:18
✓ Lots cast for his garments	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24
✓ Raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31-32

WRITTEN 700 YEARS BEFORE HE WAS BORN

Two prophets, seven centuries early, and not a detail out of place

MICAH

Prophesied c. 700 B.C. More than 700 years before the birth of Christ

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

Fulfilled: Matthew 2:1: “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king...”

ISAIAH

Isaiah 53 was written c. 700 B.C. Over 700 years before Jesus was born

“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed... he was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth.”

Isaiah 53:5, 7 (KJV)

Fulfilled; 1 Peter 2:24 and Matthew 27:12-14: He bore our sins in his own body and answered nothing.

SEVEN CENTURIES EARLY, DOWN TO THE TOWN AND THE WOUNDS — THIS IS NOT COINCIDENCE, IT IS AUTHORSHIP.

WHERE PROPHECY MEETS THE MAP



1 BETHLEHEM

Micah 5:2 → Matthew 2:1 · Born in the city of David

2 NAZARETH

Isaiah 11:1 → Matthew 2:23 · He shall be called a Nazarene

3 EGYPT

Hosea 11:1 → Matthew 2:14-15 · Out of Egypt I called my son

4 GALILEE

Isaiah 9:1-2 → Matthew 4:13-16 · A great light on the Gentile road

5 JERUSALEM

Zechariah 9:9 → Matthew 21:9 · The King enters riding a colt

6 GOLGOTHA

Psalms 22:16 → John 19:17-18 · Pierced outside the city gate

HISTORICAL RELIABILITY

Spades in the ground keep confirming what the Word already said



THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Qumran, 1947

Isaiah copied a thousand years earlier than any manuscript we had, and it matched.



THE POOL OF SILOAM

Jerusalem, 2004

The steps where Jesus sent a blind man to wash, uncovered exactly as John described.



THE TEL DAN STELE

Northern Israel, 1993

A ninth-century inscription naming the “house of David” outside the Bible.



THE PILATE STONE

Caesarea Maritima, 1961

A dedication carved with Pontius Pilate's name and office, just as the Gospels report.

**THE MORE THEY DIG, THE MORE THE BOOK STANDS
— FAITH IS NOT A LEAP AWAY FROM EVIDENCE.**

HISTORICAL CONFIRMATION

Inscriptions, tablets, and stone carved by people who were there



THE MERNEPTAH STELE

Egypt — c. 1207 B.C.

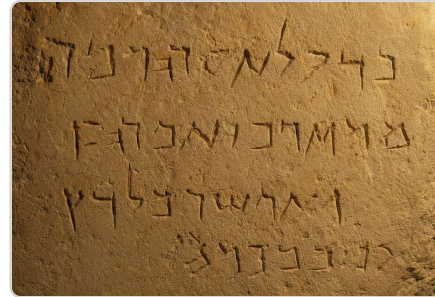
A pharaoh's victory monument carries the earliest known mention of Israel by name, outside the Bible.



THE CYRUS CYLINDER

Babylon — 539 B.C.

Cyrus' own decree sending captive peoples home to rebuild their temples, the policy Ezra 1 records.



THE SILOAM INSCRIPTION

Jerusalem — c. 700 B.C.

Carved by the tunnel diggers themselves where they met, describing the waterworks of 2 Kings 20:20.



THE MESHA STELE

Moab — c. 840 B.C.

A hostile king's account of his war with Omri's house of Israel, the conflict of 2 Kings 3.

**KINGS, ENEMIES, AND ENGINEERS WROTE IT IN STONE
— AND THE BIBLE'S RECORD KEEPS MATCHING THEIRS.**

TAKE IT HOME

Talk it through together, then live it out this week

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If Scripture is God-breathed, what changes about how you read it this week?
2. Where have you let feelings or circumstances steer you like that gentle south wind in Acts 27?
3. Which stop sign hit you hardest — trustworthy, sufficient, preserved, or fulfilled?
4. Prophecy named the town and the wounds centuries early. What does that tell you about God's promises to you?
5. Is there something you already know the Word says that you have not yet obeyed?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Read one chapter a day, five days this week — Psalm 119:1-40 or the Gospel of John 1-5.

Write down one verse that stops you, and one thing you will do because of it.

Share that verse with one person before we meet again.

“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.” James 1:22

NEXT WEEK: HOW JESUS VIEWED SCRIPTURE