

Week 1 – The Bible: Our Final Authority

Big Question: Why can you trust the Bible?

1. The Bible's Claim About Itself

- **Key thought:** Before we test the Bible, we must know what it says about itself.
- **2 Timothy 3:16–17** – All Scripture is **God-breathed**.

Profitable for:

- **Doctrine** – teaching what is right
- **Reproof** – showing what is wrong
- **Correction** – setting things right
- **Instruction in righteousness** – keeping things right
- **2 Peter 1:20–21** – Holy men wrote as they were **moved by the Holy Ghost**.
 - No part of Scripture originated from man — every word carries God's authority.

2. A Reliable Historical Record

- **Key thought:** The Bible stands apart from every other ancient text.
- Written by **eyewitnesses** who saw, heard, and touched Jesus. (2 Peter 1:16, 1 John 1:1-3)
- **1 Corinthians 15:6** – Over **500 witnesses** saw the risen Christ at one time.
- Supported by **6,000+ Greek manuscripts** — far more than any other ancient work.

3. God's Fingerprints – Prophecy

- **Key thought:** Prophecy and miracles reveal divine authorship.
- **Psalms 22:16-18** – Crucifixion described 1,000 years before Jesus.
- **Isaiah 53:5-6** – Wounds, stripes, and substitution foretold 700 years before Jesus.
- **Micah 5:2** – Birthplace of Messiah predicted: **Bethlehem**.
- Fulfilled in detail — evidence only God could produce.

4. God's Preservation and the KJV

- **Key thought:** God not only inspired His Word — He preserved it.
- **Psalms 12:6–7** – God promised to **preserve His words** forever.
- **Old Testament** – Preserved in **Masoretic Hebrew text** (with some Chaldee/Aramaic).
- **New Testament** – Preserved in **Textus Receptus** ("Received Text") — the most faithfully preserved Greek text.
- **The Path to the KJV:**
 - **Wycliffe (1300s)** – First complete English Bible from Latin.
 - **Tyndale (1500s)** – From Hebrew & Greek; martyred for giving Scripture to the common man.

- **Geneva Bible (1560)** – Built on Tyndale’s work, loved by Reformers, carried to America by the Pilgrims.
- **King James Bible (1611)** – 47 scholars in 6 teams, comparing the best manuscripts in Hebrew, Greek, and ancient languages.
- Result: unmatched doctrinal **precision and beauty** for over 400 years.
- **Why We Stand on the KJV:**
- Translated from the same manuscript line faithfully preserved and trusted by God’s people since the beginning.
- Produced by the most skilled translation team in history.
- Its language is both beautiful and doctrinally precise, carefully preserving key theological words and phrases that some modern versions weaken or remove.
- Unity around one trusted Bible ensures **consistency** in preaching, teaching, memorizing, and discipleship.
- **1 Corinthians 1:10**, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Say This with Confidence

- If someone asks, **“Why do you believe the Bible?”**:
- “Because it is the **inspired, preserved Word** of the living God — confirmed by eyewitness testimony, proven by prophecy, and kept pure by His own hand.”