



*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for  
teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training  
in righteousness...*  
2Timothy 3.16

# Damascus Road Church

## Gospel Class 2

The Bible

*"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar." - Proverbs 30:5-6*

## **What are the Scriptures?**

The New Testament (NT) speaks of the Old Testament (OT) as Scripture, the Greek word for which is *graphe*, meaning writing. The word Bible comes from the Greek word for *book*. The Holy Bible means the "Holy Book". It is not in fact, one book, but a collection of books. It contains 66 separate books (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament), written in three languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic), over a period of more than a thousand years, by over 40 authors (of varying ages and backgrounds), on three continents (Asia, Africa and Europe).

Authors include kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc. Books include history, sermons, letters, a hymnbook, and a love song. There are geographical surveys, architects' specifications travel diaries, population statistics, family trees, inventories, and numerous legal documents. It covers hundreds of controversial subjects with amazing unity. It is the best selling book of all time, and now available in nearly 3000 languages.

The OT was written on papyrus--a form of paper made out of reeds; the NT was written on parchments (prepared animal skins). Because both forms of documents easily degraded under the hot and dry conditions, it was difficult to obtain these ancient manuscripts.

A lecturer at the University of Paris created the Bible's chapter divisions in the early 1200's. Its current verse divisions were not fully developed until 1551.

## **What does Scripture say about itself?**

**Deuteronomy 4:2** *Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*

**Deuteronomy 12:32** *See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.*

**Psalms 19:7** *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

**Psalms 119:25,28,41,76,169** *I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.... My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.... May your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; ....May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.... May my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word.*

**Psalms 119:160** *All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.*

**Psalms 119:172** *May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.*

**Proverbs 30:5** *Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

**Isaiah 55:11** *...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

**Luke 8:21** *He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."*

**Luke 16:29,31** *"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from*

the dead."

**John 17:17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

**Acts 1:16** [Peter] said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus—

**Romans 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

**Ephesians 5:26** ...to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** And we thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

**Hebrews 3:7** So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice..."

**James 1:18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

**1 Peter 1:23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

**2 Peter 1:19** And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

**2 Peter 1:21** For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

### **Some Poetic Images of Scripture**

**Psalms 119:103** How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

**Jeremiah 15:16** When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.

**Jeremiah 23:29** "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

**Ephesians 6:17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**James 1:21** Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

**1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

## **How is biblical prophecy unique?**

Neither Islam, nor any other world religion or cult can present any authenticated prophecies concerning the coming of their prophets. However, in the Bible we see hundreds of fulfilled prophecies extending

hundreds, and sometimes over a thousand years into the future. Consider the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Jesus Christ:

- Born of a woman (Gen. 3:15 cf. Mt. 1:20; Gal. 4:4)
- Descendant of Isaac, not Ishmael (Gen. 21:12 cf. Mt. 1:2)
- Descendant of Abraham (Gen. 22:18 cf. Mt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16)
- Descendant of Jacob, not Esau (Num. 24:17 cf. Lk. 3:23-24)
- From the tribe of Judah (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Gen. 49:10 cf. Lk. 23-24)
- Resurrected & exalted (Ps. 16:10, Isa. 52:13, 53:10-12 cf. Acts 2:25-32)
- Forsaken by God (Ps. 22:1 cf. Mt. 27:46)
- Crucified (Ps. 22:16 cf. Lk. 23:33) note: crucifixion didn't exist until hundreds of years after Psalms was written
- Lots cast for His clothing (Ps. 22:18 cf. Jn. 19:23)
- Betrayed by a friend (Ps. 41:9 cf. Mt. 26:50)
- Ascended into heaven (Ps. 68:18 cf. Acts 1:8, Eph. 4:8).
- Born of a virgin (Is. 7:14 cf. Mt. 1:18)
- From the family of Jesse (Is. 11:1 cf. 3:23,32)
- Prophesied by a forerunner (Is. 40; Mal. 3:1 cf. Jn. 1:19-52)
- Rejected by his own people (Is. 53 cf. Jn. 1)
- Buried in a rich man's tomb (Is. 53:9 cf. Mt. 27:57)
- Crucified with thieves (Is. 53:12 cf. Mt. 27:38)
- Presented as a king riding a donkey (Zech. 9:9 cf. Lk. 19:35-37)
- Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12 cf. 26:15)
- Blood money thrown on temple floor & used to buy a potter's field (Zech. 11:13 cf. Mt. 27:5-7)  
Note: the temple was destroyed in 70 AD, indicating the Messiah must have come prior to this date.

## How did Jesus view Scripture?

**Jesus confirmed actual people, historical events, and straightforward facts:** Jesus taught that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the prophets were people who lived as the Scripture states (Luke 13:28). Jesus taught a literal flood (Matthew 24:38-39; Luke 17:27). Jesus taught a literal city of Sodom (Matthew 10:15, 11:23-24; Luke 17:29). Jesus taught a literal creation (Mark 10:6; John 17:24). Jesus taught the literal murder of Cain (Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51). Jesus taught that Lot literally existed (Luke 17:28, 32).

**Jesus treated OT narratives as straightforward facts:** Creation (Lk. 11:51), Abel (Lk. 11:51), Noah (Mt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27), Abraham (Jn. 8:56), Sodom & Gomorrah (Mt. 10:15; 11:23-24; Luke 10:12), Lot (Lk. 17:28-32), Isaac & Jacob (Mt. 8:11; Lk. 13:28), the manna (Jn. 6:31, 49, 58), the wilderness serpent (Jn. 3:14), Moses as lawgiver (Mt. 8:4; 19:8; Mk. 1:44; 7:10, 10:5; 12:26; Lk. 5:14; 20:37; Jn. 5:46; 7:19), the popularity of the false prophets (Lk. 6:26), and Genesis 1 & 2 (Mt. 19:4-5; Mk. 10:6-8). In matters of controversy Jesus used the OT as His court of appeals (Mt. 23:23; Mt. 5:17-20; Mt. 23: 2-3; Mt. 22:29; Mk. 12:24).

**Jesus used Scripture for comfort in times of crisis:** In times of crisis, Jesus quoted Scripture: When tempted by Satan (Mt. 4:1-11) Jesus quotes Dt. 8:3; Dt. 6:16; Dt. 6:13. At the moment of his death (Mt. 27:46, Mk. 15:34) He quotes Ps. 22:1 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and in Lk. 23:46 He quotes Ps. 31:5 "Into thy hands I commit my spirit."

**Jesus identified fulfillment of the OT Law, Prophecies, and Revelation of Christ:** Jesus claimed that all Scriptures, including the Law, the prophets, and the Psalms, were fulfilled in Him (Lk. 24:25-47). Jesus also

taught that the entire purpose of the Old Testament was to reveal Him (John 5:39). Jesus taught that OT prophecy had been fulfilled (Lk. 4:21; Mt. 11:10; cf. Lk. 7:27; Mk. 9:12-13; Lk. 18:31-33; Lk. 21:22; Mt. 26:24; Mk. 14:21; Lk. 22:37; Mt. 26:31; cf. Mk. 14:27; Mt. 26:53-56; cf. Mk. 14:49; Lk. 24:25-27; Lk. 24:44-47; Jn. 5:39-47; Jn. 13:18; cf. Ps. 41:9; Jn. 15:25; cf. Ps. 35:19; Jn. 17:12).

**Jesus authenticated OT authors:** Jesus taught that Scripture was authored by Moses (Mk. 7:10), Isaiah (Mk. 7:6; Mt. 13:14), David (Mk. 12:36), and Daniel (Mt. 24:15).

**Jesus confirmed infallibility and truth of the Scriptures:** Jesus taught that the Scripture could not be broken (Jn. 10:35; Mt. 5:18; Lk. 16:17). And, Jesus promised that the New Testament would come (Jn. 14:25-26, Jn. 16:23).

## How did the Apostles view Scripture?

### God's Word

Paul used Scripture and God's spoken word interchangeably (Gen. 12:3 cf. Gal. 3:8; Ex. 9:6 cf. Rom. 9:17). The NT teaches what the Bible says is akin to what God says (Gen. 2:24 cf. Mt. 19:4-5; Ps. 95:7 cf. Heb. 3:7; Ps. 2:1 cf. Acts 4:24-15; Isa. 55:3 cf. Acts 13:34; Ps. 16:10 cf. Acts 13:35; Ps. 2:7 cf. Heb. 1:5; Ps. 97:7 cf. Heb. 1:6; Ps. 104:4 cf. Heb. 1:7). Peter and Paul claimed that Scripture has dual authorship of men and God (I Pet. 1:10-12; 1 Cor. 2:12-13).

### Sacred Scripture

The NT writers claimed that the OT was sacred Scripture (Mt. 21:42; 22:29; 26:54, 56; Lk. 24; Jn. 5:39; 10:35; Acts 17:2,11; 18:28; Rom. 1:2; 4:3; 9:17; 10:11; 11:2; 15:4; 16:26; I Co. 15:3-4; Gal. 3:8; 3:22; 4:30; I Ti. 5:18; II Ti. 3:16; II Pt. 1:20-21; 3:16). Furthermore, the NT authors quote the OT as sacred on roughly 300 occasions.

## Does Scripture have any errors or contradictions?

God cannot speak falsely (2 Samuel 7:28; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18) and so all of Scripture is true and without any error or contradiction (Num. 23:19; Ps. 12:6; 119:89, 96; Prov. 30:5). But, the Bible also teaches the following:

- God's thoughts are much higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9)
- God has secrets that He has not revealed to anyone (Deut. 29:29)
- We sometimes see dimly (I Cor. 13:12)
- We tend to suppress the clear truth of God's word because of our unrepentant sin (Romans 1:18-19).

Therefore, if it appears that there is a contradiction in Scripture, we must humbly assume that we— not God's word—are somehow in error, God leaves provision for seeming "contradictions" by telling us that some things in His Scriptures are very hard to understand (2 Peter 3:15-16). This does not mean that we cannot know the truth; it does mean that we only know it in part (I Corinthians 13:9) and must live by faith and trust God.

Several helpful resources to deal with difficult passages in the Bible include:

- Hard Sayings of the Bible (IVP) by Kaiser, Davids, Bruce, Brauch
- Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties by Gleason Archer

## How were the 66 books chosen?

Canon is a word meaning “a measuring rod.” The canon is a standard that all scriptural books must meet. The books of the Bible were authoritative and shared particular traits which distinguished them from other mere books. The criteria by which a book was accepted as inspired resulted from the commonalities among those sacred books the Holy Spirit had inspired and chosen for the canon of sacred scripture. The five criteria are:

1. Was it written by a prophet of God (Dt. 18:18-22; I Pt. 1:20-21)?
2. Was the prophet confirmed by an act of God (Heb. 2:3-4)?
3. Does it tell the truth about God (Gal. 1:8; Dt. 13:1-5; Dt. 18:22)?
4. Does it have the power of God (Heb. 4:12)?
5. Was it accepted by the people of God (I Thess. 2:13; Dt. 31:24-26; Josh. 24:26; I Sam. 10:25; Dan. 9:2; 2 Pt. 3:16; I Tim. 5:18; Col. 4:16; I Thess. 5:27).

### There is NO DISPUTE on OT Books

First, there is little if any dispute on **the books of the Old Testament** since those books were quickly accepted as inspired of God. The phrase “thus says the Lord” is repeated hundreds of times throughout the OT by God’s messengers who spoke on His behalf. The OT is clear that God spoke through His prophets (I Kings 14:18; 16:12, 34; 2 Kings 9:36; 14:25; Jer. 37:2); Zech 7:7, 12) and so what the prophet says in God’s name is what God says (I Kings 13:21, 26; 21:19; 2 Kings 9:25-26; Hag. 1:12 cf. I Sam. 15:3, 18).

Therefore, to reject what a prophet had said was to reject what God had commanded (Deut. 18:19; I Sam. 10:8, 13:13-14; 15:3, 19, 23; I Kings 20:35, 36). When an OT prophet spoke it was clear that God had spoken. For example, the tablets of the Law were preserved in the Ark (Ex. 25:16-21; 40:20; Deut. 10:5; I Kings 8:9), the Five Books of Moses (Pentateuch) were placed alongside them as soon as Moses wrote them (Deut. 31:24-26), and the writings of the prophets were also added (I Sam. 10:25; Josh. 24:25-26; Isaiah 8:20; 29:18; 34:16).

The OT books also refer to one another as sacred Scripture (Joshua 1:8 quotes the Pentateuch; Daniel 9:2 quotes Jeremiah; and Ezekiel 14:14 speaks of Noah, Daniel, and Job).

### What about Apocryphal Books?

The Hebrew canon was closed and settled with the final book of the OT, Malachi, around 400 B.C. Malachi concluded with the promise that the next event in redemptive history would be the coming of John the Baptist who will prepare the way for Jesus (Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6 cf. Matthew 3:1-17, 17:9-13).

During this 400 years of silence between the end of the OT and the coming of Jesus (Intertestamental period), many of the apocryphal works were written and include such things as books of history, fiction, and practical living, and end times speculation. While these books were read by some of God’s people, they were treated like Christian books in our own day and never accepted as Scripture.

While the OT is quoted roughly 300 times in the NT, none of the apocryphal (hidden books) or *pseudepigraphal* (pen name authored books) is ever quoted in the NT or recognized as Scripture by Christians until the Catholic Council of Trent in 1546. Under pressure from Protestant reformers, the Catholic Church voted to include some apocryphal books to justify their baseless doctrines such as purgatory. These books do not claim to be inspired, contradict each other, and have some clearly aberrant doctrine which are at odds with the rest of God’s Word. Jesus summarized the Bible as existing in three parts, the Law, Prophets, and Psalms (Luke 24:4) and accepted the OT canon as it exists today without any modifications and came to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17). Jesus also spoke of the OT as existing from Abel (Genesis) to Zechariah (Malachi) in Luke 11:51 and Matthew 23:25).

## **Words of Jesus Christ**

Second, **the gospels** were accepted as sacred scripture because they contained the words of Jesus that God's people treasured (Matt 7:28-29; Luke 2:19, 51; John 6:63).

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to inspire the writing of the gospels and epistles (John 14:25-26, 16:13). Jesus also promised that His people would recognize His teaching (John 10:27). This is possible because the same Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of Scripture also teaches their meaning to God's people in whom He dwells (I Corinthians 2:13-14). For example, in I Timothy 5:28 Paul quotes Jesus' words in Luke 10:7 and calls them "Scripture."

## **Eyewitness accounts**

Third, all—but a few—NT writers claim to be eyewitnesses (2 Pt. 1:16; I Jn. 1:1-3; Luke 1:1-3; Acts 1:1-3; I Cor. 15:6-8; John 20:30-31; Acts 10:39-42; I Pt. 5:1; Acts 1:9). Some authors who were not eyewitnesses received first-hand information from other reliable witnesses. Luke received his information from Paul (2 Tim. 4:11) and numerous eyewitnesses (Lk. 1:1-4), Mark received his information from Peter (I Pt. 5:13), and James and Jude were closely associated with the apostles in Jerusalem and were probably Jesus' brothers. Paul claimed Jesus Christ was speaking through him (I Cor. 14:37, 2 Cor. 13:3). Paul quotes Luke as Scripture (I Tim. 5:18 cf. Dt. 25:4, Lk. 10:7).

NT writers claim that their writings are holy (2 Tim. 3:15). The NT writers said that their writings were the very words of God (1 Thess. 2:13, I Cor. 14:37, 2 Peter 3:2). Peter called Paul's writings Scripture (2 Pt. 3:15-16). Paul declared that the letters he wrote were to be read in the churches and obeyed (Col. 4:16; 2 Thess. 3:14). The early church treated the apostles teaching as authoritative (Eph. 2:20; Acts 2:42; Acts 15; Eph. 2:20; I John 4:6). Almost all books of the NT canon were accepted by the second century, and were finalized after some questions were raised and resolved around the fourth century. There were never any widespread debates on any of the books until the Catholic Council of Trent in 1546.

## **Can Scripture be written today?**

Hebrews 1:1-2 tells us that God has spoken to us through Jesus and that we have no need of any more revelation beyond what was recorded of His life and work and the subsequent apostolic explanation. The Book of Revelation deals with the end of all things and tells us to expect no more Scripture than what we already have (Revelation 22:18-19). Any new book of the Bible would require eyewitness verification, a new working of God after 2000 years of silence, absolute consistency with the rest of Scripture, and perfect prophecy without any error. We would also have to assume that God had some pertinent revelation that He has withheld from His people for the past 2000 years that He has for some reason now decided to make known.

## **How did we get our English Bible?**

**Revelation/ Inspiration** – God gives His thoughts to His men and inspires them to write down His Words through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Transmission** - the original document (autographa) is then carefully copied by scribes so that it can be circulated among God's people. Though only the original autographa are guaranteed to be without error, it is obvious that the copies they used are also treated as authoritative and accurate (Dt. 17:18 cf. I Ki. 2:3; Ezra 7:14; Neh. 8:8). Also, Jesus taught from the existing scrolls and treated them as Scripture (Lk. 4:16-21; Mt. 12:3-5; Mt. 21:16, 42; Lk. 10:26).

The Apostles taught from existing scrolls (Acts 17:2; 18:8). The early church tested all teachings by the existing scrolls (Acts 17:11).

**Translation** - the original is copied or translated into other languages. While God never promises that we will have a perfect translation, we can confidently be assured that our modern English translations (i.e. NIV, NASB, and NKJV) are trustworthy and accurate. This is because an enormous number of ancient manuscripts have been meticulously translated by large teams of scholars from numerous theological traditions, nations, and cultures from. Translations vary from “word for word” (i.e. NASB, ESV) to “thought for thought” paraphrases (i.e. Living, The Message) to a combination of the two (i.e. NIV). Because of the varying translating values, it is best to have multiple translations of the Bible for personal reading and study.

**Interpretation** - the reader studies the writings to determine the meaning by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. All Scripture is to be interpreted literally, though at times it may take a figurative form (i.e. using metaphor, comparisons, etc.) to communicate a literal truth.

**Illumination/ Application** - the meaning of the text results in a change in our thinking, actions, motives, etc. and has many applications in our lives.

## How can I rightly study Scripture?

**Ezra 7:10** *For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.*

**Psalms 119:133** *Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.*

**Psalms 119:158** *I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your word.*

**Psalms 119:74,81,147** *May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.... My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.... I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.*

**Psalms 119:161** *Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your word*

**Psalms 1:2** *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

**Psalms 119:11** *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

**Psalms 119:16** *I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.*

**Psalms 119:97, 113,159,167** *Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.... I hate double-minded men, but I love your law.... See how I love your precepts; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your love.... I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly.*

**Psalms 119:99,148** *I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.... My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.*

**Isaiah 66:2** *Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.*

**Matthew 4:4** *Jesus answered, It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

**Luke 11:28** *He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

**Acts 17:11** *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

**Acts 20:32** *Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

**1 Corinthians 2:12** *We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

**Colossians 3:16** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

**2 Timothy 3:15** *and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**James 1:22-24** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

### **For Further Reading**

The Origin of the Bible, edited by Philip Comfort, is a good introduction to the authority and perfection of Scripture from a team of good theologians.

Christ and the Bible, by John Wenhan, is a very helpful survey of how Jesus Christ viewed the Old Testament.

The Canon of Scripture, by FF Bruce, is a thorough book on how the 66 books of the Protestant canon came to be.

From Ancient Text to Modern Translations, by David Ewart, is a very helpful and thorough book surveying how the Bible went from the hands of the original authors to the Bible we hold in our hand today.

Are the New Testament Documents Reliable, by FF Bruce, is a good survey of the accuracy and credibility of the New Testament.

The Indestructible Book, by Ken Connolly, is a fascinating historical look at how the Scriptures have been opposed and adored over the ages.

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