

**TRUTH B-P CHURCH**  
**Adult Sunday School**

**DOCTRINE OF THE VERBAL PLENARY PRESERVATION  
OF GOD’S WORD IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES**

**LESSON FIVE: IDENTIFICATION OF THE BIBLE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

“I believe in the perfect Bible. But the perfect Bible is somewhere out there but I don’t know where!” This is double-talk by anti-VPPists! When we show them where the perfect Bible is, they refused to accept and believe the text underlies the King James Bible to be the inspired and preserved Apographs today. They choose to believe perfect inspiration in the Autographs of the past but not in the Apographs of the present. They believe the Apographs contain mistakes and therefore not 100% perfect.

At the same time, they “believe” they will be able to find the perfect Apographs one day but not now. Is this not double talk? They believe and yet they do not believe. VPP proponents have been labelled as “heretics” simply because they have now identified where the perfect Bible is.

In this lesson, we seek to identify where and what the infallible and inerrant Scriptures are in terms of their Canon and Texts.

**II. THE CANON**

“And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16).

The “rule” in Galatians 6:16 is the standard which our faith and practice are based upon. The word “rule” means a straight rod or a measuring rule. It is translated from the Greek word κανών (kanon), This is where the English word “canon” was derived. Dr Jeffrey Khoo wrote “When applied to the Scriptures, it means the standard list of divinely inspired books – the Word of God – which serves as the only authoritative basis for the faith and practice of the Church.”

The canon of Scriptures gives us the confidence that the Bible we have today is truly the Word of God inspired and preserved by God. This is the rule by which we live our life to glorify the Name of our God. Not only there is no other rule except this, we know exactly where and what this perfect rule is. This is the perfect rule we must hold fast in this generation and teach the next generation. The canon of Scriptures is divided into the Old Testament Canon and the New Testament Canon.

**A. Old Testament Canon**

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44).

The Lord Jesus identified the Old Testament canon as the very Word of God. The law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms make up 39 books of the Old Testament canon. Therefore it means that by the time of the Lord Jesus, the Old Testament canon was already identified. For them to be identified, they must have been preserved perfectly. All the 39 Old Testament books were recognized as the divinely inspired books that made up the Autograph that span nearly 1,500 years (the period between Moses in 1450 BC and Malachi in 450 BC).

Old Testament Canon

<b>Canon</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Period</b>
Torah (Law)	Genesis	15 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Exodus	
	Leviticus	
	Numbers	
	Deuteronomy	
Nabi'im (Prophets)	Joshua	15 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Judges	14 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	1 Samuel	12 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	2 Samuel	11 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	1 Kings	10 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	2 Kings	9 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Isaiah	8 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Jeremiah	7 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Ezekiel	6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Hosea	8 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Joel	9 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Amos	8 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Obadiah	9 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Jonah	8 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Micah	8 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Nahum	7 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Habakkuk	7 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Zephaniah	7 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Haggai	6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Zechariah	6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
Malachi	5 <sup>th</sup> Century BC	
Kethubim (Writings)	Psalms	11 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Job	20 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Proverbs	10 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Ruth	13 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Song of Solomon	10 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Ecclesiastes	10 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Lamentations	6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Esther	5 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Daniel	7 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Ezra	6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	Nehemiah	5 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
	1 Chronicles	11 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Century BC
2 Chronicles	10 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC	

## B. New Testament Canon

The New Testament canon is like the Old Testament canon which required a period of time to be written in order to make up the Autograph of 27 New Testament books from the Gospel of Matthew to the book of Revelation. However, the Old Testament canon is easier to identify than the New Testament canon because the Lord Jesus gave no explicit word concerning the number of New Testament books and their specific identities. Not one book of the New Testament was written yet during His earthly ministry.

Some of the New Testament books were already written during the Apostolic Age (when the Apostles were still living). Apostle Peter recognized the writings of Apostle Paul as Scriptures on the same level as the Old Testament Scriptures when false teachers in those days were refuting Paul's teachings (see 2 Peter 3:15-16).

How did the Church finally arrive at the 27 books? The New Testament canon was arrived at by the ecclesiastical consensus of God's people who were indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). The Council of Carthage (397), chaired by the preeminent early church father and theologian – Augustine – identified the sacred books by name. There were exactly 27 of them.

### New Testament Canon

<b>Canon</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Period</b>
Gospels	Matthew	AD 40
	Mark	AD 45
	Luke	AD 45 – 55
	John	AD 70 – 90
History	Acts	AD 62 – 64
Epistles	Romans	AD 55
	1 Corinthians	AD 54
	2 Corinthians	AD 55
	Galatians	AD 49
	Ephesians	AD 60
	Philippians	AD 60
	Colossians	AD 60
	1 Thessalonians	AD 50 – 51
	2 Thessalonians	AD 50 – 51
	1 Timothy	AD 62
	2 Timothy	AD 63
	Titus	AD 62
	Philemon	AD 60
	Hebrews	AD 60 – 65
	James	AD 40 – 44
	1 Peter	AD 63
	2 Peter	AD 63 – 64
	1 John	AD 80 – 90
	2 John	AD 80 – 90
	3 John	AD 80 – 90
Jude	AD 60 – 70	
Apocalypse	Revelation	AD 90

### III. THE TEXTS

#### A. Old Testament Text

The Old Testament Text is in the Hebrew language. It refers to the copies (Apographs) of the Autograph. There are mainly two types of the Hebrew Text:

1. The Hebrew Masoretic Text – Ben Chayyim (1524 – 25)
2. The Biblia Hebraica – Kittel (1937) and Stuttgart (1967/77)

	Two Types of Texts	
	Preserved	Perverted/ Critical
	The Hebrew Masoretic Text – Ben Chayyim	The Biblia Hebraica – Kittel and Stuttgart
	Traditional	Modern
Translation	King James Bible	Modern English versions
Evaluation	Providentially preserved	Suggested corrections thus causing doubts on God’s Word

#### B. New Testament Text

The New Testament Text is in the Greek language. There are mainly two streams of texts:

1. Byzantine/ Majority/ Received Text
2. Alexandrian/ Minority/ Westcott & Hort Text

	Two Streams of Texts	
	Preserved	Perverted
	Byzantine/ Majority/ Received Text	Alexandrian/ Minority/ Westcott & Hort Text
Text	Every word preserved	Many words excised
Thrust	Spirit of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Century Reformation	Spirit of 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Modernism
Translators	Martyrs and Reformers – Wycliffe, Tyndate, Coverdale, and KJB men	Money-makers, Liberals, Ecumenists, and Neo Evangelicals
Technique	Verbal Equivalence – word for word	Dynamic Equivalence – thought for thought interpretation
Translation	King James Bible	NIV, NASB, ESB, etc.
Theology	Vital doctrines fully preserved	Vital doctrines under attacked

### IV. SUMMARY

From the Canon of the Bible, we have seen how God has preserved His Word providentially in the 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The text preserved providentially for both the Old Testament and New Testament has been identified for us. They are not lost, and definitely not “somewhere out there but don’t know where!). They are the Hebrew Masoretic Text of the Old Testament, and the Greek Textus Receptus of the New Testament. This is also the text which underlies the King James Bible. Indeed, we have God’s Word perfectly inspired and preserved today. May we continue to stand unwavering on the forever Scriptures. Amen.