

# SCRIPTURE: FROM GOD TO MAN

We are going to look at the process of how the Scriptures came from God to mankind:

## 1. Written as Scripture!

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly **in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast**, and **hold the traditions** (τὰς παραδόσεις) which ye have been taught, whether **by word** (εἴτε διὰ λόγου), **or our epistle** (εἴτε δι' ἐπιστολῆς ἡμῶν).

2 Thessalonians 3:14 And if any man obey not **our word** (τῷ λόγῳ ἡμῶν **διὰ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς**) **by this epistle**, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

2 Thessalonians 3:17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every **epistle (ἐπιστολῆ)**: so I write.

## 0. Inherited as Scripture!

## 2. Copied as and distributed as Scripture!

## 3. Received as Scripture!

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

## 4. Used / utilized as Scripture!

## 5. Collected as Scripture!

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

As a preliminary fact, most of our 27 NT books were collected & utilized as Scripture very early: from 100 to 150 AD

This would include: 4 gospels, Acts, Romans, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians. . .

This wouldn't include: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John, Jude, 2 Peter, Hebrews, Revelation

Thoughts: Peter AND his audience **knew**

➤ That Paul had written

➤ That Paul had written letters / epistles → plural

➤ That those letters were collected

➤ That those letters were also in circulation

(far from Paul's areas of direct influence)

➤ That those letters were **written by** | **according to** God-given wisdom

➤ That those letters were **considered** Scriptures

➤ **That those letters were twisted →just like other Scripture**

**2 Peter 3:16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which **they that are unlearned ((οἱ ἀμαθεῖς καὶ ἀστήρικτοι)** and **unstable wrest (στρεβλοῦσιν)**, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

**Ephesians 4:14** That we henceforth **be no more children, tossed to and fro**, and **carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**2 Peter 2:14** Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling **unstable souls (ψυχὰς ἀστηρίκτους)**: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

➤ **That those letters contained ideas difficult to understand**

Deep, takes time, effort, discipline, & more than 5 minutes