

NAME _____

“... no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21).

Bible

Four hundred years after Jesus Christ returned to Heaven, people began to use the Greek word *biblia* (meaning “books”) to describe the collection of the sacred writings. Our word “Bible” comes from *biblia*.

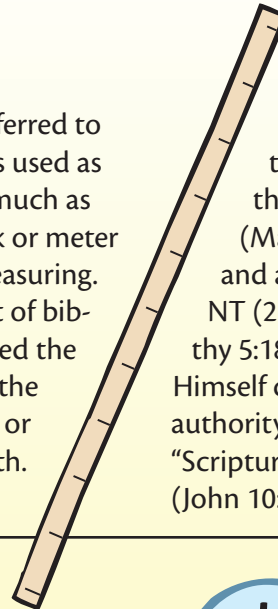


Canon

Canon originally referred to a “reed,” which was used as a measuring rod, much as we use a yardstick or meter rule today for measuring. The complete list of biblical books is called the canon, meaning the “measuring rod,” or the “authority,” for truth.

Scripture

This word was used by the NT authors to refer to the sacred books of the OT (Mark 12:10; 2 Timothy 3:15) and also to other books of the NT (2 Peter 3:15–16; 1 Timothy 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16). Christ Himself cited the Bible as the final authority many times and said, “Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).



Word of God

The Bible claims to be the “Word of God” over 3,000 times (John 10:35; Hebrews 4:12). The authors of NT books often begin a quote taken from the OT with the phrase, “God said” (Matthew 15:4–6). And direct quotes of God speaking in the OT are often begun with “Scripture says” in the NT (Romans 11:2; 1 Timothy 5:18). So the NT authors believed

the “Word of God” and “Scripture” were the same.



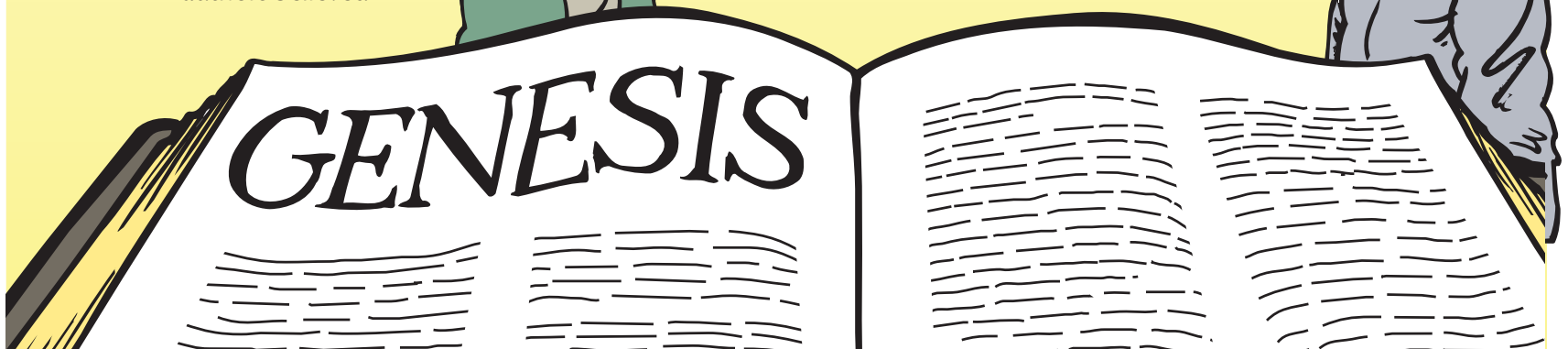
Prophet

A prophet was a special spokesman for God—he spoke, by God’s power, the actual words God gave him.



Apostle

An apostle, as used here, was a man who had seen Christ after His Resurrection (Acts 1:21–22), and who was called by Jesus to be His “messenger.”



Did you know?



Some people claim the Bible was merely written by men. But in many places, the Bible claims to be the very Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). The following points are consistent with the truth that the Bible was not written only by men, but was inspired by the all-knowing Creator God.

- Throughout history, many have tried to destroy the Bible—one Roman emperor even attempted to burn all known copies of it! Yet it remains the most-read book of all time.

- More than 40 men wrote the 66 books of the Bible over a period of 1,600 years, yet the Bible has the same message from beginning to end. Some claim the Bible contains many unresolvable contradictions, but all these claims have been shown to be false.

- The Bible makes many specific predictions that have since come to pass; and when it touches on scientific things, it is totally accurate.

- Archaeological finds continue to confirm what the Bible says about historical events.

- The Bible's message of the Creator who became our Savior has transformed countless lives. It is completely honest about the sinfulness of man (including those seen as "heroes of the faith") and gives all honor and glory to the holy and faithful Creator God.

- The Bible's teachings have been the foundation for many great nations.