THE WRITTEN WORD

Bibliology from an
Independent Baptist Perspective

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Dedicated To The Memory Of Keith Kiser,
My Bible Doctrines Professor.
“I’ve Found The Book!”
“Be well instructed in theology, and do not regard the sneers of those who rail at it because they are ignorant of it. Many preachers are not theologians, and hence the mistakes which they make. It cannot do any hurt to the most lively evangelist to be also a sound theologian, and it may often be the means of saving him from gross blunders. Nowadays, we hear men tear a single sentence of Scripture from its connection, and cry, ‘Eureka! Eureka!’ as if they had found a new truth; and yet they have not discovered a diamond, but only a piece of broken glass. Had they been able to compare spiritual things with spiritual, had they understood the analogy of the faith, and had they been acquainted with the holy learning of the great Bible students of past ages, they would not have been quite so fast in vaunting their marvelous knowledge. Let us be thoroughly well acquainted with the great doctrines of the Word of God, and let us be mighty in expounding the Scriptures.” - C. H. Spurgeon, from Lectures to my Students
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DISCLAIMERS

1. Sometimes I quote from Wikipedia. While this website is not known for its stellar accuracy, the articles quoted are well sourced and the quotes are accurate.

2. This should go without saying, but just because I quote from person x who teaches at university y, it does not mean that I am necessarily endorsing the university, or everything that person x believes and teaches.

3. It is impossible to speak for every Independent Baptist, because by their very nature, each church is just that: independent. No preacher, pastor, or teacher can claim to speak for all Independent Baptists. So why write this book? There are certain teachings that are universally accepted by conservative Christians that must be believed and should be taught, regardless of denomination. There are also beliefs that typically pertain to Independent Baptists that should be addressed from an academic perspective in a proper Bibliology. To that end, I have tried to present a Bibliology that is academically sound and uniquely Independent Baptist.
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THE WRITTEN WORD – INTRODUCTION

BIBLIOLOGY
The Doctrine of Scripture

Introduction:

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." - (Ecclesiastes 12:12)

Solomon, the great Hebrew King, said these words close to three thousand years ago. Every student knows that “much study is a weariness of the flesh.” What we are especially interested in today is what Solomon said about books. “Of making many books there is no end.” Writing has been around for over 5,000 years. Is it any wonder that God would choose writing and books as the way to preserve and spread His message to generations of people?

Bibliology is the study of books. Specifically, sixty-six books which together form one great book: The Bible.

Why the Bible?

LOGIC tells us that if there is a God, it stands to reason that He would want to reveal Himself to His creation. If God wanted to reveal Himself, then obviously, He would use some means to do so. There is only one means that God could have used that is old enough and accurate enough to be tested, analyzed, and proven...WRITING.

Why writing?

1. It is old.
According to the Oxford Companion to the English Language, "Writing was invented over 5,000 years ago."¹ Trinity College, Cambridge Professor Frederick Scrivener wrote, “Stone, wood, tablets covered with wax, the bark of trees, the dressed skins of animals, the reed papyrus, paper made of cotton or linen, are the chief materials on which writing has been impressed at different periods and stages of civilization.”² Both the Bible and writing are ancient. God used this multi-millennia-old medium to record His revelation of Himself for generations to read and discover.

2. It is able to be copied; therefore, it can be preserved.

When older copies of Scripture wore out, or were destroyed, newer were available. According to an article on Biblical Hebrew from Wikipedia, "The damp climate of Palestine caused the rapid deterioration of papyrus and parchment documents, in contrast to the dry environment of Egypt, and the survival of the Hebrew Bible may be attributed to scribal determination in preserving the text through copying."³

3. It can be analyzed for errors.

A contemporary example of this can be seen from the 2012 so called, "Gospel of Jesus' Wife" when a fragment of papyrus, claimed to be an ancient manuscript that proved that Jesus had a "wife," was shown by a group of

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¹ [http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/writing.aspx#1](http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/writing.aspx#1)
² A Plain Introduction to the Criticism of the New Testament page 20
scholars to be a forgery. They proved this through analyzing the writing.  

The Bible Is Unlike Any Other Book.

If I were to claim to have heard God speak to me, there is no way for me to prove it. Only through writing can the authenticity of a supposed revelation of God be tested. Interestingly enough, the major religions of the world all agree, and have sacred books.

But what differentiates the Bible from other religious books? For one thing, about forty different individuals wrote the Bible, and all of them wrote about the same thing. Even more amazing is the fact that they wrote this revelation of God over a period of 1,500 years. Many of them never knew one another. Yet, they all wrote about the same story. Not only that, but they all wrote about the same story in progressive parts, like a series. The earlier writers prophesied events that the later writers wrote about; and some became eyewitnesses to!

The Bible is in a completely different category from other sacred books of world religions. No other religion can claim a book that was written over such a long period of time, by so many different people, from so many walks of life. Some Bible writers were great scholars. Some were kings. Still, others were simple fishermen. All claimed to be writing a revelation from God. And this revelation tells one story: the story of Jesus Christ.

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4 http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2012/oct/16/gospel-jesus-wife-modern-fake-typo