

SOLA



SCRIPTURA

*Helping people to know, trust, and
live the Word of God!*

9-15-12 Prepared by Pastor Jeff Frazier

Sola Scriptura is a Latin phrase that means "Scripture Alone". This was one of the cries of the Protestant Reformation. The reformers believed (and so do we) that God can and does to speak directly to His people through His word, provided we know it! **The purpose of "Sola Scriptura" at FBCG is simply to help people know, trust, and live God's Word.**

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.

Hebrews 4:12

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.

With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Psalm 119:11-16

What is the most important question facing Christians today?

Who is God?

Who is Jesus?

How can a person be “saved”?

What do you believe about _____?

**Why do you choose to
believe the Bible?**

I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. These eyewitnesses report supernatural events that took place to fulfill specific prophecies, and they claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin.

(Adapted from Pastor Voddie Baucham)

2 Peter 1:16-21

(NIV1984)

16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." **18** We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. **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. **20** Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. **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.

The Amazing Continuity of the Bible:

- 66 books
- 40 different authors
- 3 continents: Europe, Africa, Asia
- 3 languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- 1,500 years
- 1 story

THE BIBLE IS UTTERLY UNIQUE IN ITS CONTINUITY...

Written over 40 generations by authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.: Moses, a political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt, Peter, a fisherman, Amos, a herdsman, Joshua, a military general, Nehemiah, a cupbearer, Daniel, a prime minister, Luke, a doctor, Solomon, a king, Matthew, a tax-collector, Paul, a Rabbi

Written in different places:

Moses in the wilderness
Jeremiah in a dungeon
Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
Paul inside prison walls
Luke while traveling
John while exiled on the island of Patmos
Others in the midst a military campaign

Written at different times:

David in times of war
Solomon in times of peace

Written during different moods:

Some writing from the heights of joy and others writing from the depths of sorrow and despair

Common Objections to the Bible:

- 1. It is full of errors and contradictions.**
- 2. It has been translated so many times that we can't trust it.**
- 3. It was written by human beings with an agenda.**
- 4. What about the "Other Gospels"?**
- 5. It cannot be proven scientifically.**

Some popular examples:

In her book *The History of God*, Karen Armstrong writes:

We know very little about Jesus. The first full-length account of his life was St. Mark's gospel, which was not written until the year 70, some forty years after his death. [Jesus was crucified and allegedly resurrected in AD 33.] By that time, historical facts had been overlaid with mythical elements, which expressed the meaning Jesus had acquired for his followers. It is this meaning that St. Mark primarily conveys rather than a reliable straightforward portrayal.

In his bestselling book "Misquoting Jesus", Bart Ehrmann writes:

"How does it help us to say that the Bible is the inerrant word of God if we don't have the words that God inerrantly inspired, but only the words copied by the scribes—sometimes correctly but sometimes (many times!) incorrectly?"

**C.R.I. (Christian Research Institute) Evidences for Historical Reliability
of the Bible:**

M - Manuscripts

A - Archaeology

P - Prophecy

S - Statistics

Manuscript Evidence for the Reliability of the New Testament

Writings of...	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies
Pliny	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	1100 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	10
Julius Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000 yrs	10
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400 yrs	30
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	150
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	200
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. 130 A.D. f.)	less than 75 years	6,000+

Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled...

Born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23

A descendant of Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16

Of the tribe of Judah: Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14

Of the house of David: 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1

Born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7

Taken to Egypt: Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15

Herod's killing of the infants: Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18

Anointed by the Holy Spirit: Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17

Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist): Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3

Would perform miracles: Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35

Would preach good news: Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21

Would minister in Galilee: Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16

Would cleanse the Temple: Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13

Would first present Himself as King 173,880 days from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem: Daniel 9:25; Matthew 21:4-11

Would enter Jerusalem as a king on a donkey: Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9

Would be rejected by Jews: Psalms 118:22; 1 Peter 2:7

Die a humiliating death (Psalms 22; Isaiah 53),

His death would involve...

rejection: Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,48

betrayal by a friend: Psalms 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18

sold for 30 pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15

silence before His accusers: Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14

being mocked: Psalms 22:7-8; Matthew 27:31

beaten: Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26

spit upon: Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30

piercing His hands and feet: Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31

being crucified with thieves: Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38

praying for His persecutors: Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34

piercing His side: Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34

given gall and vinegar to drink: Psalms 69:21; Matthew 27:34; Luke 23:36

no broken bones: Psalms 34:20; John 19:32-36

buried in a rich man's tomb: Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60

casting lots for His garments: Psalms 22:18; John 19:23-24

Would rise from the dead: Psalms 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31

Ascend into Heaven: Psalms 68:18; Acts 1:9

Would sit down at the right hand of God: Psalms 110:1; Hebrews 1:3

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE

UNIQUE IN ITS CIRCULATION

UNIQUE IN ITS TRANSLATION

UNIQUE IN ITS SURVIVAL

UNIQUE IN ITS TEACHINGS

UNIQUE IN ITS INFLUENCE

Bibliography and Suggested Reading

Print Resources

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- Wallace, Daniel. *Revisiting the Corruption of the New Testament: Manuscript, Patristic, and Apocryphal Evidence*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011.

Internet Resources

- Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry: <http://carm.org/>
- Christian Research Institute: <http://www.equip.org/>
- Wright, N.T. "How Can the Bible Be Authoritative?":
http://ntwrightpage.com/Wright_Bible_Authoritative.htm