

**Important
Big
Book
of the**

**Old
Testament
Survey**

They Spoke from God: Survey of
the Old Testament, William C.
William

The Important Thing About the Old Testament is That it contains
God's Promises and Instructions For Us To Live Long, Abundant Lives
Loving Him.

Why Should We Study the Old Testament?

- God wrote it and is present through it.
- It is a testimony of who He is, and what He has done, and will continue to do.
- It provides a historical account of the world's creation and man.
- It gives us instructions on how to live (Deuteronomy 30)



Isaiah Bulla- believed to be a seal that the prophet Isaiah may have used to seal documents. (Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology)

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What Makes this the Word of God?

- “Scripture repeatedly and consistently testifies of its nature” - Ronald Wright, (*They Spoke from God: A Survey of the Old Testament*)
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Consistently speaks on behalf of God and not man.



This royal seal bears the inscription “Belonging to Ahaz (son of) Jotham, King of Judah.” (Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology)

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What Does the Bible Say About Itself?

- God talks to His people!
 - Adam & Eve (before & after the fall; Gen.1-3)
 - Abram (Gen.12-35)
 - Moses (Exodus-Numbers)
- “Forthtell”- to tell forth the Word of God
- Hebrew for Prophet is “*Ro'eh*” and “*Chozeh*”;



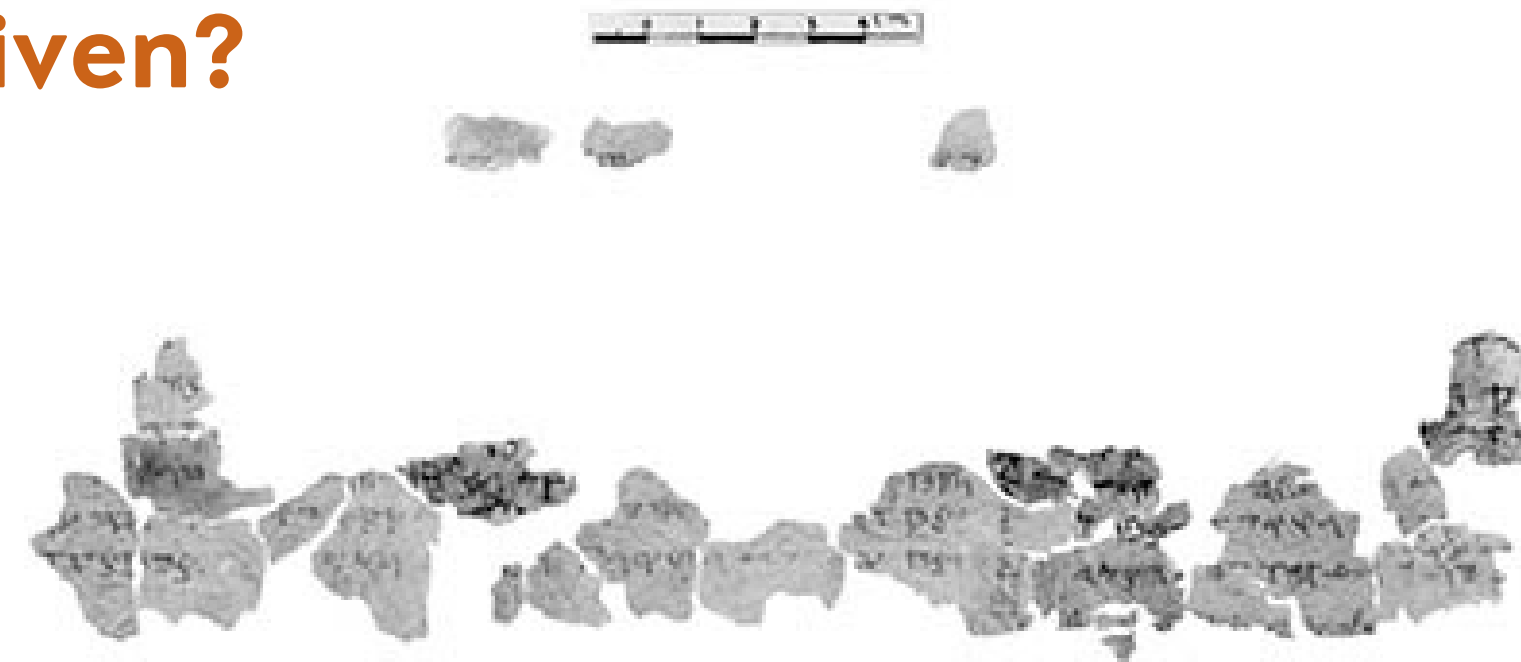
Ancient Oil Lamp in Jerusalem
Courtesy Emil Aladjem, IAA. (Biblical Archeology Magazine Blog)

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How was the Word of God Given?

- **Revelation** (unveiling the truth)
- **Inspiration** (transmission of the truth)
- **Scripture** (the record of the truth)
- **Illumination** (understanding the truth)



A portion of the recently deciphered Dead Sea Scroll 4Q324d containing a 364-day calendar used by the Qumran community in the Judean Desert. Photo: Courtesy of the University of Haifa. (Biblical Archaeology Magazine Blog)

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Revelation

- “ Knowledge that was formerly hidden but which is now manifest,
declared by God through His Word and Spirit (Rom. 16:26; 1 Cor. 2:10-13;
Eph. 3:4-5)” -Ronald Wright, (They Spoke from God: A Survey of the Old
Testament)



Glass weight found in the Temple
Mount. Courtesy TMSP, Zev Radovan/Razia
Richman. (Biblical Archaeology Magazine)

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Types of Revelation

- **General Revelation**- recognizes that God has revealed himself generally in His creation (Ps. 1-4; Rom.1-20)
- **Special Revelation**- God's disclosure of himself in and through Christ and Scripture. (A person led to Christ)

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Inspiration

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Greek word *theopneustos*, this is a compound word that means “God-breathed”
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 scripture from God
- Not sloppy interpretation of the Bible



“Business Receipt” from the City of David. (Biblical Archeology)

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Jesus and the Old Testament

- Matthew 5:18- The Word of God will be fulfilled in its entirety
- Jesus's teachings reflect the Old Testament
- Jesus referenced the Old Testament



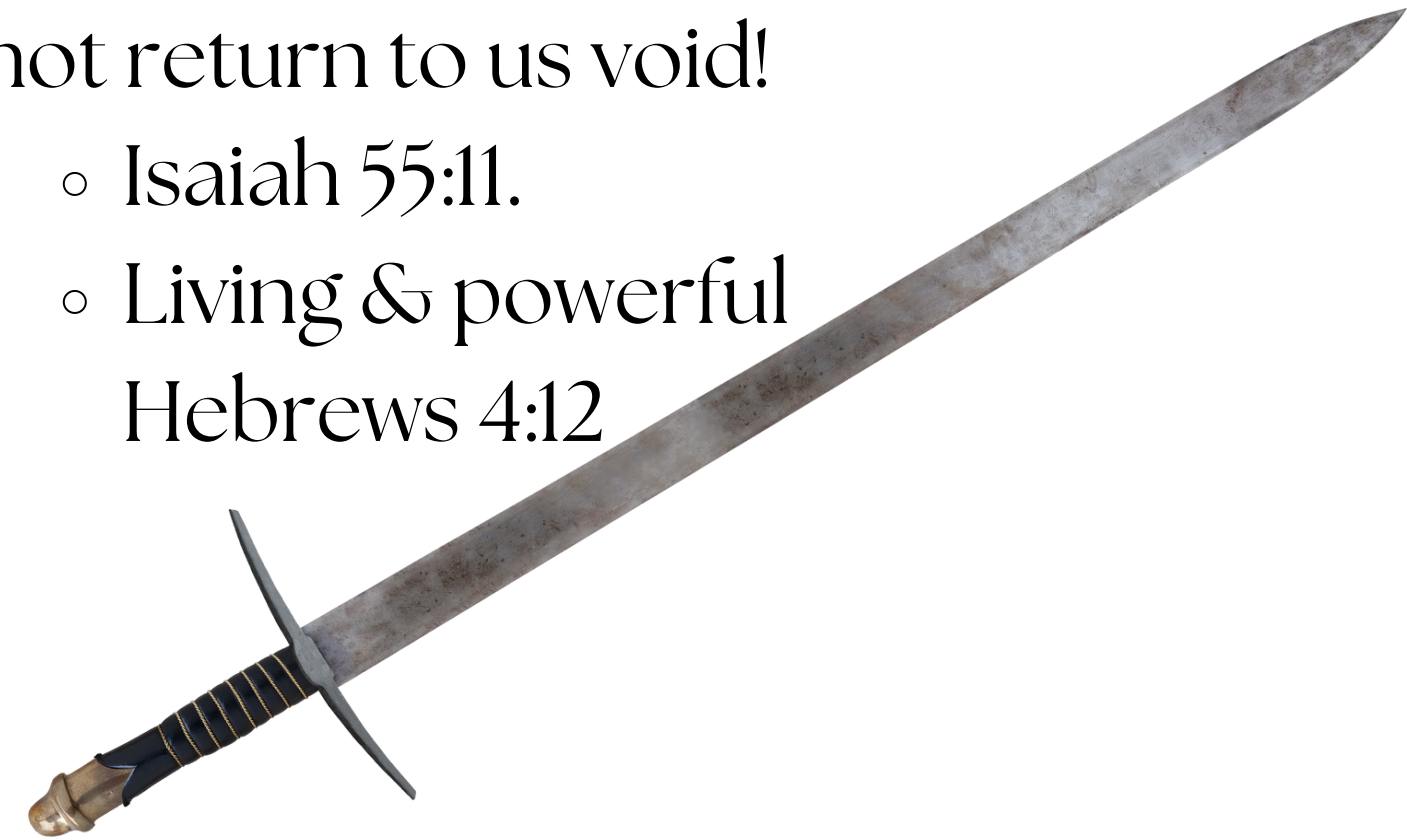
Dead Sea Scrolls

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Characteristics of a Divinely Inspired Scripture

- **Truthfulness**- Moses & David refer to Him as the God of Truth (Deut. 32:4; Ps.31:5)
- **Authority**- No one greater than God, He swears by himself (Gen. 22:16; Heb. 6:13-18). Think of the centurion in the NT!
 - Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh (John 1)
- **Effectiveness**- God's Word will not return to us void!
 - Isaiah 55:11.
 - Living & powerful Hebrews 4:12



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Organization

Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy



History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 & 2 Samuel
- 1&2 Kings



1 & 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther



Wisdom

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs

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Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

Minor Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah

- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

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Old Testament Canon

- Greek word "*Kanon*" which means "reed"
 - reeds were used to measure things and became a standard measurement unit
- After Jesus's resurrection, He reminded the disciples as he appeared to them, that all the events that had happened fulfilled the OT prophecies about Him. (Luke 24:44)



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Why are Some Books Canonical While Others Are Not?

- **Canonicity**- refers to an inherent (belong to or characteristic of) quality
- Not a result of a formal action.
- divinely inspired



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Why are Some Books Canonical While Others Are Not?

- Determined by God and not man
- **Septuagint**- early translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek (before Christ's time on earth)
- **Torah**- The law (Genesis-Deuteronomy)



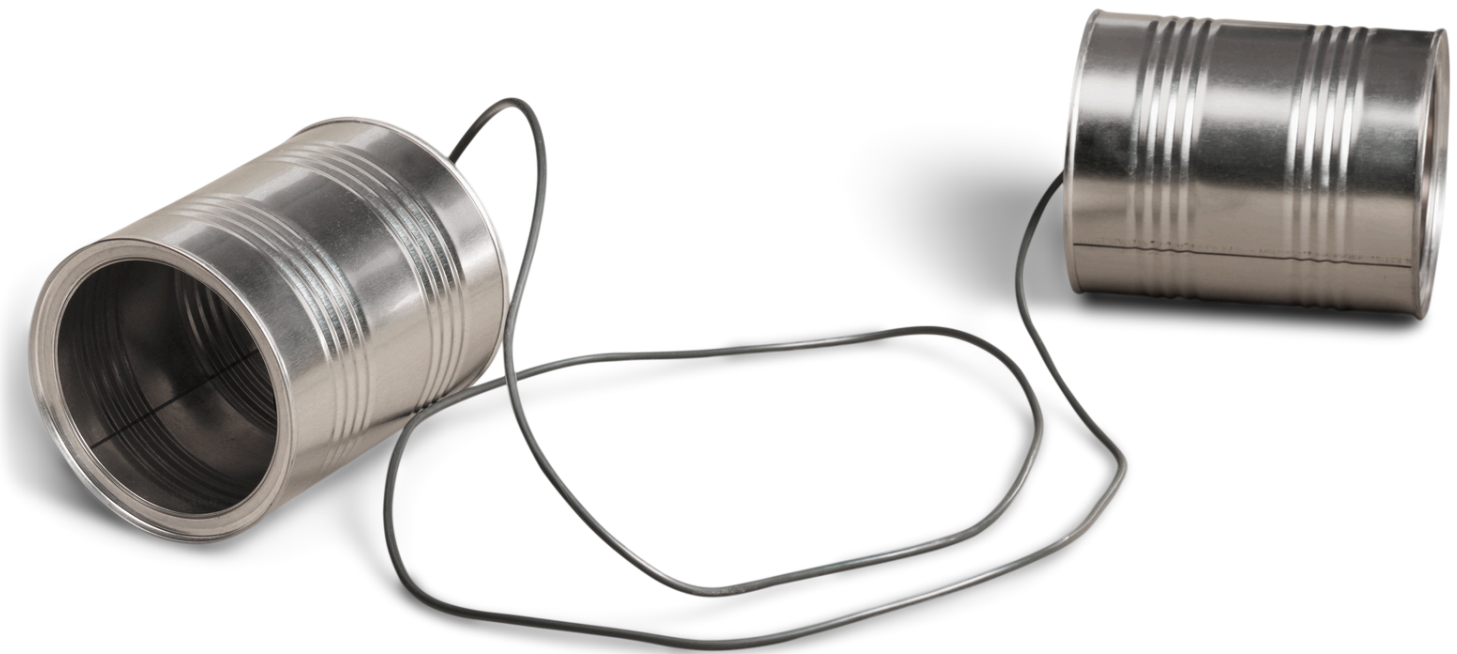
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Hermeneutics

- This word comes from the Greek verb *hermeneuo*, meaning to interpret.
- It is the science and art of interpretation of communication, verbal or non-verbal, secular or religious.



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Components of Hermeneutics

- Purpose for the scripture
- Prerequisites for the interpreter
- Commitment to going to the scriptures
- Basic principles in interpretation
- Recognition of personal issues that could interfere with understanding
- **Big Idea:** Holy Spirit guides us into all truth and helps us understand as we read!



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Rules of Interpretation That We Can Apply

- Respect the Bible's intention- it is God's Word, His message for us!
- **Literally**- ask God what message He is giving you.
 - figurative language & nonfigurative language
- **Grammatically**- Pay attention to words in their context
 - Identify parts of speech



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Rules of Interpretation That We Can Apply

- **Historically**- understand the historical context
- **Genre**- type or genre of literature
- **Personal issues**- Beware of human opinion vs. revelation/understanding



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Choose 2 ideas you want to remember from this lesson. Explain why these concepts are significant to you.

