

THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

EPISODE 01

THE BIBLE

Can you build your life on this book?

□ look closely

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	1	Thessalonians
Mark	1	Titus
Luke	1	Timothy
John	1	Timothy
Acts	1	Hebrews
Romans	1	James
1 Corinthians	1	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	1	2 Peter
Galatians	1	John
Ephesians	1	John
Philippians	1	John
Colossians	1	Revelation

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	1	Isaiah
Exodus	1	Ezekiel
Leviticus	1	
Numbers	1	
Deuteronomy	1	
Joshua	1	
Judges	1	
Ruth	1	
1 Samuel	1	
2 Samuel	1	
1 Kings	1	
2 Kings	1	
1 Chronicles	1	
2 Chronicles	1	
Ezra	1	
Nehemiah	1	
Esther	1	

PHIL KNIESEL • LEAD PASTOR

APRIL 9-12, 2026

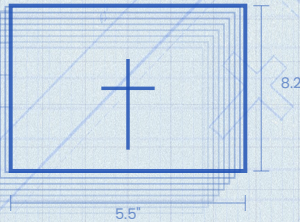
HOPE CITY CHURCH

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WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is not just a book. It is a unified story — 66 books, written by 40+ authors across 1,500 years, 3 continents, and 3 languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic).

- 66 books
- 40+ authors
- 1,500 years
- 3 languages
- 3 continents



□ "If 40 people were asked to write about God, we'd get 40 different answers. The Bible has 40+ voices — and ONE message."

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	Abraham
Exodus	Moses
Leviticus	Moses
Numbers	Moses
Deuteronomy	Moses
Joshua	Joshua
Judges	Various
Ruth	Ruth
1 Samuel	Saul
2 Samuel	David
1 Kings	Solomon
2 Kings	Various
1 Chronicles	Solomon
2 Chronicles	Various
Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah
Esther	Esther

THE ONE STORY ARC:



□ Every book points forward to Christ and the restoration of all things.

"Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

— Luke 24:27

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

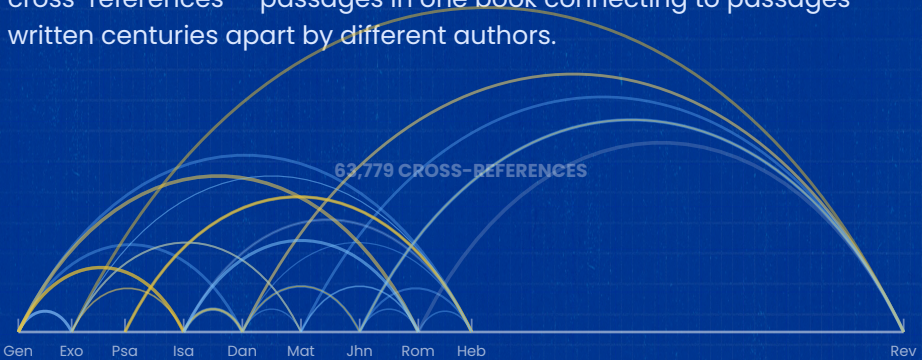
People don't reject the Bible because they've studied it deeply. They reject it because of what they've heard. Much of what they've heard isn't accurate.

"We can no longer assume that people trust their Bible... Western culture has shifted away from its Judeo-Christian heritage, and popular media has launched such an attack on the believability of Scripture that many churchgoers have serious questions."

— William Mounce | Why Should I Trust the Bible? (Baker Books)

THE UNITY MIRACLE

Across 40 authors who never met, Scripture contains 63,779 internal cross-references — passages in one book connecting to passages written centuries apart by different authors.



□ Not accidental. If one person wrote a book with this level of internal coherence across one lifetime, we'd call it a miracle. This is 40 people, 1,500 years, pointing to the same Jesus — one Author behind it all.

EVEN AI NOTICED:

Grok AI analyzed Scripture and found "deep patterns of coherence" — internal consistency pointing beyond human origin.

JESUS — THE TRUE & BETTER...

The Bible's entire story points to Jesus. Every hero in Scripture is a shadow — and Jesus is the substance they were pointing toward.

For instance, Jesus is the...

True & Better

ADAM

He passed the test in the garden that we all failed.

True & Better

ABRAHAM

He went into the unknown void to build a new people of God.

True & Better

DAVID

His victory becomes our victory — we didn't lift a stone.

GOD HAD TO BE BRAVE FOR US.

God doesn't save you because of you — but in spite of you.

"Not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

— **Matthew 5:18**

MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

Scholars assess ancient documents partly by how many manuscript copies exist and how close they are to the originals. The New Testament is in a class by itself:

Thucydides 8 copies / 1300yr

Aristotle 5 copies / 1400yr

Caesar's Wars 10 copies / 1000yr

Alexander bio 2 copies / 400yr

NEW TESTAMENT

25,000+ copies (total surviving)

□ Written 15–50 years after Jesus.

*Eyewitnesses still alive to confirm or deny every claim.
Paul says "go ask them" – 1 Corinthians 15:6*

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

— 2 Timothy 3:16

WHAT ABOUT CONTRADICTIONS?

What looks like a contradiction is almost always different perspectives on the same event – exactly how real eyewitness testimony works.

Matthew 28:5

"The angel said..."

1 angel spoke

John 20:12

"Two angels..."

2 were present

→ **Where 2 exist, 1 always speaks** ←

□ Different emphasis ≠ contradiction.

*4 writers. 4 angles. Real testimony allows for perspective.
If they were word-for-word identical – that's suspicious.*

"The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

— Hebrews 4:12

WRITTEN BY MEN — STILL GOD'S WORD?

God spoke through human authors — which is why we get different styles, tones, and personalities. The claim was never that humans were bypassed.

□ Think of it like music:

Different instruments. Same Composer.

David Poetry	Paul Theology	Solomon Wisdom	Luke History
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WHAT ABOUT HARD PASSAGES?

Polygamy. Slavery. Violence. These passages need context — not a shallow reading.

DESCRIBING ≠ ENDORSING

Polygamy is shown in the Bible — and always portrayed as a disaster.

CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING

1st-century Roman servitude ≠ the Atlantic slave trade.

□ Timothy Keller: "The Bible may not be teaching what we think it's teaching." Slow down. Read in context.

THE REAL QUESTION

Not just: "Can I trust the Bible?"

"Will I live by it?"

- Opinions won't hold you.
- Culture won't hold you.
- Feelings won't hold you.

But God's Word will.

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down... yet it did not fall, because of its foundation."
 — **Matthew 7:24-27**

THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

Foundations of the Christian Faith

EPISODE 01: THE BIBLE

COMING UP IN THIS SERIES:

- EP 02** The Trinity
- EP 03** Salvation Through Christ
- EP 04** The Church
- EP 05** The Final Judgement

OLD TESTAMENT

- Gen. Gen.
- Exo. Exo.
- Lev. Lev.
- Nu. Nu.
- Deut. Deut.
- Jos. Jos.
- Judg. Judg.
- Rut. Rut.
- 1 Sam. 1 Sam.
- 2 Sam. 2 Sam.
- 1 Kgs. 1 Kgs.
- 2 Kgs. 2 Kgs.
- 1 Chr. 1 Chr.
- 2 Chr. 2 Chr.
- Ezra. Ezra.
- Neh. Neh.
- Est. Est.
- Job. Job.
- Psa. Psa.
- Prov. Prov.
- Ecc. Ecc.
- Song. Song.
- Isa. Isa.
- Jer. Jer.
- Lam. Lam.
- Ezek. Ezek.
- Dan. Dan.
- Hos. Hos.
- Joel. Joel.
- Amos. Amos.
- Obad. Obad.
- Jonah. Jonah.
- Micah. Micah.
- Nah. Nah.
- Zeph. Zeph.
- Haggai. Haggai.
- Zech. Zech.
- Mal. Mal.

GO DEEPER:

WATCH THE SERIES

Search "Hope City Non-Negotiables" on YouTube
Full message playlist – all episodes

APOLOGETICS CANADA

apologeticscanada.com
Wes Huff · Scripture, apologetics & resources

WHY SHOULD I TRUST THE BIBLE?

William Mounce · Baker Books
The book referenced in this message

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