

# HEARING FROM GOD

How God communicates with you.



# KICK OFF DISCUSSION

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the  
point.

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WHAT INTIMIDATES YOU THE MOST ABOUT READING THE BIBLE?



# HEARING FROM GOD

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SCRIPTURE (THE BIBLE) IS GOD SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO US.

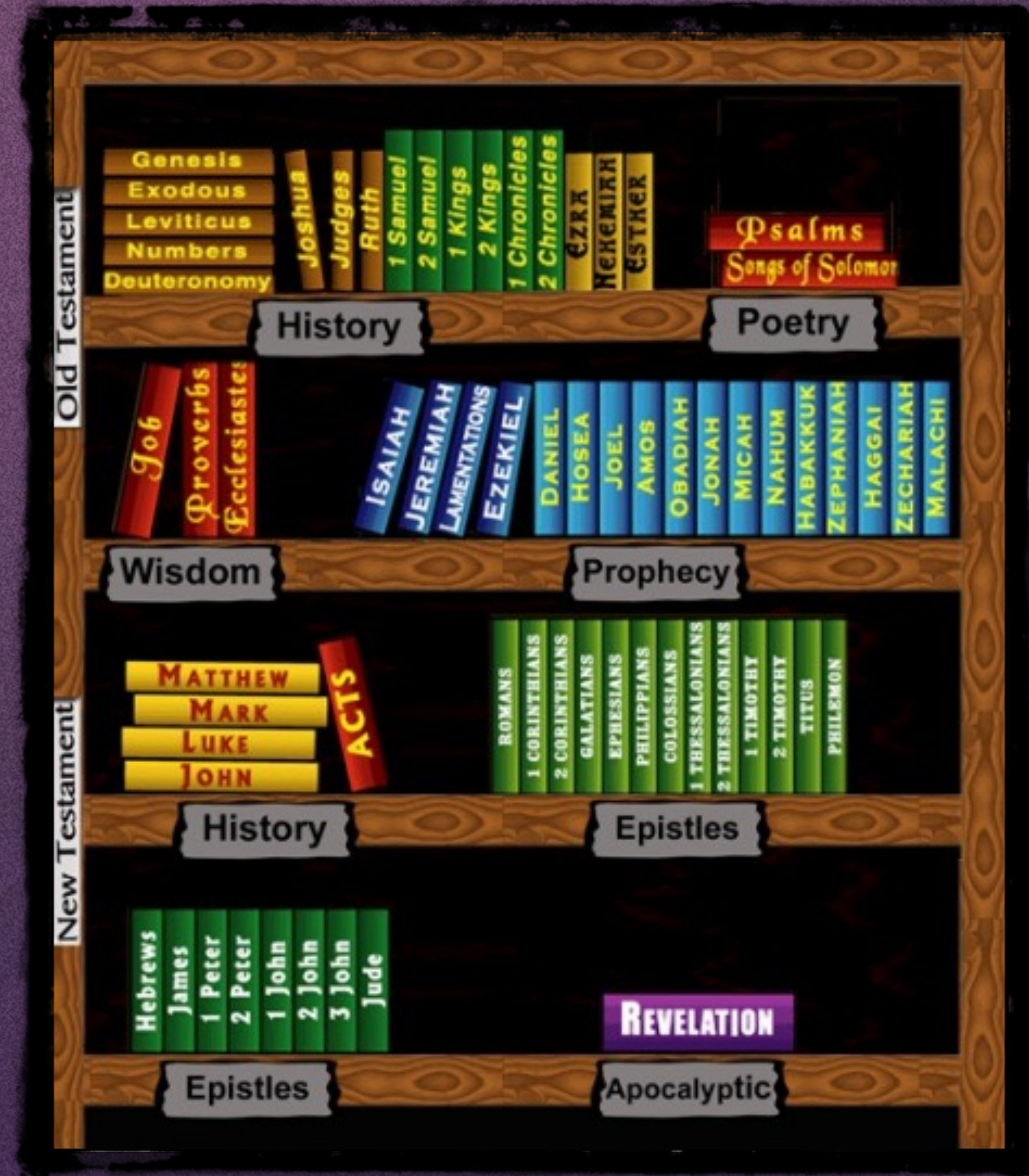
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

-2 Timothy 3:16-17



# SCRIPTURE

2,000 YEARS OF WRITING, 66 BOOKS, 40 AUTHORS, 3 LANGUAGES, 1 STORY





# IS IT TRUSTWORTHY?

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BESIDES PURE FAITH, DOES ANYTHING ELSE TELL US THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

- Backed up by extra-biblical writings like Josephus & Tacitus
- Locations and major biblical figures are backed up by archaeological evidence like inscriptions, monuments and excavations of ancient sites and cities
- Criterion of embarrassment: It presents human nature accurately and does not sound like propaganda.
- Intertextual agreement between OT and NT. Like the fact that Christ fulfilled over 300 prophecies about his life, death, and resurrection.



# IS IT TRUSTWORTHY?

## EVIDENCE FOR THE ACCURACY OF BIBLE.

### Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# Mss.
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25-50 yrs	24,000

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# WHY DO WE VALUE IT SO MUCH?

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## SCRIPTURE CREATES FAITH AND GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.

The Bible is important because it reveals to us who God is and what he has done to give life to the world. It is the means God uses to point us to Christ. Apart from God's Word, we would not know who Jesus is. God also uses Scripture to create faith in the hearts of his people. We say that the Word is powerful and effective for these reasons.

A few places the Bible talks about this:

Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12; John 6:63; John 20:31; Romans 1:16



# HOW DO I READ THE BIBLE?

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## UNDERSTANDING WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS.

Sometimes understanding what the Bible says is a big challenge. When we encounter difficult passages in Scripture, it is important to remember three things. First, all of Scripture focuses on Jesus. Second, Scripture agrees within itself even when it may appear to have a contradiction. We say that Scripture interprets Scripture. When you have trouble understanding a passage, you can turn to another part of the Bible to get some answers. Finally, Scripture is understood through its context. This means we take into account the setting of a book, its author, its audience, and other historical information when we read.



# APPLYING GOD'S WORD

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## UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF LAW AND GOSPEL ON YOUR LIFE

People experience God's Word differently in their daily lives. Sometimes, God's word convicts, crushes, and stings. Other times, the words of Scripture encourage, strengthen, and enliven faith. The key to understanding why this happens is distinguishing between the two major teachings of Scripture - Law and Gospel.

**The Law** is a command of God that tells people to do something. Human performance is at the center.

**The Gospel** is the opposite. It reveals God's work to save the world from sin. God is at the center here.



# APPLYING GOD'S WORD

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## DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN LAW AND GOSPEL WHEN YOU SEE IT IN SCRIPTURE.

**The Law** shows us God's commands and how we have failed to keep them. It reveals to us that we are sinners who do not live up to God's perfect standards. To put it bluntly, the Law kills. eg.

Romans 7:7, Matthew 22:34-40

**The Gospel** shows us God's love and how he has accomplished what we could not do through Jesus. Jesus did live up to God's perfect standard. He kept the Law and now gives his righteousness to all those who believe in him. In summary, the Gospel brings life. eg. John 3:16-17, Exodus 20:1-2



# WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

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SPENDING TIME IN THE BIBLE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.



“COFFEE WITH GOD” – BY BILL HYBLES



# CONNECT & REFLECT

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1. How does today's discussion change the way you see the Bible?
2. What questions or struggles do you still have when it comes to the Bible?
3. What would help you start to dive into the scripture?

## Challenge

This week, try spending 15 minutes a day reading the Bible. Don't know where to start? Open up one of the gospels, or find a reading plan on Explore Faith on thepointknox mobile app.