

Article 2 – The Scriptures

“We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspiration of God and the infallible rule of faith and practice for the Saints.”

This second Article of Faith affirms that the Bible is God’s inspired Word, that it is infallible, and it is the sole authority for Christian faith and practice. If the first Article of Faith says that God exists, this second Article of Faith tells us that God has spoken to us.

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six distinct books, with thirty-nine books making up the Old Testament and twenty-seven books making up the New Testament. These books were written by forty men in multiple languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) over a period of about 1,600 years, from about 1,500 BC to about 100 AD.

At the same time, the Bible has only one author, the Holy Spirit, who superintended the writings by these men so that what was conveyed and preserved was exactly what God wished to express. *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* 2 Peter 1:21; *“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”* Psalms 12:6-7.

The term “inspiration” means “breathed out by God.” As such, the Bible is a supernatural book from outside of time and space, given to us by our Creator. It is also referred to as the Scripture, which means the written Word of God. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

The Old Testament books are Scripture because they are the writings of God’s holy prophets to the nation of Israel. The New Testament books are Scripture because they are the writings of the Apostles, or were written by men under the authority and direction of the Apostles. *“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.”* 2 Peter 3:2.

The term “infallible” means that the Bible is incapable of error. The Scriptures are true and reliable in all that they teach. As such, the Scriptures are our authoritative guide for all matters of faith (those things we believe) and practice (those things we do). The Bible teaches us about God’s character, His will for our lives, and the salvation that is in Jesus Christ.

Not only is the Bible infallible, it is also sufficient. The Bible provides us with everything we need for our Christian walk in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Peter writes in 2 Peter 1:3, *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”*

In sum, the Bible is God’s word to us. God has provided eternal salvation to us through Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and He has given us everything we need to live godly lives unto Him through the Bible, His Written Word.