



CORAM DEO CLASSES  
FOUNDATIONS

# Bible

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# Coram Deo Foundations

## Classes:

- Jesus 101
- **Bible 101**
- Church 101

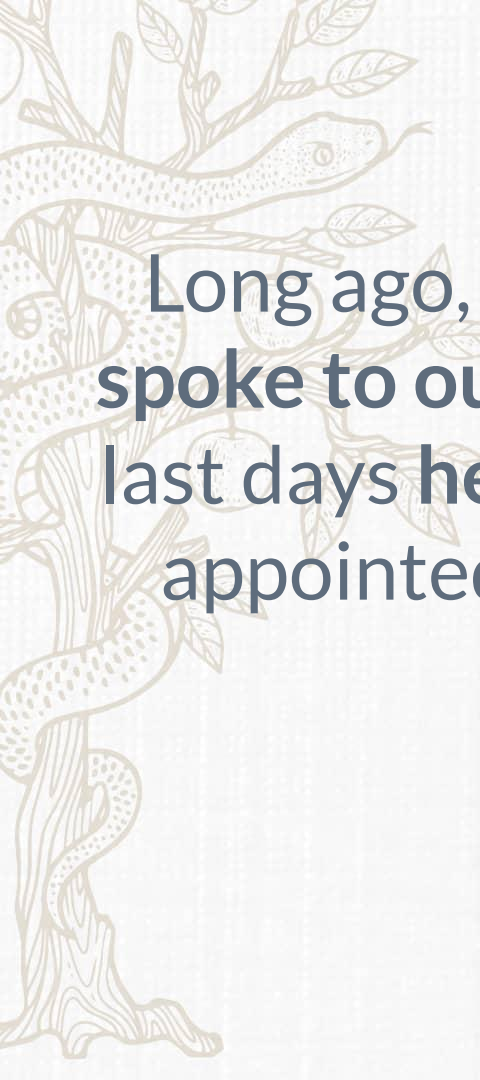




The heart of the Christian  
Faith is **the God who speaks**







Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke to our fathers by the prophets**, but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:1-2






What is the significance of  
a **‘Speaking God’**?



# 3 Classes, 3 Questions

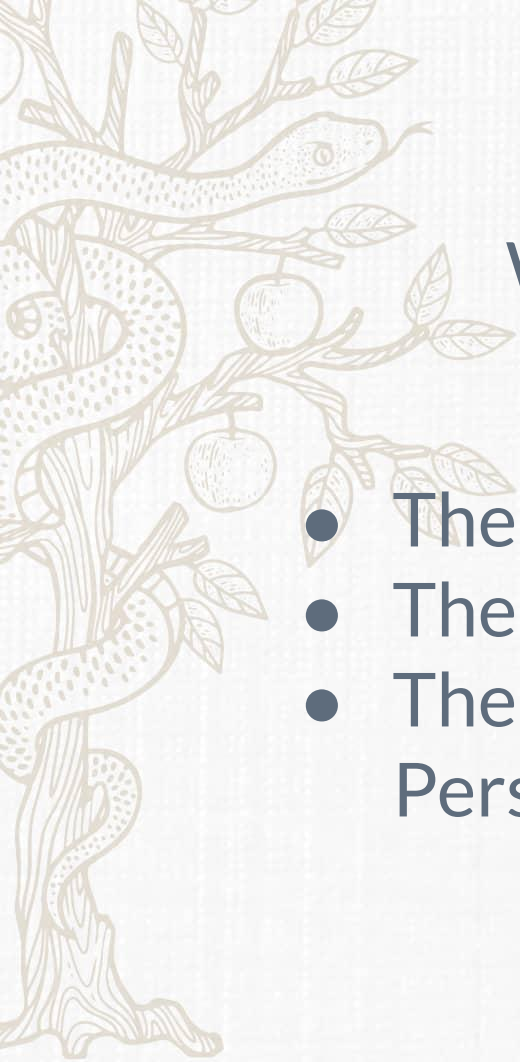
- What is the Bible?
  - What is the Bible about?
  - What is our relationship to the Bible?
- 



# Bible 101:

## What to Expect

- The Bible is God's Written Word
- The Bible is God's Story of Redemption
- The Bible, as God's Word, is his Personal Presence





# Divine Revelation

- **Personal Communication**
- Directed to recipients
- Carried through media





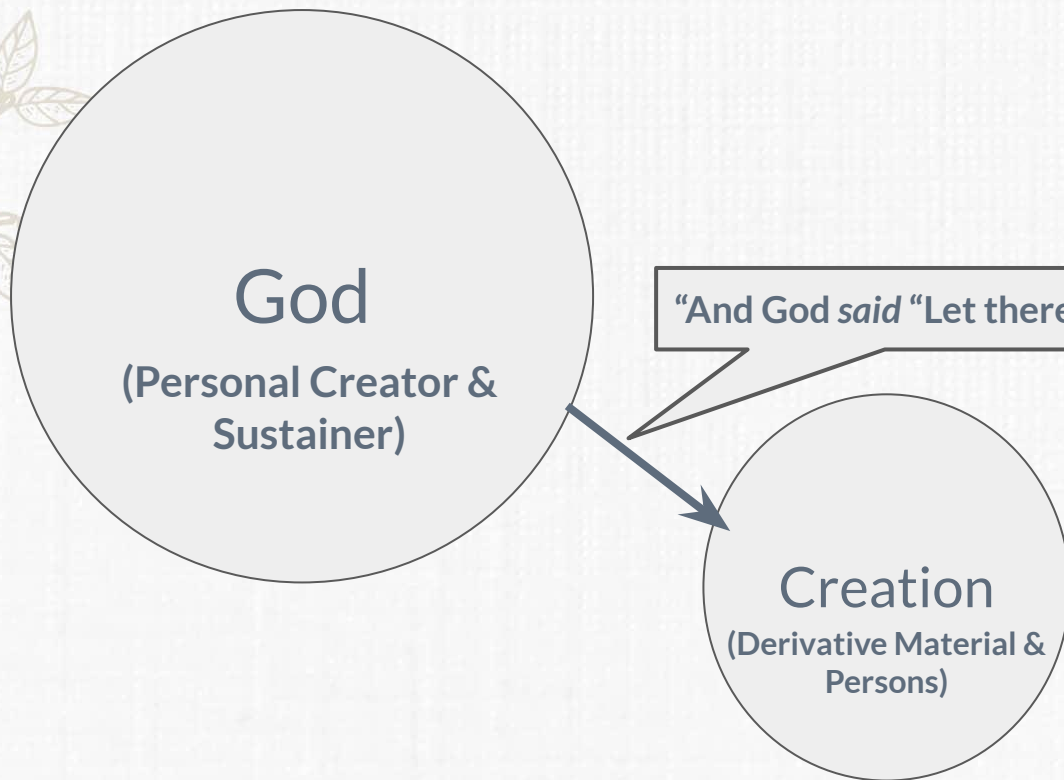


## Reality is Ultimately Personal

**In the beginning, God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **And God said, “Let there be..”**

Genesis 1:1-3a

# Biblical Conception of Reality



# Materialistic Conception of Reality

(Infinite Matter)

+

(Energy)

+

(Time)

+

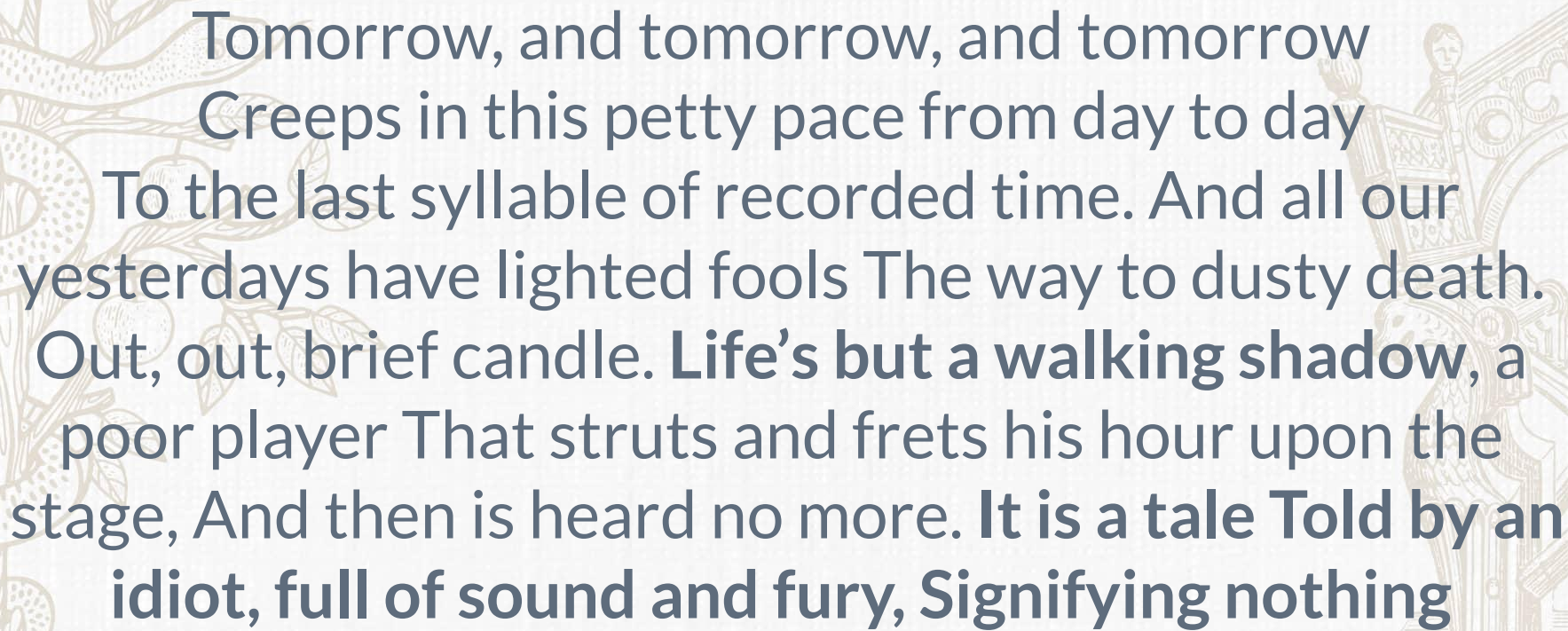
(Chance)

=

All is Accidental &  
Eventual Total Death







Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time. And all our  
yesterdays have lighted fools The way to dusty death.  
Out, out, brief candle. **Life's but a walking shadow, a  
poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the  
stage, And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an  
idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing**

Shakespeare in *Macbeth*



# Divine Revelation

- Personal Communication
- **Directed to recipients**
- Carried through media





## The Recipients of God's Communication

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. **And God said to them,** "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

Genesis 1:27-28



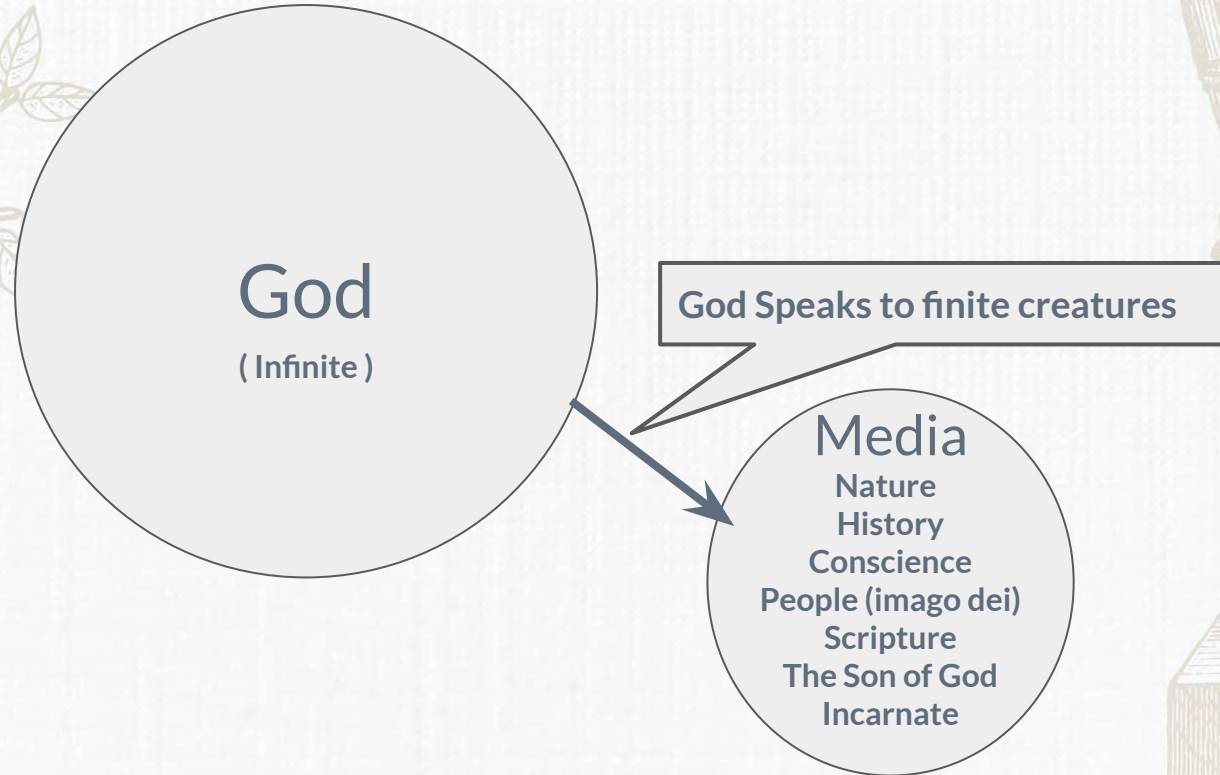


# Divine Revelation

- Personal Communication
- Directed to recipients
- **Carried through media**



# God's Revelation to Finite Creation



# Examples of 'Media'

- Nature
- Incarnation of the Son
- Scripture







## God Speaks in Nature

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. **Day to day pours out speech**, and night to night reveals knowledge. **There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.** Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4a









## God Speaks in Nature

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about **God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

**Romans 1:18-20**







## God Speaks By his Son

In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with **God**, and the **Word** was **God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:1-5, 14**



## God Speaks in Scripture

...from childhood you have been acquainted with **the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **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 complete, equipped for every good work.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17**



What does this passage  
claim about **Scripture**?







# The Bible as Media

- **The Self-Attesting Nature of Scripture**
- Canon of Scripture
- Human Writers and Divine Origin
- The Bible and History





## The Self Attesting Nature of Scripture

*just as our beloved brother **Paul** also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

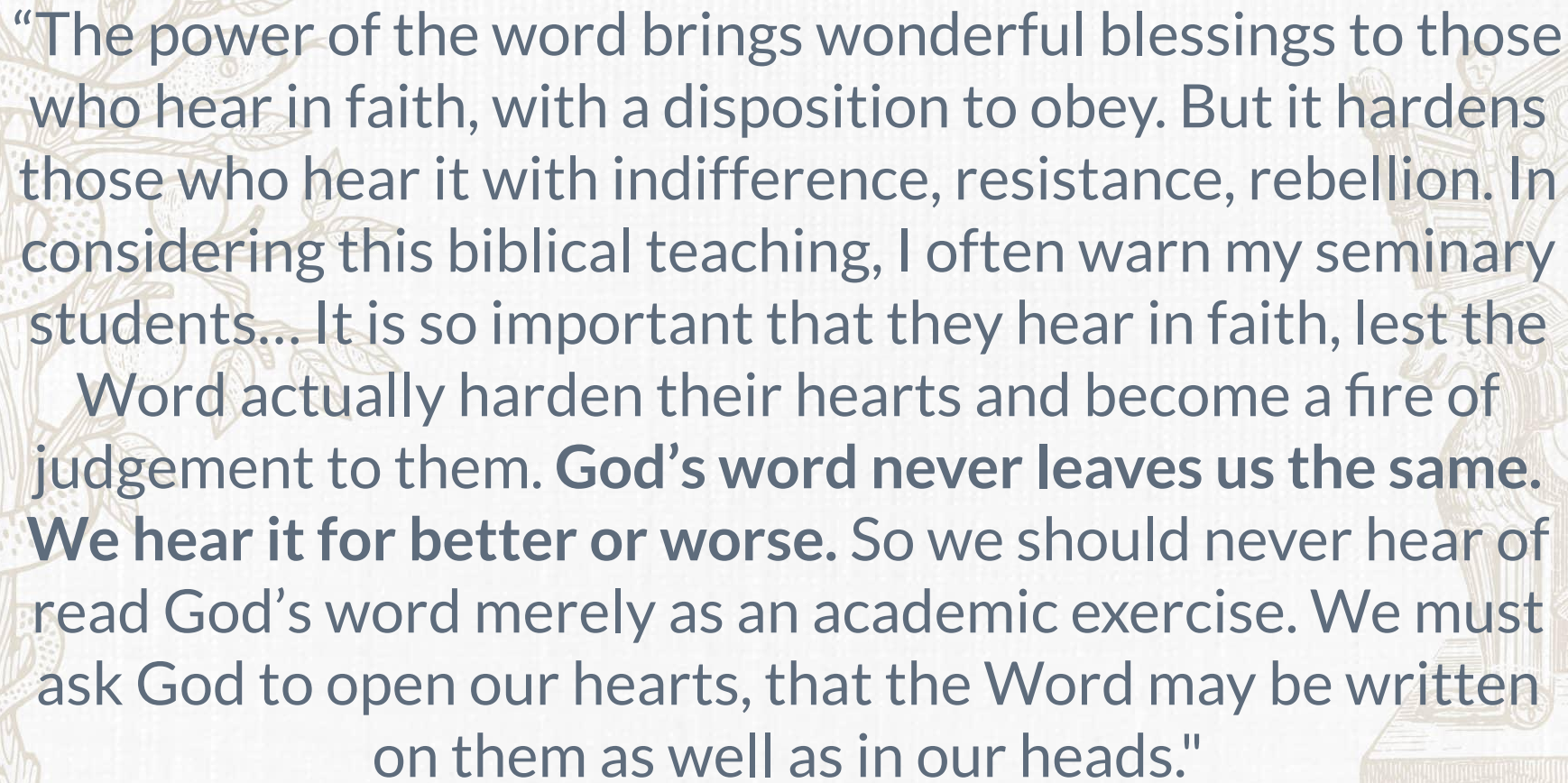
**2 Peter 3:15-16**



# The Self Attesting Nature of Scripture

*“The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, **dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God”**  
**Westminster Confession of Faith (I.iv).***





“The power of the word brings wonderful blessings to those who hear in faith, with a disposition to obey. But it hardens those who hear it with indifference, resistance, rebellion. In considering this biblical teaching, I often warn my seminary students... It is so important that they hear in faith, lest the Word actually harden their hearts and become a fire of judgement to them. **God’s word never leaves us the same. We hear it for better or worse.** So we should never hear of read God’s word merely as an academic exercise. We must ask God to open our hearts, that the Word may be written on them as well as in our heads.”

*John Frame*



# The Bible as Media

- The Self-Attesting Nature of Scripture
- **Canon of Scripture**
- Human Writers and Divine Origin
- The Bible and History





# Canon of Scripture

“We believe that the Holy Scriptures are contained in two books, namely, the Old and the New Testament, which are canonical, against which nothing can be alleged.”

**Belgic Confession (Article 4)**





# OLD TESTAMENT

Chapters	Date of Writing
Verses	
<b>Bt</b>	
Author	
<i>(Traditional in Italics)</i>	

GOSPELS

28 1071 <b>Mt</b> Matthew	57-59 <b>Mk</b> Mark	50 678 <b>Lk</b> Luke	21 679 <b>Jn</b> John
			28 1007 <b>Ac</b> Luke
13 257 <b>Co</b> <sup>2</sup> Paul	8 149 <b>Ga</b> Paul	6 155 <b>Ep</b> Paul	4 104 <b>Pp</b> Paul
8 113 <b>Ti</b> <sup>1</sup> Paul	4 83 <b>Ti</b> <sup>2</sup> Paul	3 46 <b>Tt</b> Paul	1 25 <b>Pm</b> Paul
5 105 <b>Jn</b> <sup>1</sup> John	1 13 <b>Jn</b> <sup>2</sup> John	1 14 <b>Jn</b> <sup>3</sup> John	1 25 <b>Ju</b> Jude
			22 404 <b>Re</b> John

NEW TESTAMENT



# The Bible as Media

- The Self-Attesting Nature of Scripture
- Canon of Scripture
- **Human Writers and Divine Origin**
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## Human Writers and Divine Origin

And we have the prophetic word **more fully confirmed**, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

**2 Peter 1:19-21**

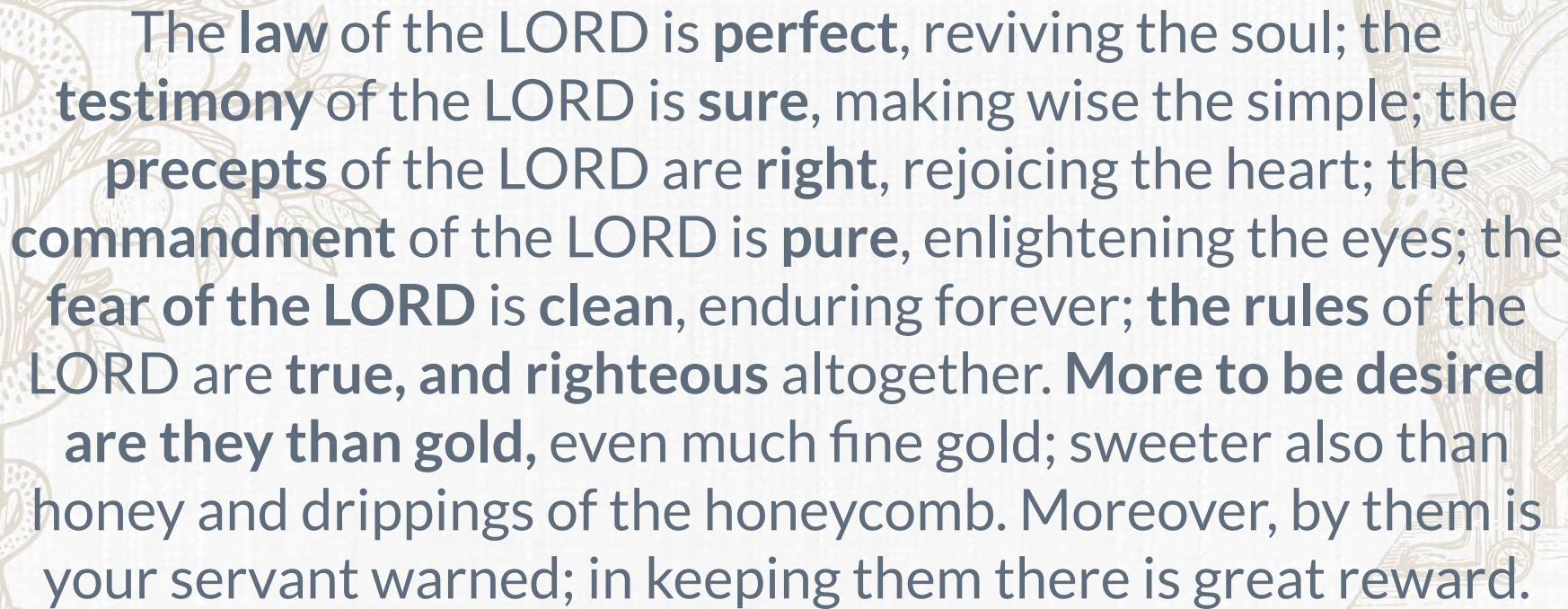







What does this passage  
claim about **Scripture**?






The **law** of the LORD is **perfect**, reviving the soul; the **testimony** of the LORD is **sure**, making wise the simple; the **precepts** of the LORD are **right**, rejoicing the heart; the **commandment** of the LORD is **pure**, enlightening the eyes; the **fear of the LORD** is **clean**, enduring forever; the **rules** of the LORD are **true**, and **righteous** altogether. **More to be desired are they than gold**, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**Psalms 19:7-11**



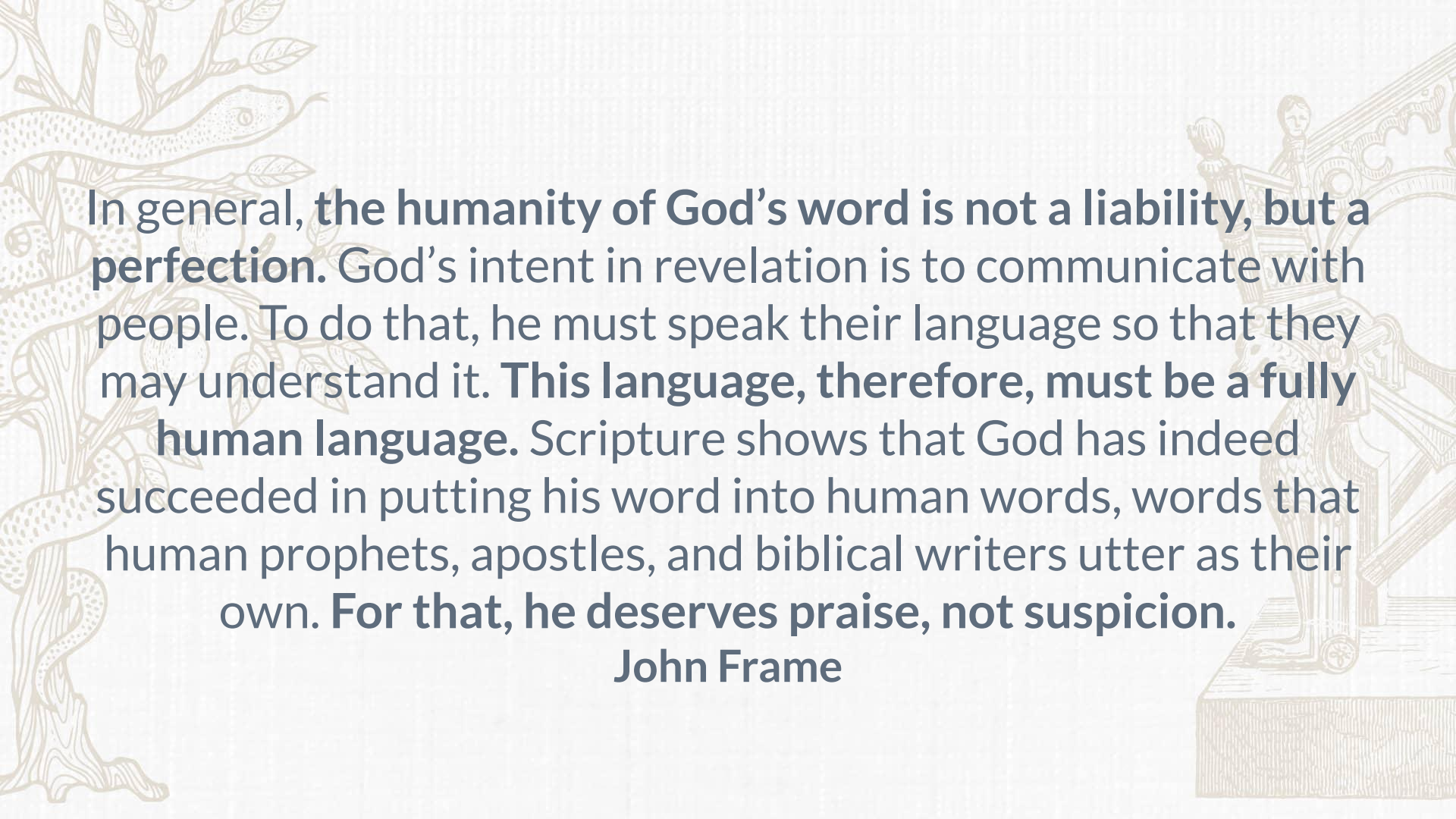
What are the **attributes** of  
**God's Word** in this  
passage?







Jesus	Scripture
Origin - Divine	Origin - Divine
Conceived of the Holy Spirit	Inspired by the Holy Spirit (God Breathed)
Historical Person	Historical Account and Record
Fully GOD - Fully Man	Fully God's Word - Fully Human Communication
Sinless, Authoritative, Holy	Innerrent, Authoritative, Holy
Redemptive	Redemptive
God's Living Word Made Flesh	God's Living Word Made Written
Biological Mystery	Psychological Mystery

The background features a faint, golden-brown line drawing. On the left, a large tree with a thick trunk and many leaves is shown. A snake is coiled around the tree's trunk, with its head raised and tongue flicking out. On the right, a figure of a man is depicted standing on a stone platform, holding a staff or scepter. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional religious art or book illustrations.

In general, **the humanity of God's word is not a liability, but a perfection.** God's intent in revelation is to communicate with people. To do that, he must speak their language so that they may understand it. **This language, therefore, must be a fully human language.** Scripture shows that God has indeed succeeded in putting his word into human words, words that human prophets, apostles, and biblical writers utter as their own. **For that, he deserves praise, not suspicion.**

**John Frame**



# The Bible as Media

- The Self-Attesting Nature of Scripture
- Canon of Scripture
- Human Writers and Divine Origin
- **The Bible and History**







## The Bible and History

The LORD God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”**

Genesis 3:14-15






## **The Bible and History**


**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

**Isaiah 55:10-11**





What does this passage  
claim about **God and His  
Word?**





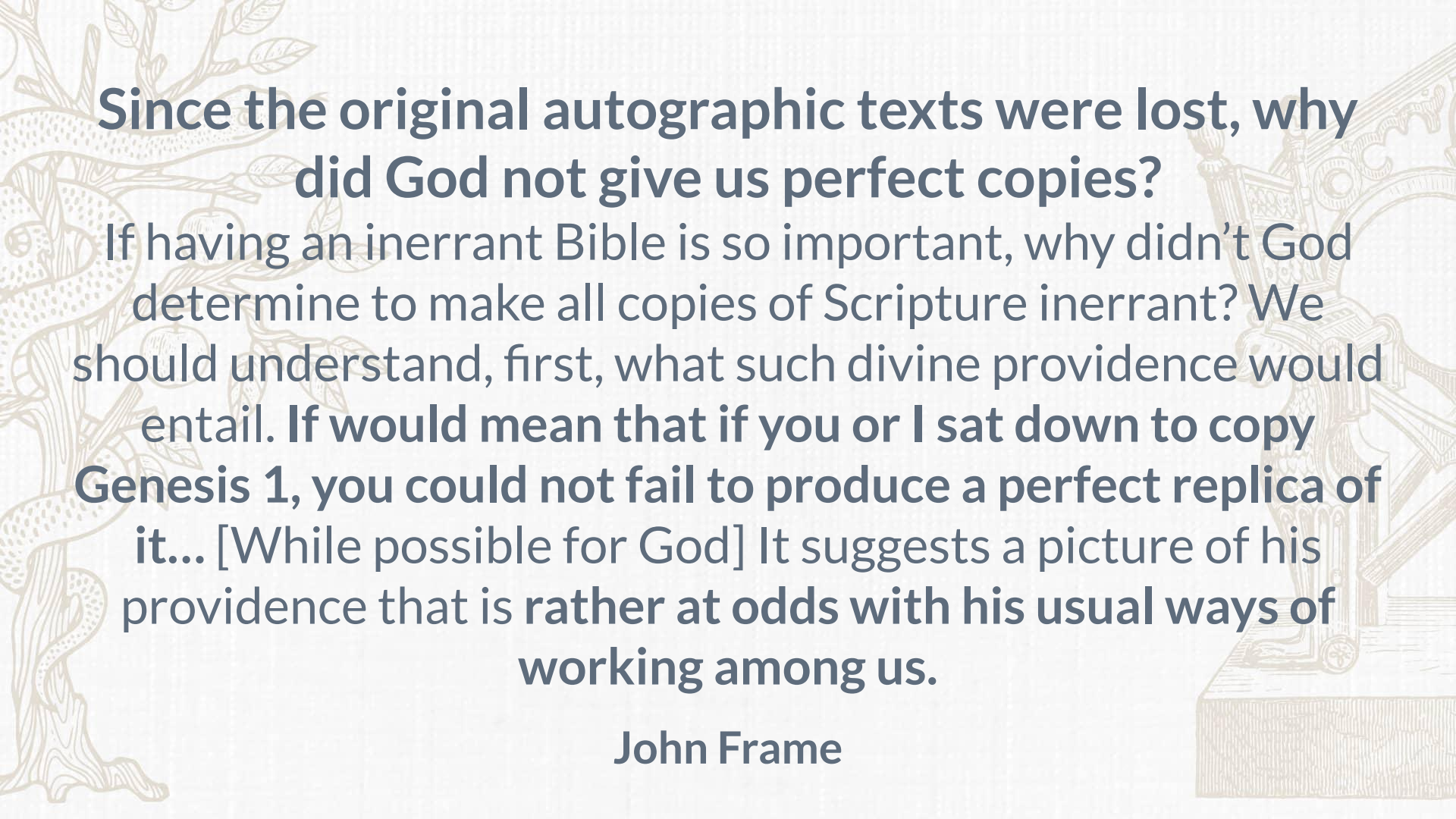


## The Bible and History

In him we have obtained an inheritance,  
having been predestined according to **the**  
**purpose of him who works all things**  
**according to the counsel of his will...**

Ephesians 1:11





**Since the original autographic texts were lost, why did God not give us perfect copies?**

If having an inerrant Bible is so important, why didn't God determine to make all copies of Scripture inerrant? We should understand, first, what such divine providence would entail. **If would mean that if you or I sat down to copy Genesis 1, you could not fail to produce a perfect replica of it...** [While possible for God] It suggests a picture of his providence that is **rather at odds with his usual ways of working among us.**

**John Frame**



**Questions?**

