

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE & OUR BIBLICAL HERITAGES

Providing factual information about the Bibles, beliefs, movements, institutions, events and people of historical Christianity & Judaism.

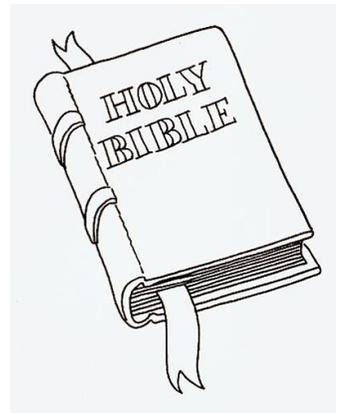
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The Most Important Word in Jesus' Bible

By Jim Myers

Let's begin by making sure we understand what Jesus' Bible was. When most people read the word "Scriptures" in their Bible, many picture "their Bible."

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the **Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All **Scripture** is given by inspiration of God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.¹



Is your Bible what you pictured when you read the above verses? Is your Bible what the author of those words had in his mind too? If we believe that the verses above mean our Bible, then we assume that the author's Scriptures meant our Bible. But what if he had something else in mind – then what do we do?

Who was the author? Traditionally, Paul is believed to be the author, but the evidence available today presents a different picture. It points to one or more followers of Paul as the author and it was written about fifty years after Paul's death. However, the author could have been repeating words of Paul that had been passed down. If either case, the words would have been recorded in the period between 60 and 110 CE. What does the author reveal about the Holy Scriptures?

- (1) *They had been known from his infancy.*
- (2) *They are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*
- (3) *They are given by inspiration of God.*

- (4) *They are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*
- (5) *They thoroughly equip the servant of God for every good work.*

If the Holy Scriptures are Paul's and he had known them from his infancy, then that would mean he knew them in the early decades of the first century. Since the earliest books found in the New Testament were written about 50 CE, the Scriptures could not have included the books of the New Testament in the above verses. Let me repeat this point, just in case your BS filter/firewall (Belief System) screened it out. When the author of the above verses wrote the "Holy Scriptures," no New Testament had been written yet! Therefore, no book of the New Testament could have been in Paul's Bible or in the Bible of Jesus.

The Holy Scriptures were NOT a printed book. Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg was the first European to use movable type printing, in around 1439 CE. He invented the printing press.² Before Gutenberg, books were written and copied by hand. Think about that for just a minute. How long would it take you to copy a book of your Bible, especially if it was a large book?



Codex Sinaiticus (350 CE)³

The Holy Scriptures were not even a book. What we call a book today began as a **codex**. A **codex** is made of a number of sheets of paper, vellum, or similar, with hand-written content, usually stacked and bound by fixing one edge and with covers thicker than the sheets. Developed by the Romans, the codex gradually replaced the scroll. First described by the 1st-century CE Roman poet Martial, who praised its convenient use. The codex achieved numerical parity with the scroll around 300 CE; it completely replaced it in the Christianized Greco-Roman world by the 6th century. The spread of the codex is often associated with its use as the format of the Christian Bible early on.⁴

At the time of Jesus, then, the Holy Scriptures were collections of individual scrolls of biblical books. They were not a single book. Think about what a job it would be to carry all of the individual scrolls of the books found in your Bible. Now think about what it would be like to find something written on a scroll. There were no chapter and verse markers. Just finding "the most important word" would require an intimate knowledge of the text.



Scroll

The author of Timothy confirms that scrolls were in use when he wrote his letter:

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.⁵

The Greek word translated *scroll* is βιβλία; it is transliterated into English as "BIBLES" -- β = **B**; ι = **I**; β = **B**; λ = **L**; ι = **I**; α = **A**. Our word *Bible* is simply a reflection of how the Greek word βιβλία sounds, but not what it meant to the ancient author. For him it meant "*scrolls*."

How did all of those scrolls end up in one book? It was through a process that we call **canonization**. A **biblical canon**, or **canon of scripture**, is a list of books considered to be authoritative scripture by a particular religious community. The word "canon" comes from the Greek "κανών", meaning "rule" or "measuring stick." The term was first coined in reference to scriptures of Christians, but the idea is also found in Judaism. *A Bible is a group of writings that a particular religious community considered to be authoritative.*⁶ Did you know that not all Christian or Jewish groups agreed on which scrolls were authoritative? Today, the Jewish Scriptures are divided into three sections:

- (1) **Torah** -- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
- (2) **Prophets** -- Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Twelve Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).
- (3) **Writings** – I & II Chronicles, Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah.

The **Sadducees** did not consider the scrolls of the Prophets and Writings as authoritative. The **Pharisees** considered all three sections as authoritative, but they also believed they should be interpreted in light of their **Oral Law**. The **Essenes** apparently also considered all three of the sections as authoritative, but not the Pharisees Oral Law. But, in addition to the sections above, the Essenes considered other scrolls as authoritative, such as the Community Rule (1QS), and interpreted the Scriptures in light of them. Jesus mentions all three sections in his teachings. It is safe to say that the Jewish sects and Jesus all considered the Torah to be the most authoritative section of Scriptures. According to rabbinic sources, the Torah was the most authoritative and opening creation account of Genesis (1:1-2:4a) is the most authoritative of all. *It is in this section that we find the most important word in Jesus' Bible.*

If you're reading any section of the Hebrew Bible and notice a word that comes up a lot, count the number of times. A sevenfold or the tenfold repetition of a word is called a *leitwort* -- *a recurring word that becomes thematic.*⁷ Such words are very important and provide clues that reveal the purpose behind the message

of the author. In the opening account of creation in Genesis the word "TOV" appears **seven** times in this account.

טוֹב

TOV

(1) *And God saw the light, that it was **TOV**. (1:4)*

(2) *And God saw that it (Earth & Seas) was **TOV**. (1:10)*

(3) *And God saw that it (plants & trees) was **TOV**. (1:12)*

(4) *And God saw that it (sun, moon & stars) was **TOV**. (1:18)*

(5) *And God saw that it (water creatures & flying creatures) was **TOV**. (1:21)*

(6) *And God saw that it (animals) was **TOV**. (1:25)*

(7) *And God saw that everything He made (including man) was very **TOV**. (1:31)*

TOV is the important because it is the standard God used to measure or judge His work. If for no other reason, this makes **TOV** the most important word in the Bible of Jesus. It also means that **TOV** is one of **the highest values of God** revealed in the Bible of Jesus. Understanding the importance and meaning of **TOV** will transform the way you understand the words of Jesus' Bible and his teachings. For example, what does it mean to be "the image of God"?

And God created **the ADAM** in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

*In the opening verse of Genesis, God exists and no information is revealed about Him. No information is provided about God other than what He does. Nothing is given about His appearance or His history. Therefore, what it means to be made "in the image of God" refers to what He does. The lack of a mythology for God is a foundational principle of Judaism. This created a huge obstacle for Gentile Christians when they read the Scriptures of Jesus and tried to understand who Jesus was. The gods of the Gentiles had mythologies that explained who they were and how they got here. The holiest place in many pagan temples was where you would find magnificent statues of their gods. *There was no image of the Creator in the holiest place of the Jewish Temple.**

Who was created "in the image of the Creator"? It was "**the ADAM.**" **ADAM** is the transliteration of a Hebrew word, not a translation of it. **The ADAM** consisted of **male** and **female**. The word **ADAM** may be translated individually as a "**man**" or collectively as "**mankind.**" In this verse, **ADAM** refers to **mankind**. This is very important; no individual male or female can be the "image

of the Creator;" it requires both **male** and **female**. Obviously, simply being male or female isn't what being the "image of the Creator" means, because water creatures and animals are also male and female in gender.

What does it mean to be created in the "image of the Creator"? One of the first things we learn about God is that **He is the creator**. The context makes it clear that to be "the image of the Creator" means to do acts like He did, which means to create things that are **TOV**. But being the "image of God" has an important difference. It requires males and females to **create things that are TOV together**.

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth; and subdue her; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth. (Genesis 1:28)

God's blessing was given to the male and female. The word blessing means to empower and both **the male and female were empowered to be co-creators and co-rulers**. *Creativity and governing that prohibits females from being equal to males does not measure up to God's TOV Standard*. This is one of the most important lessons taught in the opening accounts of Genesis -- "the image of the God" requires males and females to be equal in authority and power.

Now we understand the importance of the word **TOV**, it is time to find out what it means. **TOV** is usually translated "**good**," but "good" is a word with a wide range of meanings in English: *morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; well-behaved; fertile*.⁸ Many years ago, I was visiting with an Israeli professor who taught Hebrew at a Chicago university. I asked her about the meaning of **TOV** in this account. She said:

"TOV is something that **can be seen**. It is something that is **visible and concrete**, *not an intangible abstraction*. **TOV** is something that is **good to the sight; beautiful and pleasant to the eyes**."

Dr. John Walton's provides additional important insights:

"TOV indicates that something is functionally complete."⁹

The context of the Genesis account adds one more factor that is very important. Each creative act of God "*protected, preserved and increased the quality of life*." Look at the list of God's seven creative acts above that He measured by the **TOV Standard**. Each act progressively made the creation a better and safer place for life to exist and to be more functional. Now put all of this information together and see how the context of the Genesis account defines the word **TOV**:

***TOV** is an act that is good to the sight, beautiful and pleasant to the eyes, makes something functionally complete, and protects, preserves, and increases the quality of life.*

The Creator did acts that were good to His sight and beautiful and pleasant to His eyes. Each of His creative acts made the creation more functionally complete and protected, preserved, and increased the quality of life. This reveals two very important truths. The first is about the "nature" of the Creator and His relationship to the creation. The second is that it reveals the Creator's highest value – *Life 1st*.

As you read the Bible of Jesus you will read about the heroes and heroines. They did acts of **TOV** – *Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Deborah, Ruth, etc.* You will also learn that none of the heroes or heroines was perfect. One of the most memorable failures of a man and woman to be co-rulers together and do **TOV** together took place in the Garden of Eden. Instead of being the "image of God" they were the "image of a wild animal (the serpent)." The Hebrew Bible's greatest hero was King David, and obviously he was not perfect.

The **TOV Standard** is the foundation of the justice system in the Bible of Jesus.

And surely your blood of your souls I will require; at the hand of every beast I will require it; and at the hand of man, even at the hand of every man's brother; I will require the soul of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the **image of God** made He man. (Genesis 9:4-6)

The protection of life is the foundation of the biblical justice system. As you read the laws of the Bible you will notice a pattern. Doing them results in **TOV**. Failure to do what follow God's instructions, in many cases, results in the opposite:

Acts that are not good to the sight, not beautiful and pleasant to the eyes. Acts that make something dysfunctional and incomplete. Acts that threaten and destroy life, and decrease the quality of life.

The Hebrew word that is used to describe acts that are the opposite of **TOV** is **RA**. It is translated "**evil**." Acts of **TOV** are also called **TZEDAQAH** in Jesus' Bible. **TZEDAQAH** is usually translated "**righteousness**" or **TZADIQ** that is translated "**righteous**."

Noah was a **TZADIQ** (righteous) man. (Genesis 6:9)

Abram trusted the LORD, and He credited it to him as **TZEDAQAH** (righteousness). (Genesis 15:6)

It was what Noah and Abram did that earned the designation of righteous and righteousness. What they did was **TOV**. This importance of doing acts that are righteous is clearly seen in the first Psalm:

For the LORD knows the way of the **righteous**, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (Psalm 15:6)

This concept was clearly understood by Jesus. It was the foundational principle of his message and movement.

For I tell you that unless your **righteousness** surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 5:20)

Righteousness was clearly a requirement for one to enter the "**Kingdom of God** (Heaven)." Jesus viewed his movement as a group that is the "Kingdom of God." Jesus clearly defined exactly what was required for one to enter into God's Kingdom here and that this was also what God would use on the Great Day of Judgment to judge mankind. The bottom line was that mankind will be judged by the same standard He judges His acts by – *the **TOV Standard***.

Then **they** will go away to eternal punishment, but the **righteous** to eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)

According to Jesus, the **righteous** go away to eternal life, but the unrighteous go away to eternal punishment. The righteous are those, male and female, who revealed the "image of God" in their generation by doing acts like He did. They were the people who did acts of **TOV**. Here is the example that Jesus gave:

For I was hungry and **you gave** me something to eat, I was thirsty and **you gave** me something to drink, I was a stranger and **you invited** me in, I needed clothes and **you clothed** me, I was sick and **you looked after** me, I was in prison and **you came** to visit me. (Matthew 25:35-36)

Giving food to a hungry person was an act that was good to God's sight; beautiful and pleasant to God's eyes; an act that made the hungry person more functionally complete; and an act protected, preserved, and increased the quality of the hungry person's life. The righteous are the people that did what God would do. *This idea is well established in Jewish thought.*

When a beggar stands at your door, the Holy One, Blessed be He, stands at his right hand.¹⁰

He that feeds the hungry feeds God also.¹¹

Almsgiving (TZEDAQAH) and loving-kindness are a powerful defense on the Day of Judgment.¹²

My children, in patience and meekness spend the number of your days, that you inherit endless life . . . Whoever of you spends gold or silver for his brother's sake, he will receive ample treasure in the world to come. Injure not widows nor orphans nor strangers, lest God's wrath come upon you.¹³

This was the salvation message taught by Jesus. This principle is found throughout the teachings of Jesus that have been preserved in the Synoptic Gospels, but it is not the salvation message taught by Christianity today. Have you ever attended or belonged to any church that proclaimed that one must do acts of **TZEDAQAH**, acts that measure up to **God's TOV Standard** in order to be saved? If this was what Jesus himself taught, why do the institutions that claim to represent Jesus preach something else?

Jesus' message about doing **TZEDAQAH** was the foundation of his gospel. But, within a few years after he was crucified by the Romans, another man appeared and he has another gospel.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; but through a revelation of Jesus *the Christ*.¹⁴

This man said he received his gospel through a revelation, which could mean a *vision* or a *dream*. It was a revelation that no one else witnessed. No one else had ever heard of his gospel before him, including the Jesus that taught the salvation message above or any of his apostles or followers. The man's name was **Saul**, aka, **Paul of Tarsus**, *a citizen of Rome*. The gospel of Paul contains a revelation about who Jesus was and what he did. *According to Paul, for one to be saved one must believe his revelations*. This marks the transition from the Jesus Movement to the Christ religions.

The different Christ religions would be in conflict for the next 350 years over who Jesus was, what one must believe about him, and why he did what he did. The bottom line was that correct beliefs were required for one to be saved from eternal punishment. When the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great became involved in Roman Christianity it became the dominant Christian institution in the

Western world. With the emperor's power and authority, the Church could physically punish those who challenged its beliefs, creeds, and doctrines. The Roman Church continued to expand in numbers, power and wealth after the fall of the Roman Empire. It acquired new kings and emperors to enforce its laws. Even after Martin Luther protested against the Roman Church and ultimately left it to create a completely new Christ religion, the Roman Church continued. And even though Luther attacked the pope and the Church, he "borrowed" their core doctrines about who Jesus was. Interestingly, Luther also called the pope the "Antichrist."

In 1883 a group of Protestant Christians met at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario and *established the principles of Christian fundamentalism*. The **Niagara Bible Conference** met every year from 1883 through 1897 (except 1884). In 1895, it published the "**Five Points of Fundamentalism**." It declared that the essential beliefs required for one to be a Christian are:¹⁵

- *The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ.*
- *The Atonement of Jesus for human sins.*
- *The physical Resurrection of Jesus.*
- *The imminent return of Jesus to earth.*
- *The inerrancy of Scripture (meaning the Christian Bible).*

According to the conference, if one did not unconditionally hold the above beliefs – *he or she was not a true Christian*. Obviously, if one was not a Christian, then he or she was not saved and would not enter into eternal life. They would be punished in hell forever. Today, there are over 40,000 Christian denominations in America and each focuses on some different "shades" of beliefs to justify its existence; otherwise, if they all believed the same things, then wouldn't there just be one denomination? Jesus didn't found twelve denominations, one for each of his apostles.

The bottom line is that Jesus and Christianity have two very different value systems.

Jesus held and taught was that **life is the highest value** and the **TOV Standard** reflects that value.

Christianity holds that **correct beliefs are the highest value** and the **creeds, statements of faith, and institutional doctrines are the standards that are used to judge**.

How could the highest value held by Jesus be replaced by the beliefs we find in Christianity today? The change probably began when the leadership of the Church no longer came from the Jewish culture. By the first century, the new

leadership came from many different Gentile cultures. In the Gentile religions mythology was very important. But, as we saw above, the foundation principle of the Bible of Jesus is that God has no mythology. He is known by his actions, not His mythology. The gods of the Gentiles came with *supernatural births, divine lineages, supernatural victories, resurrections from the dead, etc.* Take a close look at the mandatory beliefs about Jesus that many religious institutions require for salvation. *Do they reflect ideas like those found in pagan myths or are they based on doing acts that protect, preserve and increase the quality of life?*

What we hold as our highest value affects the other values we hold and our relationships with others. If life is our highest value then relationships and actions are based on protecting, preserving, and increasing the quality of life. On the other hand, if beliefs are valued above life, then defending those beliefs and persuading others to adopt them is more important. **Two very different realities are created by the different value systems. In one, life is valued first and the highest priority, while in the other, life becomes secondary to many things, especially money.** Once life becomes secondary to anything some very bad things happen, i.e., buying and selling human beings as slaves, designing more effective systems to murder Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, and the mentally ill, just to name a few. *We could add profiting from the sale of products that destroy health. Such things would be prohibited in society that valued Life 1st as its highest value.*

It seems that, having slipped into separate conventional streams, value and values have each evolved this way. We use adjectives to distinguish one form of values from another, one kind of value from another kind. There are social values, political values, family values, and religious values. We also speak about economic value, shareholder value, market value, investment value, consumer value, and so on. But value itself has lost its perch among value . . . Value and values have diverged. . . .

The world has turned mean and dangerous. It seems to lack a center of gravity. When you ask why, your answer all too often concerns values. If so, you need to find some way to bridge the divide separating value from values. You must do so; no one is going to do it for you. . . (you must) reconnect value and values in the markets, networks, organizations, families and friends within which you actually live your life. . . *I contend, however, that our most pressing dilemma – how to reintegrate value and values – is unprecedented.*¹⁶

If we hold Life 1st as our highest value, then it is the standard by which we create and measure our social values, political values, family values, religious values, spiritual values, economic value, shareholder value, market value, investment value, consumer value, and so on. The amazing thing about holding the Life 1st

value of Jesus and his Bible is that it has nothing to do with having any particular beliefs that define who God or Jesus is. One can believe whatever they want, as long as what they do does not threaten, destroy, or decrease the quality of life for others.

The United States of America is founded on ideas and values, not bloodlines and tribes – *and those ideas and values reflect the values of Jesus and his Bible.*

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”¹⁷

Pay close attention to the “self-evident truths.”

- (1) *All men are created equal.*
- (2) *All men are endowed by their Creator.*
- (3) *All men are endowed with certain unalienable rights.*

Those unalienable rights are:

- (1) *life*
- (2) *liberty*
- (3) *pursuit of happiness*

The self-evident truths and unalienable rights define the basic requirements that individuals must have to be considered free men -- *and they meet the TOV Standard. Religious creeds, beliefs and doctrines are protected by the US Constitution, but they cannot violate the truths and rights stated above.* History clearly records the outcomes of government sponsored religious inquisitions over religious beliefs, creeds and doctrines that have taken the lives of many.

As stated above, the most pressing dilemma we face today is how to integrate value and values in our lives today. *Since 78% of the American adult population identify themselves as Christians and 100% of the American adult population are American citizens, then my suggestion is that we return to the highest value of the Bible of Jesus, the teachings of Jesus, and the values of the Founding Fathers of our nation.* It would demand that we do acts that meet the TOV Standard and take a stand against those who do acts that threaten, destroy and decrease the quality of life.

I was watching a video the other night -- *Jihad in America: The Grand Deception.* One of the speakers was addressing a crowd and speaking about how they were going to overthrow America. The speaker said, and this is a paraphrase, *“American minds are like Jell-O because they don’t know what they believe. Our*

minds are like knives because we know what we believe and we will slice through their Jell-O." Their ultimate goal is to conquer America from within not by terrorist attacks. In my opinion, the only way to defend our nation from them, as well as to deal with massive outbreaks of violence, greed, poverty, isolation and inequality we are witnessing today is for a massive wave of individuals to consciously adopt Life 1st as their highest value, network with others that openly hold the same value, and become actively involved in co-creating to repair the damaged world we live in today -- **Choose Life • Do TOV!** **BHC**

January Memorials

In Loving Memory

**MURLIN
BENTLEY**

May 24, 1929
January 20, 1996

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Their Remembrance

*May their memories inspire us to
seek those qualities of mind and
heart which they shared when we
walked life's journey together.*

*May we help to bring closer to
fulfillment their highest ideals and
noblest strivings.*

*May their memories deepen our
loyalty to those things which we
valued and shared --
faith, love, peace and devotion
and our biblical heritage.*

*As long as we live, they too will
live; for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.*

(Inspired from prayers found in Yitzhor
Reflections - The New Mahzor - The Prayer
Book Press)

In Loving Memory

**JULIE FALLIN
KELSOE**

January 12, 1960
January 19, 1990

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**GLADYS
GERALDINE
MYERS**

October 1, 1916
January 29, 2009

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**HOMER
MELTON
(DOC) PITNER**

October 7, 1914
January 10, 1971

*May you dwell under His
wings in complete
SHALOM forever!*

Remembering those who came before us is a very important part of the Biblical Heritage Center's mission. It is our privilege to honor them by the BHC Memorial Garden and Memorials. The Memorial Garden is on the website at <http://www.biblicalheritage.org>. Please visit it the next time you are on the Internet. If you would like to add your loved one to this section, send their information to us. There is no charge, but donations are accepted. Remember those who have meant so much to you in the BHC Memorial Garden.

The Biblical Heritage Center is committed to providing accurate information about the histories of the Bible, beliefs, creeds, doctrines, institutions, acts, values, etc. – and the people that were involved in them.

Our goals are raise the awareness of, to inform and to educate people about the biblical heritages that influence their lives -- and the lives of billions of people today.

We cannot do it alone. BHC relies on the support of individuals who understand that what people believe and value shapes the world we live in today – and will shape the world of the future. The change that our world needs begins with and takes both of us. We have had 2,000 years of Beliefs 1st and Money 1st – we can see what type of world those values created.

**Please join with BHC in 2013 to make a difference.
Send your contribution in the return envelope or contribute online at –
<http://www.biblicalheritage.org/BHC/donate.htm>**

The time for the Life 1st Value System and the use of the TOV Standard is now!

Choose Life • Do TOV!

¹ 2 Timothy 3:14-17

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Gutenberg

³ http://codexsinaiticus.org/en/img/Codex_Sinaiticus_open_full.jpg

⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex>

⁵ 2 Timothy 4:13

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_canon

⁷ <http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/introduction-to-the-old-testament-hebrew-bible/content/class-sessions/transcripts/transcript03.html>

⁸ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/good>

⁹ The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origin Debate by Dr. John Walton; InterVarsity Press © 2009; p. 20.

¹⁰ Wayyikra Rabbah 34:9

¹¹ Agadat Shir ha-Shirim

¹² Tosefta Peach, 1

¹³ 2 Enoch 50:1-7

¹⁴ Galatians 1:11-12

¹⁵ <http://jamespaulgaard.wordpress.com/2009/02/09/biblical-inerrancy-history-analysis/>

¹⁶ On Value and Values: Thinking Differently About We In An Age Of Me by Douglas K. Smith © 2004, 2011; iUniverse, Inc., Bloomington, IN; pp. 2-4.

¹⁷ Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776.