

British Bible School Syllabus

The Authority of Scripture (INT02)



Overview

This introductory module examines the processes by which the Scriptures came to be written, from their composition to their compilation, and explores the reasons for there being 66 books in our Bible, with an emphasis on their authoritative role in our lives.

This is one of our Introductory Modules forming part of our *Applied Biblical Studies* course. Students working towards a British Bible School award will receive 5 Module Credits upon completion of all given assignments.

Module content

- Whilst the authority of Scripture is under attack from many angles, this module addresses key areas in which the servant of God needs to be prepared to defend the authority of Scripture.
- The concept of ‘inspiration’ will be explored, looking closely at key sections of Scripture and the implications of its divine origin.
- The history of the canonisation of Scripture will be examined and the relevance of various lines of evidence considered.
- The relevance of ‘apocryphal,’ pseudepigraphical and certain other religious literature will be explored.
- Practical implications of Scripture’s authority will be considered in light of everyday living.

Module outline

Unit 1 - God has spoken (the doctrine of revelation)

Unit 2 - The Spirit moves (the process and concept of ‘inspiration’)

Unit 3 - Keeping the books (the concept and development of canonicity)

Unit 4 - The disputed writings (what about all those other books?)

Unit 5 - The Word of God (implications of divine revelation for unity and life)

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module the student will:

- be familiar with key terms and their meanings in relation to this subject
- have developed an understanding of various theories as to how God revealed Scripture
- understand the essential processes of determining the authenticity of Scripture

- have learned about key events that have shaped the Bible as we have it today
- have been introduced to some other major works of religious literature
- understand what it means for Scripture to have authority
- have an understanding of the practical implications of the divine origin of Scripture

Student assignments and expectations

Students will be expected to:

- Attend all classes where possible
- Be familiar with using Zoom and actively/visibly engage with others online in the class
- Contribute to online discussions as appropriate
- Complete all additional assignments outside of class time

In order to complete all Learning outcomes and attain Module credit towards British Bible School certification, students are expected to complete all additional student assignments. These will be varied in nature, consisting of reading, analysis, commenting and short essays/articles.

Assignments will generally be issued on a weekly basis, with at least a week given to complete. The final assignment will be issued towards the end of the twelve week period, along with the agreed deadline for submission.

For further guidance, please consult the Student Handbook available on our website.

Learning and assessment

Applicable to entire Module INT02 - including completion of additional assignments.

Assignment	Time allocation	Outcome
Online class presentations/discussions	24 hours	12 x 2 hour sessions
Weekly assignments	12 hours	As assigned
Final assignment (including reading)	14 hours	1,500 words
Total	50 hours	

Cost

The cost for the Module is £30 (waived for *Friends of the Bible School*). This should be paid online.

Details of Module

Times: Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Dates: 5th January to 30th March 2021 (with one week off mid-term, t.b.c.)

Location: Zoom – details will be made available to registered students

Teacher: Patrick Boyns

Class schedule (provisional)

I. God has spoken (the doctrine of revelation)

- A. Introduction and the rationale for revelation
- B. Different types of revelation

II. The Spirit moves (the process and concept of ‘inspiration’)

- A. Claims of ‘inspiration’
- B. Processes of ‘inspiration’
- C. Evidences of ‘inspiration’

III. Keeping the books (the concept and development of canonicity)

- A. The concept of canonicity
- B. The formation of the Hebrew canon
- C. The formation of the Christian canon

IV. The disputed writings (what about all those other books?)

- A. Old Testament Apocrypha
- B. Other early Christian writings

V. The Word of God (implications of divine revelation for unity and life)

- A. Contemporary attitudes towards authority
 - B. The role of Scripture as authority
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Additional notes