

Resources for Further Study

Note: there are many other books on these topics, but the ones listed below are books which I have read. I did not want to recommend books which I had not read. Many of these are available in our church library, and I have copies of all of them which could be borrowed for brief periods of time.

All topics

The Origin of the Bible, Philip Comfort, General Editor. ISBN 0-8423-8367-0

This is the one volume that covers every topic touched upon in the seminar today (plus several chapters on the literary nature of the bible as well – another very important topic). Many first rate evangelical scholars contribute chapters in the book. If I could only have one single book covering this material, this would be the book I would choose.

Inspiration

The Origin of the Bible, Philip Comfort, General Editor. ISBN 0-8423-8367-0

This volume offers four separate essays on the authority and inspiration of the Bible, one each written by FF Bruce, Carl Henry, JI Packer, and Harold OJ Brown, four of the leading evangelical scholars of our age. Excellent introduction to inspiration, authority, and inspiration.

Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem. ISBN 0310286700

Grudem has a good general discussion of inspiration. Like all discussions in systematic theologies, it is fairly brief, but he writes in a manner that is easy to understand, and gives a good bibliography as well.

Canonization

The Canon of Scripture, FF Bruce. ISBN-13 978-0-8308-1258-5

This is the best single volume on the process of canonization. It gives much greater detail than *any of the other books mentioned here*, and it is written by a great evangelical scholar.

The Origin of the Bible, Philip Comfort, General Editor. ISBN 0-8423-8367-0

This volume offers three chapters on the canon – one for the Old Testament, one for the New Testament, and one for the Apocrypha. It contains a lot of good information, although it is a little reductionistic at times.

Introduction to the Old Testament, R.K. Harrison. ISBN 1-56563-520-5.

Harrison's introduction gives a very thorough introduction (approximately 90 pages, which is very thorough for an Old testament introduction) to the transmission, texts, canon, and textual criticism of the Old Testament. The material is very good, but it is dated, since it was written in 1969, before the impact of the Dead Sea Scrolls was fully known, and before the introduction of the BHS, which is now the authoritative and standard Hebrew text in use.

An Introduction to the New Testament, Carson, Moo, and Morris. ISBN 0-310-51940-3
The evangelical introduction to the New Testament has a good overview of the process of canonization for the New Testament. It also gives a good discussion of the process each book went through to be received into the canon, which is quite helpful.

Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem. ISBN 0310286700
Grudem has a good general discussion of canonization. His information is a bit over-simplified and makes the process seem neater than it really was, but it is a good general introduction to the topic.

New Testament Survey, Merrill Tenney. ISBN 0-8028-3251-2.
Tenney has a brief but useful overview of the process of canonization. Unlike Carson, Moo and Morris he does not discuss the path toward canonization for each individual book, however.

Transmission

Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction, Ellis R. Brotzman. ISBN 0-8010-1065-9.
Brotzman gives a thorough introduction to the transmission, various versions, and the process and principles of textual criticism of the Old Testament. Obviously it does not cover the New Testament, but it is certainly the most in depth coverage of the Old Testament of any book listed here. However, it is more technical than the other volumes as well.

Introduction to the Old Testament, R.K. Harrison. ISBN 1-56563-520-5.
Harrison's introduction gives a very thorough introduction (approximately 90 pages, which is very thorough for an Old testament introduction) to the transmission, texts, canon, and textual criticism of the Old Testament. The material is very good, but it is dated, since it was written in 1969, before the impact of the Dead Sea Scrolls was fully known, and before the introduction of the BHS, which is now the authoritative and standard Hebrew text in use.

A Guide to Old Testament Theology and Exegesis, Willem A. Van Gemeren, General Editor. ISBN 0-310-23193-0.
This volume is a collection of articles, and the one by Bruce Waltke on "The Reliability of the Old Testament Text" is an excellent (but fairly technical) overview of the history, transmission, and textual criticism of the Old Testament text.

The Origin of the Bible, Philip Comfort, General Editor. ISBN 0-8423-8367-0
This volume has two chapters on transmission of the text (one for Old Testament and one for the New Testament). Each chapter gives a lot of good information on the process of transmission, the various texts of each testament, and the principles of textual criticism for each testament. A solid introduction to the topic that is less technical than most of the books listed above.

The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable? FF Bruce. ISBN 0-8028-1025-X

This volume by Bruce is the standard work on the reliability of the manuscripts of the NT. It gives an excellent look at the date of the original writings, the attestation of these writings, the process of canonization, and archaeological evidence that supports the authenticity of the NT documents.

New Testament Survey, Merrill Tenney. ISBN 0-8028-3251-2

Tenney has a brief but useful overview of the process of transmission and some of the more notable manuscripts of the New Testament.

Translation

The Origin of the Bible, Philip Comfort, General Editor. ISBN 0-8423-8367-0

This volume has four chapters on the biblical languages, translation, the history of the English bible, and the various versions of the bible. They are necessarily brief, as each topic could take up an entire book on its own, but it is a solid introduction to the topic.

Translating Truth, Wayne Grudem, Leland Ryken, C. John Collins, Vern Poythress, and Bruce Winter. ISBN 1-58134-755-3

This book is a collection of five essays (plus a lengthy introduction by JI Packer) on the topic of translation theory. The authors were all members of the committee that produced the English Standard Version, and they argue strongly for essentially literal translations and against dynamic equivalence translations. At times the material is a bit selective and can be unfair, but it is a good introduction to the topic from the point of view of essentially literal translations.

The Inclusive Language Debate: A Plea for Realism, D.A. Carson. ISBN 0-8010-5835-X

This book, as the title declares, is really about gender inclusive translation, but it has a lot of good information on translation in general. Carson is a first rate, conservative evangelical scholar who favors dynamic equivalent translations (and also is open to gender inclusive translations – he was a member of the translation team for the New Living Translation).

How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. ISBN 0-310-37361-1

Fee and Stuart offer a brief but solid introduction to translation and translation theories. Fee is a member of the CBT, the group that oversees the translation of the NIV, and both a first rate evangelical scholars. They clearly favor dynamic equivalence translations.