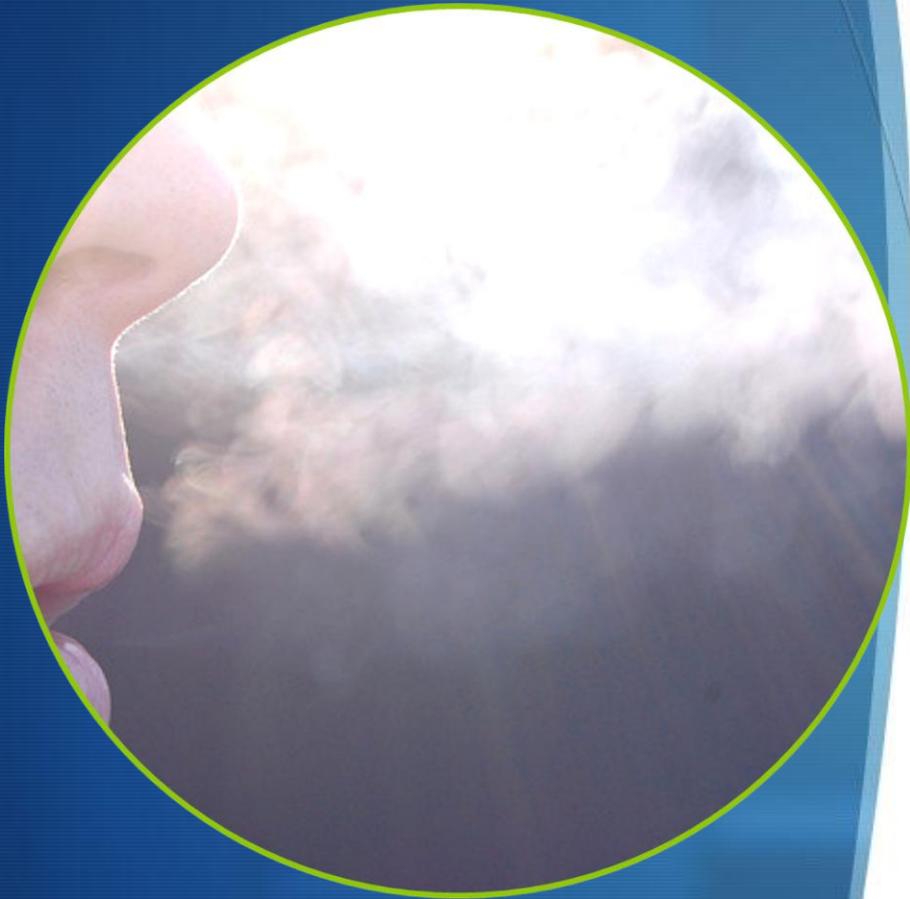


What is The Bible? Part I: Authority

By Colin Barnes





The AIR we
breathe...

Authority
Inspiration
Revelation

What is Authority?

- ◆ The power to decide
- ◆ Can be grabbed
 - ◆ Force
 - ◆ Wealth
- ◆ Magna Carta
- ◆ Comes from God –
Romans 13:1

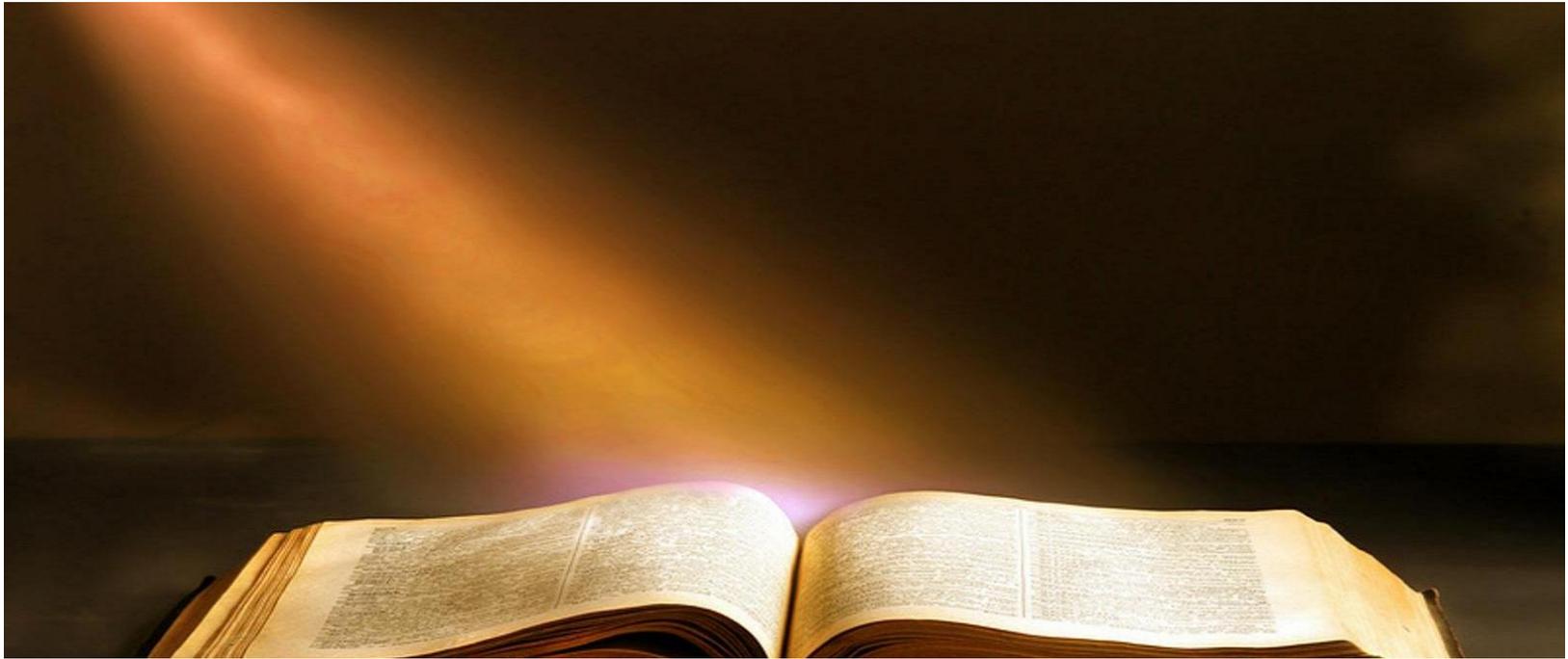


Why Have Any Authority?

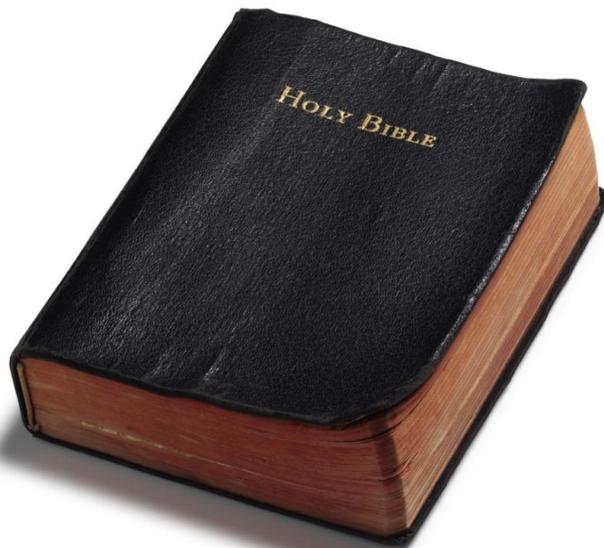


- ◆ Bad authority better than none - Judges 17:6
- ◆ No authority leads to
 - ◆ Division
 - ◆ Anarchy
- ◆ To learn from our past
- ◆ A solid foundation upon which to build

So What About The Bible?



So What About The Bible?



We believe in the divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God—fully trustworthy for faith and conduct

Not Authority to End Discussion

- ◆ Reformers say Bible alone
- ◆ Traditionalists say Bible & traditions of the fathers
- ◆ Too narrow
- ◆ Leads to division over interpretation
- ◆ T. Wright – saving power for creation



Not a Scientific Authority

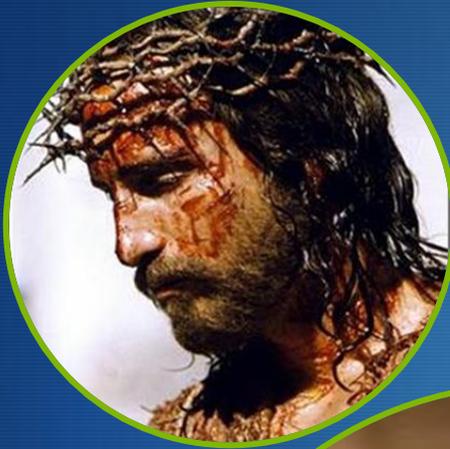
- ◆ Scientific authority
- ◆ God didn't teach Moses science but...
- ◆ ...a story that reveals
 - ◆ God's image
 - ◆ Mankind's purpose
 - ◆ The frightening flaws in our myths
- ◆ Stories can be more powerful than scientific truth



What about history?

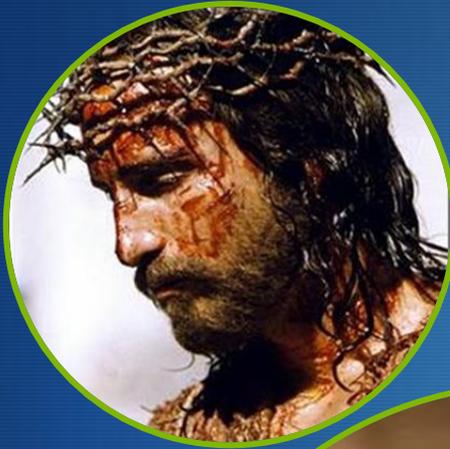


- ◆ Crowing roosters
- ◆ Conquest of Canaan
- ◆ Archeology's uncertainty
- ◆ The Bible is trustworthy
 - ◆ Nabonidus cylinder found in 1881
 - ◆ Daniel 5:29 – 3rd in the land?
- ◆ David Rohl's books



The Bible has authority to...

- ◆ Reveal God
- ◆ Explain His mission
- ◆ Shape us! (who we are)
 - ◆ To help us be like Jesus
- ◆ Direct us (what we do)
 - ◆ Help us work with Him



Helps us understand our authority

- ◆ To lay down our lives
 - ◆ Living under authority
- ◆ To heal
- ◆ To bind up
- ◆ To set free
- ◆ To bring peace
- ◆ Thus revealing God and explaining His mission