

Why do we believe what we believe?

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Bethel Community Church

Rev. Bradley S. Belcher

*Senior Pastor*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### A. “The Word of God” as a Person: Jesus Christ

- *Revelation 19:13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.*
- *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...14 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.*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 1. God’s Decrees.

- *Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*
- *Genesis 1:24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds — livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.*
- *Psalms 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. -*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 1. God’s Decrees.

- *Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 2. God’s Words of Personal Address.

- *Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*
- *Exodus 20:1-3 And God spoke all these words, saying,2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.3 "You shall have no other gods before me. -*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 2. God’s Words of Personal Address.

- *Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, " This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* -



# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### **B. “The Word of God” as speech by God**

#### **2. God’s Words of Personal Address.**

- To the hearer these were the very words of God and therefore they were completely authoritative and trustworthy.
- The words were “human words” in ordinary language and therefore immediately understandable.
- Words from God always place an absolute obligation upon the hearers to believe them and to obey them fully. To disbelieve or disobey any part of them is to disbelieve or disobey God Himself.

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 3. God’s Words as Speech Through Human Lips: Prophets

- *Deuteronomy 18:18-20*
- *Jeremiah 1:9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, " Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.*
- *Exodus 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."*
- False Prophets: *Deuteronomy 18:20-22*



# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 4. God’s Words in Written Form (The Bible)

- *Exodus 31:18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*
- *Exodus 32:16 The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.*
- *Deuteronomy 31:9-13 -*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 4. God’s Words in Written Form (The Bible)

- *Joshua 24:26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God...*
- *Isaiah 30:8 And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.*
- *Jeremiah 30:2 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. -*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### B. “The Word of God” as speech by God

#### 4. God’s Words in Written Form (The Bible)

- *John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
- *1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. -*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### **B. “The Word of God” as speech by God**

#### **4. God’s Words in Written Form (The Bible)**

Benefits of God’s Written Word:

- a. more accurate preservation.
- b. opportunity for repeated inspection
- c. accessible to many more people

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### C. The Focus of Our Study

The focus of our study in systematic theology is God's Word in written form, that is, the Bible.

- *Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. -*

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### C. The Focus of Our Study

The focus of our study in systematic theology is God's Word in written form, that is, the Bible.

- *Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*



# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### EXPLANATION AND SCRIPTURAL BASIS

“The canon of Scripture is the list of all the books that belong in the Bible.”

- Deuteronomy 32:45-47 Importance of God’s Word to us, “it is your life.”
- Deuteronomy 4:2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### A. The Old Testament Canon

- *Exodus 31:18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*
- *Deuteronomy 31:24-26*
- *Joshua 24:26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God...*
- 1 Samuel 10:25; 1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 20:34; 2 Chronicles 26:22; 2 Chronicles 32:32; Jeremiah 30:2

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### A. The Old Testament Canon

#### OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

- Dates: Haggai 520BC; Zechariah 520-518BC; Malachi 435BC; Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther 458-433BC. Nothing more after 435BC.
- Oldest Complete Manuscript (Genesis – Malachi):
- ~1000AD Leningrad Codex – Hebrew (MT-Masoretic Text)
- ~200BC – 100AD Dead Sea Scrolls – Hebrew (DSS)
- ~200BC Septuagint – Greek (LXX)

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### A. The Old Testament Canon

Errors?

- Glosses

LOVE

- Amendments

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### A. The Old Testament Canon

#### REJECTION OF THE APOCRYPHA/PSEUDEPIGRAPHA

(1 & 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, the Rest of Esther, the Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, the Song of the Three Holy Children, Sussana, Bel and the Dragon, the prayer of Manasseh, and 1 & 2 Maccabees.)

1. The Jews rejected them as Scripture.
2. Jesus and other NT authors never quoted from them.
3. They do not carry the same weight of truth as the rest of the Scriptures.
4. Theological inconsistencies.







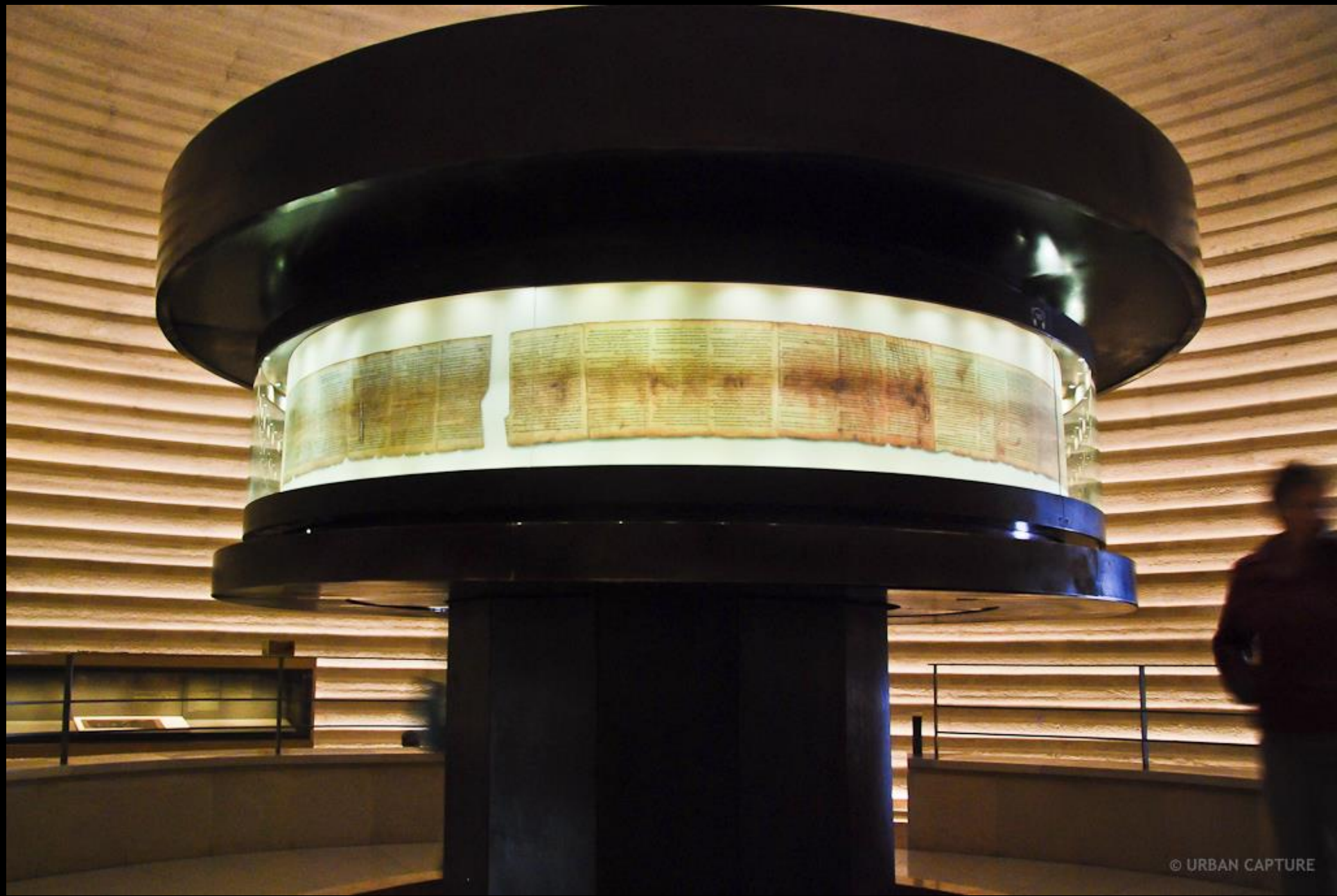




TravelPod















# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### **B. The New Testament Canon**

#### NEW TESTAMENT CANONICAL CRITERIA

1. Authorship: proximity to Jesus.
2. Authorship: proximity to an Apostle.
3. Early Church Acceptance.
4. Theological Consistency.

The Canon of the NT was listed in 367AD by Athanasius. The Canon was confirmed in 397 at the Council of Carthage. The Greek New Testament is the most well documented text of antiquity beyond all comparison.

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## The Word of God

What are the different forms  
of the Word of God?

### Scripture Memory Passage

Hebrews 1:1-2

*1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 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. (ESV)*