

# **Dr. Ted Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 2, Inspiration and Canonicity Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

## **1. Abstract of Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 2, Inspiration and Canonicity, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

This lecture by Dr. Ted Hildebrandt presents arguments for the existence of God, including cosmological, teleological, moral, and Pascal's wager. He then explores the authorship and authority of the Bible, discussing inspiration, canonization, transmission, and translation. The lecture also addresses criticisms of the Bible's historical accuracy, citing archaeological findings that support biblical accounts. Finally, Hildebrandt examines fulfilled prophecy and the immediate acceptance of certain biblical books as authoritative within early Christian communities.

**2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 2 – Double  
click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the  
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link  
there (Old Testament → Introduction → Old Testament  
Literature).**



**Hildebrandt\_OTLit\_  
Session02.mp3**

### 3. Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 2, Inspiration and Canonicity

#### Old Testament Canon Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What are the four main topics that Dr. Hildebrandt covers in this lecture?
2. What is the cosmological argument for the existence of God?
3. Explain the teleological argument for God's existence using the example of the chairs in the lecture hall.
4. What is Pascal's wager, and how does it argue for belief in God?
5. What are the three possibilities C.S. Lewis suggests about the identity of Jesus?
6. According to the lecture, what was the primary reason that the Jewish leaders wanted to stone Jesus?
7. How does the lecture use the example of the disciples' transformation after Jesus' death and resurrection to argue for the truth of the gospel?
8. How does the lecture use the examples of fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament to argue for the existence of God? Give one specific example from the lecture.
9. How does the historical preservation of the Jewish people, in contrast with other ancient groups, serve as an argument for the existence of God?
10. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, how is Scripture described, and what does the Greek word *theopneustos* mean?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The four main topics covered in the lecture are the doctrines of inspiration, canonization, transmission, and translation of the Old Testament. These are the core topics that help explain how the Bible came to be.
2. The cosmological argument posits that every effect has a cause, and by tracing back the chain of cause and effect, it eventually leads to an initial cause for the

universe, which believers identify as God. This addresses the question, "What caused the universe to come into existence?"

3. The teleological argument suggests that the order and design in the universe indicate an intelligent creator, similar to how rows of chairs in a lecture hall suggest a designer rather than random chance. This argument demonstrates that the complexity of creation indicates design.
4. Pascal's wager argues that it is more rational to believe in God because the potential gain (eternal life) outweighs the potential loss (a life lived believing in something unproven). Whereas, the risk of not believing and potentially missing out on an afterlife, is too significant.
5. C.S. Lewis argues that when considering the claims Jesus made about himself, he must be one of three things: a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. The claims Jesus made did not allow for other, more mild interpretations.
6. The Jewish leaders wanted to stone Jesus because he claimed to be God. They viewed his statements as blasphemous and an assertion of divinity that was unwarranted from a man.
7. The lecture argues that the transformation of the disciples from fearful cowards at Jesus' crucifixion to bold martyrs after his resurrection demonstrates the impact of Jesus's resurrection on their beliefs, which is evidence that it was a genuine, life-altering event, and not just a legend.
8. The lecture uses the prophecy in Micah 5:2 that states the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem as one example of fulfilled prophecies. The prophecy was made 700 years before the birth of Christ and demonstrates a supernatural knowledge of the future.
9. The lecture points out that while many ancient groups, like the Babylonians and Assyrians, have vanished, the Jews have survived despite repeated attempts at destruction. This survival is considered unique and evidence of God's intervention in history.
10. 2 Timothy 3:16 states that "All Scripture is inspired by God," or *theopneustos* in Greek, which means "God-breathed." This signifies that Scripture is believed to have originated from divine inspiration.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer each question in essay format.

1. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments for the existence of God, as presented in the lecture. How might a skeptic challenge these arguments?
2. Explore the concept of Pascal's wager. Is it a valid approach to determining whether to believe in God? Consider both philosophical and religious criticisms.
3. Analyze the four possibilities concerning the identity of Jesus according to C.S. Lewis (liar, lunatic, legend, or Lord). Which one do you find most persuasive and why?
4. Describe the process of inspiration, canonization, transmission, and translation of the Bible. Why is each step significant, and what challenges does each present in preserving the original message of Scripture?
5. Evaluate the evidence presented in the lecture for the historical reliability of the Bible. How convincing is this evidence? What counterarguments might be proposed?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Cosmological Argument:** An argument for the existence of God that posits that everything that exists must have a cause, eventually leading back to a first uncaused cause, which is identified as God.
- **Teleological Argument:** An argument for the existence of God based on the idea that the universe exhibits order and design, suggesting an intelligent designer (God) is behind it.
- **Moral Argument:** An argument for the existence of God that posits a moral structure of the universe can only be explained by a divine moral giver.
- **Pascal's Wager:** A philosophical argument that it is rational to believe in God because the potential rewards of believing (eternal life) outweigh the potential losses if God doesn't exist.
- **Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Lord:** A framework presented by C.S. Lewis that argues the claims of Jesus imply that he must be one of these four options.
- **Inspiration:** The doctrine that God divinely guided the human authors of the Bible, ensuring that they accurately recorded his message. The Greek word *theopneustos* ("God-breathed") is often used.
- **Canonization:** The process by which certain books were recognized by religious communities as inspired Scripture and included in the official collection of sacred texts.
- **Transmission:** The process of copying and preserving the biblical text through the centuries by scribes, before the advent of the printing press.
- **Translation:** The process of rendering the original languages of the Bible (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) into other languages for wider distribution and understanding.
- **Prophecy:** A message believed to be received from God, often predicting future events or conveying God's will.
- **Miracle:** An event that is believed to be a direct intervention of God in the natural world.
- **Bullae:** A clay impression made from a signet ring to authenticate documents in the ancient world, commonly used by scribes.

## 4. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided lecture excerpts by Dr. Ted Hildebrandt:

### Briefing Document: Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology - Lecture 2

#### Overview:

This lecture by Dr. Hildebrandt focuses on establishing the reasonableness of belief in God and then delves into the doctrines surrounding the Bible, specifically inspiration, canonization, transmission, and translation. He employs a multi-faceted approach, using philosophical arguments, logical reasoning, and historical examples to bolster the claim that the Bible is the inspired word of God. The overarching theme is that the Christian faith is based on a reasonable foundation and that the Bible is a reliable and trustworthy source of divine revelation.

#### I. Arguments for the Existence of God

Dr. Hildebrandt begins by outlining several arguments for God's existence, acknowledging that while not provable, the Christian belief is reasonable:

- **Cosmological Argument:** He uses the cause-and-effect chain, positing that the universe's existence requires a first cause or an initial designer. He equates this to the idea that the universe has not always existed, but had a starting point and a first cause. He also notes that "the universe is incredibly balanced around these six numbers." It is so finely tuned that it points to an intelligent creator rather than happenstance.
- *Quote:* "the gravitational pull seems to be perfect in the way that it allows for us to live."
- **Teleological Argument:** The argument from design uses the idea that order cannot arise from chaos and an ordered room would suggest a designer.
- *Quote:* "When you look at the chairs in rows you would conclude: 'Somebody did that.'"
- **Moral Argument:** He argues that humans have a sense of morality that is not present in the animal kingdom. This innate morality suggests a moral law-giver, i.e. God.

- *Quote:* "A human being that kills another human being, is there something immoral with that?"
- **Pascal's Wager:** He presents Pascal's Wager, suggesting that believing in God has everything to gain and little to lose, while not believing in God is to gamble with everything to lose and little to gain.
- *Quote:* "If there is no God, what have I lost? Very little."
- **Jesus Argument:** He uses C.S. Lewis' trilemma: Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. He dismisses the idea of Jesus being a liar because he consistently spoke the truth, and as a lunatic because his words were those of a rational man. That leaves that Jesus is the Lord.
- *Quote:* "Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or he is who he said he was, he's the Lord."
- **Personal Testimony:** The experiences of countless people who claim to have a relationship with God and have witnessed God's intervention are a valid argument. He references a personal experience of his son's safety while deployed as evidence.
- **Predictive Prophecy:** He highlights the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible, particularly the prophecy of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, as evidence of God's knowledge of the future. He emphasizes that the bible has it down.
- *Quote:* "You would expect God to be able to say what the future is and to get it right and he does."
- **Miracle Accounts:** The numerous miracle accounts in the Bible, such as the parting of the Red Sea, are offered as additional proof of God's existence and divine power.
- **The Jews:** The survival of the Jewish people through history, despite numerous attempts at their annihilation, is presented as evidence of God's hand in preserving them, as they are key to the covenant promised to Abraham.

## II. The Origin of the Bible

Dr. Hildebrandt transitions to the origin and reliability of the Bible, emphasizing the process from divine revelation to the written text we have today:

- **Inspiration:** The Bible is divinely inspired, with the word "theopneustos" meaning "God-breathed," suggesting the prophets spoke under the influence of the Holy Spirit. He states that they are "carried along by the Holy Spirit."

- *Quote:* "All Scripture is God breathed."
- **Various Means of Inspiration:** God spoke to prophets in different ways such as face to face (Moses), through dreams, visions, through his son Jesus, and through research, as in the case of Luke's gospel.
- **External Cooperation:** The moral quality and deep human values presented in Scripture are evidence of its divine origin.
- *Quote:* "The Bible reflects this moral quality that is absolutely incredible."

### III. The Reliability of the Bible

- **Historical Reliability:** Dr. Hildebrandt argues that the Bible is historically reliable, citing archaeological discoveries and evidence that confirm the existence of people, places and events mentioned in the Bible.
- He gives examples of critics being wrong about the date of the use of camels (2,000 BC for Abraham's use of camels), the existence of Hittites, the existence of King David, and many other historical claims.
- *Quote:* "is the Bible historically reliable? Yes."
- **Examples of Artifacts:** He also references the "Le David" inscription, found on an ancient stone, as evidence of the reality of King David. He also points to the bullae of Jeremiah's scribe, Baruch, as evidence of the historical accuracy of the book of Jeremiah.
- *Quote:* "You can't make this stuff up."

### IV. Four Steps from God to Us:

Dr. Hildebrandt outlines the four steps by which the word of God reached its present form:

1. **Inspiration:** God breathes His word into the prophets, who then record it.
  2. **Canonization:** The people of God collect and recognize which books are holy and from God (authoritative). The books were collected by the Jewish people and they were sanctioned as coming from God.
- *Quote:* "These are the ones that are from God."
1. **Transmission:** The text was copied by scribes, who, despite their best efforts, may have introduced errors.



2. **Translation:** The original Hebrew and Greek texts were translated into other languages, like English, making the scriptures accessible.

## V. Canonization

- **Immediate Authority:** He argues that the word of God was immediately recognized as authoritative, with the Ten Commandments being placed in the Ark of the Covenant.
- **Lost Originals:** The loss of original manuscripts is attributed to God's desire for people to worship Him rather than the relics.
- *Quote:* "Hey, I want you to worship me! Not the relics."
- **Do Not Add or Subtract:** Citing Revelations 22:18-19 and Deuteronomy 4:2, the author explains it is forbidden to add or subtract to or from scripture.
- **Peter and Paul:** Peter immediately recognizes Paul's authority, even in rebuking him, citing that Peter put the writings of Paul at the level of scripture.
- **Criterion for Canonization:** The lecture briefly touches on the criteria used for determining which books were accepted into the canon and rejected.
- *Quote:* "Now the question that gets raised here is why were certain books accepted and others rejected?"

## Key Takeaways:

- Belief in God is not irrational; there are several reasonable arguments supporting His existence.
- The Bible is the inspired word of God, and that inspiration is the first step in the process of reaching us today.
- The Bible has been carefully preserved and passed down through canonization, transmission, and translation.
- The Bible is historically reliable, a fact supported by archaeological and textual evidence.
- The moral and spiritual depth of the Bible are evidence of its divine origin.

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Hildebrandt's lecture provides a robust defense of the Bible's authority and reliability. Through philosophical, logical, and historical arguments, he seeks to build faith by showing that the Christian scriptures are a product of divine revelation, carefully preserved, and ultimately trustworthy. The lecture emphasizes both the reasonableness of belief in God and the reliability of the Bible as God's word.

## 5. FAQs on Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 2, Inspiration and Canonicity, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Okay, here's an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source, formatted with markdown:

### FAQ

1. **What are the main arguments presented for the existence of God?**
2. The lecture covers several arguments for God's existence. The cosmological argument posits a first cause for the universe, moving from effect to cause back to an initial cause. The teleological argument (or argument from design) focuses on the order and balance in the universe, suggesting a designer. The moral argument asserts that humans possess morals, which must come from a moral source (God). Pascal's Wager proposes that believing in God is the safest bet as there is little to lose if wrong, and everything to gain if correct. Lastly, the lecture presents the argument that Jesus' claims to be God leave us with four options: he was a liar, a lunatic, a legend (whose divinity developed over time), or truly Lord. The lecturer favors the latter as the most reasonable conclusion. Personal testimony and predictive prophecy are also presented as additional support for God's existence.
3. **What is "inspiration" in the context of the Bible, and how did it occur?**
4. Inspiration refers to the process by which God "breathed" his word into the prophets, as described in 2 Timothy 3:16. This means the Bible's origin is from God, not man. The lecture highlights various means of inspiration: direct face-to-face communication, such as with Moses, prophetic visions, and dreams. Also, the lecture also notes that Jesus is the Word of God incarnate. It is also noted that some writers, like Luke, did research using eyewitness accounts to create their works. Inspiration could also be through existing material that writers knew of like Paul quoting Greek poets. The lecture emphasized that God used diverse methods to communicate His message.

**5. What is "canonization," and how does it relate to the books of the Bible?**

6. Canonization is the process by which the people of God recognized and collected certain writings as divinely inspired and therefore authoritative. It is the process of determining which books make up the Bible. The lecture notes that the people of God did not necessarily include all writings from prophets in the canon, but instead determined what works were to be considered holy. This selection is based on recognition of God's voice in the text. There were other historical documents (such as the annals of the Kings) not included in the canon.

**7. What are some of the challenges to accurately preserving the Bible text through transmission?**

8. Transmission refers to the copying of the Bible text by scribes over thousands of years. These handwritten copies were prone to errors, such as handwriting problems and other scribal mistakes. The lecture emphasizes that despite the difficulty of copying such texts accurately, they were faithfully transmitted.

**9. Why doesn't the lecture think God preserved the original manuscripts of the Bible?**

10. The lecturer speculates that God allowed the original manuscripts to be lost to prevent them from becoming objects of worship themselves, instead of worshiping God. According to this idea, God directed people to worship Him rather than relics, thus the loss of the originals is a good thing.

**11. How does the lecture argue for the historical reliability of the Bible?**

12. The lecture gives numerous examples to support the historical reliability of the Bible. This includes archaeological discoveries that validate people, places, and cultures, that some had previously questioned: examples include the Hittite empire, the inscription of "David" on a stone, and the bullae of Jeremiah's scribe Baruch. The lecture argues that those who claim the Bible is historically unreliable are often proven wrong through additional historical evidence. The persistence of the Jewish people despite attempted annihilation is also given as a unique demonstration of divine orchestration that is unique to the Jewish people. The existence of the Jewish people, unlike other ancient peoples, over time is presented as evidence of God's hand.

**13. What does the lecture say about the predictive prophecies in the Bible?**

14. The lecture highlights that the Bible contains numerous predictive prophecies that were fulfilled hundreds of years later, indicating that God knows the future. Some notable examples cited include Micah's prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, Isaiah's prophecy about Cyrus, and a prophecy in 1 Kings about Josiah. These prophecies are presented as evidence of God's omniscience, as humans do not possess an ability to predict the future.

**15. How does the lecture approach the claims of Jesus being divine?**

16. The lecture presents the "Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Lord" argument attributed to C.S. Lewis. The lecture argues that Jesus's moral character contradicts that he was a liar, that his teachings are incompatible with insanity, and that the apostles' willingness to die for their beliefs suggests the story was not a fabricated legend. The lecture then concludes that the evidence points to Jesus as the Lord, the divine son of God. The actions of the apostles, who went from being in hiding, to going and being martyred is presented as evidence of a radical shift in their faith after the resurrection. This points to a real experience, rather than a shared story that they made up.