

CHAPTER 1

HOLY SCRIPTURE IS THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

1. Our innate knowledge of God¹, the design, order and beauty of creation and God's sovereign purpose effected through history openly reveal his goodness, wisdom and strength. This natural revelation of God leaves all people without excuse^A should they not know, love and serve him. However, by itself this revelation is not sufficient to give the necessary knowledge of God and of his purpose leading to reconciliation with him.^B Consequently, it pleased the Lord to reveal himself using various historical events and methods. God called a people to himself revealing his clear purpose to them.^C The Lord put his revelation in written record more effectively preserving and communicating his revealed truth. It provides a sure grounding and comfort for his church against the world of sinning humanity, against our sinful disposition opposing God and against the evil intentions of Satan.^D Then God ceased revealing himself to his people as he had in previous ways.^E This made the written record of Holy Scripture absolutely necessary^F for the preservation of revealed truth.
2. Using the name Holy Scripture, or the written Word of God, we designate all the books of the Old and New Testament. They exclusively encompass:

The Old Testament

Genesis	Nehemiah	Hosea
Exodus	Esther	Joel
Leviticus	Job	Amos
Numbers	Psalms	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	Proverbs	Jonah
Joshua	Ecclesiastes	Micah
Judges	The Song of Songs	Nahum
Ruth	Isaiah	Habakkuk
1 & 2 Samuel	Jeremiah	Zephaniah
1 & 2 Kings	Lamentations	Haggai
1 & 2 Chronicles	Ezekiel	Zechariah
Ezra	Daniel	Malachi

¹ The 1646 Edition reads, "Although the light of nature,".