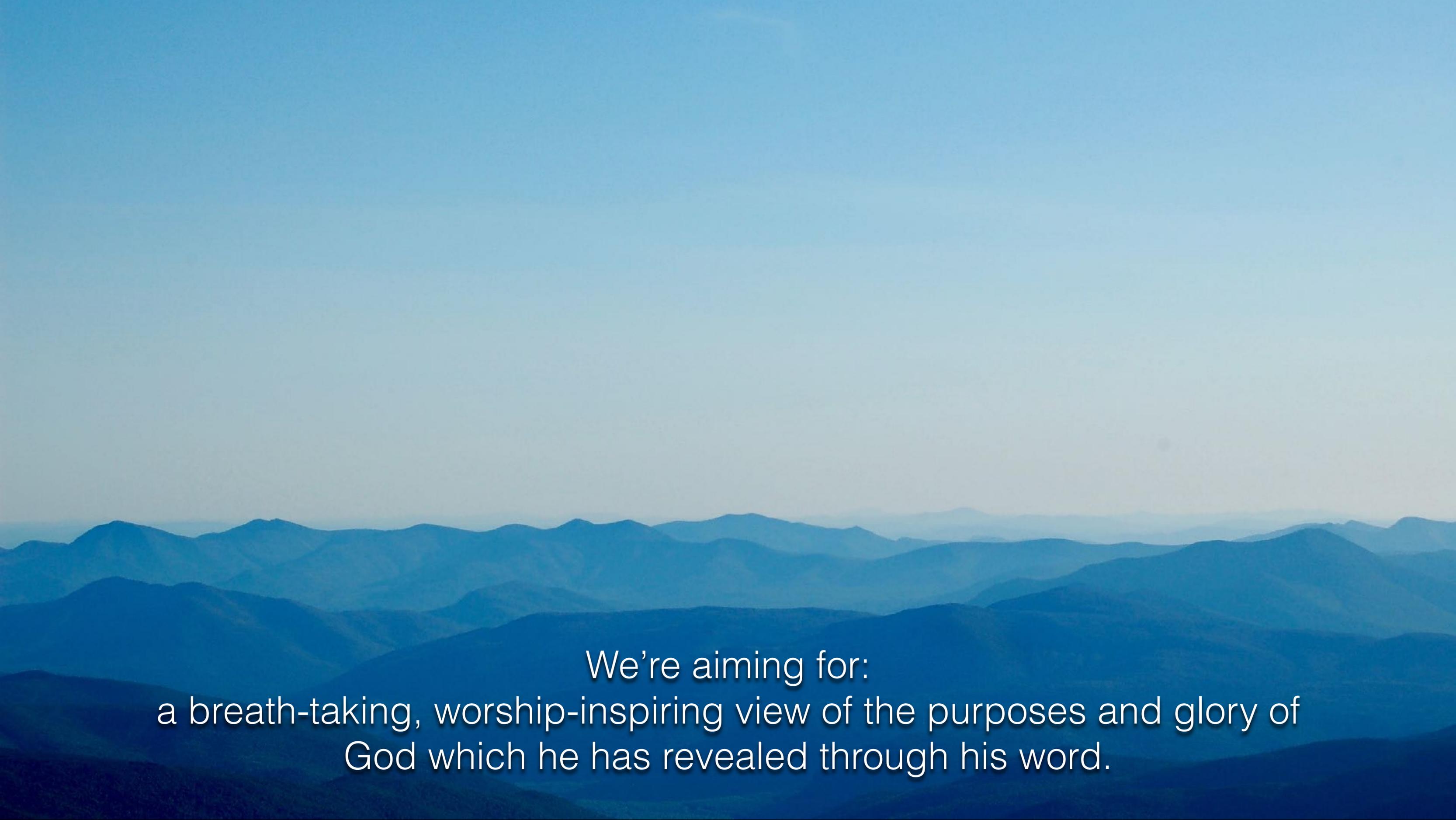


The Unity of the Bible

Understanding the arch of Scripture from beginning to end

purposes for the course

- ❖ to discover and understand the central them of the Bible
- ❖ to note God's redemptive acts throughout history
- ❖ to equip you to explain God's unfolding purpose for humanity
- ❖ to worship God (YHWH) through Jesus



We're aiming for:
a breath-taking, worship-inspiring view of the purposes and glory of
God which he has revealed through his word.



THE OLD TESTAMENT CANON

How did the Jews decide which books to include in the canon?



OLD TESTAMENT CANON & THE NEW?

If the OT Canon was closed then how does it relate to the NT canon?

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jeremiah 31:31 (ESV)

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before
me.”

Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...”

Malachi 4:5-6 (ESV)

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:13-15 (ESV)

And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Luke 1:16-17 (ESV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, **the word of God came to John** the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Luke 3:1-2 (ESV)

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, *to whom the word of the Lord came* in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

Jeremiah 1:1-2 (ESV)

On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), *the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel* the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.

Ezekiel 1:2-3 (ESV)

The background of the image is a landscape of rolling mountains. The mountains are rendered in various shades of blue, from a deep, dark blue in the foreground to a very light, almost white blue in the distance, creating a strong sense of atmospheric perspective. The sky above the mountains is a clear, light blue, matching the overall color palette. The text is centered horizontally and vertically over the image.

God's authoritative speaking resumed
with John the Baptist

And [John] went into all the region around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.””

Luke 3:3-6 (ESV)

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’
Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen
no one greater than John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:9-11 (ESV)

For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 11:13-15 (ESV)

“He who comes after me ranks before me
because he was before me.”

John 1:15 (ESV)

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **He must increase, but I must decrease.”**

John 3:28-30 (ESV)

A blue-tinted landscape of rolling mountains under a clear sky. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth and distance. The sky is a uniform light blue, and the overall scene is serene and expansive.

God's authoritative spokesman pointed to
one greater than himself

God graciously does for his people
what they cannot do for themselves
for his glory and their good (i.e. joy).

“Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29 (ESV)

And [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place

where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

Luke 4:16-18 (ESV)

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and
sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been
fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:18-21 (ESV)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Mark 4:37-41 (ESV)

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 1:32-34 (ESV)

And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “**Son, your sins are forgiven.**” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**”

Mark 2:3-7 (ESV) 3

“I and the Father are one.”

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

John 10:30; 14:9 (ESV)

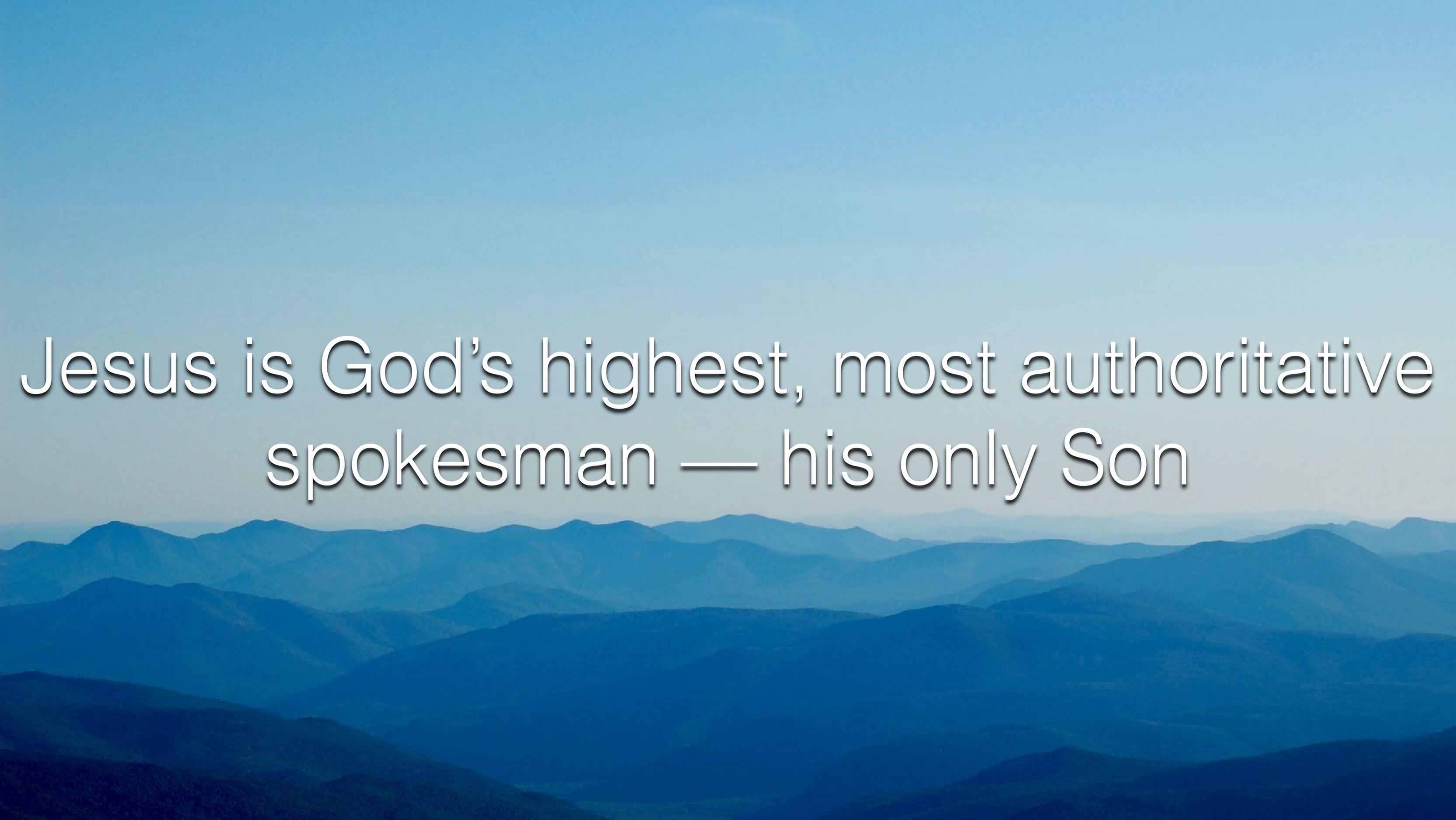
“My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.”

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.”

John 7:16; Matt. 17:5 (ESV)

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

The background of the image is a vast, blue-tinted landscape of rolling mountains. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth and distance. The sky is a clear, light blue, and the overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of blue. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Jesus is God's highest, most authoritative
spokesman — his only Son

summary

- ❖ OT canon closed because God's mouth closed; no authoritative prophet
 - ❖ John the Baptist = God's authoritative prophet
 - ❖ John pointed all attention to Jesus
 - ❖ Jesus > authoritative prophet; Jesus = God; Jesus = authoritative Son
- ❖ Canon reopened because God's mouth reopened; "He has spoken in his Son"

THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

What was the process of authentication of NT manuscripts?