

Argument 7: Biblical Inerrancy & Sufficiency — Cheat Sheet

Their Claim in One Sentence

The Bible is inerrant, complete, and sufficient — so additional scripture is unnecessary and suspect.

Quick-Fire Responses

On 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ("All scripture is God-breathed")

- "All scripture" when Paul wrote this = **the Old Testament**. If this verse proves sufficiency, it proves the OT alone is sufficient, making the NT unnecessary by their own logic.
- Greek *ophelimos* = "profitable/useful," NOT "exclusive" or "sole source."
- *Artios* ("complete") = "fitted, equipped" — not "nothing more is needed."

On the Chicago Statement (1978)

- Drafted in **1978** — not an ancient Christian doctrine.
- Represents evangelical consensus only; rejected by Catholics, Orthodox, many Protestants.
- Applies to "original autographs" — **which no longer exist**.

On Biblical "Perfection"

- **2 Sam 24:1** vs **1 Chr 21:1** — same event, different agent (God vs. Satan).
- **Matt 27:5** vs **Acts 1:18** — different accounts of Judas's death.
- **Mark 16:9-20** — not in earliest manuscripts.
- **John 7:53-8:11** (woman taken in adultery) — not in oldest manuscripts.
- **1 John 5:7** (Johannine Comma) — added centuries later.
- 5,800+ Greek NT manuscripts; no two identical.

Key Scriptures FOR Ongoing Revelation

Verse	Point
John 21:25	Not everything Jesus said/did is recorded
John 16:12-13	"I have yet many things to say unto you" — future revelation promised
Amos 3:7	God reveals secrets through prophets — no expiration date
Rev 11:3	Future prophets prophesied <i>within Revelation itself</i>
Isa 29:11-14	Sealed book + marvelous work yet to come
Ezek 37:16-17	Stick of Judah + Stick of Joseph joined
Matt 5:21-48	Jesus Himself expanded/corrected OT teaching
1 Cor 7:12, 25	Paul distinguishes his opinion from the Lord's command
Num 11:29	Moses wished all God's people were prophets

Historical Ammunition

- **Origen (c. 185-254)**: Acknowledged difficulties in biblical text; used allegory to address them.
- **Augustine**: Believed authors were free from error but spent enormous effort harmonizing contradictions — unnecessary if text were self-evident.
- **Calvin**: Called Matt 27:9 (Jeremiah attribution) a scribal error.
- **Luther**: Called James "an epistle of straw"; questioned Jude, Hebrews, Revelation.
- **NT Canon not settled until Council of Carthage (397 AD)**.
- Protestant Bible: 66 books. Catholic: 73. Ethiopian Orthodox: 81. Who decided?

One-Line Objection Responses

Objection	Response
"The Bible is God's perfect word!"	A perfect God works through imperfect humans. That's why ongoing prophetic correction is needed.
"Additional scripture undermines the Bible!"	The Book of Mormon <i>confirms</i> the Bible — it's called "Another Testament of Jesus Christ."
"If it has errors we can't trust anything!"	False dilemma. Inspired and authoritative does not require zero scribal variation over 3,000 years.
"Anyone could claim new revelation!"	Same objection could reject Isaiah (Torah already existed) or Paul (Gospels not yet compiled). God provides tests for prophets (Deut 18:20-22).
"2 Tim 3:16 settles it!"	Then the OT alone is sufficient — Paul hadn't written the NT canon yet.

LDS Position (Article of Faith 8)

"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."

- Not a dismissal — an honest acknowledgment every textual scholar shares.
- Additional scripture **witnesses** the Bible, doesn't replace it.
- 2 Nephi 29:3-10 directly addresses the "A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible" objection.

The Knockout Question

"If 2 Timothy 3:16 proves the Bible is complete and sufficient, and 'all scripture' at that time meant the Old Testament, does that mean the New Testament is unnecessary?"

Resources

- [FAIR: Biblical Inerrancy](#)
- [FAIR: Sola Scriptura](#)
- [Church: The Bible](#)