

Sola Scriptura Debate Cheat Sheet

Core Position (One Sentence)

Sola Scriptura is a 16th-century Protestant tradition, not a biblical doctrine; the Bible itself teaches that God governs His church through living prophets, apostles, and ongoing revelation.

Their Key Proof-Texts — and Responses

Verse	Their Claim	Our Response
2 Tim. 3:16-17	Scripture is "sufficient" — nothing else needed	Says "profitable" (<i>ophelimos</i>), not "sufficient." Refers to OT (NT didn't exist yet). Same letter commands holding to ORAL teachings (1:13, 2:2).
Rev. 22:18-19	"Don't add to this book" = canon is closed	"This book" = Book of Revelation, not the whole Bible. Same warning in Deut. 4:2 — would exclude everything after Deuteronomy.
Prov. 30:5-6	"Add not unto his words"	Context: don't put words in God's mouth. God Himself can and does add to His own words — that's what every prophet in history has done.

Our Best Offensive Scriptures

- **Amos 3:7** — "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets"
- **Eph. 2:19-20** — Church built on foundation of apostles AND prophets
- **Eph. 4:11-14** — Apostles and prophets given until we reach "unity of the faith" (still haven't — 40,000+ denominations)
- **1 Cor. 12:28** — "God hath SET some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets" — who removed them?
- **Acts 2:17** — Last days: "your sons and daughters shall PROPHESY"
- **1 Thess. 5:20** — "Despise not prophesyings"
- **John 10:16** — "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold" — other people receiving God's word
- **Ezek. 37:16-17** — Stick of Judah + stick of Joseph joined = Bible + Book of Mormon

The Canon Killer Question

"Who decided which 66 books belong in the Bible?"

- Church councils (Hippo 393, Carthage 397) — using institutional authority
- If the church had authority to determine the canon, it had authority BEYOND the canon
- If it didn't have authority, the canon itself is unreliable
- Either way, Sola Scriptura is self-undermining

Lost Scriptures Referenced IN the Bible

The Bible itself references authoritative texts we don't have:

- Book of Jasher (Josh. 10:13, 2 Sam. 1:18)
 - Book of the Wars of the Lord (Num. 21:14)
 - Prophecy of Ahijah / Visions of Iddo (2 Chr. 9:29)
 - Paul's earlier letter to Corinth (1 Cor. 5:9)
 - Epistle to the Laodiceans (Col. 4:16)
 - Prophecy of Enoch referenced by Jude (Jude 1:14-15)
- If God's word is limited to 66 books, where did these go?

Early Christian Evidence (Quick Hits)

- **NT church had prophets everywhere:** Acts 11:27-28, 13:1, 15:32, 21:10-11, 1 Cor. 14:29
- **Papias (c. 125 AD):** "I did not think information from books would help me so much as the word of a living and surviving voice"
- **Ignatius (c. 110 AD):** "Follow the bishop as Jesus Christ does the Father" — living authority
- **Canon not settled until late 300s** — early Christians disagreed on which books were scripture
- **Muratorian Fragment (c. 170 AD)** included Apocalypse of Peter, excluded Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter

Quick-Fire Objection Responses

"The canon is closed — God isn't giving new revelation."

Chapter and verse? The Bible says the opposite: Amos 3:7, Eph. 4:11-14, Acts 2:17. The "closed canon" is a tradition of men, not a biblical doctrine.

"Sola Scriptura preserved truth — the Reformation proved it."

It produced 40,000+ denominations disagreeing on baptism, salvation, communion, governance, eschatology. If the Bible alone is a sufficient guide, why the chaos?

"If you accept new revelation, how do you prevent false revelation?"

Same way the Bible says: test by fruits (Matt. 7:15-20), consistency with prior scripture, witness of the Spirit. Jesus warned of false prophets (Matt. 24:11) — which presupposes true prophets exist. No one warns about counterfeit money where no real money exists.

"2 Tim. 3:17 says 'complete' — that means sufficient."

James 1:4 says patience makes you "perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Does patience alone replace all spiritual needs including scripture? The argument proves too much. "Equipped" is not "sole source."

"The early church had the Bible — they didn't need prophets."

The early church WAS LED by prophets. The Bible was WRITTEN by prophets. Removing prophets from the church is like removing the engine from a car and saying the manual is sufficient.

LDS Position Summary

- Bible is the word of God (A of F 1:8)
 - We also accept Book of Mormon, D&C, Pearl of Great Price (A of F 1:8)
 - God speaks through living prophets — the biblical pattern (A of F 1:5, 1:9)
 - Additional scripture doesn't replace the Bible — it's a second witness of Christ
 - Continuing revelation is consistent with, not contradictory to, prior scripture
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Key Resources

- [FAIR: Bible Sole Authority](#)
- [FAIR: Revelation 22:18](#)
- [Church: Scriptures](#)
- [Church: Prophets](#)
- Tad R. Callister, *The Inevitable Apostasy and the Promised Restoration*