

Why I accept the Bible as authoritative

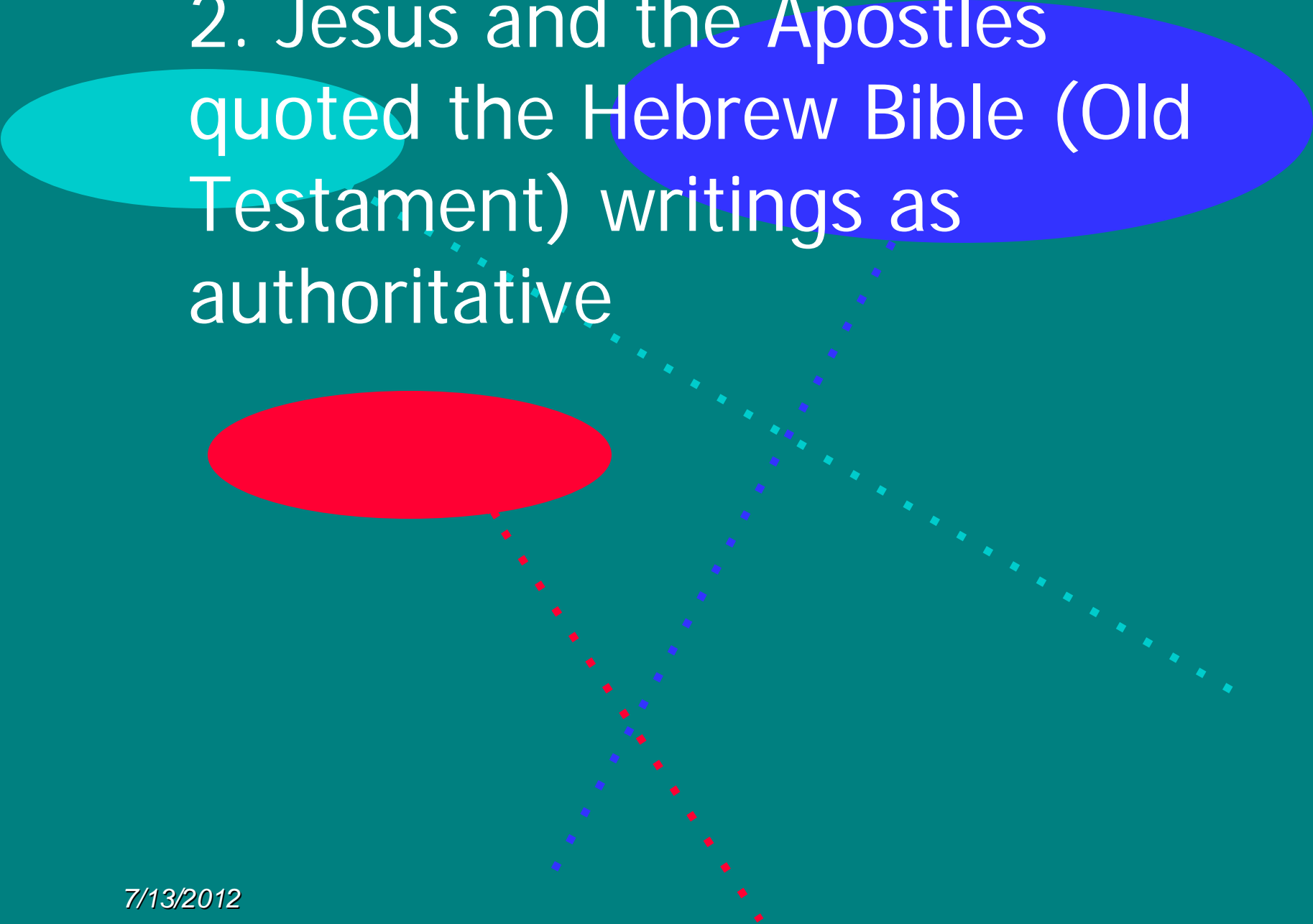
Howard Culbertson
Southern Nazarene University

7/13/2012

1. Its internal claims to be the Word of God

- Many Biblical writers say God laid His hand upon them and gave them something from Himself to declare.

2. Jesus and the Apostles
quoted the Hebrew Bible (Old
Testament) writings as
authoritative

A decorative graphic consisting of three overlapping ovals: a cyan one on the left, a blue one on the right, and a red one at the bottom. Dotted lines in cyan, blue, and red connect the corners of these ovals, forming a star-like pattern.

3. Through the ages the church has used the Bible as God's inspired record of Himself and of His will



Sample doctrinal statement on inspiration of the Bible

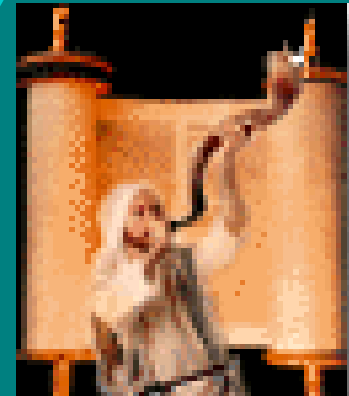
"We believe in the plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, by which we understand the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, inerrantly reveal the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation"

4. History and archaeology confirm it



7/13/2012

5. Fulfilled prophecies



7/13/2012

6. Remarkable unity and coherence

- 40 authors
- Took 1500 years to write

7. Its life-transforming power

7/13/2012

8. Has answers to life's ultimate questions

- What is the Ultimate Reality?
- What is a human being?
- What happens after death?
- What is the meaning of human history?
- What determines right and wrong?