

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:15

*“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

2 Peter 1:16-21

Paul referred to God’s Word as the ‘*holy scriptures.*’ All doctrine must find its basis in the Holy Scriptures. The doctrine of the Bible, which we call ‘*bibliology,*’ is the foundation upon which all other doctrine stands. If we are not certain about the doctrine of the Bible than we cannot be certain about any other doctrine!

If we don’t know for certain that we have the very words of God, then everything else we find in the Bible is uncertain. If we remove the divine authority from the Bible, man ultimately becomes the authority over God.

The Bible is the book God has given to reveal Himself to mankind. It answers all of life’s important questions, such as who is God? Where did man come from? What is the purpose of life? Why is the world filled with suffering? Why does man die? What happens after death? How can man get into a right relationship with God? Who is Jesus? Why did he die? What will happen in the future?

We must follow the admonition of our Lord Jesus Christ when he said, “*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*” (John 5:39)

We must be fully aware that the Word of God has continually been under attack. The assault on the Word of God began in the Garden of Eden and the battle is still raging today.

The Satanic Assault

In **Genesis 3**, we find Satan's assault on the very words of God. Satan questioned, subtracted from, added to, softened, denied, blasphemed, ignored, and disobeyed the words of God.

Such an assault upon God's words brought great harm to humanity. Satan's attack upon God's words was an attack upon the character of God.

The Roman Catholic Assault (400 AD)

The Roman Catholic institution began to add strange traditions to the Word of God such as infant baptism, prayer to Mary, the papacy, etc. They also added other books to the Bible such as the apocrypha. They promoted a weak translation of the Bible in the Catholic vulgate.

Furthermore, they worked mercilessly to keep the Bible out of the hands of the common people. They went as far as killing Bible translators such as William Tyndale. Tyndale rejected the Roman Catholic view that the Scriptures could only be read and interpreted by the clergy and famously said in defiance to the Pope, *"I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that drives the plough to know more of the Scripture, than he does."*

The Modernistic Assault (Became Popular in 1800s)

The Modernism or theological rationalism began in the 1800s in Germany and quickly spread to England and America. It applied the theory of evolution to the Bible. Though modernism has taken many forms, at its heart, modernism claims that the Bible is not God's revelation to man but is merely the record of man's search for God. The miracles of the Bible were considered myths. The first five books of the Bible were especially attacked.

Example of Commentary by Charles Kraft, *Genesis: Beginnings of the Biblical Drama*, published by the Methodist Church:

"Clearly, then, the Book of Genesis is a remarkable combination of ancient folklore, tradition, custom, myth." (pp. 11, 12)

"The first chapter of Genesis was not written primarily to explain how God created the universe." (p. 37)

The Evangelical Assault (Beginning in 1940s)

New Evangelicalism broke down the wall of separation between Bible believers and unbelieving modernists. This movement does not like separation and contending for the faith. They wanted a positive Christianity.

Another way of identifying New Evangelicalism is its neutralism. New Evangelicalism can be identified by the following terms: Soft, cautious, hesitant, tolerant, pragmatic, accommodating, flexible, non-controversial, non-offensive, non-dogmatic. While the battle between truth and error rages, New Evangelicalism tries to sit on the sideline as neutral.

The world is in rebellion against God, and Satan seeks to mislead people away from the revelation of God. Believers must have the answers that will enable them to stand against persistent attacks on the Bible. Christians are to know **what** they believe, and **why** they believe it.

I. THE REVELATION OF SCRIPTURE

God has revealed Himself to mankind. The Bible is God's Revelation of Himself to mankind. God has revealed Himself in a General way and in a Specific way. We will look at three witnesses that testify of God's revelation of Himself to man.

God has spoken unto _____ by his Son.

Hebrews 1:1-3, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds..."

God has spoken because to desires to make Himself known. Man's greatest knowledge is his knowledge of God. The proper knowledge of God gives us the right perspective about everything else.

I. Internal Revelation

God has revealed Himself to every man inwardly. Every man has the record of God existence, God's law, and a witness conviction in the conscience.

That which may be known of God is _____ in them.

Romans 1:18-19, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."

They did not like to retain God in their _____.

Romans 1:28, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"

The Gentiles who did not have the written law did indeed have the law written in their _____. Their _____ also bearing witness.

Romans 2:14, 15, *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)”*

Men are _____ by their own conscience.

John 8:9, *“And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last...”*

The word “conscience” means “with knowledge.” ‘Con’ means ‘with,’ and ‘science’ means ‘knowledge.’

There is enough knowledge of God in every man to condemn him, but not enough knowledge of God to save him.

II. External Revelation

The external revelation is clear in creation! Creation is the testimony of the power and authority of God. God has left himself a witness in what is observable in this earth and the universe.

The unseen world and the Godhead is clearly seen being understood by the things that are _____.

Romans 1:20, *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*

The _____ declare the glory of God.

Psalms 19:1, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”*

Isaac Newton, who discovered the law of gravity, said, *“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.”*

III. Personal Revelation

Internal and external revelation is enough knowledge of God to condemn someone, but it is not enough knowledge of God to save someone. God has given mankind a specific written record of Himself. We refer to this record as

Special Revelation or Personal Revelation. The Bible is not a record of man's search for God, the Bible is a record of God's search for man.

Holy men spake as they were _____ by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:21, *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

The prophets had to _____ diligently that which the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify.

1 Peter 1:10-11, *"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand of the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."*

II. THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

How did God give us His Personal Revelation of Himself? Through inspiration!

Thousands of times in the Scriptures we are confronted with the unmistakable claim that God is the author.

I. The Meaning of Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."*

The word *"inspiration"* as used in **2 Timothy 3:16** is translated from a compound Greek word which means *"God-breathed."*

Who gave the word? _____

Psalm 68:11, *"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."*

The gospel was received by the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:11-12, *"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

Inspiration - Definition 1

The inspiration of the scriptures is that miracle by which the Holy Spirit guided the writers of scripture to record the Words of God without error, without omission, and without exaggeration.

Inspiration – Definition 2

Inspiration is the breath of God expressing itself through a chosen instrument, and human penmen.

2 Peter 1:16-21, *“...And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy...For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

The Apostle Peter described inspiration as superior to eyewitness accounts because it is not influenced by fallible man. There is no doubt that God breathed out His words through mankind.

Matthew 5:18, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

The ‘jot’ is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

The ‘tittle’ is the small appendage that differentiates between two similar-looking letters in the alphabet.

Man is to live by _____ word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4, *“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

How many words of God are declared to be pure? _____.

Proverbs 30:5, *“Every word of God is pure...”*

Charles H. Spurgeon said, *“The Bible is the writing of the living God: each letter was penned with an Almighty finger; each word in it dropped from the everlasting lips; each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit.”*

II. The Manifestation of Inspiration

The Lord _____ His words in the mouth of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 1:7, 9, *“But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak...Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.”*

Who had spoken? _____.

By whom did He speak? _____.

Matthew 2:15, *“And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.”*

Matthew 1:22, *“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet...”*

The words that came from David were said by the _____.

Mark 12:36, *“For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The Lord said to my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.”*

The Lord spake by the _____ of his holy prophets.

Luke 1:70, *“As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:”*

God hath spoken by the _____ of all his holy prophets.

Acts 3:21, *“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”*

III. THE VALIDATION OF SCRIPTURE

Many books today claim to be the words of God. Many philosophers and scholars have written books in order to discredit the Bible. We must consider the volume of reliable witnesses that have presented themselves to the world.

The word of God _____ and _____ for ever.

1 Peter 1:23, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

Hebrews 4:12, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...”*

I. The Testimony of Its Claim

The words *“Thus saith the Lord”* and similar phrases are found over 3,800 times in the Old Testament.

The Word of the Lord came by the _____ of Jeremiah.

Ezra 1:1, *“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled...”*

Whose word was speaking by David’s tongue? _____.

2 Samuel 23:1-2, *“Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob,*

and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."

How much of the scripture was given by inspiration of God? _____.

2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

The prophecy of the scripture came by holy men who spake as they were _____ by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:20-21, *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

II. The Testimony of Its Unity

Jesus Christ expounded unto them in _____ the scriptures.

Luke 24:27, *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."*

Jesus Christ spoke unto the disciples that _____ things must be fulfilled according to the record of the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms.

Luke 24:44, *"And he said unto them, These are the words which is spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."*

The Bible is made up of 66 books. Those 66 books were penned by at least 40 different penmen. These penmen came from various backgrounds and cultures. The Bible was written during a period of approximately 1,500 years. The Bible does not have one contradiction.

All 66 books give us the complete revelation of God to mankind. Those books all work together for a complete and perfect revelation. Just as a puzzle comes together with every piece in its place, so the Word of God comes together with every book in its place. Take one book out, and you are missing the complete revelation of God. Every book of for our benefit, and not one part must be neglected.

2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

III. The Testimony of Its Fulfilled Prophecy

This truth separates the Bible from all other books ever written. The Bible accurately foretells specific events – in detail – many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur.

In approximately 700 BC the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah, *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* (**Micah 5:2**).

Consider a small portion of prophecies concerning Jesus Christ:

His virgin birth was prophesied (Isaiah 7:14)

His birthplace in Bethlehem was prophesied (Micah 5:2)

His forerunner John the Baptist was prophesied (Isaiah 40:3)

His triumphal entry in Jerusalem was prophesied (Zechariah 9:9-10)

His side pierced was prophesied (Zechariah 12:10)

His cry "My God, my God..." was prophesied (Psalm 22:1)

The darkness at His crucifixion was prophesied (Psalm 22:2)

His hands and feet pierced was prophesied (Psalm 22:16)

He would be given vinegar to drink was prophesied (Psalm 69:21)

His resurrection was prophesied (Psalm 16:10; Hosea 6:2)

His ascension was prophesied (Psalm 110:1; 24:3-10)

IV. The Testimony of History

The Roman Emperor Diocletian made a decree in 303 AD that every Bible should be destroyed. He had been told that if he could destroy the Bible he would destroy Christianity because Christians were people of the Book. Feeling he had succeeded, Diocletian raised a column with the inscription in Latin, *"The name of Christian is extinguished."* Yet not even 10 years later under the reign of Constantine the symbol was replaced by a cross.

Fourteen hundred years after Constantine, the French atheist Voltaire boasted by saying, *"One hundred years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker."* Twenty years after the death of Voltaire, the Geneva Bible Society purchased his house for the printing of Bibles. It later became the Paris headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society, which stored and distributed Bibles throughout Europe.

Atheist Robert Ingersoll once boasted, *"Within fifteen years I'll have the Bible lodged in a morgue."* However, within fifteen years of his statement, Robert Ingersoll was lodged within a morgue, and the Bible still lives!

Isaiah 40:8, *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*

V. The Testimony of Archaeology

Archeology has confirmed the accuracy of the names, times, and places of reign of over forty different kings by means of documents contemporary to the Bible. Archeology has confirmed that writing was highly developed when Moses wrote the Pentateuch.

Those who have accepted the premise of the Bible as historically accurate have made some amazing discoveries. Over 5,000 places have been unearthed from mentions in the Bible.

Nelson Glueck, a renowned Jewish archaeologist stated, *“No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”*

Dr. William Albright (1891-1971), the greatest archaeologist of his generation, said this about the Bible: *“There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament.”*

VI. The Testimony of Science

With the technological advances we have made in the recent decades, mankind is continually revising scientific theories to match new discoveries. The Bible rises above science by stating facts that have only recently been discovered.

Here are a few of the scientific facts found in the Bible:

Moisture in the atmosphere goes through a cycle of evaporation and condensation

Psalm 135:7, *“He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.”*

The earth is spherical in shape

Isaiah 40:22, *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...”*

The earth rotates upon its axis

Job 38:12-14, *“Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.”*

The earth is suspended in space

Job 26:7, *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”*

Tides vary in the late evening and early morning hours

Job 26:10, *“He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.”*

The stars cannot be numbered

Jeremiah 33:22, *“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.”*

The atmosphere has weight

Job 28:25, *“To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measures.”*

There are currents in the seas and oceans

Psalms 8:8, *“The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.”*

The blood sustains life

Leviticus 17:11, *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”*

This fact was not understood until very recent times. In the nineteenth century, doctors were using “blood letting” as a healing method. George Washington, our first president, died from being a victim of this practice. Modern medicine has learned what the Bible has taught all along.

VII. The Testimony of Changed Lives

The life of Saul was changed into the Apostle Paul who became the greatest missionary in history apart from Christ.

1 Timothy 1:12-15, *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”*

John Newton was a profane man who lived a wicked life. After the Lord changed his life he wrote *“Amazing Grace,”* and also became a preacher.

George Muller at the age 16 was already a drunkard, gambler, and thief. When he was 20 years of age he trusted Christ and his life was changed!

In 1876, while travelling together on a train, atheists **Robert Ingersoll** and **General Lew Wallace** decided that Wallace should write a book dispelling the deity of Jesus and disproving the authenticity of the Bible. Wallace agreed, and immediately began to immerse himself in the life of Christ. As he poured over the pages of the Bible, he found “a conviction amounting to absolute belief in God and the divinity of Christ.” Through his study, he concluded the Bible and Christ to be true, and became himself a devout Christian. General Wallace never wrote his book against the Bible. He wrote instead the classic Christian novel *Ben Hur: The Tale of the Christ*.

The Bible is still having a profound affect in the lives of people around the world.

In conclusion we will consider a basic way to divide the Bible. We divide the Bible by the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word “*Testament*” means covenant or agreement.

The Old Testament can be divided into the following major sections:

Law - Genesis to Deuteronomy

We learn of the creation of heaven and earth, the fall of man, the worldwide flood, the Tower of Babel, the multiplication of languages, the call of Abraham, the beginning of the Jewish nation, Israel’s bondage and exodus, and the giving of the law.

History - Joshua to Esther

We learn the history of Israel, the Jewish nation, from the time of the conquering of the Promised Land to the Babylonian Captivity.

Poetic Book - Job to the Song of Solomon

We then deal with the worship of God. There are given answers to important questions such as the purpose of suffering and the seeming vanity of earthly existence apart from God.

Prophets - Isaiah to Malachi

We enter the prophecies concerning Israel, mankind as a whole, and Jesus Christ.

The New Testament can be divided into the following major sections:

The Gospels - Matthew to John

The four Gospels give the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. They also contain prophecies of His second coming.

The Acts of the Apostles - Acts

The book of Acts contains the history of the first century churches and the spread of the Gospel message through those churches.

Paul's Epistles - Romans to Philemon

These letters were penned by the apostle Paul to instruct various churches and individuals in Christian doctrine and practice.

The General Epistles - Hebrews to Jude

These are called the "*general epistles*" because they were not written to individual churches but to Christians in general. They were written by Paul, James, Peter, Jude, and John.

Prophecy - Revelation

This book contains prophecies about the end of the age.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Who was first to attack the Word of God?

How has God revealed Himself to every man internally?

How has God revealed Himself to every man externally?

How has God revealed Himself personally?

What does the word "inspiration" literally mean? _____

Write out one definition for inspiration as given in the lesson:

How much of the Scripture was given by inspiration? _____

Describe how God was able to speak to man in Old Testament prophecies?

Please list some compelling testimonies listed in the lesson that validate the Bible:

Circle the correct answer:

Science has been catching up to the Bible

The Bible needs to catch up with science