



SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

FOUNDATION LEVEL – Lesson 9: The Living Word

Introduction

We will now step further into the fundamentals by looking at the very important subject of the Bible also called *the Word* or *Scriptures*. The crucial question we will answer in this study is “Are the Scriptures the inspired Word of God or historic documents written by men?”

The way you answer this query will determine your Christianity and foundation of belief. There is no middle ground on this matter as some would like. There are Believers who take the stance that some parts of the Bible are from God and other parts from Men.

There are those who hold to the fact that the ancient manuscripts are authentic artefacts from antiquity which contain great depths of insight and knowledge about history and archaeology but stop short of labelling them as divinely inspired.

The attacks on the Bible are nothing new and in this series we will look into the history of the Manuscripts and the historical controversies that have come and gone and new ones which are nothing but recycled ancient philosophies. All these have sought to undermine the authority and authenticity of God’s Word.

Jesus’ View of The Scriptures

John 10: 34-36

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods” ’? ³⁵ If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

- Jesus uses three terms to refer to the Bible; your law, the scripture, the word of God
- Even though He is quoting from Asaph’s Psalm 82:6, He says “to whom the Word of God came.”
- Even though Asaph wrote it, He calls the writing, THE WORD OF GOD...
- He calls the writing of Asaph ‘scripture’, which translated means *writing* or *that which is written*
- This means the Bible or Scripture also means that which is written down.
- This provides an important fact, that the Bible is highly selective and contains only that which God has permitted to be written down.
- The Bible does NOT contain all the revelations of God to Man, but only that which is written or permitted to be written down as Scripture.



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2 Corinthians 12:1-4 NKJV

It is ^[a]doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

⁴ was caught up into paradise^[b] and heard things too sacred to be put into words,^[c] things that a person^[d] is not permitted to speak. NET

John 21:25

²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Just because the Bible references another book does not mean that that book is inspired. The exception, of course, is when the Bible references other inspired books within itself. Nevertheless, these books are not lost books of the Bible. They were never considered inspired or scripture

1. The Book of Wars, [Num. 21:14](#)
2. The Book of Jasher, [Josh. 10:13](#)
3. The Chronicles of David, [1 Chron. 27:24](#)
4. The Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah, [2 Chron. 27:7](#); 35:27; 36:8
5. The Book of the Kings of Israel, [1 Chron. 9:1](#); [2 Chron. 20:34](#).
6. The Words of the Kings of Israel, [2 Chron. 33:18](#).
7. The Decree of David the King of Israel, [2 Chron. 35:4](#).
8. The Chronicles of Samuel the Seer, [1 Chron. 29:29](#)
9. The Chronicles of Nathan the Prophet, [1 Chron. 29:29](#)
10. The Book of Gad, [1 Chron. 29:29](#)
11. The Book of the Prophet Iddo, [2 Chron. 13:22](#)
12. The Words of Shemaiah the Prophet, [2 Chron. 12:15](#)
13. The Deeds of Uzziah by Isaiah the Prophet, [2 Chron. 26:22](#); 32:32
14. The Book of Jehu, [2 Chron. 20:34](#)
15. The Record book of Ahasuerus, [Esther 2:23](#); 6:1



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16. The Book of Remembrance, [Mal. 3:16](#)
17. The Book of Life, [Dan. 12:1](#); [Phil. 4:3](#); [Rev. 20:11](#); 22:19
18. The Book of Judgment, [Dan. 7:10](#); [Rev. 20:12](#)
19. The seven-sealed book, [Rev. 5:1](#), 13.
20. An angel's book, [Rev. 10:2](#)

So we see from the previous paragraphs that the Bible is a highly selective collection of God's Word spoken to man through man. That there are other collections or books even referenced by the Scriptures that are good writings but not God's Word that is considered scripture.

This is a very important point to note and grasp properly because it is a common tactic employed by those who seek to cast doubt on the Bible and its completeness and authority.

What Paul and Jesus say about the Bible in Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for ¹⁷ instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- These verses are important for one or two key reasons
- Paul first mentions THE HOLY SCRIPTURES which Timothy had learnt as a child from his mother Lois and grandmother Eunice
- These refer to the Old Testament scriptures
- It is interesting that Paul says that the Old Testament scriptures are able to make one wise unto salvation. These tally with how Jesus used these scriptures starting from Moses unto all the Prophets to open the eyes of the Disciples on the Emmaus Road



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- The canon of scripture from Genesis to Malachi had been settled before the arrival of the Christ and neither Jesus or Paul contest their contents as inaccurate.
- Paul then says ALL SCRIPTURE rather than The Holy Scriptures
- The assumption here is that Paul is aware that New Testament Scripture is being Inspired through the Holy Spirit to the Church.
- The Holy Spirit was bringing back to the remembrance of the Apostles all that He had told them.
- Paul commanded the public reading of his letters just as the Jews would have done with the Hebrew Scriptures Colossians 4:16 , 1Thessalonians 5:27
- Paul called his own message The Word of God 1Thess 2:13
- In 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul combined a quotation from the OT, and some words of Jesus recorded in Luke 10:7 and he called them both 'scripture'

The Apostle Peter's View of the Scriptures

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ ^[i] And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private ^[i] interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but ^[k] holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.



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- Peter divides his presentation here into two broad sections
- The first bit (verses 16-19) point to the eye witness account of the apostles on the mountain.
- They say Jesus Christ transfigured with their own eyes
- They witnessed the fulfilment of old testament scriptures in the person of Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the prophets) and the voice from heaven endorsing The Christ flanked by these.
- They heard the voice of God the Father
- Peter is saying that these accounts are facts but they verify scripture!
- In the second section (verses 20-21), he says there is something more important than an eye witness account and that is THE WORD!
- That the prophecy of scripture is more solid than even their experience!
- Peter goes further to state that no scripture came by the will of Men and there is no human bias in the Inspired Word
- That Holy men were 'carried along' by the Holy Spirit as they wrote
- That the origin of thought and intent of the Word of God came from the mind of God not the mind of men.
- This is the crux of the matter; you will either believe this to be true or you reject the inspired nature of the Bible.

Psalm 12:6-7

The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.⁷ You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.

- In the middle East this ancient method of purifying silver continues until today
- The clay represents the human element
- The silver represents the Word of God



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- The fire represents the Holy Spirit.
- All three combine to process the finished product of refined pure silver
- Seven represents the complete and perfect work of God

Psalm 119:89

Forever, O LORD, Your word ^[a]is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:160

The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Matthew 24:35

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- The Bible is NOT a product of time
- It came out of time into time at the right time
- It contains the wisdom and heart and mind of God
- The Word is stronger and longer lasting than anything physical
- The Bible is Holy Spirit breathed so it resides in 'the cloud'
- The written scriptures are a copy of the original in the Holy Spirit
- The Believer with the Holy Spirit has the author of the Word living inside
- The Holy Spirit will lead the Christian into all truth concerning the Word of God
- The Holy Spirit will teach the Believer all things concerning the Word of God

It is interesting to note that not once during the life and ministry of Jesus, He never once criticised the Scriptures or stated they were not the Word of God or that they had mistakes in them. In fact He said the opposite...to the extreme!

Matthew 5:17-19

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one ^[b]jot or one ^[c]tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.



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- Jesus is saying here that the original text of Hebrew scriptures were so accurate that nothing will be omitted within them.
- Jesus quoted Deuteronomy when tempted by the devil – Matthew 4
- Jesus quoted Genesis when confronted by the temple rulers – Matthew 19:3-9
- Jesus quoted Exodus 3:6 calling Moses account The Word of God – Matt 22:31-32

Luke 24:44 (NKJV)

44 Then He said to them, "These [are] the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and [the] Prophets and [the] Psalms concerning Me."

John 5:39,45-47 (NKJV)

39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 45 "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is [one] who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust. 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Luke 24:25 (NKJV)

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

John 1:45 (NKJV)

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Acts 3:24 (NKJV)

24 "Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

Acts 10:43 (NKJV)

43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Matthew 7:12 (NKJV)



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"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 11:13 (NKJV)

"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Matthew 22:40 (NKJV)

"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Luke 16:16 (NKJV)

"The law and the prophets [were] until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

Romans 3:21 (NKJV)

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Acts 28:23 (NKJV)

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at [his] lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Acts 24:14 (NKJV)

"But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

Basis For New Testament Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go ^[d]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." ^[d]Amen.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the ^[d]Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.



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2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for ^[c]instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 3:1-2

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ²that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of ^[a]us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

2 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.