

Lesson 3-8

The Doctrine of Scripture

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

I. What are the various names and titles given to the Bible, the Word of God?

A. THE BIBLE (John 20:30; Heb. 10:7; Rev. 22:7, 9-10, 18-20)

The Bible is the Book of Books for it is one book consisting of 66 books. These 66 books are divided into two main sections, the Old Testament consisting of 39 books and the New Testament consisting of 27 books.

1. The book of Moses (Mark 12:26).
2. The book of the prophets (Luke 3:4; 4:17; Acts 7:42).
3. The book of David, the Psalms (Luke 20:42; Acts 1:20).
4. The book of the law (Gal. 3:10).

B. THE HOLY BIBLE

1. It is a holy book when seen in contrast to all of the _____.
2. It is a holy book because the human writers were _____ (II Pet. 1:21).
3. It is a holy book because it was inspired by the _____ (II Pet. 1:21).
4. It is a holy book because it tells of the way in which sinful man may approach _____, and how he might be made holy himself.

C. THE SCRIPTURE (Mt. 21:42; 22:29; 26:54)

D. THE WORD OF GOD (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12; I Th. 2:13)

Because the Bible is the Word of God it reflects the nature of God. A person's word and a person's name are synonymous.

1. God is _____ and so is His Word (I Cor. 1:9; II Peter 1:19).
2. God is _____ and so is His Word (I Pet. 1:23).
3. God is _____ and so is His Word (I Pet. 1:25; Is. 40:8).
4. God is _____ and so is His Word (Heb. 4:12; Ps. 107:20; 147:18).
5. God is _____ and so is His Word (Rom. 1:2; II Tim. 3:15).
6. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 33:6).
7. God is _____ and so is His Word (Is. 39:8; Heb. 6:5).
8. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 33:4).
9. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 119:43,160).
10. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 119:89).
11. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 119:105).
12. God is _____ and so is His Word (John 6:63).
13. God is _____ and so is His Word (Heb. 12:29; Jer. 23:29).
14. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 119:140; Pro. 30:5).
15. God is the _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 119:50).
16. God is _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 119:161).
17. God is the _____ and so is His Word (Ps. 130:5; 119:74, 81, 114).
18. God is to be _____ and so is His Word (Is. 66:2, 5).
19. God _____ and neither does His Word (Is. 55:10-11; Jer. 1:12).

E. THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS (Exodus 24:7; II Corinthians 3:14). The word “testament” means “will” or “covenant.”

F. THE ORACLES OF GOD (Rom. 3:2). The word “oracle” means
“_____.”

II. What does the Bible say concerning itself?

A. The Bible claims to be divinely inspired (II Tim. 3:16; Ex. 17:14). The Bible says that all Scripture is literally “_____.”

1. Moses understood that he was writing the _____ (Ex. 17:14; Deut. 4:2; 17:18; 18:18-20; 28:58).
2. David understood that he was at times _____ to write (I Chr. 28:19).
3. The various prophets recognized that they were speaking the _____ of God.

- Jeremiah (1:9)
- Isaiah (1:10)
- Ezekiel (2:7; 3:10)
- Daniel (10:9-10)
- Hosea (1:1)
- Joel (1:1)
- Amos (3:1)
- Obadiah (1:1)
- Micah (1:1)
- Habakkuk (2:2)
- Zephaniah (1:1)
- Haggai (1:1)
- Zechariah (1:1)
- Malachi (1:1)

The key phrases in the life of the prophets was, “The word of the Lord came...”, “The burden of the Lord came to...” and “Thus says the Lord...”

4. The New Testament writers indicate that they accepted the Old Testament writers as being _____ by God.
 - a. They continually use the Old Testament to prove or validate their teachings as if the authority of the Scriptures was unquestioned (Acts 2:16ff; 2:25, 29; 3:22, 24; Acts 15:15).
 - b. They state the fact of inspiration as it applied to the only Scripture that they had, the Old Testament (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20-21).

5. The New Testament writers also claimed to be speaking the Word of God.
 - a. Jesus, who was the Son of God and who was sent from God, declared that He did not speak His own words but that all that He spoke came from God (John 12:47-50; 14:24; 17:8).
 - b. Paul who wrote most of the New Testament claimed that what he spoke were the very words of God (I Cor. 2:13; I Th. 2:13, See also II Th. 2:15 and 3:14).
 - c. John declared the faithfulness of his witness to the word (I John 1:3-4).
 - d. Peter attests to the fact of inspiration (II Pet. 1:21).
- B. The Bible claims to be _____ and, hence, the final court of appeal and only source and norm for all doctrine.
1. We are not to _____ to what God has said (Deut. 4:2; Josh. 23:6).
 2. We are not to _____ from the declarations of God (Rev. 22:18-19).
 3. We are not to _____ that are contrary to the Word of God (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - a. The church and its _____ must not be our source of doctrine (Mt. 15:9; Mark 7:1-13).
 - b. Our powers of _____ must not be the source of our doctrine (I Cor. 2:14).
 - c. Our _____ must not be that which determines our doctrine (Acts 8:9-10; II Th. 2:9; II Pet. 1:16-21).
 - d. Private or _____ must not be the source of Christian doctrine. All such revelations or prophecy must be tested against the clear teaching of the Bible (Is. 8:19-20).
- C. The Bible demands _____ as only God can expect (Luke 24:25-27; John 8:31-32; 12:48).

III. Why is the Bible necessary?

The Bible is absolutely necessary for man to have _____ of God.

A. God has revealed Himself to man by primarily three avenues:

1. God has revealed Himself to man in _____ (Rom. 1:18-23; Ps. 19:1-6).
 - a. This source of revelation tells us that there is _____.
 - b. This source of revelation demands that _____ God.
 - c. This source of revelation reveals His _____.
 - d. This source of revelation cannot reveal God's _____, which is, His nature, character and attributes.
 - e. If this is the only source of revelation on which we have to draw, it leads to idolatry or the worship of _____ of God rather than the God of creation (Romans 1:21ff.).
2. God has revealed Himself to man through the _____ (Rom. 2:11-16).

For God does not show favoritism. ¹² God will punish the Gentiles when they sin, even though they never had God's written law. And he will punish the Jews when they sin, for they do have the law. ¹³ For it is not merely knowing the law that brings God's approval. Those who obey the law will be declared right in God's sight. ¹⁴ Even when Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts they know right from wrong. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right. ¹⁶ The day will surely come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life.

--The New Living Translation

- a. This source of revelation tells us that God is a _____, that is, a being having laws or principles.
- b. This source of revelation is not always _____ because of man's fallen condition and the fact that his conscience may be faulty as a result (Tit. 1:15; I Tim. 4:2).

- They may have a defiled conscience (Tit. 1:15).
- They may have a seared conscience (I Tim. 4:2).

c. This source of revelation fails to reveal God's _____
_____.

d. If this is the only source of revelation that we have to draw upon we will attempt to approach God by _____ which can never satisfy the demands of a holy God. The conscience can only be cleansed by the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:22).

1. God has revealed Himself to man by _____ (Heb. 1:1-2; Num. 7:89; II Sam. 23:2).

If man is to know God, God must take the initiative and reveal Himself to man. God has done this in His Word—the Bible. It is through the Word of God that we can know God's nature and the plan that He has for our lives.

B. It is only by the means of _____ that we can know and experience salvation (II Tim. 3:15; Rom. 10:17).

1. It is the Scripture that gives us _____ of the love of God incarnate, our redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39; Luke 24:27, 44).

2. It is by the hearing of the Word of God that faith _____ in our hearts (Rom. 10:17; Acts 17:2-3).

3. It is the Word of God that is the _____ that is planted into our hearts that leads to the new birth (Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:23).

C. The Scriptures are able to give us a confident _____ (Rom. 15:4).

IV. What are some symbols connected with the Word of God and what do they tell us?

A. The Word of God is _____ (Jer. 23:29).

B. The Word of God is _____ (Jam. 1:23-25).

C. The Word of God is _____ (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; II Tim. 3:16; Jam. 1:23-24).

D. The Word of God is _____ (Heb. 4:12).

- E. The Word of God is _____ (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26).
- F. The Word of God is _____ (Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:22-23).
- G. The Word of God is _____ (Jer. 15:16; Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:103; Job 23:12).
1. It is milk for babes (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-13).
 2. It is bread for the mature (Is. 55:1-2; Mt. 4:4).
 3. It is strong meat or solid food for the adult (I Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12-14).
 4. It is as sweet and delightful as honey (Ps. 19:10; 119:103).
- H. The Word of God is _____ (Ps. 119:105; Pro. 6:23; II Pet. 1:19).
1. It imparts life to darkened man (John 6:63; II Cor. 3:18).
 2. It exposes areas of sin in our lives (Heb. 4:12-13).
 3. It gives direction and guidance (Pro. 6:22-23).
- I. The Word of God is _____ (Ps. 19:10; 119:72).
- J. The Word of God is _____ (Jer. 20:9; 23:29).
1. It warms the heart.
 2. It gives zeal for service.
 3. It exposes the wood, hay and stubble in our lives (I Cor. 3:12-15).

V. What do we mean by “plenary, verbal inspiration?”

- A. The word “plenary” means _____. Plenary inspiration means that the entire Bible is totally inspired by God.
1. Inspiration does not merely apply to _____ of the Bible, but it applies to the entire book.
 2. Inspiration does not merely apply to _____ issues, but it applies to every area covered.
- B. The word “verbal” means _____.
1. Verbal inspiration means that God not only gave the subject matter to be recorded, but the _____ that are used are inspired of God (Jer. 1:9; I Th.

2:13; I Chr. 28:11-12,19).

2. Verbal inspiration does _____ mean that the writers were in a trance and that their personalities were totally overruled by the Spirit.
2. Verbal inspiration means that the Scripture is perfectly inerrant (_____) in all of its words and every one of its words (John 10:35b; Mt 5:17-19; Acts 24:14).

“For 40 different men to write 66 books in three languages over a period of 1600 years and have them become one harmonious book is humanly impossible. The unity and progression of thought together with the absence of contradiction indicates that the Bible really had only one author.”

--Kevin Conner

- C. The word “inspiration” means _____ (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:21; II Sam. 23:2).

VI. What is the difference between inspiration, illumination and revelation?

- A. **Revelation** is the act of communicating _____ to man (Deut. 29:29).

- B. **Illumination** is the divine ability to _____ that which is given by revelation (I Pet. 1:10-12; Luke 24:32, 45).

- C. **Inspiration** of Scripture is the divine ability to write down revelation without making _____ (II Pet. 1:21).

1. Inspiration has to do with the recording of the truth—the process.
2. Inspiration was the power that enabled men to write things accurately in a book (Ex. 17:14; Jer. 30:2).

“Inspiration is the strong, conscious inbreathing of God into men, qualifying them to give utterance to truth. It is God speaking through men, and the Old Testament is therefore just as much the Word of God as though God spoke every single word of it with His own lips. The Scriptures are the result of divine inbreathing, just as human speech is uttered by the breathing through a man’s mouth.” -- *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, William Evans

- D. The believer receives _____ on the _____
which was given by _____.

VII. What are some proofs for the inspiration of the Scripture?

- A. There are many _____ proofs for inspiration.
1. The Bible _____ to be inspired (II Tim. 3:15-16).
 2. The phrase _____ occurs over 2000 times. The phrase “God said” or “the Lord said” in one form or another occurs over _____ times.
 3. The Old Testament portions that are referred to in the New Testament are referred to in such a way as to indicate inspiration (Mt. 1:22; Heb. 3:7).
 4. Christ and the Apostles treated the Scripture as being inspired (Mt. 8:16-17).
 5. There is great authority suggested in the phrase _____ (Mt. 4:7; Luke 4:10; Gal. 3:10).
- B. There are also many _____ proofs for the inspiration of the Scriptures.
1. One of the greatest proofs is the fact of _____.
 - a. Note a few messianic prophecies that were fulfilled, in some cases over 500 years after they were uttered.
 - Christ to be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Mt. 2:1-8).
 - Christ to be manifest after 483 years (Dan. 9:25; Mark 1:15).
 - Christ to be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:13; Mt. 26:14-15; 27:3-10).
 - Christ to die by crucifixion (Ps. 22; Is. 53).
 - Christ’s garments divided (Ps. 22:18; John 19:23; Mt. 27:35).
 - Christ’s burial with the rich (Is. 53:9; Mt. 27:57-60).
 - b. Many other amazing prophecies of the Bible proved to be very accurate.
 - The prophecy of Isaiah and Daniel concerning Cyrus and the fall of Babylon given over 100 years before it happened (Is. 44:28-45:1; Jer. 50-51; Dan. 1-5).
 - Ezekiel 12:13 is a remarkable prophecy that was fulfilled to the letter (See: II Kings 25:7).

How could Zedekiah be brought to the land but not see it?
 - The prophecy of Jesus concerning the destruction of Jerusalem (Luke

21:20-24).

2. The miraculous _____ of the Gospel is a proof of the truth of what is claimed.
3. The fact that no other religion in the world _____ men like Christianity attests to the validity and power of the Word of God.
4. The miraculous _____ of the Bible in spite of numerous attempts throughout history to destroy it attests to its validity.
5. The fact that the early apostles who would have known the truth or falsehood of the resurrection were willing _____ rather than to forsake the truth attests to its validity.
6. The fact that the Bible records accurate _____ prior to their universal acceptance by the scientific community attests to the fact that this was composed by a mind that had and, indeed, has all of the hidden knowledge and wisdom.
 - a. The Bible tells us that the earth is _____ and hangs in space (Job 26:7; Is. 40:22).
 - b. The Bible tells us that the winds have _____ and that rain clouds are only evaporated water (Job 36:26-29; Eccl. 1:6-7).
 - c. The Bible speaks of an _____ place in the North (Job 26:7).
 - d. The Bible tells us that the stars are _____ (Gen. 15:5; Heb.11:12).
 - e. The Bible is the only ancient book in the entire world that insisted on quarantining contagious diseases (Lev. 13:45-46).

NOTE: The Bible is not a scientific book, but when it makes a scientific statement, that statement can always be relied upon.

7. The fact that the Bible records accurate _____ data which has only recently been accepted by modern researchers.
 - a. The discovery of the Hittite civilization (1906).
 - b. The discovery of proof of the four kings of Genesis 14 (1920).
 - c. The discovery of the city of Nineveh
 - d. Etc.

**Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.
Psalm 1:1-3 - NKJV**