

5 Inspiration of the Bible



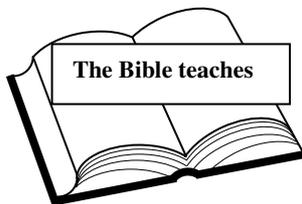
Bible Studies

Introduction

The usual dismissive persuasion of the skeptics of the origin of the Bible is: "It was only men who wrote the Bible," suggesting the authors of the books of the Bible to be as all other men; that they were good men with a dream, in possession of a hope born of their imagination; an explanation that caught on with others; an explanation of the facts of life.

The suggestion is that the scriptures are little more than religious hopes and expectations without substance that satisfied the simple enquiring minds of past generations. Such fantasies, it is said, have proven in the light of modern sciences, archeology and learning to be but myths and unsubstantiated imaginations and are dismissed as such by those of "higher learning."

In some instances, people have gone to great lengths to "prove" their rejection of the origin and inspiration of the Bible by attacking the validity of the scriptures. Some have denied the existence of personalities as they are portrayed in the Bible, others excuse historical events as distorted views or sheer products of the imagination; while many others conclude the Bible as a source of history has become so corrupted through human error in translation that it is no longer reliable. But this should not be a surprise, as we cannot expect anything different of unregenerate men, no matter how knowledgeable they claim to be. These are they who in their explanation of things that exist turn to human reasoning, philosophy, theories of intellectual wisdom and to the confirming views of their contemporaries who like them are unbelievers of the truth.



Paul the apostle thought of such people when he spoke to the Corinthian church: **1Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.** And again concerning redeemed mans future, based upon his creation and regeneration:

1Cor 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. Unregenerate man in unbelief of the Bible is not capable of knowing the truth so how can he claim to know the history of things that exist? Truth to the natural man is foolishness, he cannot know truth, for truth is hidden from him; as Paul goes on to say: **1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Scientists, philosophers and learned men of every generation without the knowledge of God in their thoughts and the Holy Spirit to guide their learning, are spoken of as men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Their corruptive minds contaminate their interpretation of the scriptures in matters of right and wrong.

Their conclusions as to morals, laws of conduct, psychology, physiology and sociology are affected by such thinking. Paul concerned for the church in his generation appeals to history as an example of Gods wrath upon it, that believers may be aware of such corruptions and thereby avoid their influence. Paul speaks of such in Romans chapter one.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.

: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:

:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Paul, in his Epistle to the Thessalonians' testifies to the terrible consequences of this condition describing them as not having a love of the truth:

2Thess 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

There are six questions often asked concerning the Bible that we will address in this study and allow the Bible to answer. They are:

1. Who wrote the Bible?

2. Is its message relevant to today?

3. Can the Bible give guidance to produce a better life?

4. What can I do to understand the Bible?

5. Are the miracles of Jesus true?

6. How can I know it is God's word?

We will allow the Bible itself to answer each of these important questions, and in doing so, give you a foundation for not only believing it, but also living it, while enjoying the blessing of God upon your life.

1. Who wrote the Bible?

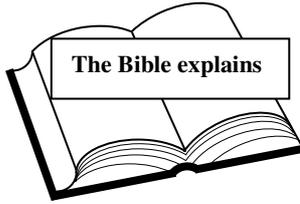
It was not "just men who wrote the Scriptures," but "holy men wrote the Scriptures." They were not unregenerate, carnal or spiritually immature men, writing out of their own imagination their personal thoughts, philosophies or generally accepted philosophies of each ones generation. None were assigned of kings, priests or anyone of an earthly authority to write any book of the Bible.

The Lord chose men in their generation like you and I. He then brought them to repentance from dead works and the exercising of faith toward God. This brought a conversion of their hearts (conscience) and minds (intellect) from the course of this world to the revelation of God and the Scriptures that produced a state of holiness. Having matured in that holiness tempered with grace, wisdom and understanding, God inspired them to write the book or books they were the author of. Peter explains: **2Pet 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 following is a conclusion to who wrote the Bible:

- They were holy men in relationship with God, who knowing God personally lived in obedience to Him.
- They were men whose lives had been transformed by the power of God, making them holy in His sight.
- They were men who God was pleased to judge holy and trust to be worthy to write what God intended to become the "Scriptures."

David, a mighty king in Israel who wrote many of the psalms had a great desire. That desire was to build an house, a temple in Jerusalem in which God could dwell in the midst of His people, Israel. This desire of David pleased the Lord who inspired David to draw the plan and write the dimensions which Solomon his son used in the temples actual building.

The first principle, is inspiration:



1Chron 28:11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,
:12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

David gives testimony as to how the inspiration to write occurred:

1Chron 28:19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by *his* hand upon me, *even* all the works of this pattern.

The Whole of the Bible is Inspired of God and Profitable

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

:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Doctrine:

The word “doctrine” refers to the teaching of Scripture explaining God’s provisions, requirements and promises.

Reproof:

“Reproof” describes the emotion of conviction we feel when confronted with sin, error or fail God’s requirements.

Correction:

“Correction” comes following conviction of wrong and describes the adjustment we make to our ways, works, attitudes, thoughts and thought patterns, through the counsel of the Word, placing us once more in the right direction.

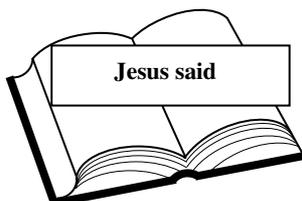
Instruction in Righteousness:

“Instruction in righteousness” helps us to stay out of trouble by informing us of what righteousness is, and seen in God the Father, then in the Lord Jesus and as it is in the Holy Spirit that is to be in the life of the Spirit filled (baptized) believer.

2. Is its message relevant to today?

The simple answer to the question: “Is its message relevant to today?” is yes, because:

- Though times have changed, man is unchanged. In nature his condition of sin remains, separating him or her from God. It is only through hearing the Word, obedience and regeneration that we are changed.
- Though the Bible is written to all races of all generations, it has more to say about our generation than any other.



Matt 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

:18 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.

Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

See also 1Pet 1:24-25

- The Bible's message, when accepted and lived answers four fundamental questions asked in one way or another by the majority of people. They are:

- 1) **Who am I?**
- 2) **Where did I come from?**
- 3) **Why am I here or, what is the purpose of me being here?**
- 4) **Where am I going?**

3. Can the Bible give guidance to produce a better life?

There are Biblical principles that when understood and followed will produce growth and a happy, contented spiritual life in any man or woman. The Bible says:

2Pet 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

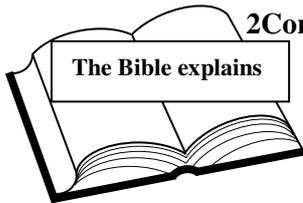
We will further answer the question by the next question.

4. What can I do to understand the Bible?

The following are five basic principles that if practiced will help develop an understanding of the Word.

The first principle:

Be willing to allow the Word to change your life.



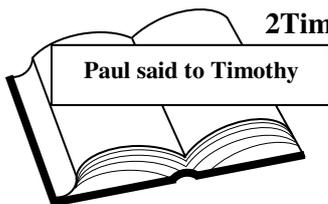
2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.

The second principle:

Be a willing student of God's Word. That is, be a hearer as well as one that willingly studies the Word.

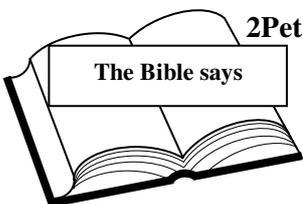


2Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- This involves being teachable, so as the Holy Spirit may teach you the Word through preaching and teaching (Eph 4:1-11).
- It also involves meditation, which is to think upon the Word; exercising your mind to think through what you have heard or read point by point so as to both understand and remember it (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8).

The third principle:

Do not put your own interpretation to Scripture. This is to form personal opinions that will clash with the true thought and intent of God causing conflict.



2Pet 1:19 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:

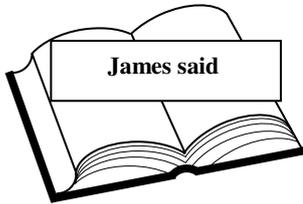
:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.

: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.

We should allow the Holy Spirit to teach us the Word, by the Word, comparing scripture with scripture (1Cor 2:9-14).

The fourth principle:

Willingly and with determination and purpose be a doer of God's Word.



Jam 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. Consider: Jam 1:21-25.

The purpose:
2Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
Perfect? That is: Equipped and prepared to meet every emergency.

5. Are the miracles of Jesus true?

It is not unusual for someone to ask that question. But, for those born again (regenerated) to believe the miracles of Jesus and indeed every miracle recorded in the Scriptures is an essential part of our growth of faith. The apostle Peter testified:

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

:40 Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly.

Why God does miracles:

- It is to confirm His Word (Mark 16:20).
- It is to show you that all things are subject unto Him (Luke 1:37; Matt 19:26).
- It is to fulfill His promises – Miracles in their variety of forms are a part of New Covenant blessing accompanying salvation (Mark 16:17-18).

The greatest miracle for the believer, is the miracle of the new birth: **1Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.**

Three spiritual Exercises of Faith:

- 1. Rejoice always in your personal miracle of being born again.**
- 2. Believe for further miracles throughout your life.**
- 3. Believe for the miraculous in the lives of others.**

6. How can I know it is God's Word?

How can you know God's Word is true, is a question partly answered under our previous headings, but there are further exercises to help ensure a progressive building of your faith and knowledge:

- Read the Bible regularly (daily if you can). Read the Bible carefully allowing you the time to understand it.
- Be regular in your attendance in the place the Lord has planted you, knowing that there, you are taught the truth. Value what you receive as though it were gold.

- Never be afraid to ask others questions, particularly of those you trust and respect in leadership and have taught the Word.
- Determine to put God's Word into practice every day, in your thoughts and in every place. As you do this you will experience God's Word in your life and circumstances, your confidence will grow and, and you will not need others to tell you, but will say yourself: "the Bible is true, it is the Word of God."

Your Bible Reading Chart:

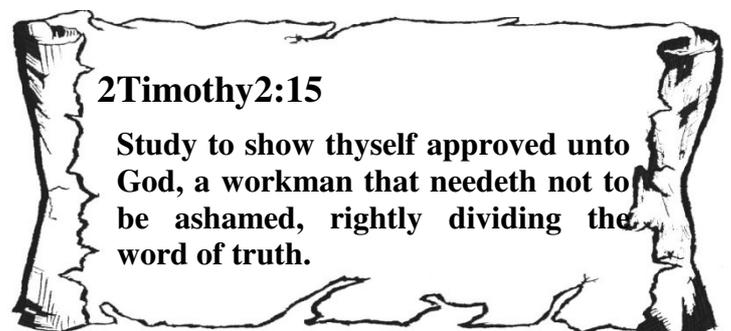
- To help you in your reading of the Scriptures we have a "Bible Reading Chart" to give you. It is suggested you keep it in your Bible (maybe as a book mark), that each time you complete a reading exercise you may mark off the chapters you have read.
- You may wish to photo copy your "Bible Reading Chart" keeping the original for recopying in the future, so as to have a fresh chart each time you set out to read the Bible.

Methods of reading the Bible:

- Begin at Genesis and read through to the end of the Revelation, reading each book in the order in which they are in the Bible.
- Read a portion of a book, a whole book, or several books of the Old Testament, then a portion of another book or whole book of the New Testament. Return later to the Old Testament and continue in the same pattern.
- Some people enjoy reading through the Scriptures reading certain books of the Bible in conjunction with portions of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes as these two books are rich in demonstration of wisdom. And there is wisdom in this. The same people may enjoy reading books of the Bible in conjunction with the Books of Job, Psalms and Song of Solomon which are poetical.

Others, will read portions of the Gospels as they read other books of the Bible, thus exposing themselves more regularly to the words and works of the Lord Jesus. It is therefore feasible to be reading two, three or more books at one time.

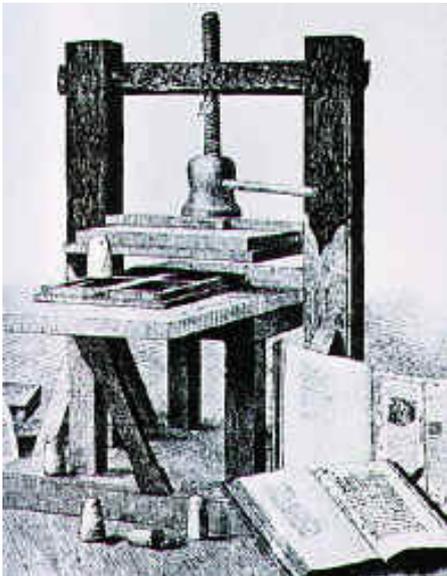
- Scan reading is a method of reading the Bible recommended for those who have read the Scriptures sufficiently enough to be familiar with what is written. Scan reading is an exercise by which you move the eyes down a page of the Bible picking up thoughts rather than words. Familiarity with the Scriptures is essential, for you are relying on your memory to a large degree in this form of reading.



Other interesting statements about the Word:

- God has magnified His Word above His Name (Psalm 138:2).
- Jesus is the Word made flesh (John 1:14). That is: Jesus, who was with God, and who was God, in the fullness of time became flesh. He became incarnated by the power of the Holy Ghost.

- God has purposed to write His laws into your heart and into your mind (Heb 10:16).
- God's Word is able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ (2Tim 3:15).
- You are to be sanctified and washed by the Word (Eph 5:26).
- You are to have God's Word hid in your heart as a safeguard against sin (Psalm 119:11).
- The Bereans were accounted nobler than those in Thessalonica, because they received the Scriptures daily to prove the words of the apostles (Acts 17:11).
- Jesus commanded the apostles to preach the Word (Mark 16:15; Matt 28:19).
- God's Word is a lamp unto your feet, and a light unto your path (Psalm 119:105).
- The Word of the Lord is right (Psalm 33:4).
- Those who despise God's Word shall be destroyed (Prov 13:13; John 3:36).
- God's Word cannot fail, all God has purposed shall be fulfilled (Isaiah 55:11).
- God has set an open door that no man can shut to those who keep His Word (Rev 3:8).
- The "Word" is one of the Names of Jesus (Rev 19:13).



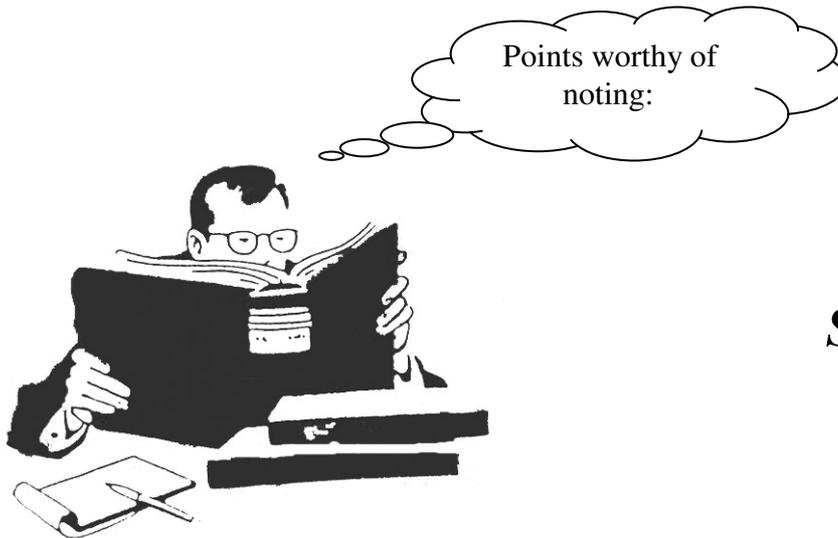
Did You Know?

The printing press was invented so that more people could have a copy of the world's most valuable Book – The Bible.

- The Bible was written by approximately forty-two writers over a period of 1,600 years.
- The Bible is in two parts:
 - 1) The Old testament, consisting of 39 books.
 - 2) The New Testament, consisting of 27 books.
Together this gives a total of 66 books giving account of creation and redemption, ending with the realization of the promised new heaven and earth.

Three important books you should buy:

- 1) A good quality Bible. A Thomson chain reference Bible is recommended.
- 2) A concordance to help find any scripture in Bible study. Strong's or Young's is recommended.
- 3) A Bible dictionary. Unger's, Zondervan Pictorial or Smith's Dictionary of the Bible.
- 4) Have a good pad and pen for taking notes when hearing the Word at services.



Summary

1. The Bible was inspired by God and written by holy men of God,
2. The Lord Jesus is the Word made flesh (that is: He is the Word personified).
3. The message of the Bible in today's world is as powerful and effective as ever.
4. If you have a willing heart the Word of God will change your life.
5. God wants you to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only.
6. The miracles of the Bible are not only true, but Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and able to do the miraculous in your life and circumstances.
7. The greatest miracle you can experience is the miracle of regeneration (being born again). God wants it to be first in a life experiencing many miracles.
8. The Word is to be preached in every nation in this generation. You can be an exciting part of God's plan by telling others about your experience with Christ.
9. As the Word was made flesh in the person of the Lord Jesus, God has purposed the Word to be made flesh in your life.
10. God wants you to be a student of His Word, finding His favour, while correctly interpreting and appropriating the Scriptures.

