

WHY SCRIPTURE WAS GIVEN?

March 8, 2015

II Peter 1:1-21

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:16

The question, “Why was Scripture given?” is one that most who hear this message can answer correctly in some form. A comprehensive answer requires expounding ever verse of Scripture, which is the task and challenge of preaching. Our purpose is to provide a general overview, a survey of why Scripture was given.

The question is significant in this respect: it asks why Scripture was given, not why it was written. The question “Why was the Bible written?” is asked by many who deny its divine origin, approaching it as mere religious literature motivated by human religious interests. By contrast, “Why was Scripture given?” implies that it is not simply a human document, but one given to humanity from a super-human source. Here, we offer a four-point answer as an overview.

1. Scripture was given as God’s self-revelation.

He created all things as an expression of His eternal power (Rom. 1:19, 20)

He created man in His own image (Gen. 1:26, 27)

He revealed Himself to mankind

Through God-to-man speaking (Adam, Noah, Abraham)

Through dreams and visions (Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar)

Through a permanent, written record (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21)

2. Scripture was given to reveal God’s Son.

Promised in the opening record of Scripture (Gen. 3:15)

Foretold and prefigured through multiple types, symbols, prophecies and promises

Reported by the apostles in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Explained by the apostles in the New Testament epistles

3. Scripture was given to reveal man unto himself.

As a creature created by God

As wholly dependent upon God

As a sinner against God

It reports the first event of human rebellion (Gen. 3)

It reports the resulting condition (Psa. 51:5; 58:3; Isa. 53:6; 64:6; Rom. 3:10-23)

It warns of the eternal consequences (Matt. 11:23; 25:41; Luke 16:24; Rev. 20:10-15)

4. Scripture was given to reveal God’s salvation from these eternal consequences.

To all who believe (John 3:16)

Because Christ fulfilled God’s law

Obeying all of its precepts (I Peter 2:22; Heb. 4:15)

Receiving its penalty as man’s substitute (Isa. 53:6; Gal. 3:13; II Cor. 5:14-21; I Pet. 2:24)

By God’s free grace (Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5)