

## What is the Bible? Lesson 1 – The Authority and Inspiration of Scripture

### Introduction:

- What does the \_\_\_\_\_ Bible teach us about the topic we're studying?
- A doctrine is what the whole Bible \_\_\_\_\_ us about some particular topic.
- We begin with two assumptions about the Bible:
  - That the Bible is true and it is our only absolute standard of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - That the God who is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible truly exists, and is truly who the Bible says He is: the Creator of heaven and earth and all things in them.
- What does the Bible teach us about \_\_\_\_\_?
  - The authority of Scripture
  - The inerrancy of Scripture
  - The clarity of Scripture
  - The sufficiency of Scripture
- The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are truly God's Words, so that to doubt or disobey any word of Scripture is to doubt or disobey \_\_\_\_\_.

1. All the Words in Scripture are \_\_\_\_\_ Words.

A. The Bible itself \_\_\_\_\_ to be God's Word.

- When a prophet spoke in God's name like that, \_\_\_\_\_ he spoke had to come from God, or he would be considered a false prophet.

***Num 22.38*** Balaam said to Balak, "Behold, I have come to you! Have I now any power of my own to speak anything? ***The word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak.***"

**Deut 18.18–20** *I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'*

- In the Bible, it's often said that God speaks \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet.

**2 Kings 9.36** *When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the Lord, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite: 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel,*

**Jer 37.2** *But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the Lord that he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet.*

- This means that whenever the prophet spoke in God's name, it was as if God Himself was \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Sam 15.1** *And Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord."*

**1 Sam 13.13–14** *And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.*

- In the New Testament, several passages indicate that \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament writings are to be considered God's words.

**2 Tim 3.16** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

- Here "All Scripture" must refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament written Scriptures, because that's what Paul has just referred to in the previous verse.

**2 Tim 3.15** *And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

- The Bible teaches that God is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ every word of the Old Testament, and He used humans to write down His words.
- The writings of the New Testament are \_\_\_\_\_ called "Scripture" along with the Old Testament writings.

**2 Pet 3.15–16** *And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

- Paul quotes words from both the Old Testament and the New Testament and calls them “\_\_\_\_\_”.

**1 Tim 5.18** *For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”*

- The first quotation is from Deuteronomy 25.4, and the second is a quotation from Luke 10.7.
- These things show us that during the time of the writing of the New Testament, there was an awareness that God was inspiring the writing of \_\_\_\_\_ Scriptures.

**2 Tim 3.16** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

**B. We become convinced of the Bible’s claims to be God’s words as we \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.**

- Our ultimate conviction that the words of the Bible are God’s words comes when the Holy Spirit speaks in and \_\_\_\_\_ the words of the Bible to our hearts.

**1 Cor 2.11–12** *For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also **no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.** 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.***

**John 10.27** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

- Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, a person will not \_\_\_\_\_ or accept the truth that the words of Scripture are the words of God.

**1 Cor 2.14** *The natural person does not accept **the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are folly to him, and he is **not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned.*

C. The words of Scripture \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to be God's Words.

- The words of Scripture can't be "proven" to be God's words by appealing to any higher \_\_\_\_\_ than the Bible itself such as science or human logic.
- The ultimate authority by which Scripture is shown to be God's words must be Scripture \_\_\_\_\_.

D. God inspired His words using \_\_\_\_\_ methods of communicating with and through the authors of Scripture.

- God did not simply \_\_\_\_\_ words to be written down by various men, but He also used visions, and dreams, and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring things to men's memories, and to cause them to do careful research.

***Heb 1.1-2a** Long ago, at many times and **in many ways**, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,*

- God sovereignly oversaw and directed each of the authors of Scripture in such a way that when they wrote, they used their own words that reflected their different personalities and skills, but they were also \_\_\_\_\_ the words God wanted them to write.

2. Since all the words in Scripture are God's words, to \_\_\_\_\_ or disobey any of them is to doubt or disobey God Himself!

***Luke 24.25** And he said to them, "**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!**"*

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture

A. God cannot \_\_\_\_\_ or speak falsely.

***Titus 1.2** in hope of eternal life, which **God, who never lies**, promised before the ages began*

***Heb 6.18** so that by two unchangeable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.*

B. Therefore, all the words in Scripture are completely true and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in any part.

**Psalm 12.6** *The words of the Lord are **pure words**,  
like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,  
purified seven times.*

- It's not that just some of the words of Scripture that are true, but \_\_\_\_\_ word is true!

**Prov 30.5** *Every word of God proves true;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

C. God's words are the ultimate standard of \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 17.17** *Sanctify them in the truth; **your word is truth.***

- God's Word is not simply "true"; God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ itself!
- God's Word is the truth by which the truthfulness of everything else is to be \_\_\_\_\_.

D. No new "fact" will ever \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

**Psa 119.89** *Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

**Matt 24.35** *Heaven and earth will pass away, **but my words will not pass away.***

**Isa 40.8** *The grass withers, the flower fades,  
**but the word of our God will stand forever.***

**Conclusion:**

- One of the most important advantages the Bible gives us is that it provides \_\_\_\_\_ about God that is not available anywhere else.
- The Scriptures are given to us by God to tell us the truth about \_\_\_\_\_.