

The Bible Version Issue - Part 1

In these next few weeks, we will study

The Origin and Transmission of the Written Word of God

so that we can accurately and confidently both identify and defend it.

The reason that it is SO important is because

Satan's Policy of Evil has, at its very base, an attack on the Holy Word of God.

We can see that from the very beginning, as he and Eve 'mess around' with the scriptures.

God's Word was QUESTIONED

Satan questioned the Word of God. Notice that he led off in a 'positive' way, saying, "Yes" then the question, "did God say that?":

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

God's Word was SUBTRACTED From

One way Eve altered the words God spoke by deleting:

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

One word, in particular, that Eve left out of God's word was the word 'freely':

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Look at that word 'freely' as it pertains to our receiving Christ's sacrifice for us:

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

God's Word was ADDED To

Eve's careless toying with God's Holy word eventually led to her disobedience of God's command. She subtracted from it, and she also **added** to it. God did not even mention 'touching' the fruit of the tree:

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

God's Word had been watered down and changed. It was questioned, subtracted from, and added to.

God's Word was DENIED

Satan perceived an 'independent viewpoint' in Eve, and he 'flat out' lied to her:

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Satan's policy is to **destroy the FINAL AUTHORITY.**

If he can bring up another 'competing' authority, besides God's, then he can bring in a 3rd authority in order to decide between the two.

God's word is meant to be an anchor. But, beware, because LOTS of people **MODIFY** it:

2 Cor 2:17 For we are not as **many**, which **corrupt the word of God**: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

Notice that it is both the very, actual **WORDS** (individual ones)

and it is also the **WORD** (singular) --- which is, the particular words (plural) --- but **grouped together** as a **whole unit** ---- that people will look for in the last days:

Amos 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the **words** of the LORD:

12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the **word** of the LORD, and shall not find it.

The Bible is the ultimate proof for your faith:

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The destiny of your eternal soul is determined by believing God's word.

It is not based upon what you feel

nor on your experience

not upon the number of followers

not by the oldest or ancient (such as Confucius)

The only, sure way you know what to believe

is to have your own, personal copy of God's word.

The Bible is the only ABSOLUTE moral authority in the universe.

The Bible is written mainly in two languages.

What is called the 'Old Testament' --- Genesis through Malachi --- is written in **Hebrew**, except for four passages that are written in Aramaic (a so-called Chaldean language).

When Christ was on earth, Israel spoke the Hebrew language,

the Romans spoke Latin,

and Greek was the commercial language of the entire world.

There were two basic types of Greek:

- 1) Koine was the 'vulgar' (meaning 'common' - not profane) language of the street.
- 2) Classical Greek was used by the elite, educated professors and philosophers.

The books labeled as the 'New Testament' --- Matthew through Revelation -- are written in **Koinea Greek**. That was not the vocabulary of the sophisticated.

My ministry is called 'The Magnified Word'

because of the claim God makes about His Word:

Psalm 138:2-b for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

When you are dealing with God's word you are dealing with God Himself.

Many times, **God makes His Word equal to Himself**. The attributes are the same!

Jesus Christ is the living word the Holy Bible is the written word.

Let's compare a few verses that make, basically, the same statements about both:

They are both called The Word of God:

John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Rev 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

They are both able to save:

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

1 Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

2 Tim 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

They will both judge people:

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

They will both sanctify:

Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

They will both live forever:

John 12:34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

They are both called light:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Psa 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

They can both be received:

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

1 Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

They can both make a person free:

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Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

4 Terms to Learn are:

1 - REVELATION 2 - INSPIRATION 3 - ILLUMINATION 4 - PRESERVATION

1) REVELATION --- GOD TO MAN

It is God's disclosure of Himself, the content of what God communicated to man.

There are 3 types of Revelation:

1) Natural Revelation

God has put a witness of Himself in 2 places:

1) **INSIDE** of man -- in man's conscience:

Rom 1:18-20 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 shewed 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:

2) In **CREATION** -- nature and the universe shows God is present:

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2) Special Revelation

God manifested Himself at various times in the past in 3 places:

1) Through **PROPHETS**:

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Jer 29:19 Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD.

2) Through MIRACLES:

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

3) Through PERSONS INDIVIDUALLY:

Matt 16:16-17 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Acts 22:7-8 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.

Gal 1:11-12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Gal 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

3) Written Revelation

God revealed Himself through holy writings for a purpose:

John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Written Revelation is also for admonition and exhortation:

1 Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

2) INSPIRATION --- MAN TO PAPER That is, the WORDS that are WRITTEN DOWN.

Man wrote down what GOD wanted him to write. The WORDS are GOD's words:

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

3) ILLUMINATION --- PAPER TO SOUL That is, how the Holy Spirit gets it from off the page into a person.

This is the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

God's word builds sound doctrine in your soul.

1 Cor 2:9-13 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.

10 **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, **the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe**.

4) P R E S E R V A T I O N --- GENERATION TO GENERATION
That is, keeping God's word through history, now, and the future.

Psa 12:6-7 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

As we recall these 4 words:

1) Revelation 2) Inspiration 3) Illumination 4) Preservation

Notice that:

1) Revelation --- and 2) Inspiration - are both complete. There is NO MORE of either.

--- then ---

3) Illumination -- and 4) Preservation - are both still active through time. They continue.

ALSO notice that:

1) Revelation --- and --- 3) Illumination --- are a 'unit.'

Both have to do with God to man.

--- then ---

2) Inspiration -- and -- 4) Preservation --- are also a unit.

Both have to do with the Production of the WRITTEN Word.

Next, we will deal with 5 different theories or ideas regarding Inspiration.

Remember, Inspiration is what's involved in

transferring the VOICE of God into the VOCABULARY of man.

1) The NATURAL View:

The natural view says the Bible is a high level of human achievement. The words just flow like a poem from a good imagination - like an elevated human spirit at its best.

But the scriptures contradicts that:

2 Peter 1:20-21 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.

2) The DYNAMIC View:

The dynamic view is like a 'living, alive concept.' It focuses on the ideas, the thoughts, the message the MEANING 'BEHIND' them sort of like, the THEME --- NOT the words.

It is called 'neo-orthodoxy' as if to say, it does not really matter whether Adam was a real man or not just get the TEACHING about Adam's situation regardless of IF he was a real person, or just an example.

But the Bible contradicts that also:

Matt 5:18 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.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the WORDS that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

3) The Partial View:

The partial view means that only certain parts are true. Folks that believe this view believe the parts about love and brotherhood --- but they deny the parts about sin, judgment, and hell. They take the enjoyable information but reject the punishment.

The scriptures contradict the partial view:

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

4) The Spiritual Rule - Only:

The Spiritual Rule says that the Bible is only good for ethics, religion, and morality --- but it is NOT for historical or scientific purposes.

The scriptures contradict that, as well:

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

Sometimes, science recognizes God's truth -- as in the Circle of Life, the Weather cycle, and the Water cycle but other times science does not believe God's truth -- as in the cycle of the Sun moving around the earth:

Ecc 1:4-7 One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

5) The Existential View:

The existential view means that only what speaks to you personally is real.

Modernists and liberals believe like this. They say it is true when it speaks to you.

If it is not relevant to you personally, then don't worry about it, because it doesn't matter.

But the scriptures refute that.

God's word stands true, regardless of what a person does or does not do with it:

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

6) The Plenary Verbal View:

Plenary is a root word for 'plenty' Plenary means 'all' or 'everything.'

Verbal means 'words.' Verbal is a root word for 'verb.'

The plenary verbal view - which is mine - is that all the words are inspired by God.

The issue in this view is the words written on the page. The prophets wrote down God-chosen words without error. Words have a definite value to give real intention.

The National Council of Churches, colleges, and seminaries, all hold other views.

Inspiration of scripture is the inspiration of the WORDS - NOT the men who wrote it. Were the MEN inspired ?? NO! What they WROTE was inspired.

But there is a problem with this view. It fails to provide the information that is necessary to FIND or LOCATE the proper, inspired text or equip us how to identify the correct words.

The scripture proves the other views wrong but the scripture proves our view right. Let's read the claim the scripture makes of itself:

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

Psa 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Prov 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Isa 30:8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

A main point of the Plenary Verbal view is this:

If a person believes in Plenary Verbal Inspiration that belief effects the translation.

Therefore, translating every word is important because they are God's words.

But if a person does not believe in plenary verbal inspiration --- then the actual words don't really matter. It's just the thought that counts. Well, words DO matter.

As we go through this study over a series of weeks, we will hopefully convince you of an answer to the problem of identifying the text for the actual, word for word, preservation of the scriptures, so that we have confidence in the book we carry as our final authority. If we don't have assurance that we hold the very words of God, then anything religious we think or do is, quite frankly, just a waste of time and false hope.

Next week, we'll look at the Text of Inspiration.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"