

Introduction:

Psalms 19:7 - *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.*

2 Timothy 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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

The word "Bible" comes from the Greek word "biblos" meaning the book. It is a collection of writings by 40 different men over a 4,000-year time period.

I have been reading a book on the Authority of the Scriptures. It seems as if man has often been confused about the Bible, even those claiming to be Christians. If the Bible is inerrant? How did God give the prophets His word? Etc.

Therefore, I felt it would be good to go back to some fundamentals on the Bible. Why study the Bible? To understand the claims, it makes for itself. What does the Bible claim to be? Some would ask, is this circular reasoning? But how else would you validate the word except by examining the document itself? For instance, the Book of Mormon, or the Koran both make claims that are evident only by studying. What is the purpose of the Bible? To answer these questions, we need to look at the Bible itself.

I) Names The Bible Uses To Describe Itself

A) The Word of God

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

1. One of Divine origin- "of God". The Bible claims there is a God and this is His word.
2. One of power – ability to discern, make distinction or judgements, even to the point of being able to divine the thoughts and intents of the heart.
3. It is this word that will judge us on the last day. **John 12:48-** ***"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.***

B) The Book

Hebrews 10:5-7 NKJV 5- Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.'

1. Specifically quoting **Psalm 40** in referring to the coming of Christ, it was written in the book, He would come to do the will of God.
2. The Book, not one of many but a singular book.
3. A book containing prophecy. There are numerous

prophecies in the Bible but the main ones we are interested in is those pertaining to the Christ.

- a. The only book containing prophecy of His birth, the place of His birth, His being betrayed by a close friend for 30 pieces of silver, His manner of death, etc.
- b. Name me one other book containing these prophecies.

C) The Scripture

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

1. The written word recorded for us to read.
2. ***John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.***
3. The source of the Bible is God.
 - a. Inspiration is the means or the method God used. He directly inspired men in their writing.
 - b. The purpose was to reveal His will.

D) Oracles of God

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. Romans 3:1-2

1. Specifically the Old Testament.
2. "utterances of God" TCNT

3. God proclaimed the Law of Moses. That law was written down for them to keep and study.
4. Not limited to just the Old Testament but the New Testament also.
 - a. ***If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. 1 Peter 4:11a***
 - b. Men during the restoration period paraphrased this as “book, chapter, and verse” preaching.

E) Living oracles

"This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.' "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, Acts 7:37-38

1. Not a dead or lifeless law but one of power.
2. Specifically referring to the 10 Commandments and the law of Moses.
3. God’s word is still powerful today. ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Romans 1:16***
4. Living because it comes from a living God.

II) Symbolic Names Applied to the Bible

A) Light and lamp.

Psalm 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light

to my path.”

1. We associate light and lamps with illumination.
2. Ignorance is darkness, man without the Bible is living in darkness.
3. Left to his own devices and schemes, **Romans 1**.
 - a. Man becomes morally corrupt.
 - b. Spiritually lost, worshipping idols.
4. Without God's word, man is in darkness (sin).
 - a. ***He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, Colossians 1:13***
5. The world could not create its own spiritual light.
6. The light is to show us the way out of darkness.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 2 Peter 1:19

B) A mirror

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:23-25

1. We all have used mirrors to see how we look or what needs to be straightened up.
2. Some mirrors are distorted and useless if we want to see ourselves as we are.
3. Without a mirror we cannot see how we look.
4. The Bible reveals to us the way we really are to God. Exposes our weaknesses, our sins.

C) Fire and a hammer

"Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

1. Time of false prophets, false prophecies.
2. God's word is a fire- purifying agent, burns up wood and stubble, purifies metal.
3. His word will purify us. **1 Peter 1:22** ***Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,***
4. Hammer breaks things up.

The Anvil of God's Word

*"Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.*

*"How many anvils have you had,' said I,
'To wear and batter all these hammers so?'
'Just one,' said he, and then with twinkling eye,
'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'*

*“And so, I thought, the Anvil of God’s Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone*

D) A sword

Ephesians 6:17b *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*

1. Symbol of war, just as a gun or rifle or tank might be our symbol.
2. Christians are soldiers and weapon of warfare is the word of God. We are to out teach Satan and false teachers.

2 Corinthians 10:3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

E) The Seed

Luke 8:11 *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

1. No life without the seed, cannot have corn without corn seed, or soybeans, etc.
2. The seed planted will produce after its kind. Corn, soybeans, etc.
3. The word of God has to be taught, planted, take root, believe, and grow, obeyed.
4. It will produce after its kind, Christians.