

Fundamentals on the Bible

While reading a book on the authority of the Scriptures I realized man has often questioned the Bible. During the Renaissance, scientific discoveries caused some to question the inerrancy of the Bible. While some maintained the accuracy of the scriptures, others said it was only accurate in spiritual matters. Various scholars said the Bible contained errors but it still revealed the will of God.

I found it interesting man has for many years questioned the role of the Bible in religion and its value. In this article, I want to view the various ways the word of God describes itself. One may wonder if this is circular reasoning but how else would one study and learn the book? How would one study the Book of Mormon, or the Koran if not by reading it? By studying a book one can then determine its purpose and/or usefulness.

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). We often refer to the Bible as “the word of God” meaning it came from God. In one way the Bible itself is a testimony to the existence of God. If God does not exist how can one explain the origin of the Bible. Why would anyone believe a fictitious book about a deity that does not exist? Why would anyone ascribe power or influence to such a book? It only makes sense if God is the author of such a book. Since it claims to be the word of God it also contains power. The word of God is able to judge the very thoughts and intentions of mankind. What is the difference between man’s soul and his spirit, or the joints and marrow, or one’s thoughts and intentions? God’s word can make that distinction.

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

lot in order to prove the superiority of Christ, His sacrifice, and His Law. The above passage is from the 40th Psalm. Pointing out the limitations of the sacrifices of the Law of Moses and pointing toward one who will do the will of God. Notice the phrase “the book” not one of many but one and one holy book. This one book contains various prophecies. It speaks of the Virgin birth, the place of the Messiah’s birth, his manner of life, being betrayed by a close friend for thirty pieces of silver, the Messiah’s death on the cross, the resurrection, and the establishment of God’s kingdom. What other book contains any one of those prophecies? NONE! There is not one other book besides the Bible with such clear and concise prophecies which were fulfilled.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible contains the written word of God. This gives mankind the ability to read, re-read, examine, and re-examine what we have read. We are able to study the Scripture so as to rightly divide the word of God, 2 Timothy 2.15. Scripture is meant to be read and studied. The origin of the Bible is God, it was not discovered or founded by someone but given by God. Inspiration was the means of receiving this word. Literally inspiration means breathed, God breath or spoken Scripture. Revelation is the purpose of the Bible. To illuminate mankind of his spiritual condition and how to be saved.

“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). Some translations say the “utterances of God.” God spoke the words to Moses and they were written down. Such language is not limited to the Old Testament. **“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.” (1 Peter 4:11a).** If one can’t find it in the Bible, God didn’t speak it! During the Restoration Period, pioneer preachers used the phrase “we speak as the Bible speaks, and remain silent where the Bible is silent.” Another phrase was “Book, chapter, and verse preaching.” This means there is a specific passage to back up a teaching and/or practice.

"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). While Romans 3.1-2 speaks of the oracles of God, Acts 7 speaks of the "living" oracles. The Bible is not a dead or powerless book but one full of God's power. Paul in speaking of the Gospel said, **"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)—Dennis Tucker