

“So shall my word be that
goeth forth out of my mouth:
it shall not return unto me void,



but it shall accomplish that
which I please, and it shall prosper
in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

Is the Bible the Word of God?



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Is the Bible God's Word?

Although many reject the Bible, many love it and consider it their most valuable possession. Why is this? Why do some people love the Bible?

Is there power to be unleashed? Are there blessings to be found and life changing wisdom for those who consider it precious? Does God actually reveal truth and favor those who love His Word?

In this tract are some facts about the Bible that show why it deserves a serious look, and at the end of this tract are some suggestions on how to get the most out of one's Bible reading.

1. God Himself Speaks in the Bible

God is often speaking to and through His people in such high expressions as are not found in any other writings:

"Thus saith the high and lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy place." (*Isaiah 57:15*)

God is also uniquely described:

"Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto." (*1 Timothy 6:15,16*)

In addition, duties are given which only God can require, sins condemned which only God can punish, and rewards which only God can give. All this points to God as the author of the Bible.

2. The Fulfillment of Bible Prophecies

In the Old Testament, there are at least **300** prophecies of Jesus Christ that were fulfilled in the New Testament, including the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:16*).

In the book of Daniel, there are prophecies about world history that are without explanation, especially those referring to the conquest of Alexander the Great, the nation of Israel, the coming of the Messiah, and the coming of the New Testament.

Jesus Himself predicted future events: the destruction of Jerusalem (*which occurred in 70 AD*), the persecution of His disciples, the building of His Church, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations. Still to come is His return to the earth (*known as His 2nd coming*) which will occur at the end of time.

3. **The History of the Bible**

The Jewish people left Egypt around 1400 BC, which means the oldest books in the Bible may be around 3400 years old. The New Testament is almost 2000 years old (*Jesus died on the cross in 33 AD*). God has preserved His Words.

Note: Both Testaments have a warning from God not to add or take away from His words (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18;19).

In the 1st century, the Jewish Masorite scholars compiled the Old Testament, and the Apostles and Disciples of Jesus wrote the New Testament.

In the 2nd century, the Bible was copied into 3 languages: 1. Aramaic, 2. Greek, and 3. Latin (early copies in these languages still exist today).

In the 4th century, Jerome (*to make an official copy for the Church*) translated the Hebrew Old Testament and the oldest Greek New Testaments into the Latin Vulgate Bible.

3. **The History of the Bible, *continued***

In the 1500's, Erasmus found Koine Greek copies of the New Testament that matched Jerome's Vulgate and published the Textus Receptus (*Recieved Text*). From this came famous English translations such as William Tyndale's in 1525 and the King James Version in 1604.

In the 1800's, a manuscript was discovered in an ancient monastery in the Egyptian desert known as Codex Sinaiticus. Although it differed greatly from Jerome's Vulgate, it became popular and afforded publishers more freedom (*not being in the public domain*). Sinaiticus dates back to the fourth century, was written in Alexandrian Greek (*as opposed to Koine Greek*), and has been crafted after the model of the King James Version (*but retains some of its unique features and expressions*). Most modern versions of the Bible come from Codex Sinaiticus.

4. The Power in the Bible

Jesus said, “...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (*John 6:63*)

The Bible, as a result, has power! In the book of Hebrews, the Word of God is described as being “quick [*that is, “alive”*], 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.” (*Hebrews 4:12*)

The Word of God is identified as Jesus Christ (*the Second Person in the Trinity*): “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (*John 1:1*) “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.” (*John 1:14*)

God is the power of the Bible

4. **The Power in the Bible**, *continued*

God uses His Word to help us.

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (*Isaiah* 55:10,11)

God uses His Word to change us.

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (*Ezekiel* 36:26-27)

4. **The Power in The Bible, *continued***

Jesus prayed to His Father for His disciples and those who would believe in Him through their testimony saying, “**Sanctify them** [*keep them holy*] **through thy truth; thy word is truth.**” (*John 17:17*)

As a result, we are to “**receive with meekness** [*with gentleness and submissiveness*] **the engrafted** [*embryonic*] **word, which is able to save your souls** [*“soul” meaning “you” as you know yourself*] (*James 1:21*). The Apostle Paul writes regarding the display of God’s power in a church he planted in Thessalonica:

“**...For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.**” (*1 Thessalonians 5:5,6*)

5. The Wisdom of God in the Bible

The Bible is the conduit of God's wisdom. It is described as a light that shines in darkness.

From the garden of Eden to the flashy display in the life and writings of King Solomon, the wisdom of God has shown that it is desirable.

However, there is no greater wisdom than that which was personally brought to us by Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle said Jesus "was made" into wisdom for us. Everything He did and taught (*including His death on the cross*), was a perfect display of the ultimate wisdom of God.

"...But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Corinthians 2:7,8)

Salvation is making Jesus our Wisdom for living 9

5. The Wisdom of God in the Bible, *continued*

The apostle Paul writes: “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord...”

(Ephesians 3:8-11)

In *Ephesians* 1:15-23, Paul asked for this in prayer: “...I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give *(next page)*

5. The Wisdom of God in the Bible, *continued*

unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places...”

(Ephesians 1:15-20)

Man was made to display the wisdom of God, and the New Birth is the renouncing of this world's wisdom and the embracing of Jesus Christ. He, by the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes our Wisdom for living. As a result, the Apostle Peter says, “**grace and peace are multiplied through our knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.**” *(2Peter 1:2)*

Is the Bible the Word of God?

Aside from the origins of the world, mankind, and the histories of the nation of Israel, Jesus Christ, and the Apostles, we have:

1. God Himself Speaking in the Bible
2. The Fulfillment of Bible Prophecies
3. The History of the Bible Itself
4. God's Power in the Bible
5. God's Wisdom in the Bible

In closing, God uses the Bible to save people from the consequences of sin (*which includes hell*), and to give people in this present age a new and much more abundant life in Jesus Christ.

How to Approach the Bible

The Bible is God's Word and therefore must be approached with care and reverence.

It is an ancient book of sacred histories, and most likely contrary in many ways to modern culture.

It helps to pray beforehand and ask God to open your mind and heart. It also helps to ask God to speak to you in your reading and to be sensitive to what He might reveal. *It helps to read in a slow and prayerful manner.*

Begin in the New Testament gospels, like Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, and then go back to read the Old Testament books. The Old Testament is subservient to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Consider using a Bible phone app. Many Bible phone apps have excellent study features that can be accessed with just a tap (*most of these apps are free*). Some of the study tools in these apps would otherwise cost hundreds of dollars and are large in size.

One popular app is the Blue Letter Bible (BLB) app which is free for IOS and Android, and it can also be accessed on their internet website. Another popular app is the “YouVersion” Bible.

It is important to find a faithful Bible church that has good study groups. This helps us to grow in our understanding and practice of God’s Word and to be under the guidance and prayers of God’s appointed people. May the Lord Himself speak to you today.

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