

## Lesson No. 2

# What Does the Bible Say About Itself?

## 1. What is the Bible?

### THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Mark 7:10-13.** For Moses said, “Honor your father and your mother”; and “He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.” **But you say**, “If a man says to his father or mother, Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban” -- (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, **making the word of God of no effect** through your tradition which you have handed down.
- (b) **2 Thessalonians 2:13, 15.** For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received **the word of God which you heard from us**, you welcomed it **not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God**, which also effectively works in you who believe.... Therefore, brethren, **stand fast and hold the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- (a b c) **Hebrews 1:1,2.** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...**

### FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The first part of the Bible, known as the Old Testament, is the Word of God.
- (B) The other part of the Bible, called the New Testament, is the Word of God.
- (C) The whole Bible, from beginning to end, is the Word of God.  
(Other names for the Bible are Holy Scripture, The Scripture, Holy Writ, Book of Books, The Word of God.)

## 2. Who wrote the Bible?

### THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **2 Peter 1:21.** Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- (b) **1 Peter 1:10.** Of this salvation **the prophets** have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you.
- (c) **1 Corinthians 2:12,13.** Now **we** have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things **we** (the evangelists and apostles) **also speak** not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
- (c) **Ephesians 4:11.** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry...

### FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The Bible was written by men.
- (B) The Old Testament was written by the holy prophets.
- (C) The New Testament was written by the holy evangelists and apostles.  
(The Bible consists of sixty-six books, the Old Testament containing thirty-nine, and the New Testament twenty-seven. The Old Testament was written before the coming of Christ, and in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was written after the coming of Christ, and in the Greek language.)

### 3. Why is the Bible the Word of God although it was written by men?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a b) **2 Peter 1:21.** Holy men of God **spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**
- (a b) **2 Samuel 23:1a,2.** Thus says David... “The **Spirit of the LORD** spoke by me. And **His word was on my tongue.**”
- \*(b c) **2 Timothy 3:16.** All **Scripture** is given by **inspiration of God**, (is God-breathed) and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
- (b) **1 Corinthians 2:13.** These things we also speak, **not** in words which **man's wisdom** teaches but which the **Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) God “moved,” or impelled, the prophets, evangelists, and apostles to write.
- (B) “All Scripture” was “breathed into” the sacred writers by God. God put into their minds the very thoughts which they expressed and the very words which they wrote (Verbal inspiration).
- (C) Because it was verbally inspired by God, the whole Bible is the very Word of God.

### 4. What are some of the qualities of the Bible?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **John 17:17.** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is **truth**.
- (b) **Psalms 119:105.** Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path.
- (c) **Luke 16:29.** Abraham said to him, “They have **Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**”
- (c) **Deuteronomy 4:2.** You shall **not add** to the word which I command you, **nor take from it**, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- (c) **Revelation 22:18,19.** For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone **adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone **takes away from the words** of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
- (c) **1 Corinthians 13:8.** Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, **they will fail**; whether there are tongues, **they will cease** whether there is knowledge, **it will vanish away**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The Bible is true, without error, and therefore absolutely trustworthy in all its parts.
- (B) The Bible is clear, and therefore able to instruct even an unlearned person in the way he should go.
- (C) The Bible is sufficient, containing all that we need to know for faith and life. We should not seek information and guidance in spiritual matters from any other source (reason, tradition, new revelation, etc.).

### 5. For what purpose did God give us the Bible?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **2 Chronicles 34:27.** You **humbled yourself before God** when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you, says the LORD.
- (b) **2 Timothy 3:15.** From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which **are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**
- (c) **1 Peter 2:2.** As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that **you may grow thereby.**

- (d) *Psalm 119:9*. How can a young man **cleanse his way**? By taking heed according to Your word.
- (e) *Titus 1:9*. Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both **to exhort and convict** those who contradict.
- (f) *Psalm 119:92*. Unless Your law had been my delight, **I would then have perished in my affliction**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

God gave us the Bible

- (A) To lead us to the true knowledge of, and sorrow over, our sins;
- (B) To bring us to faith in Christ and thereby into heaven (this is the CHIEF purpose of the Bible);
- (C) To strengthen and preserve us in the saving faith;
- (D) To train us in holiness of life;
- (E) To enable us to detect and combat error;
- (F) To comfort us in our afflictions.

## 6. How are we to use the Bible?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- \*(a) *John 5:39*. You **search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.
- (b,c) *Acts 17:10-12*. Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.
- \*(b,c) *Luke 11:28*. But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who **hear the word of God and keep it!**"
- (c) *Luke 2:19*. But Mary **kept** all these things and **pondered them in her heart**.
- (d) *John 14:23*. Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will **keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."
- (e) *Acts 4:20*. For we **cannot but speak** the things which we have seen and heard.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) We should diligently and reverently read and study the Bible.
- (B) We should regularly and devoutly hear the Word of God.
- (C) We should believe it.
- (D) We should live according to it.
- (E) We should bring its blessed teachings to others.

*Before the Next Lesson*

**FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 2.**

**MEMORIZE, if you can, the Bible passages in this lesson marked with an asterisk (\*).**



**READ Genesis, chapters 8-14.**

**Work Sheet No. 2**

**1.**

*(Check the correct statement.)*

- (A) The Bible is the Word of God.
- (B) The Bible contains the Word of God.

**2.**

*(Check the correct statement.)*

- (A) The Bible is God's Word because it tells us about God.
- (B) The Bible is God's Word because it was written by learned men.
- (C) The Bible is God's Word because God inspired its contents.

**3.**

*(State whether the following writers of books of the Bible were **prophets, apostles, or evangelists** cf. Matthew 10:2-4 and Galatians 1:1.)*

- (A) Isaiah was a .....
- (B) Paul was a .....
- (C) Moses was a .....
- (D) Luke was a .....
- (E) Matthew was a .....
- (F) Peter was a .....

**4.**

*(Supply the names of the writers.)*

- (A) The first five books of the Old Testament were written by .....
- (B) Most of the Psalms were written by .....
- (C) The first book of the New Testament was written by .....
- (D) The Epistle to the Romans was written by .....

**5.**

*(Check each statement, indicating whether it is true or false.)*

- (A) There are no contradictions in the Bible. True.  False.
- (B) We cannot understand the Bible unless it is explained to us. True.  False.
- (C) We need to accept only those teachings of the Bible which agree with our reason. True.  False.

**6.**

*(Check the correct statement.)*

- (A) The main purpose of the Bible is to show us how to live right.
- (B) The main purpose of the Bible is to show us how we are saved by the Lord.