

The Holy Bible: God's Reliable Word

Dear Reader,

Each religion has its Bible. But only one Bible is the word of the one true God - that being the Holy Scriptures, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments.

I speak as a Christian, of course. Those who are not Christians would disagree with me. Nevertheless, in this mailer I will defend three points regarding these Scriptures that form part of the very foundation of the Christian faith.

The Scriptures are fully God's Word.

Without doubt, the original Scriptures were put down in writing by men. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible; David penned many of the Psalms; Paul, through his scribe, wrote many epistles.

Yet the Bible is God's word. All of it is God's word. And it is God's word alone.

The Bible is not the words of men, conveying God's *ideas*, so that God's word is found somewhere in the Bible. Nor is the Bible the Christian church's "diary" of what she has believed through the centuries.

The Bible is fully God's Word, though He used humans to put it in human language.

This is a miracle. It is no less a miracle than the fact that God used a human (Mary) to bring forth His Son Jesus Christ, and yet Jesus, though truly man, is also fully God.

This miracle of God giving us His Word through men, we call "inspiration." God Himself teaches that the Scriptures are His Word by inspiration: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Literally, all Scripture is "God-breathed." God's breath takes the form of words; God spoke the words, and men wrote them. Even more clear is 2 Peter 1:21: "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." As a sailboat moves across the water, not by the will of man, nor man-made power, but by the wind which God sends, so the writers of Scripture were "borne along" by the Holy Spirit.

To carry out this miracle, God raised up and prepared different men, over the centuries, to pen different portions of Scripture. Each writer wrote according to his own personality and life experiences. God prepared David to write Psalm 23 by causing David to be a shepherd; and to write Psalms 32 and 51 by permitting David to fall into great sins. God directed John to write in a different way, and convey different main thoughts, than Paul or Peter.

Yet the Scripture is God's Word.

The proof of this is that what Scripture foretells about the future has come, or is coming, to pass. No man can predict the future with absolute certainty. But the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments are being fulfilled.

For this reason, Peter calls the Scriptures a "more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19). More sure than the voice of God, which Peter, James, and John heard from heaven when Jesus was transfigured! Nothing can be more sure than the voice of God. If Peter says Scripture is more sure than the voice he heard, it must be that Scripture is also God's Word.

A miracle! We can believe it only by faith.

The Scriptures are God's only Word.

In addition to the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, no other Word of God exists.

The Scriptures themselves indicate that they are the complete Word of God, forbidding men to add to or take away from the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 12:32, Revelation 22:18-19).

The Scriptures are the complete Word of God, because these 66 books set forth completely the gospel of salvation. That which must be known to enjoy salvation, and which is necessary to know to turn from sin

to God, or to live according to His law, is found in the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16).
The age of revelation - that is, of receiving from God new teaching - is over.

The Scriptures are God's reliable Word.

Because the Scriptures are fully God's Word, and are God's only word, they are reliable. They are "more sure" - that is, certain. They are able to make one wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15).

We can rely on the Scriptures to set forth the true knowledge of man (lost in sin); the true knowledge of God (glorifying His name by punishing those who don't turn from sin, and saving others in the way of true repentance); the true knowledge of Christ (who, being God, took on Himself the human nature, and died on the cross to save us from sin); and all other knowledge necessary to know for salvation.

We can rely on the Scriptures to teach us how to live in thankfulness for God's salvation.

We can rely on the Scriptures to guard us against all wrong teachings and ways of living.

The Scriptures are reliable. They are God's Word to His people.

Read them, then, dear reader; study them; believe them; live according to them.

And you will enjoy true happiness.

Pastor Douglas Kuiper

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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 Peter 1:19-21