

Authority of God's Word

More than 500 times in the first five books of the Bible, God says, "This is My Word." More than 1,000 times in the prophets, God says, "This is My Word." More than 4,000 times in the Old Testament and 44 times in the New Testament, the Bible is called the "*Word of God.*"

God Himself calls the Bible the Word of God. I could give hundreds of examples, but here are a few:

- *And they spoke the **Word of God** with boldness. (Acts 4:31)*
- *So faith comes by hearing and hearing by the **Word of God.** (Romans 10:17)*
- *And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God.** (Ephesians 6:17)*
- *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....** (1 Thessalonians 2:13)*

Consider this: The Holy Spirit inspired the writers to call both Jesus and the Bible the "Word of God." God not only called His Book the "Word of God," but He also called His Son the "Word of God." He gave Jesus the same name as He gave to His book.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.... And the Word became 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 1:1-3, 14)

In Revelation 19:13, Jesus comes in power and great glory, "*and He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God.*"

We are not saying Jesus and the Bible are identical, but they are inseparable. Look how they are linked:

- Both Jesus and the Word of God **came from Heaven.**
- Both **live forever.** *Jesus is alive forevermore (See Revelation 1:18.), and "The Word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25).*

- Both Jesus (See Hebrews 13:8.) and the Word (See Matthew 5:18.) are **unchanging**.
- Both Jesus and the Word are **light in a dark place**. Jesus is the light of the world. (See John 8:12.) So is the Bible. (See Psalm 119:105.)
- Both are **absolute truth**. *"I am the truth" (John 14:6); "Your Word is truth" (John 17:17).*

INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

God's word also described in the Bible as the "Scriptures" was given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 2 Tim 2:16

The word inspiration literally means "in breathed of God" The Holy Spirit was the invisible influence who controlled and directed all those who wrote the various books of the Bible.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation 2 Pet 1:20

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Pet 1:21

So the complete accuracy of the divine message in the Scriptures is due to the perfect operation of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament also speaks to the accuracy of God's word.

The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times Psalm 12:6

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:89

David emphasizes that the Bible is not a product of time but of eternity.

David also says...

The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting Psalm 119:160

The same thought is expressed by Christ Himself.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away Matt 24:35

The Bible is true from Genesis 1:1 to the last verse in Revelations. Jesus himself quoted many times from the Old Testament.

During Christ's temptation in the wilderness, He responded to Satan 3 times with the words "It is written" taken from the book of Deuteronomy.

In the Sermon on the Mount Christ said:

Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Matt 5:17-18

The smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet is about the size of an inverted comma in English script. A stroke indicates a little curl smaller than a comma added to the corner of certain letters to distinguish them from similar letters in Hebrew.

So Christ was saying is that the original text of the Hebrew scriptures is so accurate and authoritative that not even one portion of the script smaller than a comma can be altered or removed.

Constantly during His earthly teaching ministry He maintained the same attitude towards the Old Testament Scriptures. For instance:

When a question was raised to Him about divorce, He responds from the Book of Genesis:

And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.

Again, when the Sadducees raised a question about the resurrection from the dead, Christ answered them by referring to the account of Moses at the burning bush in the Book of Exodus. He replied to them in the form of a question:

*But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you **by God**: 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.*

Jesus referred to these writings as being from God and not Moses.

Jesus did not only accept the absolute accuracy of the Old Testament Scriptures in all His teachings but He also acknowledged their absolute authority and control over the whole course of His earthly life, from His birth to His death and resurrection. It is expressed in the phrase that states "that it might be fulfilled". The Bible specifically records that each of the following incidents in the earthly life of Jesus took place in fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures.

- His birth of a virgin
- His birth at Bethlehem
- His flight to Egypt
- His dwelling in Nazareth
- His anointing by the Holy Spirit
- His ministry in Galilee
- His healing of the sick
- The rejection of His teachings and miracles by the Jews
- His use of parables
- His betrayal by a friend
- His being forsaken by His disciples
- His being hated without a cause
- His being condemned with criminals
- His garments being divided by lot
- His being offered vinegar for His thirst
- His body being pierced without His bones being broken
- His rising from the dead on the third day

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