

THE BIBLE, THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

CHAPTER ONE

The Inspired, Infallible Word of God

The Bible is the very heart of our ministry. It is the only source from which we receive authentic and reliable information, so it is the firm foundation on which we stand. I undertake this series of studies with full knowledge that there are many books already on this subject, written by those far more knowledgeable than myself. Why, then, another book on the subject? We have several reasons for this series of messages. We hope to create an interest in the Word of God. Perhaps the greatest paradox of our time is that the Bible used to be the world's number one UNREAD "best seller."

With so many strange voices going forth, we have an obligation to let everyone know just where we stand. Those of you who have heard us over the years, or have read our material, know our stand on the Word of God. We want to take our stand, and add our influence, little though it might be, alongside those who have unswervingly "contended for the faith once delivered unto the saints." With earnest prayer we undertake this all- important series of lessons on "The Bible, the Inspired, Infallible Word of God."

The subject is so vast, the material so substantial and overwhelmingly conclusive that, in these five brief lessons, we will be able only to introduce five selected topics for consideration. (1) The inspiration of the Bible. (2) The scientific accuracy of the Bible. (3) The prophetic accuracy of the Bible. (4) The purpose of the Bible. (5) The Bible the source of Faith.

It is not our purpose in this series of lessons to defend the Bible. The infallible Word of God is the most unique, the most miraculous book ever written, and therefore needs no defense. Nowhere can one find a better, more definite explanation of creation, the origin of man, the cause of sin, grief, sickness, suffering and death. Moreover, the Bible is the one and only source where one can find answers to these perplexing problems.

The Word "Bible"

The English word "Bible" comes from the Greek word "biblos," or "biblion," which means "book." There are many terms used to designate God's revelation to mankind. Seventeen times (according to my Bible concordance) the word "scripture," or "scriptures," is used to identify God's marvelous method of a permanent record of what He has done, is doing, and what He is going to do. The word scripture, or scriptures, means "Holy writings." These Holy writings are referred to (Luke 16:29-31) as "Moses and the Prophets." The Psalmist called these Holy writings the "Law of the Lord." (Psalm 19:7) However, of all the terms used to describe the Bible, the term "Word of God" is perhaps the most significant and comprehensive. This alone teaches us that we should regard the Bible for what it is – God speaking to man.

The vast content of the Bible makes it a Book above all books. It deals with almost every subject under Heaven, and is the final authority on every subject with which

it deals. When the Bible speaks about science, history, chemistry, mathematics, or whatever, be it past, present or future, it speaks with the same infallible authority as when it speaks of salvation and other spiritual matters. The Bible is just as infallible on one subject as it is another.

The Bible is a universal Book. Its truths are just as applicable in Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, North America, or wherever, as it is in the land of Palestine where it originated, and where most of it was written. Then too, the Bible is an up-to-date Book. The Bible is just as up-to-date today as the day it was written. The Bible fits the 21st century as well as the 1st century, without any revision or updating whatsoever. Not even so much as a coma is needed to bring the Bible into the 21st century.

The Bible being such a unique and miraculous Book, one must surely wonder where and how we got this Book we call the Bible. By what means did God bring us His Book? With this thought in mind we introduce our first lesson for consideration.

The Inspiration of the Bible

When a person says, "I believe in the inspiration of the Bible," it has become very important in this day and age to ask what they mean by "inspiration." With each passing day there seems to be a new theory as to the degree, or the extent of the inspiration of the Bible. As an example of what I mean, here are some views on inspiration held by different shades of religious beliefs (and un-beliefs). We give these divergent views only for the sake of comparative teaching. We in no way support or endorse such unbelief.

(1) The theory of natural inspiration--- "naturalistic inspiration." This theory denies that there is anything super-natural in the mode of the Spirit's operation upon the Scriptures. Those who hold this view claim that the Scriptures were inspired in the same degree, or on the same level as the teachings of Muhammad or Confucius. If such be the character of inspiration there is nothing to assure us that the writers of the Bible were not subject to the same errors and false views as these men, and this would make the Bible no more trustworthy than any book written by fallible man. However, the universal theme and continuity of the Bible shows the fallacy of the theory of naturalistic inspiration.

(2) The illumination theory--- According to this theory the inspiration of the writers of the Bible was the same as Christians of every age; and the Christian of today is as much inspired as the writers of the New Testament. If this theory was true, there would be good reason for a new Bible to be written today. Yet no individual, no matter how wild his claim of inspiration, has ventured such a task. Of all the books written none have made the claim of being the Bible, but admittedly, only a translation of a Bible already written.

(3) The theory of partial inspiration--- This theory holds that only part of the Word of God is inspired. A favorite way of expressing this view is the phrase "the Bible contains the word of God," thus implying that the Bible contains much that is not inspired. And guess whose lot it is to tell us which portion is inspired, and which portion is not! Such theory leaves man in an awful state of uncertainty. If this theory was correct no one would know for certain if John 3:16 happened to be truth or error.

With the differing shades of belief and unbelief concerning the inspiration of the Word of God, the question arises, "Is there an answer?" Is there somewhere to turn that we may find a way out of the quagmire of confusion and uncertainty concerning the Word of God? If the Bible is inspired, as it claims to be, then the answer is simple.

There is abundant hope. However, if the Bible is only a collection of fairy tales written by fallible man, it becomes the cruelest hoax ever passed upon mankind. I tell you, it is not a book of fairy tales, but the VERY WORD OF GOD!

We have covered three prominent views concerning the inspiration of the Word of God. Now, what do WE mean when we use the word “inspiration?” Better yet, what does the Bible mean when it speaks of inspiration? This question is best answered by the Bible itself. The term “inspiration” is defined in II Timothy, chapter 3:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (II Timothy 3:16)

The word “inspired” in this verse literally means “God-breathed.” It is composed of two Greek words, “theos,” (God) and “pnein” (to breathe). The term “given by inspiration” signifies that the writings of which Paul is speaking are the results of a certain influence exerted by God upon those who were writing. Inspiration, as defined by Paul in II Timothy 3:16, is the strong conscience in-breathing of God into men, qualifying them to give utterance to truth. It is God speaking through man. The words written in the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, are as though God spoke every single word.

Peter tells us that **“...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (II Peter 1:21)** The phrase “moved by the Holy Ghost” is the vital element of this revelation, and means, “borne along by the Spirit of God.” Paul tells us that the Scripture is “God breathed,” and Peter affirms the same teaching, that the writers were “borne along” by the Holy Spirit as they were writing the Word of God.

When we speak of “inspiration,” we are talking about inspired writings, not just inspired men. Since everything that we are, or shall be, is based upon the Word of God, we must therefore contend for the divine accuracy of the Word of God.

I trust that you will see, from this series of lessons, that the Bible is the very Word of God—God breathed, without error. The Bible is not a book as fallible as its human writers, but it is a Book that is as infallible as its divine Author.

I have heard people say, “God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.” No, “God said it, and that settles it,” whether we believe it or not.

CHAPTER TWO

The Scientific Accuracy of the Bible

The scientific accuracy of the Bible is based upon the Word of God and confirmed by scientific facts, not theory. These facts are available from many different sources.

The story is told of a group of scientists who gathered together to once for all determine how the world came into being and where man came from. Using one of the largest computers ever made, they gathered all of the scientific data they could find and fed this data into the computer, and anxiously waited the results. The computer’s answer was, “See Genesis 1:1.” This may be just an amusing story; however, it reveals a fact well known by millions of Christians. Genesis 1:1 records God’s first and last word

concerning creation. It answers the question of where it all started, with finality and authority.

The most challenged statement in history has stood the test of time, and no better explanation of creation has ever been given. Furthermore, God's record is far more believable, and takes less faith to believe than any of man's wild guesses. Many times we have heard, in our lifetime, of man having to change history books because he was wrong. There is no way to estimate the amount of money spent on searching for the missing link. Not long ago it was widely published that they had found the missing link, only to find out it was just a tooth from a hog. I do not have the faith to believe such hog-wash. (No pun intended.)

What is true of the first verse of the Bible is true of the rest of the Bible. The whole Bible stands or falls on the very first verse. If you believe the first verse of the Bible you will have no trouble believing the rest of the Book. If you believe the first verse of the Bible no miracle will be too great to be accepted as authentic, for God who "created all things" would have no trouble parting the Red Sea, preparing a great fish, or feeding some 5,000 with five barley loaves and two small fishes; and taking up twelve baskets of leftovers. The very first verse of the Bible is where faith comes to rest.

**"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
(Hebrews 11:6)**

My friend, who is better qualified to give an accurate account of the beginning than the One who created all things? All creation attests to the truthfulness of Genesis 1:1.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." (Psalm 19:1)

Only man, in this so-called enlightened age, will dare challenge God, and invent the insane theory of atheistic evolution. We can only repeat what God said to Job centuries ago:

"Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding." (Job 38:4)

Belief in the infallible Word of God is not without foundation. There are a number of elements that reveal the unique, miraculous and supernatural inspiration of the Bible.

The Continuity of the Bible

The Bible is written in one volume in which there is perfect continuity. Starting with creation, in Genesis chapter 1, to the new Heaven and the new earth, in the book of Revelation, there is a perfect unfolding in type, shadow, and by direct prophecy of God's grand design for mankind. The Bible was written over a period of a great number of years, by some forty different authors from all walks of life; such as kings, peasants, physicians, poets, plowmen, and fishermen; the learned and unlearned, educated and uneducated. They could have known but little about one another, yet all are in complete agreement on every subject of which they write. The chances of this being a coincidence

would be like selecting forty different people at random, letting each at several years intervals strike a chord on a piano, with the end results being a complete symphony, every note in perfect harmony, regardless of their musical abilities. Now the very thought of this happening is absurd; yet the Book we call the Bible came in an even more miraculous manner.

Scientific Accuracy

Moreover, the scientific accuracy of the Bible is equally impressive. Although written centuries ago, the Bible is as up-to-date today as the day it was written. The Bible fits the 21st century as well as the first century. While other books, some written just a few short years ago, must be revised or discarded when new facts are discovered, the Bible has never needed one revision or alteration to bring it into harmony with modern day scientific facts. For instance, many “speculations” have been made as to the age of the earth; however, with new discoveries they have had to keep “revising” these estimates. Why not take God’s Word, **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”** There was a re-creation before God placed man in the Garden of Eden, (Genesis 1:2) which was not the original creation. Since the age of the earth is “guesswork” at the best, your guess would be as good as the “guesses” of the most noted scientists of the day. The Bible is the most accurate, up-to-date scientific book ever written. When men of science make some new discovery it is hailed as a marvelous achievement; yet all the while they totally ignore and reject the Book that revealed such startling facts centuries ago.

Time does not permit us to cover all of the scientific facts on this subject. The ones mentioned, however, should convince the most hardened skeptic that the Bible is a book to be reckoned with. To lay the foundation of the scientific accuracy of the Bible we read from Acts chapter 7:

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.” (Acts 7:22)

This declares that Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, was learned in ALL the wisdom of the Egyptians. However, what Moses wrote was in utter variance with the accepted beliefs of his day, but is in complete harmony with modern day scientific fact. For example, had the writers of the Bible presented the modern theory of their day concerning creation they would have written that the earth originated in a kind of pulp, or was hatched from a winged egg, and rested on the backs of giant turtles or elephants. Moses would have written that man evolved from the slime of the Nile river.

Noted theologians as late as Galileo’s time taught that the earth was stationary. They taught that the moon was a mixture of air and fire, and that the comets were the souls of men on their way to Heaven. Others said they were angels escorting righteous souls to places of rest.

Scientific Fact #1

How was it that the Bible was written by men who lived in those ages, and they never once made the mistake of writing these things? The writers of the Bible never once stated that the earth was flat, or that it rested on the backs of giant turtles, or was hatched

from a winged egg. They wrote, what is now a scientific fact, that it is round like a circle.

“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.” (Isaiah 40:22)

Job tells us that instead of the earth resting on the backs of turtles, that it “hangeth upon nothing,” suspended in space.

“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” (Job 26:7)

Scientific Fact #2

The blood: **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...” (Leviticus 17:11) “For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof.” (Leviticus 17:14)**

Russian doctors amazed the world by draining a dog dry of its blood, pronouncing it dead, then pumping the blood back into the dog; and to their delight watching the dog’s tail begin to wag as the blood surges into its body. This is truly 20th century science at work, and yet they are only proving what the Bible has taught for centuries. “For the life of the flesh is in the blood.” One scientist has declared of the writers of the Bible, “By no process of research could man find for himself the facts that are stated here; they must have been revealed.”

What Moses wrote concerning the blood is a scientific fact discovered by man just a few short years ago. Not long ago blood-letting was a common medical practice. It is believed that the death of George Washington was hastened by the loss of blood, due to the practice of blood-letting. If only man would have believed what God revealed through Moses over three thousand years ago—“The life of the flesh is in the blood.”

Scientific Fact #3

The “just right” elements of the earth. Job says, speaking of the earth:

**“Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest?
Or who hath stretched the line upon it? (Job 38:5)**

**“Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? Declare
if thou knowest it all.” (Job 38:18)**

**“...when he set a compass upon the face of the depth.”
(Proverbs 8:27b)**

We know that the size of the earth could not have been a thing of chance. There are too many things that are “exactly right” to sustain life.

These scientific facts are recorded by reliable scientists down through the ages. The height of the atmosphere is just right. A change of as little as ten percent either way in the size of our planet and, science agrees, no life could exist. As a matter of absolute fact, life on earth is only possible because of an incredible number of things that are “just right.” For instance, the atmosphere is exactly right for our breathing apparatus. It is exactly right to keep the earth from scorching by day and freezing by night; with an

“exactly right” ozone that filters out the deadly rays from space. The temperature is exactly right. If the mean temperature of our planet increased as much as three degrees most major land areas would be flooded.

The oxygen is just right. Mr. Meldau, in his book, points to the tragedy of hundreds of babies going blind in their incubators before it was realized that this was caused by giving them too much oxygen.

The tilt of the earth is exactly right, 23.5 degrees. Any other tilt would produce an earth plunging between ice and flood, extreme heat and frigid cold. The speed rotation is exactly right, and essentially tied in with the tilt of the earth. An example is the planet, Mercury. One side of the planet is 770 degrees f. while the other approaches absolute zero. One side is always towards the sun, and the other forever dark and cold. Something else of importance, the distance from the sun is exactly right for the supply of light, heat, and power to live.

The dead and dismal moons and planets are witness to the providence and genius of God. They stand bleak in dazzling light, or eternal blackness, extreme heat, or frigid cold. These planets stand as a witness to man of what his world would be like without God, who has meticulously fashioned it “just right” for life and comfort. The scientific accuracy of the Bible is absolutely phenomenal. Any individual who would give the Bible a close examination, could not help but be convinced that it is of divine origin. It contains the message for mankind. Its principles work!

A Word of Warning

We may be able to prove to you, conclusively, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Bible is true. We may be able to present all the evidence necessary to prove the super-natural origin of the Bible, and you may concur with us in every respect; however, this will do you no good unless it is acted upon. You will never have eternal life unless you receive the Christ of the Bible. By way of illustration: you may know all about a certain bus. You may know beyond a shadow of doubt that the bus can take you to a certain place. You may know its dimensions, the air pressure in its tires and you may even know the driver’s name, but, my friend, unless you commit yourself to the bus, you will never arrive at your destination. The same is true of the Word of God. You may know all about it, but you must commit yourself to Jesus Christ. It is more than giving your mental assent to its truthfulness. There must be a definite act of receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1:12)

CHAPTER THREE

The Prophetic Accuracy of the Bible

**“But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.”
(Mark 13:23)**

God has touched the Bible. His fingerprints are found on every page. The proof of His touch is its true and accurate prophecies. The one element that sets the Bible apart from all other books is the accuracy of its prophecy.

Only the supernatural mind can have prior knowledge of things that are yet in the future. Foreknowledge of historical and scientific events is added evidence that the Bible bears the fingerprints of God. True and accurate foretelling is in a realm that belongs wholly to God. It is impossible for man to gaze into the future and see the happenings of tomorrow. For those who have tried, the results have been most ridiculous to say the least. Man cannot foretell even the events of the next hour. Man simply does not know what will happen next; however, the Bible boldly and confidentially gives thousands of predictions. These prophecies are not a vague generalization, but in detailed exactness.

The majority of the Bible was prophecy at the time it was written. Some of these prophecies given thousands of years ago have been fulfilled to the letter. This proves beyond all doubt that God, not man, is the author of the Book.

In this, our third lesson on the study of “The Bible, the Infallible, Inspired Word of God,” our subject is “the prophetic accuracy of the Bible.” Of the literally thousands of prophecies that have been fulfilled in minute detail, we have selected those that should convince even the most hardened skeptic that God is truly the author of the Bible.

Prophetic Event Number One—The Nation of Israel

The Bible completely foretold the history of the nation of Israel. Look on the early contemporaries of this nation. The Babylonians, Chaldeans, Edomites, Ammonites, Philistines and Hittites have all passed out of existence, but the nation of Israel has survived. Hunted by the Egyptians, Persians, Babylonians, Greeks and Romans, purged by the powers of Europe, set upon for annihilation by the Fascists, yet the Jew is still with us. They still make up a certain percentage of the population of this earth. Why? Because God said, **“Yet will I leave a remnant...” (Ezekiel 6:8) “...they shall be wanderers among the nations.” (Hosea 9:17) “And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and byword, among all nations...” (Deuteronomy 28:37) “...and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.” (Deuteronomy 28:25)**

God made another prophecy concerning the preservation of the nation of Israel. We have been a witness to a partial fulfillment of the following prophecy.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left... And shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:11, 12)

“Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. (Ezekiel 11:17)

“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel... And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith

the Lord thy God.” (Amos 9:14, 15)

Another prophecy concerning this nation—“**And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...**” (Genesis 12:3) It is a historical fact that there have been nations who have set out to destroy and annihilate the nation of Israel. Those who have tried have gone down to oblivion, or they are but a shadow of their former glory. On the other hand, the nations that have protected the Jews have certainly been blessed of God. The United States of America is a good example.

The prophetic history of the nation of Israel is a fact that no man can dispute. Diplomats from all over the world are running to and fro doing their best trying to chart the future of the world; but any Christian with an open Bible can tell them certain facts concerning the future, prewritten by God centuries ago. Any Christian who has read the Bible at all could tell the diplomats these facts: Israel will continue to be an unremovable thorn to her neighbors. There will be destruction in that area such as man has never known before. The long dormant people of the Middle East cannot be put back to sleep. China will rise as a great nation. A confederation of Europe is inevitable. The nations will ultimately submit to a world dictator, the Antichrist.

All of the prophecies concerning the nation of Israel in days past have been fulfilled to the letter, therefore, there is no reason why we cannot believe that those concerning Israel’s future will be likewise.

Prophetic Event Number Two—The City of Tyre

Of all the prophecies that have been fulfilled, the one concerning Tyre is the most intriguing. Prior to the event, by some two hundred and sixty years, God, through Ezekiel, foretold the destruction of Tyre; describing in detail how the city would be leveled flat and its stones and timbers cast into the sea. This was fulfilled to the letter by Alexander, who used everything in the city, even scraping up its very earth to build a cause-way to defeat the Phoenicians. However, the prophecy does not stop there. It says that Tyre will never be rebuilt, and for two thousand, five hundred years that prophecy has stood true. This is amazing when you realize that this would be an ideal spot for a city to be built.

There are detailed prophecies made of other cities, such as Edom and Babylon, that stand true today after periods of over two thousand years. These prophecies stand true, not a comma, not a question mark needs to be changed.

Prophetic Event Number Three—The Golden Gate

The Golden Gate (or Eastern Gate) sealed in 1543 A.D. by the Arabs, stands as a challenge to all skeptics of the Bible. This was foretold some two thousand years before it happened.

**“Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut.
Then said the Lord unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.**

It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.” (Ezekiel 44:1-3)

This gate has been sealed now for many years, waiting for the Prince to make His entrance. Kaiser Wilhelm planned to re-open the gate for his own entry into Jerusalem, but was not quite able to make it. Is it not strange that man, with all his ability and ingenuity, is not able to remove the weathered stones to what is perhaps the most important gate in the city?

Prophetic Event Number Four--The Lord Jesus Christ

The life and ministry of the Lord fulfilled more than three hundred Old Testament prophecies. Critics say he deliberately arranged to fulfill these prophecies. One Hebrew scholar actually wrote a book in which he attempts to portray Christ as deliberately seeking to fulfill the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Although his book was not meant to uphold the veracity of Christ, but on the contrary; yet he is correct in asserting that the Lord Jesus Christ deliberately arranged to fulfill these prophecies. Here are just a few of the arrangements that the Lord Jesus made.

- (1) Seven hundred years before He was born he arranged that Isaiah would record the details of His life here on earth.
(Isaiah chapters 7, 9, and 53)
- (2) He had the writer of Psalm 22 describe His method of execution centuries before the Romans introduced death by crucifixion.
(Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 13:6)
- (3) He managed to persuade two thieves to be crucified with Him, one on either side. (Luke 23:33)
- (4) He arranged to be buried in a tomb reserved for the rich.
(Isaiah 53:9-12)
- (5) He arranged that Judas would betray Him for exactly thirty pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15)
- (6) He persuaded the chief priest to use his betrayal money to buy a specific plot of ground. (Matthew 27:7)
- (7) In His death agony He arranged for them to give Him vinegar to drink. (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:48)
- (8) He managed to convince the soldiers, as prophesied, not to break His legs, as was the custom. (Psalm 34:20)
- (9) He managed to persuade the Roman soldiers to thrust a spear into His side, and to divide His garments and cast lots for His robe. (Zechariah 12:10)

Then, too, and this is perhaps the classic arrangement of all:

- (10) He arranged that on the third day after His death He would be raised from the dead. (Matthew 16:21)

He was so convinced of this that over five hundred witnesses testified to the fact that He had truly risen from the dead. So completely did He convince many of these that, with no hope for material gain, they set out to convince others.

Yes, Christ is very frank with critics. He agrees completely that He arranged all of these things and some two hundred and ninety additional happenings. He says all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

In this study we have considered only four out of literally hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled to the last detail. By applying a mathematical term called “the law of probability” to the prophecies mentioned, the chance of these being a coincidence is astronomical. Just the prophecies concerning Christ alone, according to the noted mathematician, Professor W. Stoner, would be one chance in ten plus one hundred and eighty more zeros.

To apply the law of probability to just the prophecies that we have mentioned is beyond our comprehension. Only a person with the knowledge of math would come anywhere near knowing what we are talking about. The chances of these prophecies alone, that we have mentioned, being a coincidence would be something like covering this earth sixteen feet deep with silver dollars, marking one of these silver dollars, then blindfolding an individual and him finding that marked silver dollar. The chances of him picking up that marked silver dollar would be the same as this that we have been talking about just happening by chance. Multiply this hundreds of times, and you get some idea of what we are talking about.

The Bible is truly the Word of God. Not only has the Bible foretold the nation of Israel, the city of Tyre, the Golden Gate, and the life of Christ, but, my friend, the Bible has prophecy concerning you, **“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)** This prophecy is just as sure and exact as those mentioned by Isaiah and Ezekiel.

Another prophecy that concerns you is the two coming resurrections. The Bible speaks of a resurrection for the saved and one for the lost.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power...” (Revelation 20:6)

The Bible speaks in the same chapter of the resurrection of the unsaved.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)

My friend, you will one day stand at one of these resurrections. The difference will be Jesus Christ.

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36)

Yes, these are prophecies concerning your future. At which of these resurrections will you stand? You make the choice!

I thank God for pre-written history. It gives everyone of us an opportunity to change our course in life, by believing the Bible and following what it says to do to have eternal life.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (John 1:12)

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” (I Peter 1:23)

CHAPTER FOUR

The Purpose Of The Bible

The one verse that brings together, under one roof, the purpose of the Bible is found in II Timothy. This verse is the key that unlocks the treasures of the Bible.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (II Timothy 3:16)

When we study the Word in the light and purpose stated in this verse, the Bible truly becomes an open Book. There are several reasons mentioned in this brief verse that not only gives the purpose of the Bible but will, if studied with the right motive, make the study of the Word most enjoyable and certainly more profitable. It is important, therefore, that we study the inspired, infallible Word of God with the correct motive. To study the Bible as a piece of classic literature, or from an argumentative standpoint is to miss the real purpose for which God gave us the revelation.

There are four reasons given in II Timothy 3:16 that reveal the purpose of the Word of God. (1) Doctrine. (2) Reproof. (3) Correction. (4) Instruction in Righteousness.

Let me say right here, if you are not saved, the rest of what we say will be meaningless to you.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (I Corinthians 2:14)

To these I would like to add four more reasons for diligent and faithful Bible study. (1) The Word of God is the source of all faith.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17)

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

“...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23b)

(2) It is to produce a workman that will not be ashamed.

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

(3) It will equip you to give a true and correct answer for the reason of your hope.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” (I Peter 3:15)

(4) It will keep you from being “tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.”

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.” (Ephesians 4:14)

“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines.” (Hebrews 13:9a)

The word “profitable” reveals that the information contained within the pages of Holy Writ is very important. The word “profitable” literally means “beneficial,” “to gain,” or “advantageous.” This truth is borne out in many instances in the Word of God.

**“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
(Mark 8:36, 37)**

Our text tells us that the Word of God is profitable for doctrine. It is strange, but a lot of people are afraid of the word “doctrine.” Today the word doctrine is used to identify certain branches of religion. Some emphasize one doctrine above another. Some

believe one doctrine and exclude others; while others are known by the many doctrines they hold. Then there are those who piously tell us “well, we just don’t teach no doctrine, or no nothing.” I would not be surprised if they are not telling the truth!

The word “doctrine” as used in the Bible, is not all that mysterious. It is not given to designate one religion from another. The word used in our text simply means “instruction, learning, or teaching.” In this light, then, the whole Bible is a complete book of doctrine. This truth was realized by the believers shortly after the day of Pentecost. In Acts chapter 2, we read:

**“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
(Acts 2:42)**

They were learning from the instruction, or teachings of the Apostles. This is what we, as Christians, are supposed to do with the Bible. Furthermore, the Bible is the only source of true doctrine. For our instruction, learning, and for our teaching, the Bible becomes the plumb-line by which all must be measured. Any teaching that does not measure up to the Bible MUST be discarded. A person should never, under any circumstance, accept any teachings over the Bible. This is true regardless of how godly, dedicated, educated, or dogmatic the proponent of false doctrines appears to be. We must settle all of our teaching upon the Word of God. Jesus says:

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48)

The Bible is written primarily to the believer, but there is one doctrine, one vital teaching, for the unbeliever, the doctrine of REDEMPTION.

Although all of the Bible is important, all of its doctrines do not carry the same degree of judgment for failure to understand, or obey. We have written a number of Bible study booklets, on several Bible themes, that we feel are necessary to help the Christian grow in grace; however the one area that can never be over-emphasized is in fact the very heart of the Bible---REDEMPTION. There are a number of things that you may miss in life. You may miss your calling. You may miss your vocation. You may pay the penalty of regret for missing these things in life, but there is one thing you cannot afford to miss---and that is THE WAY OF SALVATION. The consequences are so grave, the penalty so severe you cannot afford to be wrong about SALVATION. The most important and sensible thing in the world would be for you to find out what the Bible teaches about redemption.

God Paid the Supreme Price----He Will Accept Nothing Else

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11)

“...and without shedding of blood is no remission.” (Hebrews 9:22)

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with

corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (I Peter 1:18,19)

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (I John 1:7)

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (I Peter 2:24)

Consider the offering of Cain and Abel. God recognized one and rejected the other. Cain, perhaps, was sincere and brought an attractive offering, however, it was not what God said to bring.

You see, my friend, salvation is the very heart, the very theme of the Bible. If you have eternal life, you will have to come God’s way. Christ was your substitute. He took your place. It is His blood that atones for sin. God says that you must believe this, for there is no other way.

We are told that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof...” Here the word “reproof” means “conviction,” “admonish,” or “to tell a fault.” Now this is exactly what the Holy Spirit does when He applies the Word of God. Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, says, **“And when he is come, he will reprove (or convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” (John 16:8)** He will convict the world:

**“Of sin, because they believe not on me;
Of righteousness, because I go to my Father,
and ye see me no more;
Of judgment, because the prince of this world is
judged” (John 16:9-11)**

Unless you are convicted you will never see your need of a Saviour. If someone tells you your faults, no doubt it will only make you mad. However, the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and shows you your need of a Saviour. He says He will “convict” (reprove) the world of sin because they believe not on me.” In other words, the Holy Spirit will show you the seriousness of the one sin that condemns, the sin of not believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Until you see your need of a Saviour you will never be saved. Jesus says, **“They that be whole need not a physician...” “I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Matthew 9:12, 13)**

Now the word “reproof” is to be applied to Christians as well as unbelievers. No preacher worth his salt has escaped the accusation “He was preaching right to me.” The poor worldly soul must think the preacher wrote the Bible. There is a sure way of never having the preacher preach directly at you—just obey the word of God.

Another thing that is mentioned in our Scripture that is profitable, along with doctrine and reproof, is “correction.” You see, reproof is given that one may be corrected. The word “correction” is a very interesting word which means “a

straightening up again,” “a rectification” (made right again). When a person is convicted then correction is supposed to be the result—and obedience makes one right again.

The next profitable thing mentioned is “instruction.” This word means “to educate” or “training by chastening,” as to train up a child.

God tells us why we need doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction. All of these are necessary:

“That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Timothy 3:17)

Salvation is not the end. It is only the beginning. God does not want His children to be forever babies. Believers are to:

“...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...” (II Peter 3:18)

Believers are admonished, in the book of Hebrews, with these words.

**“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not strong meat.
For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe.” (Hebrews 5:12, 13)**

We are told that these people had been saved long enough that they should be teaching others; however, “ye have need that one teach you again,” the Scripture says. They were able to feed only on the milk of the Word.

Paul tells us:

**“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”
(Ephesians 4:11, 12)**

God wants us to grow up. He wants us to become mature Christians. Your light will never shine bright until you have matured as a Christian. The greatest testimony for God on the face of this earth is a mature Christian. No greater sermon can be preached than that of an obedient Christian. An infant in the faith (still on the milk of the word) needs to grow to be the testimony that God wants them to be. A person that has been saved for a considerable length of time and has never grown (still on the milk of the word) is not a testimony of the grace of God, and too often they are a reproach to the cause of Christ. They are expected to be “mature Christians” and they may think they are, but they are not. God wants you to grow and be able to feed yourself, to become a mature Christian, so that you will be able to produce good works. “...furnished unto all good works...” the Scripture says.

“ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman

that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

When you have received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, there is a job to be done, an important job! This job requires all the skills of a mature Christian. This does not mean that those who are not mature are not working. Sad to say, in too many instances it is the immature Christian who, because of their zeal, must carry the burden of the work. The man of God needs to be mature, “throughly furnished unto all good works.”

In these brief lessons we have only been able to introduce a small portion of the purpose of the Bible, but we trust we have been of a help and encouragement to you.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Source of Faith

**“Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
(Hebrews 11:6)**

When we see that “without faith it is impossible to please God,” and **“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin,” (Romans 14 23b)**, it becomes imperative that we understand what faith is, as well as how it is obtained.

We know that faith is the primary requisite necessary to having our prayers answered. Faith is also required if we are to receive the blessings that God wants to bestow upon His children. Faith then becomes a necessary and a vital part of our walk with God.

We are given the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1. **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

We see from this Scripture that faith is “the substance of things hoped for,” or “the things expected with confidence.” This Scripture also tells us that faith is “believing something we cannot see or understand.” However, this verse does not tell us the origin of faith or how we may obtain faith.

We need to distinguish between faith that denotes a doctrinal position of faith in the total body of truth and the faith of an individual believer; the faith that pleases God, and the faith that is necessary for answered prayer. The difference is made quite clear in the rendering of the many verses recorded in the Word of God. We quote three verses.

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (Ephesians 4:5)

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” (I Timothy 4:1)

From these verses we can easily see that Paul is referring to the whole body of truth that binds all believers together.

From the following verses we see the importance of “individual faith.”

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

“...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23b)

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” (James 1:5-7)

The believer must “walk by faith.” **“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (II Corinthians 5:11)**

The believer must “live by faith.” **“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:11)**

Abraham was not justified by his works before God. The Scriptures tell us:

“For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” (Romans 4:2, 3)

These Scriptures alone should encourage one to make every effort to search as to how this faith is obtained.

May I make a few suggestions as to how faith is NOT obtained. It is not obtained by clinching your fist, grinding your teeth and hoping faith will somehow appear. Faith cannot be transferred from one person to another. I have talked to people who have attended one “faith seminar” after another, hoping to find the secret to obtaining faith and they had ended up disillusioned and disappointed like the ones in II Timothy 3:7, which says: **“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”**

Witnessing a miracle will not produce the faith that pleases God. “Faith is the substance hoped for, the evidence of **things not seen.**

We come now to the very foundation of faith. The foundation of faith begins with the very first verse of the Bible, **“In the beginning God.” (Genesis 1:1)**

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3)

You may have wondered why science has made an all out assault on creation. If so-called men of science were able to destroy the foundation upon which all faith starts and rests, they would be able to destroy faith completely.

If you do not believe the very first verse of the Bible you will not believe any of the Bible. The Holy Spirit, through the writer of the book of Hebrews, in defining “faith” chose the most difficult portion of the Bible to believe, the story of creation. You see, creation cannot be explained. We cannot comprehend even the first four words, “In the beginning God.” Understanding a “Being” who has no beginning is beyond the reasoning of man, therefore faith comes to rest on the very first verse of the Bible. Why? because we have only God’s Word on the subject. God gives no details as to how or why. You can take it or leave it. If you can believe the very first verse of the Bible you will have absolutely no trouble believing what God says in the rest of the Bible.

We have a list of “hero’s of faith” recorded in Hebrews chapter eleven. These hero’s of faith all had different callings. They lived at different times, from Abel to Samuel and the prophets. However, they had one thing in common. When God spoke they, without hesitation, believed and obeyed.

This brings us to the very heart of our lesson, what is the only source of faith today?

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

Faith comes by “hearing,” not seeing or feeling. The Word of God is the only source of faith. Faith is the source that causes us to act upon the Word of God.

Just giving your mental assent to the Word of God is not faith. This is what James is talking about. He says, “...**shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**” (James 2:18b) You can have religious works without faith; however, it is impossible to have the faith that pleases God without works.

The hero’s of faith, recorded in Hebrews, show they had a response, an action, an obedience to the Word of God. When God told Abel what His required sacrifice was, Abel obeyed. When God told Noah to build an Ark, Noah, knowing only the size that the Ark was to be built, started cutting wood. When God told Enoch he would be translated, “he walked with God.” When God told Abraham to move, he moved, not even knowing where he was going.

We know the source of faith. All faith comes from God. First, even the faith to be saved is a gift of God. This verse teaches that a “saving faith” is not something that you acquire on your own.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

Second, we see that God gives to every believer a measure, or portion of faith. **“...as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3b)**

Third, faith is one of the gifts mentioned in I Corinthians, chapter twelve. **“To another faith by the same Spirit...” (I Corinthians 12:9)**

Because the gift of healing is mentioned in this same verse, many read into the verse something that is not there. They assume that the gift of faith was for the sole purpose of healing. The words “to another” tell us that the two gifts “the gift of faith” and “the gift of healing” were meant for two different believers.

The gift of faith in this verse, according to my Greek dictionary, was not faith to perform miracles. The word used is *Pis-Tis*, and means “reliance upon Christ for salvation.” This is in harmony with the rest of the gifts in I Corinthians, chapter twelve. It is therefore important to pay attention to the Word of God, and not read into it something that is not there.

The “source of faith” and how we “receive faith” is plainly recorded in the Word of God. **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17)**

We see from this Scripture that the Word of God is the source of faith for salvation, and throughout the Christian walk. We are instructed to “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (II Peter 3:18)

We are also told how to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If you want “faith” go to the Word of God!

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

The outward manifestation of faith is obedience to God. You cannot be obedient if you do not know what God says in His Word. You do not have to listen to modern day prophets to determine God’s instruction as to what He wants you to do. You do not have to wait for a special revelation from God. You have had this revelation for over 2000 years. All of the instructions necessary to walk in complete obedience to God are recorded in His Word.

If you receive a revelation from any source that is contrary to the Word of God, your revelation is not from God.

You show your faith by your actions; by obeying His Word. God gives us some specific instructions in the following verses.

“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work” (II Timothy 2:21)

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” II Timothy 2:24)

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

“For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.” (Ephesians 5:9)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-

**suffering, gentleness, goodness faith,
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no
law.” (Galatians 5:22, 23)**

Faith is “believing the Word of God.”

**“These things have I written unto you that believe on
the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that
ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the
name of the Son of God.” (I John 5:13)**