

# Scripture: The Story and the Glory of God's Word

## Introduction - Did God Really Say?

## Section 1: Revelation and The Necessity of God's Word

### Revelation

Defined: The act by which God has made himself and his will known to his creatures

#### General Revelation

Defined: God's nonverbal way of revealing himself to all people through creation and providence

Psalm 19:1-6 -

Romans 1:18-23

#### Special Revelation

Defined: God's verbal revelation of himself in history to particular people or groups by various means. Also refers to the record of that revelation, Scripture.

Hebrews 1:1-2 -

### The Necessity of God's Word

Scripture is Necessary for us to know God and his Will

Scripture is necessary to knowing the gospel

- *Acts 14:15-17: "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."*
- *Romans 10:13-15 "For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

Scripture is necessary for Growth in Christ

Matthew 4:4 *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

1 Peter 2:2 *“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation”*

John 17:17 *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”*

## Section 2: Inspiration and The Authority of God’s Word

### Inspiration

The Divine Element

- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

The human element

- 2 Peter 1:20-21 *“knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

### The Authority of Scripture

Defined:

*All the Words of Scripture are God’s Words, so it bears his authority. It is the highest authority in all it addresses. To believe and obey Scripture is to believe and obey God. Likewise, to disbelieve and disobey Scripture is to call God a liar and rebel against him.*

Highest Authority in matters of truth

Scripture is the standard of truth.

## Scripture is Self-Attesting

### London Baptist Confession on Authority of Scripture: Chapter 1 Sections 4, 5

- *4. The authority of the Holy Scriptures obligates belief in them. This authority does not depend on the testimony of any person or church but on God the author alone, who is truth itself. Therefore, the Scriptures are to be received because they are the Word of God.*<sup>7</sup>
- *5. The testimony of the church of God may stir and persuade us to adopt a high and reverent respect for the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the heavenliness of the contents, the power of the system of truth, the majesty of the style, the harmony of all the parts, the central focus on giving all glory to God, the full revelation of the only way of salvation, and many other incomparable qualities and complete perfections, all provide abundant evidence that the Scriptures are the Word of God. Even so, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority of the Scriptures comes from the internal work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.*

## Scripture is Inerrant

### Section 3: Canon - the Sufficiency of God's Word

#### **Canon: Which books are God's Books?**

#### Old Testament (Jewish Canon)

#### Apocryphal Writings

Tobit, Judith, some additions to Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, some additions to Daniel (Susanna, and Bel and the Dragon), 1st and 2nd Maccabees

#### New Testament Canon

#### Thoughts on Canonicity

- Testimony

- Qualified books
- Canon is closed

## The Sufficiency of God's Word

### Sufficiency Defined

- Necessity means: We need God's Word because we wouldn't know him or the way to salvation without it. God had to reveal these things to us
- Sufficiency means: God has given us in his word everything we need to Believe about God and the gospel to be saved, as well as everything he expects of us to live a life pleasing to him.

### 2 Timothy 3:12-17

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

### How this affects us today

1. There are no other books or Traditions that we must accept and obey. Scripture is complete.
2. You are not required to believe anything about God or salvation that is not revealed in his Word
3. Nothing is required of us by God apart from what is commanded in Scripture directly or indirectly
4. Nothing is sin that is not forbidden by Scripture directly or indirectly.
5. Since God's Word is enough, this should encourage us to search the Scriptures to discover what God would have us think on a given topic or act in a certain circumstance

Section 4: Transmission, Translation, and the Clarity of God's Word  
**Transmission-From God's Heart to Moses' Pen to my Phone**

How Scripture was recorded  
Old Testament

New Testament

How Scripture was copied

Do we have the Word of God?

**The Clarity of Scripture**

London Baptist Confession 1689 Ch 1. Sec 7 & 9 (Modern Language)

*7. Some things in Scripture are clearer than others, and some people understand the teachings more clearly than others. However, the things that must be known, believed, and obeyed for salvation are so clearly set forth and explained in one part of Scripture or another that both the educated and uneducated may achieve a sufficient understanding of them by properly using ordinary measures.*

*9. The infallible rule for interpreting Scripture is the Scripture itself. Therefore, when there is a question about the true and full meaning of any part of Scripture (and each passage has only one meaning, not many), it must be understood in light of other passages that speak more clearly.*

Why do some misunderstand? Why so many interpretations

Take up and Read

**Resources**

ESV Study Bible Articles

*Historical Theology*. Gregg Allison, Zondervan, 2011.

*Institutes of the Christian Religion (Book 1, Chps 1-10)*. John Calvin, Hendrickson, 2008.

*Systematic Theology*. Wayne Grudem, Zondervan, 1994.

*Know How We Got Our Bible*. Ryan M. Reeves & Charles E. Hill, Zondervan, 2018

*Taking God at His Word*. Kevin DeYoung, Crossway, 2014.