

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

The Word of God

How do we know the Scriptures are the Word of God?

Scripture claims to be God's Word. II Tim. 3:16, Ex. 20:1, 32:16, Josh. 24:26-27, Isaiah 1:1-2

Jesus said it was the Word of God and placed His COMPLETE reliance in it.

John 5:39, Mk. 7:8-13, John 10:34-35, Matt. 5:17, Matt. 4:4,7,10

It answers life's biggest questions:

Where did we come from? Why are we here? Is there more to life than what I see?

Where are we going?

It is selected history that has a single story:

God's redemption of unworthy people for His praise.

It speaks to the soul and spiritual needs that people have regardless of race and culture.

It shows the failings of godly people.

Evil men and women have tried to destroy it over the centuries.

Wicked men and women have scoffed, hated, and tried to discredit it over the centuries.

Godly men and women have given their lives to preserve it.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; II Tim. 3:16

*"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.**" Matthew 5:17-18*

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. II Peter 1:20-21

"Divine inspiration is the activity of the Holy Spirit whereby He enabled certain humans to receive God's special revelation and to communicate it orally or to record it verbally in their language and style, without error or omission, as the very words of God." Practical Christian Theology, Floyd Barakman

Is it all inspired by God?

God chose to have "the good, the bad, and the ugly" recorded in order to communicate His redemptive plan.

The fact that God included these details doesn't mean He condones them.

God used different men with different educational backgrounds, living in different eras of history in order to speak to all peoples of the world in all situations in the world:

The rural and city dweller. The educated and uneducated. The poor and the wealthy. The Eastern and Western way of thinking.

Some parts of Scripture may seem more "inspiring," but all parts, down to the very words used, are inspired by God.

How do we know it wasn't changed along the way?

The Scriptures were entrusted to one group of people who had reverence for God.

(Romans 2:1-2)

There were severe warnings about changing it. (Deuteronomy 4:2, Deut. 12:32)

Historically, the Scriptures were either set aside or other writings were brought alongside: not changed. (II Chronicles 34)

The process of copying the Old Testament was meticulous.

The number of New Testament manuscripts is overwhelming.

*I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
Revelation 22:18-19*

Questions to Think About:

- *If the process of transmitting God's Word to the coming generations were my job, how would I be doing?*
- *How accurate am I to what has been given?*
- *Do I mainly pass along the teachings from other books or do I pass along the Scriptures?*

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