

The Holy Scriptures
Lesson #1
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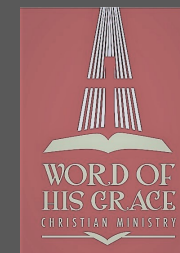
Word of His Grace
Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

Compiled by Pastor Angel.
Please submit any friendly questions to:

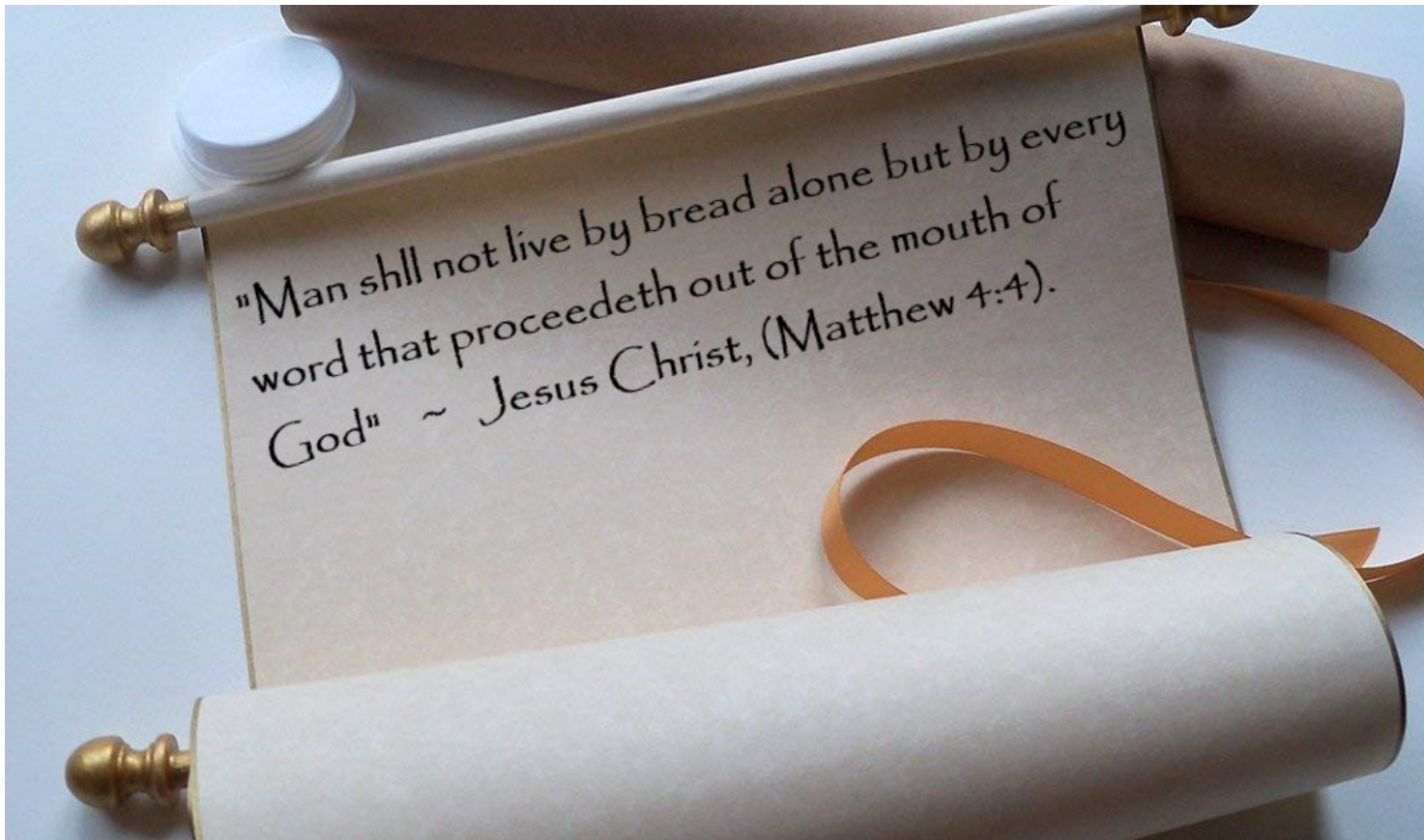
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The Holy Bible remains the all-time bestseller and most translated book in the world. Originally written on parchments in the languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek; it continues to be a positive influence in the lives of millions of people around the world. Also known as the Word of God and the Holy Scriptures (*writings*), they clearly bear the very imprint of its creator, Almighty God. With an open mind and a prayerful heart, let us examine the claims of its origin, purpose, and character.

How and through whom were the Scriptures given?

“All scripture is given by *inspiration of God...*” (2 Timothy 3:16).

“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 1:21).

“God, who at sundry times and in divers (*various*) manners spake in time past unto the fathers by *the prophets*, hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

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"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).



For what purpose were the Scriptures given?

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our *learning*, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have *hope*" (Romans 15:4).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in *righteousness*: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly *equipped* unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

What did Jesus base His claims to be the Messiah on?

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he *expounded* unto them in all the *scriptures* the things concerning *himself*" (Luke 24:27).

"Search the *scriptures*; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of *me*" (John 5:39).

"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he *wrote* of me" (John 5:46).

"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the *book* it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God" (Hebrews 10:7).

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A record of Cyrus' overthrow
of Babylon and deliverance of
the Jewish captives ~ Ezra 5:14

The Cyrus
Cylinder



What are the character of the Scriptures?

“...And he said unto me, Write: for these words are *true* and *faithful*” (Revelation 21:5).

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy *word* is truth” (John 17:17).

“...for thou hast magnified thy *word* above all thy name” (Psalm 138:2).

“...and the scripture cannot be *broken*” (John 10:35).

What other evidences support the Bible to be the Word of God?

1. Archaeology Confirms the Bible:

Many discoveries have helped prove the authenticity and inspiration of the Bible.

The Dead Sea Scrolls - Discovered in 1947 the scrolls date back to 150-170 BC and confirm many details of the biblical account.

The Cyrus Cylinder - discovered in 1879, records Cyrus' overthrow of Babylon and his subsequent deliverance of the Jewish captives.

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The Rosetta Stone - discovered in 1799 in Egypt by Napoleon's scientists, was written in three languages: hieroglyphics, demotic, and Greek. It unlocked the mystery of the hieroglyphics, which have helped confirm the authenticity of the Bible.

The Moabite Stone - discovered in 1868 at Dibon, Jordan, confirmed Moabite attacks on Israel as recorded in **2 Kings 1 and 3**.

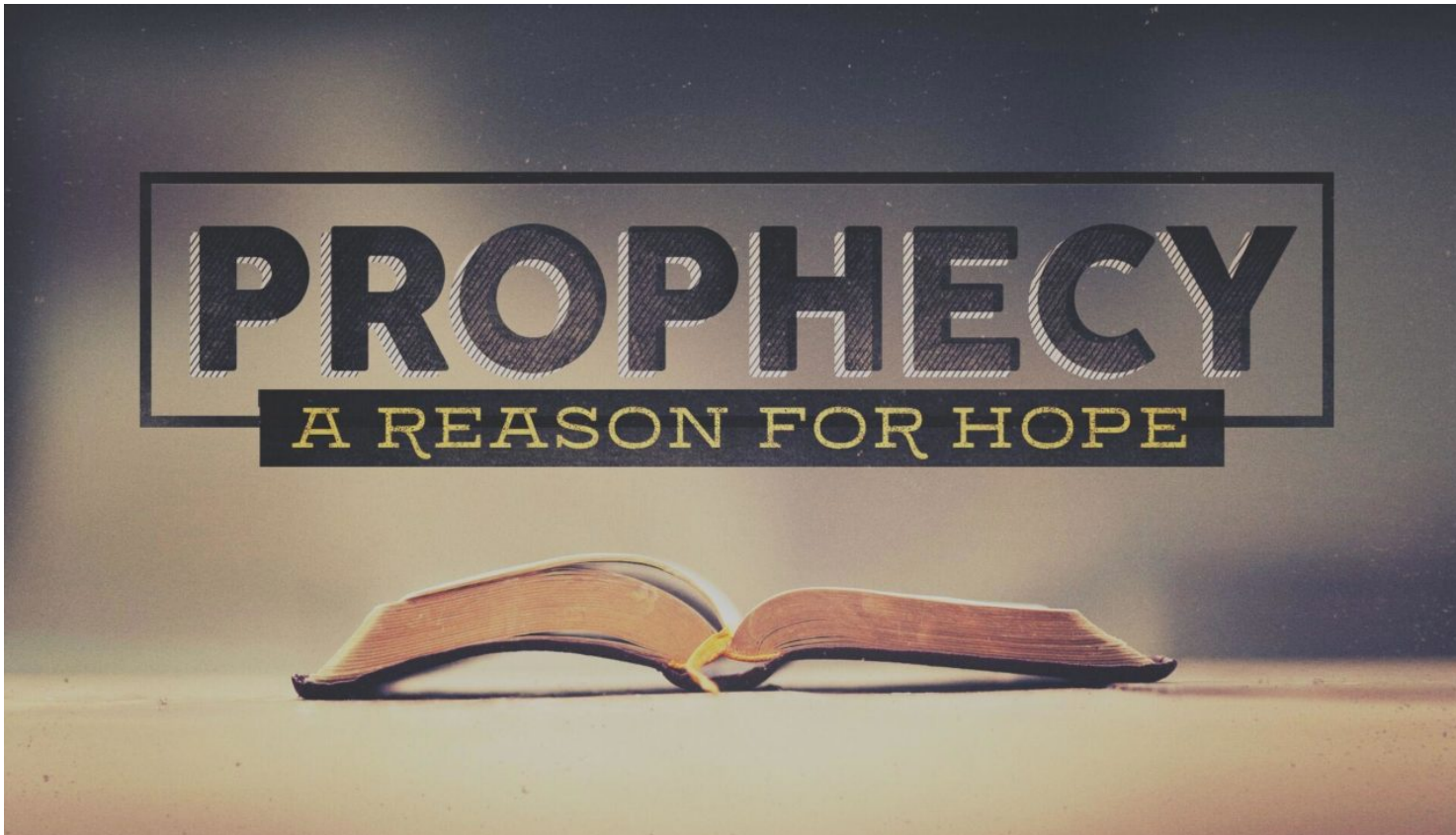
2. Non-Biblical Accounts of New Testament Persons and Events:

Flavius Josephus (AD 37-100, a Jewish historian) mentions **John the Baptist and Herod** - Antiquities, Book 18, Ch. 5, par. 2 - "Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God, and that very justly, as a punishment of what he did against John, that was called the Baptist..."

Flavius Josephus (AD 37-100) mentions **Jesus** - Antiquities, Book 18, Ch. 3, par. 3. - "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles."

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3. Bible Prophecy confirms its Inspiration:

Biblical prophecies concerning Babylon (Isaiah 13:19-22), Tyre (Ezekiel 26:3-5), Sidon (Ezekiel 28:21-23), Cyrus (Ezra 4:3; 5:13-14; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1), Medo-Persia (Daniel 8:20-21), Greece (Daniel 8:20-21), and Jesus' birthplace Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) have all been fulfilled exactly as predicted. These fulfilled prophecies are an extremely strong argument for the trustworthiness of the Bible.

4. Science and the Bible:

Astronomy - The great number of stars in the heavens (Gen. 22:17; Jer. 33:22).

Meteorology - the circulation of the atmosphere (Eccl. 1:6; Job 28:25).

Biology - each "kind" of living organism (Gen. 1:11-12, 21, 25).

The chemical nature of flesh - (Gen. 2:7, 3:19).

Geology - shape of the earth (Isa. 40:22); centuries before the Bible described the earth as round.

Mental, Spiritual, & Physical health connected - (Prov. 12:4, 14:30, 15:30, 16:24, 17:22).

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For the prophecy came
not in old time by the
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2 Peter 1:21

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5. Unified Testimony of Scripture:

The Bible contains 66 books written over a 1500-year period by 40 or so different authors who wrote on various subjects and yet it reads as if written by one author. Despite every attempt to corrupt, attack, or destroy its clear testimony the Bible continues to testify to its divine author and his plan of salvation.

How long will the Scriptures endure?

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for *ever*” (Isaiah 40:8).

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my *words* shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

“But the *word* of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto *you*” (1 Peter 1:25).

Is the Bible still relevant for our time?

“Thy *word* is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the *end* from beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet *done*, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my

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HEAVEN AND EARTH
SHALL PASS AWAY,
*but my words shall
not pass away.*



MATTHEW 24:35

pleasure: (Isaiah 46:9-10).

How does God say about adding to or taking away from His Holy Word?

“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not *add* thereto, nor *diminish* from it” (Deuteronomy 12:32).

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall *add* unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall *take away* from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18-19).

Can one personally rest assured of the testimony of God’s Word ?

“Heaven and earth shall pass away but my *words* shall not pass away” (Luke 21:33).

“For the word of God is *quick*, and *powerful*, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).