

# **THE BIBLE**

Discipleship 1 - Chapter 1



## THE BIBLE

Have you ever asked yourself, “How can a person really know that the Bible is God’s Word?” W. Graham Scroggie answers this question very well in his book, Is the Bible the Word of God? Scroogie suggests that the Bible seems to be the Word of God, the Bible claims to be the Word of God, and the Bible proves to be the Word of God. Let’s examine just what Mr. Scroggie means by these statements.

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### The Bible Seems To Be The Word Of God

In autumn of 1832, Sir Walter Scott, whose literary fame was worldwide, was lying on his deathbed when he said to Mr. Lockhart, his-in-law, “Read to me.” Mr. Lockhart asked, “What book shall I read?” “What book?” replied Sir Walter. “There is but one Book, the Bible!”

The Bible is in a class by itself. Many facts demonstrate the uniqueness of the Bible and cause us to declare, “It seems to be the Word of God!” Among these are the following:

**1. Its Origin.** Of all the books published throughout history, none matches the Bible’s origin. The Bible is a product of 40 authors who, under the guidance of God, penned 66 books over a period of 1600 years (55 generations). Yes, the Bible remains a unified whole without error, contradiction, or equal. The earliest book of the Bible (Job) was penned approximately 1500 years prior to the birth of Christ. The latest book of the Bible (Revelations) was written approximately 70 years after the death of Christ. Job declares, “I know that my redeemer liveth” (Job 19:25), and John closes the book of the Revelation with the promise of the living Redeemer coming quickly (Rev. 22:12).

**2. Its Distribution.** In the Mid-fifteenth century the art of printing was introduced to the world, and the first book printed was the Bible. Since that first printing, the Bible has consistently been the most widely distributed book in the world. It has been translated into over 1400 languages and sent to every part of the globe. The mere fact that the Bible is the only 3600 year old book still being circulated should cause us to say, “It seems to be the Word of God!”

**3. Its Preservation and Persecution.** From the reign of the pagan emperor Diocletian in the fourth century, through the rule of the Roman church in the Dark Ages, to the repression of the communists in our era, the Bible has been a book under attack. It has been burned, outlawed, criticized, maligned, and scorned; yet, it remains today in a form true to every ancient manuscript which has been discovered. God keeps on keeping His promise; for He said, “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot (dot

of an i) or one tittle (crossing of a t) shall in no wise pass from the law (Bible)” (Matthew 5:18).

The origin, distribution, persecution, and preservation of the Bible should cause even the most adamant skeptic to concede that the Bible seems to be the Word of God.

## **The Bible Claims To Be The Word Of God**

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Throughout the Bible it is repeatedly noted that God made truth known unto men. Phrases such as, “God called unto him and said,” “The Lord saith,,” “The Lord spoke,” “The word of God came,” etc., appear nearly 2,000 times in the Bible. Here is a sample instance: “These are the words of the covenant which Jehovah commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb” (Deut. 29:1)

Divine authorship of the Bible is clearly claimed by such passages as 2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” and 2 Peter 1:20-21, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in the old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” In other words, God breathed out the very words of scripture and caused the writers to be borne-along like a ship as they wrote the exact words He desired.

Even a casual reading of the Bible will cause the reader to conclude that it claims to be the Word of God!

## **The Bible Proves To Be The Word Of God**

Up to this point in your reading you have learned some interesting details about the Bible, but proof that the Bible is God’s Word does not rest in facts to be read from a printed page. God’s Word proves to be true as it touches and transforms lives, homes and nations. The power of God’s Word has been proven over and over again in lives like Augustine, the profligate-turned-theologian; Billy Sunday, the drunken baseball player-turned evangelist; and Martin Luther the priest -turned-preacher.

God’s Word is proven true each day as it transforms lives. Those who have not experienced salvation cannot comprehend the fact that God’s Word is true. In fact, the unsaved have no genuine understanding of spiritual truths. “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 (known)” (1 Cor. 2:14).

No other book has caused people to gladly sacrifice comfort, position, and even life like the Bible. It is by the evidence of changed lives that the Bible is proven to be the Word of God.

**FROM YOUR READING**

1. What causes us to say that the Bible “seems to be the Word of God?”
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The oldest book in the Bible was written \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
3. The Bible had \_\_\_\_\_ human authors and was written over a period of nearly \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. Give the reference of one verse in which the Bible “claims to be the Word of God.” \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. (True or False) - Unsaved people will probably accept the fact that the Bible is God’s Word if I debate with them. \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the greatest thing you learned about God’s Word from your reading? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

## Group Time

1. What are the four basic sources of authority?

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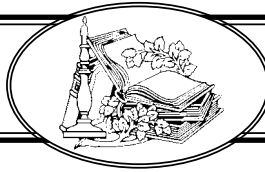
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2. What do we mean when we say that the Bible is “inspired” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. A translation is an effort to literally put the words of the original manuscript into \_\_\_\_\_.

4. A paraphrase is an attempt to communicate the \_\_\_\_\_  
of a previously made translation.

# BIBLE



# STUDY

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The following material is given for your personal Bible Study and Christian growth. The basic assignments for the course are given and a special “achieves” assignment is suggested for those who desire to go the extra mile. Before you begin, pray that God will allow you to really grow through this endeavor.

## SCRIPTURE ASSIGNMENT

Read Your Bible and Answer the Following:

1. Who “inspired” the Scripture? (2 Timothy 3:16)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who directed the Scripture writers? (2 Peter 1:20-21) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What will we receive from Bible study? (Psalm 119:130)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Describe the promise made to those who spend time in God’s Word. (Joshua 1:8) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How does Hebrews 4:12 describe the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How long will God’s Word endure? (Psalm 119:89) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Achiever Questions

The references given below will list some of the benefits of Bible study. Look up each reference and describe the benefit promised.

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1. John 15:3 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Psalm 119:130 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Psalm 119:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 John 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

**Books of the Bible:** Matthew, Mark, John, Acts, Romans

**Verse:** Romans 3:23

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

**Achiever’s verse:** Romans 3:10

“As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

### PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

Would you know where to take someone in the Bible so that he too could meet the Saviour? If you do this week’s assignment, you will be ready when the opportunity arises.

1. In the fly-leaf of your Bible write, “Romans 3:23.”
2. Turn to Romans 3:23. Underline the verse. Now, beside Romans 3:23 write, “Romans 6:23.”
3. Turn to “Romans 6:23”. Underline the verse. Now, beside Romans 6:23 write, “Romans 5:8.”
4. Turn to “Romans 5:8.” Underline the verse. Now, beside Romans 5:8 write, “Romans 10:9-10, 13.”
5. Turn to “Romans 10:9-10, 13.” Underline the verse. Now, beside Romans 10:9-10, 13 write, “Romans 5:1.”
6. Turn to “Romans 5:1.” Underline the verse. Now, beside Romans 5:1 write, “You can not earn your way to Heaven - Eph. 2:8-9.”

**You can now take a person through verses that will show him to be saved.**