

The Bible: A Revelation from God

Homework Assignment:

1. Note the difference between the “Word of God” and “God”
2. Look up the definitions of “Translation” and “Interpretation”

Lesson Outline

- I. The Bible – One of a Kind
 - i. Old Testament
 1. Written in Hebrew & Aramaic
 2. 39 Books
 - ii. New Testament
 1. Written in Greek and Aramaic
 2. 27 books
 - iii. Praised and Despised
 1. Men died to preserve it
 2. Comforted in life and death by it
 3. Critics, science (theories... not facts), philosophy discredit it
 - iv. Most widely copied and translated book ever written
 - v. A Divine revelation from God to men
 1. A Divine revelation is necessary
 2. The Bible is this revelation
- II. Why is a Divine Revelation is Necessary?
 - i. Without a revelation we could not worship God
 1. To know that God exists does not determine how he is to be worshipped
 2. There must be knowledge of His character
 - a. Nature reveals His wisdom, power, greatness, etc..
 - b. Nature silent on His moral character
 3. Love, the heart of worship, is excited by knowledge of character
 - a. **Matthew 22:36-38** – The Love of God is commanded
 - ii. Without a revelation we could not fix the standard of moral right and wrong
 1. What is right or wrong must depend on what God is
 2. History verifies that apart from God morality standards vary
 - a. Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans – mental cultivation and moral ignorance
 - b. Tribal cultures – mental dormancy and moral ignorance
 - iii. Without a revelation, a future state is conjecture

1. Most people wonder about their state after death
 2. Faith can give assurance
 - a. **Hebrews 11:1** – Required for things not seen
 - b. Must be based on authoritative testimony
 3. Who else could testify of a future event but an All-Knowing God
 4. A future state where there are rewards and punishments will influence human actions
- iv. Without a revelation we could not know how to be saved
1. Every civilization has standards that are self-condemning
 2. **Romans 2:14-15**
 3. Nature does not reveal the way of salvation
 4. Human reasoning cannot find the way of salvation

III. The Bible Contains the Necessary Revelation

- i. The human intellect could not produce such a book as the Bible
 1. God's omnipresence – All places at all times
 - a. **Jeremiah 23:23-24**
 - b. **Psalms 139:7-10**
 - c. Even now divinely revealed we do not fully comprehend it
 2. Redemption through Jesus Christ
 - a. **John 3:16**
 - b. **Galatians 4:4-5**
 - c. **Hebrews 2:9-10**
 - d. Greeks, acute in intellect & profound in philosophy thought it was foolishness
- ii. Man's heart would not prompt him to write such a book as the Bible
 1. Man is morally depraved
 - a. The Bible commends everything that is right and condemns everything that is wrong
 - b. It condemns man as entirely without merit
 - c. Would man condemn himself in such a manner?
 2. Man could not make such a book if he would and would not if he could (Intellectually could not, Morally would not)
 3. If not human it must be God – No middle ground
 - a. **II Peter 1:21**
 - b. It tells us what no one but God would know
- iii. The person and character of Christ as revealed in the Bible prove its divine origin
 1. Jesus was Unique
 - a. **John 1:14** – Both God and man
 - b. **Hebrews 4:14-15** – Sinless

2. The unassisted intellect of man could not have conceived of such a person and such a character
 - a. Greek mythology
3. New Testament everywhere recognizes the Old Testament as the Word of God
 - a. It is written
 - b. As the Scripture hath said

IV. "All Scripture is Given by Inspiration of God" – **II Timothy 3:16**

- i. Inspiration (Theopneustos) – "God breathed"
 1. **Exodus 4:10-12** – God is able to direct our mouths
 2. "Thus saith the Lord," – used 1904 times in the Old Testament
 3. **John 12:49-50** – Jesus inspired of God, the Father
- ii. Which scriptures inspired
 1. **II Timothy 3:16** – This says all of them (Only referred to the Old Testament and possibly some of the gospels at this point)
 2. Paul's writings
 - a. **I Corinthians 14:37**
 - b. **Galatians 1:11-12**
 - c. **I Thessalonians 2:13**
 - d. **II Peter 3:15-16** – Peter confirms
 3. Peter's writings as well as the other Apostles
 - a. **II Peter 3:1-2**
 - b. **Revelation 1:1-2**
 - c. **Revelation 22:16** – Jesus confirms
- iii. Mechanics of inspiration
 1. **II Peter 1:21** – moved by the Holy Ghost
 - a. **Acts 27:15** – like a ship moved by the wind
 2. God using the writer's education, experience, character
 3. Both writers and writings inspired
- iv. Degree of inspiration
 1. Every word
 - a. **Matthew 4:4**
 - b. **Proverbs 30:5-6**
 - c. **Revelation 22:18-19**
 2. Every jot and tittle
 - a. **Matthew 5:17-18**
 - b. jot –smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - c. tittle – the dot over the "i" and the cross of the "t"

- v. Accuracy of inspiration
 - 1. Inerrancy – without mistake, **Titus 1:2** – God cannot lie
 - 2. Proofs
 - a. History
 - b. Prophecy – Fulfilled
 - c. Your individual verification
 - vi. Autographs, copies, translations
 - 1. Reject paraphrases (transliterations) because every Word of God is pure
 - 2. We can trust that the King James Version is an accurate translation
 - a. Few if any will argue with the King James' accuracy, however many will argue whether other translations are as good or better
 - b. It is possible that other versions could be as good as the KJV.
- V. "The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy." – **Revelation 19:10**
- i. Jesus is the constant theme
 - 1. **Luke 24:27,44**
 - 2. **John 5:39**
 - ii. To reject the Scripture is to reject Jesus
 - 1. **John 12:48**
 - 2. **Revelation 20:12**
 - iii. Unquestioned authority
 - 1. No indication of another revelation
 - 2. We must change, to conform to Scripture
 - 3. **I Samuel 3:9** – submissive attitude
 - 4. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!"