

God Speaks To Modern Man

which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3:15, 16.

So the apostle Peter refers to Paul’s writings on the same basis as “the other scriptures.”

Then Paul in 1 Timothy 5:18 quotes the record of Luke 10:7: “The laborer is worthy of his reward,” and refers to the statement as “scripture.”

Thus we reach the clear conclusion that the writings of both the Old and New Testaments constitute the Scriptures, the fundamental Bible name for the writings of the book which we call the Bible.

In more than fifty places in the New Testament an appeal is made to ‘the Scripture’ or ‘the Scriptures’ in such a way as to show that those words were as definite in their meaning then as they are now among evangelical Protestants.” - G. FREDERICK WRIGHT, *The Divine Authority of the Bible*, p. 37.

Consider these two statements of Jesus: “The scriptures must be fulfilled.” Mark 14:49. “The scripture cannot be broken.” John 10:35.

Little wonder, then, that the apostle Paul insists on the unity and value and inspiration of “all scripture” (2 Timothy 3:16) and exclaims with the most sincere spirit of inquiry, “What said the scripture?” (Romans 4:3).

“How blest are we, with open face To view Thy glory, Lord.
And all Thy image here to trace, Reflected in Thy word!”

13. What Men Say About the Bible

BEFORE proceeding further with what the Bible says about itself, we would profit by considering something of what leading men of various times and stations in life have said concerning the Book of books.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS SPEAK

Woodrow Wilson: “A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of intimate knowledge of the Bible!”

Herbert Hoover: “The study of the Bible ... is a postgraduate course in the richest library of human experience!”

Calvin Coolidge: “There is no other book with which the Bible can be compared and no other reading that means so much to the human race.”

Theodore Roosevelt: “Almost every man who has by his lifework added to the sum of human achievement of which the race is proud, of which our people are proud, almost every such man has based his lifework largely upon the teachings of the Bible!”

Abraham Lincoln: “In regard to this great Book, I have only to say that it is the best Book that God has given to man!”

Andrew Jackson: “That Book, sir, is the rock on which our Republic rests.”

George Washington: “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible!”

OTHER VOICES IN CHORUS

Queen Victoria: “This is the secret of England’s greatness, the Bible.”

William E. Gladstone: “I have known ninety-five great men in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were all followers of the Bible.... Though assailed by camp, by battery, and by mine, the Holy Scriptures are nevertheless a house built upon a rock, and that rock is impregnable.”

Dr. James McGray:

“Despised and torn in pieces,
By infidels decried
The thunderbolts of hatred,
The haughty cynics’ pride
All these have railed against it,

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In this and other lands,
Yet dynasties have fallen,
And still the Bible stands!”

Immanuel Kant: “The existence of the Bible as a book for the people is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced.”

Thomas Huxley: “The Bible has been the Magna Charta of the poor and oppressed.”

Daniel Webster: “If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper, but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity.”

General Douglas MacArthur: “Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed.”

John Wanamaker: “I have, of course, made large purchases of property in my time, involving millions of dollars. But it was as a boy in the country, at the age of eleven years, that I made my greatest purchase. In the little mission Sunday school I bought a small red leather Bible for \$2.75, which I paid for in small installments. Looking back over my life, I see that that little red Book was the foundation on which my life has been built and has made possible all that has counted in my life. I know now that it was the greatest investment and the most important and far-reaching purchase I ever made.”

Dwight L. Moody: I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. If a man neglects his Bible, he may pray and ask God to use him in His work, but God cannot make much use of him.”

Canon Dyson Hague: “The depth of the Bible is infinite. Millions of readers and writers, age after age, have dug in this unfathomable mine and its depths are still unexhausted. . . . You cannot gild gold. You cannot brighten diamonds, and no artist can touch with final touch this finished Word of God. This proud pinnacled century can add nothing to it. It stands as the sun in the sky. It has the glory of God.”

Cordell Hull: “Humanity desperately needs today a moral and a spiritual rebirth—a revitalization of religion. There is no sure way to this supreme goal save through adherence to the teachings of the Bible.”

John Wesley: “I want to know one thing—the way to heaven: how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way. He hath written it down in a Book! Oh, give me that Book! At any price, give me that Book of God!”

Henry Van Dyke: “No man is poor or desolate who has this treasure for his own.”

John G. Whittier: “We search the world for truth; we cull The good, the pure, the beautiful, From graven stone and written scroll, From all old flower fields of the soul. And, weary seekers of the best, We come back laden from our quest. To find that all the sages said Is in the Book our mothers read.”

14. How the Bible Came to Us

WE HUMAN beings have a thirst to know where things came from. It is perfectly natural for us to inquire concerning the origin of this most famous Book in the world.

This is the Book that H. L. Hastings said contains “history, genealogy, ethnology, law, ethics, prophecy, poetry, eloquence, medicine, sanitary science, political economy, and perfect rules for the conduct of personal and social life.”

What is the primary source of the Scriptures? Men claim that the Bible is the world’s greatest book. What does this Book have to say regarding its origin? Is it just the world’s greatest book, or is it something more than human?

THE BIBLE TESTIFIES

The authority of the Bible prophets is greater than the words of any human being, even though he might rise from the dead thousand years after he was buried. Said Jesus of a certain character in one of His parables, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” Luke 16:31.

There are five important things to remember about the giving of the Scriptures.

The first and most significant is this positive declaration by that flaming, living torch of gospel