

Section 1

The Bible

Chapter 1

The Sacred Scriptures

In the days of Jesus, what was the name for the Bible?

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in *the scriptures*, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?" Matthew 21:42.

What other Biblical name is given to this important book?

"And He answered and said unto them, My mother and My brethren are these which hear *the word of God*, and do it." Luke 8:21.

NOTE.-It is interesting to note that the word Bible does not occur in the Bible itself. It is derived from the Latin *biblia*, which came from the Greek *biblia*, meaning "little books." The Greek word *biblia* in turn is derived from *byblus*, meaning "papyrus," the name of the material upon which ancient books were written. The Greeks call this writing material *byblus* because they obtained it from the Phoenician port of Byblos.

The Bible has sixty-six books and was written by thirty-five or forty men over a period of some fifteen hundred years. The books are called the "Word of God," or the "Scriptures." *Scriptures* means "writings."

How were the Scriptures given to mankind?

"All scripture is given by *inspiration of God*." 2 Timothy 3:16.

By whom were the prophets of old guided as they thus spake for God?

"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.

What specific example of this is mentioned by Peter?

"Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, *which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas*, which was guide to them that took Jesus." Acts 1:16.

Who was it, then, who spoke through these men?

"*God*, who at sundry times and divers manners spake in past unto the fathers by the prophets." Hebrews 1:1.

For what purpose were the Holy Scriptures written?

"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.

What are the four ways in which Scripture can help us?

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable *for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* " 2 Timothy 3:16.

What was God's plan in thus giving the Bible to us?

"That the man of God may be *perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" 2 Timothy 3:17.

How does God intend that His Word shall help us in this dark world of sin and death?

"Thy word is a *lamp* unto my feet, and a *light* unto my path." Psalm 119: 105.

What were the three divisions of Scripture in the days of Christ?

"And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in *the law of Moses*, and in *the prophets*, and in *the psalms*, concerning Me." Luke 24:44.

NOTE.-"The law of Moses" was a common Jewish term for the first five books of the Old Testament. In "the prophets" they included Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the twelve Minor Prophets; also Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. "The psalms" included all the remaining books.

Upon what evidence did Jesus base the fact of His Messiahship?

"And beginning at *Moses* and all the *prophets*, He expounded unto them *in all the scriptures* the things concerning Himself." Verse 27.

NOTE.-Jesus referred particularly to the Old Testament prophecies as proof of His Messiahship. When Christ spoke of the Scriptures, He meant the Old Testament, for the New Testament had not yet been written.

What is one of the names of God in the Bible?

"He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: *a God of truth* and without iniquity, just and right is He." Deuteronomy 32:4.

What, therefore, must be the character of His Holy Word?

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17.

To what extent has God magnified His Word?

"Thou has magnified Thy word *above all Thy name.*" Psalm 138:2.

NOTE.-A man's name stands for his character. It is the same with God. When God places His word above His name, His character becomes the foundation of His word and the pledge that His word will be fulfilled. (Hebrews 6:13-14).

What value did Job place upon the words of God?

"Neither have I gone back from the command of his lips; *I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*" Job 23:12.

How firm was the prophet Isaiah's faith in God's Word?

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

Chapter 2

Searching the Scriptures

What did Christ say to the people of His day concerning the Scriptures?

"*Search the Scriptures*, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39.

NOTE.-When this was spoken, not a word of the New Testament had been written. It was to the Old Testament that the Jews looked as their guide to eternal life; and although they would not accept Christ, He said that these very books which they esteemed so highly, testified of Him. If the Old Testament points to Christ, it is worthy of our careful study.

Do the Scriptures furnish positive evidence that the gospel was known in the patriarchal age?

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, *preached before the gospel unto Abraham.*" Galatians 3:8.

NOTE.-It was through gospel faith that Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Christ. John 8:56. So with all the faithful who lived in the patriarchal age. All these had a practical knowledge of the gospel, as appears from their godly lives and sacrificial offerings.

Does Holy Writ contain unmistakable evidence that the Hebrews were taught the gospel under the former dispensation?

"For unto us was the gospel preached, *as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it,*" Hebrews 4:2.

NOTE.-The persons here referred to by "them" are the Israelites when on their journey from Egypt to the promised land, as will be seen by the Scripture connection. Paul says the gospel was preached unto us, *as well as* unto them, putting "them" ahead, and letting "us" have the gospel afterward.

Why did Moses give up the riches of Egypt?

"*Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.*" Hebrews 11: 26.

NOTE.-People in that age, even as now, were influenced by the riches of Christ to give up the world.

Whence came the spiritual meat and drink of the Israelites while in the wilderness?

"And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for *they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*" 1 Corinthians 10:2.4.

What was the chief corner-stone of the faith of both apostles and prophets?

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*" Eph. 2:20.

What part of the Scriptures did Philip hear a certain eunuch reading?

"And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him *read the prophet Esaias*, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?" Acts 8:30.

When asked if he understood what he was reading, what reply did the eunuch make?

"And he said, *How can " except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him."* Acts 8:31.

What did Philip then do?

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began *at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*" Acts 8:35.

What are the Scriptures able to do?

"Hast thou not known the Holy Scriptures, which are *able to make thee wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 3:15.

What was said of the Bereans because they searched the Scriptures daily?

"*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica*, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11.

By what is man to live?

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" Matt. 4:4.

How greatly has God magnified His word?

"I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth; *for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name.*" Ps. 138:2.

Chapter 3

Power in the Word

What was the way in which God brought the heavens into existence?

"*By the word of the Lord* were the heavens made; and all the host of them *by the breath of his mouth...* For *He spake*, and it was done; *He commanded*, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:6-9.

What is it that Christ uses to uphold all things?

"Upholding all things *by the word of His power.*" Hebrews 1:3.

Of what great truth are some willingly ignorant?

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that *by the word of God he heavens were of old*, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: *whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.*" 2 Peter 3:5,6.

By what are the present heavens and earth reserved for a similar fate?

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, *by the same word* are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:7.

What other passage of Scripture also reveals that creative power is exercised

through the word of God?

"Let them praise the name of the Lord: *for He commanded, and they were created.*" Psalm 148:5.

What change is wrought out in the life of one who is in Christ?

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, *he is a new creature* [literally, "*a new creature*"]: old things are passed away; behold, *all things are become new.*" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Jesus described this same experience in what other passage?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

By what agency is this new creation or new birth accomplished?

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, *by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*" 1 Peter 1:23.

What is the first creative commandment that is mentioned in the Bible?

"And God said, *Let there be light: and there was light.*" Genesis 1:3.

Did God also command another light to shine out of darkness?

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give *the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*" 2 Corinthians 4:6.

What was it about Christ's teaching that astonished people?

"And they were astonished at His doctrine: *for His word was with power.*" Luke 4:32.

What important fact testified to the power of Christ's word?

"And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! *for with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*" Luke 4:36.

In ancient times, how did God bring healing to His people?

"*He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*" Psalm 107:20.

In what way did the Roman centurion reveal his strong faith in Christ?

"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof: but *speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*" Matthew 8:8.

What did Christ say is the seed of the kingdom of God?

"The seed is *the word of God.*" Luke 8:11.

Where does God want Christ's word to dwell?

"Let the word of Christ *dwell in you richly in all wisdom.*" Colossians 3:16.

Could those who believed not on Jesus Christ receive this important seed?

"Ye have not His word abiding in you: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not." John 5:38.

How does the Word of God work in the life of the believer?

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, *which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*" 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

What new nature is imparted to us through the promises of God?

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: *that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4.

What is it that can cleanse the lives of believers in Christ?

"Now are ye clean *through the word which I have spoken unto you.*" John 15:3.

How can a young man cleanse his ways?

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? *by taking heed thereto according to Thy word.*" Psalm 119:9.

What is the result of accepting the Word of God into the heart and life?

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, *that I might not sin against thee.*" Psalm 119:11. (See also Psalm 17:4.)

Chapter 4

The Life-giving Word

How powerful is the Word of God when brought into contact with one's life?

"For the word of God is *quick* [literally, "*living*"], and *powerful*, and *sharper than any two-edged 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.

What was Peter constrained to say about Christ's words?

"Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? *Thou hast the words of eternal life.*" John 6:68.

What did Jesus declare regarding His Father's commandment?

"And I know that His commandment is *life everlasting.*" John 12:50.

What great truth did God wish to teach us, when He gave the daily manna to feed the children of Israel?

"And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; *that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.*" Deuteronomy 8:3.

What happens when we feed upon the true, heavenly manna?

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16.

What reference did Jesus make to this same life-giving manna?

"But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by *bread alone, but by every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4.

How did God's will for Christ's life become His food?

"Jesus saith unto them, *My meat is to do the will of Him* that sent Me, and to *finish His work.*" John 4:34.

What name is given to Jesus, since He was the Revealer of God's thought to mankind?

"In the beginning was *the Word*, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1. "And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called *The Word of God.*" Revelation 19:13.

What did this Word become?

"And the Word was made *flesh*, and dwelt among us." John 1.14.

What was in this Word that we so much need?

"In Him was *life*; and the life was the light of men." John 1:34.

What is Jesus therefore also called?

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of *the Word of life.*" 1 John 1:1.

What did Jesus declare Himself to be?

"And Jesus said unto them, *I am the bread of life*: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." 1 John 6:35.

What did He say would be given to those that partook of this God-given bread?

"As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: *so He that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me.* This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: *he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.* " John 6:57,58.

What did Jesus really mean when He said that we should eat His flesh?

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are *spirit*, and they are *life.*" John 6:63.

NOTE.-Thus we clearly understand that to eat the flesh of the Son of God is to live by His words. As one has said, "He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God."-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 38.

What is it that God will let us taste right now?

"And have *tasted the good word of God*, and the powers of the world to come."
Hebrews 6:5. (See Jeremiah 15:16.)

Tasting it, what do we learn?

"O *taste* and see that *the Lord is good*: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."
Psalm 34:8.

Does God want us to ask for this Bread daily?

"Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6: 11.

NOTE.-When "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us," the thought of God was revealed in human flesh. When holy men of God "spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," the thought of God was revealed in human language. The union of the Divine and the human in the manifestation of God's thought in the flesh is the mystery of godliness and is the same mystery in the union of the Divine thought and human language. The two revelations of God, in human flesh and in human speech, are both called the Word of God, and both are the Word of life. He who fails to find Christ thus in the Scriptures will not be able to feed upon the Word as the life-giving Word.

Chapter 5

Christ in All the Bible

Of whom does Christ Himself tell us that the Scriptures speak about?

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

NOTE.-"Search the Old Testament Scriptures: for they are they that testify of Christ. To find Him in them is the true and legitimate end of their study. To be able to interpret them as He interpreted them is the best result of all Biblical learning."-Dean Alford.

About whom did Moses and the Old Testament prophets write?

"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, *Jesus of Nazareth*, the son of Joseph." John 1:45.

NOTE.-In her translation of the Old Testament Scriptures, Helen Spurrell expressed the following wish for all who should read her translation: "May very many exclaim, as the translator has often done when studying numerous passages in the original, I have found the Messiah!"

Who revealed beforehand the death and resurrection of Christ?

"O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that *the prophets* have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?" Luke 24:25,26.

Does all of Scripture tell us about Jesus?

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, *He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself*." Luke 24:27.

Where in the Bible is the first promise of the Redeemer?

"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and *her seed*; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:14,15.

In what words was this great truth explained to Abraham?