

## Chapter Two

### The Certainty of Scripture

There were two young brothers who were just terrible trouble makers. They were always breaking things, stealing, and lying. If there was trouble you could count on them being in the middle of it. Their parents tried everything to change their sons' behavior but to no avail. Finally, they asked the pastor at the church down the street if he would help. He said that he would, but he would only talk to one boy at a time.

So the next day the parents dropped off the youngest boy at church and went home. The little fellow sat in a chair in front of the pastor's desk and they just looked at one another. Then the pastor asked "Where is God?" The boy just sat there and didn't answer. The pastor looked at him sternly and asked again, "Where is God?" The little boy squirmed in his seat, but he still didn't answer. So the pastor got up out of his chair, walked around to the front of the desk, looked the boy right in the eyes and asked "Where is God?" All of a sudden the little guy jumped up, ran out of the office, ran all the way home, ran to his room, shut the door, turned to his brother and said, "We're in big trouble! God is missing and they think we did it!"

Well, the truth be told God is not missing. We are the one who are lost. But God has given us a book of directions in His Word, the Bible. The Bible contains everything we need to understand God, love and obey Him and live a good life.<sup>1</sup> We learned from 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. As we begin this chapter I want to show you a few more verses that will help explain to us how the Bible came to be. And the first Scripture we will examine is from 2 Peter.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."  
18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.  
(2 Peter 1:16-18)

The apostle Peter wrote about a time when he was with the Lord Jesus Christ. And by God's power Jesus Christ was momentarily transfigured and glorified manifesting a brilliant light.<sup>2</sup> Peter wrote that he actually saw this miraculous transformation. And when he spoke about it he was proclaiming the truth and not a fable. He was an eye witness of the actual

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Peter 1:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 17:1, 2

event. But then he wrote that what we have written down in the Scriptures is even more sure and certain than having been an eye witness.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.  
(2 Peter 1:19-21)

To understand the great depth of truth revealed here, we need to understand what Peter means by the word “prophecy.” Today when we hear or read the word prophecy we think of someone who is predicting or foretelling the future. But when the Bible uses the word “prophecy”<sup>3</sup> it’s most common meaning is to simply declare or speak forth God’s Word. It is to speak forth the truth. This word “prophecy” can also be used for predicting the future. And there are many sections of Scripture where God reveals what He will do at some future time. Many of these prophecies have already come to pass.<sup>4</sup>

Therefore when Peter wrote about “prophecy” he was writing about **all of Scripture**—all that is plainly declared or spoken forth and all that is foretold and predicted. And all prophecy, the entire Word of God that we have in the Bible is not of any “private interpretation.” And the Greek word translated “interpretation”<sup>5</sup> can more accurately be translated into English as “origin.” What Peter is saying is that the information we have in the holy Scriptures did not originate in some man’s mind. The Bible is not the result of someone’s imagination. It came as a result of the Spirit of God working in the minds and hearts of holy men.

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

The holy Spirit is the very life force and power of God. It is God’s empowering presence. This Spirit of God inspired these holy men to write God’s Word and will. God did not take over the minds of these men and force their mouths to speak His Word or move their hands to write. But by His Spirit He worked in their minds and hearts and inspired them to speak and write His Word. In the same way, the apostle Paul declared that the good news he preached did not come from the minds of mere men, rather he received the good news through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached

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<sup>3</sup> The Greek word is *prophetia*

<sup>4</sup> For example, the prophecies concerning the birth of Christ have already been fulfilled. But the prophecies concerning Christ’s return still await a future fulfillment.

<sup>5</sup> *epilysis*

by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:11, 12)

The great gospel message of salvation by God's grace through faith in Christ is not a man made religion. Christianity did not spring forth from someone's imagination or opinion. It is the truth revealed by the risen Lord Jesus Christ. I want to reveal to you four facts about the greatness of God's Word, the Bible. The first is that the Bible is infallible.

- **The Bible is infallible**

The term "infallible" refers to the reliability of the whole Bible. The Scriptures make no mistake in the truths that it conveys. It is without error. Let me explain what I mean from the words of the Bible itself.

The law of the LORD<sup>6</sup> *is* perfect, converting<sup>7</sup> the soul;  
The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple;  
8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;  
9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever;  
The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.  
10 More to be desired *are they* than gold,  
Yea, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.  
11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned,  
*And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.  
(Psalm 19:7-11)

In verse 7, the word translated as "law" is the Hebrew word *torah*, which means the whole revelation of Scripture. Therefore the whole revelation of the Bible is "perfect." God's testimony about Himself and about us is "sure." His commandments are "right" and His judgments are "true *and* righteous." Again from Psalm 119 we are told about the infallibility of Scripture.

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<sup>6</sup> In many English translations of the Bible the proper name of God, *Yahweh*, is often translated as LORD with all capital letters. This is a man made tradition and not the commandment of God. Hundred's of times in the Bible God reveals His name as Yahweh, which means "I am who I am and will be who I will be." Obviously if God reveals His name to us hundreds of times then He desire for us to know His name. The HCSB® uses *Yahweh*, the personal name of God in Hb, when a text emphasizes *Yahweh* as a name: *His name is Yahweh* (Ps 68:4).

<sup>7</sup> The Hebrew word translated "converting" is translated as "restores: in Psalm 23:3. God restores our souls, our lives, through the truths of His Word.

Your righteousness *is* an everlasting righteousness,  
And Your law *is* truth.  
(v. 142)

You are near, O LORD,  
And all Your commandments *are* truth.  
152 Concerning Your testimonies,  
I have known of old that You have founded them forever.  
(vv. 151, 152)

Consider how I love Your precepts;  
Revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.  
160 The entirety of Your word *is* truth,  
And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.  
(vv. 159, 160)

The Bible, God's written Word to us is infallible. His Word to us was true yesterday, it is true today and it will be true tomorrow. It is truth unchanged and unchanging. Secondly, God's Word is inerrant.

- **The Bible is inerrant**

The infallibility of the Bible concerns the totality of Scripture. Inerrancy refers to its various parts. In other words, the Bible is infallible concerning the truths that it conveys to us, because every word in it is without error.

The words of the LORD *are* pure words,  
*Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth,  
Purified seven times.  
7 You shall keep them, O LORD,  
You shall preserve them from this generation forever.  
(Psalm 12:6, 7)

The words in Scripture are pure words, they are flawless. Like silver that has been refined there are no impurities mixed within it.<sup>8</sup>

Every word of God is pure;  
He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.  
(Proverbs 30:5)

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<sup>8</sup> This refers to Scripture as originally given not to various translations which are the works of men. The best translations of Scripture are those that are translated as literally as they can be in order to convey the original meaning to the reader.

Every word in the Bible is pure. God knows what He wants to say, how He wants to say it, when He wants to say it, and to whom He wants to say it. There is a purpose and a divine design to all of the words that we read in the Bible. Thirdly, the Bible is a complete communication from God to us.

- **The Bible is complete**

Do not add to His words,  
Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.  
(Proverbs 30:6)

No one needs to add anything to the Bible. Scripture does not need the addition of our opinions, or philosophies or political preferences. We do not need to add information to the Bible from the latest findings of psychology. Moses wrote,

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it,  
that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which  
I command you.  
(Deuteronomy 4:2)

And by divine revelation, the apostle John wrote,

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this  
book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues  
that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the  
words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from  
the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written  
in this book.  
(Revelation 22:18, 19)

All the information and wisdom that we need to be saved, to love God and to live  
righteous lives is found in the written Word of God, the Bible.<sup>9</sup> Finally, God's Word is effective.

- **The Bible is effective**

God's Word to us is effective. God will accomplish what He says He will do. His Word has  
power to accomplish His will and to work effectively in our lives.

For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,  
Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.  
9 " For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,

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<sup>9</sup> 2 Peter 1:2-4

And My thoughts than your thoughts.  
10 " For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,  
And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth and bud,  
That it may give seed to the sower  
And bread to the eater,  
11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.  
(Isaiah 55:8-11)

You and I can trust the Bible for all of life's needs. It is the Word and will of the Almighty. All of God's warnings are true and all of His promises will be fulfilled. God caused the Bible to be written for the express purpose of making Himself known and to reveal our need of salvation. God caused this book to be written so that we could be guided by His wisdom and comforted by His love. God caused the Bible to be written so that we would not have to starve spiritually in this world where there is a famine of truth. And God had the Bible to be written so that we might come to faith in Jesus Christ and hunger and thirst for salvation and righteousness no more. The Lord Jesus Christ said,

Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.

I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.  
(John 6:27, 35)