



The Bible

The Living Word
The Written Word

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets,
He explained to them what was said in all the
Scriptures concerning himself."

Luke 24:27

PART I - THE TESTIMONY

The Early Church Perspective

1. There are many differing opinions regarding the Bible. Where did it come from? Why is it called the Word of God? Why is it so significant for the Body of Christ? Why do we call it inspired? Why is it unique among all other writings ever written by the hands of men? These questions can be answered in a variety of ways, but the best and most reliable answers come from those who first believed.

2. The Early Church, Apostles, and even Jesus recognized that the Scriptures were the inspired Word of God.

3. Inspiration - *Written by Man*, but *Authored by God*.

4. The Early Church Testifies to inspiration:

- "For to which of the angels did **God ever say**, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father?" Hebrews 1:5a
- Notice the language. When referencing David's Psalm, the early Church did not attribute the quote as originating from David, but from God Himself.
- Notice every passage in this chapter, referenced from many different writers in the Old Covenant Scriptures, has its authorship attributed not to the recorded, but to God Himself.

- When the early Church read the Scriptures, they acknowledged the recorder, but also the Author. David wrote the Psalm, but God was the Author of the Truth. This is the Biblical definition of *Inspiration*.
- It is important to note that the writer of Hebrews did not have to validate or defend his position on the Scriptures. The early Church believed the Scriptures, though written by man, were authored by God.

5. The Apostles Testify to *Inspiration*

- The Apostles were the teachers of the early Church. It was their teaching on the Scriptures that shaped the perspective of the first Christians.
- “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching* and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:41-42
- The Apostles taught that the Scriptures were the inspired Word of God.
- “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy *never had its origin in the will of man*, but *men spoke from God* as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21
- God spoke, the Prophet recorded the Word from God, and the Scriptures were formed.

- Scripture is the recorded Word of God.

6. Jesus Testifies to *Inspiration*

- The Apostles receive their understanding of the Scriptures from Jesus Himself. Jesus believed that the Scriptures were the Inspired Word of God.
- “He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” Luke 24:25-27
- “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:44-48
- Both of the above passages record for us Jesus’ response to disciples who both misunderstand who He was and what He came to do. The authority of His calling and mission came from God which was declared to His people and recorded in Scripture.

- “If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came - and *the Scripture cannot be broken...*”. John 10:35
- Whenever Jesus was questioned about his authority or identity, He first spoke of His intimacy with the Father and then the Testimony of the Inspired writings we call Scripture.

PART II - THE TESTAMENTS

The Old & New Covenant Scriptures

1. The Bible is divided into two covenant collections: The Old Testament and The New Testament.
2. The OT contains the Word God had given during the Old Covenant.
 - The OT contains God’s declaration through His prophets of a coming Messiah. There were over 330 declarations by God given to the people of Israel by the prophets of the coming Messiah.
3. The NT contains the Word God had given during the New Covenant.
 - The NT contains the arrival of what God had been declaring through His prophets during the Old Covenant. The Messiah, Jesus the Son of God, had finally come.

The Gospel Announced - OT Scripture

1. It is imperative to see the OT, in its entirety, as a declaration of the coming Messiah. The OT prophecies about His person and His ministry.

- For this reason, we refer to the OT Scriptures as the Gospel (Good News) Announced.
- The early Church Apostles viewed the OT Scriptures through this lens. These Scriptures were understood strictly through their fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah.

2. The Messiah's Person

- Peter and the first Apostles viewed the OT Scriptures as an announcement of Jesus the Messiah.
- The OT Scriptures were fulfilled, in that the Word in which was declared, came and dwelt among men. That declaration, the Word of God, "appeared" in Person and lived among them.
- The Word which had spoken to the prophets of old, entered the world through the Virgin Mary as the Messiah.
- "That which *was from the beginning*, which we *have heard*, which we *have seen with our eyes*, which we *have looked* at and *our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life*. The life appeared; *we have seen it* and *testify to it*, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has *appeared to us*. We proclaim to you what we *have seen*

and **heard**, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." 1 John 1:1-3

- **"In the past** God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **but in these last days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe." Hebrews 1:1-2
- The following OT recorded events, festivals, and institutions were all declarations by God of the coming Messiah. These are only a few selected examples.
 - The Deliverance from Egypt - Exodus
 - The Seven Mosaic Festival - Leviticus 23
 - The Tabernacle & Temple
 - The Sacrificial System
 - The Snake - Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15

3. The Messiah's Ministry

- The OT Scriptures not only prophecy the coming of the Messiah, but also the ministry of the Messiah.
- The OT Scriptures prophecies that the Messiah would reconcile mankind to God in a New Covenant.
- At Pentecost, when the Spirit was given and the Church was born, Peter explains to the crowd the details of God's Good News that had finally come. He preaches from the OT book of Joel. (Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:28-32)

The Gospel Arrived - NT Scripture

1. Jesus fulfilled in His Person and activity what God had declared during the Old Covenant concerning His Messiah. The entire cumulative declaration of God, recorded in the OT Scriptures, were fulfilled in Jesus.

2. The Messiah did not come to change the Law, the standard of righteousness given through Moses for humanity, but to fulfill that Law.

- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them.**” Matthew 5:17
- The Good News fulfilled in Jesus was God’s declaration of a new breed of humanity living eternally on the earth. Mankind could be saved and redeemed. Mankind could experience **new birth**, through believing that Jesus 1) Is the manifestation of what humanity looks like created in the Image of God, and 2) that believing in Him, Jesus the Messiah could make them sons and daughters of God, just as He is The Only Begotten Son of God.

3. The Good News declared by God in ages past became reality in Jesus the Messiah.

- Jesus Himself is the Good News.
- Jesus Himself is both the reconciler and redeemer.
- God sent His one and only Son to reconcile, redeem, and ransom all people to Himself. Those who respond

and believe become a spotless and sinless bride for Jesus - her Husband Redeemer.

- “For your Maker is your *husband*– the Lord Almighty is his name– *the Holy One of Israel* is your *Redeemer*; he is called the God of all the earth.” Isaiah 54:5

PART III - THE WRITTEN & LIVING WORD OF GOD

Jesus The Living Word

1. There is a connection between the Scriptures and Jesus. We call this connection The Written Word and The Living Word.
2. Jesus is The Eternal Living Word who existed with God from before the beginning of all things. Jesus the Living Word is eternal and has always been, having never been created, but has existed eternally with the Father.
 - “In the beginning was *the Word*, and *the Word* was with God, and the Word was God. *He* was with God in the beginning.” John 1:1-2
3. God *created* all things through His Word. That *Word is the Person of Jesus*, the agent in which the Father created all things.
 - “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” John 1:3

- “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16

4. God **communicated** through His Word to those He created by His Living Word. That **Word is the Person of Jesus**

- Jesus is the Living Word by which God **communicated** to those He created. Jesus the Living Word was present and active in the world before He was born as a man into the world.
- “...they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was **Christ**.” 1 Corinthians 10:4

5. The Word became flesh.

- **Jesus is the Living Word** by which all things were created and by which **God communicated** to that creation.
- That Living Word became flesh through what we call the incarnation. The Living Word of God, whom God created and communicated, entered the womb of a virgin named Mary and was born a human male child.
- “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

- God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, chose the name “Jesus” for the Eternal Living Word.
- “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and *you are to give him the name Jesus.*” Luke 1:31

The Living Word authored the written Word

1. *The same Living Word* that came to the prophets informing them of the coming Messiah *is the same Living Word* that was born through the virgin Mary *as the Messiah.*

- “In the past *God spoke* to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has *spoken to us by his Son*, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.” Hebrews 1:1-2

2. Jesus The Living Word spoke from the Father through the prophets during the OT season before He became flesh as a Living Son of Man.

- This Living Word’s speaking was recorded in a collection of books we call The Scriptures. *We call the Scriptures The Written Word.*
- The Scriptures are *The Written Word* that came from *The Living Word.*

3. The reason we value the Scriptures as the authoritative *inspired* Written Word is because *their origin* is found completely in *Jesus, The Living Word.*

PART IV - THE λόγος AND ῥῆμα WORD OF GOD

The λόγος - God's Identity Word

1. The term λόγος had a diverse meaning in first century secular Greek.

- Keeping with the Johannine concept of Jesus being the eternal λόγος of God (John 1:1-2), we default to the primary understanding of λόγος as being the Person of Jesus the Messiah.

2. The λόγος is the identity and complete essence and nature of the Triune God.

- "The Son is the *radiance of God's glory* and *the exact representation of his being...*" Hebrews 1:3a
- "Then Jesus cried out, 'When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. *When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me.*" John 12:44-45
- "I and the Father are one." John 10:30

3. The λόγος is The 2nd Person of the Triune Godhead.
The λόγος is a Person.

- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." John 1:1-2

4. The **λόγος** is God having become man while remaining God.

- The **λόγος** is that which is from before the beginning, eternal, having never been created.
- The **λόγος** entered into the virgin Mary and took on flesh being born a human male child.
- The **λόγος** physically died, physically rose from the dead, and physically ascended to the right hadn't of the Father in Heaven. He will physically return one day. He is still physical now and will always remain physical in a body like we will inherit upon His return.
- The **λόγος** is a man named Jesus. He is the God-man.

5. Jesus is the original design of what God intended for mankind.

- Jesus is the **Only -begotten** Son. John 3:16
- "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and

appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus..."

Ephesians 1:18-2:6

- All humanity was created in His image and likeness. We were created to relate to God as Jesus relates to God. When we believe in Him, we are seated with Him at the Father's right hand as sons of God.
- Sonship is the place of honor in which Jesus sits. We sit with Him when we believe in Him.

6. Jesus is the original design of God to completely manifest Holy nature and being in the physical.

- Jesus, the **λόγος**, is God's Spiritual DNA on display in the physical.

- Jesus, the **λόγος**, is the perfect example of what God intended for all mankind.
- When we believe in Jesus, we are restored back to God's original design for humanity. That design was perverted by Satan, through Adam, but restored by God, through His Only Begotten Son, Jesus the **λόγος**.

The **ῥῆμα** - God's Expressed Word

1. The term "**ῥῆμα**" is less complex than **λόγος**.
 - **ῥῆμα** can be translated *word, saying, charge, thing*, and even *nothing*.
 - The *Enhanced Strongs Lexicon* expresses the primary meaning of **ῥῆμα** as "...a declaration of one's mind made into words." Whether a command, accusation, or saying, it is an expression of the inside *reasoning* of the mind.
 - This is precisely why we understand **ῥῆμα** as an expression of **λόγος**. These two words are akin.
2. The **ῥῆμα** is the expression of God's **λόγος** identity.
 - When God releases His **λόγος**, that expression is **ῥῆμα**.
 - When God expresses through His **ῥῆμα**, He releases His Holy nature and DNA.

- “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, **but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**” Matthew 4:4
- “For nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37
 - “No word (**ῥῆμα**) will ever come to you that does not contain it’s own ability to perform itself.” - Bill Johnson
 - God’s power, provision, revelation, and all that resides within Him releases in the expression of His **ῥῆμα**.

3. Jesus, as God’s Only-begotten Son, having God’s Spirit living within Him and sourcing His life, released God’s **ῥῆμα** into the world of His day.

- “You know **what** has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” Acts 10:37-38
- The term translated “what” above is the Greek word **ῥῆμα**. The **ῥῆμα** happened, meaning God’s expression became a tangible physical phenomena through the life of Jesus.

4. As sons and daughters of God, sharing in Jesus’ inheritance, have God’s Spirit living within us and sourcing our lives to release God’s **ῥῆμα** into our world.

- “But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming...” Romans 10:8
- As Jesus released (**ῥῆμα**), so we who are seated in Him also release God’s **ῥῆμα**.