

Scripture

Isaiah 8:1-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-17 / Psalm 19:1-14

I. God Speaks in Scripture

A. All of reality illustrates God to people to some degree. *The heavens declare the glory of God;* and the firmament sheweth his handywork. *Day unto day* uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.* (PSALM 19:1-3)

B. Human wisdom can point to sin, pain, and human dysfunction, but not to salvation; God must intervene to explain that. For after that in the wisdom of God *the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.* (1 CORINTHIANS 1:21)

C. Revelation grew more focused across time until the perfect revelation came in Jesus Christ. *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,* whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (HEBREWS 1:1,2)

D. As people encounter Christ in Scripture they find salvation. And that *from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* (2 TIMOTHY 3:15)

II. Scripture Preserves and Communicates Truth

A. The prophets wrote to protect the Lord's message against uncertainty; sin and Satan make all merely human knowledge suspect. *That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day,* even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, *That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?* (PROVERBS 22:19-21)

B. Certainty about truth is a defining feature of Scripture. It seemed good to me also, *having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order,* most excellent Theophilus, *That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.* (LUKE 1:3-4)

C. In turn, certainty about Christ and His work leads to patience, comfort, and ultimately hope. *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)

D. Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to comfort believers through Scripture. And I will pray the *Father,* and he *shall give you another Comforter,* that he may abide with you for ever; (JOHN 14:16) But the Comforter, *which is the Holy Ghost,* whom the Father will send in my name, he *shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* (JOHN 14:26)

E. Discernment depends on the transformed heart opening to the Holy Spirit, working through Scripture. But *the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* (1 CORINTHIANS 2:14)

III. Other Paths to Truth Are Unsatisfactory, Disappointing, or Deadly

A. As Scripture keeps the believer's focus on God, it protects against Satan and all those who misuse the information they have about God. 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.* Jesus said unto him, It is written again, *Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* Then saith Jesus unto him, *Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.* (MATTHEW 4:4, 7, 10)

B. The superstitions denounced in Deuteronomy 18 never produce what only Scripture can. And *when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.* (ISAIAH 8:19-20)

C. In contrast to all other ways of knowing, Scripture yields success continually and repeatedly. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.* (2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17)

D. The providentially preserved Scriptures are more reliable than any other form of communication, even prophecy. We have also *a more sure word of prophecy*; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, *as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:* (2 PETER 1:19)

E. Assume the worst of any message or messenger challenging the sufficiency of Scripture. But *though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.* As we said before, so say I now again, *If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.* (GALATIANS 1:8-9)

F. Assume the best of Scripture. For with thee *is* the fountain of life: *in thy light shall we see light.* (PSALM 36:9) see also *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* (PSALM 119:105)

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