

## 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, thoroughly 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)**