

## THE SUPREME JUDGE

Isaiah 59:1-21; Ephesians 2:11-22 / Psalm 119:129-136

### I. The Bible Comes from God

A. Jesus confirmed the authority of Scripture for Christians, explaining how it taught people the truth about the Savior. “And *beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*” (LUKE 24:27)

B. The entire ministry of Jesus depended on Scripture. 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)

C. The prophets to whom Jesus pointed wrote as God directed them, not from some other foundation. “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)

### II. God Authenticates the Bible

A. The fact that God Himself produced the Bible makes it more authoritative than any human book could possibly be. “*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)

B. The Bible contains precisely what believers need to live well before God and the watching world. “*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)

C. It is God’s opinion, not just the Presbyterian Church, that the Bible comes from God to say precisely what He wants said. “*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.*” (1 JOHN 5:9)

D. How one receives Scripture tells the church how a person treats the revelation of heavenly truth. “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)

### III. God Is the Final Authority on the Bible’s Meaning

A. Understanding the Bible comes from the influence of the Holy Spirit. “But *ye have an unction* from the Holy One, and *ye know all things.*” (1 JOHN 2:20)

B. God not only produced the Bible, but He teaches personally through it. “But *the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you* of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and *even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*” (1 JOHN 2:27)

C. God promised that the Holy Spirit would guide believers in Bible study. “Howbeit *when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:* for he shall not speak of

himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ***He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.***” (JOHN 16:13-14)

**D. The spiritual instruction process is supernatural.** “But ***God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.*** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so ***the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*** Now ***we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.***” (1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-12)

**E. The Bible cannot be understood apart from God’s personal intervention in the student’s mind.** “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)

**F. God did not stop with producing the Bible but also promises to continue using it across time.** “As for me, this *is* my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that *is* upon thee, and ***my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed,*** nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, ***from henceforth and for ever.***” (Isaiah 59:21)

**G. From Apostolic times, believers have turned to God – speaking in Scripture -- to decide spiritual truth.** “And are ***built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;***” (EPHESIANS 2:20) “And ***when they agreed not among themselves,*** they departed, after that ***Paul had spoken*** one word, ***Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,***” (ACTS 28:25)

+ Dr. Edwin P. Elliott