

What think Ye of the Bible?
Part 08

During May through early July I posted seven articles about the Bible. I challenged readers to consider the various sources from which one might glean truthful information about Holy Scripture. As a norm, it was suggested that the MSM with their inbred antagonism toward Christianity would certainly not be a reliable source about God's Word.

It was also said that most MEGA churches, which seem to be focused on rapid exponential growth, and showcase various worldly kind of entertainment, also may not be the best resource about "what the Bible really is."

I made a brief reference to "Orthodox" Christianity, as being the true Faith handed down to true believers through the centuries. (Please note, again, that this reference does not imply any relationship to either Greek or Russian Orthodox Church denominations.)

If we want true and accurate information about the Bible we would have to access resources that hold to the doctrines of Orthodox Christianity.

Orthodox in this context means "straight- correct - according to Biblical Truth."

I did mention that the LDS, Jehova Witnesses, Christian Science and Seventh Day Adventist are NOT Orthodox, as they twist Scripture to support their erroneous belief system.

Also, article 07 made reference to General Revelation and Special Revelation from God. General Revelation is available to every person who ever lived on this earth, and is a witness to the existence and works of God through Nature. Special Revelation is Jesus Christ and the Bible. Special Revelation provides all information necessary for a person's redemption, salvation, and conduct for life.

Please avail yourself to these previous articles by accessing my website at the following link.

www.glorify-god.org/god.htm

Then click on Bible.

Continuation of these articles had been suspended due to some family physical matters. They will now be continued by His grace, Lord willing.

In this article I will present matters regarding how we have obtained our Bible. That will be followed by the fundamental aspects of Christian Truth claims from the Bible.

The article after that will focus on false claims of Liberal Theology and Neo Orthodox

Theology. We will examine some statements made by Friedrich Schleiermacher, Rudolph Bultman and Dietrich Bohnhoeffer. These men, among others, have twisted Scripture to an exponential level, which has perverted Seminary theology to an almost unrecognizable level when compared to God's inspired Scripture. Consequently, Pastors, as false shepherds, have ruined spiritual lives of millions who sat decades under their teaching.

It is truly sad and burdensome thinking that these pastors and congregants are considering themselves to be Christians, when someday they will stand before Christ, the Judge, and He will say to them "depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you."

But, as long as they have breath, there is an opportunity for them to repent, believe the TRUTH about the Person of Jesus Christ, and what He has done for sinners on the cross.

No one can be saved unless they believe in the "Objective Sacrificial (Vicarious) Atonement" of Jesus Christ on the cross. To dismiss this as a MYTH is to reject God's love as expressed in the suffering of His Son in His Redemptive work. But, much more on that later.

Now, I would like to address the topic of "How we got our Bible."

The word Bible has its origin in the Greek word BIBLOS, which simply means "book."

The Bible has been "inspired" by the Holy Spirit of God (Third Person of the Holy Trinity). The word inspired is a translation of the Greek word

θεόπνευστος. The transliteration into English would be THEOPNEUSTOS, and means "godbreathed." Thus, every word, every phrase and sentence has been given to the writers of the books of the Bible by the Holy Spirit of God. It must be noted that during this inspiration process each human author was able to project his writing style and personality into the text as they penned the words given to them from God.

Often the question is asked "how could Moses," who was the human author of the first five books of the Old Testament know what happened during the Genesis Creation account, when Moses lived about 2,600 years after creation. The simple answer to that question is that the Holy Spirit inspired to Moses all events he recorded in Genesis through Deuteronomy. Moses received this information directly from God in a supernatural manner.

The Bible was written by about 40 human authors over a period of approximately 1,500 years. It began with Moses, who wrote the Pentateuch (first five books) during the time the Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness - about 1,446 B.C to 1,406 B.C. (See I Kings 6:1)

The last author of the Bible was John the Apostle, who wrote the last book of the Bible,

Revelation, in about A.D. 95, while he was exiled on the Isle of Patmos off the Southwest coast of Asia Minor (Modern Turkey).

The human authors came from various walks and positions of life. Some were shepherds, farmers, kings,

prophets, priests, tax collectors, fishermen, doctors, scribes and Pharisees. Some were highly educated, while others had no formal education at all.

At times they received a direct command from God to write. At other times they had a dream or a vision, which they then wrote. At times, angels came to deliver a message from God. An example of a command from God is in Exodus 17:14 KJV

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." The command to write is found 14 times in the book of Revelation.

A key passage, which tell us about the fact of inspiration is 2 Timothy 3:16 KJV "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

Another passage tells us about the process of inspiration. 2 Peter 1:20-21 KJV "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] 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."

Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, with a few exceptions. Several chapters in the book of Ezra and Daniel were written in Aramaic, Jeremiah 10:11 was written in Aramaic.

The entire New Testament was written in the common language of the day - Greek. (Koine Greek - not the classical Greek of the Early philosophers).

There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament, for a total of 66 books in the entire Bible.

It might be worth noting that the Bible that is used by Roman Catholicism has 14 additional books which are called Apocryphal books. These were written during the intertestamental period from 400B.C. to the time of the birth of Jesus Christ by mostly unknown authors. Orthodox Christianity reject these books as NOT BEING INSPIRED since their authorship is questionable. Also, they do not meet the standard test of being of high spiritual content. Some have valuable historical content, but many have a mix of Greek philosophy and mythology.

In conclusion of this segment about our Bible it must be stated that ultimately God is the Author of the Bible. It is inerrant and infallible in the original autographs. The Bible is correct in everything that it claims. It is not correct to say the Bible "contains" the Word of God, rather it must be said that the BIBLE "IS" THE WORD OF GOD.

The Bible is a supernatural product given by God to man.

In the Bible God reveals Himself to man, often in a supernatural context. God is the Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, Immutable, Self - Existing , Spirit Being. Man is informed that God's attributes are Love, Justice, Righteousness, Wrath, Grace, Mercy, Longsuffering among others with which He interacts with His creaturely beings on earth.

God created the Universe in 6 literal 24 hour days. Man sinned in rebellion against God and died spiritually, being thus separated from God.

The rest of the Bible is God's interaction with fallen human beings, and revealing His plan of Redemption that is "available" to all those who acknowledge their sinfulness, repent and trust in God's Plan.

This Plan is the Gospel, the Good News, that God, the Father, sent the Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the World (I John 4:14).

The Bible has been written in a historical context. We read about God's Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We trace the history of God's chosen people, Israel, through various earthly dynasties of Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman empires.

We are told that God the Son, Second Person of the Holy Trinity, became incarnate (took on humanity in the Virgin birth of Mary's son, Jesus) and constituted Himself as the Messiah (Christ).

The Bible tells us that He freely offered Himself as a Living Sacrifice, shed His blood and died on the Cross to become the CURSE for sinning mankind and thus He paid the penalty for our sins.

After His death and burial, He arose from out of the dead, ascended back to the Father in heaven, and is sitting at The Father's right hand.

Thus, while access to God had been veiled in the past, by Jesus Christ's shed blood and redemption access to God's grace is now provided to all those who trust in Christ and receive Him as Savior and Lord. (Salvation is NOT UNIVERSAL, as Dietrich Bohmhoefter erroneously claimed).

The Bible concludes God's glorious message by telling us that in the latter days (we are

there NOW) The CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST - all true believers - not fake Christians - will be Raptured to be with Christ in Heaven.

This event is followed by a seven year Tribulation Period, during which God will draw all Israel back to Himself, and all Jews will acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Savior and Messiah, AND GOD WILL POUR OUT HIS WRATH upon an ungodly humanity. (We see the trend of ungodliness increasing exponentially

- America REPENT!!)

After the Tribulation Christ will establish His 1000 year righteous rule and reign on earth, headquartered in Jerusalem. Israel, as a Nation, will have an exalted position over all other nations. God's Unconditional Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and King David and Jeremiah WILL HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

Please listen up Dear Friends.

These are ETERNAL TRUTHS!! They are not up for debate or human alteration.

They are OBJECTIVE PROPOSITIONAL TRUTHS from GOD to man.

Anybody who thinks or teaches or assumes these are just MYTHS, that must be reinterpreted by "modern" man is deadly WRONG.

PLEASE, take heed and consider your way.

Much more to come. Please stay tuned.

With Warm Regards,
Horst Adler
"For I am not ashamed of the
Gospel of Christ." (Ro. 1:16)