

Searching the Scriptures / 1 / The Bible Is Holy / Part 1

On the cover of most Bibles we find the words "Holy Bible". What is it that makes the Bible "Holy"? We read in Psa 138:2, "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou [God] hast magnified thy word above [as] all thy [God's] name." What an amazing verse! We see the great emphasis that God places on His Holy Word, the Bible – He equates it to Himself. Just think of what the Name of God represents. It is everything that God exemplifies – His perfect, holy character and all of His eternal attributes. We catch a glimpse of this in Amos 4:13, "For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name."

We see how intricately God is involved in this world on a grand scale. We witness His almighty power as the Creator and Sustainer of this universe, and yet he knows every thought that you and I are thinking at any given instant!

The supreme importance of the authority of the Bible is also expressed in 2 Pet 1:16-21 in which Peter recounts his experience of having seen the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus. Moses and Elijah, who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, represented the Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament Scriptures) and Peter, James and John, who were there with Christ, represented the New Testament Scriptures.

In awesome splendor, the Lord Jesus was dramatically transfigured (changed) before their eyes; and He is, of course, the focus of both the Old and New Testaments. We know this because John 5:39 says, "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Even though Peter saw a part of the Lord's glory during that experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, he declares in 2 Pet 1:19, under the inspiration of God: "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." Then verses 20 and 21 tell us that he is speaking about God's Holy Word, the Bible. This Word has more validity than even what Peter, James and John witnessed with their five physical senses that day on the mountain with Christ.

We also find in Romans 7:12 this statement, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." This is referring to the Bible as the Law of God; and every human being is held completely accountable to it. Our big problem is that we are sinners, and we have disobeyed God's Law, repeatedly, and thus we deserve the wrath of God. In fact, we learn from the Bible that God demands perfect obedience to His Word. Jam 2:10 informs us that breaking just one commandment is as if we have broken them all. The Bible repeatedly warns that we have to spend an eternity in Hell in order to pay for our sins. Our only alternative is to have Someone take our place by suffering the equivalent of an eternity in Hell on our behalf. Of course, that "Someone" can only be Christ. That is why the Lord Jesus came to earth as we read in Mat 1:21, "... and thou shalt call His name JESUS, for he shall save His people from their sins."

Let's look at Acts 3:20-21, "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the

world began.” It’s interesting to note that God did not say “*by the mouths (plural) of all His holy prophets*”, but “*by the mouth (singular) of all His holy prophets*”. That’s because the whole Bible is the “*Mouth*” of God.

All of the prophets that God used to pen the Holy Words of Scripture wrote and spoke in agreement and served as the Mouth of God. The men called “*holy prophets*” were not holy in the sense that they never sinned, but because God used them to record His Holy Word, the Bible. Mat 4:4 says, “*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.*” We are living in a time of great spiritual famine, as we read in Amos 8:11-12, “*Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord Jehovah, that I will send a famine into the land; not a famine for bread, nor a thirst for water, but rather a famine for hearing the words of Jehovah.*” Yes, there are many more Bibles in the world than ever before – the average professing Christian’s home in many countries has several Bibles – but notice that the prophet Amos warns that a day of famine for “*hearing*” the Word of God will come.

There is a great amount of disbelief regarding the Word of God, which is held in very low esteem by many in the world today – even by many who claim to be “*Christians*”. This can be seen, in part, by the proliferation of scores of translations using improper translation methods to produce “*new*” versions of the Bible. Many people today are guilty of adding to or taking away from the Book that God Himself wrote by giving the prophets and apostles every exact word in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek.

All these factors indicate how much mankind despises the Word of God. But God will not stand for it, as we read in Rev 22:18-19, “*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*” The statement about “*the plagues that are written in this book*” refers to the plagues that God tells us about throughout the Scriptures that typify God’s eternal wrath: In other words, God promises to severely punish everyone who tampers with His Book, the Bible – the eternal Word of God, as we read in Mat 24:35, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*”

Could it be that we might have a new and greater appreciation for the Bible and a desire to study it more diligently with the purpose of being obedient to what we find? May God give us grace to do this.